



GS STRATEGY GROUP

Third Way – RPU Student Poll

Conducted April 2 – 6, 2026

N = 500 RPU Students Nationally

Online

Margin of Error: +/- 4.38%

Q1. For statistical purposes, what is your age?

	Total
Total	500
18-26	100%

Q2. What is your gender?

	Total
Total	500
Male	43%
Female	56%
Something else	1%
Prefer not to say	0%
Net	-13%

Q3. Are you Latino, Hispanic, or of Latino, Hispanic, or Spanish descent?

	Total
Total	500
Yes	22%
No	78%
Net	-56%

Q4. What is your race?

	Total
Total	500
White	46%
Non-White	53%
Black	15%
Hispanic	22%
Asian/Pacific Islander	11%
Native American	1%
Multiple Races	4%
Prefer not to say	1%

Q5DIV. Area breaks Division:

	Total
Total	500
Northeast	18%
Middle Atlantic	18%
Midwest	27%
East North Central	22%
West North Central	5%
South	33%
South Atlantic	17%
East South Central	4%
West South Central	13%
West	22%
Mountain	5%
Pacific	16%

Q5REG. Area breaks Region:

	Total
Total	500
Northeast	18%
Midwest	27%
South	33%
West	22%

Q6. Are you currently enrolled in college?

	Total
Total	500
Yes	100%

Q7. Is it a two-year or four-year school?

	Total
Total	500
Four-year	100%

Q9. Are you currently using any federal or private loans to help you pay for school?

	Total
Total	500
Yes	68%
Yes, federal loans	34%
Yes, private loans	13%
Both	21%
No	29%
Prefer not to say	3%
Net	39%

Q10. What is your current field of study or major?

	Total
Total	500
Business	14%
Health care or Nursing	13%
Computer Science or IT	11%
Psychology	9%
Engineering	8%
Biology	6%
Liberal Arts	6%
Criminal Justice	5%
Education	4%
Finance	4%
Political Science	3%
Social Work	3%
Accounting	2%
Communication or Journalism	2%
English	2%
Marketing	2%
Sociology	2%
History	1%
Other	2%
Undecided	0%

Q11. Does your parent(s) or guardian(s) have a college degree?

	Total
Total	500
Yes	60%
No	38%
Not sure	2%
Net	22%

Q12. In general, how would you rate your experience at your current school?

	Total
Total	500
Excellent/Good	88%
Excellent	34%
Good	54%
Fair/Poor	12%
Fair	11%
Poor	1%
Net	76%

Q13. What is the one way you think your school is different from other colleges and universities?

	Total
Total	500
Curriculum and programs offered/resources	31%
Campus facilities/infrastructure/design	12%
Community focused/close knit atmosphere	11%
Culture/diversity	10%
Overall positive evaluation	5%
Welcoming/inviting	4%
More affordable	4%
Class sizes/school population	3%
Commuter school	3%
Technology focused/advanced	1%
Campus wellness and mental health resources	1%
HBCU	1%
Sports oriented	1%
Dining hall/food options	1%
Online education opportunity	1%
Safety	1%
No other school for comparison	1%
Don't think it's different from others	2%
Other	1%
DK/Refused	5%

Q14. How would you describe mainstream media coverage of college life in 2026?

	Total
Total	500
Accurate	87%
Very accurate	22%
Somewhat accurate	65%
Not Accurate	13%
Not very accurate	12%
Not accurate at all	1%
Net	74%

Q15. What do you think the media gets wrong about college life?

	Total
Total	388
The party life	21%
Level of ease/difficulty/ stress	19%
Amount of free time/fun/ constant happiness	12%
Social engagement level	9%
Exaggerates/distorts reality/only focuses on the bad	7%
Cost/financial struggle	5%
Workload intensity	5%
Boring/not as chaotic/ mundane	3%
Waste of time	2%
Quality of treatment/strict ruling	1%
Greek life	1%
Mixed reviews	1%
Politically divided	1%
Dorming experience	1%
Limited focus on the commuter experience	1%
Doesn't get anything wrong	1%
Other	1%
DK/Refused	12%

Q16. Is your current school in the same state where you grew up or went to high school?

	Total
Total	500
Yes	86%
No	14%
Net	72%

Q17. Would you say the area you grew up in is urban, suburban, or rural?

	Total
Total	500
Suburban	48%
Urban	38%
Rural	13%
Not sure	1%

Q18. And would you say your current school is in an urban, suburban, or rural area?

	Total
Total	500
Urban	49%
Suburban	37%
Rural	12%
Not sure	2%

Q19. Compared to other colleges and universities, would you say your school is...?

	Total
Total	500
More Expensive	23%
Much more expensive	5%
A little more expensive	18%
Typical cost	44%
Less Expensive	32%
A little less expensive	23%
Much less expensive	9%
Not sure	0%
Net	-9%

Q20. How would you describe your current financial situation?

	Total
Total	500
Just getting by	52%
Living comfortably	34%
Finding it difficult to get by	13%
Not sure	1

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Q21. How often do you worry that a financial emergency will prevent you from continuing your college education?

	Total
Total	328
Always/Sometimes	77%
Always	22%
Sometimes	55%
Rarely/Never	23%
Rarely	19%
Never	4%
Not sure	0%
Net	54%

Please tell me whether you have accessed or heard of the following resources. If you haven't heard of them, just say so.

Q22. Campus food pantry

	Total
Total	500
Have used or accessed this resource	37%
Have heard of this resource, but not used it	50%
Have not heard of this resource	12%
Not sure	2%
Net	-13%

Q23. SNAP, TANF, or food stamps

	Total
Total	500
Have used or accessed this resource	32%
Have heard of this resource, but not used it	58%
Have not heard of this resource	8%
Not sure	2%
Net	-26%

Q24. On-campus child care

	Total
Total	500
Have used or accessed this resource	7%
Have heard of this resource, but not used it	57%
Have not heard of this resource	31%
Not sure	4%
Net	-50%

Q25. Emergency housing support

	Total
Total	500
Have used or accessed this resource	12%
Have heard of this resource, but not used it	55%
Have not heard of this resource	29%
Not sure	4%
Net	-44%

Q26. Which best describes your employment status?

	Total
Total	500
Full-time student and not working	29%
Working	71%
Working part-time while going to school	54%
Working full-time while going to school	17%
Net	-42%

Q27. Which best describes where you currently live?

	Total
Total	491
On-campus student housing	36%
Off-campus housing alone or with roommates	32%
At home with family	32%

Please tell me whether you have a very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable opinion of each of the following people or organizations. If you have no opinion or have never heard of them, just say so.

Q28. Donald Trump

	Total
Total	500
Favorable	23%
Very favorable	10%
Somewhat favorable	13%
Unfavorable	69%
Somewhat unfavorable	12%
Very unfavorable	57%
No opinion	7%
Not sure	0%
Net	-46%

Q29. The Republican Party

	Total
Total	500
Favorable	26%
Very favorable	9%
Somewhat favorable	17%
Unfavorable	62%
Somewhat unfavorable	23%
Very unfavorable	39%
No opinion	10%
Never heard of	0%
Not sure	2%
Net	-37%

Q30. The Democratic Party

	Total
Total	500
Favorable	53%
Very favorable	17%
Somewhat favorable	37%
Unfavorable	34%
Somewhat unfavorable	21%
Very unfavorable	13%
No opinion	10%
Not sure	2%
Net	19%

Q31. How much do you currently use AI like ChatGPT or Claude for school?

	Total
Total	500
Daily+	37%
Multiple times per day	20%
Once per day	18%
Weekly	27%
Rarely/Never	35%
Rarely	23%
Never	12%
Not sure	1%

Q32. How concerned are you that AI will eliminate or significantly impact your career path?

	Total
Total	500
Concerned	61%
Very concerned	21%
Somewhat concerned	40%
Not Concerned	38%
Not very concerned	27%
Not concerned at all	10%
Not sure	1%
Net	23%

Changing topics now a bit...

Q33. With which political party are you affiliated or registered?

	Total
Total	500
Republican	19%
Democratic	45%
Independent/No Party	30%
Other	1%
Not sure	4%
Net	-26%

Q34. If you had to label yourself, would you say you are a liberal, a moderate, or a conservative in your political beliefs?

	Total
Total	500
Liberal	37%
Moderate	40%
Conservative	16%
Not sure	7%
Net	-21%

Q35. On a scale from 1 to 10, with 1 being not at all likely to vote and 10 being guaranteed to vote, how would you rate your own likelihood to vote in the November 2026 general election?

	Total
Total	500
8-10 (More Likely)	64%
10 - Guaranteed to vote	39%
9	9%
8	15%
1-7 (Less Likely)	34%
7	12%
6	8%
5	5%
4	4%
3	1%
2	1%
1 - Not at all likely to vote	4%
Not sure	2%

Q36. And if the election were held today, would you vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate for Congress in your area?

	Total
Total	500
Democratic	61%
Definitely the Democratic candidate	33%
Probably the Democratic candidate	28%
Republican	23%
Probably the Republican candidate	13%
Definitely the Republican candidate	10%
Undecided	16%
Net	-38%

Q37. Who did you vote for in the last presidential election?

	Total
Total	500
Donald Trump, the Republican	20%
Kamala Harris, the Democrat	46%
Someone else	3%
I didn't vote	19%
I was under the age of 18 during the last presidential election	9%
Prefer not to say	2%
Net	-26%

Q38. Generally speaking, would you say the other students on your campus are mostly...?

	Total
Total	500
Liberal	35%
Moderate	34%
Conservative	16%
Not sure	15%
Net	-19%

Q39. How would you describe the political atmosphere on your campus?

	Total
Total	500
Active	73%
Very active	20%
Present but not overwhelming	53%
Absent	22%
Mostly absent	16%
I see almost no politics	6%
Not sure	6%
Net	51%

Q40. Have you ever attended a political protest on your campus?

	Total
Total	500
Yes	25%
No	74%
Not sure	1%
Net	-49%

For each of the following activities or feelings, please indicate whether you do or feel them currently or not. If you aren't sure, just say so.

Q41. Watch football regularly

	Total
Total	500
Yes, Currently	50%
No, Not Currently	48%
Not Sure	2%
Net	1%

Q42. Vape

	Total
Total	500
Yes, Currently	27%
No, Not Currently	70%
Not Sure	3%
Net	-43%

Q43. Use Zyn

	Total
Total	500
Yes, Currently	10%
No, Not Currently	82%
Not Sure	8%
Net	-72%

Q44. Gamble on sports

	Total
Total	500
Yes, Currently	26%
No, Not Currently	71%
Not Sure	3%
Net	-46%

Q45. Have two or more close friends

	Total
Total	500
Yes, Currently	87%
No, Not Currently	11%
Not Sure	1%
Net	76%

Q46. Feel a sense of community at your school

	Total
Total	500
Yes, Currently	75%
No, Not Currently	17%
Not Sure	8%
Net	59%

Q47. Have a friend who has different political opinions from you

	Total
Total	500
Yes, Currently	63%
No, Not Currently	29%
Not Sure	9%
Net	34%

Now, just a few more questions for statistical purposes.

Q48. Do you have children under the age of 18?

	Total
Total	500
Yes	17%
No	83%
Prefer not to say	0%
Net	-66%

Q49. Do you have any other caregiving responsibilities for your parents or another family member?

	Total
Total	500
Yes	16%
No	83%
Prefer not to say	1%
Net	-67%

Q50. Where do you get most of your news and information?

	Total
Total	500
TikTok	38%
Instagram	24%
Newspapers or their websites like New York Times or The Wall Street Journal	13%
X, or Twitter	11%
Cable news like FOX or MSNBC	7%
Local TV stations	6%
Not sure	2%

Q51. How often do you watch Instagram Reels or look at TikTok?

	Total
Total	500
Daily+	84%
Multiple times per day	52%
Daily	32%
Weekly	10%
Rarely/Never	6%
Rarely	3%
Never	2%

Q52. What is your religion?

	Total
Total	500
Catholic	23%
Non-denominational Christian	18%
Protestant, like Baptist, Presbyterian, Lutheran, Methodist, or Episcopalian	12%
Atheist	11%
Agnostic	9%
Muslim	4%
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints	4%
Jewish	2%
Other	10%
Prefer not to say	7%

Q53. How often do you attend religious services?

	Total
Total	315
Regularly	48%
Daily	7%
Weekly	41%
Infrequently	41%
Major religious holidays	21%
Rarely	20%
Never	11%
Not sure	0%

Q54. Survey Type:

	Total
Total	500
Online	100%