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IGC POLL REPORT

Political Disagreement at FSU: Student Attitudes, Peer Expectations, and Free Speech

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

How tolerant are FSU students of political disagreement? How tolerant do they perceive their peers to be? To examine these questions, the Institute for Governance and Civics at Florida State University surveyed 683 FSU undergraduate students from September 16 to October 16, 2026. The survey revisited questions about roommates and campus free speech from Fall 2025 and added questions about dating, peer expectations, close friendships, and views on speech, harm, and physical violence. Key findings include:

- **Respondents expected more intolerance from their peers than they reported themselves.** On average, respondents estimated 52% of FSU students would react negatively to someone expressing views they strongly opposed. Only 15% of those same respondents reported being likely to react negatively themselves.
- **Social echo chambers linked to less tolerance.** Only 46% of students who say all or nearly all their close friends share their views report being comfortable with a politically disagreeing roommate. This compares to 61%–76% among respondents with more politically varied friendships. Just 10% were willing to date across political lines without reservation, compared to 27%–37% in the other groups.
- **Broad support for free speech weakened when put to the test.** Between 88% and 93% endorsed each of three statements supporting free expression. Yet 46% supported restricting speech some students believe harms certain groups. Ideological differences were larger on the practical questions, with conservatives more supportive of free speech than liberals across all five scenarios.
- **Most respondents believed speech can be as damaging as physical violence, but few endorse violence to stop it.** Sixty-seven percent agreed some forms of speech can be as damaging as physical violence, but just 15% agreed physical violence is sometimes justified to stop harmful public speech.

INTRODUCTION

In Fall 2025, the IGC conducted our first survey of FSU undergraduates. We asked students whether they would be comfortable with a roommate who held opposing political views. We asked how strongly they supported free speech in the abstract and specific situations. Fifty-nine percent said they would be comfortable with a roommate with opposing political views. Support for free speech was strong in the abstract but substantially lower when respondents considered specific restrictions.

A major question is how tolerant students perceive their FSU peers to be. Do they expect others to be as willing to date across political lines or as unlikely to react negatively to opposing views as they report being? These expectations matter because students who perceive intolerance as widespread may be reluctant to express their views, even when their peers are more receptive than they assume.

The 2025 survey results raised additional questions. How far does students' political tolerance extend? Students may be comfortable having a roommate with opposing political views, but would they be willing to date such a person? What about tolerance for political disagreement outside personal relationships? How likely are students to react negatively toward peers who publicly express views they strongly oppose? Is physical violence ever justified to stop speech they regard as harmful?

To shed light on these questions, we conducted our second annual survey of FSU undergrads between September 16 and October 16, 2026.[1] We invited 7,000 students to participate in the online survey. Of these, 683 answered at least one substantive question, including 620 who completed the survey.[2]

This year's survey again measured students' comfort with a politically disagreeing roommate and support for free speech, allowing comparisons with Fall 2025. New questions examined the limits of interpersonal political tolerance by asking whether students would date someone with opposing views and how they would react to peers who publicly express views they strongly oppose. We asked respondents to estimate how other FSU students would answer those questions, allowing us to compare students' expectations of their peers with those peers' self-reported attitudes.

We asked whether some forms of speech can be as damaging as physical violence and whether physical violence is sometimes justified to stop harmful public speech. Finally, to better understand the political diversity of their friendships, we asked how many of respondents' close friends shared their political views.

STUDENTS REPORT FAR GREATER TOLERANCE FOR POLITICAL DISAGREEMENT THAN THEY EXPECT FROM THEIR PEERS

We found a 37-percentage-point gap between students' expectations of their peers and their own reported likelihood of reacting negatively to political disagreement. As shown in the top row of Figure 1, respondents estimated, on average, 52% of FSU students would say they are somewhat or very likely to react negatively to someone who expresses political views they strongly oppose. However, just 15% of those same respondents said they themselves would be somewhat or very likely to react negatively in the same situation.[3]

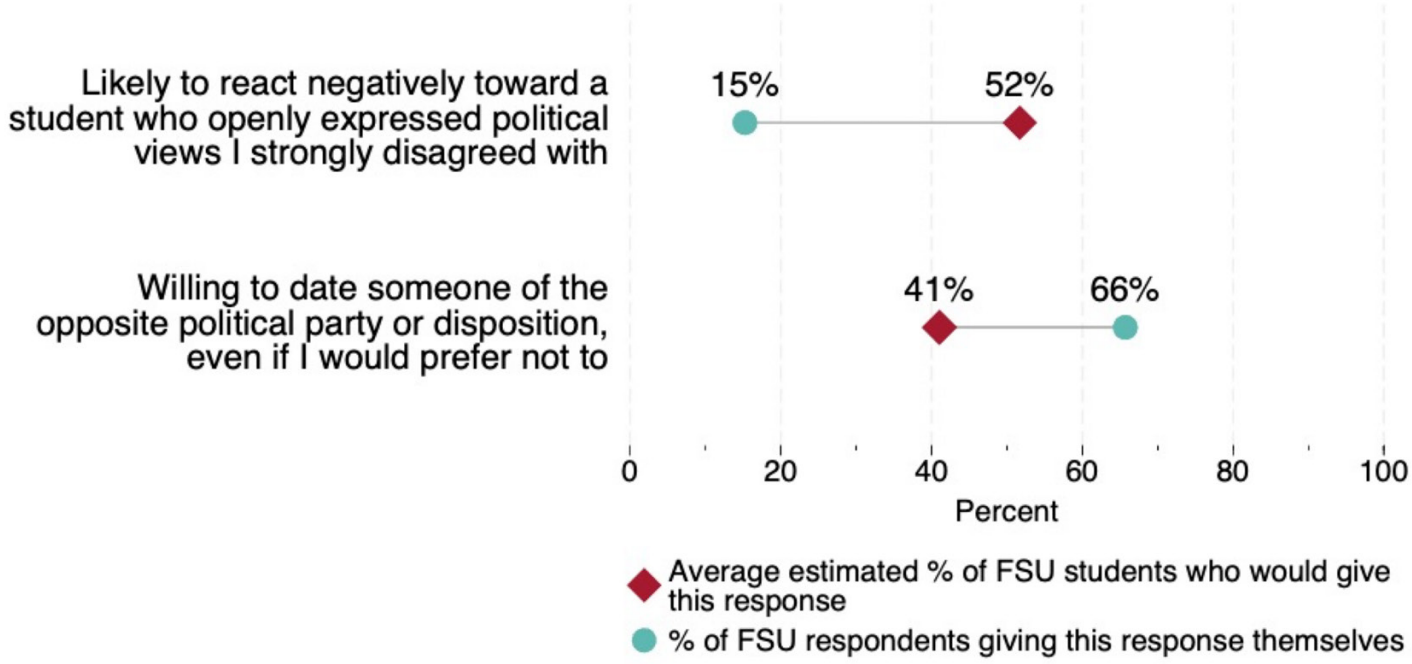


Figure 1. What FSU Students Expect From Their Peers and What They Report Themselves
Note: The top row includes 620 respondents who answered both questions about negative reactions. The bottom row includes 617 respondents who answered both questions about dating. Estimates are weighted to match the FSU undergraduate invitation list on sex, race and ethnicity, and class year. Diamonds show respondents' average estimate of the percentage of FSU students who would give the indicated response. Circles show the percentage of those same respondents who gave that response themselves. Dating willingness includes respondents who said they would be willing even though they would prefer not to.

Students further underestimated the share willing to date across political lines. As the bottom row of Figure 1 shows, respondents estimated, on average, 41% of FSU students would be willing to date someone with opposing political views, even if they would prefer not to. But 66% of those same respondents said they would be willing to do so. This was a gap of 25 percentage points.[4]

STUDENTS WITH NEARLY ALL LIKE-MINDED CLOSE FRIENDS REPORT LESS TOLERANCE FOR POLITICAL DISAGREEMENT

As in our Fall 2025 survey, we asked respondents whether they would be comfortable having a roommate who disagreed with them on major political or social issues. Responses were similar in both years (Figure 2). In Fall 2026, 61% agreed they would be comfortable with such a roommate, compared to 59% in Fall 2025. Another 28% of Fall 2026 respondents disagreed, and 11% neither agreed nor disagreed.

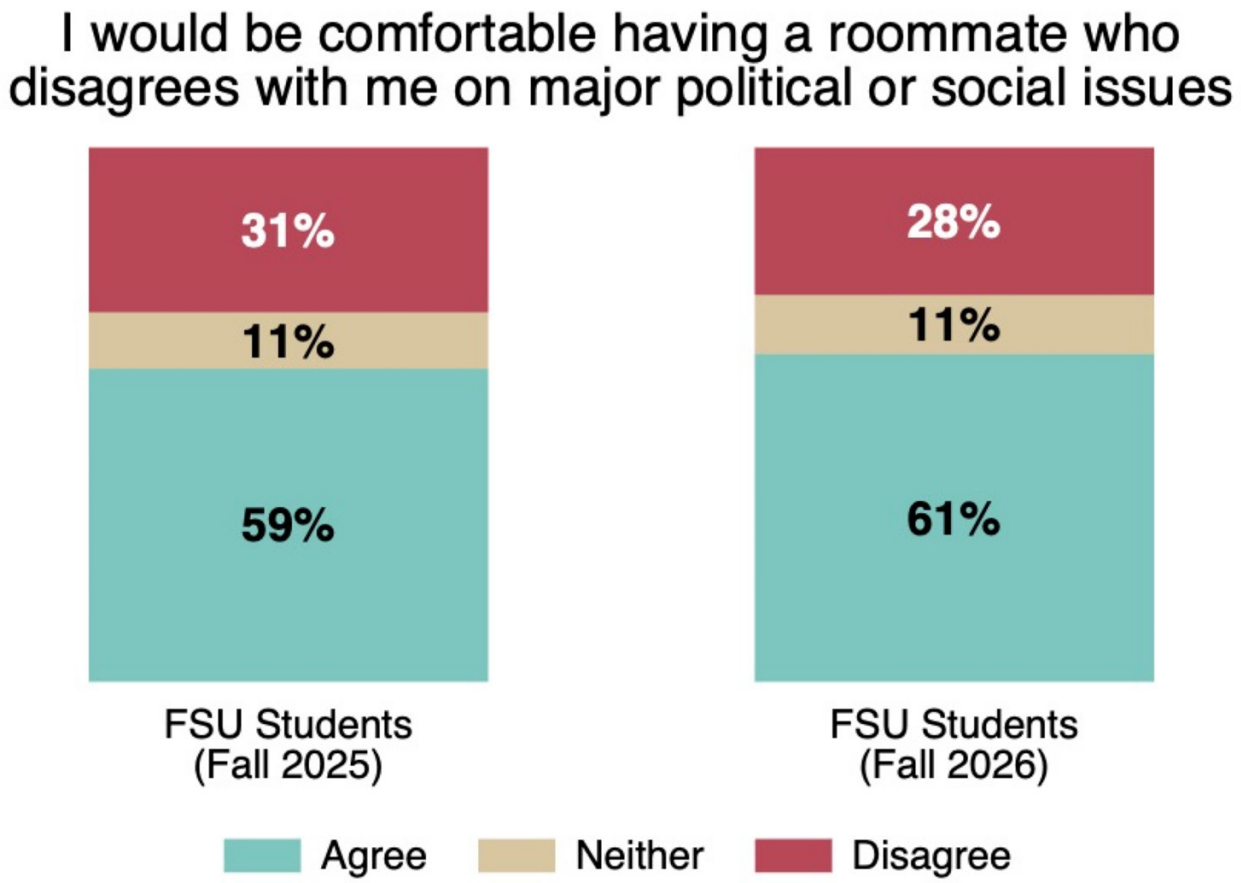


Figure 2. Comfort With Having a Roommate Who Holds Different Political Views, by Survey Sample
Note. Estimates are based on 336 Fall 2025 respondents and 621 Fall 2026 respondents who answered the roommate question. Percentages are weighted by sex, race and ethnicity, and class year. Percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Our report on the Fall 2025 survey found female students were significantly less likely than male students to say they would be comfortable having a roommate with opposing political views. But the Fall 2026 data, which allow us to examine this pattern by political ideology, suggest the sex gap between male and female students is limited to liberal respondents. As shown in Appendix Figure B6, among liberals, 38% of women and 61% of men agreed they would be comfortable with such a roommate, while 53% of women and 31% of men disagreed.[5] In contrast, agreement was nearly identical for women and men among both moderates (75% and 77%) and conservatives (71% and 73%). Female liberals are the only group in which disagreement rates exceed agreement.

The Fall 2026 survey lets us examine whether tolerance for political disagreement varies with how many close friends share students' political views, a question we could not address last year. As Figure 3 shows, among the 93% of respondents who knew enough about their close friends' political views to answer, 66% said most (42%) or all or almost all (24%) of their close friends shared their views. Another 20% said about half shared their views, while 14% said a few (10%) or none or almost none (4%) did.[6] Notably, liberal respondents (38%) were more likely than moderates (9%) and conservatives (14%) to say all or almost all of their close friends shared their political views. In contrast, moderates (20%) and conservatives (19%) were more likely than liberals (6%) to say only a few, none, or almost none of their close friends shared their views.

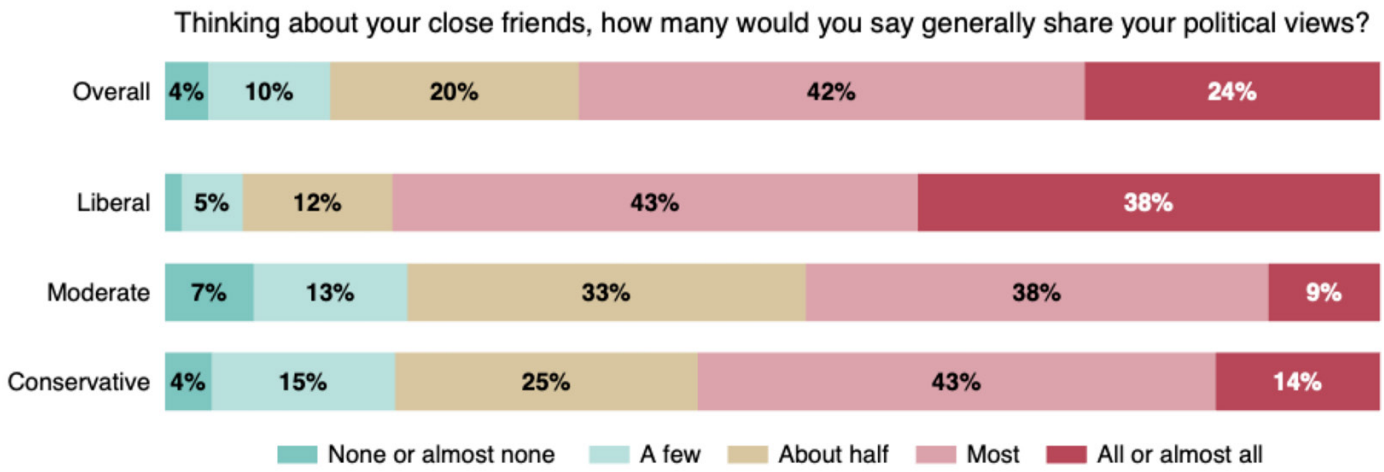


Figure 3. Political Similarity Among Close Friends, Overall and by Ideology
Note: Percentages are weighted and exclude respondents who selected "I don't know enough about their political views to say" (7% of respondents who answered the question, weighted). The overall distribution includes 576 respondents, including those with missing or "Not sure" ideology responses. Percentages within each ideological group are calculated separately. Percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding. Labels are omitted where segments are too small to display them clearly.

Figure 4 shows how responses to this close-friends question are significantly related to respondents' openness to having a roommate and romantic partner with opposing political views. Adjusting for political ideology and demographics, an estimated 46% of respondents who said all or almost all of their close friends share their views agreed they would be comfortable having a roommate with opposing political views (left panel).[7] Respondents in all other response groups were more open to having a roommate with differing views. Rates of disagreement followed a steadier pattern. Disagreement was 16% among both those who said a few or none of their close friends shared their views and those who said about half did. It then rose to 27% among those who said most did and to 45% among those who said all or almost all did.

The right panel shows respondents who said all or almost all their close friends shared their political views were the least willing to date across political lines. After adjustment, just 10% of this group said they were willing to do so without reservation, compared with 27% to 37% in the other groups. Fifty-five percent said they were unwilling, the highest rate across the four groups. Unwillingness was also higher among those who said a few or none of their close friends shared their views (41%) than among those who said about half (23%) or most (25%) did.

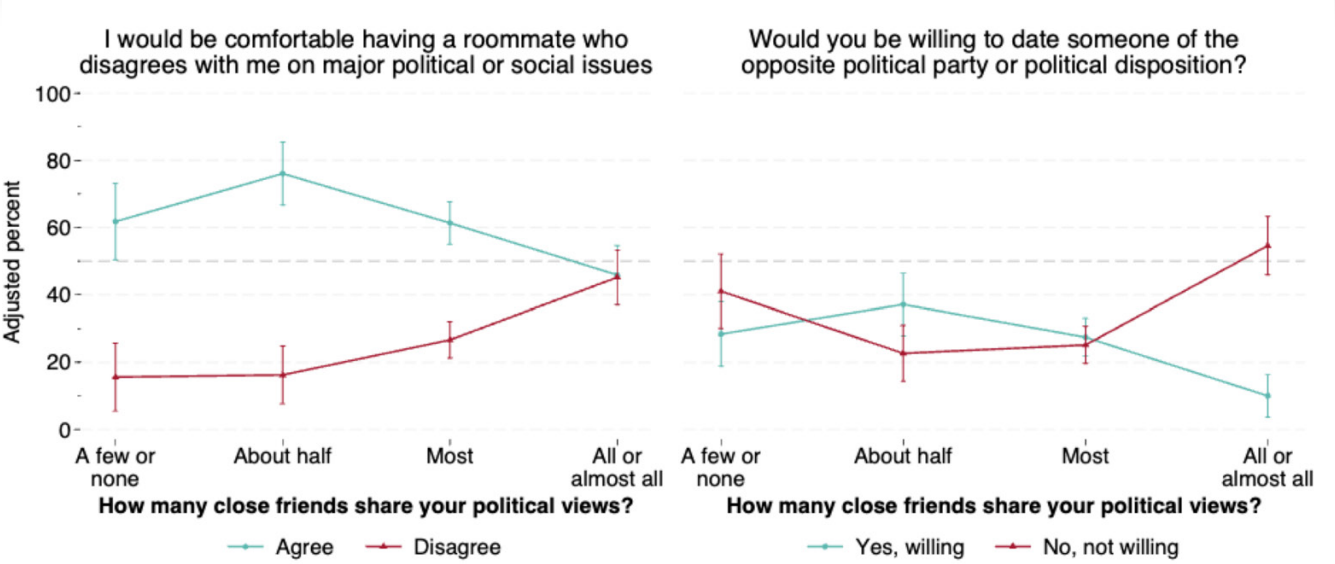


Figure 4. Comfort With a Politically Disagreeing Roommate and Willingness to Date Across Political Lines, by the Political Views of Close Friends

Note: Points show weighted predicted percentages from models that adjust for ideology, sex, race and ethnicity, class year, and field of study. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals. The roommate panel includes 547 respondents and the dating panel includes 546. The roommate estimates include neutral responses in the denominator. The dating estimates include respondents who said they would be willing but would prefer not to in the denominator. The "Yes, willing" line shows willingness without reservation.

Those reporting the least politically diverse group of friends stood out in how they said they would respond to political disagreement on campus (Appendix Figure B9). After adjusting for ideology and demographics, 25% of respondents who said all or almost all of their close friends shared their views said they would be somewhat or very likely to react negatively to a student who expressed politically disagreeable views. The "likely" response rate for the other three groups ranged from 11% to 15%.

Overall, these results suggest politically diverse friendships may encourage greater tolerance. The reverse is equally plausible: students less comfortable with political disagreement may be more likely to form close friendships with people who share their views. Both processes could be at work, and our survey cannot distinguish between them.

STUDENTS REMAIN STRONGLY SUPPORTIVE OF FREE SPEECH IN PRINCIPLE BUT WEAKER IN PRACTICE

Political disagreement can test students' tolerance in close relationships. On campus, it raises a question about which views students believe should be free to express.

As in last year's survey, respondents broadly supported the free expression of controversial and unpopular views on campus in principle (Table 1). Ninety-three percent of students agreed expressing and hearing controversial social or political views is an important part of the college experience. This was the same share as in Fall 2025. Support for students' ability to express unpopular views without fearing negative consequences from university faculty, staff, or leadership rose from 89% to 93%. The largest increase was in support for expressing unpopular views without fearing negative consequences from other students, which rose from 77% to 88%.

Domain	Question	Fall 2025	Fall 2026	Change (pp)
Abstract Support	Being able to freely express and hear controversial social or political views is an important part of the college experience (Agree)	93%	93%	0
	FSU students should be able to openly express unpopular opinions without fearing negative consequences from the university's faculty, staff, and leadership. (Agree)	89%	93%	+4
	FSU students should be able to openly express unpopular opinions without fearing negative consequences from other students. (Agree)	77%	88%	+11*
Practical Support	FSU faculty should prevent students from expressing views that may offend or upset certain students during class discussions. (Disagree)	59%	57%	-2
	If a majority of FSU students on campus oppose an invited speaker, the speaker should be disinvited. (Disagree)	46%	53%	+7*
	When there is a conflict between freedom of expression and the goal of promoting social harmony and inclusivity, freedom of expression should sometimes be restricted. (Disagree)	44%	38%	-6
	Suppose some FSU students believe that certain views expressed on campus cause harm to certain groups of people. To what extent do you support or oppose the university restricting the expression of such views? (Oppose)	37%	35%	-2
	When determining whether to approve a student group's event, the university should evaluate the views that will be expressed at the event. (Disagree)	27%	31%	+4

Table 1. FSU Students' Abstract and Practical Support for Free Speech, Fall 2025 and Fall 2026
Note: Percentages are weighted and show the share of respondents who gave the response indicated in parentheses. Unweighted sample sizes vary by item, ranging from 306 to 337 in Fall 2025 and from 635 to 661 in Fall 2026. Changes are reported in percentage points and calculated as Fall 2026 minus Fall 2025. An asterisk (*) indicates a statistically significant change at the 0.05 level ($p < .05$).

However, support for free speech was lower when respondents observed concrete scenarios. When asked whether faculty should prevent students from expressing potentially offensive or upsetting views during class discussions, 29% agreed and 57% disagreed. Similarly, 32% supported disinviting a speaker if most FSU students opposed the speaker, while a slim majority (53%) disagreed.

Support for free speech fell further when the questions raised concerns about inclusion or harm. Forty-four percent of students agreed freedom of expression should sometimes be restricted when it conflicts with the goal of promoting social harmony and inclusivity, while just 38% disagreed. Similarly, more students (46%) supported than opposed (35%) the university restricting the views some FSU students believe are harmful to certain groups.

Finally, a majority (56%) agreed the university should consider the views to be expressed at a student group's event when deciding whether to approve it. Just 31% disagreed. So, while 93% of students regard exposure to controversial views as an important part of the college experience, their support for allowing those views to be expressed is much more limited.

Abstract support for free speech far exceeds practical support across all ideological groups. But Figure 5 shows this gap is generally smaller among ideologically conservative than liberal respondents.[8] For example, 96% of conservatives and 91% of liberals agree students should be able to express unpopular views without fearing negative consequences from the university. Similarly, 93% of conservatives and 83% of liberals agree students should be able to express themselves without fearing negative consequences from other students. Among conservatives, 73% oppose faculty restrictions on classroom speech that may upset certain students, and 55% oppose university restrictions on speech some students consider harmful to certain groups. Among liberals, opposition falls to 50% and 26%, respectively.

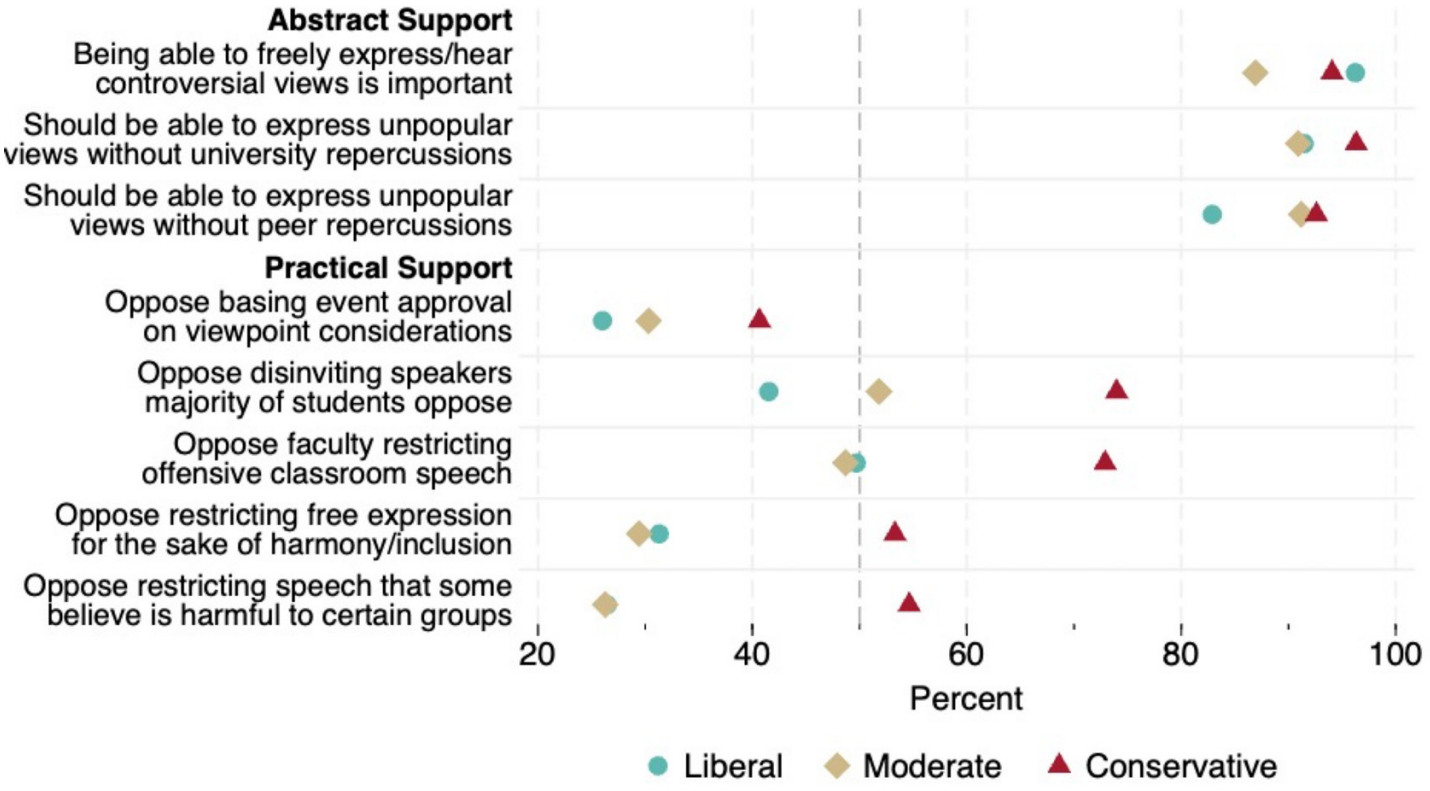


Figure 5. Abstract and Practical Support for Free Speech, by Ideology
Note: Points show weighted percentages among Fall 2026 respondents who identified as liberal, moderate, or conservative. For the three abstract support items, percentages combine "somewhat agree," "agree," and "strongly agree." For the five practical support items, percentages combine the three levels of disagreement or opposition to each restriction. Unweighted sample sizes vary by item (556–558 total, including 282–283 liberals, 94–95 moderates, and 179–180 conservatives).

MOST STUDENTS SAY SOME FORMS OF SPEECH CAN BE AS DAMAGING AS PHYSICAL VIOLENCE, BUT FEW SAY VIOLENCE IS SOMETIMES JUSTIFIED TO STOP HARMFUL SPEECH

The Fall 2026 survey added two questions we had previously only asked in a national survey: whether some forms of speech can be as damaging as physical violence and whether it can be justified to use physical violence to stop harmful public speech.[9] These questions allow us to examine not only the relationship between these beliefs among students, but how they relate to students' attitudes toward campus speech. Figure 6 compares responses from Fall 2026 FSU students with responses from U.S. adults overall and U.S. adults ages 18–29 in our September 2025 SSRS survey.

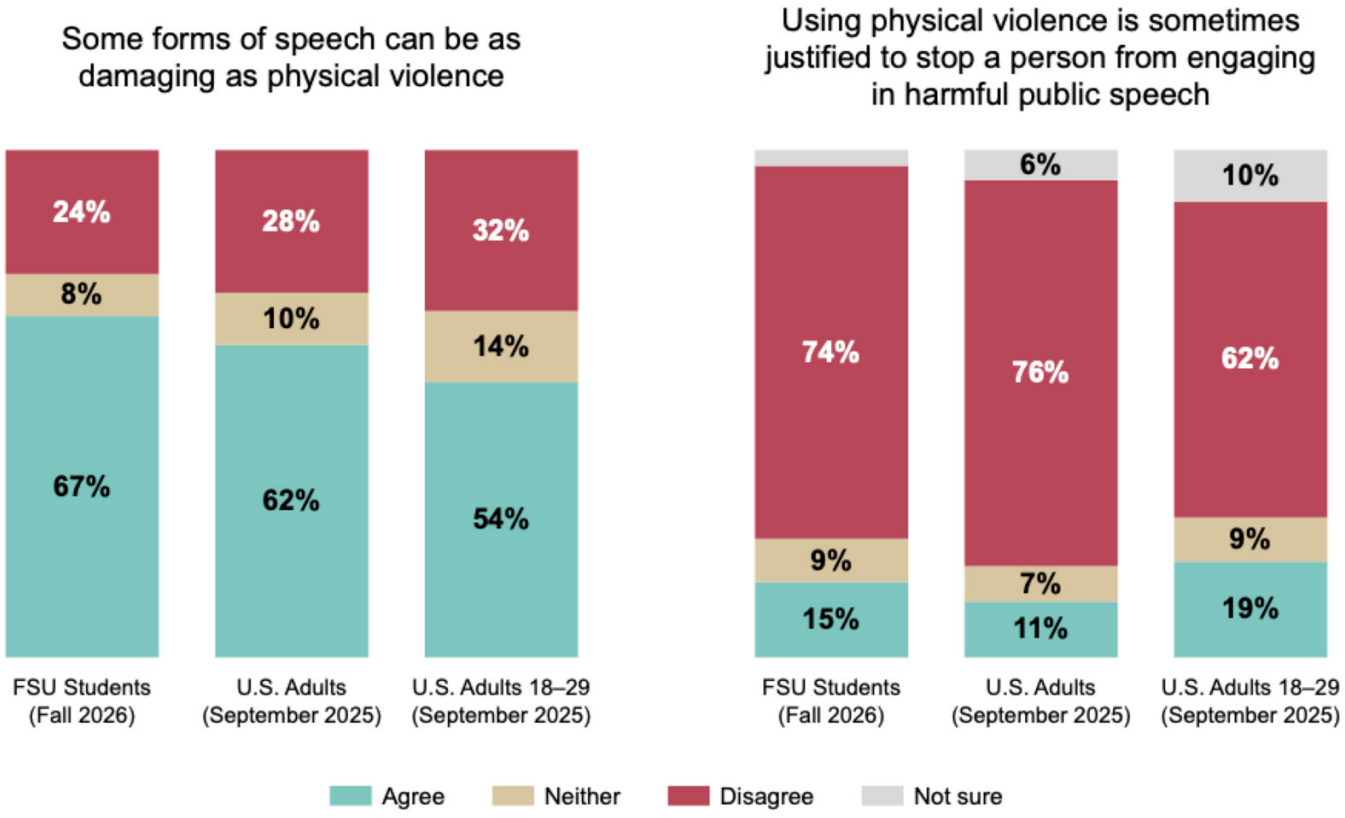


Figure 6. Views on Speech, Harm, and Physical Violence Among FSU Students and U.S. Adults
Note: Percentages are weighted using each survey's weights. The U.S. adults ages 18–29 are a subset of the September 2025 SSRS national sample. Unweighted sample sizes for the left and right panels, respectively, are 628 and 626 for FSU students, 1,400 and 1,446 for U.S. adults overall, and 201 and 215 for U.S. adults ages 18–29. The left panel excludes national responses coded "Not sure." The right panel includes "Not sure," which includes the seven FSU respondents who selected "Prefer not to say." Percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

Sixty-seven percent of FSU respondents agreed some forms of speech can be as damaging as physical violence, compared to 62% of U.S. adults overall and 54% of adults ages 18–29. Nonetheless, just 15% of FSU respondents agreed using physical violence is sometimes justified to stop a person from engaging in harmful public speech. This agreement rate was slightly higher than among September 2025 U.S. adults overall (11%) and slightly lower than among adults ages 18–29 (19%).

As in our national survey, liberals agreed with both statements more than conservatives (Appendix Figure B12). Eighty-two percent of liberals agreed some forms of speech can be as damaging as physical violence, compared to 52% of conservatives. Nineteen percent of liberals agreed physical violence is sometimes justified to stop harmful public speech, compared to 9% of conservatives.

Figure 7 shows FSU respondents who agreed some forms of speech can be as damaging as physical violence were more likely to believe using violence is sometimes justified to stop harmful public speech. Twenty percent of this group agreed violence was sometimes justified, compared to 6% of those who neither agreed nor disagreed and 4% of those who disagreed. These differences persist after adjusting for ideology and demographics. However, even in the group most likely to endorse violence, 68% disagreed with its use under such circumstances. Although believing some forms of speech can be as damaging as physical violence may increase support for using violence in response, most people who hold this belief do not endorse violence.

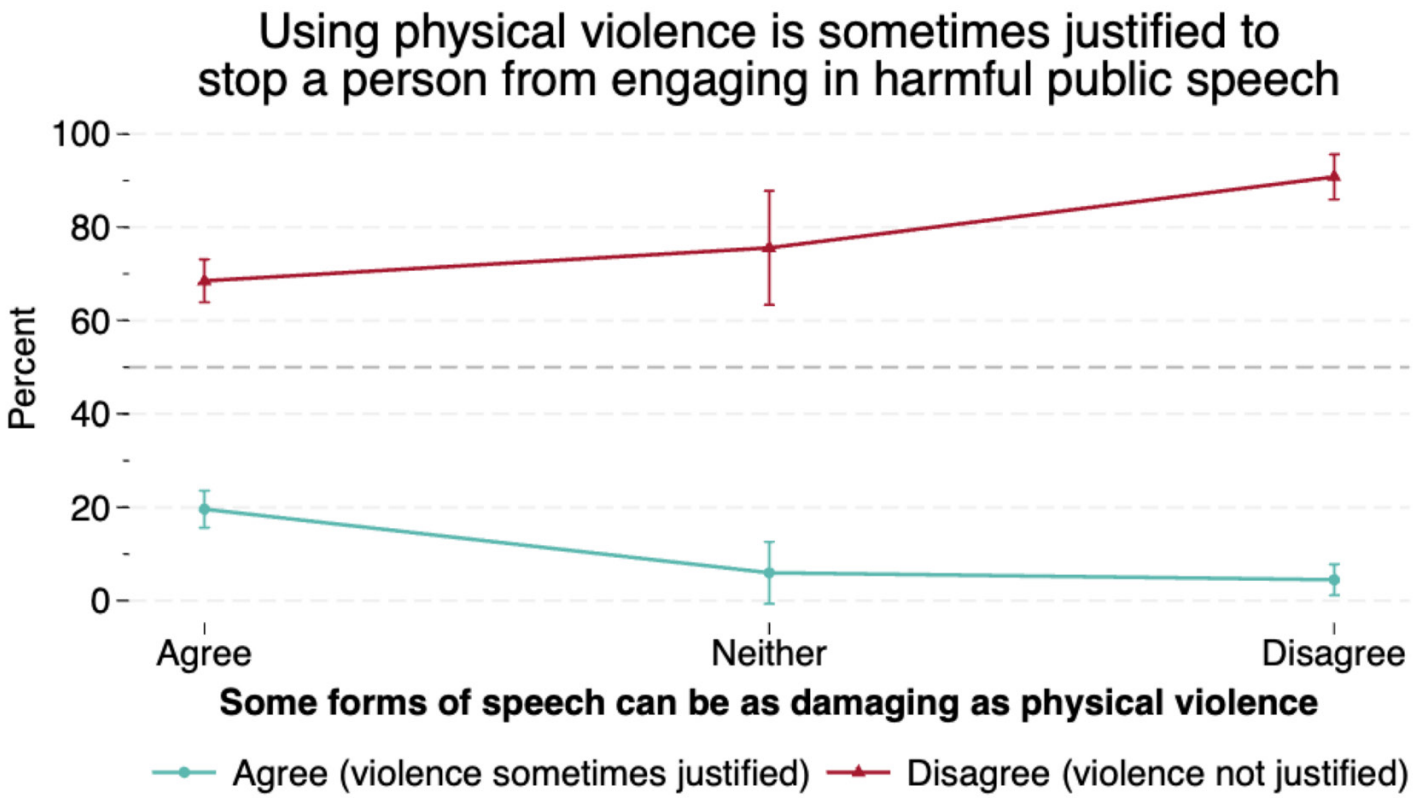


Figure 7. FSU Students' Views on Using Physical Violence to Stop Harmful Speech, by Beliefs About the Harm Speech Can Cause
Note: Analysis includes 616 Fall 2026 FSU respondents with valid answers to both questions. Points show weighted, unadjusted percentages who agreed or disagreed that physical violence is sometimes justified to stop harmful public speech, grouped by their response to the statement that some forms of speech can be as damaging as physical violence. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals. The denominators also include respondents who answered "Neither agree nor disagree" or "Not sure" on the violence-justification item.

Whether students considered violence justified to stop harmful speech was closely tied to their support for free expression on campus, especially their practical support. After adjusting for abstract support, ideology, and demographics, agreement with the "violence is sometimes justified" statement rises from 3% among those highest on the practical support index to 44% among those lowest (Appendix Figure B13).[10] Disagreement, meanwhile, falls from 91% to 44% across the same range.

POLITICAL TOLERANCE AND SPEECH ATTITUDES DIFFER LITTLE BY CLASS YEAR

An important question we have yet to address is whether students' friendships and attitudes differ by class year. If college gives students more opportunities to engage with people holding different views, we might expect students farther along in college to report more politically diverse close friendships, greater tolerance for political disagreement, and stronger support for free speech.

We found limited evidence that tolerance for political disagreement or support for free speech increased with class year. Some measures pointed toward greater tolerance among seniors. For example, 63% of seniors said they would be comfortable with a roommate holding opposing political views, compared to 56% of first-year students. Likewise, 72% of seniors said they were unlikely to react negatively to someone expressing opposing views, compared to 66% of first-year students. On dating, 21% of first-year students said they were willing to date across political lines without reservation, compared to 28% in each of the other three class years. None of these differences from first-year students, was statistically significant.

Support for free speech was similar across class years. On the seven-point indexes, adjusted averages ranged from 6.03 to 6.23 for abstract support and from 4.08 to 4.28 for practical support. Views on using physical violence to stop harmful public speech showed little variation by class year. After adjusting for ideology and demographics, agreement ranged from 11% to 18% and disagreement from 72% to 75%. None of the adjusted comparisons with first-year students reached statistical significance across both free-speech indexes and the violence item.

The friendship results showed a clearer pattern. After adjusting for ideology and demographics, 59% of seniors said most or all their close friends shared their political views, compared to 69% of juniors, 73% of sophomores, and 74% of first-year students.[11]

While these comparisons suggest differences across class years, they do not prove the college experience caused them. To see whether students' friendships and attitudes change as they progress through college, we would need to follow the same students over time.

CONCLUSION

One encouraging finding is students reported being much less likely to react negatively to opposing views than they expected their peers to be. On average, they estimated 52% of FSU students would react negatively to someone expressing views they strongly opposed. Yet only 15% of those same respondents said they would be likely to react negatively themselves. Similarly, respondents estimated 41% of FSU students would be willing to date across political lines, even if they would prefer not to. But among those same respondents, 66% said they would be willing. These results suggest students are more open to political disagreement than their peers assume.

These gaps are common and consistent with what psychologists call *pluralistic ignorance*, a shared misperception of what others think or how they are likely to respond. If students expect hostility or exclusion for expressing a political view, they may keep it to themselves. The less often a view is voiced, the easier it is for others who share it to assume few peers agree and to stay quiet.

The cycle carries a cost for both the students who stay silent and their peers. Students on both sides lose opportunities to have their reasoning challenged, defend their views, and refine them considering criticism. They lose chances to hear arguments they may never have considered and to understand why others find them persuasive. A campus where students hear less disagreement gives them fewer chances to learn from it and become more comfortable with it. These costs underscore the value of giving students a place to talk through their differences and understand one another's views, a space we at the IGC are working to provide through our "Agree to Disagree" events and our new Pluralist Lab.

On attitudes toward free speech, the Fall 2026 survey confirmed a pattern first observed in Fall 2025. Students broadly supported free speech in the abstract, but support was substantially lower when considering specific situations and restrictions. This distinction matters because practical support was more strongly associated with attitudes toward physical violence than abstract support. While only 15% of respondents agreed physical violence is sometimes justified to stop harmful public speech, those scoring lower on practical support were significantly more likely to agree.

These findings suggest campus discussions about free speech should build on students' broad agreement in principle while addressing areas of disagreement, including how universities should respond when students believe speech harms certain groups. For support of free speech to extend beyond general principles, students need opportunities to apply those principles in situations where their commitments face meaningful challenges. Students need firsthand experience to understand supporting freedom of expression requires more than words. It requires a willingness to be uncomfortable and to disagree without being disagreeable.

APPENDIX A: NOTES

1 Students were recruited by email using a university-provided list of 7,000 undergraduates, constructed to approximate the undergraduate student body's composition by class year, sex, race and ethnicity, and field of study. Participation was voluntary, and respondents were offered a $5 electronic gift card for completing the survey. Of those invited, 834 (11.9%) answered at least one question, including the opening pledge not to look up answers to the civic knowledge questions; 683 (9.8%) answered at least one substantive question; and 620 (8.9%) submitted a completed survey. Analyses include partial responses where relevant answers were available.

2 Appendix Table B1 compares invited students and respondents in terms of sex, race/ethnicity, class year, and field of study. Women were overrepresented among substantive respondents (67.5%, compared with 58.2% of invited students), while seniors were underrepresented (34.7%, compared with 43.1%). Race and ethnicity distributions were more similar, though some differences remained. We weighted responses to match the invitation list on sex, race and ethnicity, and class year. Field of study was not included in the weighting. These adjustments address observed demographic imbalances, though differences associated with voluntary participation may remain.

3 Appendix Figure B1 shows the full response distribution. Overall, 69% said they would be unlikely to react negatively (42% very unlikely and 28% somewhat unlikely). Another 15% said they were neither likely nor unlikely, 13% said they were somewhat likely, and 2% said they were very likely. These percentages are rounded. Responses varied significantly by ideology (Appendix Figure A2). Twenty-three percent of liberals, 15% of moderates, and 6% of conservatives said they were somewhat or very likely to react negatively. The corresponding shares who said they were somewhat or very unlikely to do so were 61%, 67%, and 82%. The pattern persisted after adjustment for sex, race and ethnicity, class year, and field of study.

4 The full wording of the dating question included the qualification 'if you were romantically available'. Appendix Figure B3 shows the full distribution of responses to this question among FSU students and two comparison groups from our July 2026 Ipsos survey: U.S. adults overall and U.S. adults ages 18–29. Among FSU respondents who answered the question, 28% said they were willing to date someone with opposing political views without reservation, and another 38% said they were willing but would prefer not to. In the national survey, 41% of U.S. adults overall and 34% of those ages 18–29 said they were willing without reservation. Willingness to date across political lines without reservation was higher among men than women in each ideological group (Appendix Figure B4). The shares were 23% of liberal men and 11% of liberal women, 59% of moderate men and 37% of moderate women, and 46% of conservative men and 17% of conservative women. Men were less likely to say they were unwilling to date across political lines. The shares were 40% of liberal men and 55% of liberal women, 6% of moderate men and 16% of moderate women, and 17% of conservative men and 30% of conservative women.

5 Respondents described their political views on a seven-point scale from "Very liberal" to "Very conservative," with additional options for "None of the above" and "Not sure." We combined the three liberal categories and the three conservative categories. Among those who answered, 45% were classified as liberal, 16% as moderate, 32% as conservative, and 7% as unsure. Among women, 54% were liberal, 15% moderate, 25% conservative, and 6% unsure. Among men, the corresponding shares were 33%, 18%, 43%, and 7%. Percentages are weighted and may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

6 On a separate question, 43% of respondents said they rarely or never discussed political or social issues with FSU students who held different views, 38% said sometimes, and 20% said often or very often (Appendix Figure B8). The distribution did not differ significantly among liberals, moderates, and conservatives.

7 Adjusted percentages are model-based estimates that account for differences in ideology, sex, race and ethnicity, class year, and field of study. The comparisons describe associations after accounting for these measured characteristics. Other differences between respondents may contribute to the patterns observed.

8 Appendix Figure B10 shows average scores on the three-item abstract support and five-item practical support indexes by ideology and sex. Conservative men and women scored significantly higher than their liberal counterparts on both indexes. Among conservatives, men scored significantly higher than women on both indexes, with a larger gap on practical support (5.16 versus 4.44). Neither index showed a statistically significant sex difference among liberals or moderates.

9 For a detailed look at the national data, see our November 2025 report *Americans' Troubling Views on Speech, Harm, and Violence*.

10 Both indexes were significantly associated with agreement in the full model. A one-point increase in abstract support was associated with a 3.5-percentage-point decline in the predicted probability of agreement, on average, compared with a 6.5-point decline for a one-point increase in practical support. The difference between those estimates reached statistical significance only in the model that included both indexes without ideology or demographic controls.

11 The overall test across all four class years yielded p = .035. The comparison between seniors and first-year students yielded p = .075.

APPENDIX B: SUPPLEMENTARY TABLES AND FIGURES

Benchmark	Invited Students	Any Respondents	Substantive Repondents	Completed Surveys
Sex				
Female	58.2%	**69.1***	**67.5%***	**67.4%***
Class Year				
Freshman	6.8%	8.8%*	7.8%	6.9%
Sophomore	18.3%	**23.3%***	22.4%*	22.3%*
Junior	31.4%	34.4%	34.8%*	35.6%*
Senior	43.1%	**33.3%***	**34.7%***	**35.0%***
Race/Ethnicity				
White	54.0%	50.1%*	51.1%	51.9%
Black	6.9%	7.3%	7.2%	7.1%
Hispanic	26.7%	28.8%	28.0%	27.1%
Asian	4.4%	5.9%*	6.1%*	6.3%*
Two or more races	5.7%	5.9%	5.9%	5.8%
Field of Study				
Arts, Humanities & Literature	11.7%	8.8%*	9.4%*	9.2%*
Business	26.3%	27.5%	28.1%	27.4%
Health & Human Services	16.1%	12.7%*	12.0%*	11.9%*
STEM	22.1%	23.0%	23.0%	23.4%
Social Sciences	21.1%	24.2%*	23.9%	24.4%*
Other	2.7%	3.8%*	3.7%	3.7%
N	**7,000**	**834**	**683**	**620**

Table B1. Demographic Composition of Invited Students and Survey Respondents

Note: Percentages are unweighted and describe each group before weighting adjustments. "Any respondents" answered at least one question, including the opening pledge. "Substantive respondents" answered at least one question beyond the pledge. "Completed surveys" were recorded as finished by the survey platform, although respondents could skip individual questions. Demographic characteristics came from university records. An asterisk (*) indicates a difference from the invited-student benchmark at p < .05; bold percentages indicate differences that remained significant after Holm adjustment for multiple comparisons. Tests account for respondents being a subset of invited students. Percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding and omitted categories, including post-baccalaureate students and missing or unspecified demographic information.

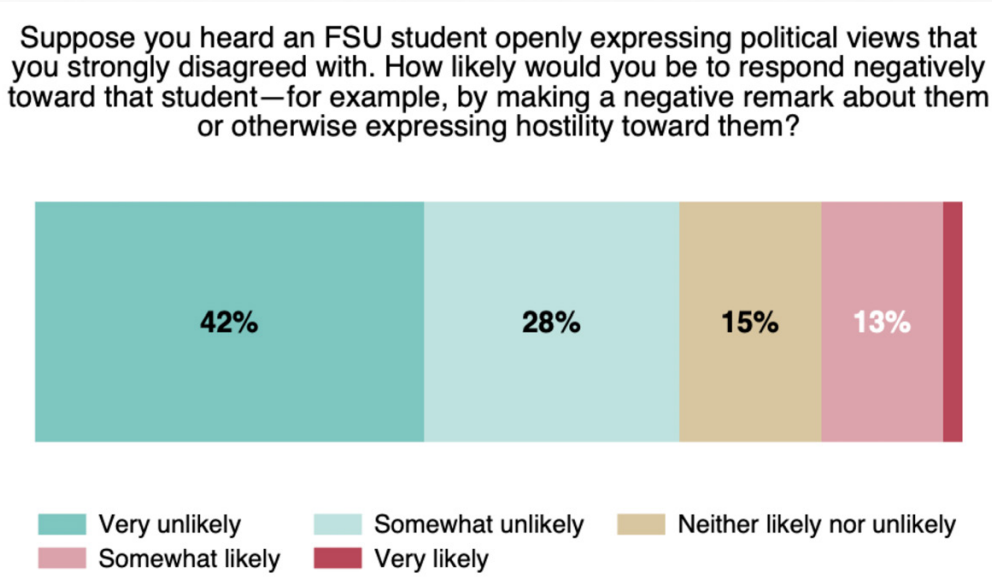


Figure B1. Self-Reported Likelihood of Reacting Negatively to a Student Expressing Opposing Political Views
Note: Percentages are weighted by sex, race and ethnicity, and class year and are based on 621 Fall 2026 respondents who answered the question. Respondents were asked how likely they would be to react negatively toward an FSU student who openly expressed political views they strongly disagreed with, for example by making a negative remark or otherwise expressing hostility. Percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding. Labels are omitted where segments are too small to display them clearly.

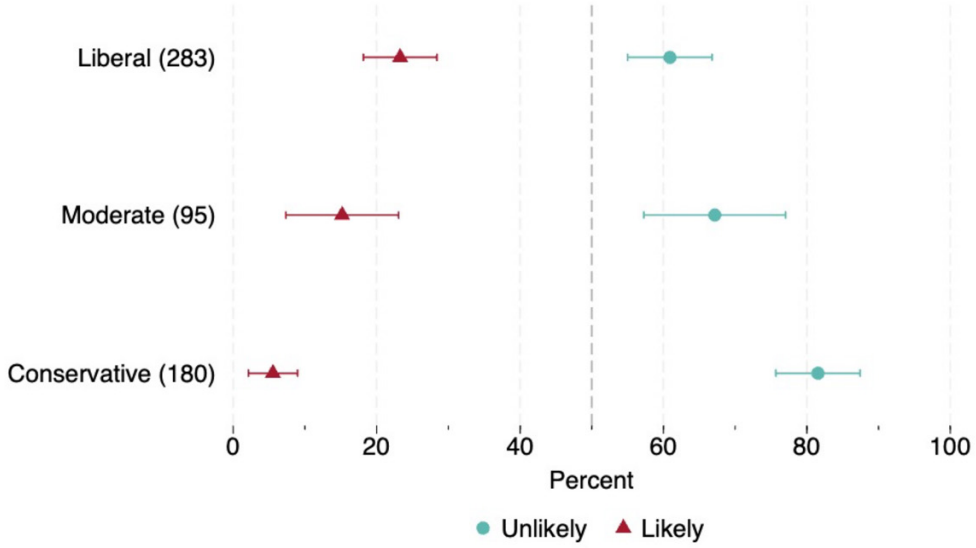


Figure B2. Self-Reported Likelihood of Reacting Negatively to Opposing Political Views, by Ideology
Note: Points show weighted, unadjusted percentages. Unweighted sample sizes appear in parentheses. "Likely" combines somewhat and very likely responses; "Unlikely" combines somewhat and very unlikely responses. Neutral responses are included in the denominators. Respondents were asked how likely they would be to react negatively toward an FSU student who openly expressed political views they strongly disagreed with, for example by making a negative remark or otherwise expressing hostility. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals.

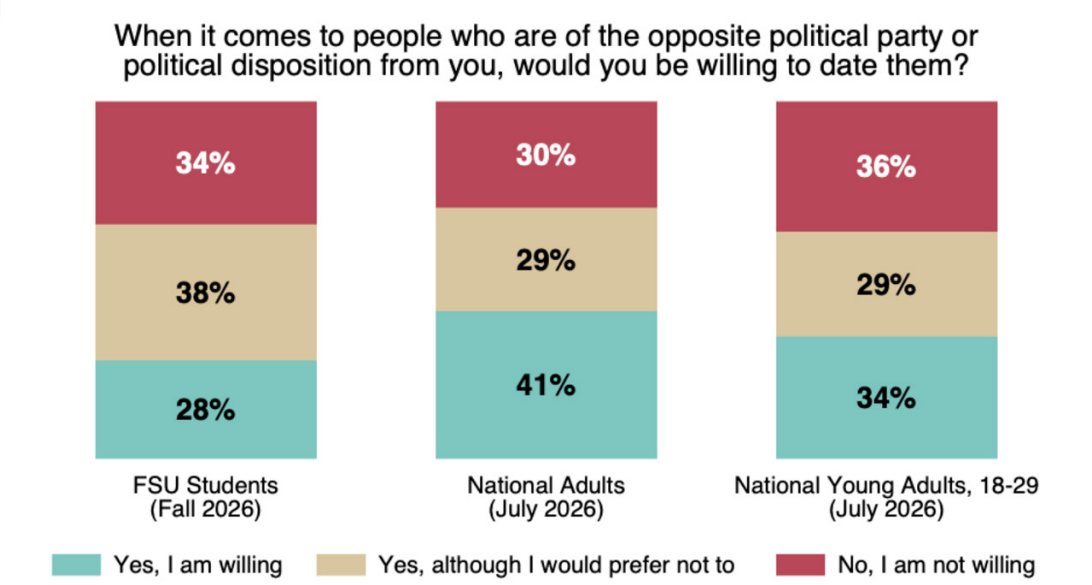


Figure B3. Willingness to Date Across Political Lines Among FSU Students and U.S. Adults
Note: Percentages are weighted using each survey's weights. Estimates are based on 619 Fall 2026 FSU respondents, 1,375 adults in the July 2026 Ipsos national survey, and 217 national respondents ages 18–29. The young-adult group is a subset of the national sample. Respondents were asked whether they would be willing to date someone of the opposite political party or political disposition if they were romantically available. Percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

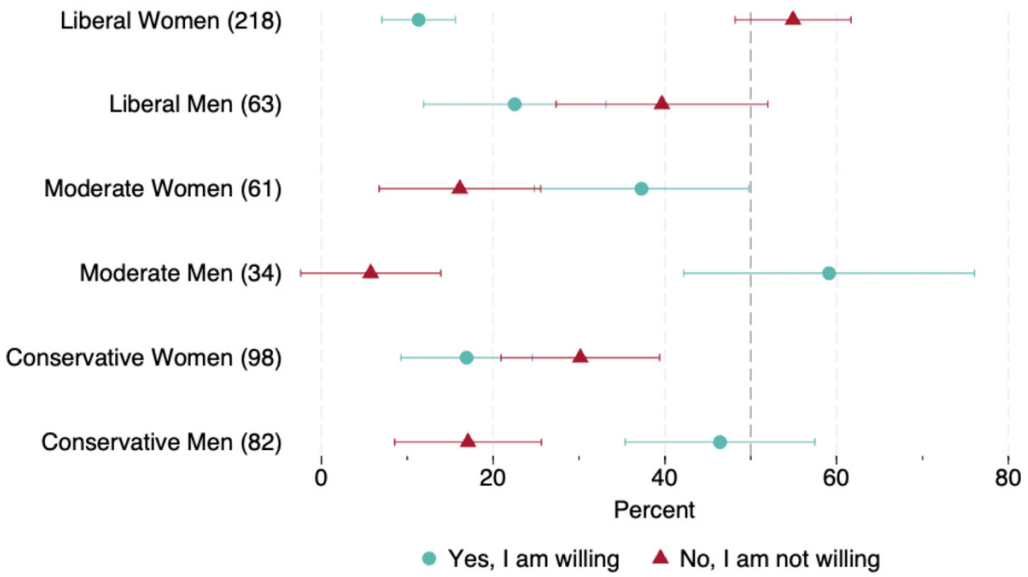


Figure B4. Willingness to Date Across Political Lines, by Ideology and Sex.
Note: Points show weighted, unadjusted percentages. Unweighted sample sizes appear in parentheses. "Likely" combines somewhat and very likely responses; "Unlikely" combines somewhat and very unlikely responses. Neutral responses are included in the denominators. Respondents were asked how likely they would be to react negatively toward an FSU student who openly expressed political views they strongly disagreed with, for example by making a negative remark or otherwise expressing hostility. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals.

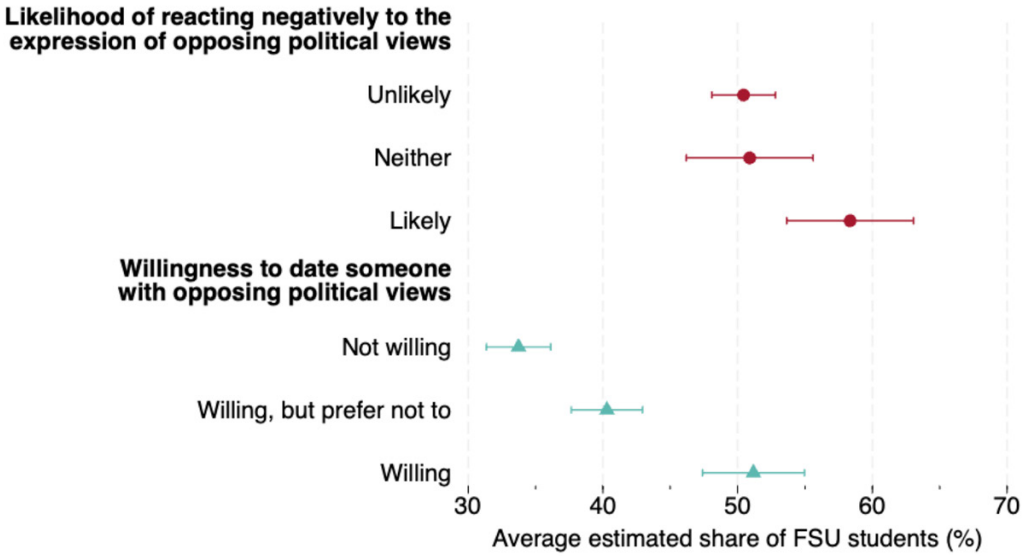


Figure B5. Estimates of Peers' Responses, by Respondents' Own Willingness to Date Across Political Lines and Likelihood of Reacting Negatively

Note: Points show weighted, unadjusted average estimates of peers' responses, grouped by respondents' own answers. The top panel shows estimates of the percentage of FSU students who would say they were somewhat or very likely to react negatively to opposing political views (n = 620). The bottom panel shows estimates of the percentage willing to date across political lines, including those who would prefer not to (n = 617). On the dating axis, "Willing" indicates respondents' own willingness without reservation. "Unlikely" and "Likely" combine the corresponding somewhat and very responses. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals.

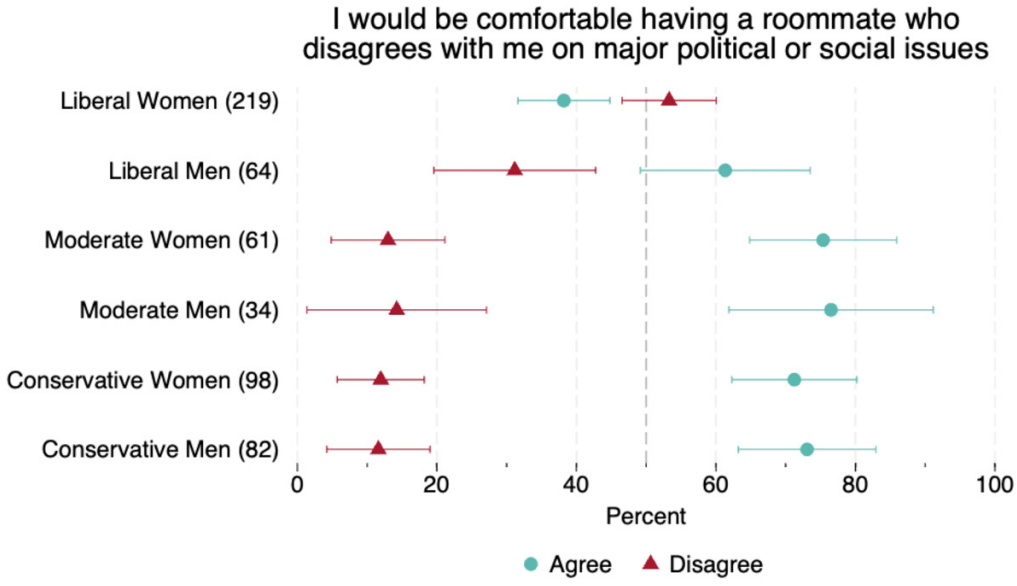


Figure B6. Comfort With a Politically Disagreeing Roommate, by Ideology and Sex

Note: Points show weighted, unadjusted percentages who agreed or disagreed that they would be comfortable with a roommate who disagreed with them on major political or social issues. Agreement and disagreement each combine the corresponding somewhat, unqualified, and strong responses. Neutral responses are included in the denominators. Unweighted sample sizes appear in parentheses. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals.

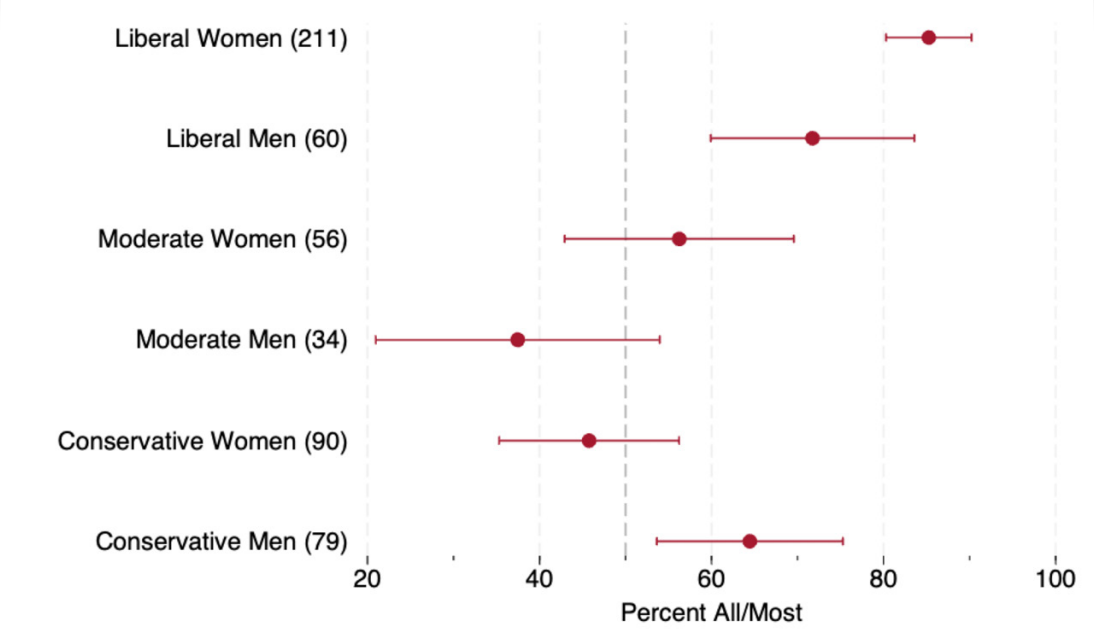


Figure B7. Percentage Reporting Most or All Close Friends Share Similar Political Views, by Ideology and Sex
Note: Points show weighted, unadjusted percentages who selected "Most" or "All or almost all" when asked how many close friends shared their political views. Respondents who selected "I don't know enough about their political views to say" are excluded from the denominators. Unweighted sample sizes appear in parentheses. Error bars show 95% confidence intervals.

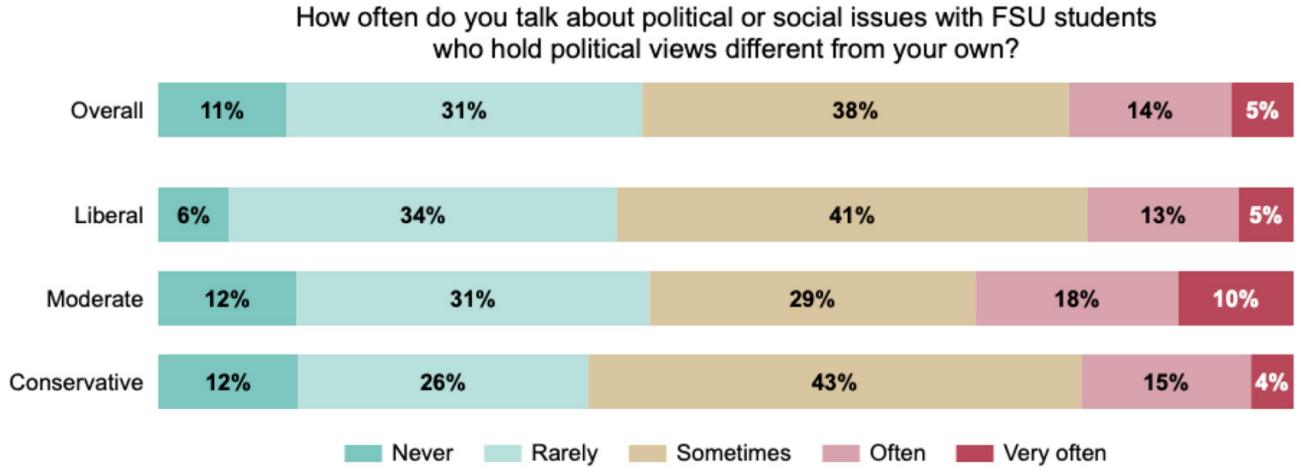


Figure B8. Frequency of Conversations With Politically Different FSU Students, Overall and by Ideology
Note: Percentages are weighted and based on 613 Fall 2026 respondents who answered the question. The overall distribution includes respondents with missing or "Not sure" ideology responses. Sample sizes for the ideology groups are 280 liberals, 93 moderates, and 177 conservatives. Question wording is abbreviated for display. Percentages may not sum to 100% because of rounding.

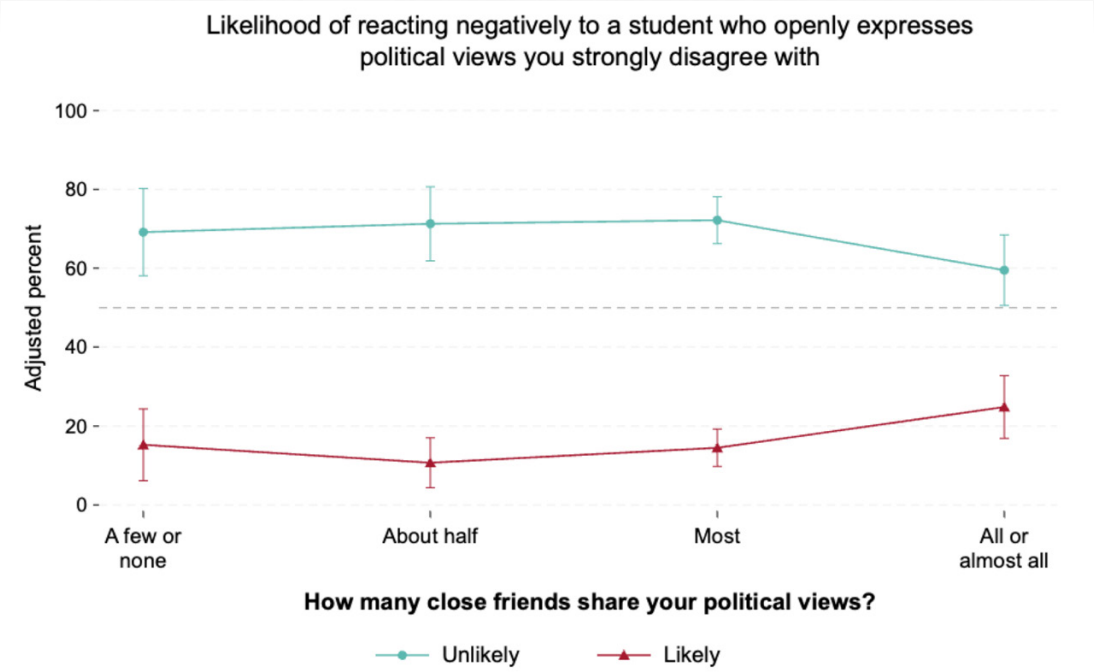


Figure B9. Adjusted Likelihood of Reacting Negatively to Opposing Political Views, by Political Similarity Among Close Friends
Note: Points show weighted predicted percentages, adjusted for political ideology, sex, class year, field of study, and race and ethnicity (N = 547). "Likely" combines somewhat and very likely responses; "Unlikely" combines somewhat and very unlikely responses. Neither likely nor unlikely responses remain in the denominator but are not shown. Respondents who did not know enough about their close friends' political views to answer were excluded. Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

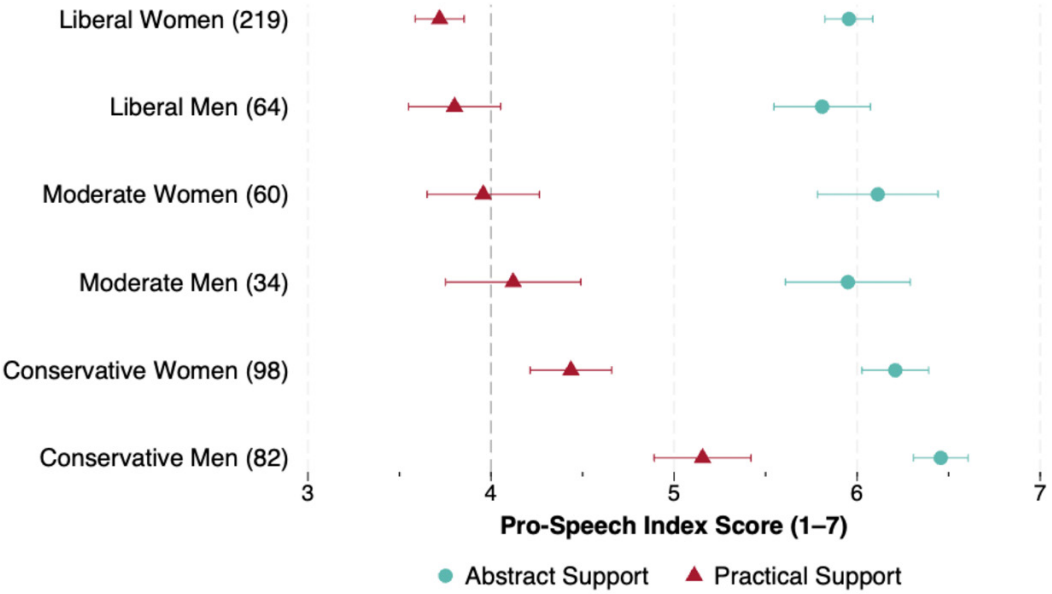


Figure B10. Average Abstract and Practical Support for Free Speech Index Scores, by Ideology and Sex
Note: Points show weighted, unadjusted average scores on the three-item abstract support and five-item practical support indexes, by political ideology and sex. Both indexes range from 1 to 7, with higher scores indicating greater support for free speech. Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals. Unweighted sample sizes are shown in parentheses.

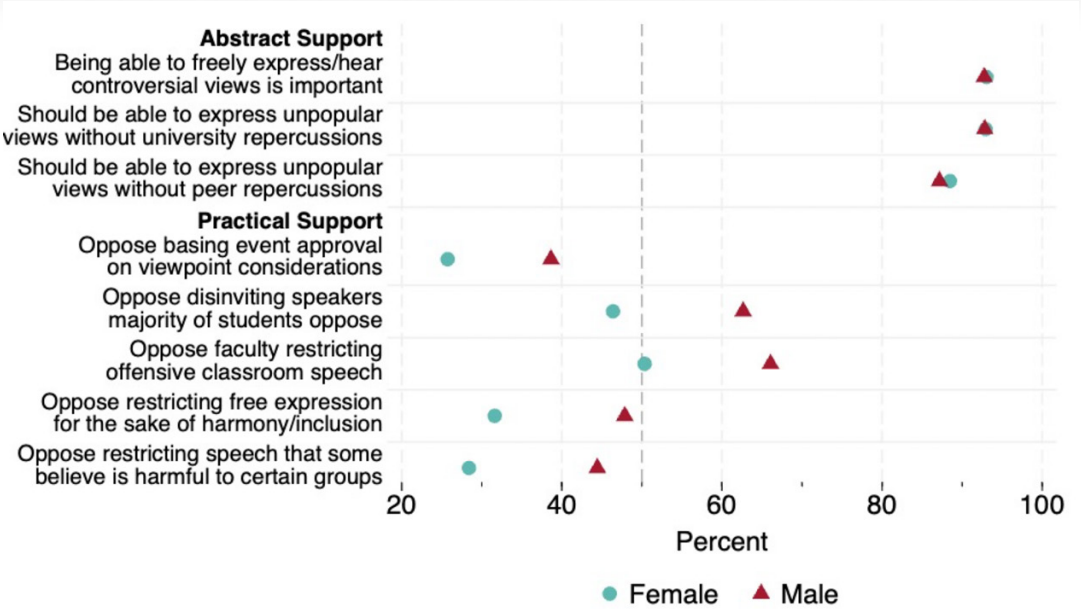


Figure B11. Abstract and Practical Support for Free Speech, by Sex
Note: Points show weighted, unadjusted percentages endorsing each position, by sex. For abstract support items, percentages combine strongly agree, agree, and somewhat agree responses. For practical support items, percentages combine strongly disagree, disagree, and somewhat disagree responses, or the corresponding oppose categories for the item about restricting speech perceived as harmful to certain groups. Neutral responses remain in the denominator but are not shown. Responses were weighted by sex, race and ethnicity, and class year.

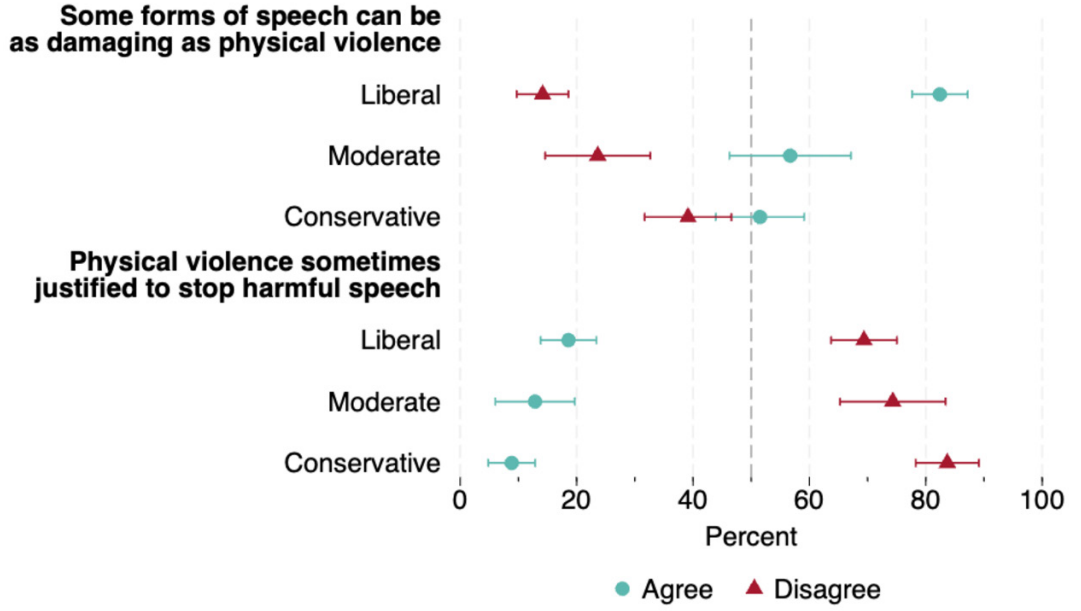


Figure B12. Views on Speech as Harm and the Justification of Physical Violence, by Ideology
Note: Points show weighted, unadjusted percentages agreeing or disagreeing with each statement, by political ideology. Agreement combines strongly agree, agree, and somewhat agree responses; disagreement combines strongly disagree, disagree, and somewhat disagree responses. Neutral and "Not sure" responses remain in the denominator but are not shown. Responses were weighted by sex, race and ethnicity, and class year. Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.

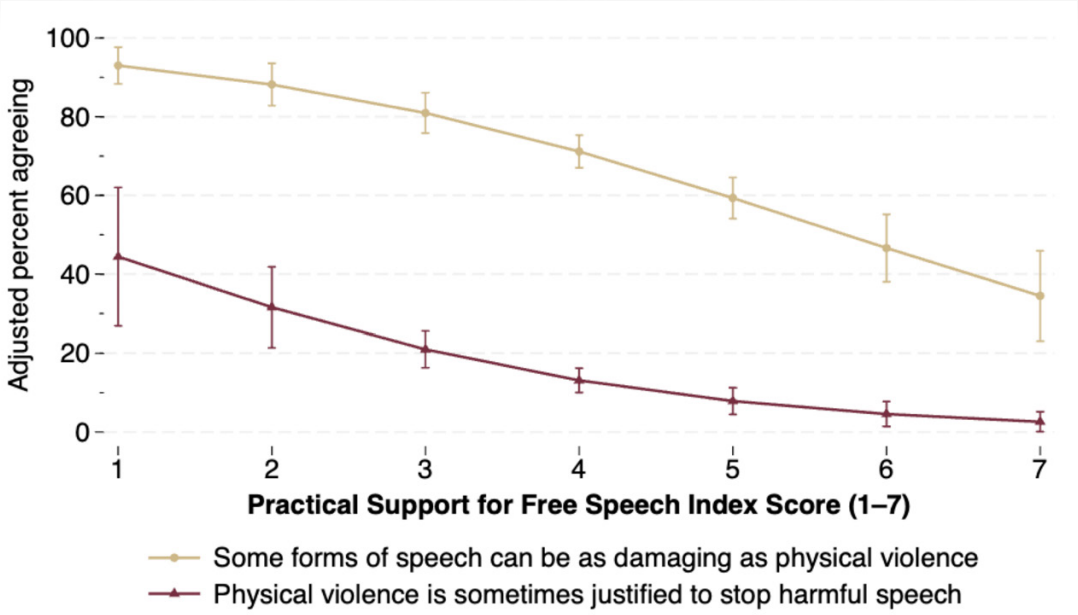


Figure B13. Agreement With Statements About Speech and Physical Violence, by Practical Support for Free Speech
Note: Points show weighted predicted percentages agreeing with each statement, adjusted for abstract support for free speech, political ideology, sex, class year, field of study, and race and ethnicity. The five-item practical support index ranges from 1 to 7, with higher scores indicating greater support for free speech. Agreement combines strongly agree, agree, and somewhat agree responses. Error bars indicate 95% confidence intervals.