

Anger, anxiety motivate voters in 2018

Emotions stir engagement in midterm elections

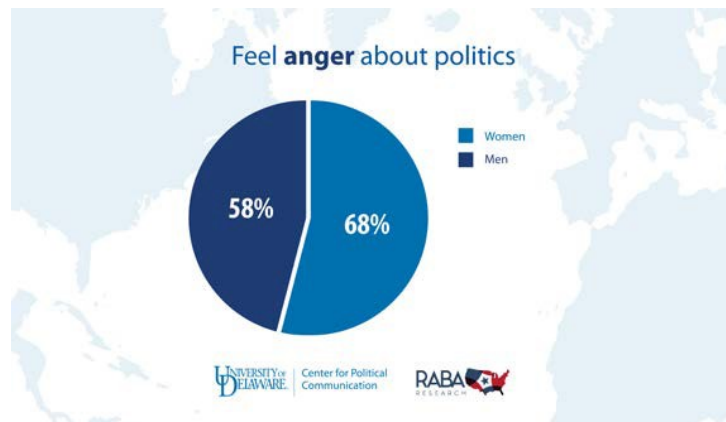
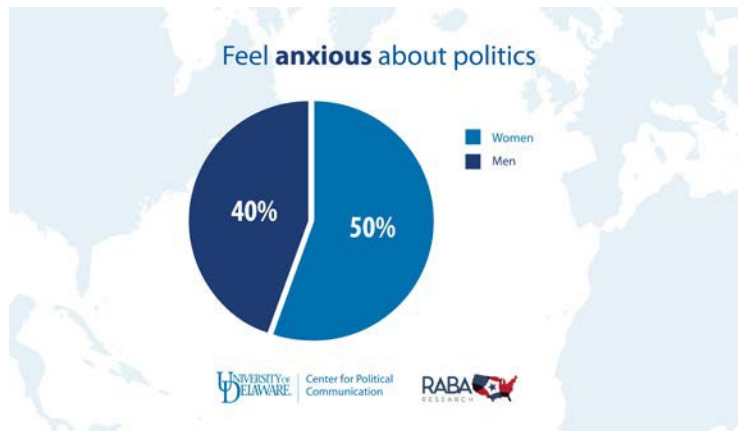
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The political climate has Americans fuming and they report feeling less hopeful and proud heading into the midterm elections.

A national poll conducted for the University of Delaware’s Center of Political Communication found emotions driving increased involvement and engagement as November approaches, especially among women and Millennials.

More women than men said they were anxious (50% versus 40%) and angry (66% versus 58%) about politics. Women also reported that they are more likely to vote in the midterm elections this fall, with 63% citing anxiety as the reason and 49% saying it was anger that would drive them to the polls.



Presidential approval was 47%, with 53% disapproving of the job President Trump is doing. Only 14% of respondents approve of the job that Congress is doing.

The national poll, conducted by RABA Research, also shows Americans are paying more attention to politics these days, with 49% reporting they are following the news. This is especially so for younger Americans; 61% of those 18-29 years old said they are more tuned in — higher than any other age group.

“It’s not that women expressed more emotions overall than men, it was that women displayed higher anxiety and anger — two emotions that have been shown in research to motivate political behavior like voting and speaking out,” says Dr. Lindsay Hoffman, Associate Director of the CPC.

Americans on the whole appear motivated to vote in the midterm elections this November. A total of 90% of respondents said they planned to vote. While still highly engaged, those ages 18-29 were less likely to vote in the midterm elections this November (73% compared with approximately 95% for other age groups).

METHODOLOGY 697 interviews among voters were conducted June 29-July 1, 2018 via automated phone survey. The results were weighted to ensure proportional response. Margin of error for these results is +/-3.7. For questions, please email: info@rabaresearch.com or call (917) 685-4819. The National Agenda Opinion Project research is funded by the University of Delaware’s nonpartisan Center for Political Communication (CPC). The study was supervised by the CPC’s Associate Director, Lindsay Hoffman (Associate Professor) in the Department of Communication.



UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE SUMMER POLL

National Survey Results

July 2, 2018

1. Suppose the election for Congress were held today – would you vote for the Democrat or the Republican?

	Total
Democrat	47%
Republican	43%
Not sure	7%
Wouldn't vote	4%

2. Do you think politicians are fighting more these days, or, do you think this is how things have always been?

	Total
Fighting more than they used to	70%
How things have always been	22%
Don't know	9%

When you think about politics in general, do you feel any of the following emotions?

	<u>Feel</u>			<u>Don't feel</u>		
	Total	Woman	Man	Total	Woman	Man
3. Do you feel anxious?	44%	50%	40%	56%	50%	60%
4. Do you feel angry?	61%	66%	58%	39%	34%	42%
5. Do you feel hopeful?	47%	48%	48%	53%	52%	52%
6. Do you feel proud?	38%	38%	38%	62%	62%	62%

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Have any of these feelings made you more or less likely to vote in the upcoming midterm elections in November?

	<u>More likely</u>			<u>Less likely</u>			<u>No diff</u>		
	Total	Woman	Man	Total	Woman	Man	Total	Woman	Man
7. Anxious	52%	63%	42%	12%	11%	14%	36%	26%	44%
8. Angry	42%	49%	36%	12%	15%	10%	46%	37%	54%
9. Hopeful	44%	49%	39%	12%	8%	17%	44%	43%	44%
10. Proud	33%	34%	31%	16%	15%	19%	51%	50%	50%

11. Are you paying closer attention to politics than you did two years ago?

	Total
Closer attention	49%
Same amount of attention	39%
Less attention	11%

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the job President Trump is doing?

	Total
Approve	47%
Disapprove	53%

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the job Congress is doing?

	Total
Approve	14%
Disapprove	86%

14. Did you vote in the 2016 Presidential election?

	Total
Yes	90%
No	10%



15. [IF VOTED IN 2016] For which candidate did you vote in 2016?

	Total
Donald Trump	47%
Hilary Clinton	49%
Other	5%

16. Do you plan to vote in the midterm election this fall, or do you not plan to vote?

	Total
Plan to vote	90%
Don't plan to vote	10%

17. For statistical purposes only, what is your race?

	Total
African-American	11%
White	61%
Hispanic	11%
Asian	3%
Other/prefer not to say	14%

18. What is your gender?

	Total
Women	49%
Men	46%
Other/prefer not to say	5%

19. In general, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or something else?

	Total
Republican	40%
Democrat	39%
Something else	22%



20. Do you have a college degree?

	Total
Yes	57%
No	43%

21. What is your age?

	Total
18-29	15%
30-44	26%
45-64	33%
65+	14%
Unknown	12%