58 Percent Say Current Politics Prevents Them From Speaking Out

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Fifty-eight percent of Americans believe that "the political climate these days prevents me from saying things I believe because others might find them offensive." A **Cato Institute** study finds that 40 percent do not feel constrained.[1]

Most liberals do not feel constrained by the political environment. Among strong liberals, just 30 percent believe they are prevented from saying what they believe. Among other liberals, 45 percent express that concern.
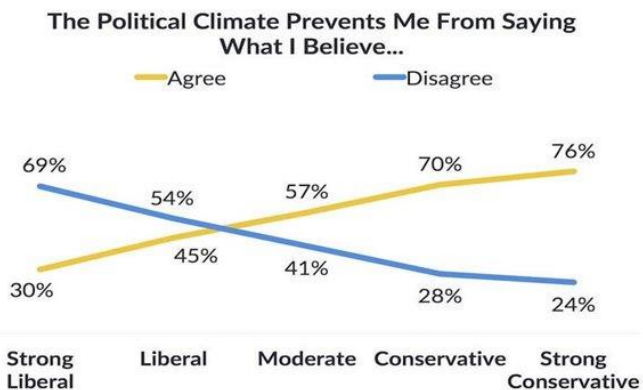
However, the reverse is true for conservatives. Seventy-six percent of strong conservatives and 70 percent of other conservatives believe that the political environment prevents them from saying what they believe.

As for political moderates, 57 percent believe that they cannot say what they believe in the current political environment. Forty-one percent of moderates are not concerned.

"Nearly three-fourths (71 percent) of Americans believe that political correctness has done more to silence important discussions our society needs to have." Cato notes that just 28 percent "instead believe that political correctness has done more to help people avoid offending others."

Liberals Most Likely To Feel Comfortable Sharing Political Beliefs; Conservatives Most Likely to Self-Censor

Agree/Disagree: The political climate these days prevents me from saying things I believe because others might find them offensive.

The Political Climate Prevents Me From Saying What I Believe...

— Agree   — Disagree

	Strong Liberal	Liberal	Moderate	Conservative	Strong Conservative
Agree	30%	45%	57%	70%	76%
Disagree	69%	54%	41%	28%	24%

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Footnotes:

1. _**Cato Institute**_**, "The State of Free Speech and Tolerance in America," October 31, 2017**