HBCU STUDENTS SPEAK ON THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

A STUDY BY
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WHY

Too often black college students' political perspectives are not sought by decision makers. If included, black college students are usually folded into demographic statistics of race, gender or region when political issues are discussed or voting behavior is analyzed. As important as their participation in such studies, polls, and reports are, their actual thoughts are usually overlooked. This study seeks to change that by asking HBCU students their opinions on issues that concern them, as well as their thoughts on the 2016 presidential election through a Spelman IRB approved survey.
WHEN & HOW

• A 23 question survey was distributed by email and through social media to all students attending all HBCUs from October 4th to November 8th at midnight.

• A few days prior to the 2016 presidential election, 122 students from 5 historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) completed an online, Qualtrics sponsored survey that documented their thoughts on issues that concerned them, President Obama's performance, and the future of HBCUs.

• This is a synopsis of the survey results.
  • *Reported percentages are based on the number of responses for each question.
WHO

• African American, and other African descended women, LGBTQ, and men from Clark Atlanta University, Dillard University, Howard University and Morehouse College, ages 18-35 answered the call to express their political views.

• From New York to California to South Dakota, and Texas-all regions of the U.S. had a say in the HBCU 2016 presidential election survey.

• Four graduate students were among the over 100 undergraduates. First Year students were the highest group of undergraduates.

• This was indeed a multi-disciplinary study. Majors included the social, natural, computer, and environmental sciences, as well as humanities and health.

• Democrats comprised 85% of the respondents (see next slide).
HBCU STUDENT POLITICAL PARTY IDENTIFICATION

- Democrat
- Green Party
- Independent
- Libertarian
- Republican
- Other
- None
HBCU STUDENTS WERE NOT EXCITED ABOUT THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.
HERE ARE SOME OF THE REASONS WHY HBCU STUDENTS WERE NOT EXCITED, YET 87% SAID THEY WOULD VOTE.

• “I am not excited about this election due to the choices in candidates but I still voted because people fought for me to have the right to do so.”

• “I do not trust either candidate or believe that they will serve in my best interest but I definitely can not accept being represented by Donald Trump with his hateful and racist messages.”

• “I have to vote, otherwise I can't have a say in the outcome.”

• “I am a citizen and I have the God-given right. People died for voting.”

• “I will vote to ensure that the rights of African Americans are not taken away from us.”
THE EXCITED HBCU STUDENTS SAID...

• “Excited to vote but disappointed in my choices.”

• “I'm excited at the prospect of the first female president, but I'm more excited that the election will be over. It has been a draining election cycle.”

• “I will vote and I am somewhat excited for the election because I think it is important for youth to have a voice in who will be deciding many things that influence us for the next several years.”
ISSUES HBCU STUDENTS WANTED THE NEXT PRESIDENT TO ADDRESS

1. Race Relations/Racism
2. Costs of Higher Education
3. Police/Community Relations
4. Student Loan Debt
As you can see, HBCU students were extremely satisfied with President Obama’s administration. However, 28% wished he had focused more on African American concerns, particularly HBCUs (29%) and police brutality (29%). Connected to the HBCU issues is the cost of higher education, which 26% of HBCU students wanted President Obama to address.
HBCUS AND THE NEXT PRESIDENT

- Fifty-four percent of HBCU student respondents felt that Hillary Clinton was the best candidate to address HBCUs.
- Thirty-nine percent said none of the candidates would make HBCUs a priority in their administration.
- Six percent did say that Jill Stein would be favorable toward HBCUs.
HBCU students raised concerns over post-election reactions. One statement captures that anxiety.

“I'm afraid of what will happen after the election.”
HBCU 2016 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION SURVEY

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT
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