

"Shut up and Dribble" Attitude More Prevalent among Republicans

Results Reveal Sharp Partisan Divides in Perceived Roles of Athletes and Celebrities

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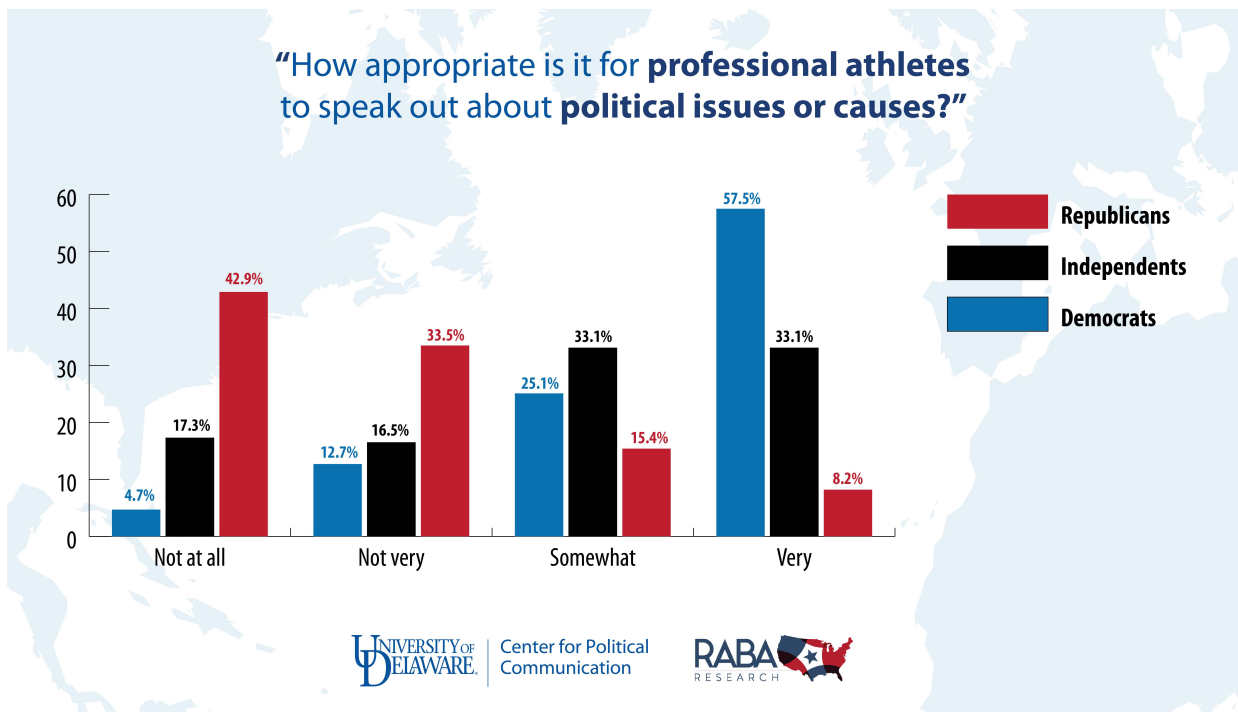
A majority of Republicans believe professional athletes should stay out of politics and causes, with a sizable portion saying it is completely inappropriate for them to do so, according to a new national poll conducted for the University of Delaware’s Center for Political Communication.

More than 40% of Republicans say it is "not at all appropriate" for professional athletes to speak out about political issues or causes, compared to approximately 5% of Democrats. At the same time, nearly 60% of Democrats say such speech is "very appropriate," with just over 8% of Republicans saying so. Independents are more evenly distributed across the scale.

The national poll, conducted by RABA Research, comes just weeks after conservative FOX News host Laura Ingraham rebuked LeBron James for "talking politics" and said, "Keep the political comments to yourselves ... Shut up and dribble."

More recently, the Sacramento Kings players and owner have spoken out publicly about the fatal police shooting of 22-year old Stephon Clark, followed by the joint release of a PSA with the Boston Celtics calling for "accountability."

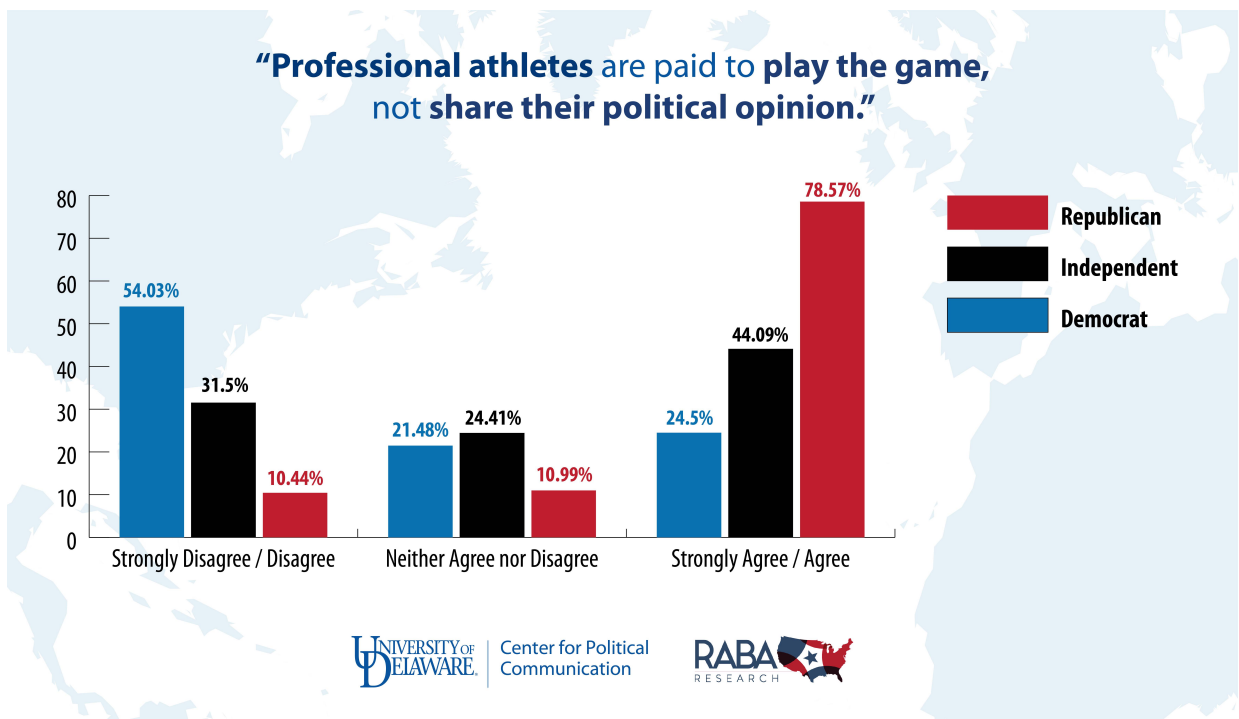
"What we are witnessing is a divide in terms of how Americans think about political speech— in particular, who gets to speak," says Dr. Dannagal Young, Associate Professor of Communication at the University of Delaware.



"Part of this divide stems from the fact that celebrities and athletes tend to speak out for liberal causes. In addition, liberals have a history of political expression in non-political realms dating back to the music, art, and activism of the 1960s counterculture. Hence, it is unsurprising that we find more support for celebrity political expression among Democrats than Republicans."

These divides are further exemplified in responses to the prompt, "Professional athletes are paid to play the game, not share their political opinion." While nearly 25% of Democrats strongly agreed with this statement, a majority — 79% — of Republicans strongly agreed.

Respondents were also asked whether such speech constitutes First Amendment rights when celebrities speak out about politics. Among Democrats, 88% said they strongly agreed with the statement, "When celebrities speak out about politics, they are exercising their First Amendment rights," compared with 69% of Republicans.



METHODOLOGY

607 interviews among American adults were conducted March 21-22, 2018 via online interviews. The results were weighted to ensure proportional response. Margin of error for these results is +/-4.1%. Party ID was recoded to three categories for graphic purposes (Democrats = 298; Independents = 127; and Republicans = 182). For questions on methodology, please email: info@rabaresearch.com or call 917-685-4819. The National Agenda Opinion Project research is funded by the University of Delaware's nonpartisan Center for Political Communication (CPC). The study was supervised by the CPC's Associate Director, Lindsay Hoffman (Associate Professor), Dannagal Young (Associate Professor), and Phil Jones (Associate Professor) in the Departments of Communication and Political Science & International Relations.

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE
Center for Political Communication
NATIONAL POLL

Conducted March 21-22, 2018

Q1. In general, how APPROPRIATE do you think it is for the following kinds of people to speak out about political issues or causes?

	Not at all appropriate	Not very appropriate	Somewhat appropriate	Very appropriate
Late-night comedians	14%	15%	24%	48%
Hollywood actors	19%	18%	25%	37%
Professional athletes	19%	20%	24%	38%

Q2. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Professional athletes are paid to play the game, not share their political opinions.	20%	16%	19%	23%	22%

It is acceptable for award-winning actors to use their platform to discuss issues or causes.	18%	14%	18%	24%	26%
When celebrities speak out about politics, they are exercising their first amendment rights.	4%	3%	13%	38%	41%

Q3. How often do you try to watch or listen to the following (either on TV, radio, or online):

	Never	Rarely	Sometimes	Often	All the time
The Late Show with Stephen Colbert on CBS	49%	20%	16%	8%	6%
The Rush Limbaugh Show	80%	8%	8%	3%	2%
Hannity with Sean Hannity on FOX News	74%	11%	8%	4%	3%
The Rachel Maddow Show on MSNBC	70%	12%	9%	4%	5%
The Daily Show with Trevor Noah on Comedy Central	64%	15%	12%	6%	3%

Q4. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement about you:

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
When faced with a problem, I usually see the one best solution very quickly.	2%	18%	34%	37%	9%
I don't like situations that are uncertain.	2%	13%	36%	39%	10%
It's frustrating to listen to someone who cannot make up his or her mind.	2%	6%	22%	50%	20%

Q5. Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about you:

	Strongly disagree	Disagree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
Thinking is not my idea of fun.	40%	40%	14%	6%	1%
I only think as hard as I have to.	37%	37%	15%	9%	2%
I would prefer complex to simple problems.	5%	16%	42%	28%	9%

Q6. What is the highest level of education you have attained?

Less than high school	2%
High school graduate	12%
Some college	22%
Two-year degree	8%
Four-year degree	28%
Professional degree	25%
Doctorate	3%

Q7. In general, how interested are you in what is going on with politics and public affairs?

Extremely interested	46%
Somewhat interested	36%
Not very interested	11%
Not at all interested	8%

Q8. In general, how closely do you follow politics?

Extremely closely	34%
Somewhat closely	42%
Not very closely	17%
Not at all	7%

Q9. In politics today, do you consider yourself a...

Strong Democrat	13%
Democrat	17%
Independent that Leans Democratic	19%
Independent	21%
Independent that Leans Republican	12%
Republican	14%
Strong Republican	4%
Other (please specify)	

Q10. In general, would you describe your political views as...

Very liberal	11%
Liberal	18%
Somewhat liberal	13%
Moderate	24%
Somewhat conservative	10%
Conservative	11%
Very conservative	7%
Other	7%

Q11. What is your race?

African-American	5%
White	78%
Hispanic	7%
Asian	2%
Other	3%
Prefer not to say	6%

Q12. Age

18-29	17%
30-44	29%
45-60	15%
> 60	38%

Q13. Gender

Male	47%
Female	53%

Q14. Household Income

\$0-\$9,999	7%
\$10,000-\$24,999	10%
\$25,000-\$49,999	16%
\$50,000-\$74,999	16%
\$75,000-\$99,999	12%
\$100,000-\$124,999	8%
\$125,000-\$149,999	4%
\$150,000-\$174,999	4%
\$175,000-\$199,999	2%
\$200,000+	6%
Prefer not to answer	15%