

Daily Survey: Affirmative Action



Sample 1000 U.S. Adult Citizens
Conducted October 17 - 20, 2022
Margin of Error ±3.3%

1. Do you generally support or oppose affirmative action in college admission?

Strongly support	14%
Somewhat support	24%
Somewhat oppose	15%
Strongly oppose	19%
Not sure	27%

2. As you may know, the Supreme Court's decision in the 1978 case Regents of the University of California v. Bakke held that colleges and universities are permitted to use an applicant's race as one of several criteria in admitting them to the institution. Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its University of California v. Bakke decision, or not?

Yes, would like to see Regents of the University of California v. Bakke overturned (making it illegal to use race in university admissions)	51%
No, would not like to see Regents of the University of California v. Bakke overturned	23%
Not sure	26%

3. How likely do you think it is that the U.S. Supreme Court will overturn Regents of the University of California v. Bakke, the case that allowed race to be one of several criteria in university admissions?

Definitely will happen	6%
Very likely	20%
50% chance	52%
Very unlikely	15%
Definitely will not happen	6%

4. As you may know, the Supreme Court's decision in the 2003 case Grutter v. Bollinger re-affirmed that colleges and universities can narrowly use race in admissions decisions in order to achieve a diverse student body. Would you like to see the Supreme Court overturn its Grutter v. Bollinger decision, or not?

Yes, would like to see Grutter v. Bollinger overturned (making it illegal to use race to try to achieve educational diversity)	44%
No, would not like to see Grutter v. Bollinger overturned	27%
Not sure	29%

5. How likely do you think it is that the U.S. Supreme Court will overturn its ruling in Grutter v. Bollinger, which upheld an affirmative action admissions policy that used race as an admissions criterion to promote student diversity?

Definitely will happen	6%
Very likely	18%
50% chance	53%
Very unlikely	16%
Definitely will not happen	7%

6. Do you consider diversity in the classroom to be a matter of government interest?

Yes 28%
 No 47%
 Not sure 26%

7. Do you think it has ever been necessary for colleges and universities to consider a candidate's race in order to further student body diversity in higher education?

Yes 38%
 No 42%
 Not sure 20%

8. Do you think it is currently necessary for colleges and universities to consider a candidate's race in order to further student body diversity in higher education?

Yes 26%
 No 54%
 Not sure 20%

9. Do you think that in 2028 — 25 years after the Grutter v. Bollinger decision — the use of racial considerations will be necessary in order to further student body diversity in higher education, or not?

Asked of people who say race considerations are currently needed to further student body diversity or that they are not sure

Race considerations will be necessary in 2028 42%
 Race considerations will not be necessary in 2028 14%
 Not sure 43%

10. Should colleges and universities in the U.S. consider the following when admitting students? Whether the student brings...

	Yes	No	Not sure
Racial diversity	31%	53%	16%
Gender diversity	28%	56%	17%
Sexual orientation diversity	23%	59%	18%
Religious diversity	23%	60%	17%
Economic diversity	34%	49%	17%
Social class diversity	30%	54%	16%
Political viewpoint diversity	21%	60%	19%
Geographic diversity	29%	53%	18%
Age diversity	26%	58%	16%
Ability diversity	32%	47%	21%

11. Imagine a scenario where a white man has applied to a selective university for medical school. He is rejected from the university. His college GPA and test scores exceed the college GPA and test scores of several non-white students who were among the 100 students admitted to the school. The school says that it reserves 16 spots for qualified non-white applicants who are part of populations that historically have been excluded from the medical profession. Was it right or wrong for the school to reject the white man?

Completely right	10%
More right than wrong	17%
More wrong than right	22%
Completely wrong	34%
Not sure	17%

12. Imagine a scenario where a white woman has applied to a selective university for law school. Her GPA and her score on the law-school admissions test are typical for applicants overall. She is rejected. She says her grades and scores were better than some admitted non-white applicants. The law school says that it uses race as one factor, among others, in making admissions decisions. Was the law school right or wrong to reject the white woman?

Completely right	7%
More right than wrong	19%
More wrong than right	21%
Completely wrong	34%
Not sure	20%

Interviewing Dates	October 17 - 20, 2022
Target population	U.S. Citizens, aged 18 and over.
Sampling method	Respondents were selected from YouGov’s opt-in Internet panel using sample matching. A random sample (stratified by gender, age, race, education, geographic region, and voter registration) was selected from the 2019 American Community Survey.
Weighting	The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, 2020 election turnout and Presidential vote, baseline party identification, and current voter registration status. Demographic weighting targets come from the 2019 American Community Survey. Baseline party identification is the respondent’s most recent answer given prior to March 15, 2022, and is weighted to the estimated distribution at that time (33% Democratic, 28% Republican). The weights range from 0.217 to 3.548, with a mean of one and a standard deviation of 0.366.
Number of respondents	1000
Margin of error	± 3.3% (adjusted for weighting)
Survey mode	Web-based interviews
Questions not reported	64 questions not reported.