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# Social Issues Survey Results

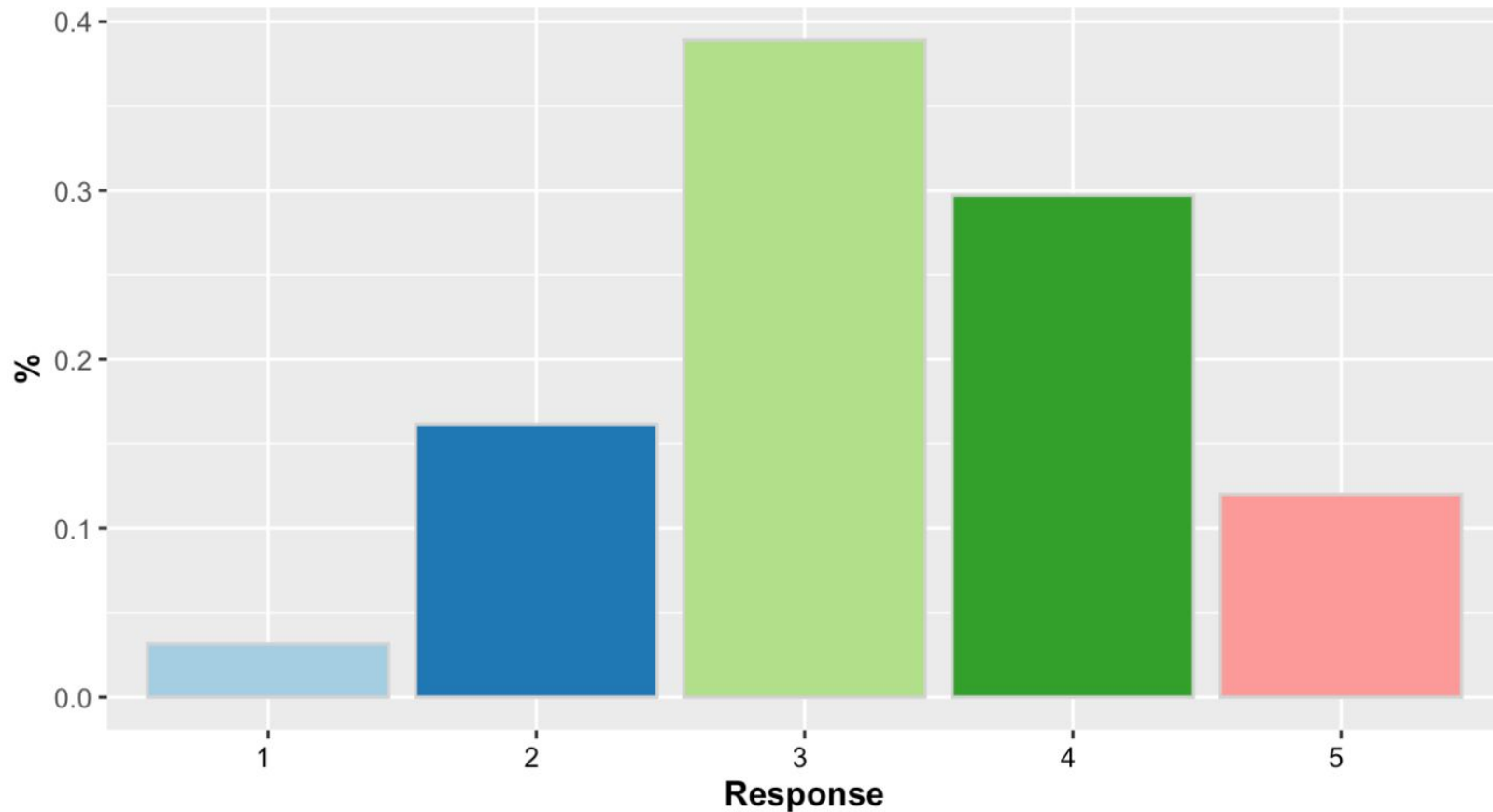
— Student Voice Committee —

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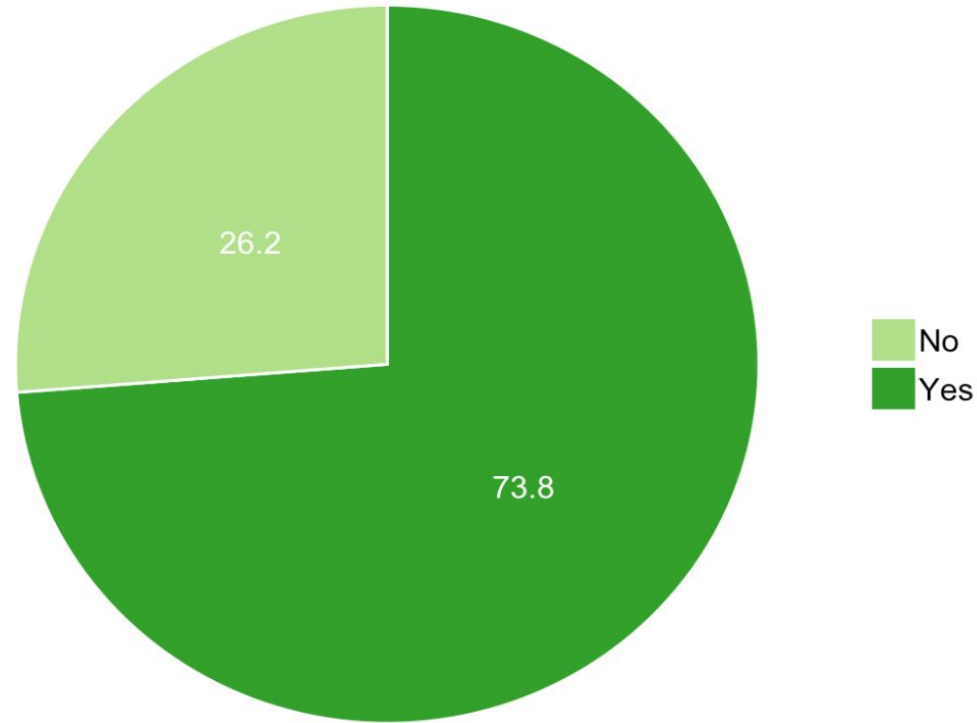
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# On a scale of 1-5, Do you keep up with politics?

(1- not invested in politics at all, 5- strongly invested in politics)

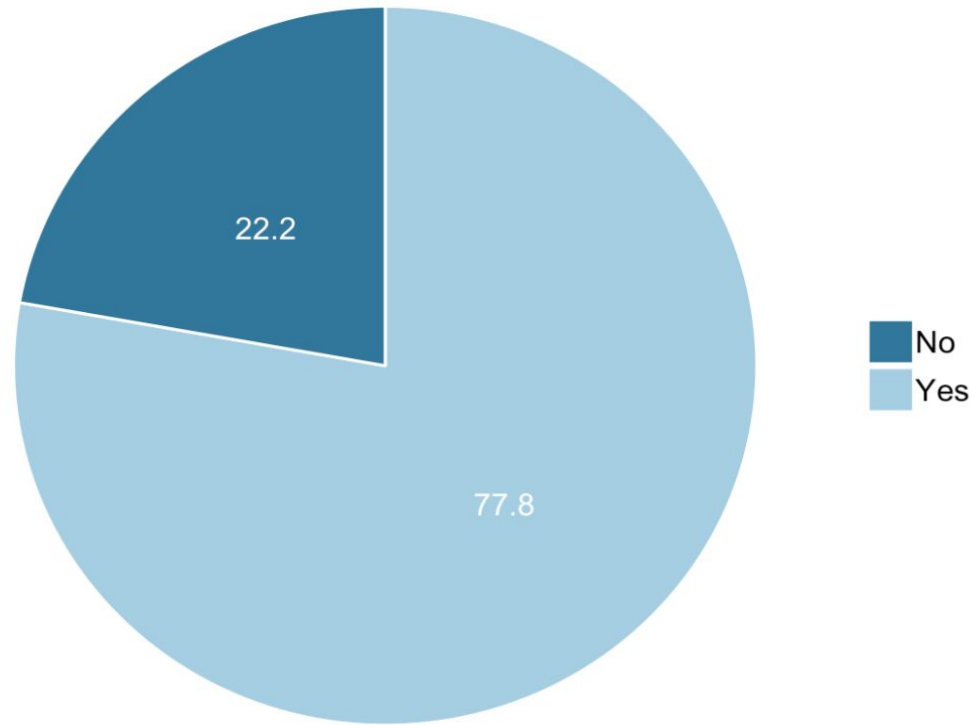


**Do you think political discussions in class are appropriate?\***



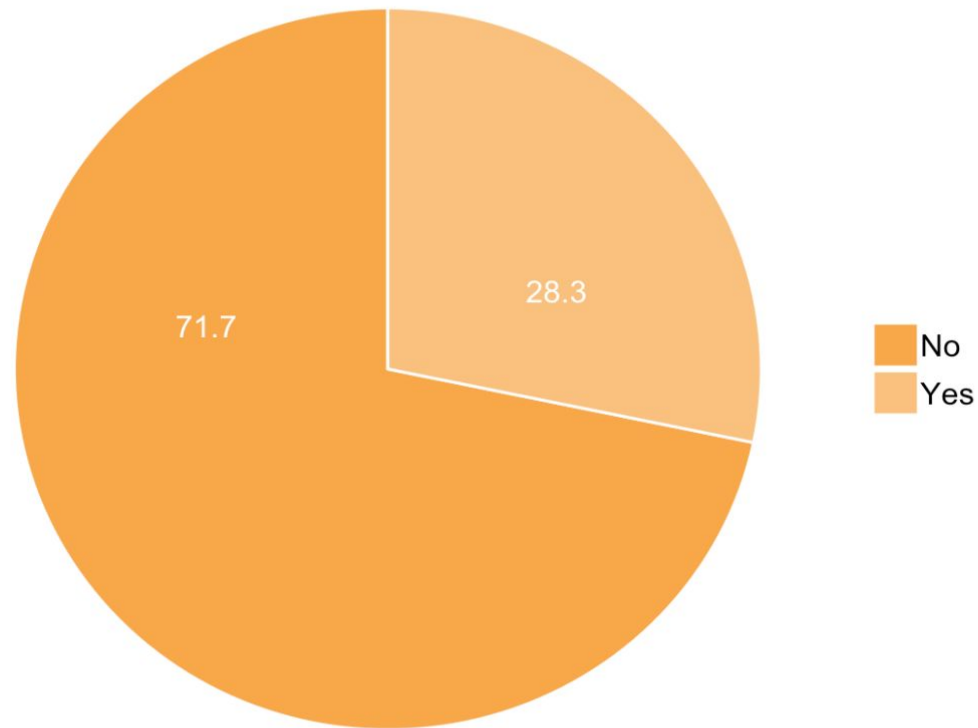
**\*73.8% of responding UCR students believe that political discussions held in class are appropriate**

**Have any of your professors discussed current events in class?\***



**\*77.8% of responding UCR students report that one of their professors has discussed current events in class**

## Have these discussions affected your educational environment?\*



**\*Of the students who have had a professor discuss current events in class, 28.3% believe that these discussions have affected their educational environment**

## How discussions of current events have affected students' educational environment

"People are more concerned about these discussions and, as a result, they may not always be as focused on the class as they usually would be."

"Provided me with a sense of comfort. I appreciate when professors acknowledge the current circumstances and empathize with their students. The pandemic has been difficult and talking about has helped me stay focused and do better in my classes."

"Everyone is aware that the COVID pandemic has affected everyone's lives greatly, so everyone is worried about everyone else's health. Some of my professors are pretty understanding but it's really distracting."

"Students become angry with others and it causes havoc. Teachers postpone class and thus our schedules are interrupted. If politics are brought up in class it usually takes a while to deviate from the subject and focus on the lecture. "

"Discussing current events when it comes to environmental justice helps me perform better in other classes because it makes the work and what I study much more meaningful. I carry the lessons of environmental justice and the disparities that exist in relation to class and race. When I am faced with these discussions and i begin to explore how I could make use of the things I learn in class to find a solution, as an engineering student. These discussions are 100% essential."

"Political talk has no place in class. Professors forget there are two sides to the story and seemingly are trying to indoctrinate or influence their students towards one side. I came and pay to learn about the subjects at hand, not to have someone try to persuade me towards one side. Totally inappropriate and unprofessional behavior. "

"I do believe there is room for open discussions about politics in academia. However, I do not agree with professors pushing their own political views on students. They make it seem that their view point is the only truth that holds value—political views are stated as if everyone holds the same views and this is not the case. This approach makes it very difficult to have open discussions or to voice one's opposing opinion as there is fear of punishment in grading and/or of being ostracized by professors and/or TA's. Students should not have fears like this in their educational environment. University should be a place where one is able to explore ideas and express oneself. Instead, from my experience, professors have used their positions as a platform to push a one-sided political campaign. I find this deplorable. "

"I do not think it is appropriate for a professors opinion on a matter to be discussed unless a student is asking a specific question about their opinion. Even at that, the answer should only address that question only. It takes away from the subject that is supposed to be taught, waste a lot of time, and forms an opinion in the class that is distracting. "

"Off topic, waste valuable time, and often don't agree with my beliefs so I'm the solo sitting in the back of the classroom unable to voice my opinion without fear of being graded harder."

"Having professors facilitate these kinds of discussions by making opening it up for discussion and allowing all students to share their opinions and experiences has made my learning environment more safe and engaging."

## How would you on average describe your experiences of in class political discussions?

