

Free Speech Survey Results

2022

Austin Peay State University



FREE SPEECH SURVEY RESULTS

On April 8, 2022, Tennessee’s Governor Bill Lee signed into law Public Chapter No. 818. One component of the Act requires higher education institutions to conduct a biennial survey of the institution’s students and employees to assess the campus climate with regard to diversity of thought and the respondents’ comfort level in speaking freely on campus, regardless of political affiliation or ideology.

Austin Peay State University (APSU) offered this survey October 17-21, 2022, to all university students, faculty, and staff. A total of 1,249 students participated in the survey, representing about 13% of the total APSU student population; a total of 683 faculty and staff participated in the survey, representing about 44% of the total APSU employee population.

Advertisement and distribution of the survey was coordinated with various campus officials to promote the surveys to both students and employees. Participation in the survey was voluntary, confidential, and anonymous; no personal identifying information was sought on the survey.

Austin Peay State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, disability, age, status as a protected veteran, genetic information, or any other legally protected class with respect to all employment, programs and activities sponsored by APSU. Policy 6:001

Student Survey Results

(rounded to the whole percent; NR = number of responses < 5)

Q1 - I am comfortable appropriately expressing ideas and opinions in my college classroom.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Very Uncomfortable</i>	11%	19%	11%	5%	8%	4%	13%	23%	13%	20%	NR	9%	8%
<i>Somewhat Uncomfortable</i>	16%	29%	18%	10%	8%	13%	16%	8%	21%	10%	NR	7%	8%
<i>Neither</i>	10%	9%	10%	5%	16%	9%	11%	8%	9%	10%	NR	11%	17%
<i>Somewhat Comfortable</i>	30%	21%	28%	34%	35%	34%	23%	15%	29%	40%	NR	34%	28%
<i>Very Comfortable</i>	33%	22%	33%	46%	32%	40%	38%	46%	28%	20%	NR	39%	39%

Q2 - I am comfortable appropriately expressing or endorsing a specific political viewpoint or belief without pressure or influence by my fellow students.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Very Uncomfortable</i>	16%	29%	16%	6%	13%	6%	17%	23%	21%	20%	NR	8%	11%
<i>Somewhat Uncomfortable</i>	16%	25%	18%	13%	11%	13%	16%	8%	20%	20%	NR	12%	12%
<i>Neither</i>	17%	12%	16%	12%	27%	18%	13%	8%	16%	10%	NR	22%	22%
<i>Somewhat Comfortable</i>	23%	17%	22%	29%	23%	28%	21%	15%	21%	40%	NR	20%	23%
<i>Very Comfortable</i>	27%	17%	28%	39%	26%	35%	34%	46%	22%	10%	NR	37%	31%

Student Survey Results

(rounded to the whole percent; NR = number of responses < 5)

Q3 - I am comfortable appropriately expressing a specific political viewpoint or belief without pressure or influence by my faculty or instructors.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Very Uncomfortable</i>	13%	22%	14%	6%	10%	4%	15%	15%	16%	20%	NR	9%	10%
<i>Somewhat Uncomfortable</i>	15%	26%	15%	9%	11%	9%	8%	8%	19%	20%	NR	11%	11%
<i>Neither</i>	17%	16%	15%	11%	24%	17%	17%	8%	17%	10%	NR	14%	20%
<i>Somewhat Comfortable</i>	21%	15%	22%	23%	25%	21%	17%	23%	21%	30%	NR	22%	23%
<i>Very Comfortable</i>	34%	21%	35%	51%	31%	49%	44%	46%	27%	20%	NR	44%	35%

Q4 - I believe that my grades or academic advancement would not be negatively impacted due to my viewpoint and beliefs.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	9%	17%	6%	5%	7%	4%	7%	15%	11%	10%	NR	5%	7%
<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	12%	18%	13%	7%	11%	11%	6%	23%	14%	40%	NR	12%	8%
<i>Neither</i>	15%	19%	14%	9%	17%	12%	10%	15%	17%	30%	NR	12%	14%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	18%	18%	18%	17%	18%	22%	13%	0%	18%	0%	NR	16%	20%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	47%	29%	49%	62%	47%	51%	64%	46%	41%	20%	NR	54%	51%

Student Survey Results

(rounded to the whole percent; NR = number of responses < 5)

Q5 - The climate on campus among students allows me to appropriately express my viewpoints or beliefs even though others might disagree.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	9%	18%	6%	4%	6%	3%	9%	23%	11%	10%	NR	3%	8%
<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	14%	29%	11%	8%	7%	8%	16%	8%	17%	20%	NR	7%	9%
<i>Neither</i>	21%	21%	24%	15%	25%	17%	17%	23%	23%	0%	NR	20%	24%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	27%	17%	29%	32%	31%	35%	27%	8%	26%	50%	NR	29%	25%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	29%	15%	29%	42%	31%	38%	31%	38%	24%	20%	NR	40%	33%

Q6 - The climate on campus among faculty, staff, and administration allows me to appropriately express my political viewpoints or beliefs even though others might disagree.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	6%	11%	4%	3%	5%	2%	9%	15%	7%	10%	NR	2%	6%
<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	11%	25%	11%	5%	6%	9%	9%	0%	15%	0%	NR	6%	6%
<i>Neither</i>	19%	24%	19%	12%	21%	18%	16%	23%	19%	30%	NR	20%	23%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	28%	20%	31%	31%	30%	27%	26%	23%	29%	30%	NR	25%	27%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	36%	21%	35%	49%	38%	44%	40%	38%	30%	30%	NR	48%	39%

Student Survey Results

(rounded to the whole percent; NR = number of responses < 5)

Q7 - I believe the university is supportive of me expressing my ideas and opinions without regard to political viewpoint or belief.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	8%	16%	6%	4%	5%	3%	10%	15%	10%	10%	NR	3%	7%
<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	10%	19%	11%	4%	6%	7%	5%	8%	13%	10%	NR	4%	8%
<i>Neither</i>	21%	24%	20%	16%	23%	20%	21%	23%	21%	20%	NR	18%	21%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	25%	22%	25%	27%	28%	23%	21%	15%	26%	20%	NR	32%	25%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	36%	20%	37%	49%	37%	47%	43%	38%	30%	40%	NR	43%	39%

Faculty/Staff Survey Results

(rounded to the whole percent; NR = number of responses < 5)

Q1 - I am comfortable appropriately expressing or endorsing a specific political viewpoint or belief with in my work environment.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Very Uncomfortable</i>	17%	28%	11%	13%	16%	9%	14%	NR	21%	NR	33%	13%	6%
<i>Somewhat Uncomfortable</i>	25%	33%	21%	21%	26%	30%	16%	NR	24%	NR	33%	44%	19%
<i>Neither</i>	21%	15%	25%	18%	27%	13%	24%	NR	20%	NR	0%	21%	27%
<i>Somewhat Comfortable</i>	19%	12%	18%	29%	12%	32%	26%	NR	19%	NR	17%	10%	16%
<i>Very Comfortable</i>	18%	12%	25%	19%	19%	17%	20%	NR	16%	NR	17%	12%	32%

Q2 - I believe that my promotion, tenure, raises, or advancement would not be negatively impacted due to my political viewpoints or beliefs.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	11%	11%	9%	11%	11%	6%	14%	NR	11%	NR	0%	17%	6%
<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	14%	17%	10%	13%	13%	11%	18%	NR	15%	NR	33%	17%	6%
<i>Neither</i>	20%	25%	22%	12%	28%	19%	8%	NR	21%	NR	17%	23%	25%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	23%	24%	16%	27%	20%	28%	26%	NR	20%	NR	33%	29%	21%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	33%	23%	42%	37%	28%	36%	34%	NR	33%	NR	17%	13%	42%

Faculty/Staff Survey Results

(rounded to the whole percent; NR = number of responses < 5)

Q3 - The climate on campus among my co-workers allows me to appropriately express my political viewpoints or beliefs even though others might disagree.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	11%	18%	9%	6%	11%	6%	10%	NR	12%	NR	0%	19%	4%
<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	16%	28%	10%	11%	15%	13%	8%	NR	17%	NR	33%	21%	12%
<i>Neither</i>	22%	18%	23%	19%	29%	21%	18%	NR	21%	NR	33%	29%	20%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	25%	21%	26%	30%	22%	26%	34%	NR	27%	NR	17%	13%	21%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	26%	14%	31%	35%	23%	34%	30%	NR	22%	NR	17%	17%	43%

Q4 - The climate on campus among faculty, staff, and administration allows me to express my political viewpoints or beliefs even though others might disagree.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	12%	20%	9%	7%	14%	2%	16%	NR	13%	NR	0%	19%	6%
<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	20%	33%	16%	16%	14%	21%	8%	NR	22%	NR	0%	25%	14%
<i>Neither</i>	22%	18%	22%	20%	33%	26%	12%	NR	22%	NR	50%	35%	21%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	23%	20%	23%	29%	19%	26%	38%	NR	24%	NR	33%	10%	20%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	22%	9%	31%	29%	19%	26%	26%	NR	19%	NR	17%	12%	40%

Faculty/Staff Survey Results

(rounded to the whole percent; NR = number of responses < 5)

Q5 - I believe the university is supportive of me expressing my ideas and opinions without regard to political viewpoint or belief.

	Total Responses	Ideology				Religion							
		Conservative	Independent	Liberal	None/Unsure	Agnostic	Atheist	Buddhist	Christian	Jewish	Muslim	Other	None
<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	9%	17%	6%	7%	7%	4%	12%	NR	11%	NR	0%	12%	5%
<i>Somewhat Disagree</i>	16%	25%	8%	16%	14%	13%	8%	NR	18%	NR	0%	23%	11%
<i>Neither</i>	25%	21%	27%	22%	34%	36%	24%	NR	24%	NR	17%	29%	26%
<i>Somewhat Agree</i>	23%	26%	28%	23%	17%	28%	22%	NR	24%	NR	17%	25%	19%
<i>Strongly Agree</i>	26%	12%	31%	32%	28%	19%	34%	NR	24%	NR	67%	12%	40%