



Cato Institute 2022 Student Debt Cancellation National Survey

CATO INSTITUTE/YOUGOV • AUGUST 17–23, 2022 • N=2,000

MARGIN OF ERROR +/- 2.39%. COLUMNS MAY NOT ADD UP TO 100% DUE TO ROUNDING.

1. Do you favor or oppose the government forgiving up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for those who earn less than \$150,000 a year as single people, or less than \$300,000 for married couples?

- *Net-support*
- *Net-oppose*
- Strongly support
- Somewhat support
- Somewhat oppose
- Strongly oppose
- Don't know/refused
- Total

	ALL AMERICANS	CURRENTLY REPAYING STUDENT LOANS	ALREADY REPAID STUDENT LOANS	NEVER HAD STUDENT LOANS	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	INDEPENDENT
■ <i>Net-support</i>	64%	88%	62%	59%	88%	37%	58%
■ <i>Net-oppose</i>	36%	12%	38%	41%	12%	63%	41%
■ Strongly support	37%	72%	33%	31%	59%	13%	34%
■ Somewhat support	26%	16%	28%	28%	29%	23%	24%
■ Somewhat oppose	11%	4%	8%	13%	7%	15%	10%
■ Strongly oppose	26%	8%	30%	28%	5%	49%	31%
■ Don't know/refused	<1%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
■ Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Summary Table

	ALL AMERICANS	CURRENTLY REPAYING STUDENT LOANS	ALREADY REPAID STUDENT LOANS	NEVER HAD STUDENT LOANS	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	INDEPENDENT
<p>Would you favor or oppose the government forgiving up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for those who earn less than \$150,000 a year as single people, or less than \$300,000 for married couples if...</p> <p>no trade-off considered</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Net-support</i> 64% 88% 62% 59% 88% 37% 58% ■ <i>Net-oppose</i> 36% 12% 38% 41% 12% 63% 41% 							
<p>forgiving \$10,000 per borrower primarily benefited higher income people?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Net-support</i> 32% 49% 27% 30% 44% 22% 26% ■ <i>Net-oppose</i> 68% 51% 73% 70% 56% 78% 74% 							
<p>forgiving \$10,000 per borrower raised your taxes?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Net-support</i> 36% 55% 36% 33% 56% 19% 30% ■ <i>Net-oppose</i> 64% 45% 64% 67% 44% 81% 70% 							
<p>forgiving \$10,000 per borrower encouraged colleges to increase their tuition & fees?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Net-support</i> 25% 31% 20% 25% 33% 18% 21% ■ <i>Net-oppose</i> 76% 69% 80% 75% 67% 82% 79% 							
<p>forgiving \$10,000 per borrower meant more employers would require college degrees even if not needed to do the job?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Net-support</i> 29% 51% 30% 24% 36% 17% 29% ■ <i>Net-oppose</i> 71% 49% 70% 76% 64% 83% 71% 							

	ALL AMERICANS	CURRENTLY REPAYING STUDENT LOANS	ALREADY REPAYED STUDENT LOANS	NEVER HAD STUDENT LOANS	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	INDEPENDENT
<p>2A. Would you favor or oppose the government forgiving up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for those who earn less than \$150,000 a year as single people, or less than \$300,000 for married couples ... if forgiving \$10,000 of a person's student loan debt primarily benefited higher income people?</p>							
■ <i>Net-support</i>	32%	49%	27%	30%	44%	22%	26%
■ <i>Net-oppose</i>	68%	51%	73%	70%	56%	78%	74%
■ Strongly support	11%	23%	6%	9%	17%	5%	7%
■ Somewhat support	22%	26%	21%	21%	27%	17%	19%
■ Somewhat oppose	25%	21%	26%	26%	26%	19%	30%
■ Strongly oppose	42%	30%	47%	44%	30%	59%	44%
■ Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<p>2B. Would you favor or oppose the government forgiving up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for those who earn less than \$150,000 a year as single people, or less than \$300,000 for married couples ... if forgiving \$10,000 of a person's student loan debt raised your taxes?</p>							
■ <i>Net-support</i>	36%	55%	36%	33%	56%	19%	30%
■ <i>Net-oppose</i>	64%	45%	64%	67%	44%	81%	70%
■ Strongly support	13%	26%	12%	10%	22%	7%	8%
■ Somewhat support	24%	28%	24%	23%	34%	12%	22%
■ Somewhat oppose	21%	22%	19%	22%	24%	16%	21%
■ Strongly oppose	43%	23%	46%	46%	20%	65%	49%
■ Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

	ALL AMERICANS	CURRENTLY REPAYING STUDENT LOANS	ALREADY REPAID STUDENT LOANS	NEVER HAD STUDENT LOANS	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	INDEPENDENT
<p>2C. Would you favor or oppose the government forgiving up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for those who earn less than \$150,000 a year as single people, or less than \$300,000 for married couples ... if forgiving \$10,000 of a person's student loan debt encouraged colleges to increase their tuition and fees?</p>							
■ <i>Net-support</i>	25%	31%	20%	25%	33%	18%	21%
■ <i>Net-oppose</i>	76%	69%	80%	75%	67%	82%	79%
■ Strongly support	9%	13%	8%	8%	12%	6%	8%
■ Somewhat support	16%	18%	12%	16%	21%	13%	13%
■ Somewhat oppose	27%	33%	26%	25%	30%	21%	23%
■ Strongly oppose	49%	35%	54%	50%	37%	60%	57%
■ Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<p>2D. Would you favor or oppose the government forgiving up to \$10,000 in federal student loan debt for those who earn less than \$150,000 a year as single people, or less than \$300,000 for married couples ... if forgiving \$10,000 of a person's student loan debt meant more employers would require college degrees even if not needed to do the job?</p>							
■ <i>Net-support</i>	29%	51%	30%	24%	36%	17%	29%
■ <i>Net-oppose</i>	71%	49%	70%	76%	64%	83%	71%
■ Strongly support	9%	19%	4%	8%	12%	5%	7%
■ Somewhat support	20%	32%	26%	16%	24%	12%	22%
■ Somewhat oppose	30%	19%	30%	32%	38%	18%	28%
■ Strongly oppose	41%	30%	39%	44%	27%	64%	43%
■ Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
<p>3. Have you ever had student loans used to pay for your own education?</p>							
■ Yes, I am currently repaying my student loans	14%	100%	0%	0%	18%	8%	14%
■ Yes, but I have already repaid my student loans	23%	0%	100%	0%	25%	21%	24%
■ No, I have never had student loans	63%	0%	0%	100%	57%	71%	62%
■ Total	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The Cato Institute 2022 Student Debt Cancellation National Survey was conducted by the Cato Institute in collaboration with YouGov. YouGov collected responses August 17 to 23, 2022 from 2,272 Americans 18 years of age and older. These were then matched into a nationally representative sample of 2000 to produce the final dataset. Results have been weighted to be representative of the national adult sample. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.39 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. This does not include other sources of non-sampling error, such as selection bias in panel participation or response to a particular survey.

YouGov conducted the surveys online with its proprietary Web-enabled survey software, using a method called Active Sampling. Restrictions are put in place to ensure that only the people selected and contacted by YouGov are allowed to participate.

The respondents in each survey were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, education. The frame was constructed

by stratified sampling from the full 2019 American Community Survey 1-year sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file).

Each set of matched cases were weighted to its sampling frame using propensity scores. The matched cases and the frame were combined and a logistic regression was estimated for inclusion in the frame. The propensity score function included age, gender, race/ethnicity, years of education, census region. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles.

The nationally representative weights were then post-stratified on the 2016 and 2020 Presidential vote choice, on a four-way stratification of gender, four category age, four category race, and 4 category education, to produce the final weight.