



JOE FOSS INSTITUTE



## CIVICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

---

*100 Facts Every High School Student Should Know*

Restoring civics education and  
ensuring that all High School graduates  
are ready for active, engaged citizenship.

# The Goal: Preparing for Active & Engaged Citizenship

## The Strategy: The Civics Education Initiative



CIVICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

*100 Facts Every High School Student Should Know*

**The Joe Foss Institute** was established:

To educate our youth on the importance of America's unique freedoms, and  
To to inspire them to public service.

**The Civics Education Initiative** is a project of the Joe Foss Institute, with the goal of passing legislation in all 50 states by September 17, 2017 – the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.

**The Civics Education Initiative** is simple in concept. It requires high school students, as a condition for graduation, to pass a test on 100 basic facts of US history and civics, from the United States Citizenship Civics Test – *the test all new US citizens must pass*.

**The Civics Education Initiative** is a first step to ensure all students are taught basic civics about how our government works, and who we are as a nation...things every student should know to be ready for active, engaged citizenship.

# Nationwide Voter Survey

## Polling Methodology



The Joe Foss Institute commissioned a nationwide survey conducted by Wilson Perkins Allen Opinion Research (WPA)

- Fielded April 22-24, 2014
- N= 804 Likely Voters
- MoE=+/- 3.5% in 95 out of 100 cases.

WPA selected a random sample of likely voters nationwide using Random Digit Dialing. The sample for this survey was stratified based on geography, age, gender, ethnicity, and education.

The exact language for the two questions highlighted in this presentation were:

*“Some have proposed that high school students must pass a civics test in order to graduate. Would you vote yes or no on an initiative to require high school students to pass the same civics exam that all immigrants must pass to become US citizens, in order to graduate?”*

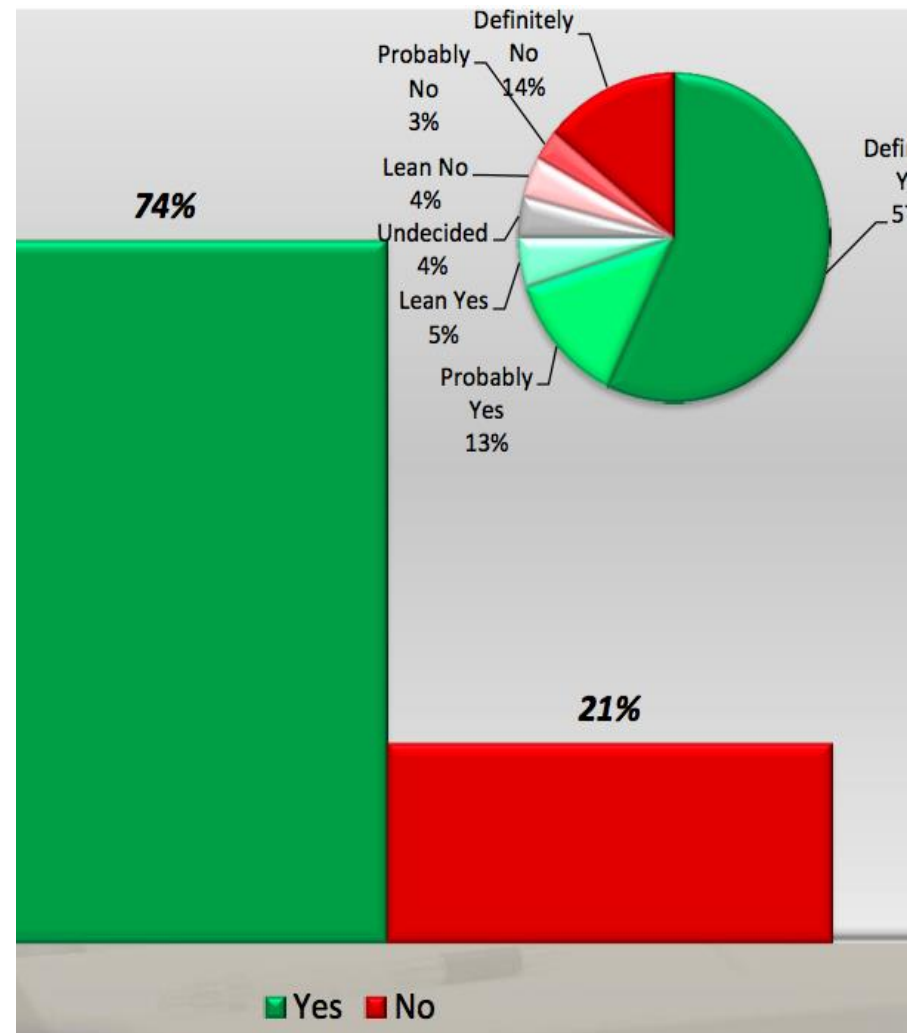
*“If you knew that a legislator from your state supported a proposal like this, would you be ROTATE more likely or less likely to vote for them?”*

# The Civics Education Initiative

## *Overwhelmingly Supported by Voters*

Overall 74% of voters support the Civics Education Initiative. Every demographic group tested shows support at or above 60%, with 57% of all voters saying “Definitely Yes.” Yes/No differential is +53!

	<b>YES</b>	<b>NO</b>	<b>Diff</b>
All	74%	21%	+53
Men	78%	19%	+59
Women	71%	24%	+47
Republican	84%	13%	+71
Independent	75%	21%	+54
Democrat	68%	27%	+41
Romney Voters	81%	16%	+65
Obama Voters	69%	25%	+44
White	76%	20%	+56
Hispanic	76%	22%	+54
African American	60%	32%	+28
West	81%	14%	+67
South	73%	22%	+51
Midwest	74%	22%	+52
North East	68%	28%	+40

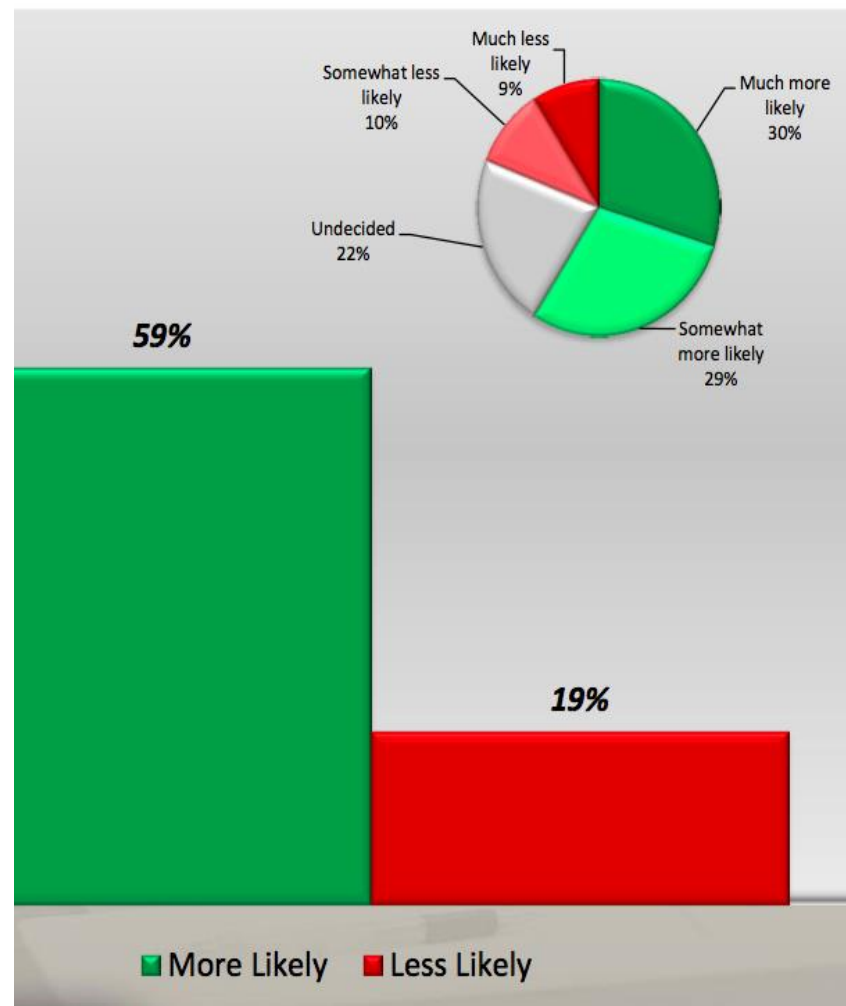


# The Civics Education Initiative

## *Voters Much More Likely to Vote for Supportive Legislators*

Voters are overwhelmingly much more likely to support a Legislator that backs the Civics Education Initiative. Overall, the support/oppose factor is nearly 4-to-1.

	<b>More Likely</b>	<b>Less Likely</b>	<b>Diff</b>
All	60%	16%	+44
Men	62%	15%	+47
Women	59%	18%	+41
Republican	71%	8%	+63
Independent	62%	17%	+45
Democrat	53%	21%	+32
Romney Voters	68%	12%	+56
Obama Voters	55%	19%	+36
White	64%	15%	+49
Hispanic	57%	16%	+41
African American	49%	28%	+21
West	60%	12%	+48
South	64%	17%	+47
Midwest	57%	17%	+40
North East	59%	19%	+40



## Draft Legislation

### **(State) Revised Statute Section (New Section Number)**

#### **Preamble - The (State) Civics Education Initiative**

In order to ensure that all (State) High School graduates have a basic understanding of United States civics and history, and to promote and encourage active and engaged citizenship, the **(State) Civics Education Initiative** shall require that all (State) High School students pass, as a condition for graduation, the basic civics test produced by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) and administered to all applicants for U.S. citizenship.

1. This Act shall be known and referred to as the **(State) Civics Education Initiative**.

2. All (State) High School students, attending any public, or charter school, or a student seeking a general educational development (GED) equivalency, shall, as a condition of High School graduation or its equivalency, take and receive a passing grade on the United States Citizenship Civics Test, produced by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS).

A. The test shall be the specific 100-question test used by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) and administered to all applicants for US citizenship.

60% B. High School students shall be tested on all 100 questions, with a minimum score of being required for passage.

C. High School Students may take the test as many times as necessary for passage, but must pass the test prior to receiving a certificate of High School graduation or a GED equivalency.

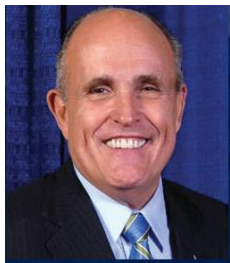
D. All (State) public or charter schools, or providers of general educational development (GED) equivalency shall certify that a student has taken the test and has received a passing grade on the test, in a way it deems as adequate to ensure the requirements of this Act are followed.

3. This Act shall be in force beginning with students receiving High School graduation certificates or GED equivalency on or after January 1, 2016.

4. Should any section or portion of this Act be declared invalid or ruled unconstitutional, any remaining sections or portions of this act shall remain in full force and effect.

# The Civics Education Initiative

## *National Board of Advisors & State Co-Chairs*



**Rudy Giuliani**  
New York Mayor



**Carl Bernstein**  
Pulitzer Winning Journalist



**Joe Mantegna**  
Award Winning Actor

### **Civics Education Initiative State Co-Chairs**

<b><u>Missouri:</u></b>	Bob Holden, Former Governor	Eric Greitens, Navy Seal, CEO The Mission Continues
<b><u>Utah:</u></b>	Jonathon Johnson, CEO Overstock.com	John Price, Former US Ambassador
<b><u>Arizona:</u></b>	Jon Kyl, Former U.S. Senator	Dennis DeConcini, Former U.S. Senator
<b><u>S. Carolina:</u></b>	Richard W. Riley, Fmr U.S. Sec of Ed	Jim DeMint, Former U.S. Senator
<b><u>Oklahoma:</u></b>	Tom Coburn , Former U.S. Senator	Dan Boren, Former Congressman
<b><u>Louisiana:</u></b>	Secretary of State Tom Schedler	Kitty Kimball, Former LA Chief Supreme Court Justice
<b><u>S. Dakota:</u></b>	Ron Williamson, Fmr Pres & CEO, Citibank	Tim Dougherty, Partner, Dougherty & Dougherty

---

### **The Joe Foss Institute Board of Directors**

Donna “didi” Foss, Chairman Emeritus  
Capt. Bob Turpin USN (Ret.), Secretary  
LTG William G. Boykin, USA (Ret.)  
Dave Kingston  
Linda Paulk  
Karrin Taylor

Sandy Froman, Chairman  
Conrad A. Conrad, Treasurer  
John Christian  
Norman McClelland  
John Raycraft  
Greg Wyman

Jim Chamberlain, Vice Chairman  
Lucian Spataro, Ph.D., CEO & President  
H. Dean Hall  
Stan McLaughlin Jr.  
Merle Shepard

# The Civics Education Initiative

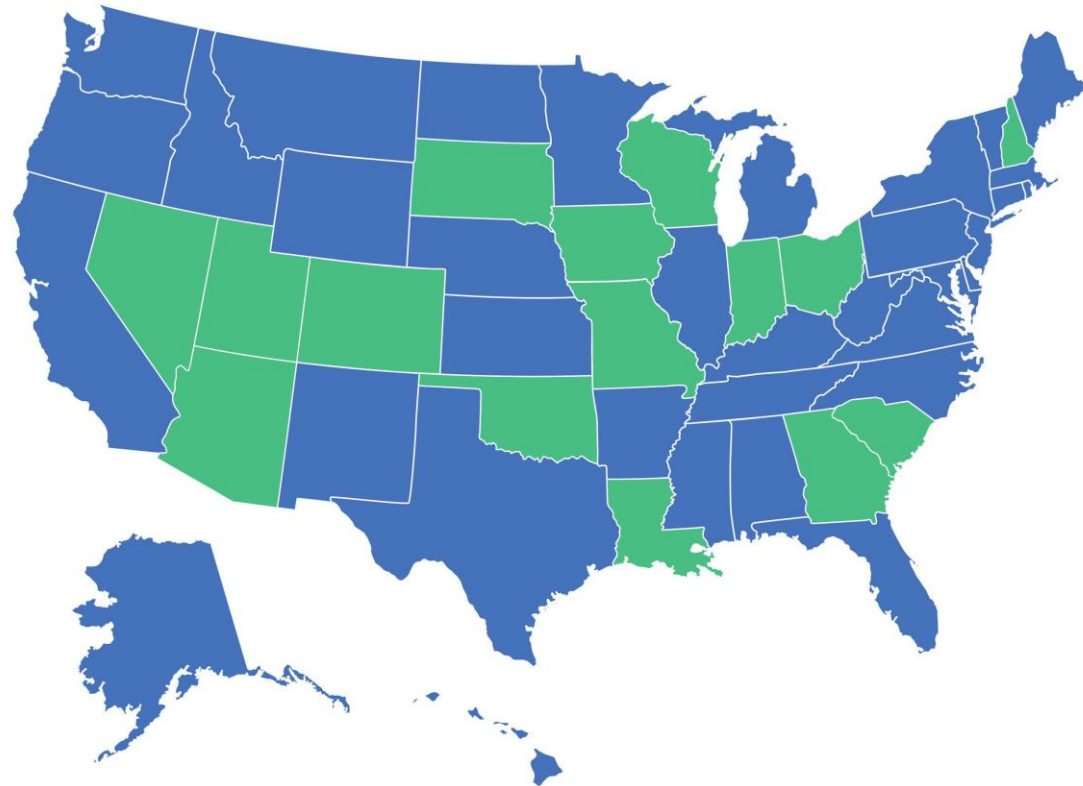
*Targeting 15 States, with a Goal of Passage in 10 in 2015*

Our goal is passage in all 50 States by September 17, 2017 – the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S. Constitution.

For 2015, we will target 15 states with the goal of passage in 10 states by legislative enactment.

For 2016, we will target 25 states with the goal of passage in 20 states, including passage at the ballot box in at least one state, by initiative or legislative referral.

For 2017, we will target the remaining states for legislative enactment.





# The Civics Education Initiative

## *How you can help and make a difference*

The Civics Education Initiative is a great idea, but cannot become a reality unless people help make the difference. Please join us and help in any of the following ways:

- Give your formal endorsement of the Civics Education Initiative.
- Contribute financially – our goal is to raise \$150,000 to \$250,000 per state to pass this legislation.
- Become a Co-Chair, Sponsor, or Community Supporter for the Civics Education Initiative in your state.
- Host a Civics Education Initiative fundraising event in your state.
- Call or meet with your State Legislators and urge them to co-sponsor the Civics Education Initiative in your state.

**We thank you for your consideration and for your  
commitment to promoting civics education throughout America.**



JOE FOSS INSTITUTE



## CIVICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

---

*100 Facts Every High School Student Should Know*

8925 E. Pima Center Parkway, Suite 100 Scottsdale, AZ 85258 887.Joe.Foss

(563.3677) 480.348.0316

Frank Riggs, President & CEO

Sam Stone, Executive Director