

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

SURVEY CONDUCTED BY THE CATO INSTITUTE

AUGUST 4, 2016

N=203

	All Attendees	Conservative Attendees	Libertarian Attendees	Other Attendees
	%	%	%	%
Q1. Regardless of your own ideological preference, which team do you think won the debate tonight?				
Conservative Team	47%	88%	18%	32%
Libertarian Team	50%	11%	80%	60%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	1%	2%	8%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q2. In politics today, do you consider yourself...				
Republican	38%	80%	11%	20%
Independent	26%	15%	26%	45%
Democrat	6%	1%	0%	28%
Libertarian	30%	4%	62%	5%
Don't Know/Refused	0%	0%	0%	2%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q3. [IF INDEPENDENT/LIBERTARIAN] Do you lean more towards the Republican Party or the Democratic Party?				
Democratic Party	13%	0%	10%	35%
Republican Party	56%	79%	60%	25%
Neither party	29%	21%	29%	35%
Don't Know/Refused	1%	0%	0%	5%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q4. Party Identification				
Republican	38%	80%	11%	20%
Republican/Lean Republican	31%	15%	53%	12%
Independent	17%	4%	26%	22%
Democrat/Lean Democrat	7%	0%	9%	18%
Democrat	6%	1%	0%	28%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%



	All Attendees %	Conservative Attendees %	Libertarian Attendees %	Other Attendees %
Q6. Thinking about your overall political philosophy, would you describe yourself as				
Conservative	37%	100%	0%	0%
Libertarian	43%	0%	100%	0%
Moderate	9%	0%	0%	48%
Liberal	4%	0%	0%	22%
Progressive	1%	0%	0%	5%
Something else	4%	0%	0%	22%
Don't Know/Refused	0%	0%	0%	2%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q7. If the election for President were today, would you vote for Donald Trump the Republican, Hillary Clinton the Democrat, or Gary Johnson the Libertarian?				
Donald Trump	23%	47%	7%	15%
Hillary Clinton	11%	3%	3%	42%
Gary Johnson	49%	21%	84%	25%
Some other candidate	8%	13%	3%	8%
Will not vote	8%	15%	2%	8%
Don't Know/Refused	1%	1%	0%	2%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q8. Do you think all kids who play sports should receive a trophy for their participation, or should only the winning players be awarded trophies?				
All kids get trophies	8%	4%	8%	18%
Only winning players	90%	95%	91%	80%
Don't Know/Refused	1%	1%	1%	2%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q9. For each pair of statements, please indicate which one comes closer to your own view:				
The government should be doing more to regulate business	7%	3%	2%	28%
Too often government regulation of business does more harm than good.....	89%	96%	97%	60%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	1%	1%	12%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

	Millennial Attendees			
	All	Conservative	Libertarian	Other
	Attendees	Attendees	Attendees	Attendees
	%	%	%	%
Q10. For each pair of statements, please indicate which one comes closer to your own view:				
The government should promote traditional values in society	35%	68%	9%	30%
The government should not favor any particular set of values	58%	27%	84%	60%
Don't Know/Refused	7%	5%	7%	10%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q11. If you had to choose, would you rather have...				
A smaller government, providing fewer services, with low taxes	91%	95%	99%	65%
A larger government, providing more services, with high taxes	8%	4%	0%	32%
Don't Know/Refused	1%	1%	1%	2%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q12. Since the 1950s, do you think American culture and way of life has mostly changed for the better, or has it mostly changed for the worse?				
Better	53%	23%	74%	62%
Worse	33%	64%	12%	22%
Stayed the same.....	11%	11%	12%	10%
Don't Know/Refused	2%	3%	1%	5%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q13. Which of the following statements comes closer to your opinion:				
Trade restrictions are necessary to protect domestic industries.....	13%	19%	2%	28%
Free trade must be allowed, even if domestic industries are hurt by foreign competition	85%	79%	97%	70%
Don't Know/Refused	2%	3%	1%	2%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

		Millennial Attendees		
	All Attendees	Conservative Attendees	Libertarian Attendees	Other Attendees
	%	%	%	%
Q14. Do you favor or oppose making it easier for people to immigrate to the United States?				
NET SUPPORT	80%	57%	94%	90%
NET OPPOSE	18%	40%	5%	8%
Strongly Support	37%	12%	60%	32%
Somewhat Support	43%	45%	34%	57%
Somewhat Oppose	11%	23%	3%	8%
Strongly Oppose	7%	17%	1%	0%
Don't Know/Refused	2%	3%	1%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q15. Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are living in the US?				
They should be allowed to stay in the US and eventually apply for citizenship	56%	25%	74%	75%
They should be allowed to stay in the US legally but not be allowed to apply for citizenship	19%	29%	16%	8%
They should be required to leave the US	22%	43%	8%	15%
Don't Know/Refused	2%	3%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q15. Do you favor or oppose constructing a large wall along the border with Mexico?				
NET SUPPORT	28%	56%	11%	12%
NET OPPOSE	69%	40%	86%	85%
Strongly Support	11%	25%	2%	2%
Somewhat Support	17%	31%	9%	10%
Somewhat Oppose	18%	20%	14%	25%
Strongly Oppose	51%	20%	73%	60%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	4%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q16. Do you favor or oppose raising taxes on households making over \$250,000 a year?				
NET SUPPORT	16%	7%	9%	50%
NET OPPOSE	81%	91%	89%	45%
Strongly Support	6%	0%	0%	30%
Somewhat Support	10%	7%	9%	20%
Somewhat Oppose	23%	27%	26%	10%
Strongly Oppose	58%	64%	62%	35%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	3%	2%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Millennial Attendees

	All Attendees	Conservative Attendees	Libertarian Attendees	Other Attendees
	%	%	%	%
Q17. To help balance the federal budget, would you support or oppose cutting defense spending?				
NET SUPPORT	62%	33%	88%	60%
NET OPPOSE	35%	64%	10%	38%
Strongly Support	33%	8%	57%	28%
Somewhat Support	29%	25%	31%	32%
Somewhat Oppose	16%	19%	9%	25%
Strongly Oppose	20%	45%	1%	12%
Don't Know/Refused	2%	3%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q18. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?				
Community service is an honorable thing to do				
NET AGREE	94%	92%	94%	98%
NET DISAGREE	3%	5%	3%	0%
Strongly Agree	72%	73%	68%	78%
Somewhat Agree	22%	19%	26%	20%
Somewhat Disagree	3%	5%	2%	0%
Strongly Disagree	0%	0%	1%	0%
Don't Know/Refused	2%	3%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Military service is an honorable thing to do				
NET AGREE	92%	96%	90%	88%
NET DISAGREE	6%	1%	8%	10%
Strongly Agree	67%	87%	49%	68%
Somewhat Agree	25%	9%	41%	20%
Somewhat Disagree	4%	1%	5%	8%
Strongly Disagree	2%	0%	3%	2%
Don't Know/Refused	2%	3%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Running for political office is an honorable thing to do				
NET AGREE	72%	77%	64%	80%
NET DISAGREE	26%	20%	34%	18%
Strongly Agree	22%	25%	17%	28%
Somewhat Agree	50%	52%	47%	52%
Somewhat Disagree	20%	19%	25%	12%
Strongly Disagree	5%	1%	9%	5%
Don't Know/Refused	2%	3%	2%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Millennial Attendees

	All Attendees	Conservative Attendees	Libertarian Attendees	Other Attendees
	%	%	%	%
Q19. Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the government's collection of telephone and internet data as part of anti-terrorism efforts?				
NET SUPPORT	32%	53%	11%	38%
NET OPPOSE	65%	44%	85%	60%
Strongly Support	7%	13%	1%	8%
Somewhat Support	25%	40%	10%	30%
Somewhat Oppose	33%	35%	25%	48%
Strongly Oppose	32%	9%	60%	12%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	3%	3%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q20. Do you think the United States should increase its military presence around the world, decrease its military presence, or keep it at its current levels?

Increase military presence	12%	25%	2%	10%
Keep military presence at current levels	31%	48%	11%	40%
Decrease military presence	54%	24%	82%	48%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	3%	5%	2%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q21. Do you favor or oppose passing a law to temporarily ban Muslims from other countries from entering the US?

NET SUPPORT	16%	39%	3%	2%
NET OPPOSE	80%	59%	93%	90%
Strongly Support	5%	11%	1%	2%
Somewhat Support	11%	28%	2%	0%
Somewhat Oppose	22%	21%	23%	22%
Strongly Oppose	58%	37%	70%	68%
Don't Know/Refused	4%	3%	3%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q22. Do you support or oppose the United States sending ground troops to participate in a military campaign against the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL)?

NET SUPPORT	48%	77%	26%	40%
NET OPPOSE	49%	20%	70%	55%
Strongly Support	18%	40%	5%	5%
Somewhat Support	30%	37%	22%	35%
Somewhat Oppose	27%	15%	36%	28%
Strongly Oppose	22%	5%	34%	28%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	3%	3%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Millennial Attendees

	All Attendees	Conservative Attendees	Libertarian Attendees	Other Attendees
	%	%	%	%
Q23. Do you favor or oppose a law in your state that would allow businesses to refuse service to customers for religious reasons?				
NET SUPPORT	69%	88%	69%	32%
NET OPPOSE	28%	9%	27%	62%
Strongly Support	41%	64%	33%	15%
Somewhat Support	28%	24%	36%	18%
Somewhat Oppose	12%	4%	16%	18%
Strongly Oppose	16%	5%	11%	45%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	3%	3%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q24. Do you believe that identifying with a gender different from the gender assigned at birth is morally acceptable or morally wrong?				
Morally acceptable	17%	1%	24%	30%
Morally wrong	31%	64%	13%	10%
Not a moral issue	49%	32%	62%	55%
Don't Know/Refused	2%	3%	1%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q25. Amazon.com is developing a new system that would deliver packages to customers within hours of ordering the product using drones, or unmanned aerial vehicles. Does that idea make you feel more optimistic or pessimistic about the future?				
Feel more optimistic about the future	77%	71%	88%	68%
Feel more pessimistic about the future	19%	27%	9%	28%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	3%	3%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q26. Do you think local police departments using drones, military weapons and armored vehicles are necessary for law enforcement purposes, or are they going too far?				
Necessary	24%	43%	8%	22%
Going too far	73%	55%	89%	72%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	3%	3%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

	Millennial Attendees			
	All	Conservative	Libertarian	Other
	Attendees	Attendees	Attendees	Attendees
	%	%	%	%
Q27. Do you favor or oppose eliminating mandatory minimum prison sentences for people convicted of possessing or selling drugs?				
NET SUPPORT	68%	59%	76%	68%
NET OPPOSE	29%	39%	20%	28%
Strongly Support	49%	28%	70%	40%
Somewhat Support	19%	31%	6%	28%
Somewhat Oppose	11%	17%	3%	15%
Strongly Oppose	18%	21%	17%	12%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	3%	3%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q28. Do you think blacks and other minorities receive equal treatment as whites in the criminal justice system or not?				
Yes	26%	45%	15%	12%
No	71%	52%	82%	82%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	3%	3%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q29. Recent killings of black men, including incidents in Minneapolis and Baton Rouge have sparked national protests of police treatment of black Americans that centered around the slogan #BlackLivesMatter. Do you support or oppose the goals of the #BlackLivesMatter movement?				
NET SUPPORT	49%	21%	64%	68%
NET OPPOSE	47%	76%	32%	25%
Strongly Support	8%	1%	6%	25%
Somewhat Support	41%	20%	58%	42%
Somewhat Oppose	23%	33%	18%	12%
Strongly Oppose	24%	43%	14%	12%
Don't Know/Refused	4%	3%	5%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
Q30. If a Muslim clergyman wanted to make a speech in your community preaching hatred of the United States, should he be allowed to speak or not?				
Yes, allowed	84%	79%	92%	78%
No, not allowed	12%	19%	5%	18%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	3%	3%	5%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

Millennial Attendees

Q32. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?	All Attendees	Conservative Attendees	Libertarian Attendees	Other Attendees
We should be more tolerant of people who choose to live according to their own moral standards, even if they are different from our own				
NET AGREE	78%	56%	94%	82%
NET DISAGREE	17%	40%	1%	10%
Strongly Agree	43%	21%	67%	32%
Somewhat Agree	34%	35%	27%	50%
Somewhat Disagree	14%	31%	1%	10%
Strongly Disagree	3%	9%	0%	0%
Don't Know/Refused	5%	4%	5%	8%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%
It bothers me when I come in contact with immigrants who speak little or no English				
NET AGREE	27%	40%	19%	18%
NET DISAGREE	69%	56%	76%	78%
Strongly Agree	6%	12%	2%	2%
Somewhat Agree	21%	28%	17%	15%
Somewhat Disagree	40%	36%	40%	48%
Strongly Disagree	29%	20%	36%	30%
Don't Know/Refused	4%	4%	5%	5%
Total	100%	100%	17%	15%
Each of us should do more to ensure that lesbians, gays, bisexual and transgender people feel fully accepted in society				
NET AGREE	54%	32%	66%	68%
NET DISAGREE	42%	64%	30%	28%
Strongly Agree	13%	3%	16%	28%
Somewhat Agree	40%	29%	50%	40%
Somewhat Disagree	33%	43%	27%	25%
Strongly Disagree	9%	21%	2%	2%
Don't Know/Refused	4%	4%	5%	5%
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	55%	88%	34%	38%
NET DISAGREE	41%	8%	61%	57%
Strongly Agree	22%	44%	9%	10%
Somewhat Agree	33%	44%	25%	28%
Somewhat Disagree	24%	4%	34%	38%
Strongly Disagree	17%	4%	27%	20%
Don't Know/Refused	4%	4%	5%	5%

Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
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Q33. Do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

I am willing to give up some personal freedom and privacy for the sake of national security

	All Attendees	Millennial Attendees		
		Conservative Attendees	Libertarian Attendees	Other Attendees
NET AGREE	53%	80%	24%	65%
NET DISAGREE	42%	16%	70%	30%
Strongly Agree	11%	25%	1%	8%
Somewhat Agree.....	41%	55%	23%	57%
Somewhat Disagree.....	23%	13%	35%	15%
Strongly Disagree	19%	3%	35%	15%
Don't Know/Refused	5%	4%	6%	5%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Internet pornography is a public health crisis

NET AGREE	30%	53%	10%	28%
NET DISAGREE	66%	44%	84%	68%
Strongly Agree	13%	24%	3%	12%
Somewhat Agree.....	17%	29%	7%	15%
Somewhat Disagree.....	31%	32%	27%	35%
Strongly Disagree	35%	12%	57%	32%
Don't Know/Refused	4%	3%	6%	5%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

The government needs to do more to combat the prescription painkiller addiction epidemic

NET AGREE	40%	48%	25%	60%
NET DISAGREE	56%	49%	70%	35%
Strongly Agree	9%	12%	3%	18%
Somewhat Agree.....	31%	36%	22%	42%
Somewhat Disagree.....	39%	39%	45%	28%
Strongly Disagree	16%	11%	25%	8%
Don't Know/Refused	4%	3%	5%	5%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

No man is an island

NET AGREE	80%	88%	68%	90%
NET DISAGREE	15%	9%	26%	2%
Strongly Agree	36%	60%	14%	42%
Somewhat Agree.....	43%	28%	55%	48%
Somewhat Disagree.....	11%	8%	18%	2%
Strongly Disagree	4%	1%	8%	0%
Don't Know/Refused	5%	3%	6%	8%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Q31. How concerned are you about the following issues? <i>Extremely Concerned, Very Concerned, Somewhat Concerned, Not too Concerned, Not at all Concerned.</i>	All Attendees			Conservative Attendees			Libertarian Attendees		
	Very/Extremely Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned	Very/Extremely Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned	Very/Extremely Concerned	Somewhat Concerned	Not Concerned
<i>Statistically significant differences between conservatives and libertarians indicated with *** p < .001 ** p < .01 * p < .05</i>	<i>Top five issues in bold</i>			<i>Top five issues in bold</i>			<i>Top five issues in bold</i>		
Size and Scope of Government	86%	9%	5%	93%	5%	2%	93%	7%	0%
Government Spending/Debt	79%	16%	5%	90%	10%	0%	81%	15%	4%
Economy/Jobs	78%	20%	3%	82%	14%	5%	76%	24%	0%
Regulation of business	76%	20%	5%	74%	21%	4%	84%	15%	2%
Taxes	76%	18%	6%	83%	15%	2%	78%	18%	4%
Education	71%	22%	7%	76%	22%	2%	64%	24%	13%
Healthcare	59%	31%	11%	57%	30%	14%	55%	34%	11%
Criminal justice system	59%	30%	11%	50%	30%	20%	72%	22%	6%
Terrorism/National security***	55%	31%	15%	89%	11%	0%	29%	45%	27%
Immigration**	49%	31%	20%	67%	21%	12%	44%	33%	23%
Globalization/Free Trade Agreements	46%	37%	18%	40%	43%	17%	54%	25%	21%
Government domestic surveillance***	44%	39%	18%	20%	54%	27%	67%	24%	10%
Abortion***	43%	28%	29%	71%	11%	17%	26%	37%	37%
Morality in society***	43%	27%	31%	67%	23%	10%	19%	31%	50%
Drug prohibition***	38%	34%	28%	22%	39%	39%	55%	31%	14%
Racial inequality**	35%	37%	28%	22%	37%	41%	38%	40%	23%
Drug use	23%	31%	46%	17%	41%	41%	22%	31%	47%
The environment***	19%	38%	43%	2%	31%	67%	15%	46%	40%
Income inequality	19%	31%	50%	4%	36%	60%	16%	31%	53%

		Millennial Attendees		
	All Attendees	Conservative	Libertarian	Other
	%	%	%	%
Age Group				
17-24.....	67%	71%	70%	50%
25-34.....	14%	16%	14%	10%
35+.....	17%	12%	12%	35%
Refused	3%	1%	3%	5%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Gender				
Male.....	63%	60%	68%	57%
Female	33%	37%	28%	35%
Other.....	0%	1%	0%	0%
Refused	3%	1%	3%	8%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Race/Ethnicity				
Caucasian/White.....	74%	72%	77%	70%
African-American/Black	2%	4%	1%	2%
Hispanic/Latino	9%	9%	10%	5%
Asian/Pacific-Islander	6%	5%	5%	10%
Other.....	5%	8%	2%	5%
Refused	4%	1%	5%	8%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
Economic Status [if a dependent, then approximate family income]				
First quintile [Over \$110,000/year].....	38%	37%	39%	40%
Second quintile [\$68,000/year – \$110,000/year].....	20%	28%	16%	15%
Third quintile [\$42,000/year – \$68,000/year].....	12%	12%	11%	12%
Fourth quintile [\$22,000/year – \$42,000/year]	15%	9%	20%	12%
Fifth quintile [Under \$22,000/year]	10%	12%	10%	5%
Refused	5%	1%	3%	15%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
What is the highest level of education you have completed?				
High school graduate.....	1%	1%	0%	5%
Some college, but no degree yet	48%	57%	43%	42%
2-year college degree	1%	3%	0%	0%
4-year college degree	28%	20%	38%	20%
Post-graduate degree	19%	17%	16%	28%
Refused	3%	1%	3%	5%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

	All Attendees	Millennial Attendees		
		Conservative	Libertarian	Other
Which of these best describes your religious preference?	%	%	%	%
Catholic	19%	32%	8%	20%
Evangelical	16%	32%	6%	10%
Mainline Protestant.....	27%	25%	31%	22%
Other Religion	11%	7%	12%	15%
Non-Religious.....	24%	3%	40%	28%
Refused	3%	1%	3%	5%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%
How often do you attend religious service?				
Once a week or more	32%	53%	15%	28%
A few times a month	18%	20%	20%	8%
A few times a year.....	28%	21%	33%	28%
Never	20%	4%	28%	30%
Don't Know/Refused	3%	1%	3%	8%
Total.....	100%	100%	100%	100%

Responses may not add to 100% due to rounding

More About the Post-Debate Survey of Attendees

The Cato Institute conducted a post-debate survey of attendees of the Libertarianism v Conservatism intern debate hosted by the Cato Institute and Heritage Foundation in which [interns at both organizations debated](#) whether conservatism or libertarianism is a better political philosophy on August 4, 2016.

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 565 people. In total, we collected 203 surveys from debate attendees, producing a response rate of 36%. Of respondents, 75 identified as conservative, 88 as libertarian, 40 as either moderate, liberal, progressive, or something else.

While the survey is not a representative sample of all millennial conservatives and libertarians, this survey offers a snapshot of engaged conservative and libertarian millennial “elites” who are politically engaged, have more education and political information, and who chose to come to this event. To date, little information exists on young conservative and libertarian elites. Since these attendees are politically engaged millennials, their responses may provide some indication of the direction they may take both movements in the future.