

Florida Daily

Most Americans Afraid to Share Their Political Views, New Poll Shows

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A recent survey by the **Cato Institute** finds that a majority of Americans—62 percent—say the current political climate keeps them quiet about how they really feel about certain issues.

A strong majority of conservatives—77 percent—and 59 percent of independents say they have to remain quiet about issues at the current time. The one group who feel they could openly express their views were Democrats but even there it is only a slight majority—52 percent—who say they can be open with their opinions.

The poll also showed that liberals were far more likely to support firing someone simply due to their political donations as 50 percent of liberals support firing donors to **President Donald Trump** while 36 percent of conservatives supported firing donors to **former Vice President Joe Biden**.

Around a third of those surveyed—32 percent—say they are worried that their political views could hurt their employment, either losing their jobs or missing out on career opportunities.

Cato's polling director **Emily Ekins** noted that this view was not one-sided with 34 percent of conservatives, 31 percent of liberals and 30 percent of moderates think expressing their political views at the workplace could get them fired.

The poll shows that Americans of all backgrounds—65 percent of Hispanics, 64 percent of whites, 49 percent of African Americans—feel pressure to remain silent. Asked if their political views could hurt them at work, 38 percent of Hispanics, 31 percent of white, 22 percent of African-Americans, 35 percent of men and 27 of women say yes.

The poll also finds that Americans under the age of 30 are more concerned about the negative ramification of their political views at the workplace than older people.

“These numbers show that the polls may be wrong again this year like they were in 2016 on Trump,” said **Jamie Miller**, the Florida director for the group **People Who Think**.

Miller, a veteran of Florida politics, said the Cato poll could be almost indicative that the pollsters might be getting the wrong results now.

“If people are this quiet on being opened about their political views, what makes you think they are going to change if they get a call from a political pollster asking them the same thing?” asked Miller.

The poll of 2,000 American adults was taken from July 1 through July 6 with a margin of error of +/- 2.36 percent.