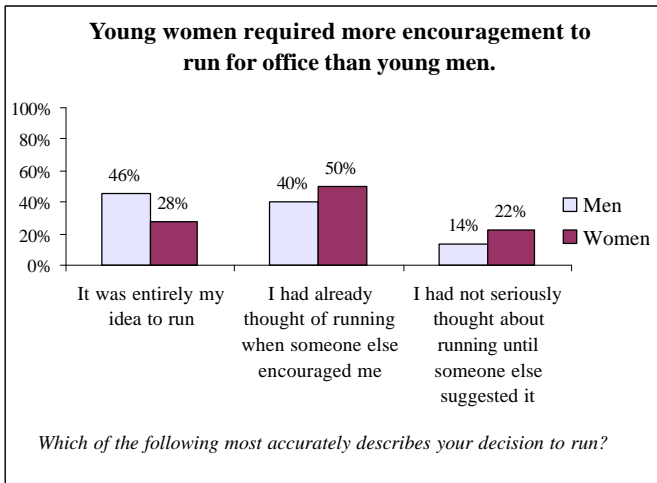
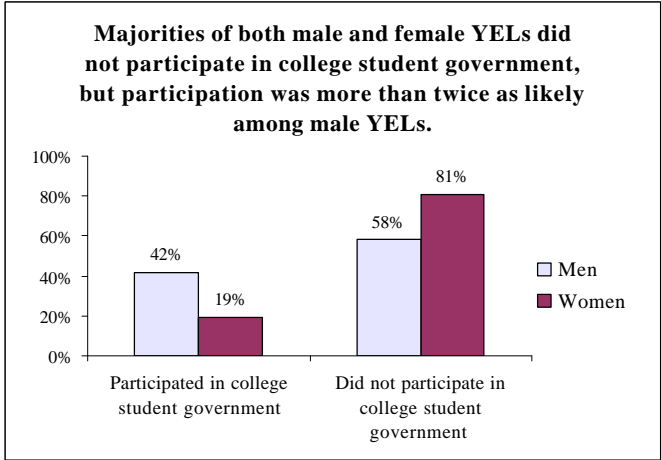


Young Elected Men and Women - Differences and Similarities

Among the respondents to the survey of young elected leaders, we found a number of significant gender differences. We also identified several areas where, sometimes surprisingly, no gender differences were evident.

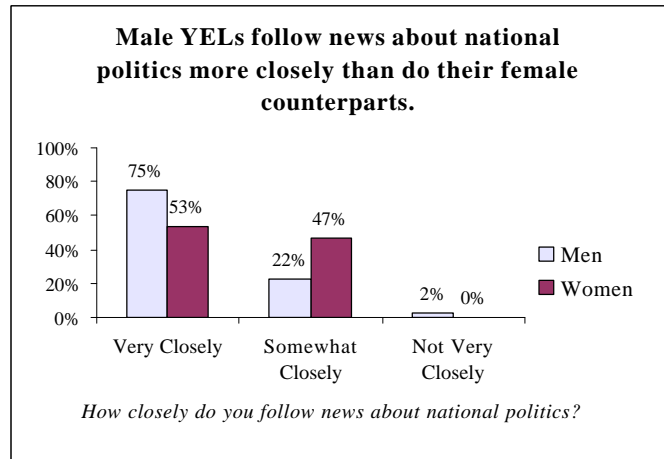
Differences

- Most young elected leaders are men. Among the 814 YELs identified in our census, 698 (86%) were men and 116 (14%) were women.
- While a majority of YELs did not participate in college student government, the men were much more likely than the women to participate.

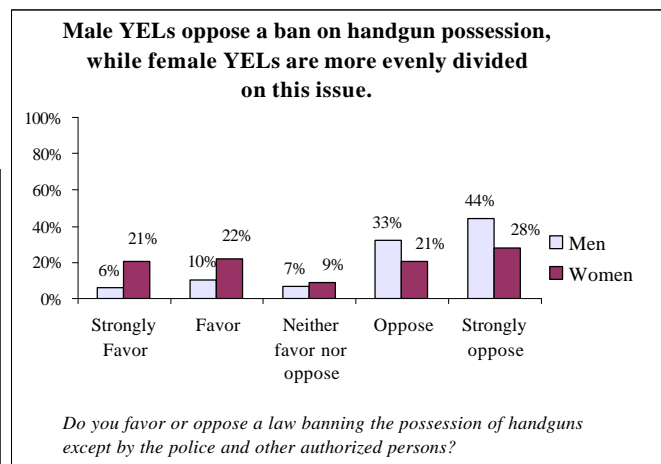
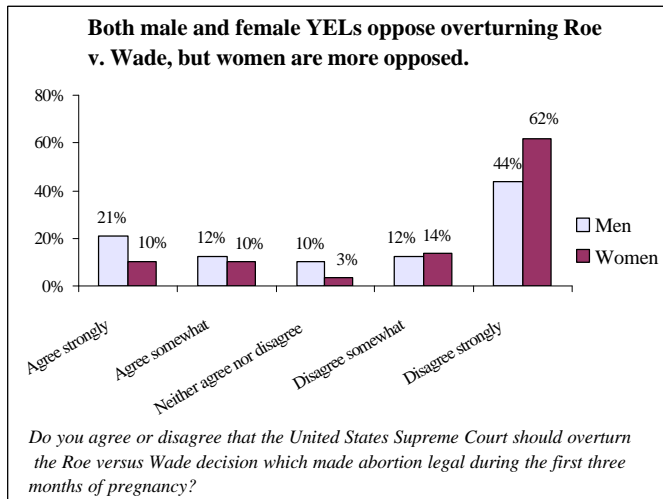


- Women require more encouragement to run for office.

- Women are less likely than men to follow news about national politics closely.



- Women are more supportive of a ban on handgun possession than men and more supportive of upholding the Roe versus Wade decision.



Similarities

- The men and women who responded to the survey are equally likely to have participated in high school student government.
- The young elected men and women are about equally likely to be married; 68% of men and 63% of women are married or living as married.
- Male and female YELs are about equally likely to have children; 48% of the women and 42% of the men have children.
- Approximately 20% of both the men and the women in the study are attorneys.
- Similar proportions of the men and women aspire to higher offices.

A Methodological Note

These findings are drawn from research about young elected officials conducted in 2002 by the Eagleton Institute of Politics as part of the Young Elected Leaders Project.

Between May 31 and September 30, 2002, the Institute conducted a national survey of elected officials who were age 35 and younger at that time. The survey included municipal officials who serve in cities with a population of 30,000 or greater, state legislators, state-wide elected officials, and officials who serve in the federal government. Eight hundred fourteen members of the target population were contacted by mail and asked to complete the survey either by mail or on-line. Three hundred ninety young elected leaders responded to the survey. Two hundred six respondents completed the survey by mail, and 184 completed the survey on-line. After the initial contact, four additional contacts were made with members of the population who had not responded to the survey to request that they do so. Respondents and non-respondents did not differ significantly on gender or party, two variables for which we had comparable data. The firm Schulman, Ronca, and Bucavallas, Inc. hosted and distributed the survey.

Comparisons between young elected leaders (YELs) and their peers who do not serve in elective office are based on data from a large, multi-phase study of civic engagement in America (.Keeter, Scott, Zukin, Cliff, Andolina, Molly, and Jenkins, Krista. (2002). *The Civic and Political Health of the Nation: A Generational Portrait*. CIRCLE, The Center for Information and Research in Civic Learning and Engagement.) That study, referred to here as CES (civic engagement study) was designed to document civic attitudes and behavior and the distinct ways in which each generation approaches

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