

THE CITIZEN

Published together at Massachusetts Girls and Boys State

Poem of the Day

By: Quinn Walton

Fate and Empowerment

When things go wrong as the sometimes will,
When the road you are trudging seems all up hill,
When the funds are low and the depths are high,
And you want to smile but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest if you must but do not quit.

Life is queer with it's twist and turns,
As everyone of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
when they might have won, had they stuck it out
Do not give up though the pace seems low,
You may succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
it seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up
when he might have captured the Victor's cup,
And he learnt too late when he night came, down
how close he was to the golden crown.

It may be near when it seems so far, so stick
to the fight when you are hardest hit.
It's when things seem worse that you must not quit

Rakiya Madugu

THIS ISSUE'S FEATURED ARTICLES:

Girls/Boys State Poll

*Poll results
and reactions*

2021 Boys State Poll

| Jesse Tague |

One of the main parts of Girls and Boys state is the concentration of politics and government actions, from the local communities to our federal republic, commentators are not far with voicing their opinions. It is not a far fetched idea that Staters came into this program with their own personal beliefs set in stone in their minds.

Rolling back before this eventful June week, the Girl's and Boy's State Program sent out an email to take a count of candidates personal convictions, trying to get an idea of what the general public attitude towards real life politics.

The Citizen sat down with a number of average staters, asking for their comments and reactions to the data previously allocated from the legionnaires.

TOTAL STATE RESULTS

Did you consult any resources to complete the poll?

Yes 42

No 88

What do you consider yourself? - Political Party

Democrat 50 38.46%

Independent 43 33.08%

Republican 27 20.77%

Others 10 7.69%

What do you consider yourself?

Politically Active 22 16.92%

Politically Aware 88 67.69%

Politically Indifferent 8 6.15%

Not Political 12 9.23%

2021 Girls State Poll

| Suzanne Pearl |

While discussing with various Girls Staters their opinions on the poll results, there was a great amount of concern that the data collected was inconsistent with Girls Staters views and seemed to lack the diversity existing within the Girls State program.

While the poll states that over 61% of citizens claim to be liberal, about 30% declared themselves moderate, with only 11% labeling themselves conservative. Some Staters questioned whether these results suggested that Staters claiming to be moderate responded with fear that if claiming conservatism, would be overpowered, even silenced, by liberals.

Another area where interviewees examined data was for the question about Girls Staters political activism. Ruby, from Unity, was surprised to see that only about 16% of citizens believed themselves to be politically active, with 77% considering themselves politically aware. Ruby felt that from her experience participating in conversations with her fellow citizens, girls Staters seemed very informed and educated on politically related current events.

Between those interviewed, the greatest amount of concern was toward the lack of individuals active in the poll. Girls Staters questioned whether the reason for inconsistencies within the data were related to this lack of citizens involved in the acquiring of the data. Does this inconsistent data threaten the future of the Girls State program and the directors perception of participants?

Did you consult any resources to complete the poll?

Yes 42

No 88

What do you consider yourself? - Moderate, Liberal or Conservative

Moderate 46.92%

Liberal 28.46%

Conservative 24.62%

Did you consult any resources to complete the poll?

Yes 5

No 13

What do you consider yourself? - Moderate, Liberal or Conservative

Moderate 27.78%

Liberal 61.11%

Conservative 11.11%

What do you consider yourself? - Politically Active, Politically Aware, Politically Indifferent, or Not Political

Politically Active 16.67%

Politically Aware 77.78%

Politically Indifferent 0 0.00%

Not Political 5.56%

What do you consider yourself? - Politically Active, Politically Aware, Politically Indifferent, or Not Political

Politically Active 22 16.92%

Politically Aware 88 67.69%

Politically Indifferent 8 6.15%

Not Political 12 9.23%

Citizen Reactions

| Compiled by Jesse Tague |

Carter Zielinski, hailing from t6, sat down with The Citizen to lend us his ideas and reactions. Carter's emotions were on stage when consulting the polls on political parties, surprised that a whopping 43 Staters had aligned with this, assuming that there were more Republicans.

On the other hand, there was no considerable reception to the data showing that most people did not think of Donald Trump favorably. From both Republicans and Democrats, this was the same.

Continuing on with the surprising results, Carter was caught off guard with the polls showing that 40% of students believed that people should be required to stand for the national anthem.

Wrapping things up, cell phone usage as young as 6 years old was an astonishment from all. Carter mentioned that he himself had obtained his phone at the age of 13, creating a 7 year difference.

Further down the poll page, Zielinski himself confessed that he was a part of the percentage that were not following the news previously before Boy's State. Around 18% did not. At the top, a steady 50 people had said they follow CNN, comparatively Fox News came in second with 43 students.

With the amount of polls that were filled out, the main takeaway was the representation of democrats or liberals. All in all, Carter explained that he felt and believed that Boy's State was mostly conservative or republican, with some from the other side. With this poll, we can say there is still some more information that has laid uncovered, until now.

Reaching Across the Aisle

Poll shows commonality between Nats and Feds

| Abner Perez |

First order of business, after Tuesday night's platform and debate both chairmen and candidates made it clear that my fellow Staters are basically on the same page, and the polls prove it. With almost 47% polling themselves as moderate, and only 28.46% and 24.62% for liberal and conservative respectively, it explained a lot about the similarities between both the party's platforms. Most notably, both party platforms had an emphasis on climate change and infrastructure reform.

Now, when it comes to the number of Staters who polled as politically active with 67.69%, it was pretty eye popping. It's just nice to see that people our age are knowledgeable of our nation, our world, and our political issues because I've witnessed it myself. From the first day I got here I've seen the bar, I've seen the standard, and it hit me like a rock but a well padded rock, but that's not the point. Point is is that the polls, from the little results I've seen, prove to be as true as truth can be. I witnessed liberal, moderate, and conservative viewpoints and ideals throughout the week from my first interactions with some of my boys at T-7 and throughout the whole election process. But, the majority of liberals and moderates were really able to voice their ideas during the Party Caucuses where many took the chance to run for office and voice their opinions and thoughts to the Federal Party Platform.

And look, there was a lot more that stood out like the results on questions on if condoms should be available in schools or if students should be required to stand up for the national anthem, but, honestly there was just too much to cover in too little time so I hope that this at least gives you guys a little bit of insight into your fellow Staters.

POLL RESULTS

Totals for the Entire Boys and Girls State

Joe Biden has lived up to his 100 days promises he had made to the American people.

Strongly Disagree 13 10.00%
Somewhat Disagree 30 23.08%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 37 28.46%
Somewhat Agree 43 33.08%
Strongly Agree 7 5.38%

Historians will look favorably on The Trump administration.

Strongly Disagree 57 43.85%
Somewhat Disagree 29 22.31%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 22 16.92%
Somewhat Agree 18 13.85%
Strongly Agree 4 3.08%

Historians will look favorably on The Obama administration.

Strongly Disagree 4 3.08%
Somewhat Disagree 18 13.85%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 31 23.85%
Somewhat Agree 54 41.54%
Strongly Agree 23 17.69%

The United States need stronger gun laws

Strongly Disagree 20 15.38%
Somewhat Disagree 17 13.08%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 18 13.85%
Somewhat Agree 34 26.15%
Strongly Agree 41 31.54%

The United States needs stronger border controls

Strongly Disagree 9 6.92%
Somewhat Disagree 16 12.31%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 42 32.31%
Somewhat Agree 45 34.62%
Strongly Agree 18 13.85%

The United States need more environmental regulations

Strongly Disagree 5 3.85%
Somewhat Disagree 8 6.15%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 23 17.69%
Somewhat Agree 34 26.15%
Strongly Agree 60 46.15%

American have the right to affordable health care

Strongly Disagree 7 5.38%
Somewhat Disagree 12 9.23%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 21 16.15%
Somewhat Agree 26 20.00%
Strongly Agree 64 49.23%

Americans are more politically divided than ever.

Strongly Disagree 11 8.46%
Somewhat Disagree 14 10.77%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 20 15.38%
Somewhat Agree 28 21.54%
Strongly Agree 57 43.85%

Washington D.C. should be granted statehood

Strongly Disagree 28 21.54%
Somewhat Disagree 16 12.31%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 36 27.69%
Somewhat Agree 25 19.23%
Strongly Agree 25 19.23%

Massachusetts should pass legislation to legalize supervised safe injection sites

Strongly Disagree 20 15.38%
Somewhat Disagree 15 11.54%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 38 29.23%
Somewhat Agree 33 25.38%
Strongly Agree 24 18.46%

Massachusetts should consider a statewide plastic bag ban

Strongly Disagree 15 11.54%
Somewhat Disagree 25 19.23%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 32 24.62%
Somewhat Agree 38 29.23%
Strongly Agree 20 15.38%

Massachusetts should lower voting age to 16 for state and local elections

Strongly Disagree 50 38.46%
Somewhat Disagree 20 15.38%
Neither Agree nor Disagree 22 16.92%
Somewhat Agree 16 12.31%
Strongly Agree 22 16.92%