

POLITICO



Getty

## Americans bomb Pew test of basic political knowledge

By **NICK GASS** | 4/28/15 12:41 PM EDT | Updated 4/28/15 1:15 PM EDT

Only one-in-three Americans knows how many women serve on the Supreme Court, but 91 percent can identify Martin Luther King Jr., 47 years after his assassination.

That's according to the latest Pew Research Center News IQ survey released Tuesday, which tests how well the American public knows the world in words, maps and pictures.

Almost all millennials surveyed — 96 percent — could pick out King from a list of names that included Malcolm X, Jesse Jackson and Thurgood Marshall. Older generations could mostly identify the slain civil-rights leader, as 89 percent of Gen Xers, Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation did.

But millennials apparently aren't so great at identifying the current party makeup of the Senate. Only 47 percent of respondents aged 18 to 34 were able to do so, compared to 52 percent overall. Those who described themselves as more politically engaged were more likely to know the upper chamber's composition. (For the record, Republicans hold 54 seats; Democrats 44 seats; and Independents two seats.)

More people were able to identify the country that Kim Jong-un rules (82 percent) than were able to identify Malala Yousafzai as the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize winner (63 percent). And only 51 percent could recognize Massachusetts Sen. Elizabeth Warren from a series of four photos with House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Sen. Deb Fischer (R-Neb.) and Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.).



---

**ALSO ON POLITICO**

**GOP confident on fast-track votes**

**ADAM BEHSUDI**

---

The survey, which was conducted weeks before the April 15 tax filing deadline, found that 84 percent knew that they had to indicate their insurance coverage on the documents.

Nearly eight-in-10 respondents correctly identified Cuba as the country with which the United States re-established diplomatic ties last December.

Education levels again factored into the responses, but Pew notes that half or more respondents with a high school education answered eight of the quiz's 12 questions correctly. Among college graduates and post-graduate degree holders, most answered 11 out of 12 correctly.

The survey was conducted March 10-April 6 among 3,147 adults who are part of the Pew Research

Center's American Trends panel.

Test your knowledge here.

[Follow @politico](#)