

Appendix 1 Charts: Campus Free Speech and Viewpoint Diversity

A Majority of Students are Comfortable Sharing Opinions on Controversial Topics in Class



Figure 1: 71 percent of students are "somewhat comfortable" or "very comfortable" sharing their opinions on controversial or sensitive topics in class

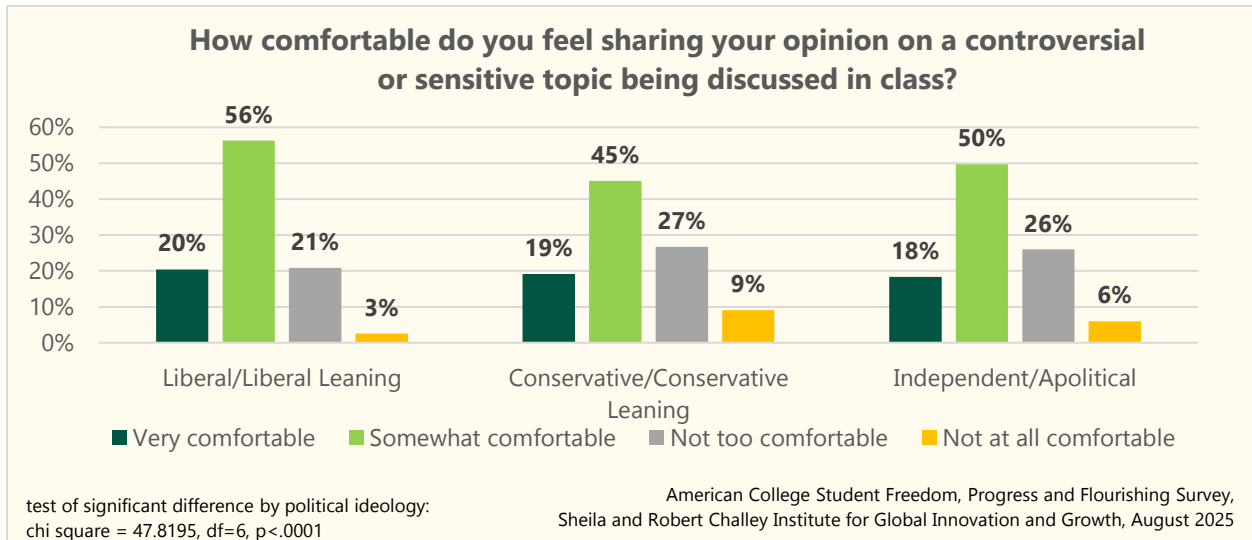


Figure 2: There are significant differences between liberal, conservative, and independent students in their comfort level in sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics

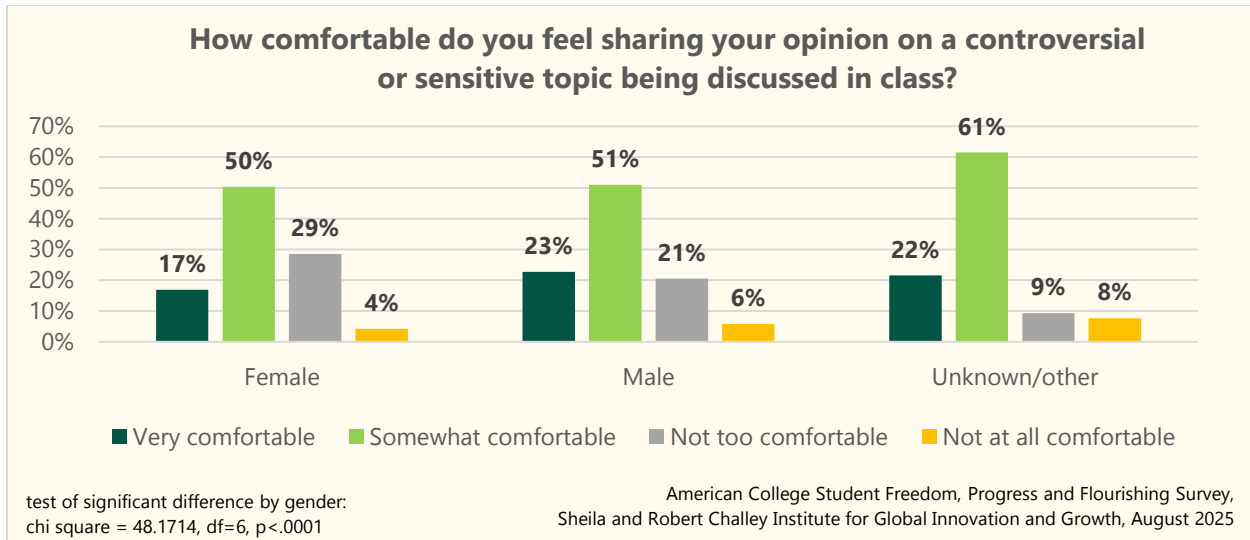


Figure 3: There are significant differences in comfort level in sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics by gender

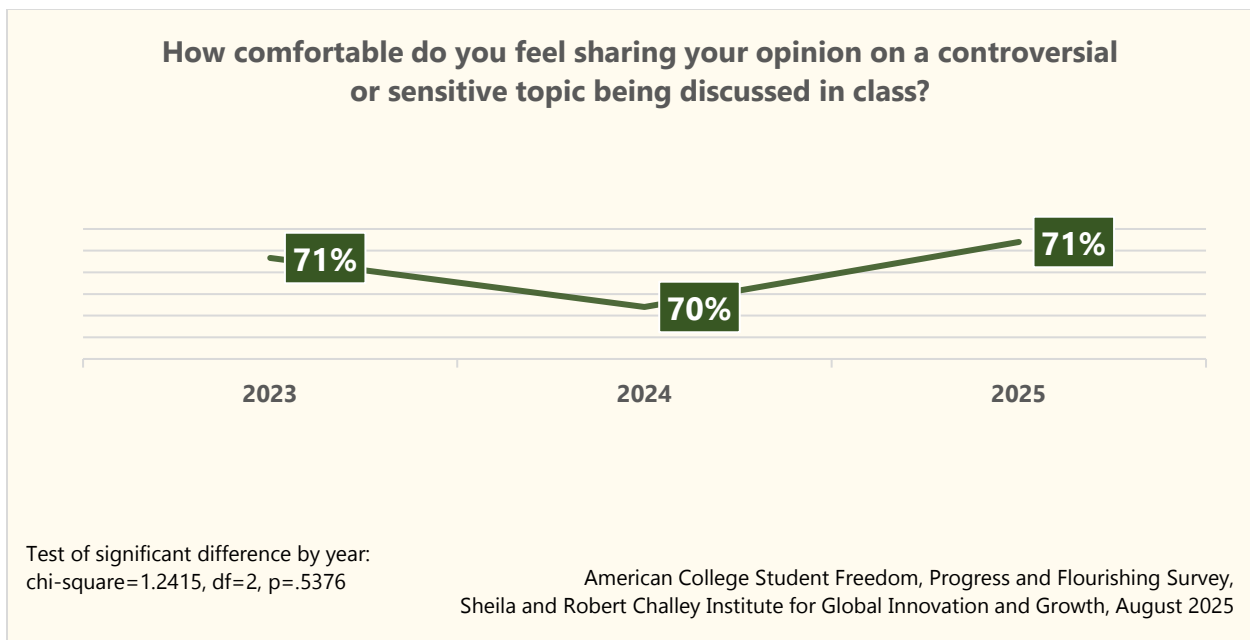


Figure 4: Student comfort level in sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics in class hasn't changed since 2023.

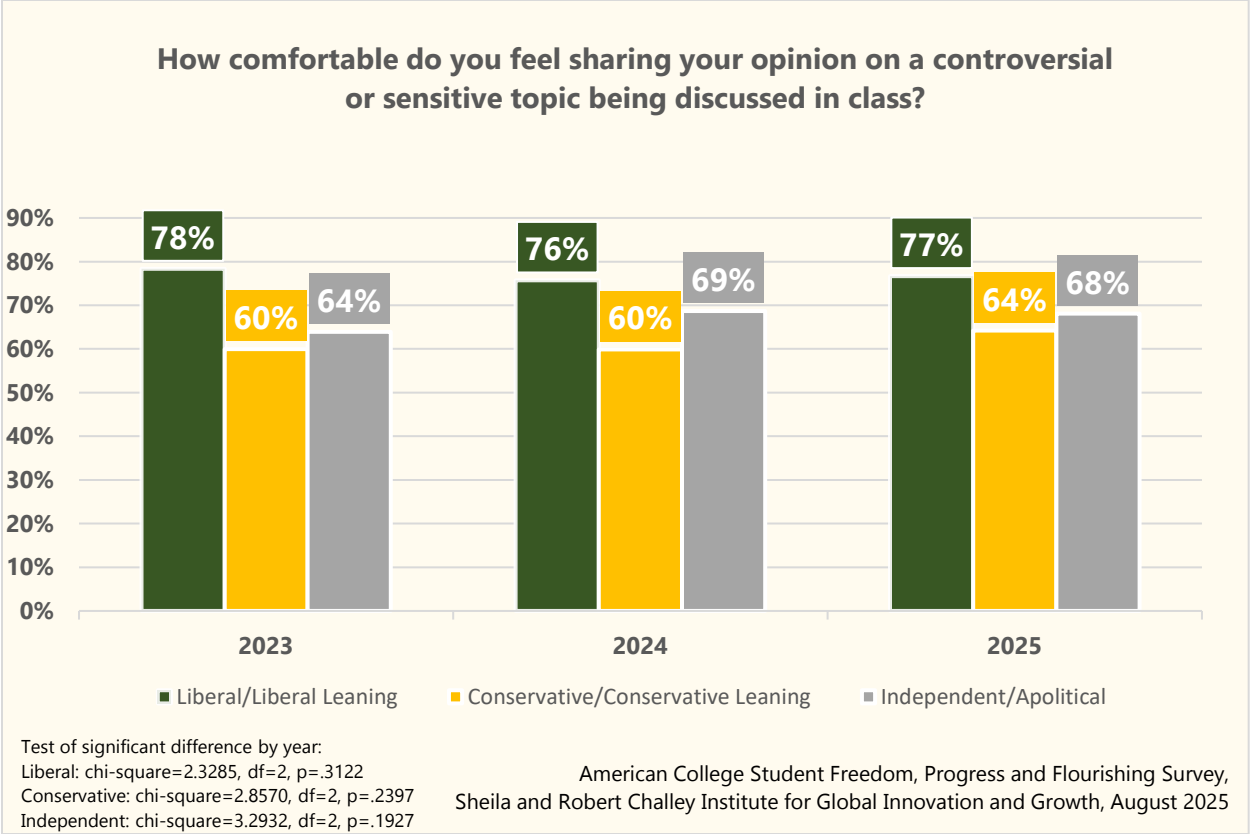


Figure 5: Comfort level in sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics in class hasn't significantly changed for liberal, conservative, or independent students since 2023.

Nearly Half of Students Who Are Comfortable Sharing Opinions on Controversial or Sensitive Topics in Class Are Comfortable Because Their Views Align with Others.



Figure 6: Students who are comfortable sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics are nearly evenly split on being comfortable because others agree and being comfortable regardless of what others think

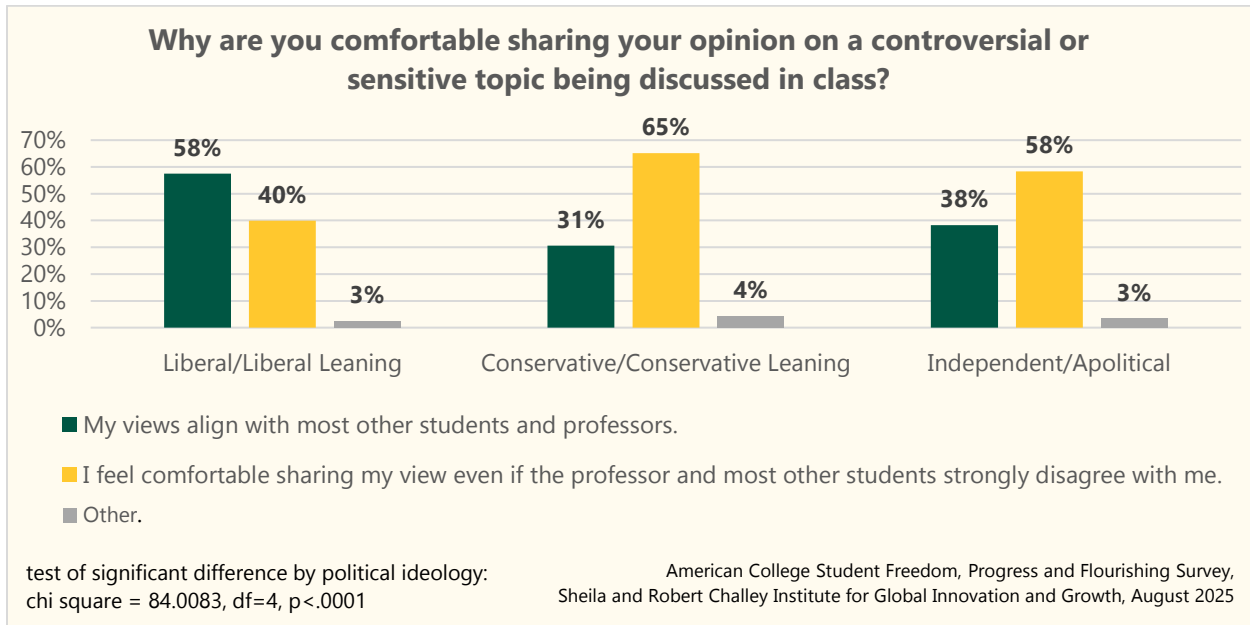


Figure 7: For students who are comfortable sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics, those with liberal views are more likely to be comfortable because their views align with others.

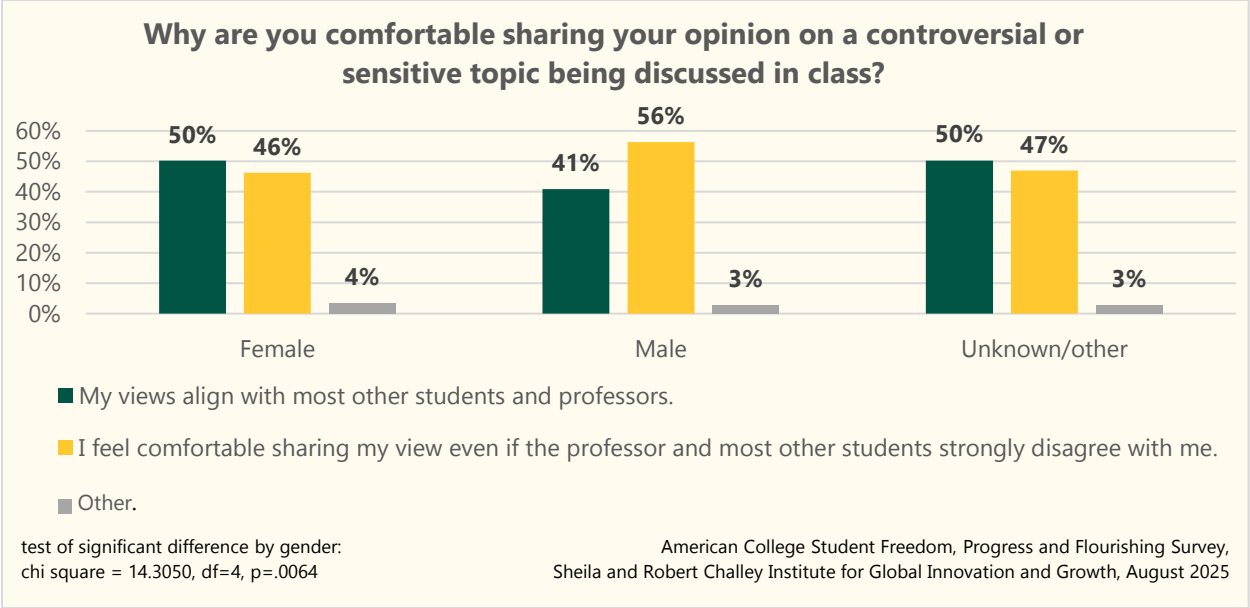


Figure 8: For students who are comfortable sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics, females and those whose gender is unknown/other are more likely to be comfortable because their views align with others.

Students Who Are Not Comfortable Sharing their Opinion on Controversial or Sensitive Topics in Class Are Most Concerned About the Opinions of Other Students



Figure 9: Reasons students are not comfortable sharing their opinion on controversial or sensitive topics in class

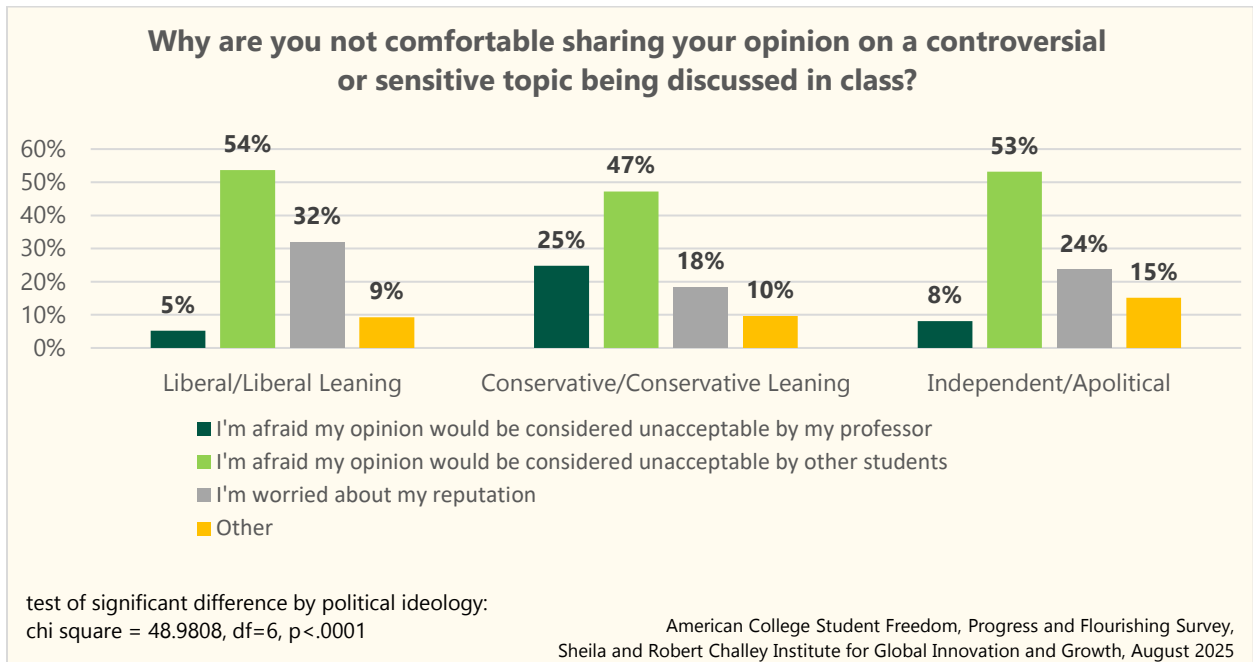


Figure 10: Conservative students are more worried that their opinions would not be considered acceptable by their professors and less concerned about their reputation in comparison to liberal and independent students.

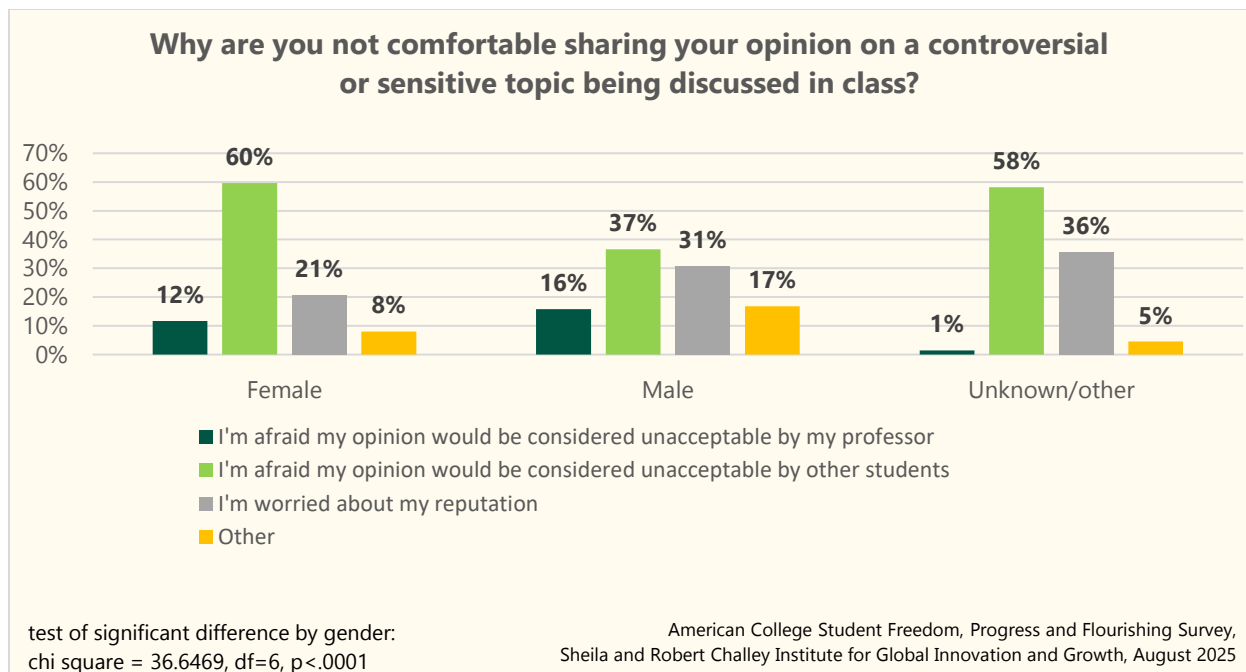


Figure 11: Female and students with gender other/unknown are more likely to be worried about the opinions of other students in comparison to male students.

More than a Quarter of Students Say Controversial Speakers Invitations Should be Withdrawn



Figure 12: 72 percent of students say universities should not withdraw invitations to controversial speakers

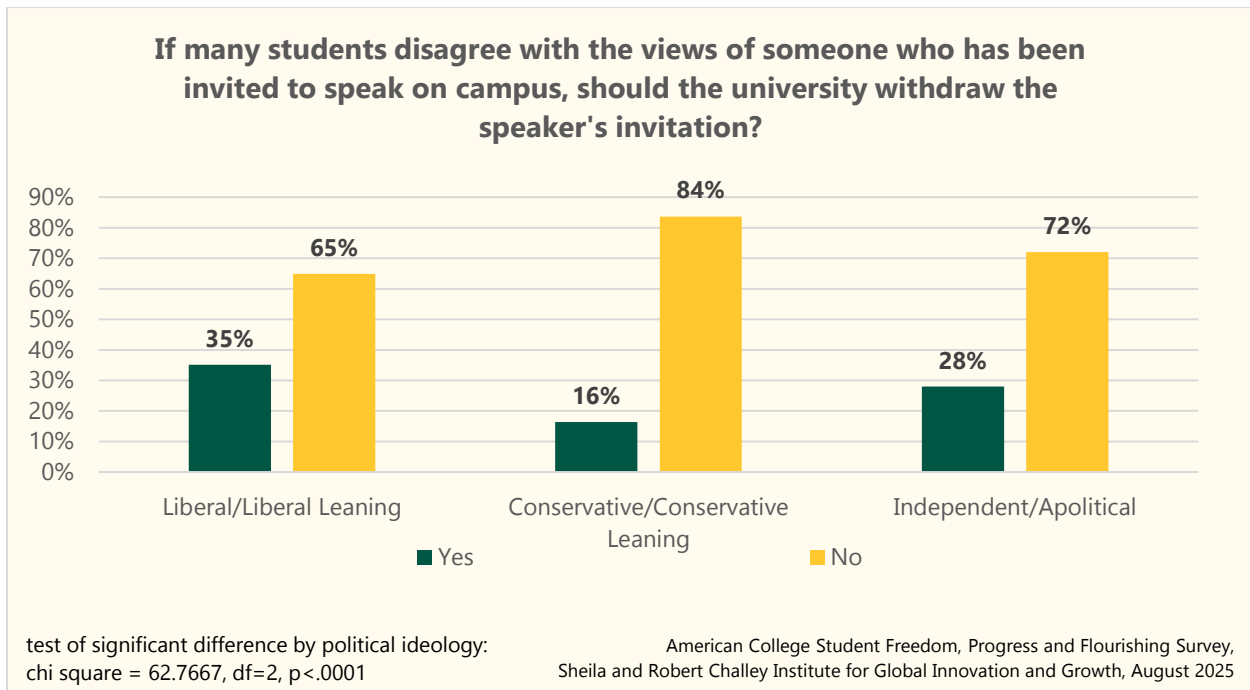


Figure 13: There are significant differences among students with different political ideologies about whether controversial speakers should be disinvited.

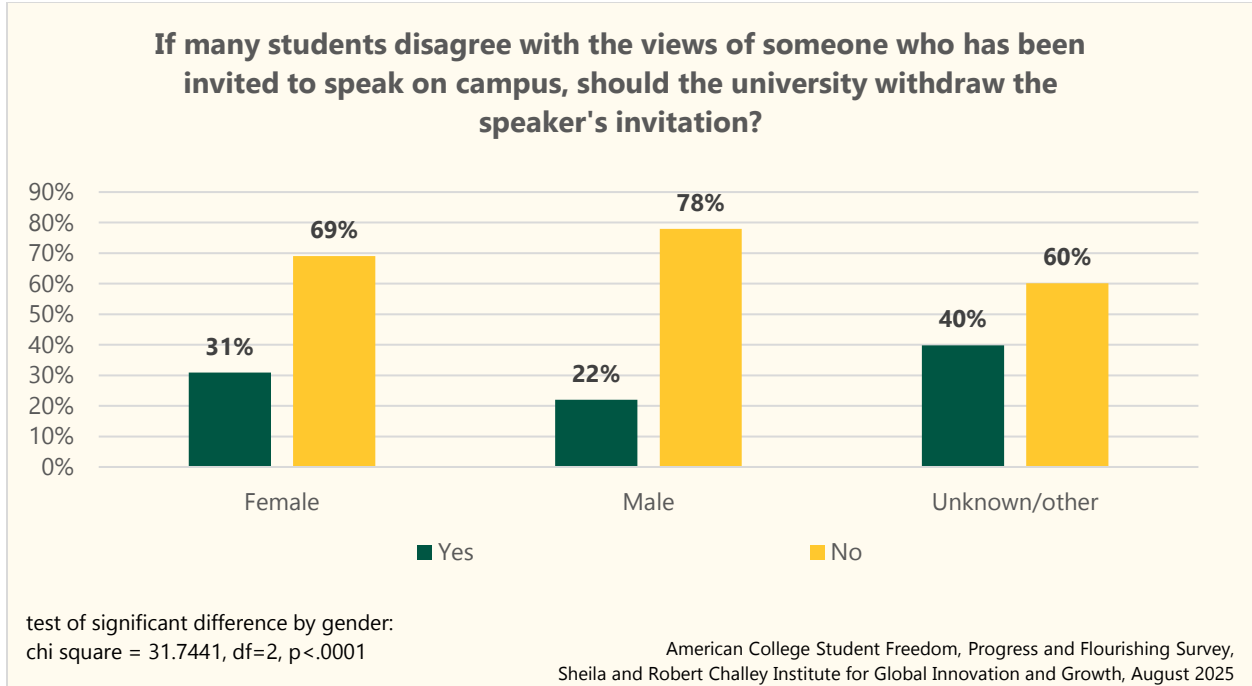


Figure 14: Student attitudes about disinviting controversial speakers vary significantly by gender.

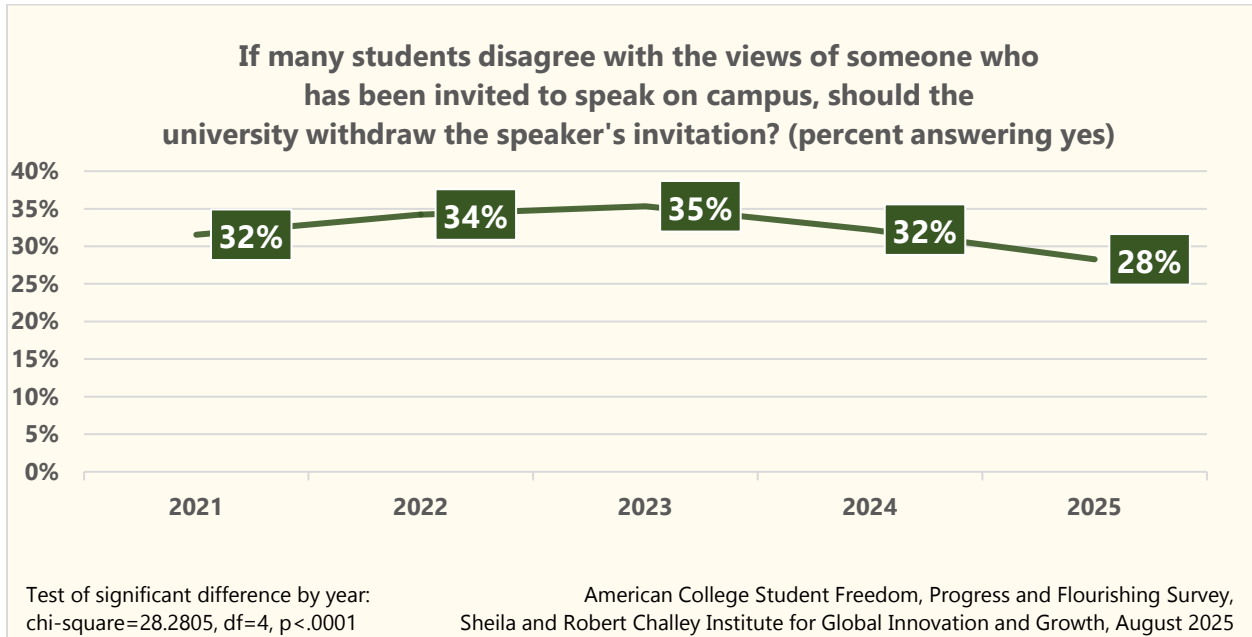


Figure 15: The percent of students in favor of disinviting controversial speakers has dropped from its peak of 35 percent in 2023 to 28 percent in 2025.

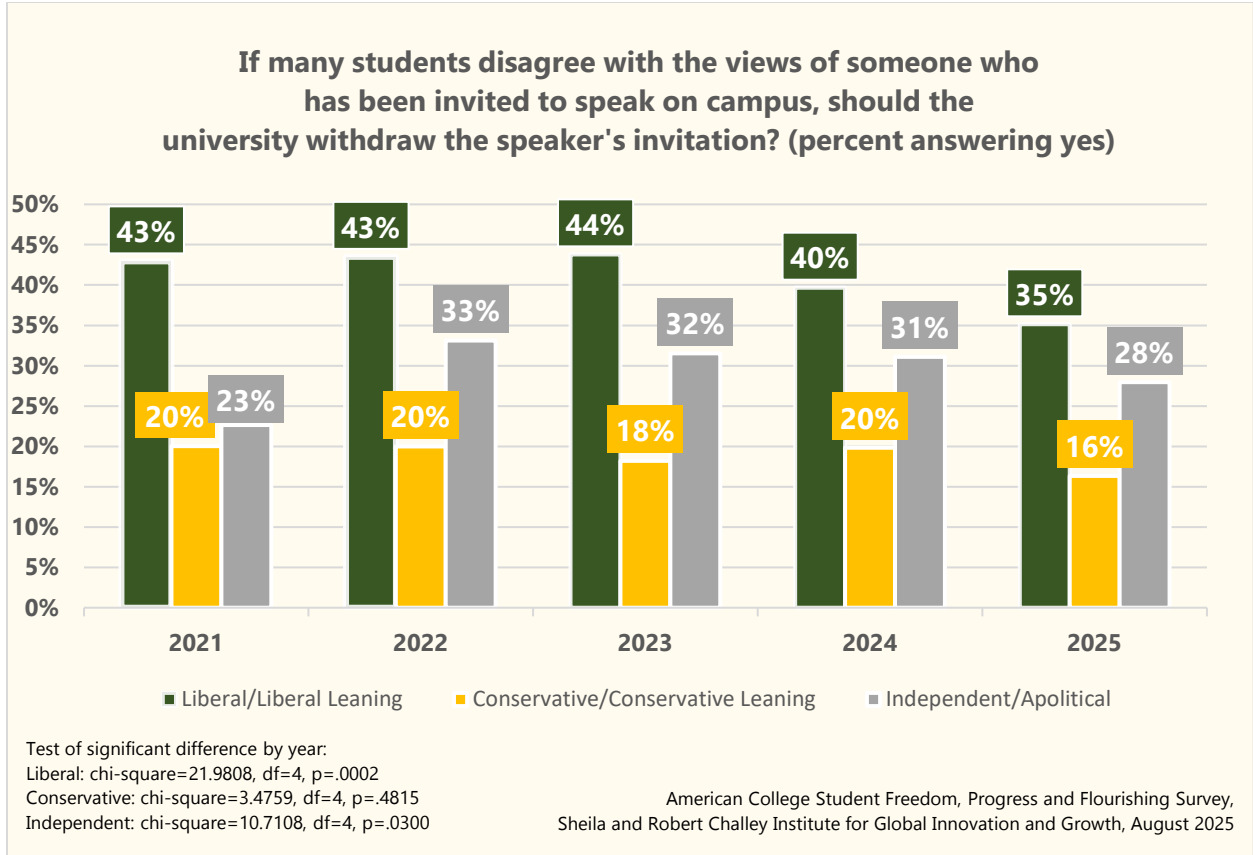


Figure 16: Since 2021, there have been significant changes in the percent of liberal and independent students who are in favor of disinviting controversial speakers.

More than One-Quarter of Students Say Professors Should Drop Readings That Make Students Feel Uncomfortable

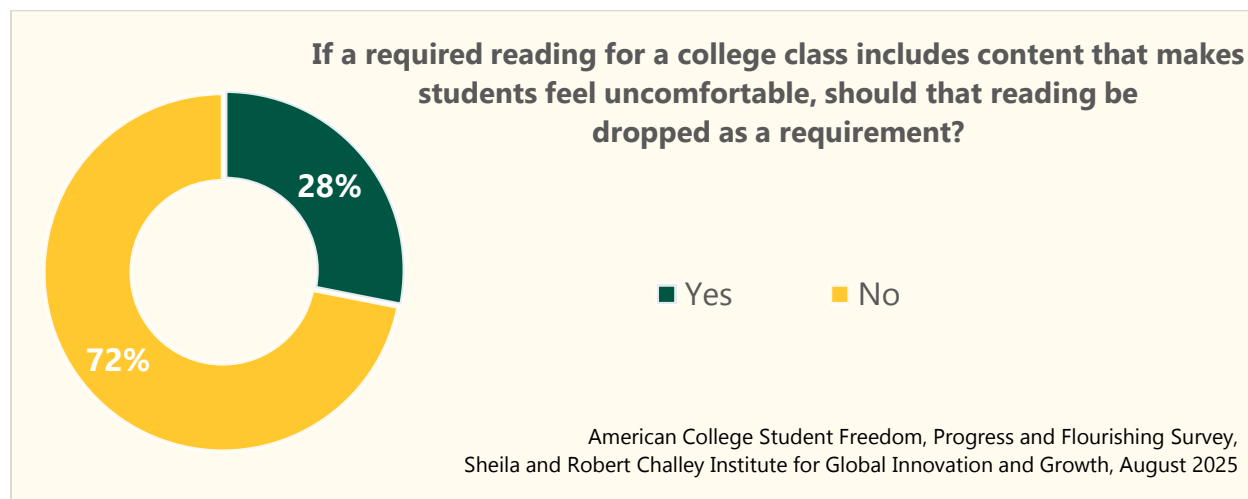


Figure 17: 28 percent of students are in favor of dropping class readings that make students feel uncomfortable

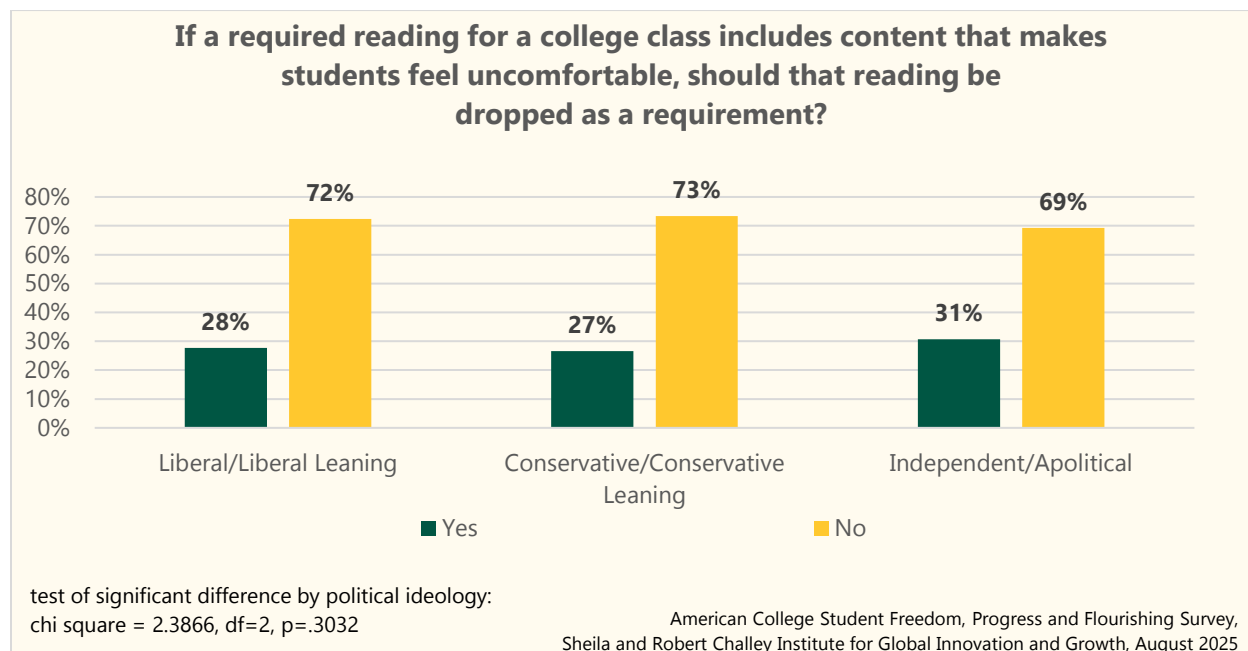


Figure 18: There are no significant differences among students with different political ideologies on whether readings that make students feel uncomfortable should be dropped as a requirement.

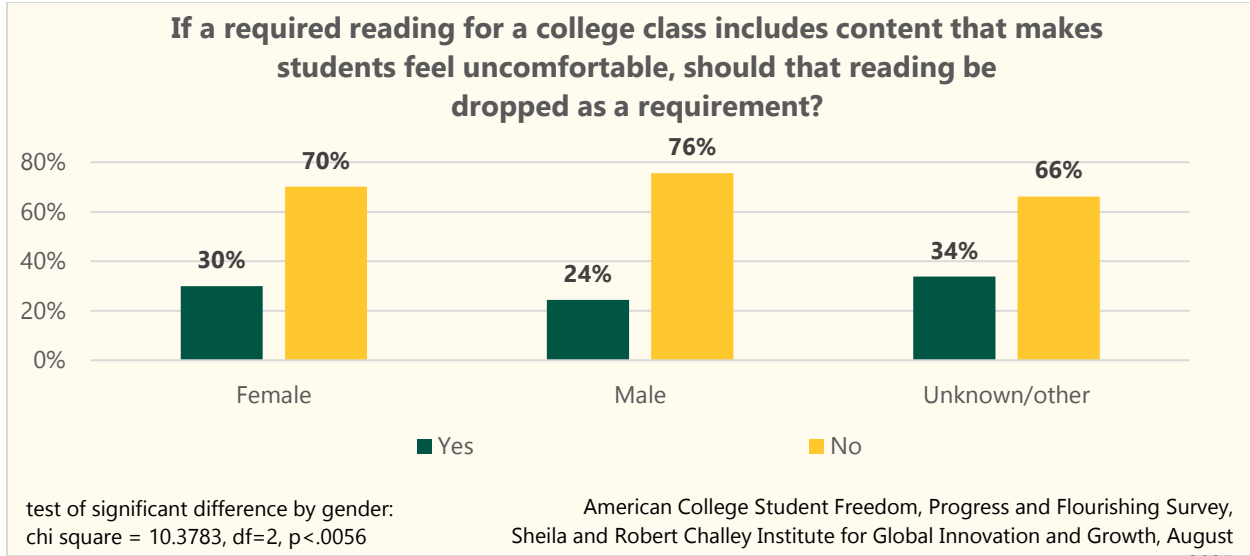


Figure 19: Significant differences in opinions on whether readings that make students uncomfortable should be dropped exist by gender

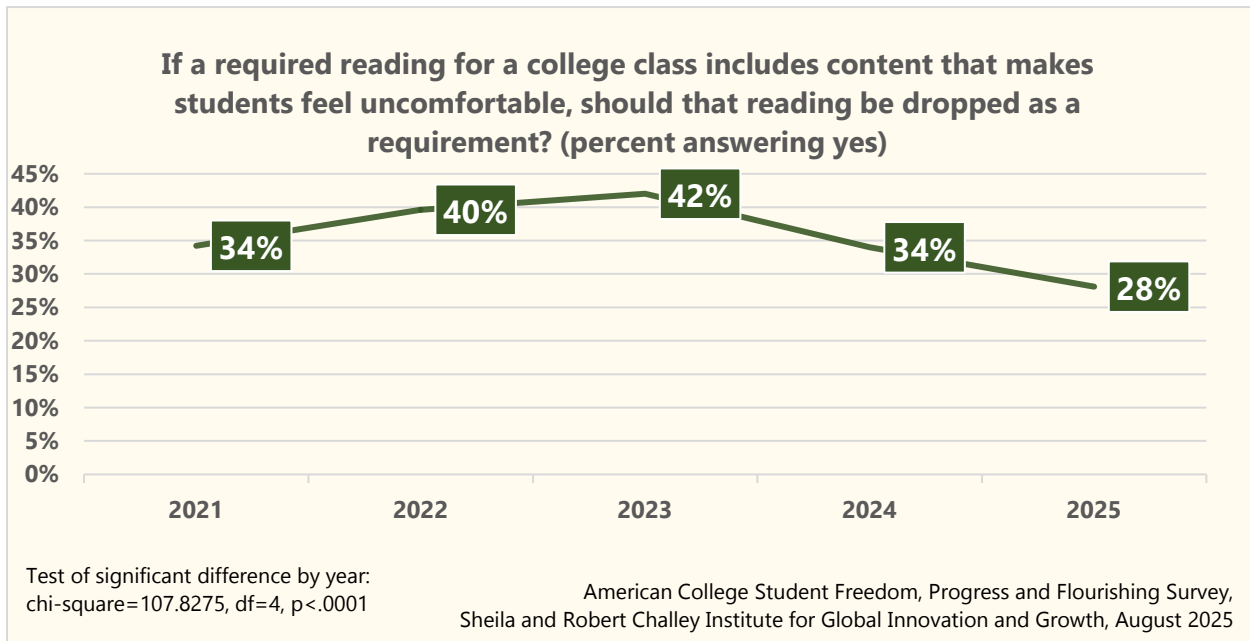


Figure 20: The percent of students in favor of dropping readings that make students uncomfortable has dropped from its peak of 42 percent in 2023 to 28 percent in 2025.

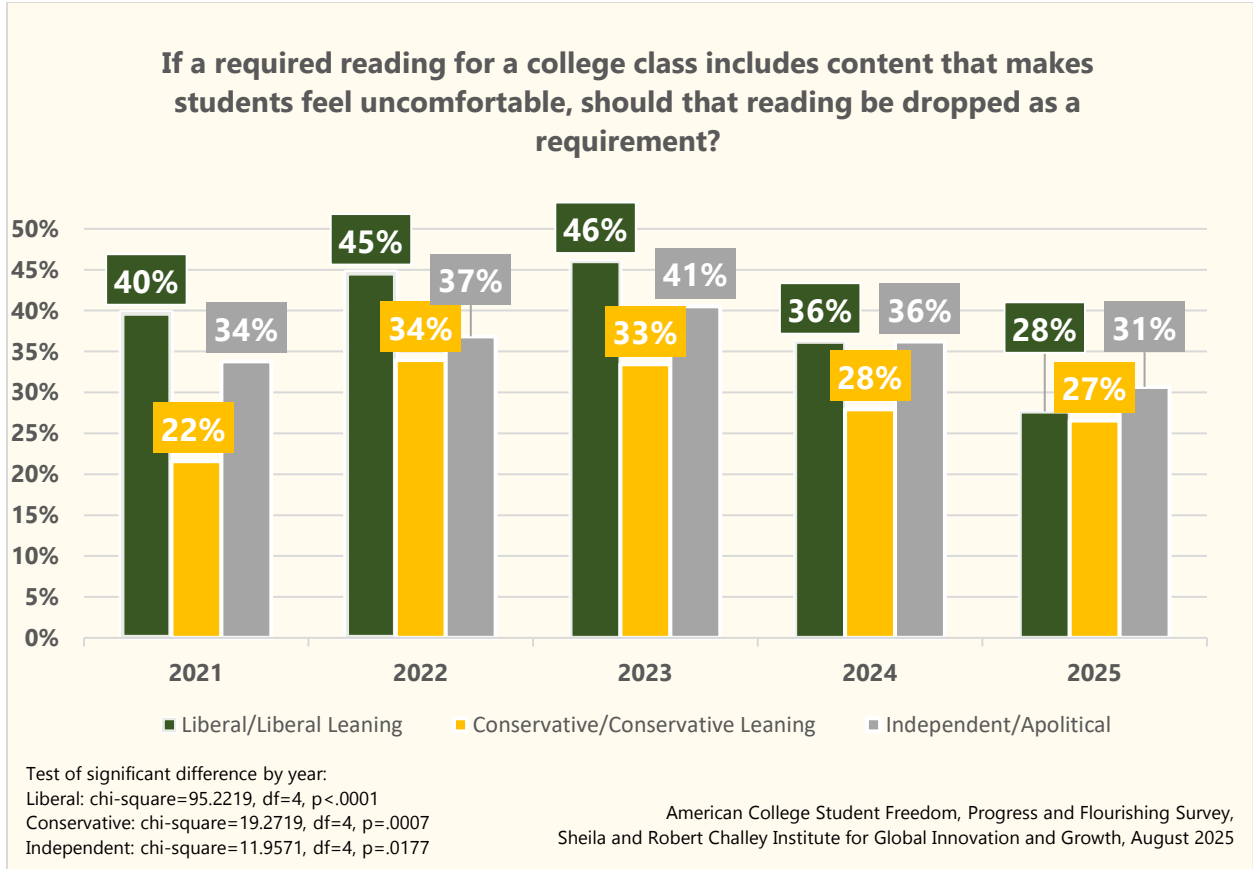


Figure 21: There have been significant changes in student attitudes about dropping readings that make students feel uncomfortable among all political ideologies.

More Than Three-Quarters of Students Are Not in Favor of Dropping a Class Discussion Topic if it Makes Students Feel Uncomfortable

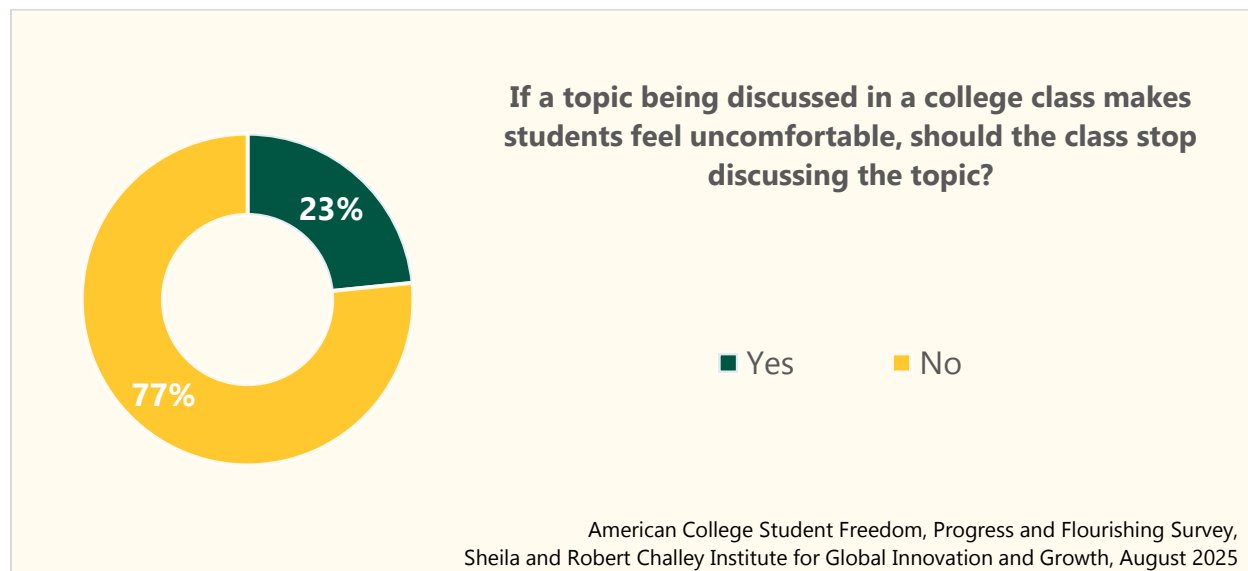


Figure 22: 77 percent of students do not think a course discussion topic should be dropped due to it making students feel uncomfortable.

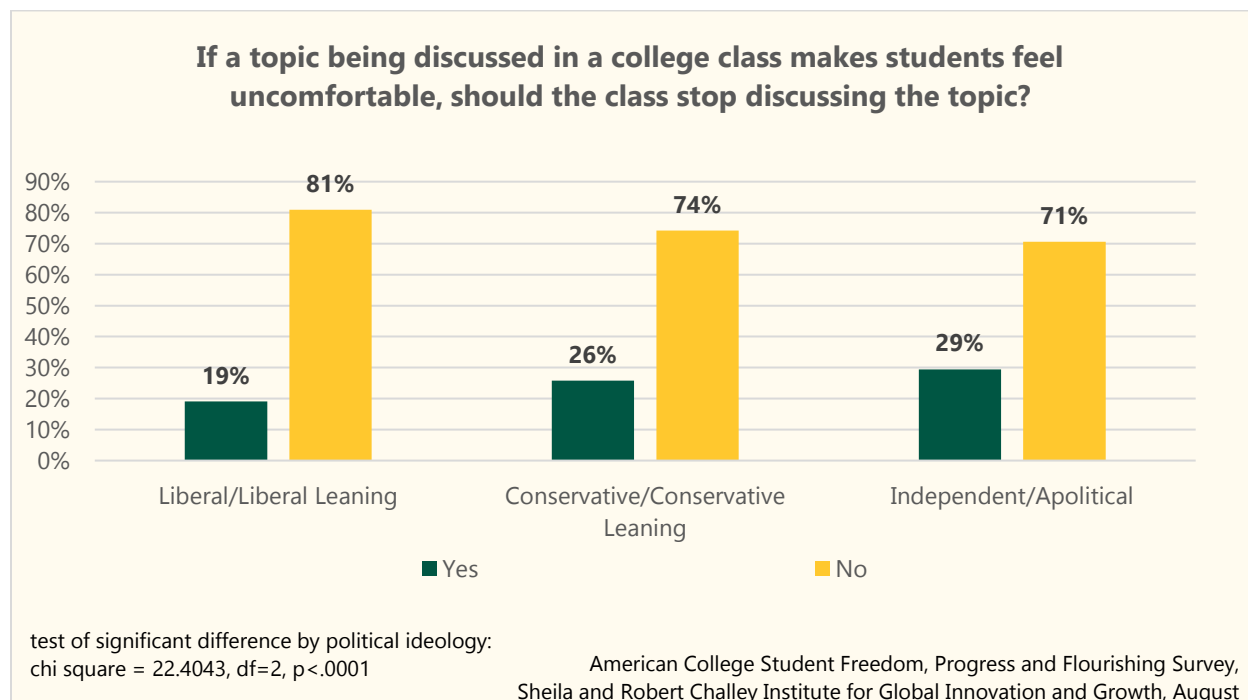


Figure 23: There are significant differences by political ideology in beliefs about whether discussion topics that make students feel uncomfortable should be dropped.

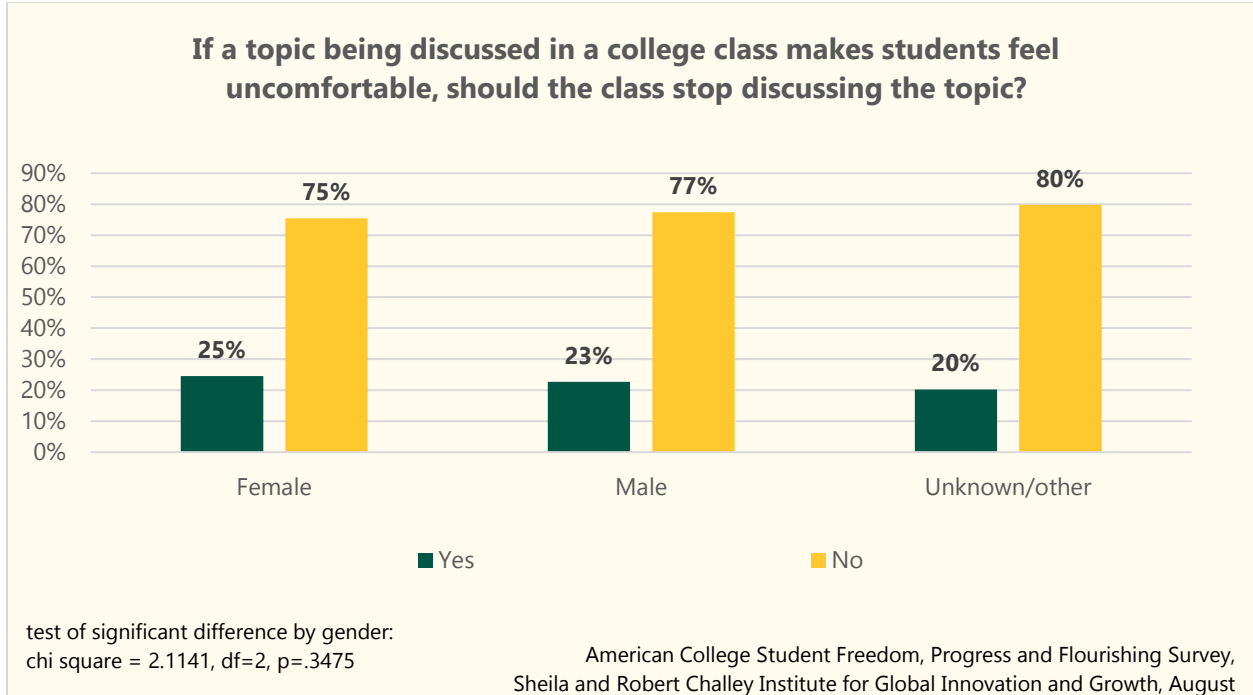


Figure 24: There are no significant differences by gender about whether discussion topics that make students feel uncomfortable should be dropped.

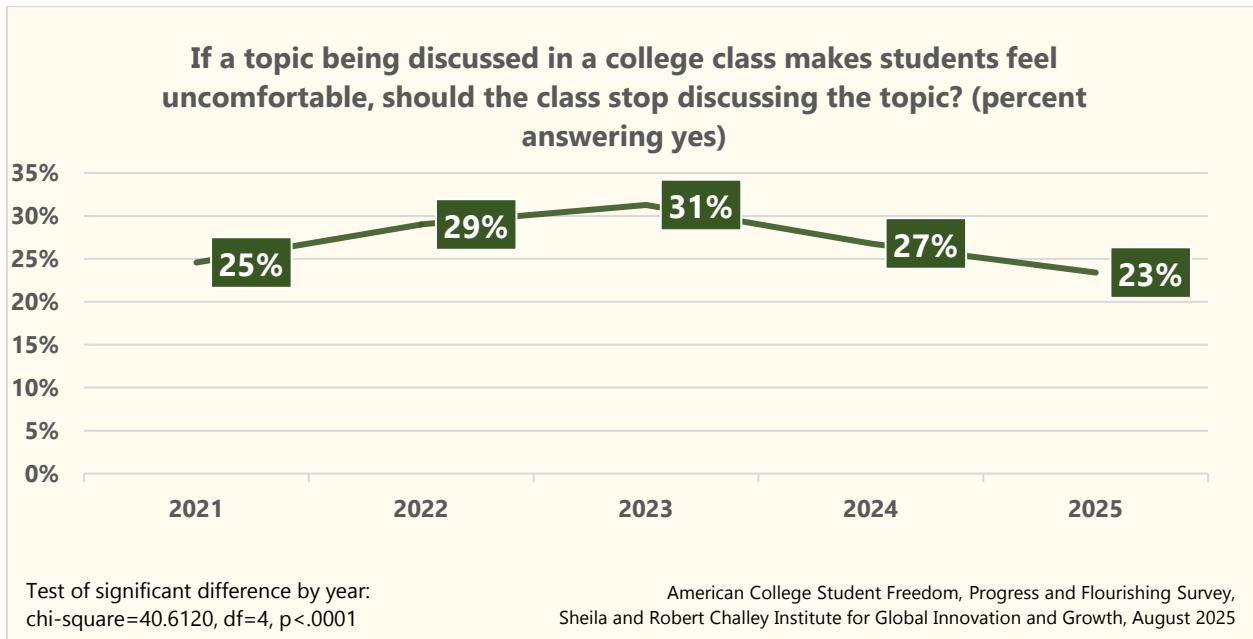


Figure 25: The percent of students in favor of dropping discussion topics that make students feel uncomfortable has dropped from 31 percent in 2023 to 23 percent in 2025.

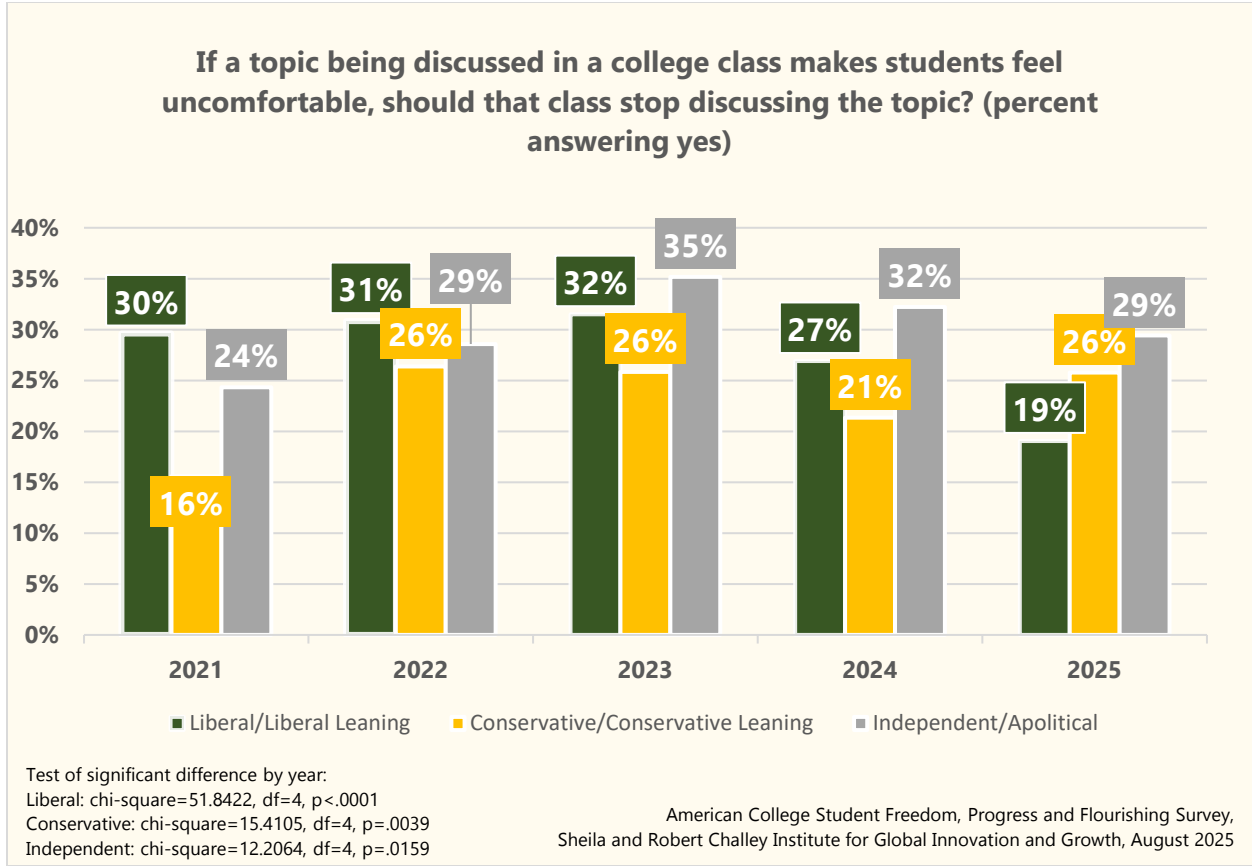


Figure 26: Significant changes in the percent of students in favor of dropping class discussions that make students uncomfortable has occurred for liberal, conservative, and independent students.

Seventy-Two Percent of Students Say Professors Should be Reported for Making Comments That Students Find Offensive

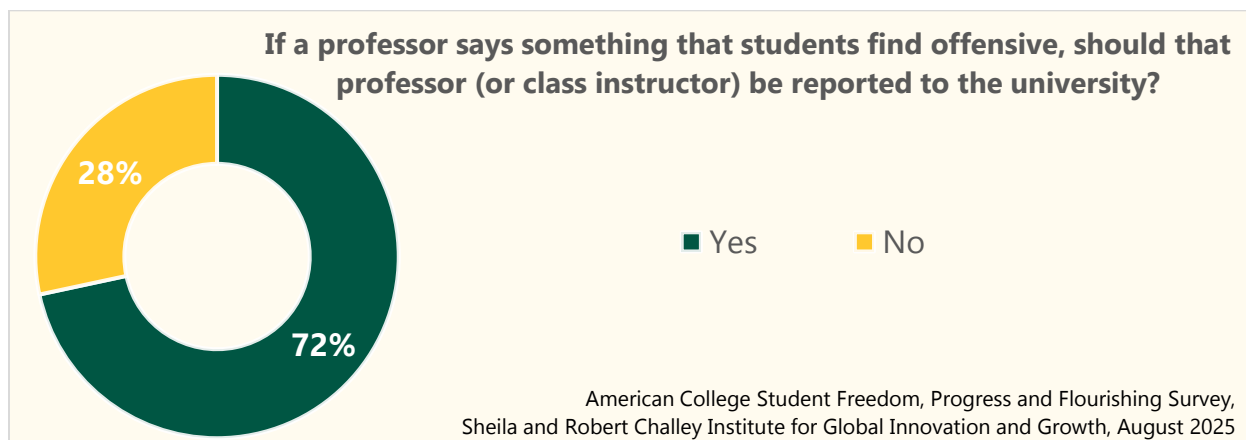


Figure 27: 72 percent of students believe a professor should be reported to the university for saying something students deem offensive

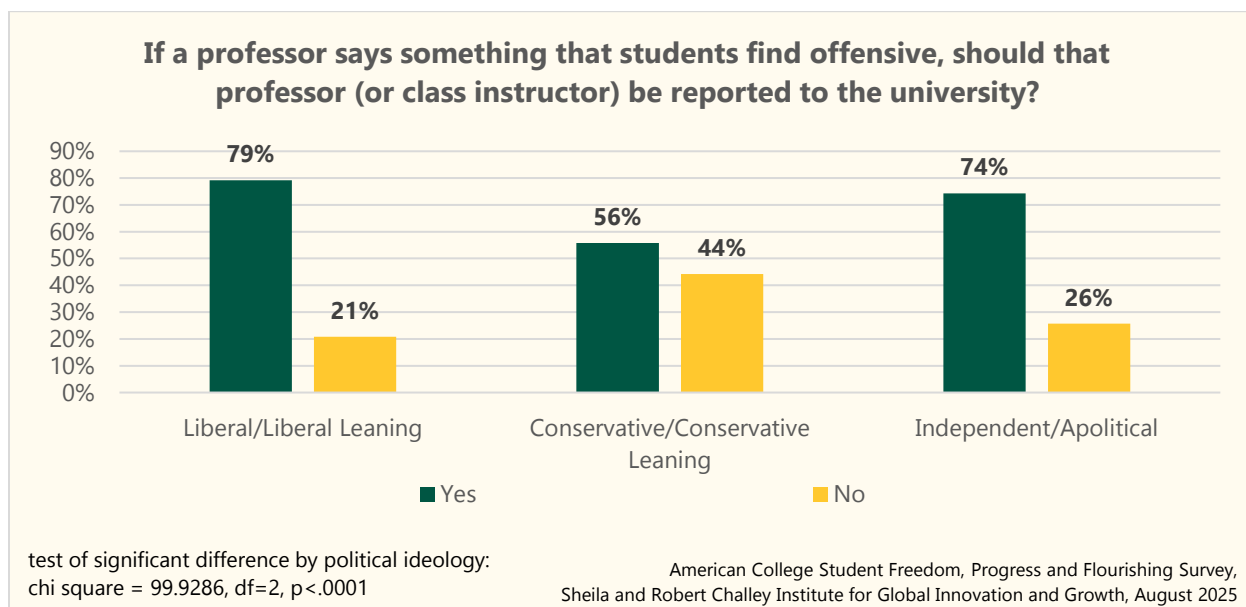


Figure 28: Significant differences exist among students with different political ideologies on whether professors should be reported for saying something students find offensive.

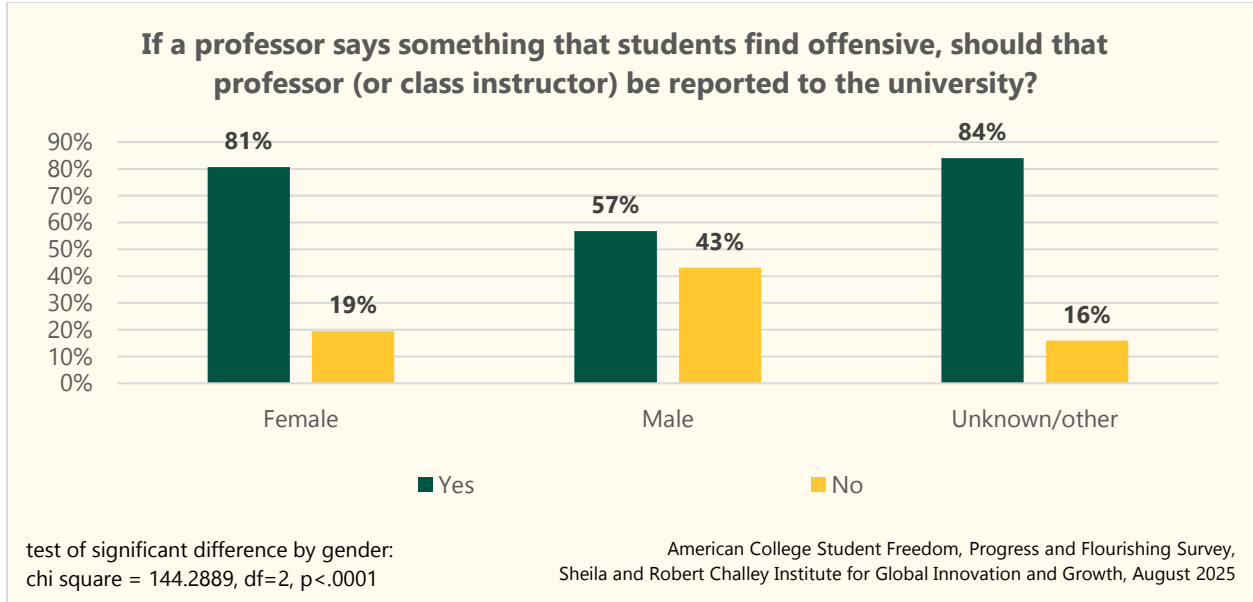


Figure 29: The percent of students in favor of reporting professors for saying something deemed offensive varies significantly by gender.

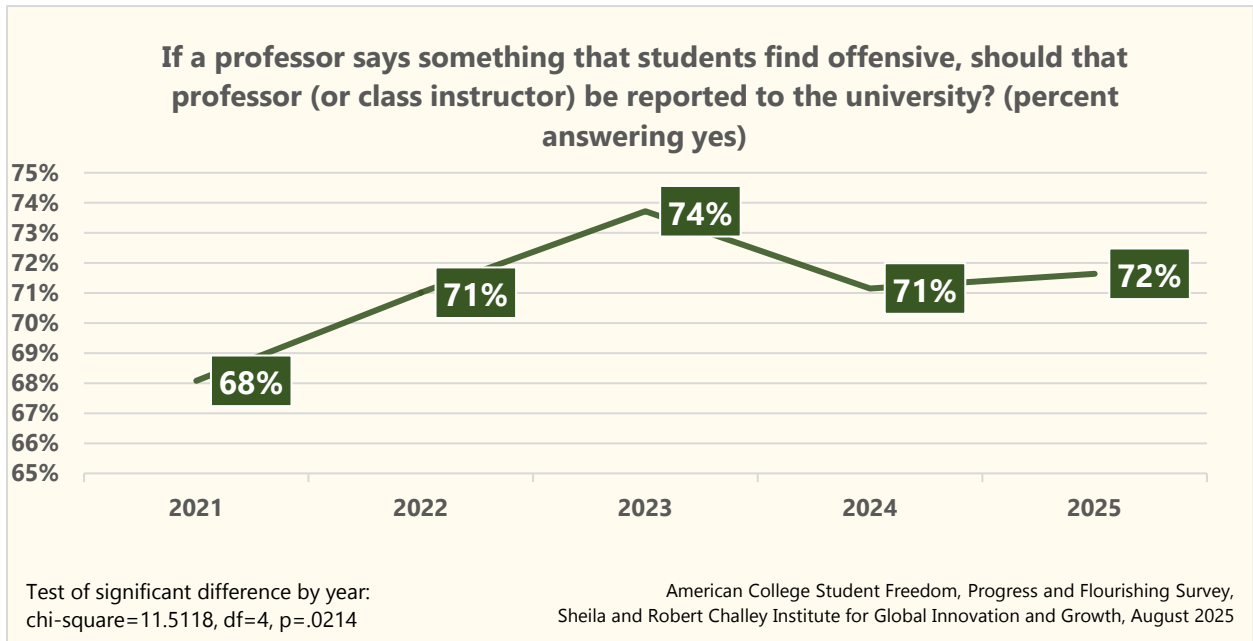


Figure 30: More than two-thirds of students have been in favor of reporting professors for saying something deemed offensive since 2021.

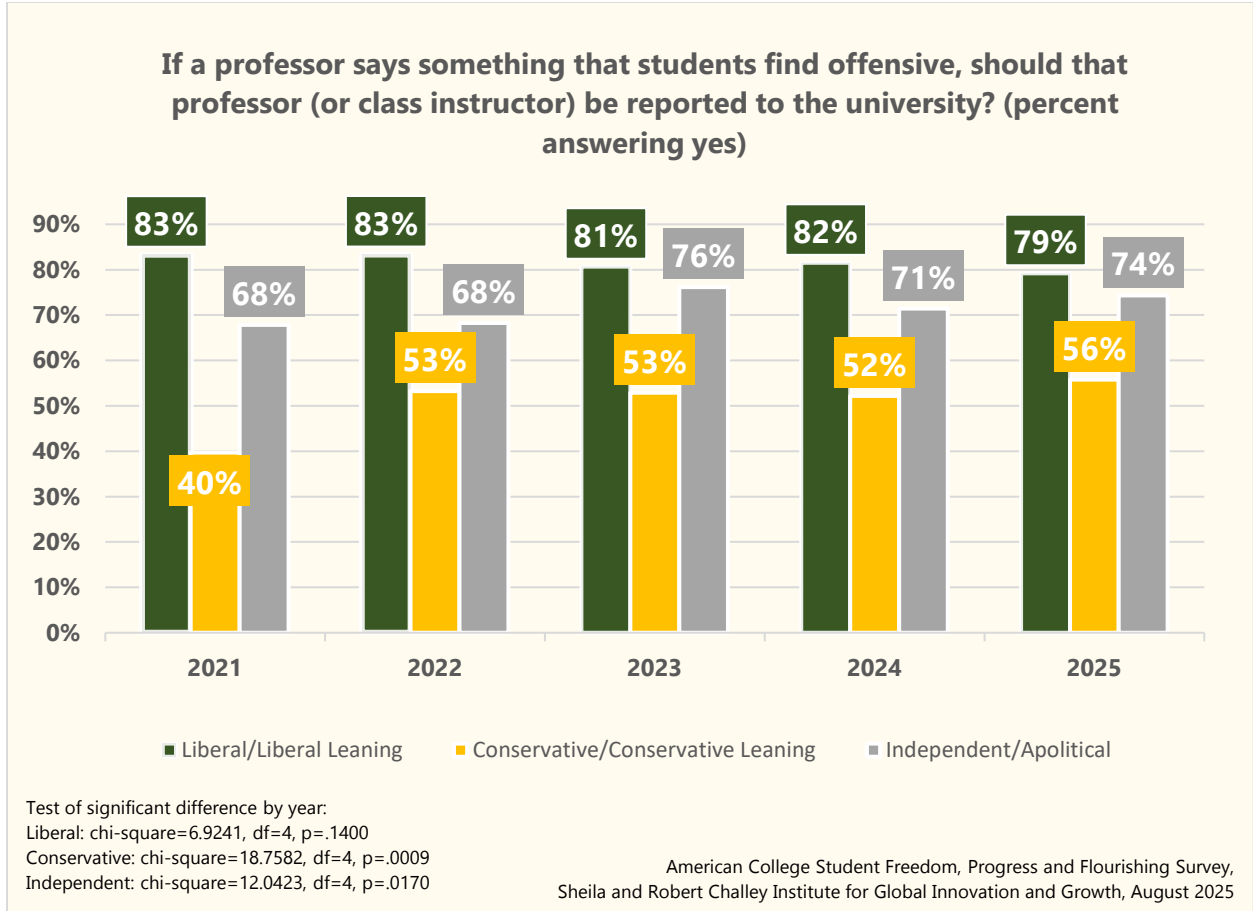


Figure 31: Conservative and independent students are more in favor of reporting professors for saying something deemed offensive than they were in 2021.

Many Students Believe Professors Should be Reported for Opinions they Find to be Offensive

In an attempt to identify whether students are in favor of reporting professors for stating opinions and/or facts that students may disagree with, or whether they are only in favor of reporting professors for things like racial slurs, sexual harassment, and personal attacks, we asked students who answered “yes” to the previous question, which of the following statements professors should be reported for:

- Statement 1: “It is clear that Affirmative Action is doing more harm than good, and should be eliminated.”
- Statement 2: “If you look at the data, there is no evidence of anti-black bias in police shootings.”
- Statement 3: “Owning a gun is the right of every U.S. citizen.”
- Statement 4: “Biological sex is a scientific fact. There are two sexes, male and female.”
- Statement 5: “Requiring vaccination for COVID is an assault on individual freedom.”
- Statement 6: “Those who want to eliminate Affirmative Action are perpetuating white privilege.”
- Statement 7: “It is clear that we have a problem with racist police in the U.S. shooting unarmed black men.”
- Statement 8: “A civilized society doesn’t need guns.”
- Statement 9: “There are a wide variety of sexes. Sex is not binary.”
- Statement 10: “Not getting vaccinated for COVID is irresponsible and inconsiderate to others.”
- “Other, please specify.”

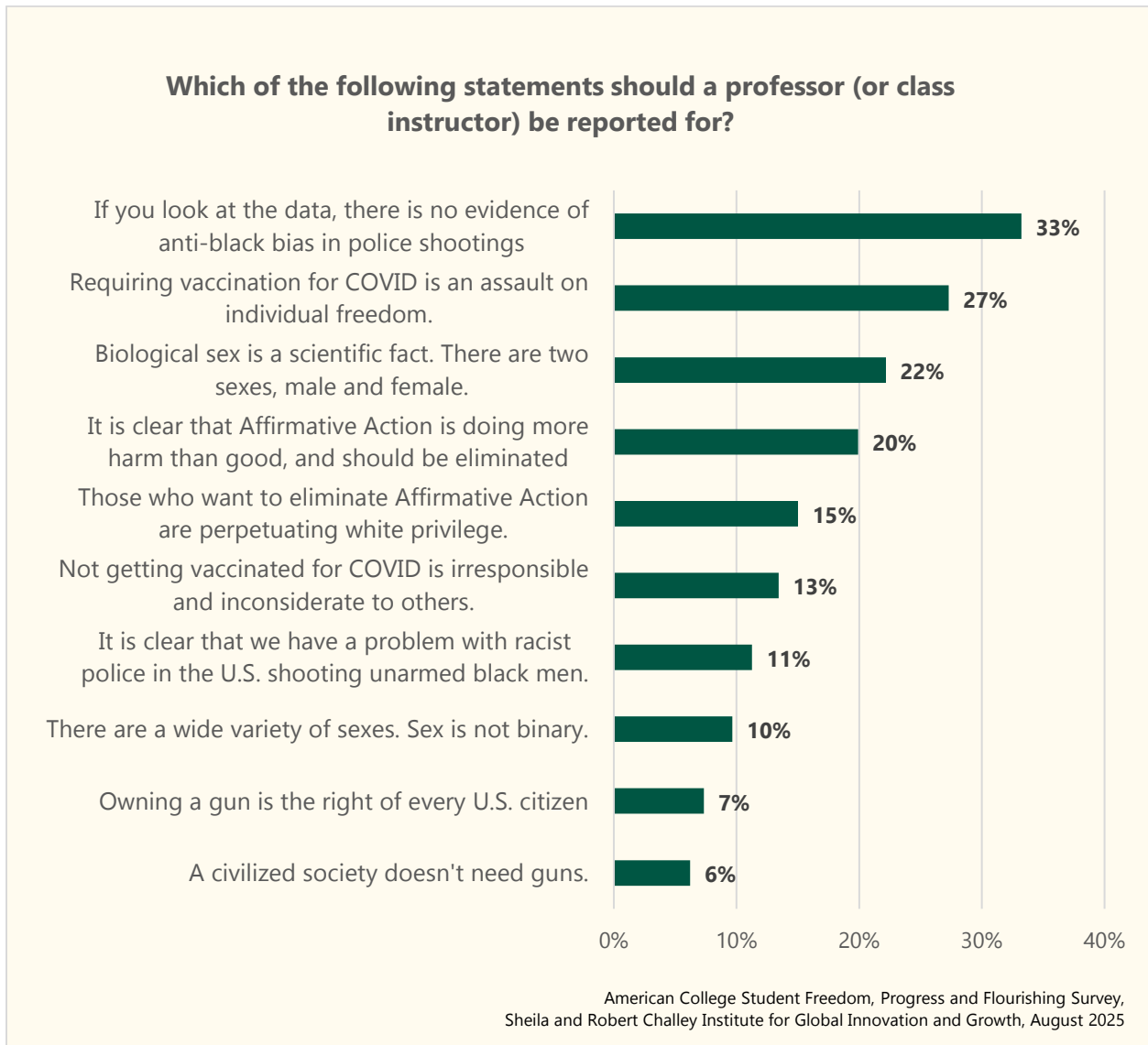


Figure 32: Percent of all students who believe professors should be reported for these statements (total answering divided by the full sample of 2,066).

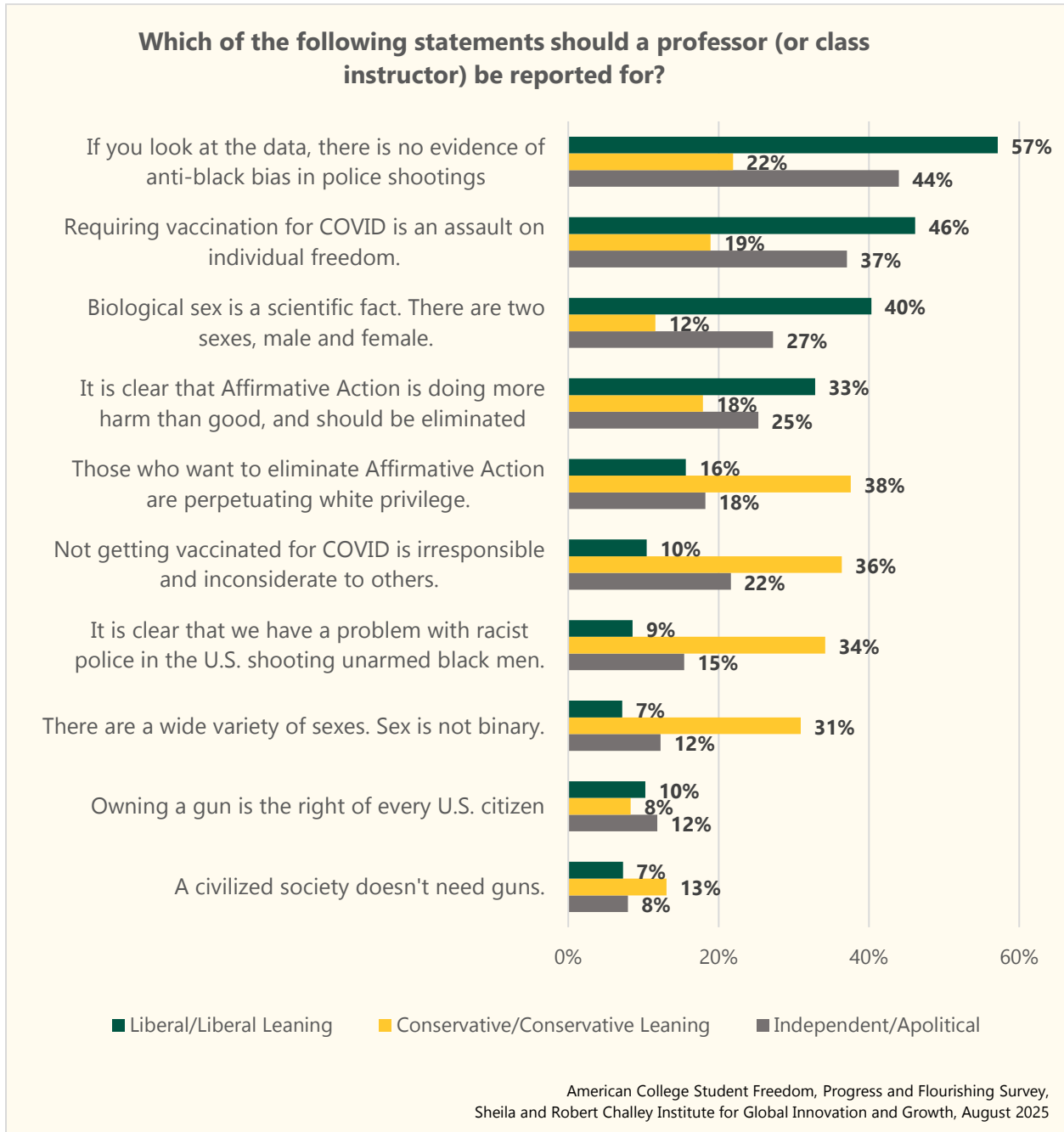


Figure 33: Percent of all liberal, conservative, and independent students who are in favor of reporting professors for various statements.

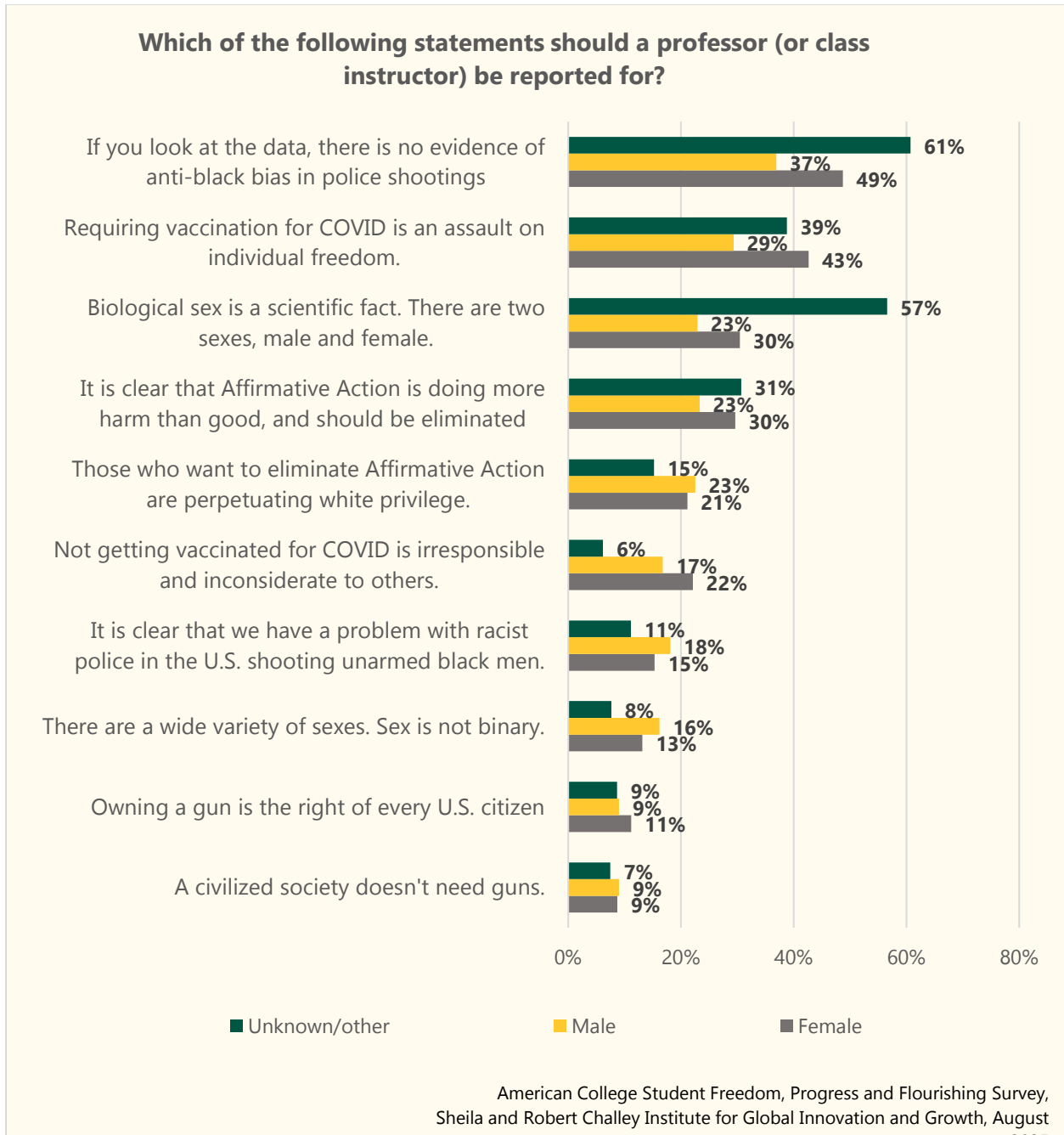


Figure 34: Percent of female, male, and unknown/other students in favor of reporting professors for various statements of opinion or fact.

More than 60 Percent of Students Are in Favor of Reporting Professors for Disfavored Opinions or Facts

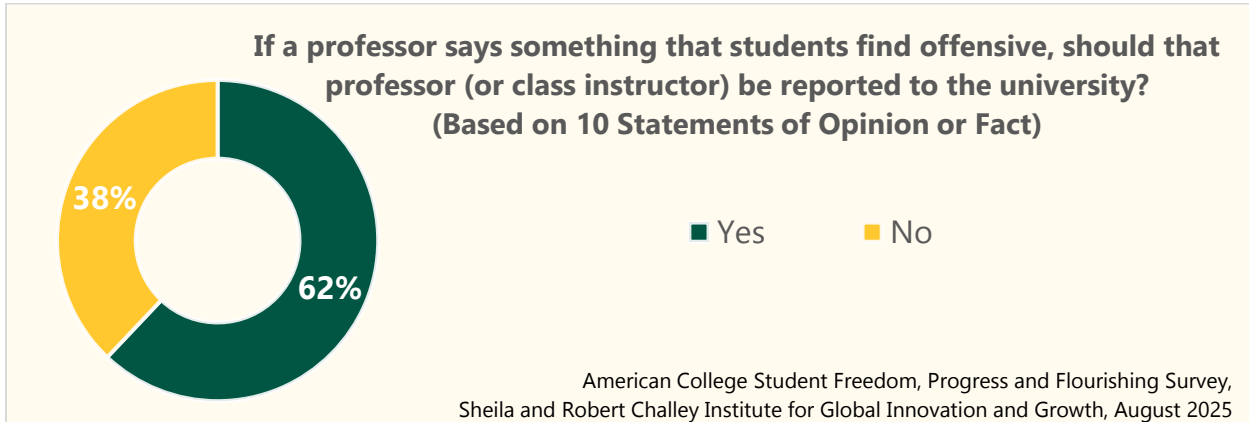


Figure 35: 62 percent of students believe a professor should be reported to the university for making a statement on affirmative action, police shootings, guns, sex/gender, or vaccines that they disagree with.

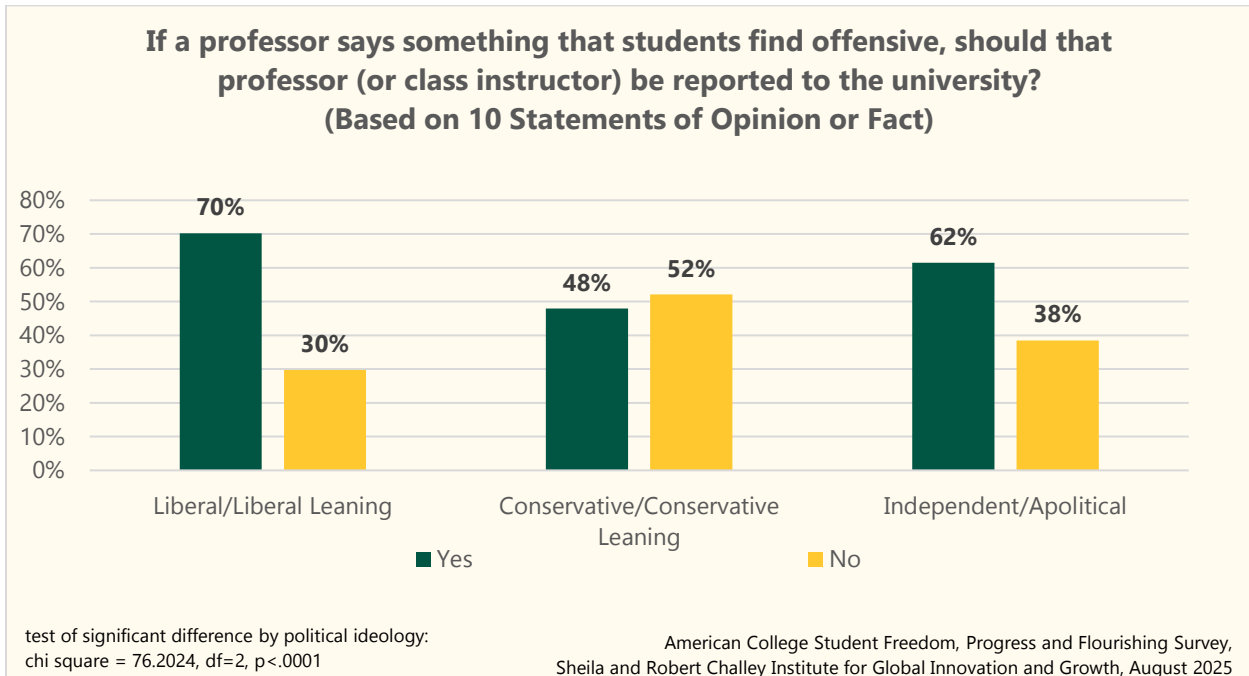


Figure 36: Significant differences exist among students with different political ideologies in whether they believe professors should be reported for statements related to affirmative action, police shootings, guns, sex/gender, and vaccines.

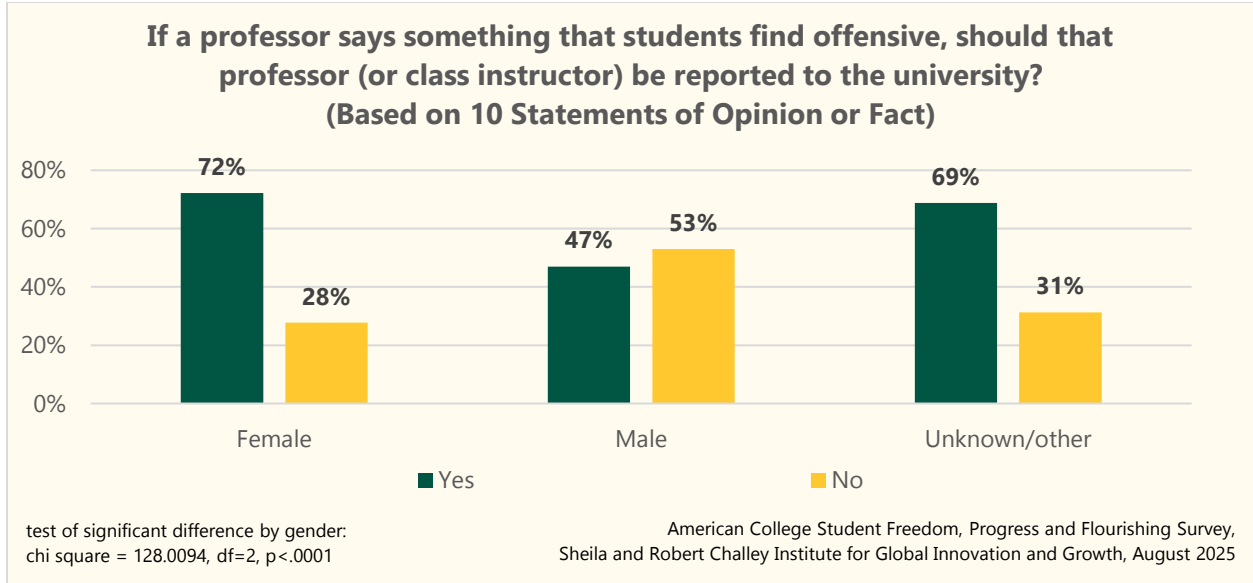


Figure 37: There are significant differences by gender on student opinions of whether a professor should be reported for one of these statements of opinion or fact.

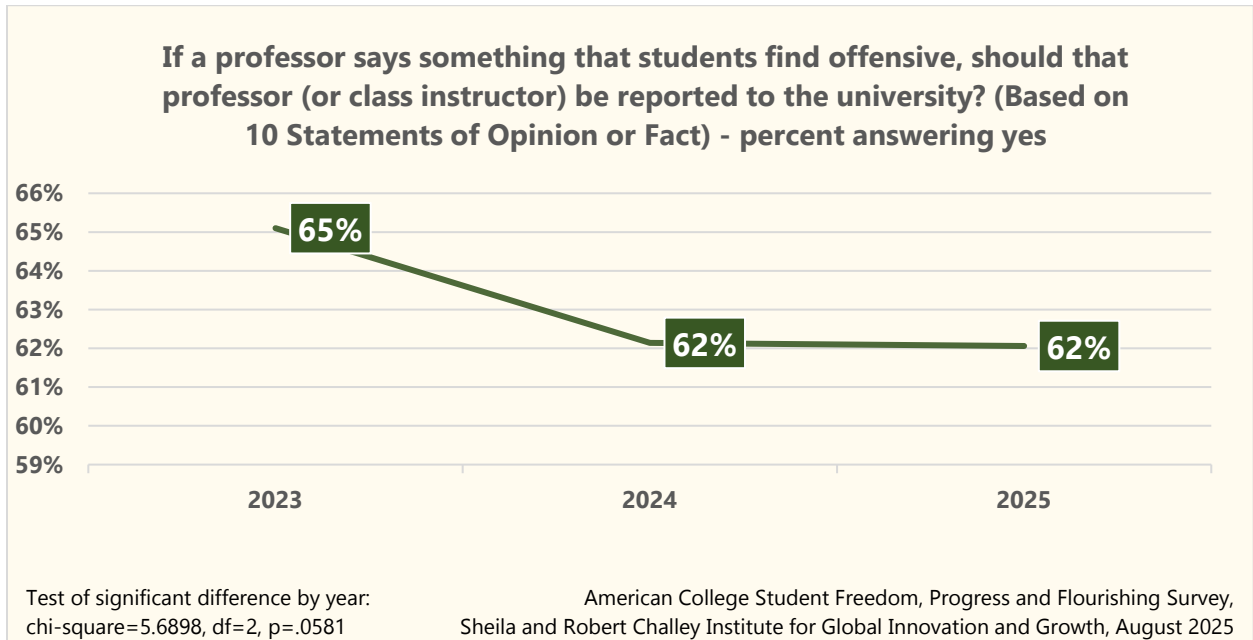


Figure 38: Percent of students in favor of reporting professors for statements on police shootings, affirmative action, vaccines, sex/gender, and guns.

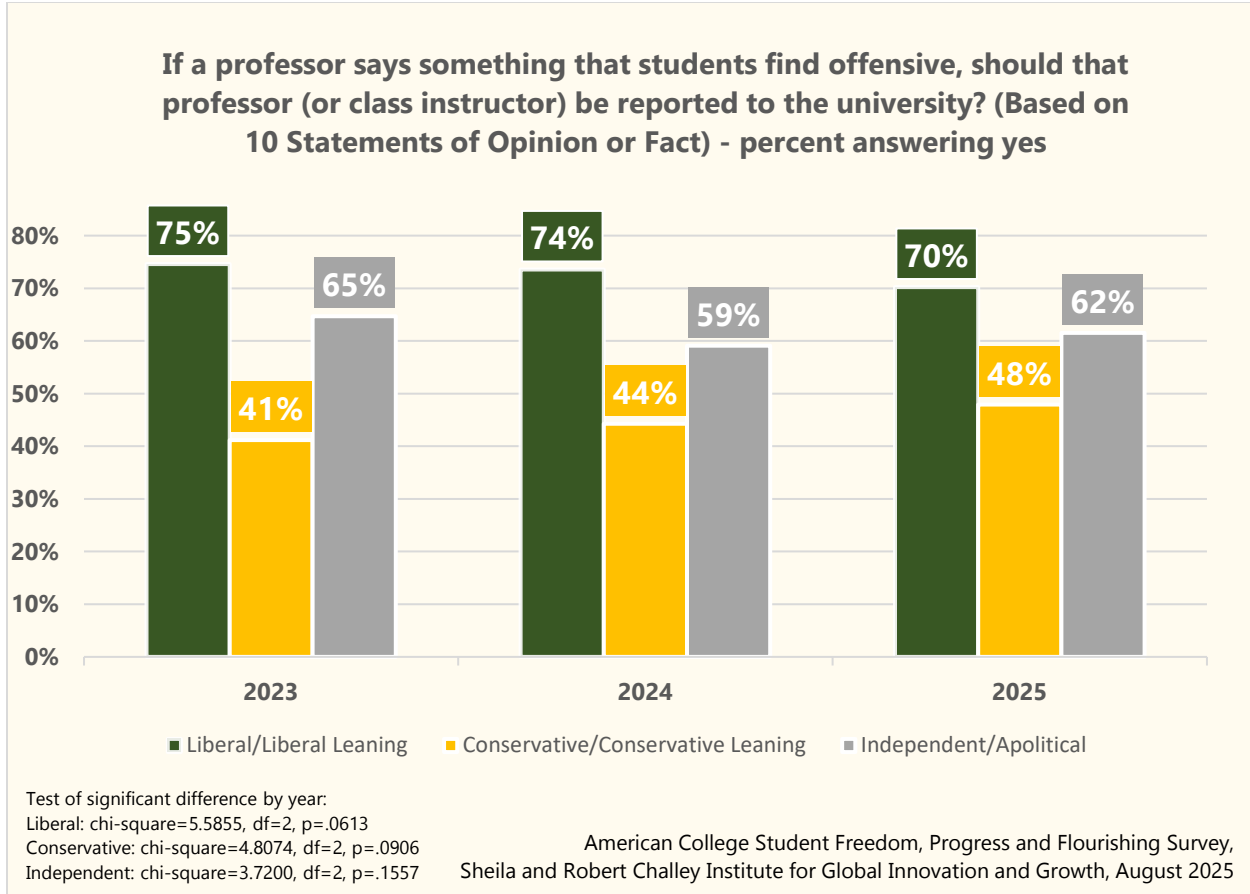


Figure 39: Liberal students have become significantly less in favor of reporting professors for disfavored opinions since 2023, while conservative students have become significantly more in favor.

A Majority of Students Say a Student Should be Reported for Saying Something Other Students Find Offensive

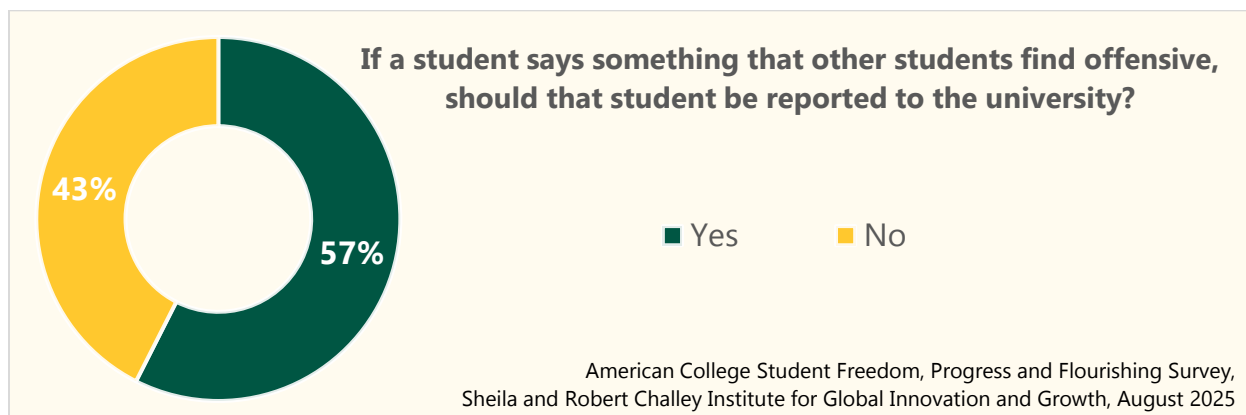


Figure 40: 57 percent of students believe another student should be reported for saying something that is deemed offensive.

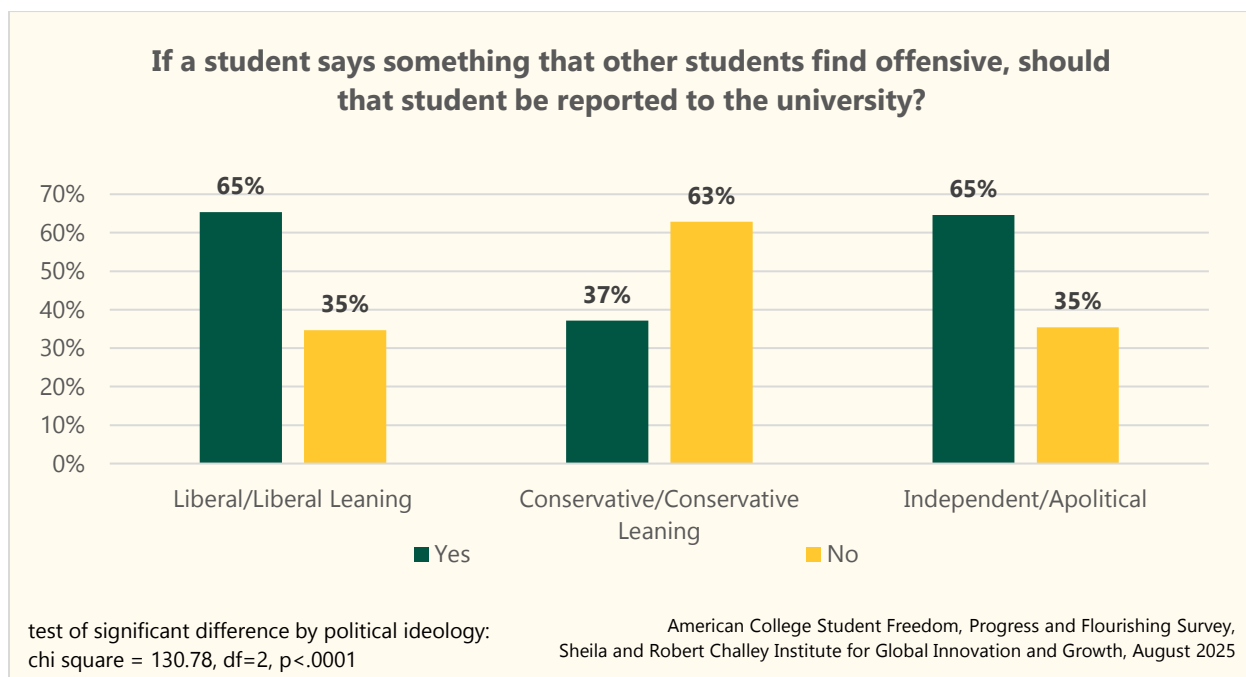


Figure 41: Students with different political ideologies have significantly different views about reporting students who say something deemed offensive.

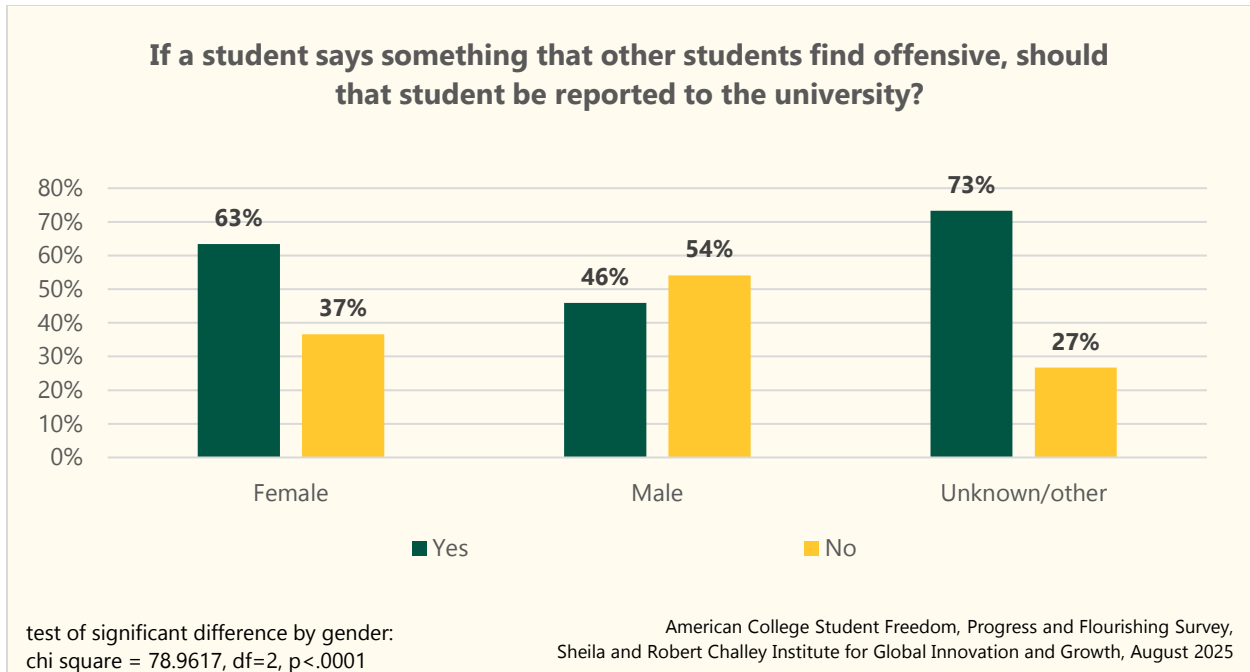


Figure 42: Female, male, and unknown/other students have significantly different opinions on whether students who say something deemed offensive should be reported.

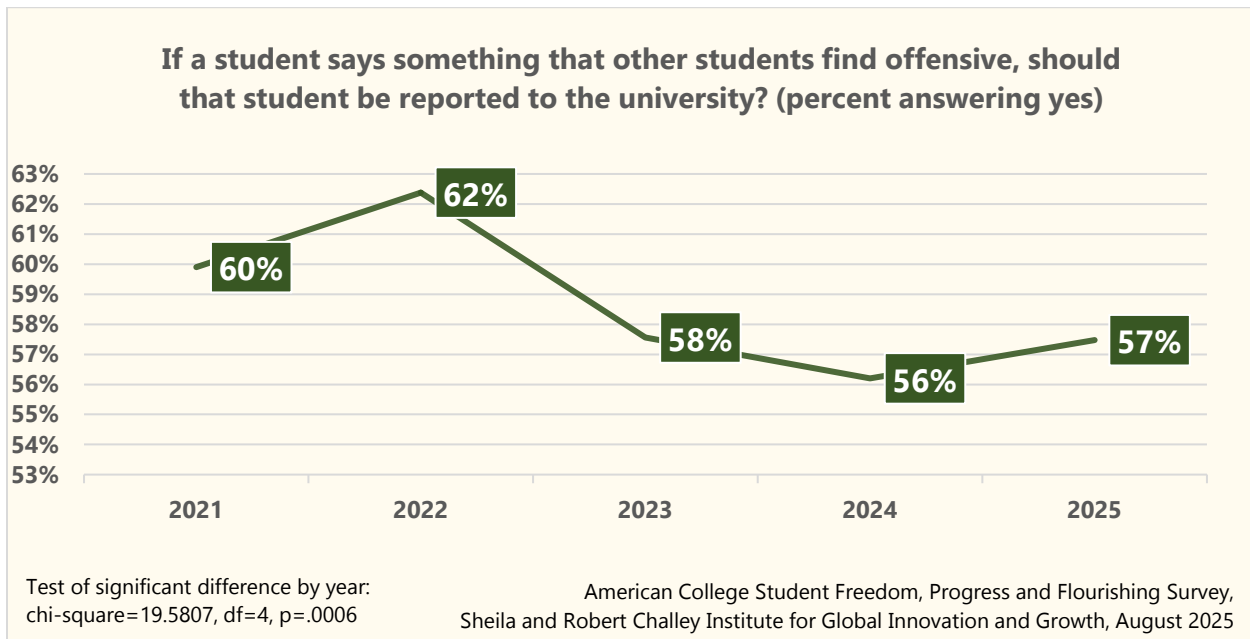


Figure 43: The percent of students in favor of reporting other students who say something deemed offensive has dropped from its peak in 2022, but remained stable for the last three years.

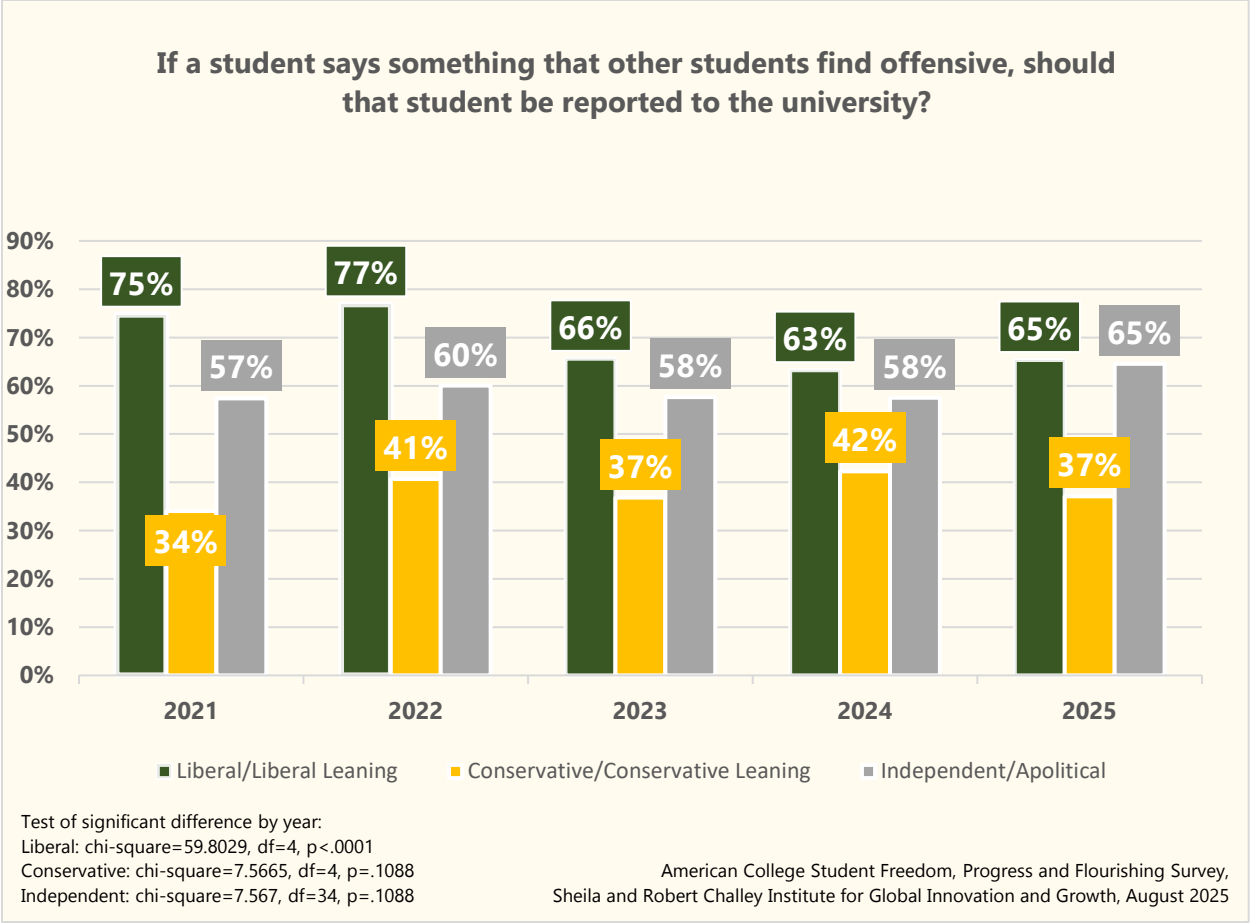


Figure 44: The percentage of liberal students in favor of reporting other students who say something deemed offensive has significantly decreased over time

A Majority of Students Say Protecting Free Speech is More Important than Making Sure Everyone is Comfortable

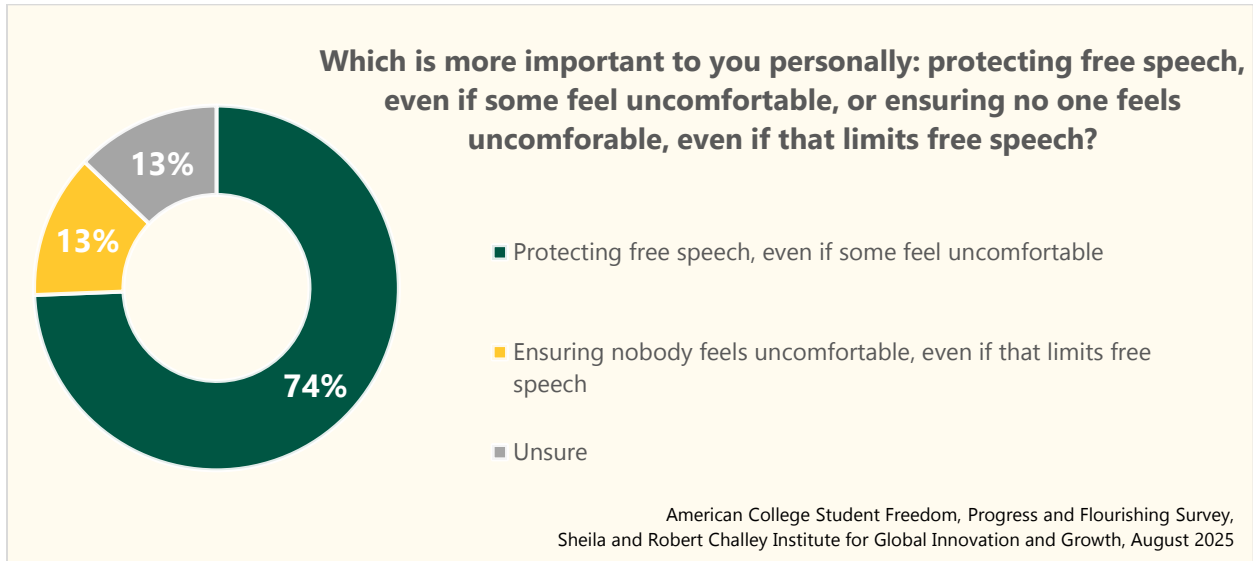


Figure 45: 74 percent of students say protecting free speech is more important than ensuring everyone feels comfortable.

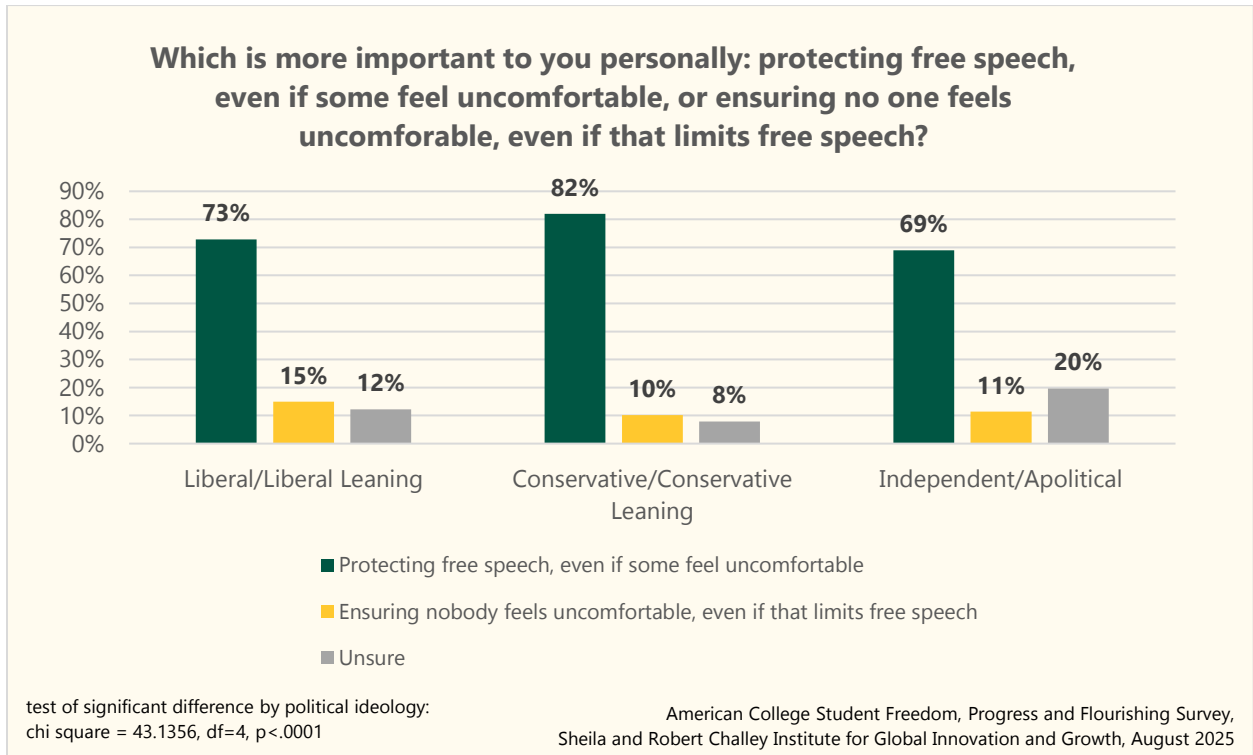


Figure 46: While most students believe protecting free speech is more important than ensuring comfort, there are significant differences among liberal, conservative, and independent students.

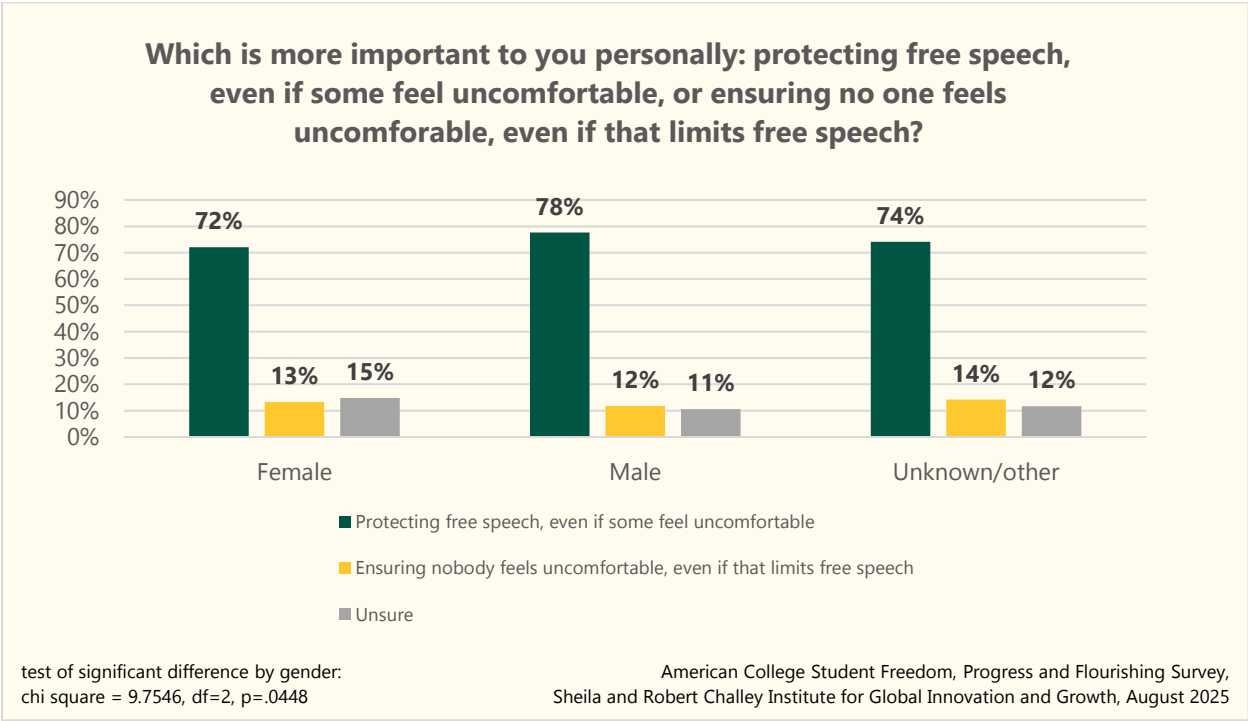


Figure 47: Female, male, and unknown/other students have significant differences in beliefs about whether protecting free speech or making people feel comfortable is more important.