

# The Second Annual Constitution Day Poll from ConstitutionFacts.com

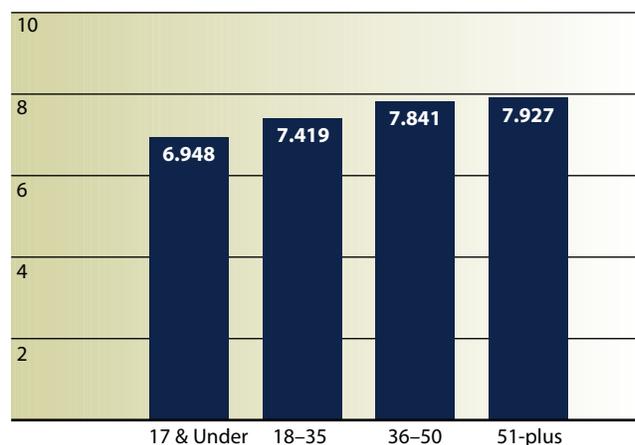
54,377 people took an unscientific online poll at [www.constitutionfacts.com](http://www.constitutionfacts.com) from August 1, 2007 to July 31, 2008. The ten-question "Constitution IQ" quiz was targeted to an eighth grade level and written by Terry Jordan, recently retired AP History teacher and best-selling author of the pocket size guide "The U.S. Constitution & Fascinating Facts About It". Upon completion of the quiz, participants were prompted to enter demographic data prior to receiving their score. Quiz takers then had a chance to further test their Constitution knowledge by taking a more advanced 50-question quiz.

**Everything you ever learned, you learned in high school.** As was the case last year, participants were evenly split between women (49.4%) and men (50.6%) and the average age was 30 years old. The national average out of ten points was 7.305, up from 7.272 in '07. And again, the difference among all age groups amounted to one question (see Chart 1) ranging from 6.948 correct for people 17 and under to 7.927 correct for those 51 and over. Incidentally, scores remained relatively unchanged from last year for each age group.

Chart 2 depicts the percentage of correct answers for each individual question. Four out of five Americans knew that the Articles of Confederation was our first Constitution. Most recall where U.S. laws are made but nearly two-thirds of quiz takers did not know the longest term for the President is ten years. History teachers might be proud to know that two-thirds of participants recalled John Adams was the first Vice President. Even more remembered the Bill of Rights comprises the first ten amendments.

While the national average rose slightly for 2008, scores dropped for nearly all questions, with the length of the Presidential term as the only question which saw an increase in correct answers. Of the sharpest drops were knowing who handles foreign affairs, when to "plead the Fifth" and who takes over if neither the President nor Vice President are able.

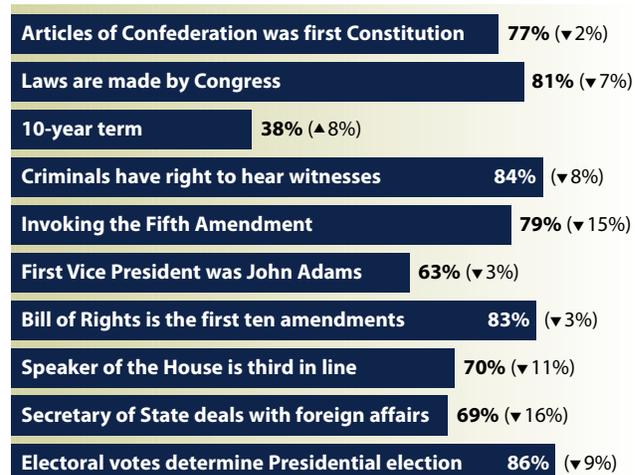
**Chart 1: Survey Scores by Age Group**



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**Chart 2: How Did Americans Fare?**

Percentage correct for 2008, also indicating change from 2007



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**South Atlantic Region leads this year in Constitution knowledge.** Responses were received from all 50 states and the nation's capital.

Alaska had the highest percentage of perfect scores with a healthy lead over the other states in this category. It moves up from the number three slot, bumping Idaho which led the nation last year. The District of Columbia, Mississippi, Hawaii, the Dakotas, Illinois and Missouri follow (see Chart 3).

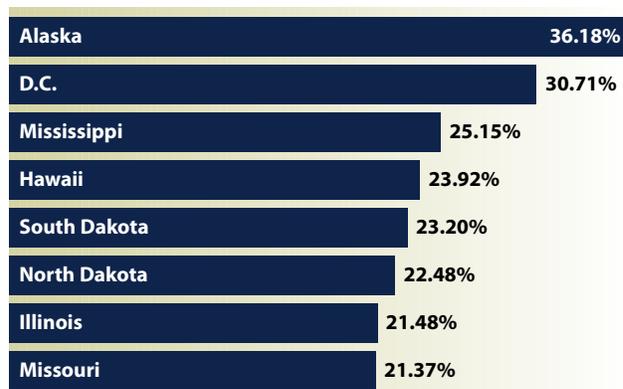
California quiz takers scored the highest in the nation — averaging 8.406 — more than a full point above the national average and displacing West Virginia from the number-one ranking last year. The state showing the most improvement over 2007 was Arkansas climbing from a 6.826 average score to 7.629.

Regionally, the South Atlantic rose to the top from second place with the highest average score of 7.55, followed by New England, averaging 7.49. Chart 4 lists the nine U.S. regions and their average scores. This year sees four regions — up from only two last year — scoring lower than the national average.

**Digging deeper.** Upon completion of the quiz, participants were given the opportunity to take a more advanced 50-question quiz. Nearly 60 percent — 32,983 users — stepped up to the challenge. The overall average dropped from last year's 35.86 (out of 50) to 34.23. That score, normalized to a ten-point scale, is 6.85 — below the 7.305 national average from the first quiz. Last year, the margin between quiz scores was narrower.

On the following page, chart 5 lists answers to the 50-question quiz with the percentage of correct answers. Incidentally, only one third of the quiz takers recalled the Constitution became the law of the land in 1788 and that Gouverneur Morris did the final writing.

**Chart 3: Most Perfect Scores**



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**Chart 4: Average Regional Scores**



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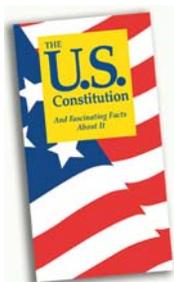
**For more information about the Constitution, or to take the Constitution IQ quiz, visit [www.constitutionfacts.com](http://www.constitutionfacts.com).**

**Chart 5: 50-Question Expanded Quiz Scoring (Expert Quiz #2 — ConstitutionFacts.com)**



\* indicates questions repeated from the initial ten-question quiz

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