POLITICAL PARTICIPATION ACTIVITIES FOR YOUNG CANADIANS

Activities included connect citizens with each other or allow them to express opinions or views publicly.

The percentage noted after each activity represents the rate of youth (aged 18–34) participation*.

1. THE TWITTERING CLASSES: ONLINE DISCUSSION
- I circulated or reposted political information on social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter: 30%
- I used email or instant messaging to discuss societal/political issues: 42%
- I blogged about a political issue: 26%
- I participated in an online group about a societal/political issue: 40%

2. SOMETHIN’ TO TALK ABOUT: OFF-LINE DISCUSSION
- I discussed a societal/political issue face to face or on the phone: 51%
- I wrote a letter to the editor about a political issue: 20%
- I made a public speech on a political issue: 22%
- I organized a public event or meeting about politics: 20%

3. TAKING IT TO THE STREETS: ACTIVISM
- I signed a petition: 49%
- I boycotted/“buycotted” a product: 47%
- I was part of a protest: 21%

36% of young Canadians do none of these activities
15% do all three

4. COMMUNITY REVIVAL: CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
- I worked with others on an issue in my community: 31%
- I was active in a group or organization: 58%
- I donated to a political/societal cause: 31%
- I did voluntary work: 58%

24% of young Canadians do none of these activities
12% do all four

5. IN THE SYSTEM: FORMAL ENGAGEMENT
- I contacted an elected official about an issue that concerns me: 25%
- I attended a political meeting: 18%
- I volunteered in an election: 8%
- I donated to a political party or candidate: 8%
- I am or have been a member of a political party: 9%

66% of young Canadians do none of these activities
1% do all five

If we missed a political activity that you think we should track, please let us know. Samara will use these questions to take the pulse of Canadian political life in a forthcoming Samara Index, which measures the connection between citizens and politics, including how citizens participate.

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*Survey respondents were asked whether they performed these activities in the last 12 months, except for the following questions: volunteering in an election, donating to a party or candidate or being a member of a party, for which they were asked whether they’d participated in the last five years.