



# Stockton Poll: Civic Education Leads to Civic Activity

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**Galloway, NJ** – New Jersey adults who studied U.S. government or civics in school were more likely to vote in recent elections and to participate in civic activities, according to a Stockton Poll released today by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

“With Independence Day upon us, the poll points to the need to reaffirm our commitment to civic education and the importance of our independence and our system of government,” said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center at Stockton University.

A majority of 55 percent said they had taken at least one class in civics, American government, elections or democracy in the United States while in school, while 44 percent said they had not taken such a class. Of those who were taught about government, 89 percent learned about it in high school and 66 percent studied it in college.

Ninety-seven percent of those who had taken a class said they follow government and politics some or most of the time, compared to 85 percent who had not taken a class. Those who had studied civics spend more time following what goes on in government: 33 percent who had taken a class spend six or more hours a week watching or reading about such information, compared to 19 percent who did not study civics.

Higher percentages of people who studied civics in school or college reported voting in the 2012 presidential election (90 percent versus 72 percent of those who never studied government) and in the 2014 election for U.S. Senate and Congress (72 percent versus 56 percent).

Those who studied civics were more likely than those who were never taught the subject to have contributed to a political candidate or campaign in the past year (26 percent to 17 percent), more likely to have written a letter to a newspaper or public official (33 percent to 18 percent), and more likely to have signed a petition advocating policy change (45 percent to 30 percent).

Respondents who had studied civics were only slightly more likely to have attended an organized protest or worked with others in the community to solve a local problem. Six percent

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