First Annual Constitution Day Poll
The First Annual Constitution Day Poll from ConstitutionFacts.com

22,838 people took an unscientific online poll at www.constitutionfacts.com from January 1, 2007 to August 12, 2007. 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. Participants were evenly split between women (49.9%) and men (50.1%) and the average age was 30 years old. The national average out of 10 points was 7.272. There was a point spread of less than one point that separated all age groups (see Chart 1) ranging from 7.097 correct for people 17 and under to 7.995 correct for those 51 and over.

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.

East North Central Region leads in Constitution knowledge. Responses were received from all 50 states and the nation’s capital.

Idaho had the highest percentage of perfect scores, followed by Hawaii, Alaska, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana and Michigan (see Chart 3).

Regionally, East North Central had the highest average score of 7.58, followed closely by the South.
Atlantic region, averaging 7.57. Chart 4 lists the nine U.S. regions and their average scores. Only two regions — West North Central and West South Central — scored lower than the national average.

**Digging deeper reaps a surprisingly similar harvest.** Upon completion of the quiz, participants were given the opportunity to take a more advanced 50-question quiz. Of the 4,733 individuals that stepped up to the challenge, scores averaged out to be essentially the same as the 10-question quiz with an overall average of 35.86. That score, normalized to a 10-point scale, is 7.17 — astoundingly close to the 7.272 national average from the first quiz.

Incidentally, among the questions people scored the lowest from the 50-question quiz was what year the Constitution became the law of the land. Surprisingly, only 27% of the quiz takers answered correctly.

For more information about the Constitution, or to take the Constitution IQ quiz, visit www.constitutionfacts.com.
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In the early 1990’s we published the first edition of “The U.S. Constitution & Fascinating Facts About It” as a resource for law students. Our first customer was Bob Weber, the bookstore manager at Western State University College of Law in Fullerton, California. He ordered 20 copies.

We soon realized that there was a much larger need for the book and thanks to the support of civic organizations, school teachers and police officers, major retailers and the U.S. armed forces, and too many others to list, we were able to expand distribution of the book to educate millions of people — making “The U.S. Constitution & Fascinating Facts About It” the best selling book of its kind.

In 1996 we launched ConstitutionFacts.com as a companion to the book and quickly helped educate millions more who wanted to learn about the Constitution — including schools across the country that use our website in their curriculum. The website also enabled us to reach out globally to get books into the hands of people in more than 200 countries around the world.

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