



POST-DEBATE SURVEY OF ATTENDEES FROM THE 2018 LIBERTARIANISM v CONSERVATISM INTERN DEBATE

AUGUST 9, 2018 N=220

Thinking about your overall political
philosophy, would you describe yourself as...

	Conservative	Libertarian	Other	Total
Q1. Regardless of your own ideological preference, which team do you think won the debate tonight?				
Libertarian Team.....	5%	51%	38%	30%
Conservative Team.....	89%	45%	52%	64%
Didn't see the debate.....	5%	4%	10%	6%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q2. In politics today, do you identify more with the...				
Republican Party.....	84%	19%	22%	46%
Independent.....	13%	33%	40%	26%
Democratic Party.....	0%	6%	28%	9%
Libertarian Party.....	2%	43%	10%	19%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q3. [IF INDEPENDENT/LIBERTARIAN] Do you lean more towards the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?				
Republican Party.....	93%	60%	40%	60%
Democratic Party.....	7%	8%	28%	13%
Neither Party.....	0%	32%	32%	27%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q4. Partisan Identification (Partisan Leaners Combined with Partisans)				
Republican/Lean Rep.....	99%	64%	42%	73%
Independent.....	0%	24%	16%	12%
Democrat/Lean Dem.....	1%	13%	42%	15%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q5. On a scale of conservative to libertarian, where would you place yourself?				
Completely conservative.....	31%	0%	2%	13%
Mostly conservative, slightly libertarian.....	52%	0%	17%	25%

Somewhat conservative, somewhat libertarian.....	16%	9%	40%	19%
Mostly libertarian, slightly conservative.....	1%	55%	23%	26%
Completely libertarian.....	0%	36%	17%	17%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q6. Which of the following issues are the most important to you personally? (Select up to 3)

Abortion.....	41%	11%	15%	24%
Education.....	10%	15%	26%	15%
Terrorism.....	11%	1%	9%	7%
Welfare State/Entitlements.....	16%	14%	23%	17%
Family Values.....	31%	4%	6%	15%
Taxes.....	24%	25%	21%	24%
Civil Society.....	23%	5%	13%	14%
Regulation.....	8%	28%	15%	17%
Immigration.....	20%	24%	23%	22%
Free Speech.....	34%	47%	30%	38%
Unions.....	0%	3%	2%	1%
Budget Deficit/Government Spending.....	22%	37%	13%	25%
Health Care.....	3%	10%	19%	9%
Foreign Policy/National Security.....	35%	18%	40%	30%
The Environment.....	1%	3%	11%	4%
Housing.....	1%	4%	2%	2%
Paid Leave.....	0%	0%	2%	0%
Privacy.....	5%	11%	6%	7%
Criminal Justice.....	2%	24%	15%	13%
Transportation.....	1%	4%	2%	2%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q7. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?

NET APPROVE.....	91%	31%	26%	53%
NET DISAPPROVE.....	9%	69%	73%	47%
Strongly approve.....	34%	5%	9%	17%
Somewhat approve.....	57%	26%	17%	36%
Somewhat disapprove.....	6%	28%	30%	20%
Strongly disapprove.....	3%	41%	43%	27%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q8. If you had to choose, would you rather have...

A smaller government, providing fewer services, with low	96%	97%	73%	92%
A larger government, providing more services, with high taxes.....	4%	3%	27%	8%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q9. Do you favor or oppose raising taxes on households making over \$250,000 a year?

NET FAVOR	12%	9%	43%	18%
NET OPPOSE	88%	91%	57%	82%
Strongly favor.....	1%	3%	28%	8%
Somewhat favor.....	11%	6%	15%	10%
Somewhat oppose.....	25%	30%	35%	29%
Strongly oppose.....	63%	61%	22%	53%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q10. To help balance the federal budget, would you support or oppose cutting defense spending?

Strongly support.....	4%	57%	31%	30%
Somewhat support.....	19%	38%	47%	32%
Somewhat oppose.....	31%	4%	18%	18%
Strongly oppose.....	46%	1%	4%	20%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q11. Do you think political life in this country should be based on Judeo-Christian principles, or not?

Yes.....	87%	30%	36%	54%
No.....	13%	70%	64%	46%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q12. For each pair of statements, please indicate which comes closer to your own view:

The government should promote traditional values in	83%	9%	28%	42%
The government should not favor any set of values....	18%	91%	72%	58%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q13. Which of the following statements comes

Trade restrictions should be used to protect domestic	25%	6%	25%	18%
Free trade should be allowed, even if domestic industries are hurt by foreign	75%	94%	75%	82%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q14. In general, do you think the police are too quick to use lethal force, or do they typically only use lethal force when necessary?

Too quick to use lethal force.....	20%	77%	76%	54%
Use lethal force when necessary.....	80%	23%	24%	46%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q15. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the government's collection of telephone and internet data as part of anti-terrorism efforts?

Strongly approve.....	9%	4%	9%	7%
Somewhat approve.....	45%	3%	28%	25%
Somewhat disapprove.....	29%	18%	33%	26%
Strongly disapprove.....	17%	75%	30%	42%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q16. When referring to a transgender person, do you use their preferred gender pronouns or pronouns that correspond with their biological sex?

Their preferred gender pronouns.....	27%	75%	69%	55%
Pronouns corresponding with their biological sex....	73%	25%	31%	46%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q17. Does America's foreign policy do more to promote peace and stability in the world or to cause instability and chaos?

Peace and stability.....	82%	14%	40%	47%
Instability and chaos.....	18%	86%	60%	53%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q18. How long should the U.S. remain involved in Afghanistan to ensure the stability of the Afghan state?

Leave now.....	25%	60%	44%	43%
1-5 years.....	31%	33%	21%	30%
6-10 years.....	1%	0%	2%	1%
11-15 years.....	3%	0%	0%	1%
As long as it takes.....	40%	7%	33%	26%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q19. Currently, the federal government caps the number of legal immigrants it allows into the country each year. Do you think the government should increase the number of immigrants it allows in each year, decrease the number, or keep it about the same?

Increase.....	28%	74%	60%	53%
Keep about the same.....	43%	24%	23%	31%
Decrease.....	29%	3%	16%	16%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q20. Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are living in the United States?

They should be allowed to stay in the US and eventually apply for citizenship	18%	59%	51%	41%
They should be allowed to stay in the US legally but not be allowed to apply for citizenship	18%	29%	28%	25%
They should be allowed to stay in the US illegally but not be allowed to apply for citizenship	8%	5%	5%	6%
They should be deported.....	55%	7%	16%	28%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q21. Do you think sanctuary cities should be able

Cities should deal with immigrants as they see fit.....	6%	58%	55%	37%
Cities should comply with federal immigration efforts.....	94%	42%	45%	63%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q22. Do you favor or oppose constructing a large border wall with Mexico?

NET FAVOR	74%	14%	28%	41%
NET OPPOSE	26%	86%	72%	59%
Strongly favor.....	36%	5%	19%	20%
Somewhat favor.....	38%	9%	9%	21%
Somewhat oppose.....	17%	20%	19%	18%
Strongly oppose.....	9%	66%	53%	41%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q23. Do you favor or oppose passing a law to temporarily ban Muslims from other countries entering the US?

Favor.....	49%	11%	28%	29%
Oppose.....	51%	89%	72%	71%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q24. Do you think an NFL (National Football League) player should or should not be fired from the team if they refuse to stand for the national anthem before football games to make a political statement?

Should be fired.....	42%	9%	15%	23%
Should not be fired.....	58%	91%	85%	77%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q25. Would you favor or oppose a law that would make it illegal for a person to burn or desecrate the American flag?

NET APPROVE	47%	6%	14%	23%
NET DISAPPROVE	54%	95%	86%	77%
Strongly Favor.....	30%	3%	7%	14%
Somewhat Favor.....	17%	3%	7%	9%

Somewhat Oppose.....	29%	17%	28%	24%
Strongly Oppose.....	25%	78%	58%	53%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q26. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

It is better to do what everyone has always done, unless you have an extraordinarily valid reason to do otherwise.

NET AGREE.....	42%	13%	22%	27%
NET DISAGREE.....	25%	67%	47%	46%
Strongly agree.....	9%	3%	5%	6%
Somewhat agree.....	33%	10%	17%	21%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	32%	21%	31%	27%
Somewhat disagree.....	17%	33%	26%	25%
Strongly disagree.....	8%	34%	21%	21%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Radical change should be viewed with suspicion, particularly in a time of radical change.

NET AGREE.....	88%	43%	44%	61%
NET DISAGREE.....	1%	42%	34%	24%
Strongly agree.....	47%	11%	15%	26%
Somewhat agree.....	41%	32%	29%	35%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	11%	16%	22%	15%
Somewhat disagree.....	1%	32%	27%	19%
Strongly disagree.....	0%	10%	7%	5%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Intact heterosexual two-parent families constitute the necessary bedrock for a stable polity.

NET AGREE.....	89%	47%	44%	63%
NET DISAGREE.....	5%	40%	46%	28%
Strongly agree.....	73%	21%	15%	40%
Somewhat agree.....	16%	26%	29%	23%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	5%	14%	10%	10%
Somewhat disagree.....	4%	19%	12%	12%
Strongly disagree.....	1%	21%	34%	16%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Social change and disruption, even if they're chaotic, are necessary to improve human happiness.

NET AGREE.....	24%	65%	56%	47%
NET DISAGREE.....	55%	13%	24%	32%
Strongly agree.....	1%	29%	15%	15%
Somewhat agree.....	23%	36%	41%	32%

Neither agree nor disagree.....	21%	22%	20%	21%
Somewhat disagree.....	24%	10%	22%	18%
Strongly disagree.....	31%	3%	2%	14%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Peace, stability, and order are the exception not the rule.

NET AGREE	54%	48%	47%	49%
NET DISAGREE	32%	40%	24%	34%
Strongly agree.....	31%	19%	27%	25%
Somewhat agree.....	23%	29%	20%	24%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	15%	12%	29%	17%
Somewhat disagree.....	15%	26%	17%	20%
Strongly disagree.....	17%	14%	7%	14%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

The government, local and distant, should leave people to their own devices as much as possible.

NET AGREE	83%	98%	73%	87%
NET DISAGREE	13%	0%	20%	9%
Strongly agree.....	30%	83%	34%	52%
Somewhat agree.....	53%	15%	39%	35%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	4%	1%	7%	4%
Somewhat disagree.....	10%	0%	15%	7%
Strongly disagree.....	3%	0%	5%	2%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

It is just and right to demand some sacrifice of individual impulse and idiosyncrasy so that society can function properly.

NET AGREE	86%	37%	59%	60%
NET DISAGREE	8%	49%	17%	26%
Strongly agree.....	45%	5%	22%	24%
Somewhat agree.....	41%	32%	37%	36%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	7%	14%	24%	13%
Somewhat disagree.....	8%	33%	10%	18%
Strongly disagree.....	0%	16%	7%	8%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

It is more noble to teach young people about responsibilities than about rights.

NET AGREE	66%	29%	56%	49%
NET DISAGREE	6%	49%	27%	28%
Strongly agree.....	39%	7%	24%	23%
Somewhat agree.....	27%	22%	32%	26%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	27%	22%	17%	23%
Somewhat disagree.....	5%	27%	20%	17%
Strongly disagree.....	1%	22%	7%	11%

Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
We should judge our political system in comparison to other actual political systems and not to a hypothetical ideal.				
NET AGREE.....	69%	38%	51%	53%
NET DISAGREE.....	23%	45%	37%	34%
Strongly agree.....	35%	12%	22%	23%
Somewhat agree.....	34%	26%	29%	30%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	8%	16%	12%	12%
Somewhat disagree.....	18%	27%	32%	24%
Strongly disagree.....	5%	18%	5%	10%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Citizens have the inalienable right to benefit from				
NET AGREE.....	93%	92%	91%	92%
NET DISAGREE.....	1%	2%	7%	4%
Strongly agree.....	82%	77%	59%	75%
Somewhat agree.....	11%	15%	32%	17%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	5%	5%	2%	5%
Somewhat disagree.....	1%	1%	7%	3%
Strongly disagree.....	0%	1%	0%	1%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
There is always a right way to do things.				
NET AGREE.....	78%	30%	29%	48%
NET DISAGREE.....	15%	51%	56%	38%
Strongly agree.....	32%	7%	5%	16%
Somewhat agree.....	46%	23%	24%	32%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	7%	19%	15%	13%
Somewhat disagree.....	11%	37%	44%	28%
Strongly disagree.....	4%	14%	12%	10%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
It's important for people to have community.				
NET AGREE.....	100%	89%	95%	95%
NET DISAGREE.....	0%	1%	0%	1%
Strongly agree.....	82%	51%	63%	66%
Somewhat agree.....	18%	38%	32%	29%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	0%	10%	5%	5%
Somewhat disagree.....	0%	1%	0%	1%
Strongly disagree.....	0%	0%	0%	0%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
If another country better embodied the ideals of America, I'd want to move to that country.				
NET AGREE.....	24%	61%	46%	43%
NET DISAGREE.....	55%	17%	30%	35%

Strongly agree.....	10%	19%	12%	14%
Somewhat agree.....	14%	42%	34%	29%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	22%	21%	24%	22%
Somewhat disagree.....	32%	12%	10%	19%
Strongly disagree.....	23%	5%	20%	16%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

We need to keep social norms and laws flexible to allow people to discover better ways of doing things.

NET AGREE.....	33%	86%	86%	65%
NET DISAGREE.....	44%	4%	9%	21%
Strongly agree.....	5%	49%	37%	29%
Somewhat agree.....	28%	37%	49%	36%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	22%	10%	5%	13%
Somewhat disagree.....	35%	4%	7%	17%
Strongly disagree.....	9%	0%	2%	4%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q27. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Western Civilization is at risk of losing its identity.

NET AGREE.....	80%	44%	45%	58%
NET DISAGREE.....	15%	43%	43%	31%
Strongly agree.....	58%	15%	20%	33%
Somewhat agree.....	22%	29%	25%	25%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	5%	13%	13%	10%
Somewhat disagree.....	11%	26%	18%	18%
Strongly disagree.....	4%	17%	25%	13%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

We should do more to ensure that lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and transgender people feel fully accepted in society.

NET AGREE.....	27%	55%	58%	44%
NET DISAGREE.....	52%	22%	20%	34%
Strongly agree.....	4%	24%	40%	19%
Somewhat agree.....	23%	31%	18%	25%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	20%	24%	23%	22%
Somewhat disagree.....	24%	18%	15%	20%
Strongly disagree.....	28%	4%	5%	14%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

It is important for children to be brought up in a religion so they can learn good values.

NET AGREE.....	84%	41%	36%	57%
NET DISAGREE.....	8%	43%	45%	30%

Strongly agree.....	64%	15%	8%	33%
Somewhat agree.....	20%	26%	28%	24%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	8%	16%	20%	14%
Somewhat disagree.....	3%	22%	10%	12%
Strongly disagree.....	5%	21%	35%	18%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

The government needs to do more to combat prescription painkiller addiction.

NET AGREE.....	71%	25%	53%	49%
NET DISAGREE.....	14%	59%	25%	34%
Strongly agree.....	35%	7%	20%	21%
Somewhat agree.....	36%	18%	33%	28%
Neither agree nor disagree.....	14%	15%	23%	16%
Somewhat disagree.....	9%	33%	20%	21%
Strongly disagree.....	5%	26%	5%	13%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Gender

Male.....	63%	71%	60%	65%
Female.....	37%	29%	38%	34%
Other.....	0%	0%	2%	1%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Age Group

17-24.....	64%	56%	67%	62%
25-35.....	16%	32%	19%	23%
36+.....	20%	12%	14%	16%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Family Income

\$50,000-\$99,999.....	23%	32%	17%	25%
\$100,000-\$199,999.....	30%	34%	29%	31%
\$200,000+.....	20%	18%	29%	21%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Race/Ethnicity

Caucasian/White.....	74%	82%	71%	77%
African-American/Black.....	3%	1%	5%	3%
Hispanic/Latino.....	8%	14%	5%	10%
Asian/Pacific Islander.....	8%	3%	15%	7%
Other.....	7%	0%	5%	4%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

What is the highest level of education you have

High school graduate.....	4%	1%	10%	4%
Some college, but no degree yet.....	36%	30%	36%	34%
2-year college degree.....	0%	3%	2%	2%

4-year college degree.....	41%	42%	31%	39%
Post-graduate degree.....	20%	23%	21%	21%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Which of these best describes your religious preference?

Catholic.....	33%	22%	12%	24%
Evangelical.....	29%	13%	12%	19%
Mainline Protestant.....	16%	19%	19%	18%
Mormon.....	4%	0%	5%	3%
Jewish.....	7%	4%	5%	5%
Muslim.....	0%	0%	2%	1%
Buddhist.....	1%	0%	0%	1%
Hindu.....	1%	0%	2%	1%
Other religion.....	1%	1%	2%	2%
Non-religious.....	7%	40%	40%	27%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

How often do you attend religious services?

Once a week or more.....	59%	16%	29%	36%
A few times a month.....	17%	19%	10%	16%
A few times a year.....	20%	32%	24%	25%
Never.....	4%	33%	37%	22%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Responses may not add up to 100% due to rounding

More About the Post-Debate Survey of Attendees

The Cato Institute conducted an exit survey among those who attended the 2018 Libertarianism vs. Conservatism intern debate hosted by the Cato Institute and Heritage Foundation on August 9, 2018. At the debate, interns from both organizations debated whether conservatism or libertarianism is a better political ideology.

At the conclusion of the debate, an email was sent to every person who registered or walked in with a link to a Qualtrics survey. Emails were sent to 562 people. In total, we collected 226 surveys from debate attendees, producing a response rate of 40%. Of these, 196 surveys were collected from attendees under age 35. Of these, 73 identified as conservative, 64 as libertarian, and 59 as moderate, liberal, or progressive.

While the survey is not a representative sample of all millennial conservatives and libertarians, this survey offers a snapshot of politically engaged conservative and libertarian millennial “elites” who have more education and political information than average, and who chose to come to this event. Since these attendees are politically engaged millennials, their responses may provide some indication of consensus and political conflicts that may arise in the future.