



## **The Civic Knowledge of Utahns**

### **Survey of Utah Residents**

October 13 – November 15, 2021

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## About this Survey

Utah Valley University [UVU] contracted with YouGov to administer an online survey to a statewide representative sample of 942 Utahns, aged 18 and up. The survey was administered October 13 – November 15, 2001.

The survey was conducted as part of UVU's Civic Thought and Leadership Initiative to gauge the level of civic knowledge among Utah's voting age population. Respondents were asked a series of questions designed to assess basic factual knowledge about the U.S. Constitution as well as about U.S. governmental system in general, along with their general awareness of various national and international political leaders. They were also asked questions about their general orientation towards government, as well as the 2020 election and the subsequent controversy.

The questions were selected to match those used in surveys administered in major national academic surveys like the American National Election Study, administered each election year by the Center for Political Studies at the University of Michigan, as well those from other major national survey organizations:

- The Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania
- The Pew Research Center
- The Monmouth University Polling Institute

The purpose was to compare the level of civic knowledge and political attitudes among this sample of Utahns to that of the national samples.

Any questions about this survey can be directed to Dr. Jay DeSart at the UVU Department of History and Political Science. <http://uvu.edu/hps>

## Topline Results

For how many years is a United States Senator elected - that is, how many years are there in one full term of office for a U.S. Senator?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
1	1	.1
2	133	14.1
3	19	1.3
4	273	29.0
5	15	1.5
6 (Correct)	377	40.0
7	14	1.5
8	54	5.8
9	0	0.0
10	8	0.8
Don't Know	55	5.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

### SUMMARY

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Correct	377	40.0
Incorrect/DK	565	60.0

Do you happen to know which party currently has the most members in the United States Senate?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
The Democratic Party*	400	42.5
The Republican Party	161	17.0
Both the Democrats and Republicans have the same number (Correct)	253	26.8
I don't know	129	13.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

#### SUMMARY

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Correct*	653	69.3
Incorrect/DK	289	30.7

\*While the Democrats and Republicans hold the same number of seats in the Senate, Vice President Harris has the authority under the Constitution to cast tie-breaking votes in the Senate. This effectively gives the Democrats a procedural majority in the Senate. Therefore, we are counting the response "The Democratic Party" as correct as well.

Do you happen to know which party currently has the most members in the United States House of Representatives?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
The Democratic Party (Correct)	596	63.3
The Republican Party	172	18.2
I don't know	174	18.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

#### SUMMARY

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Correct	596	63.3
Incorrect/DK	346	36.7

Is the U.S. federal budget deficit (the amount by which the government's spending exceeds the amount of money it collects) now bigger, about the same, or smaller than it was during most of the 1990s?

Response	Frequency	Percent
The deficit is bigger (Correct)	815	86.5
The deficit is about the same	24	2.6
The deficit is smaller	27	2.9
I don't know	75	8.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

#### SUMMARY

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	815	86.5
Incorrect/DK	14.7	13.5

On which of the following does the U.S. Government spend the least?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Foreign Aid (Correct)	190	20.2
National Defense	58	6.2
Social Security	231	24.5
Medicare	177	18.8
I don't know	286	30.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

#### SUMMARY

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	190	20.2
Incorrect/DK	752	79.8

If the president and Supreme Court differ on whether an action by the president is constitutional, who has the final responsibility for determining if the action is constitutional – the president, Congress, or the Supreme Court, or are you not sure?

Response	Frequency	Percent
President	40	4.2
Congress	223	23.7
Supreme Court (Correct)	553	58.7
I'm not sure	127	13.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

#### SUMMARY

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	553	58.7
Incorrect/DK	389	41.3

How much of a majority is required for the U.S. Senate and the House of Representatives to override a presidential veto – 51 percent, two-thirds, three-quarters, 90 percent, or are you not sure?

Response	Frequency	Percent
51 percent	159	16.9
Two-thirds (Correct)	505	53.6
Three-quarters	70	7.4
90 percent	20	2.1
I'm not sure	188	20.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

#### SUMMARY

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	505	53.6
Incorrect/DK	437	46.4

If the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case 5 to 4, what does this mean?

Response	Frequency	Percent
The decision is the law and needs to be followed. (Correct)	541	57.4
The decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration	93	9.9
The decision is sent back to the federal court of appeals to be decided there.	50	5.3
I don't know	258	27.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

### SUMMARY

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	541	57.4
Incorrect/DK	438	42.6

What political office does **Nancy Pelosi** currently hold? (If you don't know, simply type "Don't know")

[Correct answer: Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives]

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	563	59.7
Incorrect/DK	379	40.3

What political office does **Kamala Harris** currently hold? (If you don't know, simply type "Don't know")

[Correct answer: Vice President]

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	752	79.9
Incorrect/DK	190	20.1

What political office does **John Roberts** currently hold? (If you don't know, simply type "Don't know")

[Correct answer: Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court]

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	190	20.2
Incorrect/DK	752	79.8

What political office does **Angela Merkel** currently hold? (If you don't know, simply type "Don't know")

[Correct answer: Chancellor of Germany\*]

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	338	35.8
Incorrect/DK	604	64.2

\*Merkel is now the *former* Chancellor, but at the time the survey was being administered she was the outgoing Chancellor, but still in office. Respondents who referred to her as "retired" or something similar were considered to have given a correct answer.

What political office does **Vladimir Putin** currently hold? (If you don't know, simply type "Don't know")

[Correct answer: President of Russia]

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	724	76.8
Incorrect/DK	218	23.2



Do you happen to know any of the three branches of government?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	777	82.4
No/DK	165	17.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

Would you mind naming any of them, the three branches of government?  
(Please list as many as you can think of)

[Correct Answers: Legislative (Congress), Executive (President), Judicial (Courts)]

*Legislative* mentioned:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	637	67.7
Incorrect/DK	304	32.3

*Executive* mentioned:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	613	65.1
Incorrect/DK	329	34.9

*Judicial* mentioned:

Response	Frequency	Percent
Correct	693	73.5
Incorrect/DK	249	26.5

Number of branches correctly named:

Response	Frequency	Percent
0	195	20.7
1	89	9.4
2	119	12.6
3	539	57.2

As you may know, the First Amendment is part of the U.S. Constitution. Can you name any of the specific rights that are guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, or not? (List as many as you can recall)

[Correct answers: Freedom of religion/worship, Freedom of speech/expression, Freedom of press, Freedom of assembly/gathering, Freedom to petition/protest]

*Freedom of religion/worship mentioned:*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Correct	303	32.2
Incorrect/DK	639	67.8

*Freedom of speech mentioned:*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Correct	688	73.0
Incorrect/DK	254	27.0

*Freedom of press mentioned:*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Correct	176	18.7
Incorrect/DK	766	81.3

*Freedom of assembly/gathering mentioned:*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Correct	194	20.6
Incorrect/DK	748	79.4

*Freedom to petition/protest mentioned:*

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Correct	73	7.7
Incorrect/DK	869	92.3

Having a strong leader in government is good for the United States even if the leader bends the rules to get things done.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly disagree	141	14.1
Disagree	362	36.2
Neither agree nor disagree	238	23.8
Agree	213	21.3
Strongly agree	45	4.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100</b>

What people call compromise in politics is really just selling out on one's principles.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly disagree	48	4.8
Disagree	265	26.5
Neither agree nor disagree	337	33.7
Agree	269	26.9
Strongly agree	91	8.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1000</b>	<b>100</b>

How much of the time can you trust the government in Washington to do the right thing?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Just about always	17	1.8
Most of the time	160	17.0
Only some of the time	730	77.5
Don't know	35	3.7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

Is government run by a few big interests or is it run for the benefit of all people?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Few big interests	782	83.0
Benefit of all	96	10.2
Don't know	64	6.8
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

How many people running the government are crooked?

Response	Frequency	Percent
Quite a few	665	70.6
Not very many	215	22.8
Hardly any	21	2.2
Don't know	42	4.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

How much tax money does the government waste?

Response	Frequency	Percent
A lot	640	67.9
Some	253	26.8
Not very much	26	2.8
Don't know	23	2.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

How much do you feel that having elections makes the government pay attention?

Response	Frequency	Percent
A good deal	172	18.3
Some	449	47.7
Not much	288	30.6
Don't know	33	3.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

When making decisions in the last few years, how much attention does the government pay to people's opinions?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
A good deal	54	5.7
Some	347	36.9
Not much	520	55.2
Don't know	21	2.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

People like me don't have any say about what the government does.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly disagree	53	5.7
Disagree	156	16.6
Neither agree nor disagree	179	19.0
Agree	369	39.2
Strongly agree	183	19.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

Public officials don't care much what people like me think.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly disagree	31	3.3
Disagree	100	10.7
Neither agree nor disagree	141	15.0
Agree	460	48.8
Strongly agree	209	22.2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

I consider myself well qualified to participate in politics.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly disagree	97	10.3
Disagree	195	20.7
Neither agree nor disagree	292	31.0
Agree	259	27.5
Strongly agree	99	10.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

I feel that I have a pretty good understanding of the important political issues facing our country.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly disagree	49	5.2
Disagree	107	11.3
Neither agree nor disagree	177	18.8
Agree	474	50.3
Strongly agree	136	14.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

I feel that I could do as good a job in public office as most other people.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly disagree	106	11.3
Disagree	255	27.1
Neither agree nor disagree	236	25.1
Agree	245	26.0
Strongly agree	100	10.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

I think that I am better informed about politics and government than most people.

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly disagree	83	8.8
Disagree	242	25.7
Neither agree nor disagree	288	30.5
Agree	230	2.4
Strongly agree	100	10.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

How important is it to you that elected officials are honest and ethical?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very important	890	94.7
Somewhat important	42	4.5
Not too important	7	0.7
Not at all important	1	0.2
N/A	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

How important is it to you that elected officials are knowledgeable about the issues?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very important	847	90.0
Somewhat important	80	8.5
Not too important	10	1.0
Not at all important	5	0.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

How important is it to you that elected officials are willing to make compromises with their political opponents to solve important problems?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very important	566	60.2
Somewhat important	314	33.4
Not too important	46	4.9
Not at all important	15	1.6
N/A	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

How important is it to you that elected officials treat their political opponents with respect?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very important	664	70.5
Somewhat important	225	23.9
Not too important	44	4.6
Not at all important	8	0.9
N/A	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

How important is it to you that elected officials admit when they're wrong?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Very important	817	86.8
Somewhat important	101	10.7
Not too important	17	1.8
Not at all important	6	0.6
N/A	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>



Do you believe Joe Biden won the 2020 election fair and square, or do you believe that he only won it due to voter fraud?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Won fair and square	537	57.0
Due to voter fraud	405	43.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

Thinking back to the riot at the U.S. Capitol on January 6th... Regardless of the actual actions taken, do you think the anger over the presidential election that led to this incident was fully justified, partially justified, or not at all justified?

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Fully justified	99	10.5
Partially justified	275	29.2
Not at all justified	592	60.2
Did not answer	1	.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

## Demographics

### Age

Response	Frequency	Percent
18-24	133	14.1
25-44	391	41.6
45-64	262	27.8
65+	156	16.5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

### Sex

Response	Frequency	Percent
Male	460	48.9
Female	466	49.5
Non-Binary	15	1.6
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

### Education

Response	Frequency	Percent
No HS Degree	32	3.4
High School Graduate	251	26.7
Some College	258	27.4
2-year degree	100	10.6
4-year degree	206	21.8
Post-graduate degree	94	10.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

### Income

Response	Frequency	Percent
Less than \$20,000	132	15.4
\$20,000 - \$39,999	187	21.7
\$40,000 - \$59,999	152	17.6
\$60,000 - \$79,999	149	17.4
\$80,000 - \$119,999	130	15.1
\$120,000+	110	12.8
Prefer not to say	81	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

### Race/Ethnicity

Response	Frequency	Percent
White	774	82.2
Black	12	1.2
Hispanic	96	10.2
Asian	10	1.1
Native American	4	.4
Two or more races	25	2.7
Other	20	1.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

### Party Identification

Response	Frequency	Percent
Democrat	169	18.0
Independent	323	34.0
Republican	320	34.3
Other	53	5.6
Not sure	76	8.1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

### Ideology

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Liberal	177	18.8
Moderate	307	32.6
Conservative	360	38.2
Not sure	97	10.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

### Religion

<b>Response</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Protestant	70	7.4
Roman Catholic	71	7.6
Mormon	369	39.2
Eastern or Greek Orthodox	1	0.1
Jewish	1	0.1
Muslim	0	0.0
Buddhist	6	0.6
Hindu	2	0.3
Atheist	52	5.5
Agnostic	79	8.4
Nothing in particular	177	18.8
Something else	113	12.0
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100</b>

## Methodological and Weighting Information

YouGov interviewed 1553 respondents (18+ residents of Utah) who were then matched down to a sample of 1000. To ensure data quality, respondents who failed an attention check question were then filtered out to arrive at a final sample size of 942 based on respondents' response to an attention check filter question. The respondents were matched to a sampling frame on gender, age, race, and education. The frame was constructed by stratified sampling from the full 2019 American Community Survey (ACS) 1-year sample with selection within strata by weighted sampling with replacements (using the person weights on the public use file).

The matched cases were weighted to the 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, and region. The propensity scores were grouped into deciles of the estimated propensity score in the frame and post-stratified according to these deciles. The weights were then post-stratified on 2016 and 2020 Presidential vote choice, and a four-way stratification of gender, age (4-categories), race (4-categories), and education (4-categories), to produce the final weight.

Demographic characteristics of the weighted and unweighted samples are compared to population parameters for Utah in the table below.

### Weighted and Unweighted Sample Distributions Compared to Population Parameters for Utah

		Population %	Unweighted %	Weighted %
<b>Age</b>	<b>18-24</b>	16	14	14
	<b>25-44</b>	40	42	42
	<b>45-64</b>	28	28	28
	<b>65+</b>	16	16	17
<b>Sex</b>	<b>Male</b>	50	45	49
	<b>Female</b>	50	54	50
	<b>Non-Binary</b>		2	1
<b>Race</b>	<b>Black</b>	1	1	1
	<b>White</b>	79	84	82
	<b>Hispanic</b>	14	9	10
	<b>Other</b>	6	6	7
<b>Education</b>	<b>&lt; H.S. Degree</b>	8	2	3
	<b>H.S. Degree</b>	62	60	65
	<b>Bachelors Deg.</b>	21	25	22
	<b>Graduate Deg.</b>	10	12	10
<b>2016 Presidential Vote</b>	<b>Trump</b>	46	31	46
	<b>Clinton</b>	27	22	28
	<b>McMullin</b>	22	8	15
	<b>Johnson</b>	4	4	7
	<b>Stein</b>	1	1	2
	<b>Other</b>	1	1	2
<b>2020 Presidential Vote</b>	<b>Biden</b>	38	46	37
	<b>Trump</b>	58	45	57
	<b>Jorgenson</b>	3	4	3
	<b>Other</b>	2	5	3