

Appendix 1 Charts: Campus Free Speech and Viewpoint Diversity

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



Figure 1: 76 percent of students are "somewhat comfortable" or "very comfortable" sharing their opinions on controversial or sensitive topics in class

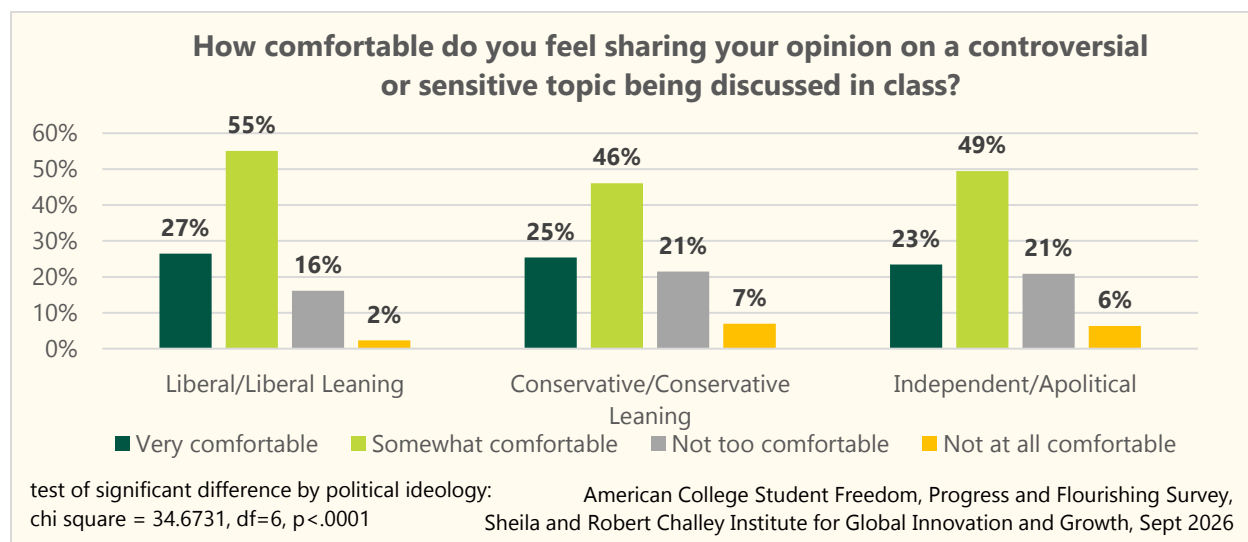


Figure 2: There are significant differences between liberal, conservative, and independent students in their comfort level in sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics

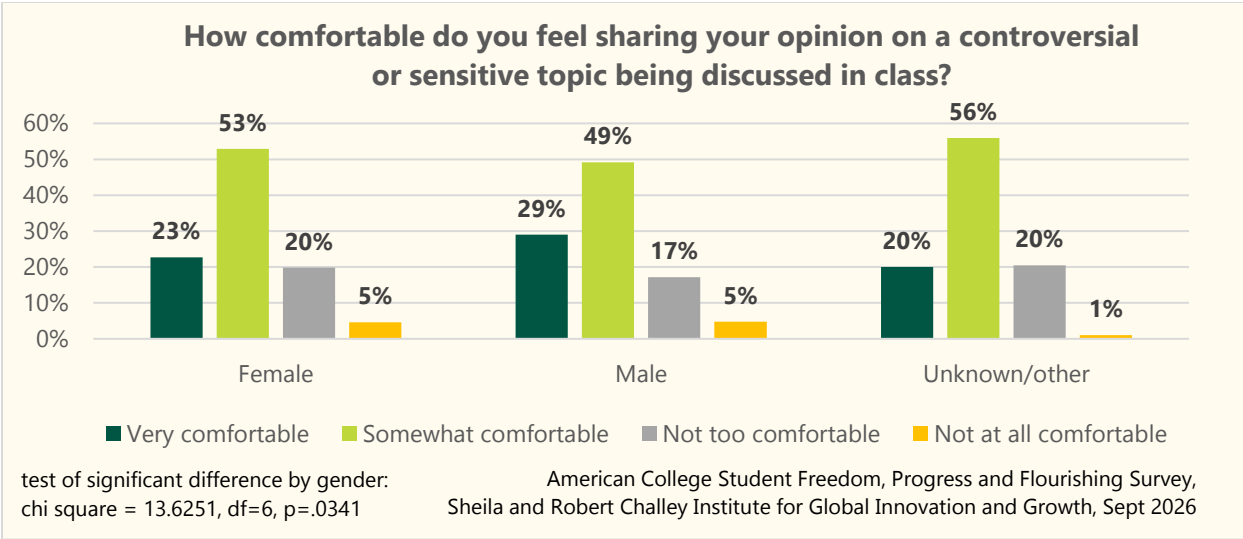


Figure 3: Male students are somewhat more comfortable sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics in comparison to female students and students with gender of unknown/other.

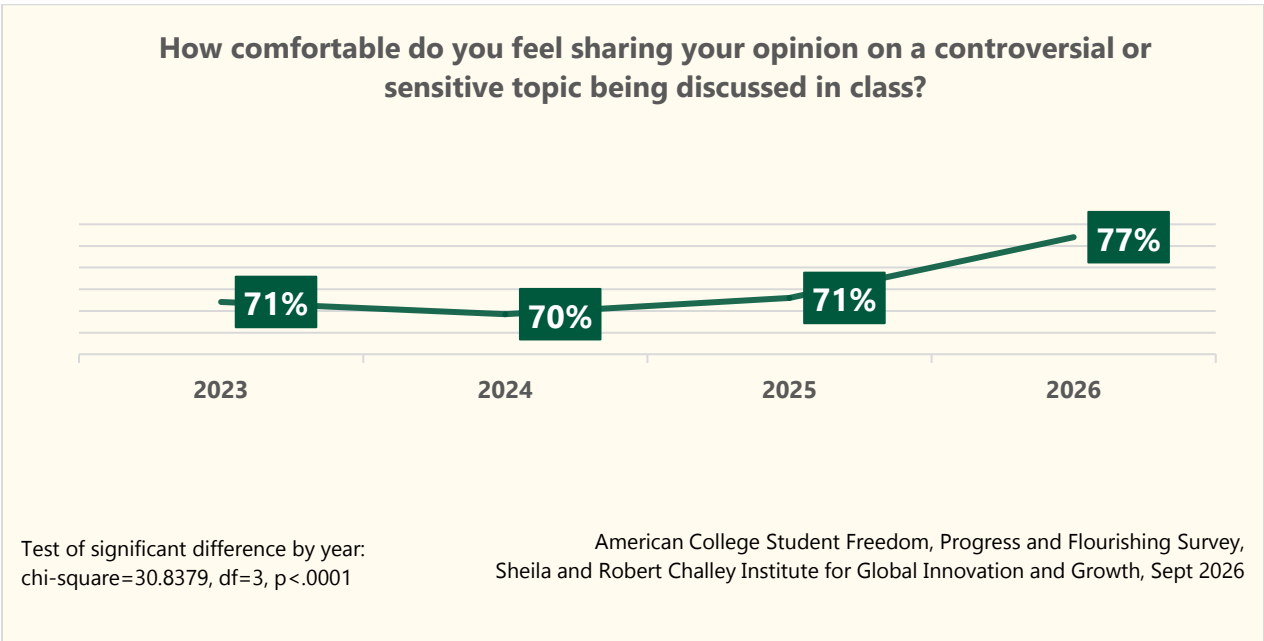


Figure 4: Student comfort level in sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics in class increased in 2026.

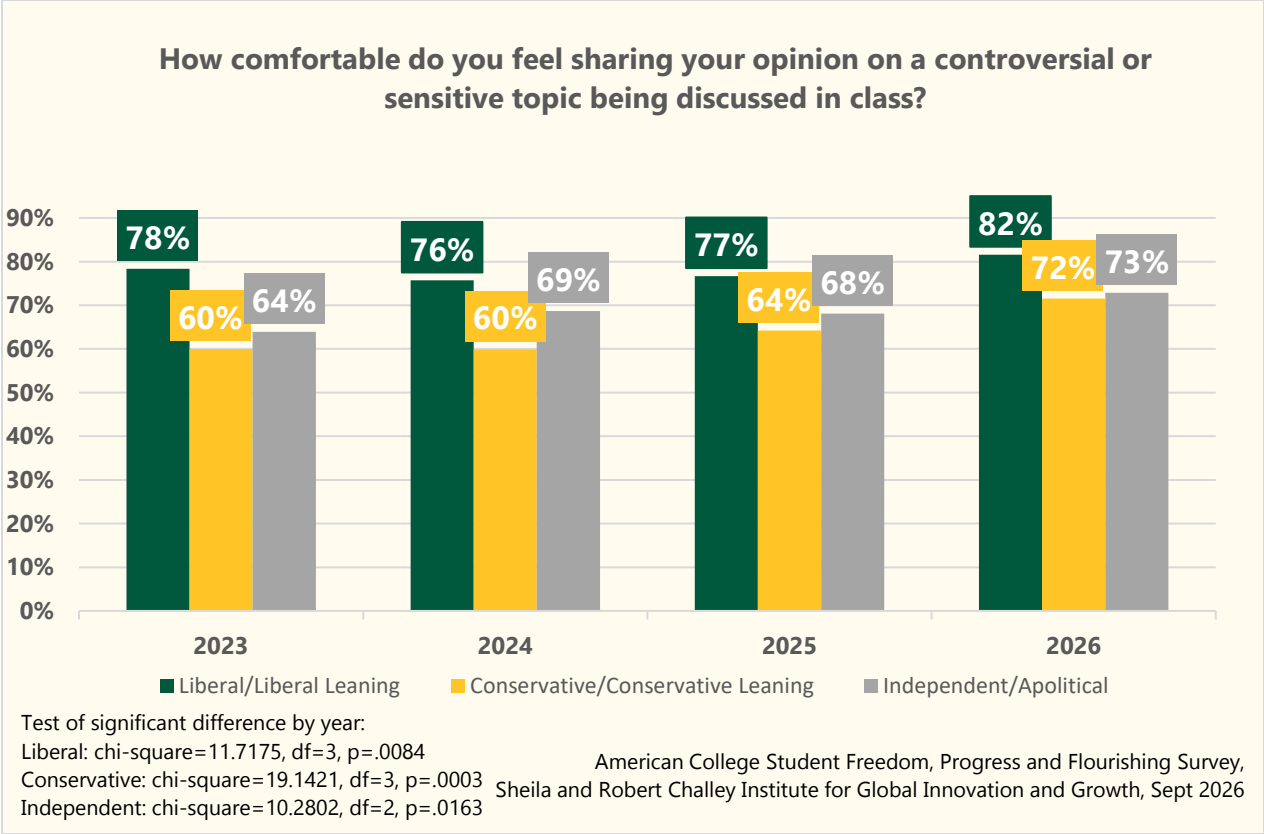


Figure 5: Comfort level in sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics in class has significantly increased for liberal, conservative, and independent students since 2023.

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: 44 percent of students who are comfortable sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics are comfortable because others agree with them

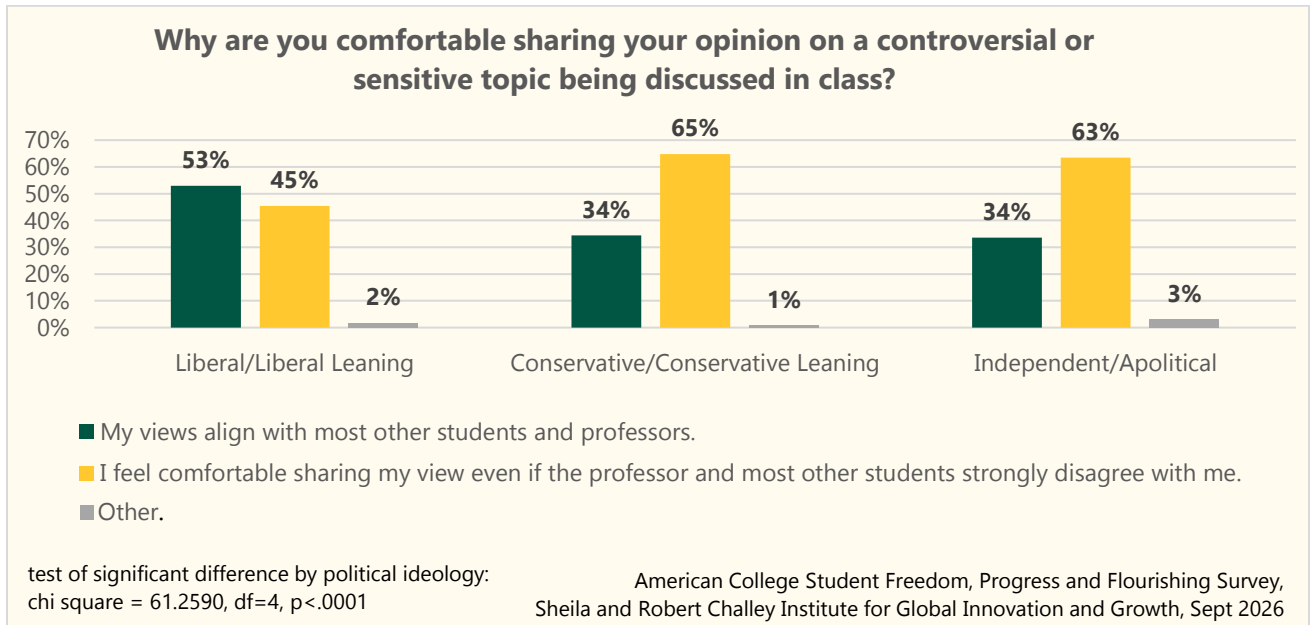


Figure 7: For students who are comfortable sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics, those with liberal views are more likely to be comfortable because their views align with others.

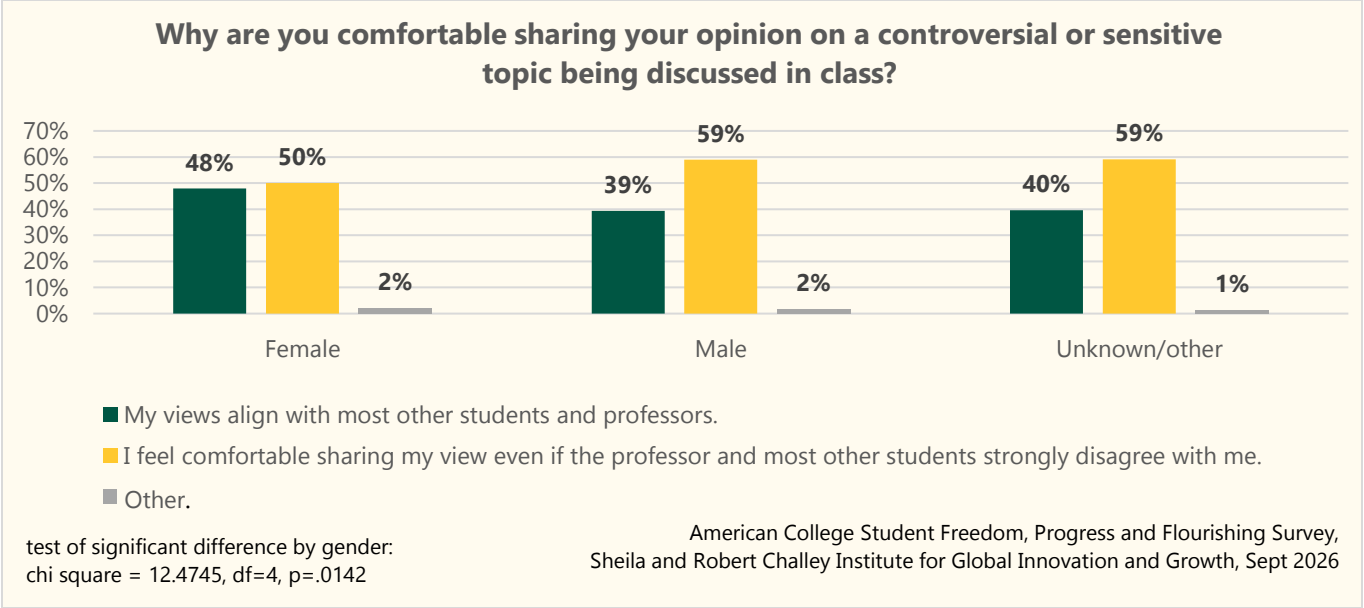


Figure 8: For students who are comfortable sharing opinions on controversial or sensitive topics, female students are more likely to be comfortable because their views align with others.

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

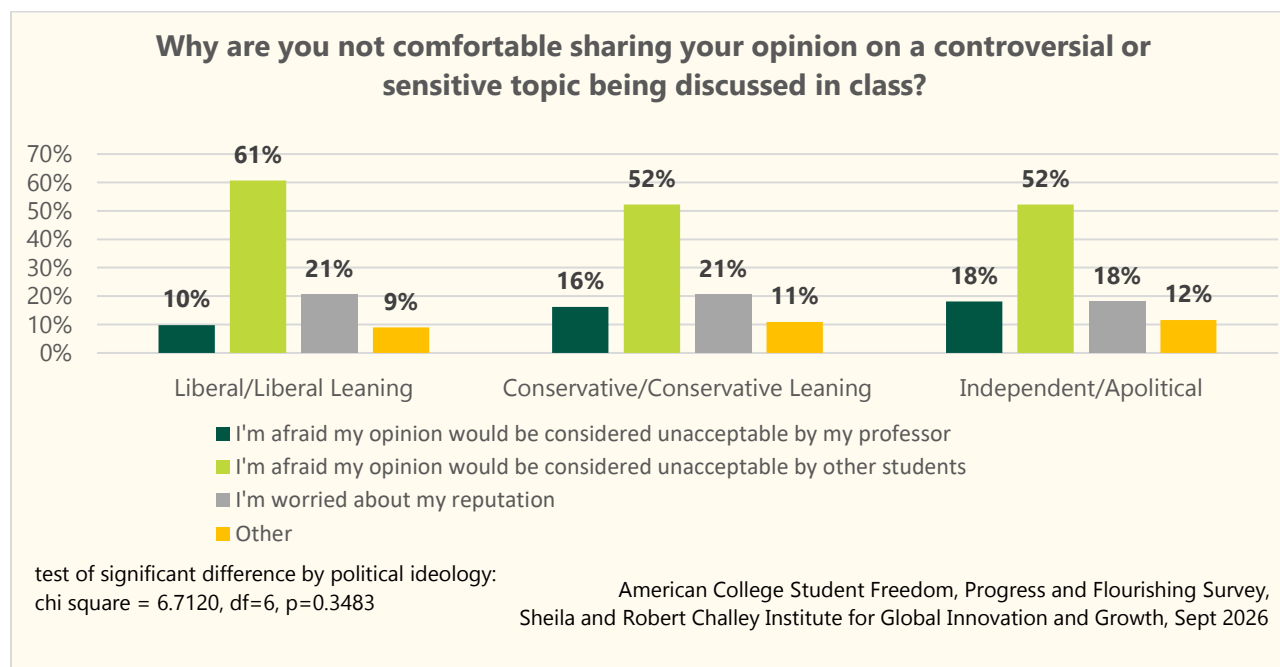


Figure 10: There are no significant differences among students with different political ideologies as to why they do not feel comfortable sharing opinions on controversial topics.

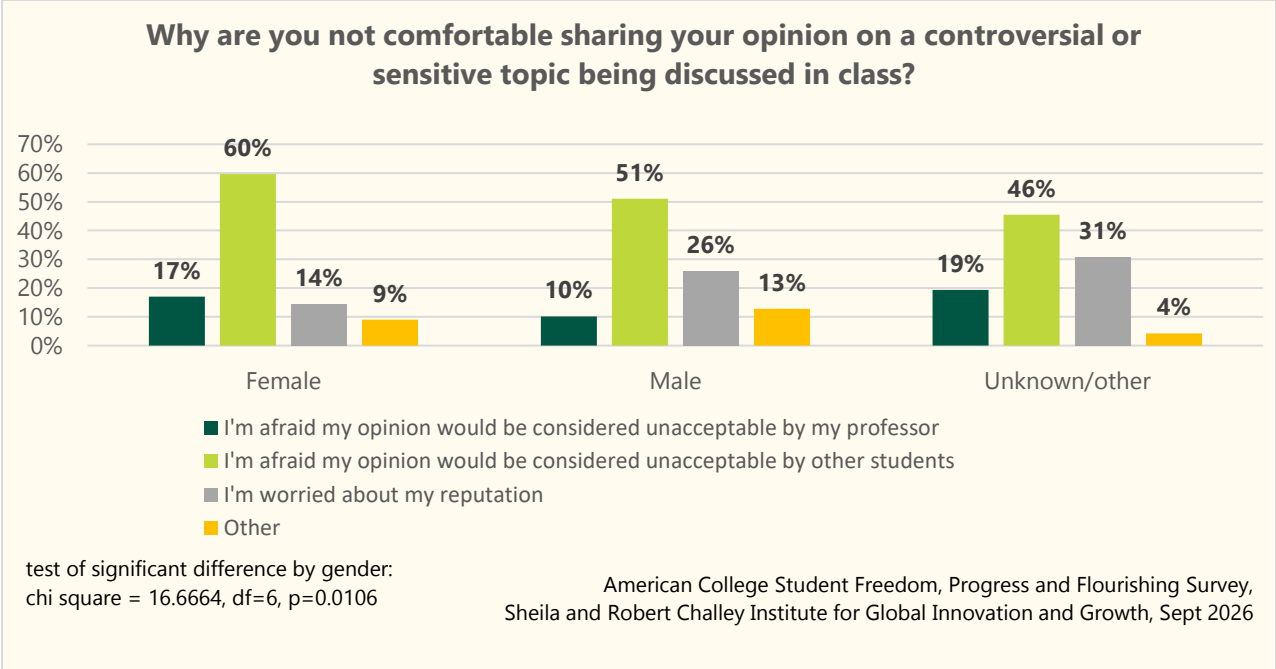


Figure 11: Female students are more likely to be worried about the opinions of other students in comparison to male students and students with gender unknown/other.

Nearly One Third of Students Say Controversial Speakers Invitations Should be Withdrawn

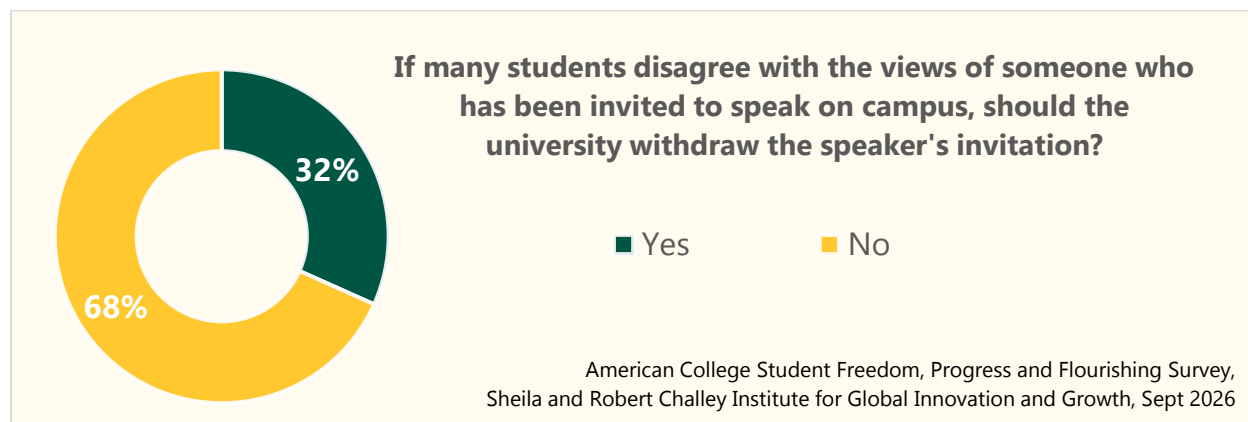


Figure 12: 68 percent of students say universities should not withdraw invitations to controversial speakers

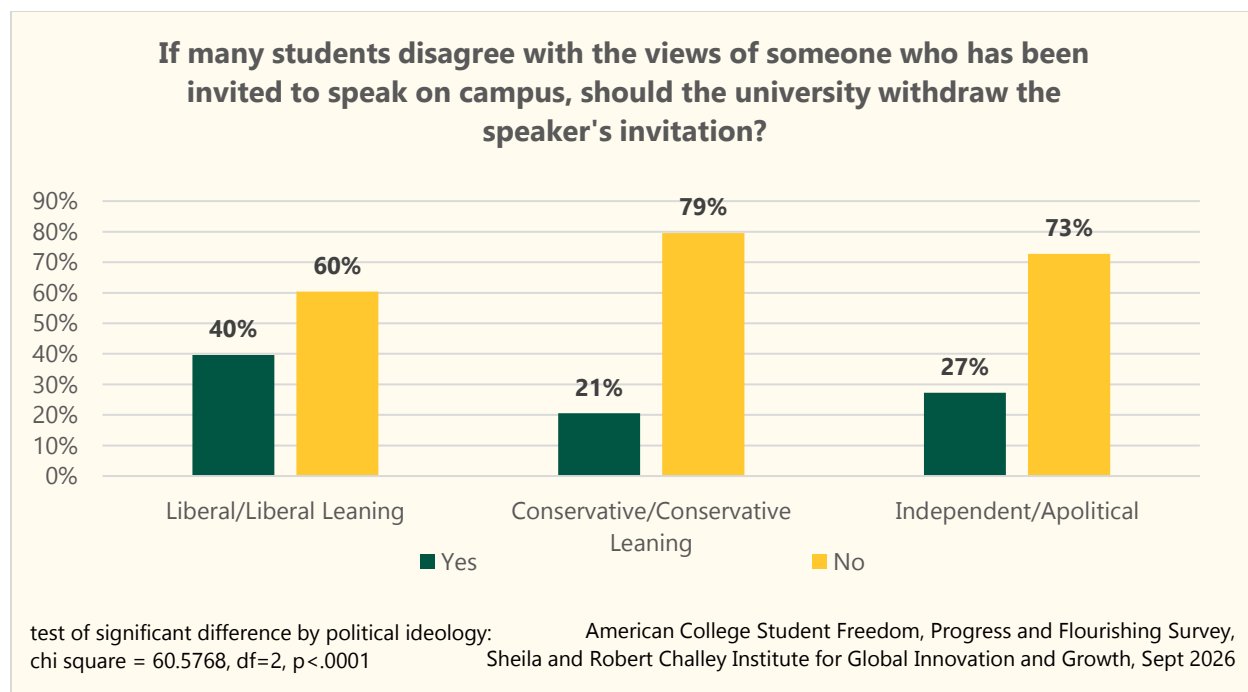


Figure 13: There are significant differences among students with different political ideologies about whether controversial speakers should be disinvited.

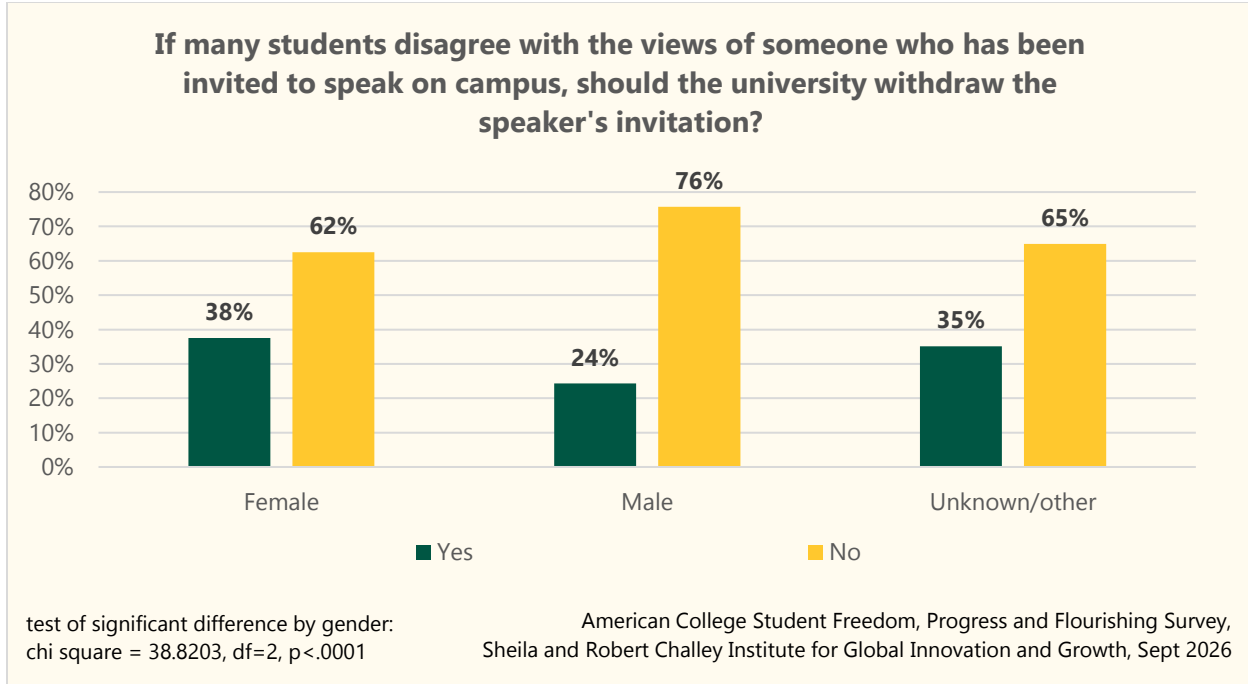


Figure 14: Student attitudes about disinviting controversial speakers vary significantly by gender.

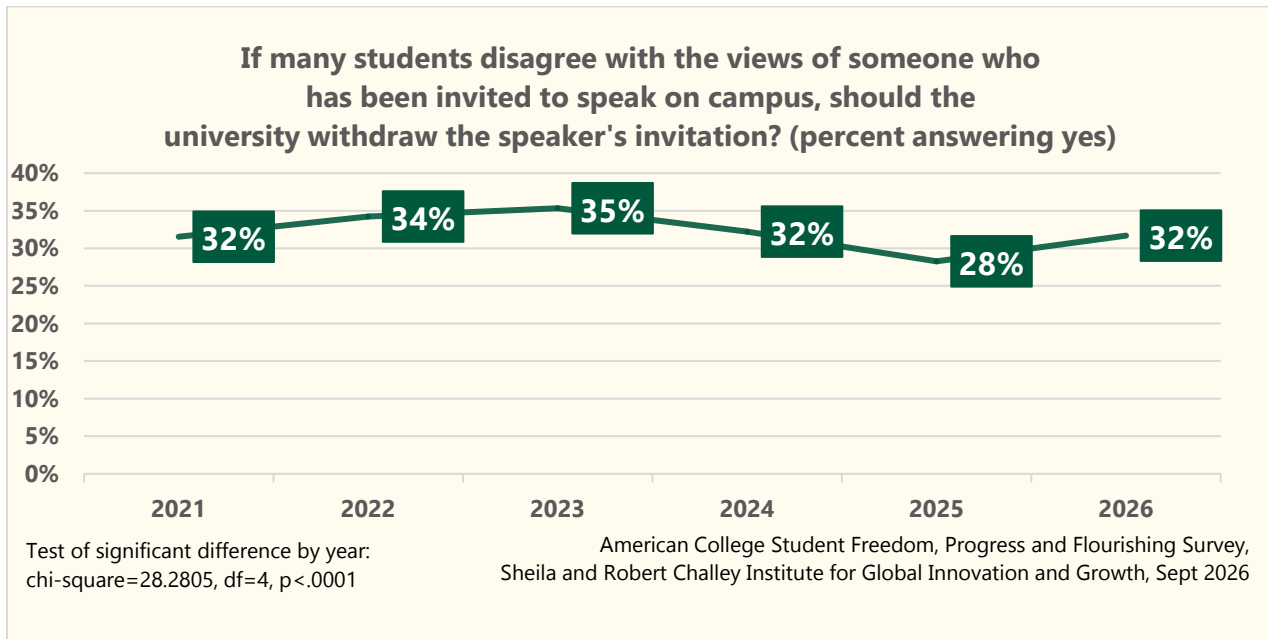


Figure 15: The percent of students in favor of disinviting controversial speakers dropped from its peak of 35 percent in 2023 to 28 percent in 2025, rebounding to 32 percent in 2026.

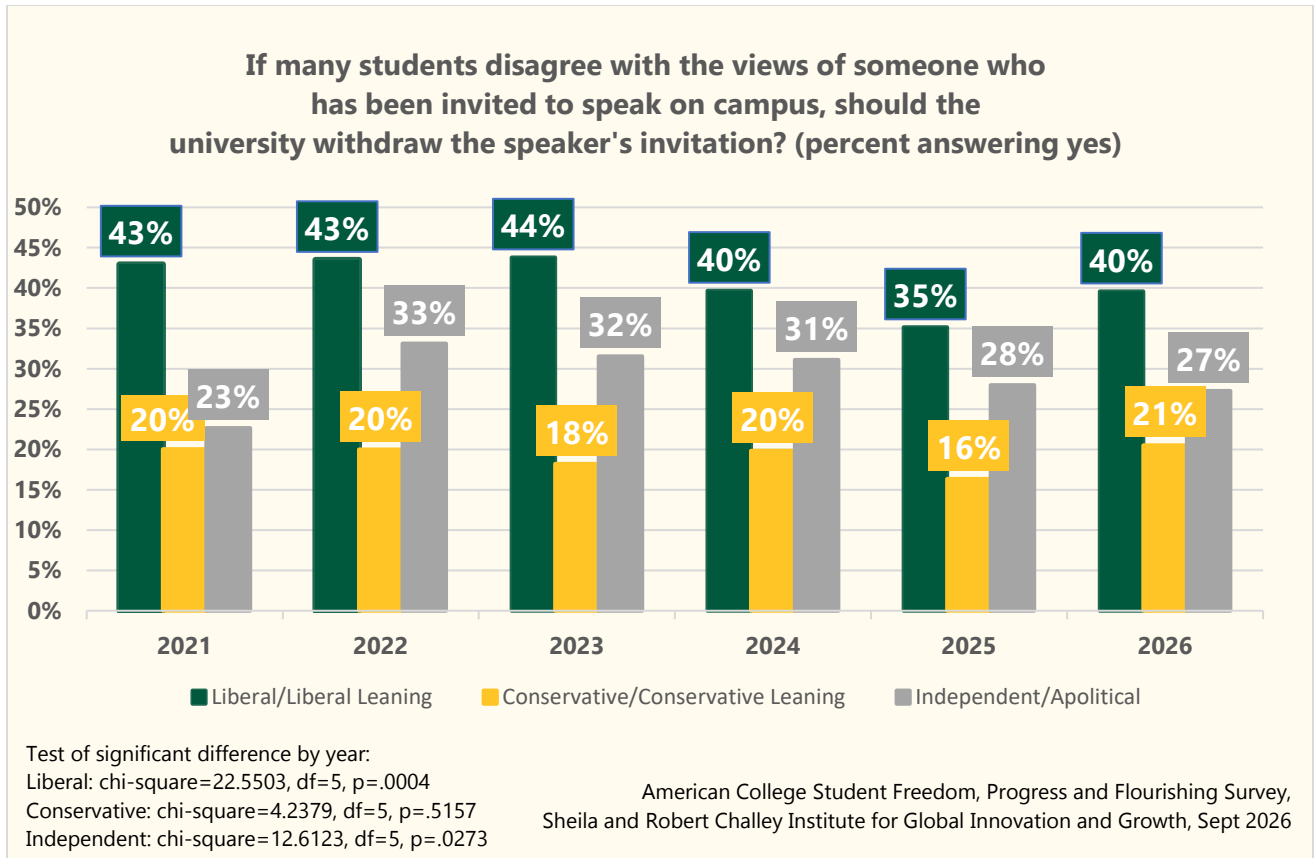


Figure 16: Since 2021, there have been significant changes in the percent of liberal and independent students who are in favor of disinviting controversial speakers.

Nearly One-Third of Students Say Professors Should Drop Readings That Make Students Feel Uncomfortable

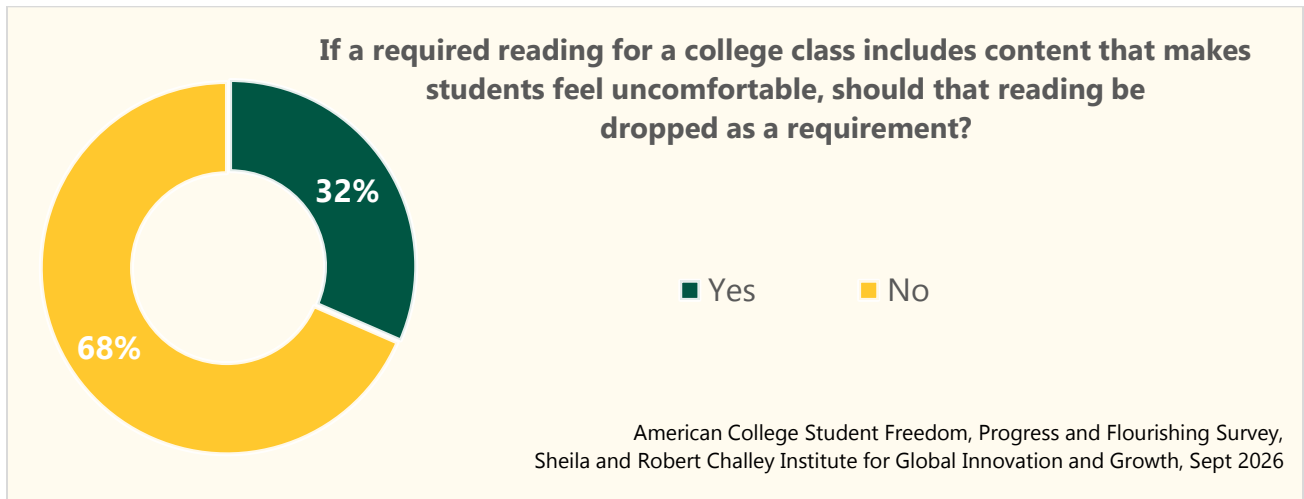


Figure 17: 32 percent of students are in favor of dropping class readings that make students feel uncomfortable

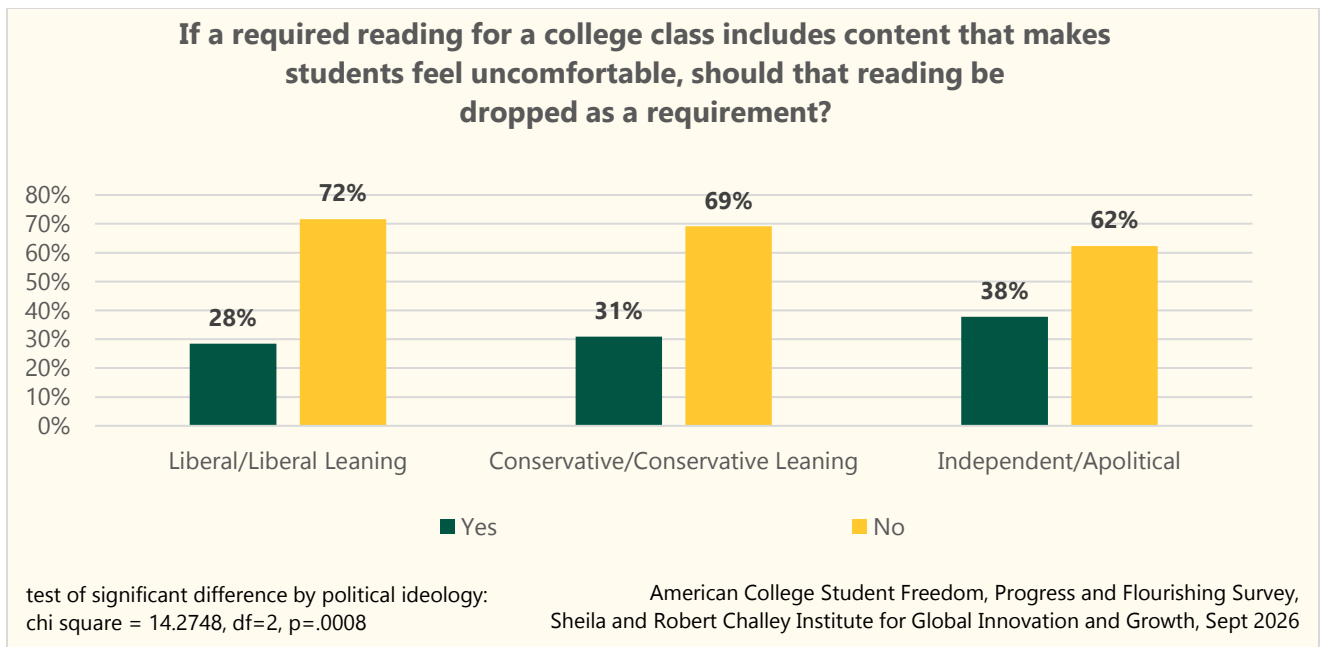


Figure 18: Independent/apolitical students are more in favor of dropping readings that make students feel uncomfortable in comparison to conservative and liberal students.

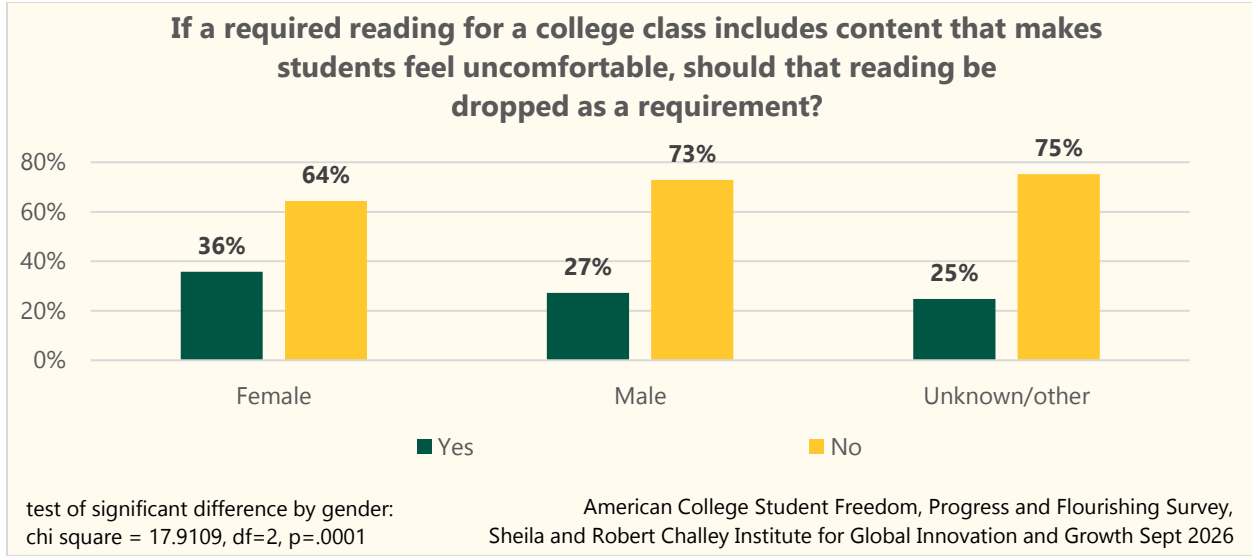


Figure 19: Significant differences in opinions on whether readings that make students uncomfortable should be dropped exist by gender

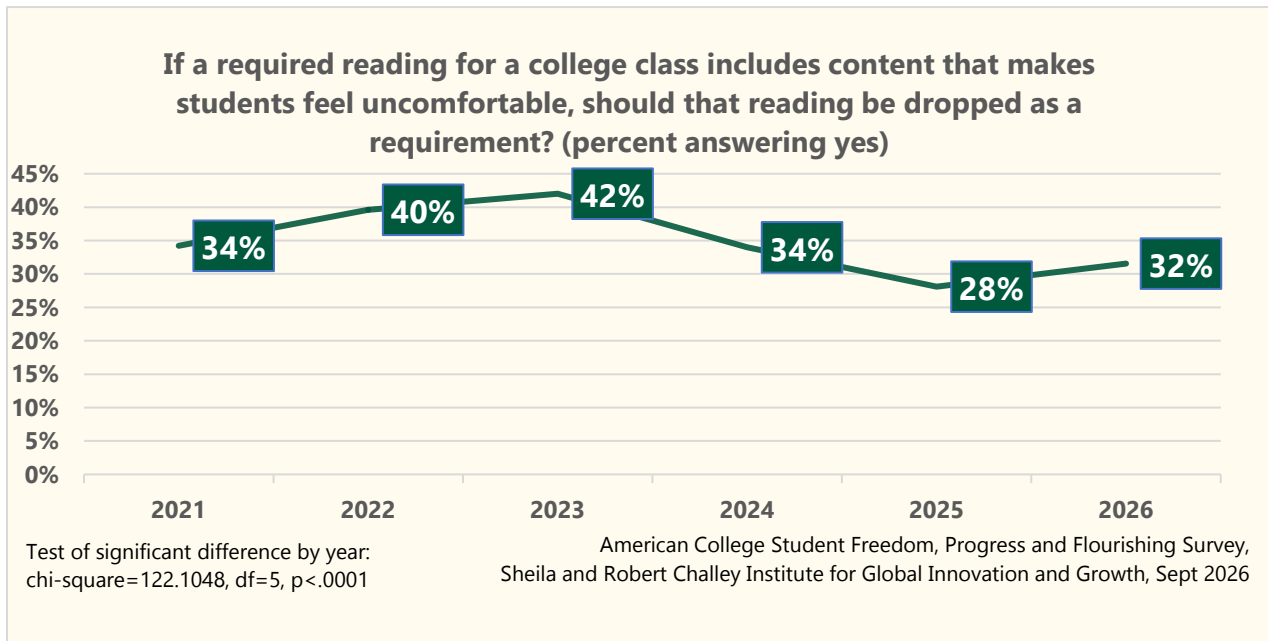


Figure 20: The percent of students in favor of dropping readings that make students uncomfortable dropped from its peak of 42 percent in 2023 to 28 percent in 2025, rebounding somewhat to 32 percent in 2026.

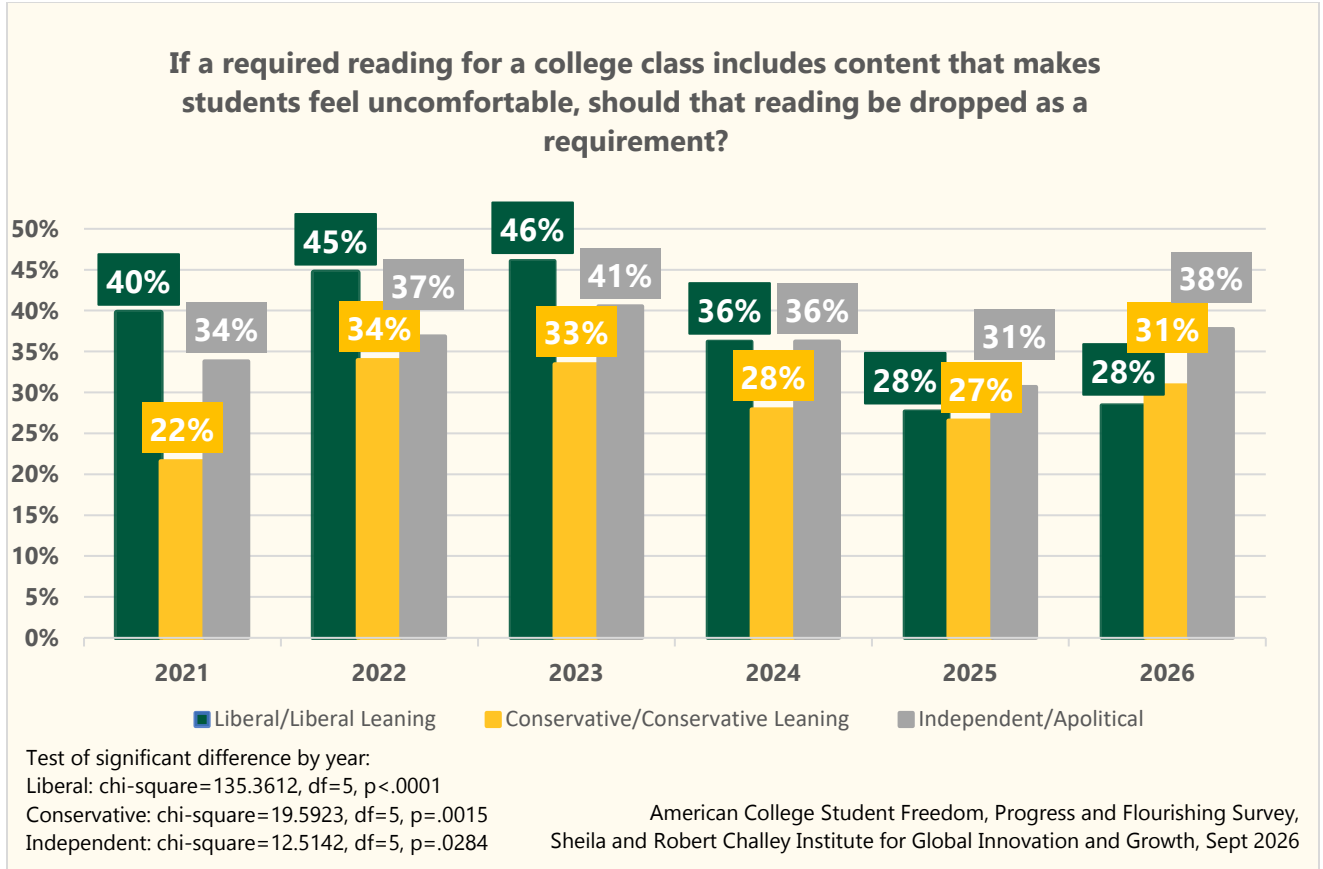


Figure 21: There have been significant changes in student attitudes about dropping readings that make students feel uncomfortable among all political ideologies.

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

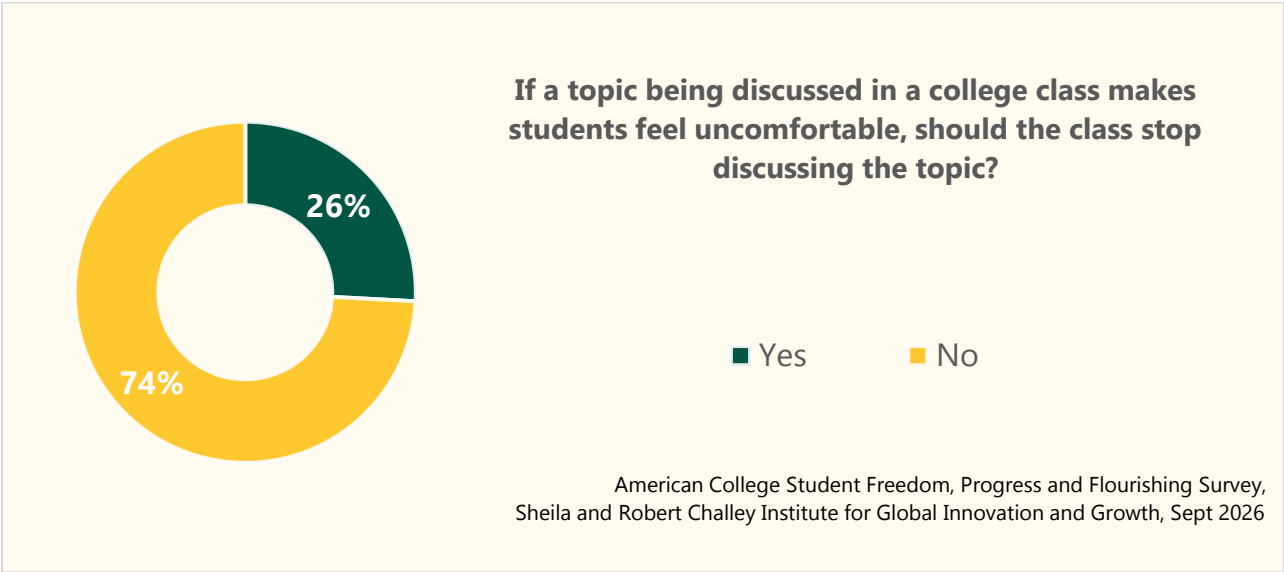


Figure 22: 74 percent of students do not think a course discussion topic should be dropped due to it making students feel uncomfortable.

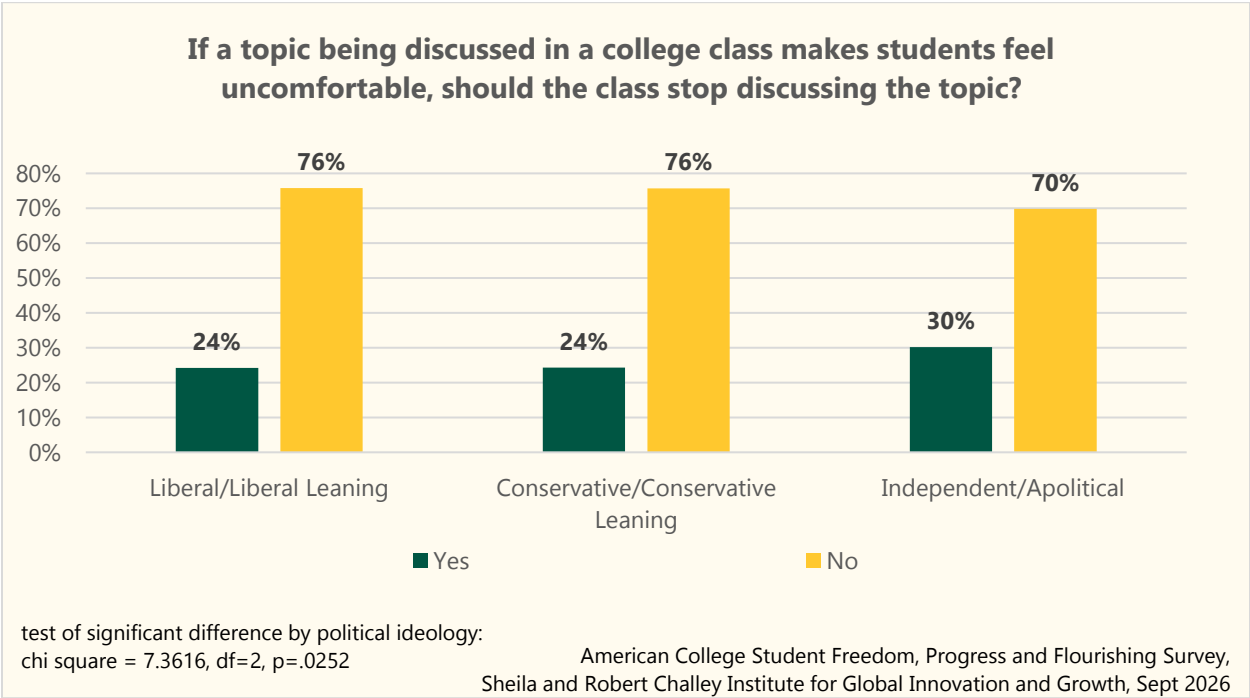


Figure 23: There are not large differences by political ideology in beliefs about whether discussion topics that make students feel uncomfortable should be dropped.

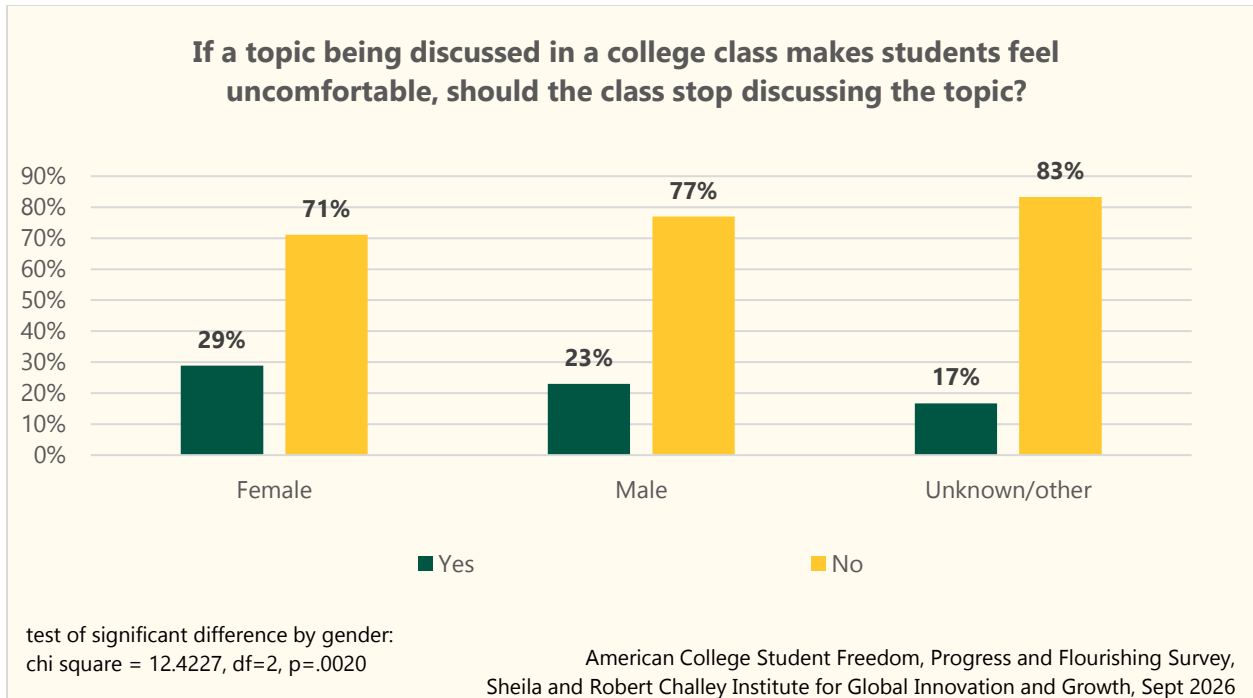


Figure 24: There are significant differences by gender about whether discussion topics that make students feel uncomfortable should be dropped.

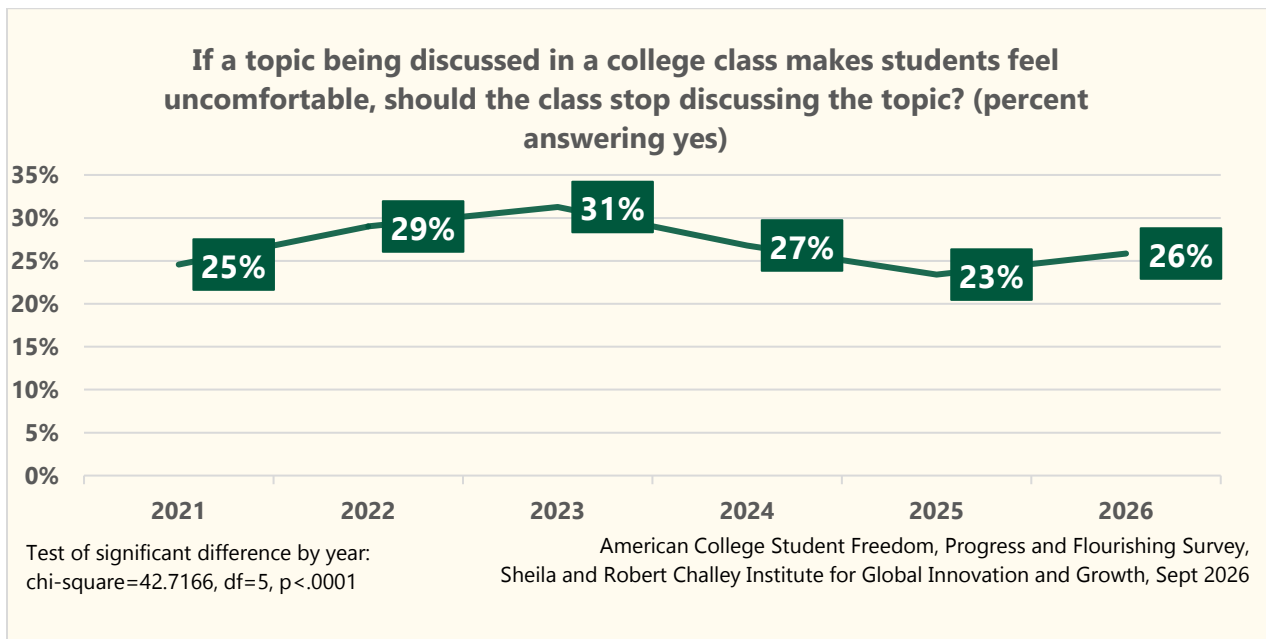


Figure 25: The percent of students in favor of dropping discussion topics that make students feel uncomfortable dropped from 31 percent in 2023 to 23 percent in 2025, rebounding to 26 percent in 2026.

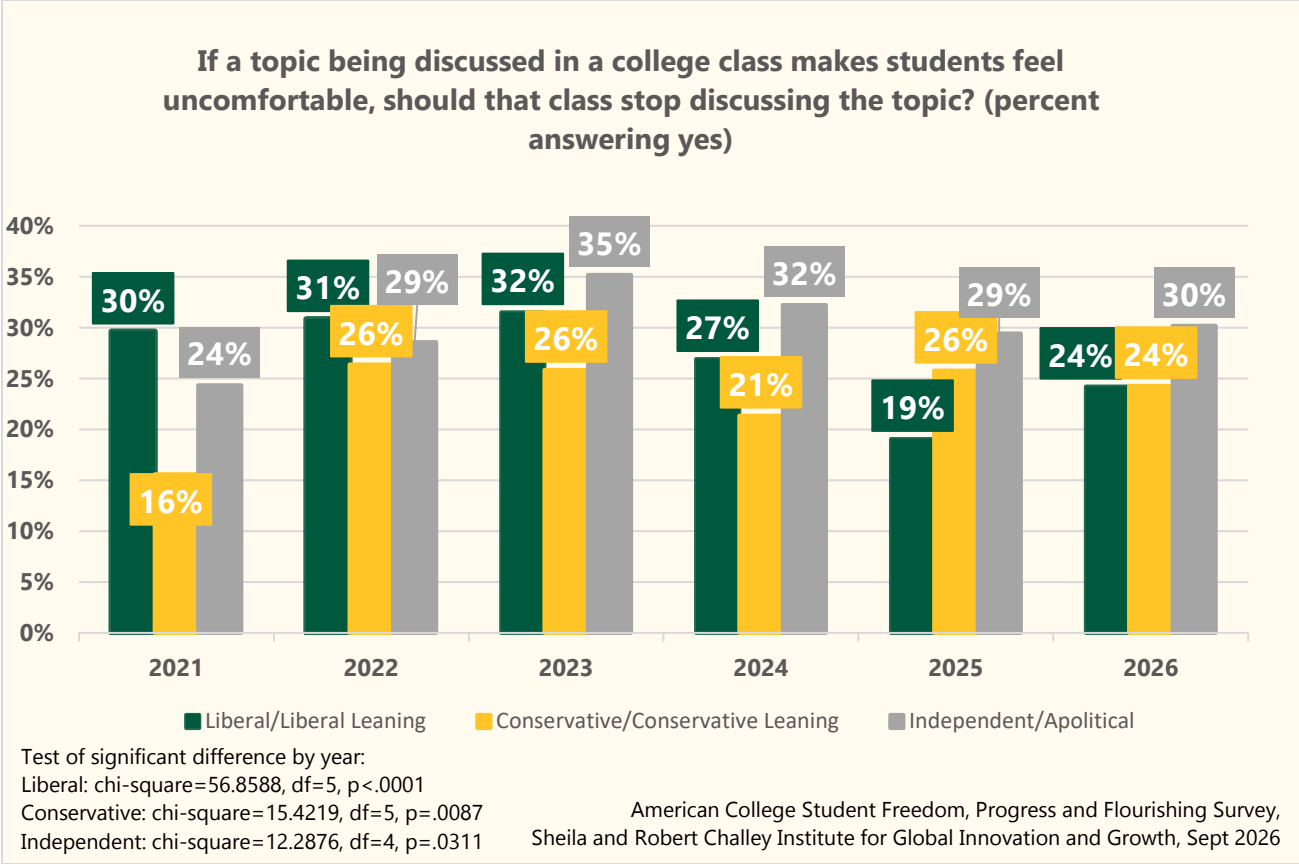


Figure 26: Significant changes in the percent of students in favor of dropping class discussions that make students uncomfortable has occurred for liberal, conservative, and independent students.

Nearly Three-Quarters of Students Say Professors Should be Reported for Making Comments That Students Find Offensive

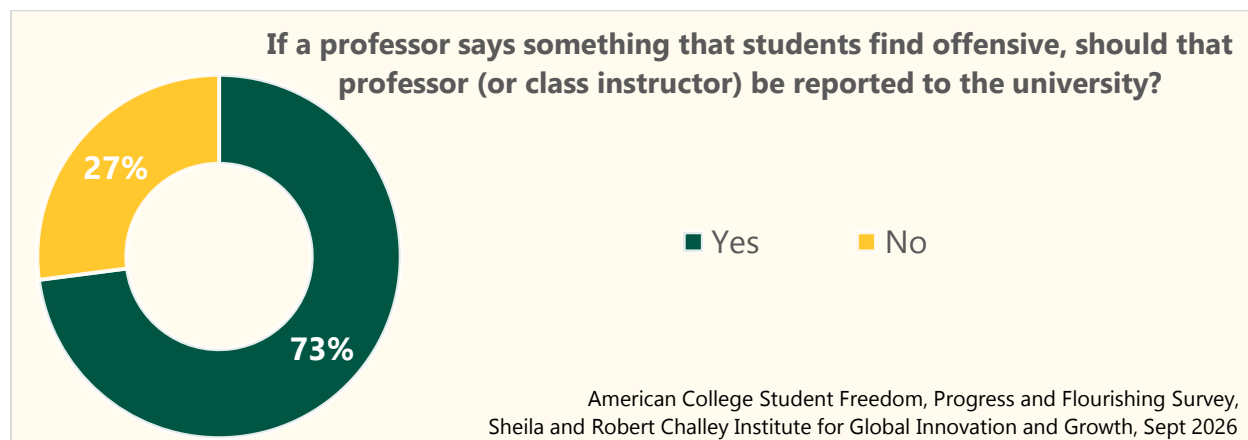


Figure 27: 73 percent of students believe a professor should be reported to the university for saying something students deem offensive

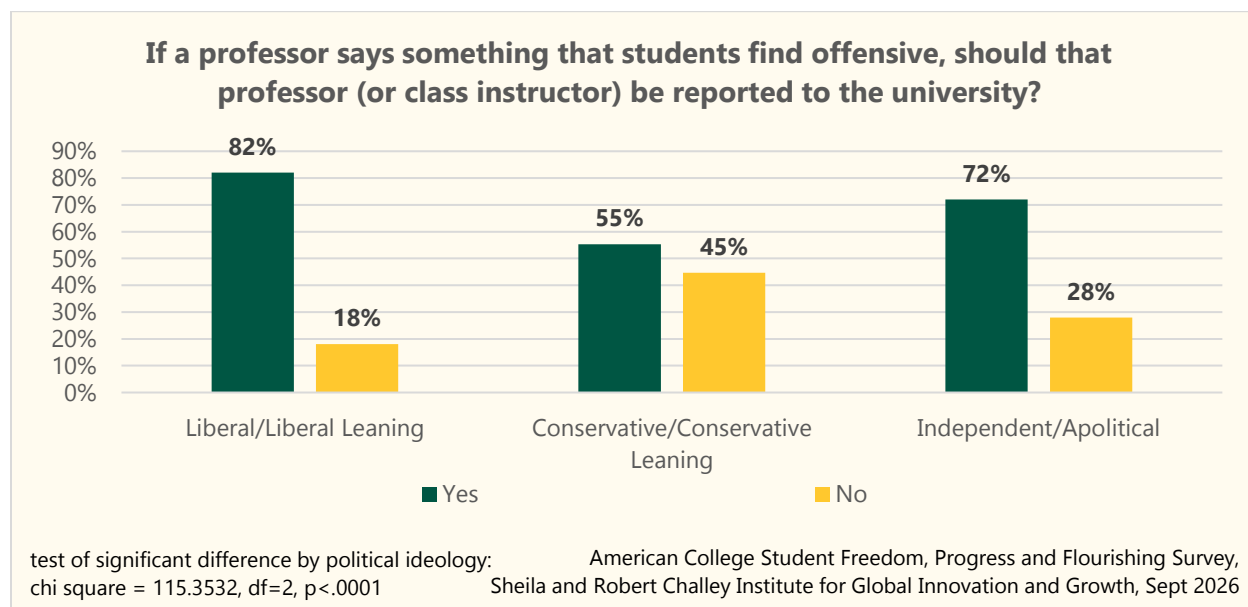


Figure 28: Significant differences exist among students with different political ideologies on whether professors should be reported for saying something students find offensive.

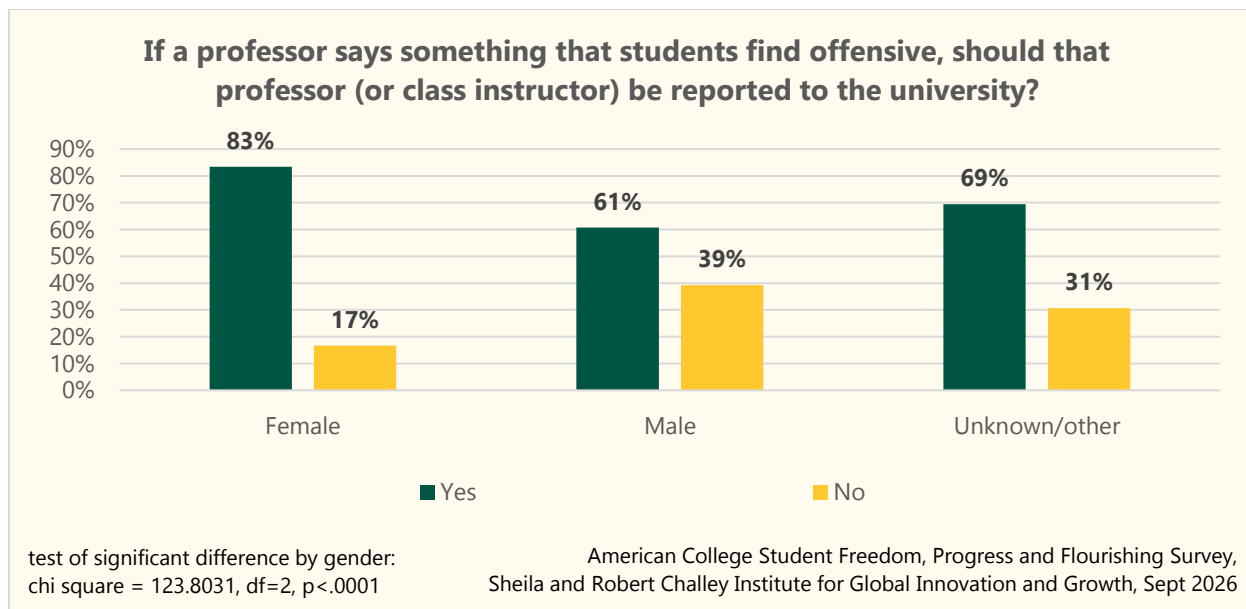


Figure 29: The percent of students in favor of reporting professors for saying something deemed offensive varies significantly by gender.

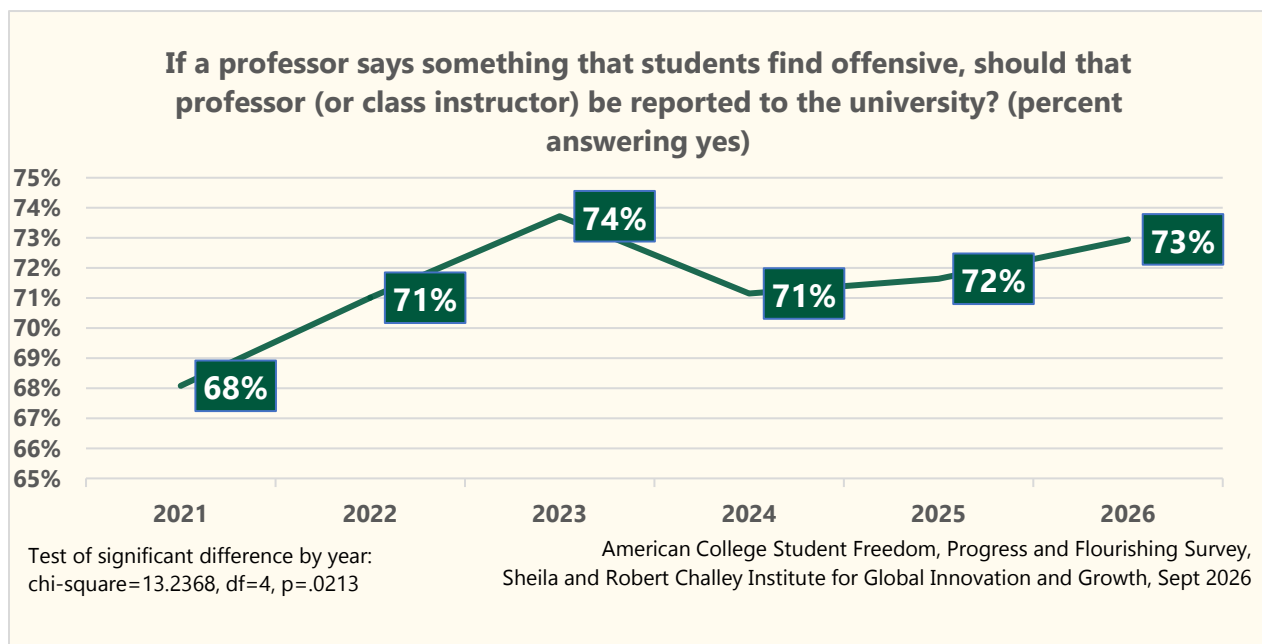


Figure 30: More than two-thirds of students have been in favor of reporting professors for saying something deemed offensive since 2021.

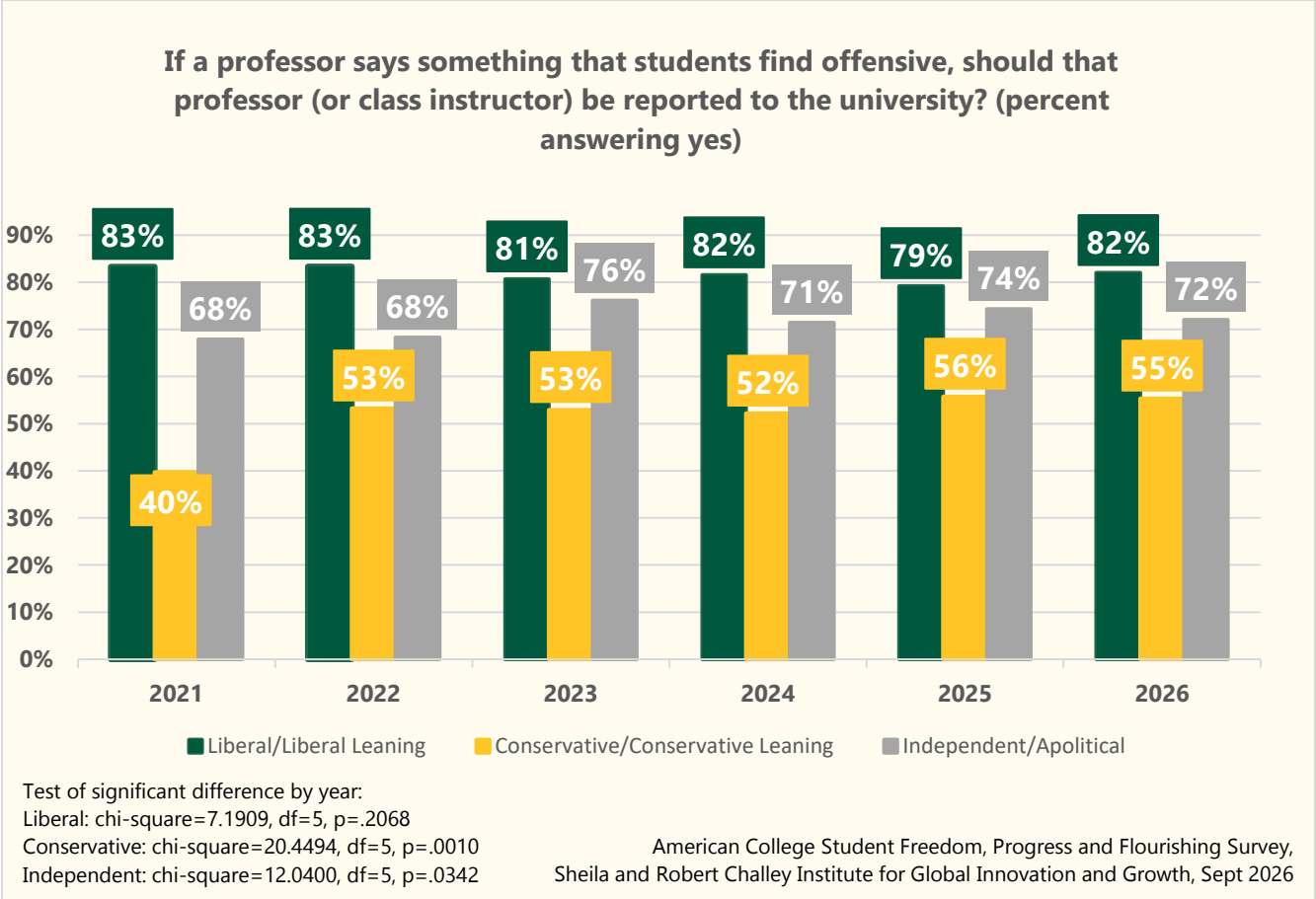


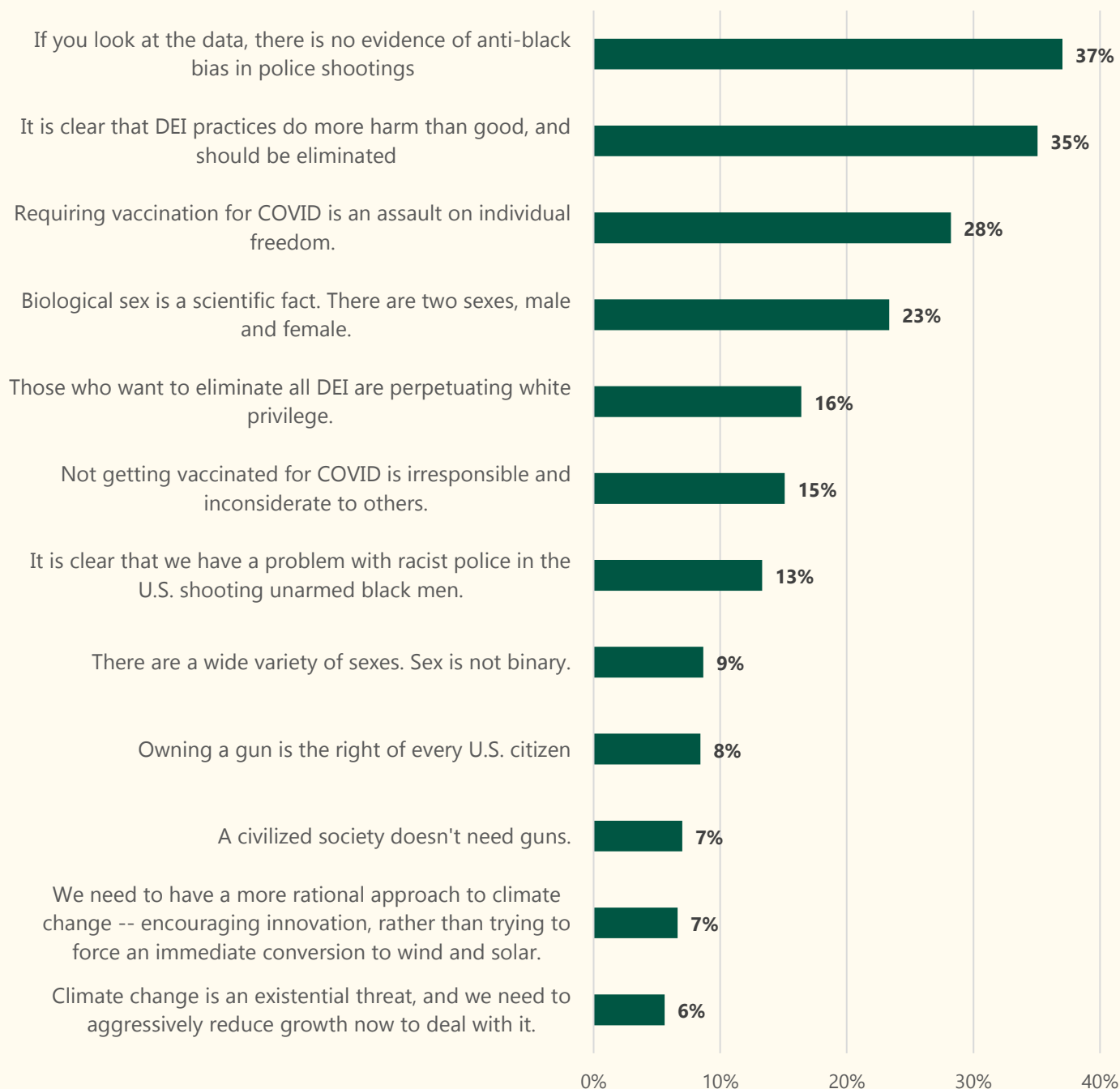
Figure 31: Conservative and independent students are more in favor of reporting professors for saying something deemed offensive than they were in 2021.

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 DEI practices do more harm than good, and should be eliminated.”
- Statement 2: “We need to have a more rational approach to dealing with climate change – encouraging innovation, rather than trying to force an immediate conversion to wind and solar.”
- Statement 3: “If you look at the data, there is no evidence of anti-black bias in police shootings.”
- Statement 4: “Owning a gun is the right of every U.S. citizen.”
- Statement 5: “Biological sex is a scientific fact. There are two sexes, male and female.”
- Statement 6: “Requiring vaccination for COVID is an assault on individual freedom.”
- Statement 7: “Those who want to eliminate all DEI are perpetuating white privilege.”
- Statement 8: “Climate change is an existential threat, and we need to aggressively reduce growth now to deal with it.”
- Statement 9: “It is clear that we have a problem with racist police in the U.S. shooting unarmed black men.”
- Statement 10: “A civilized society doesn’t need guns.”
- Statement 11: “There are a wide variety of sexes. Sex is not binary.”
- Statement 12: “Not getting vaccinated for COVID is irresponsible and inconsiderate to others.”

Which of the following statements should a professor (or class instructor) be reported for?



American College Student Freedom, Progress and Flourishing Survey,
Sheila and Robert Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth, Sept 2026

Figure 32: Percent of all students who believe professors should be reported for these statements (total answering divided by the full sample of 1,999).

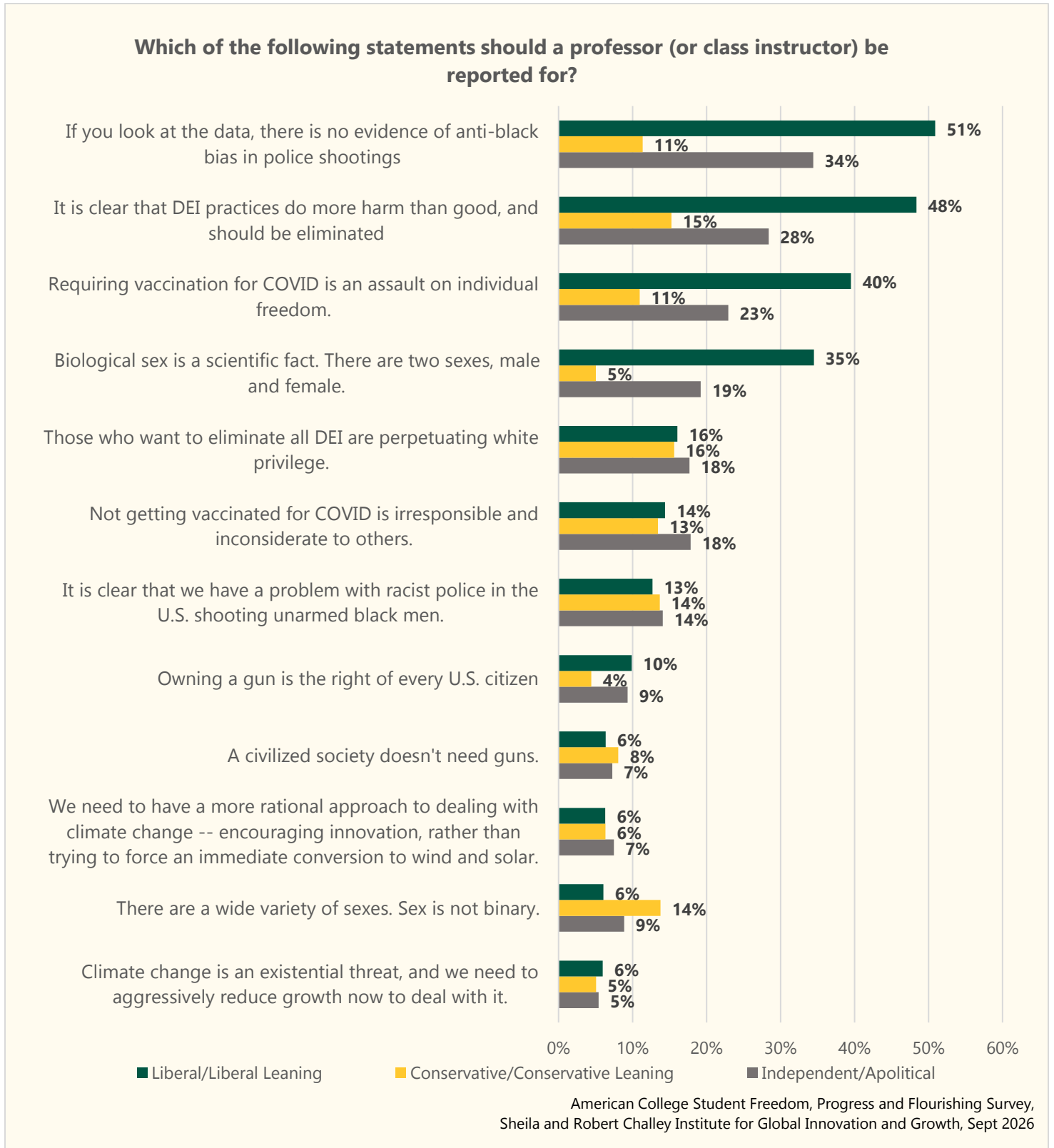
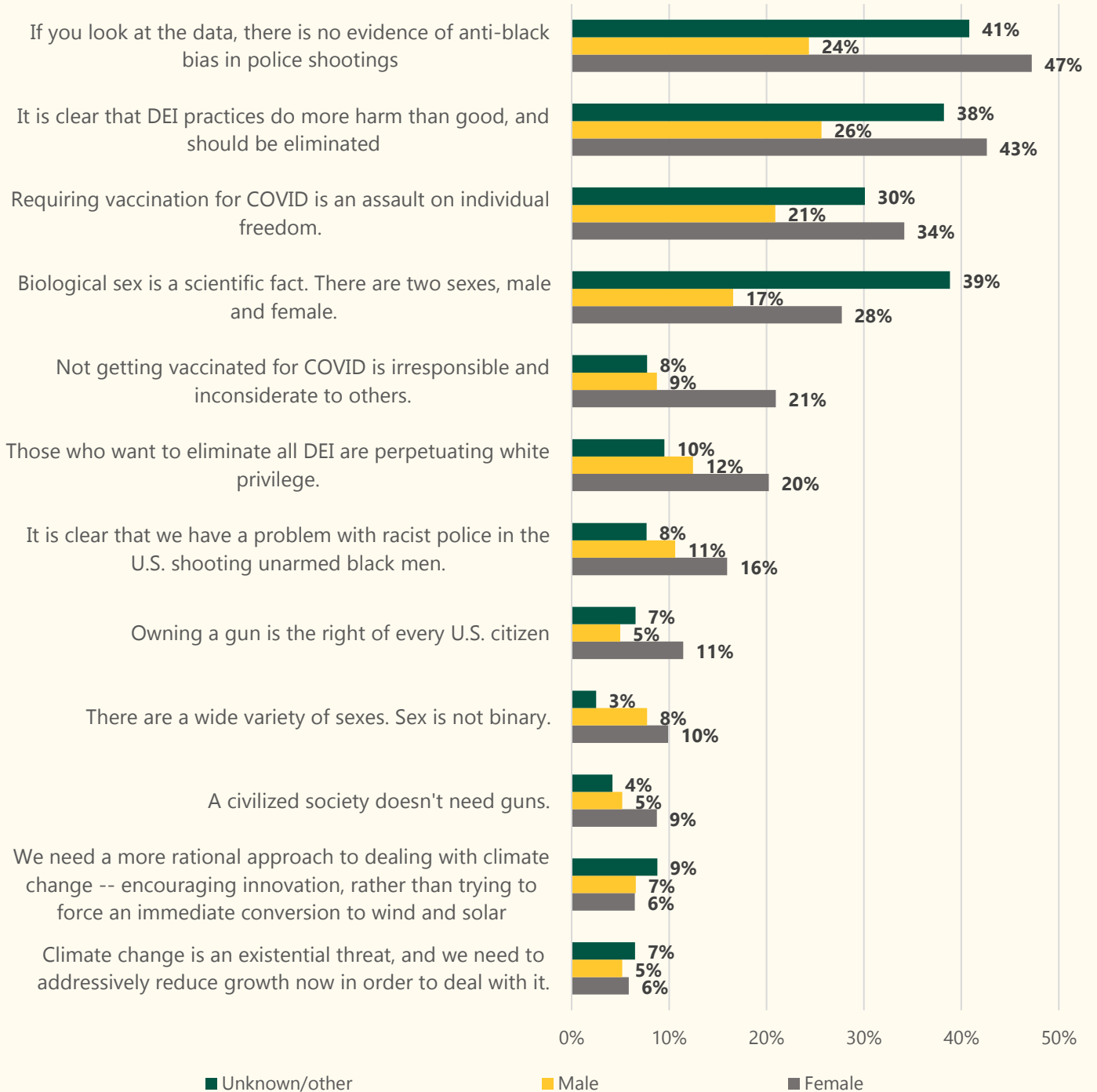


Figure 33: Percent of all liberal, conservative, and independent students who are in favor of reporting professors for various statements.

Which of the following statements should a professor (or class instructor) be reported for?



American College Student Freedom, Progress and Flourishing Survey,
Sheila and Robert Challey Institute for Global Innovation and Growth, Sept 2026

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

Two-Thirds of Students Are in Favor of Reporting Professors for Disfavored Opinions or Facts

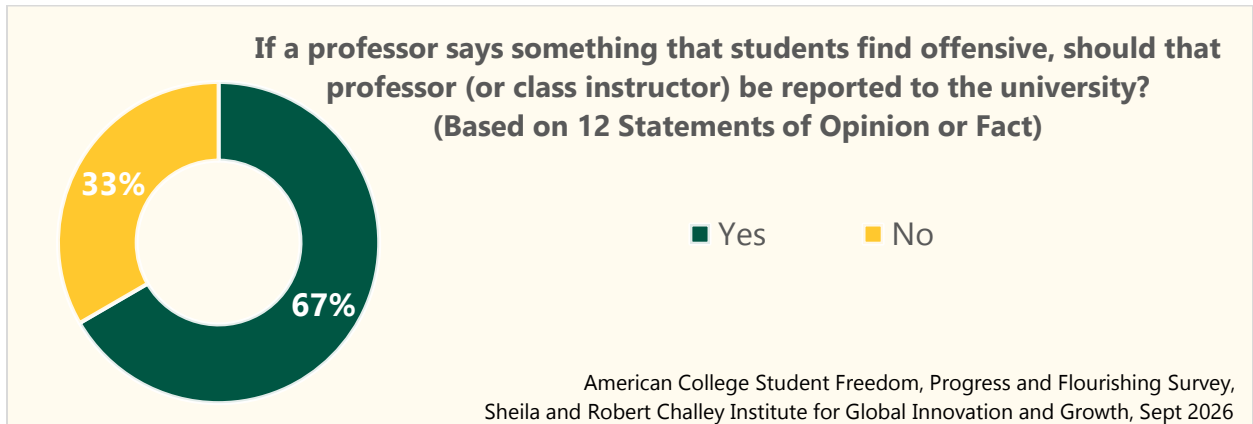


Figure 35: 67 percent of students believe a professor should be reported to the university for making a statement on DEI, climate change, police shootings, guns, sex/gender, or vaccines that they disagree with.

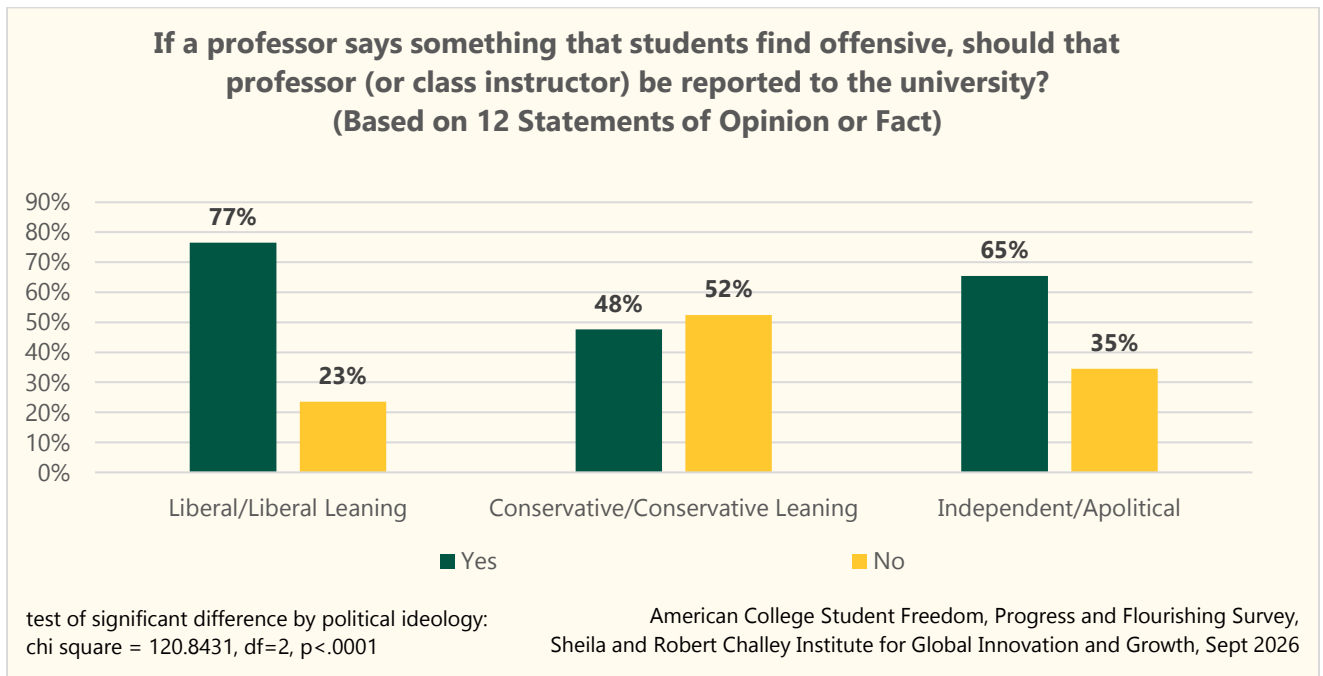


Figure 36: Significant differences exist among students with different political ideologies in whether they believe professors should be reported for statements related to DEI, climate change, police shootings, guns, sex/gender, and vaccines.

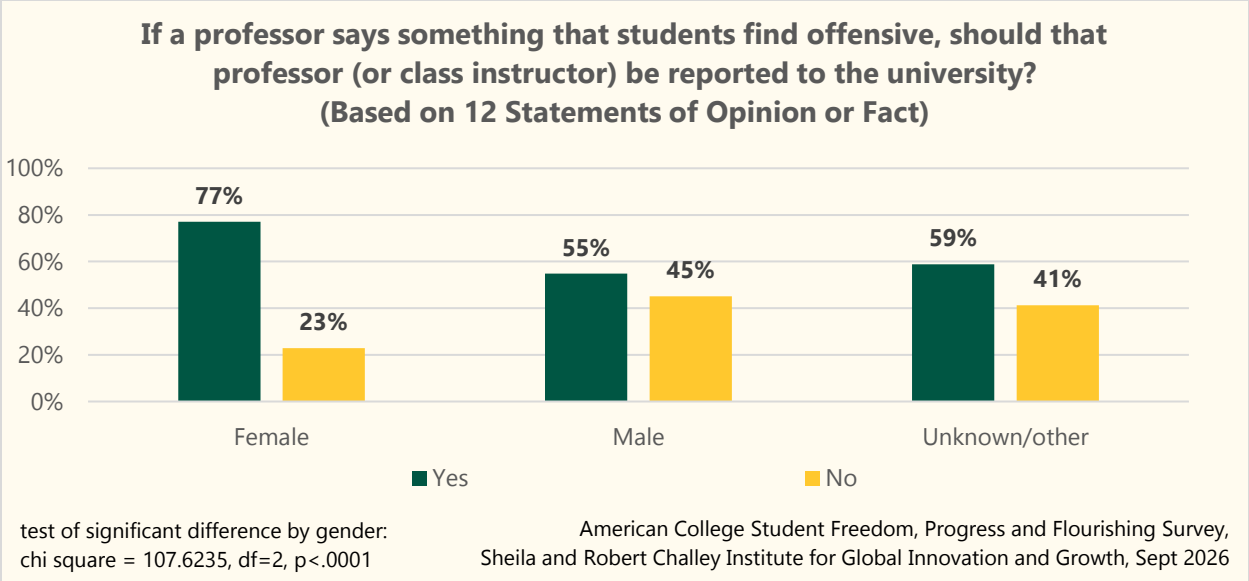


Figure 37: There are significant differences by gender on student opinions of whether a professor should be reported for one of these statements of opinion or fact.

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

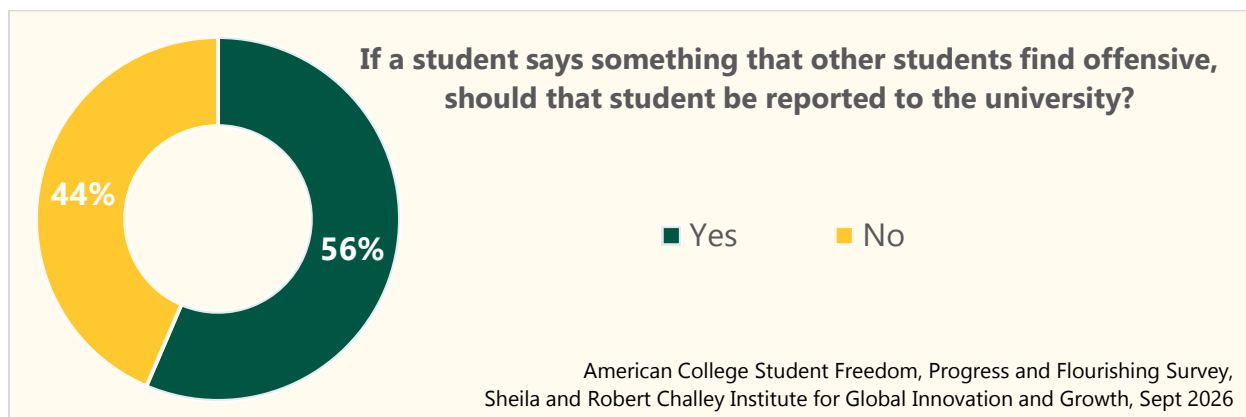


Figure 38: 56 percent of students believe another student should be reported for saying something that is deemed offensive.

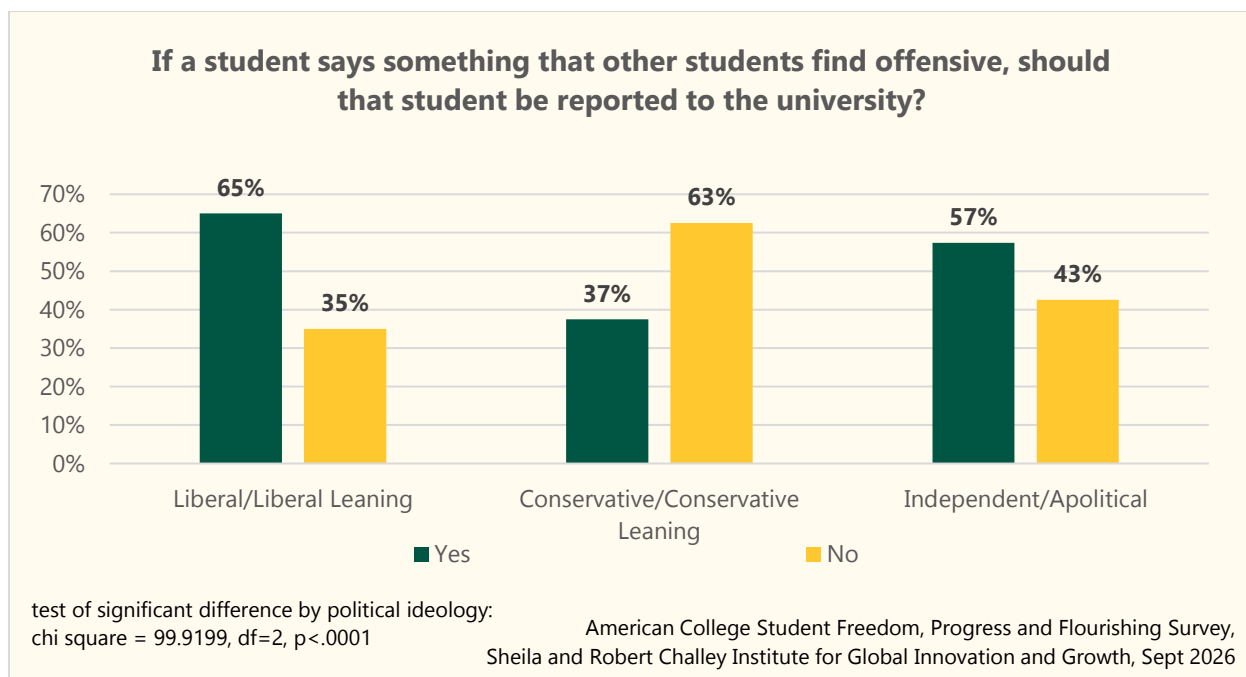


Figure 39: Students with different political ideologies have significantly different views about reporting students who say something deemed offensive.

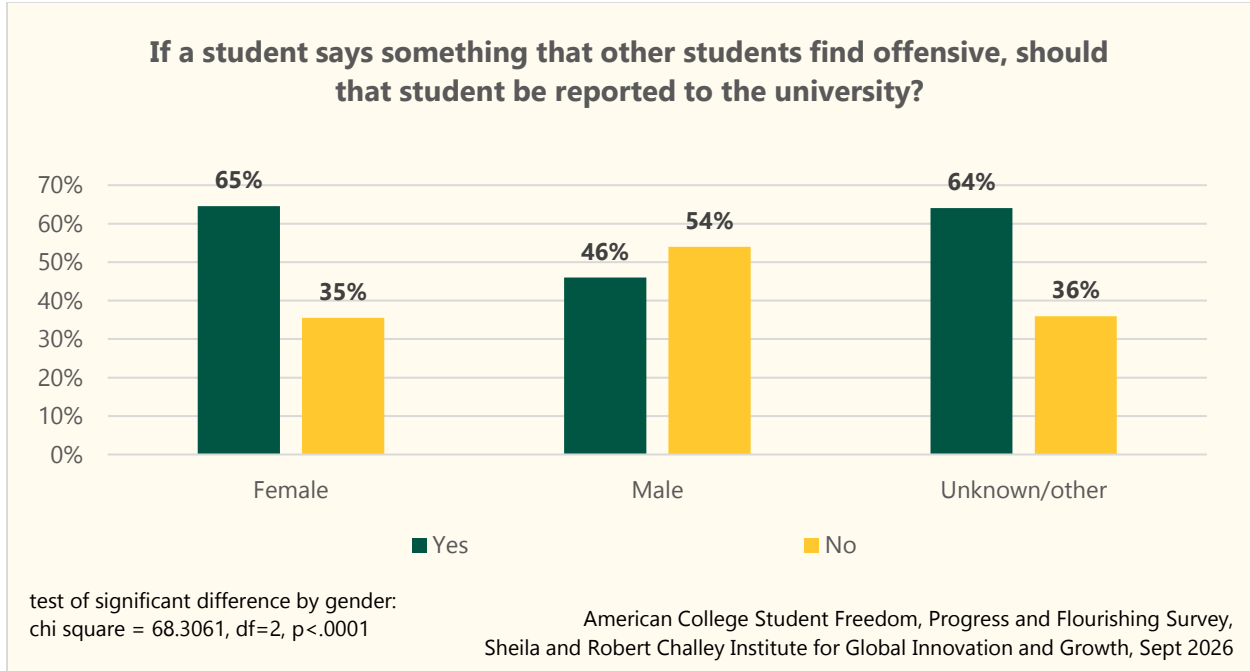


Figure 40: Female, male, and unknown/other students have significantly different opinions on whether students who say something deemed offensive should be reported.

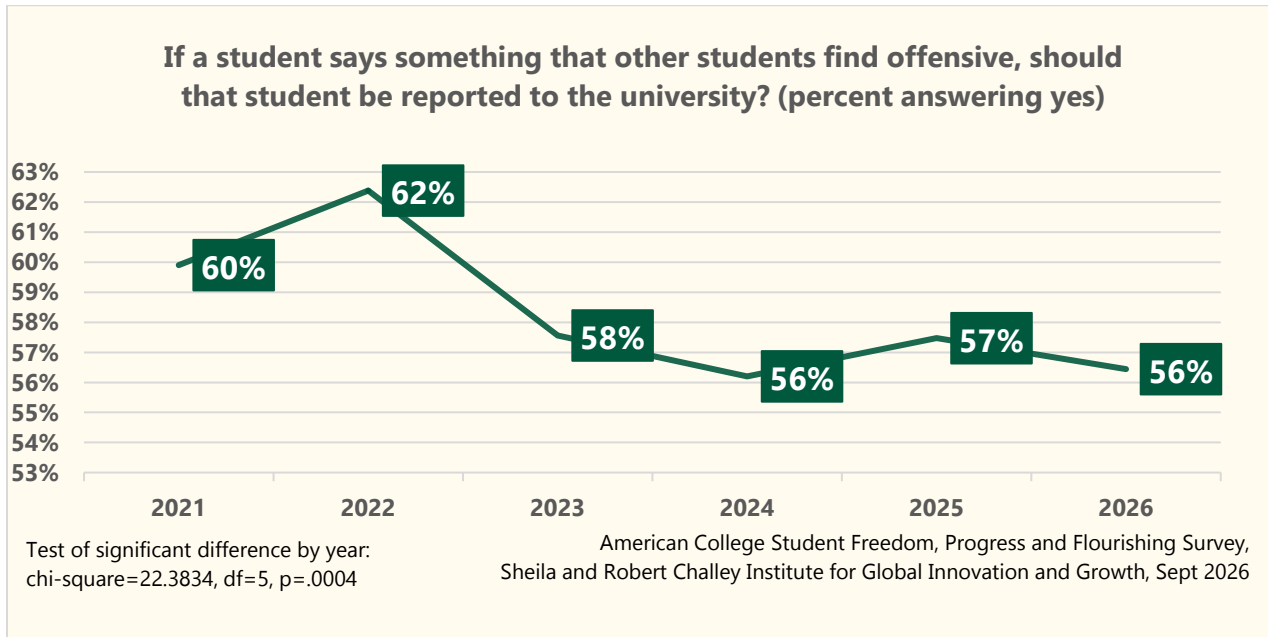


Figure 41: The percent of students in favor of reporting other students who say something deemed offensive has dropped from its peak in 2022, but remained stable for the last four years.

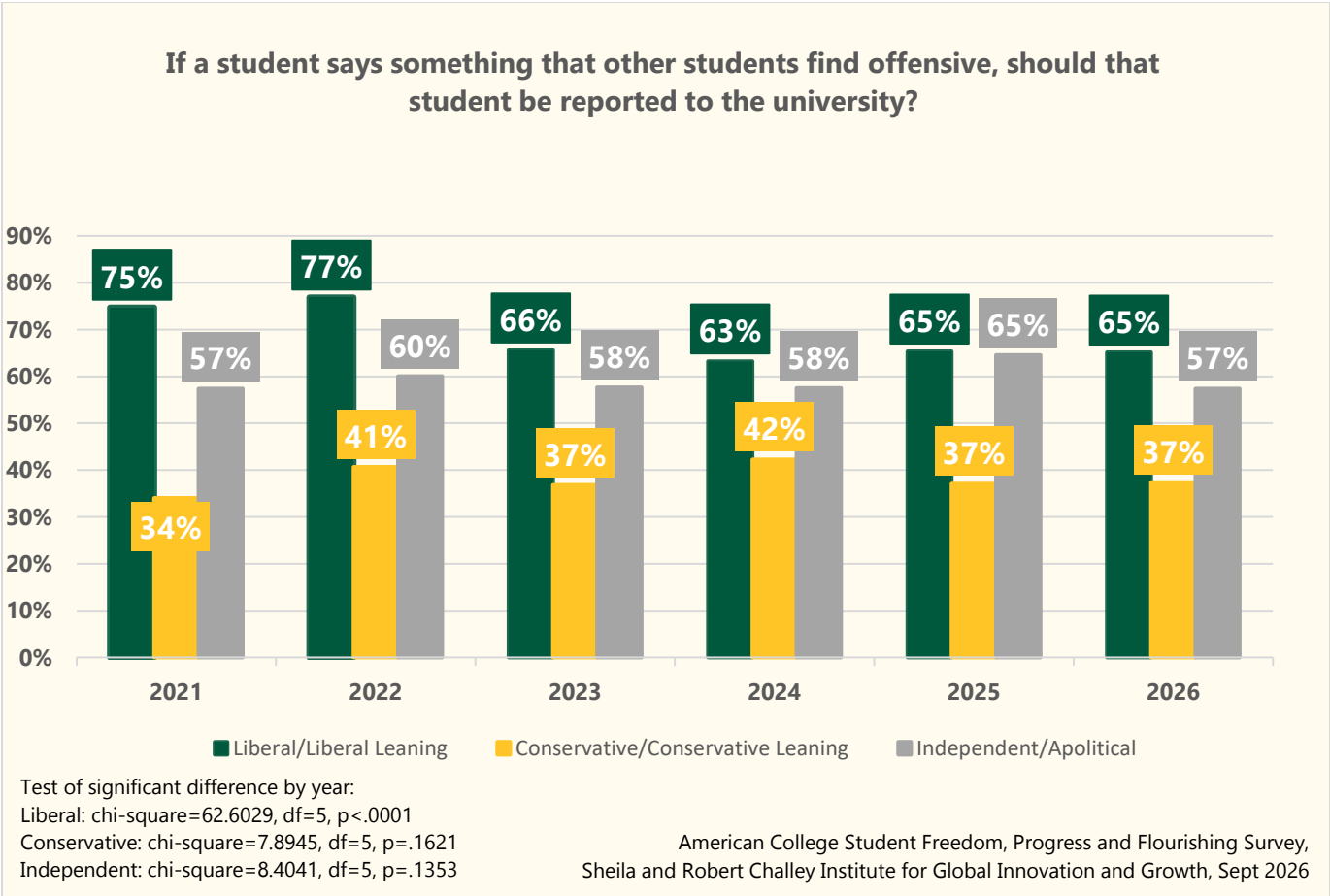


Figure 42: The percentage of liberal students in favor of reporting other students who say something deemed offensive has significantly decreased since 2022, but has remained stable for the last four years.

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



Figure 43: 66 percent of students say protecting free speech is more important than ensuring everyone feels comfortable.

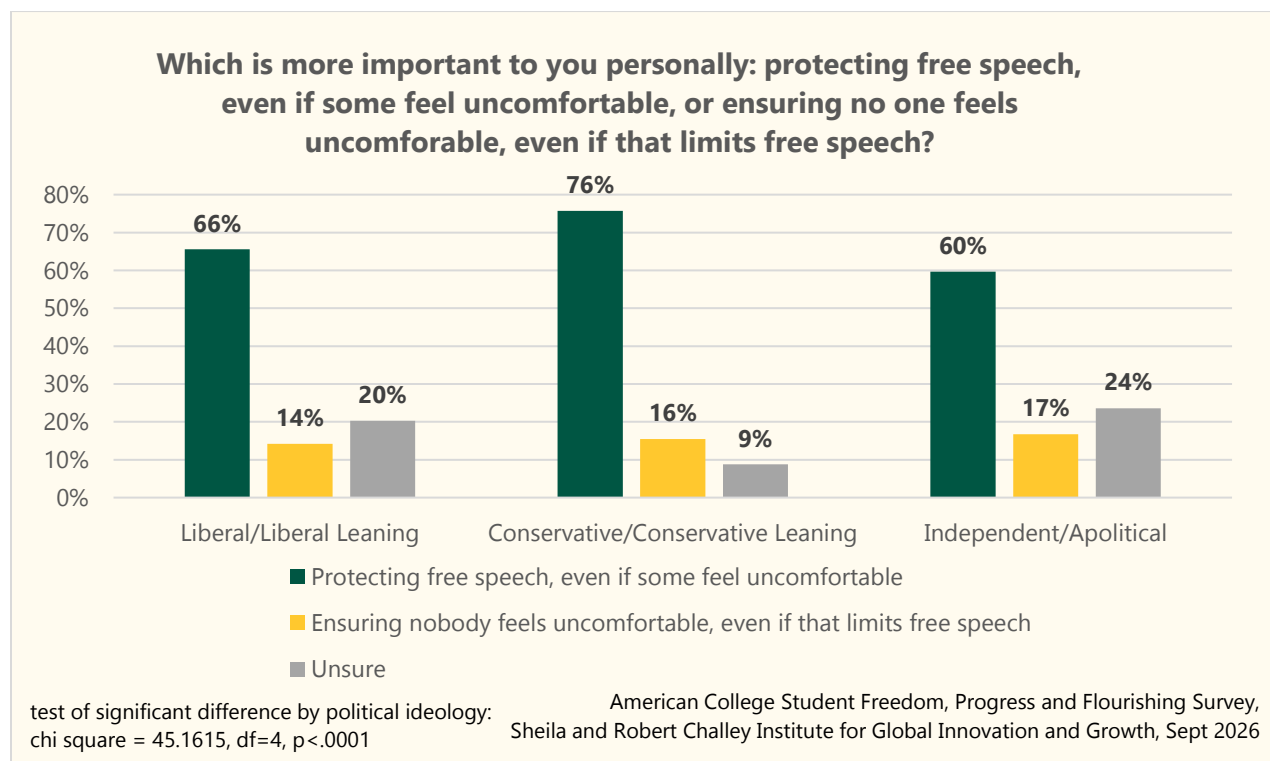


Figure 44: While most students believe protecting free speech is more important than ensuring comfort, there are significant differences among liberal, conservative, and independent students.

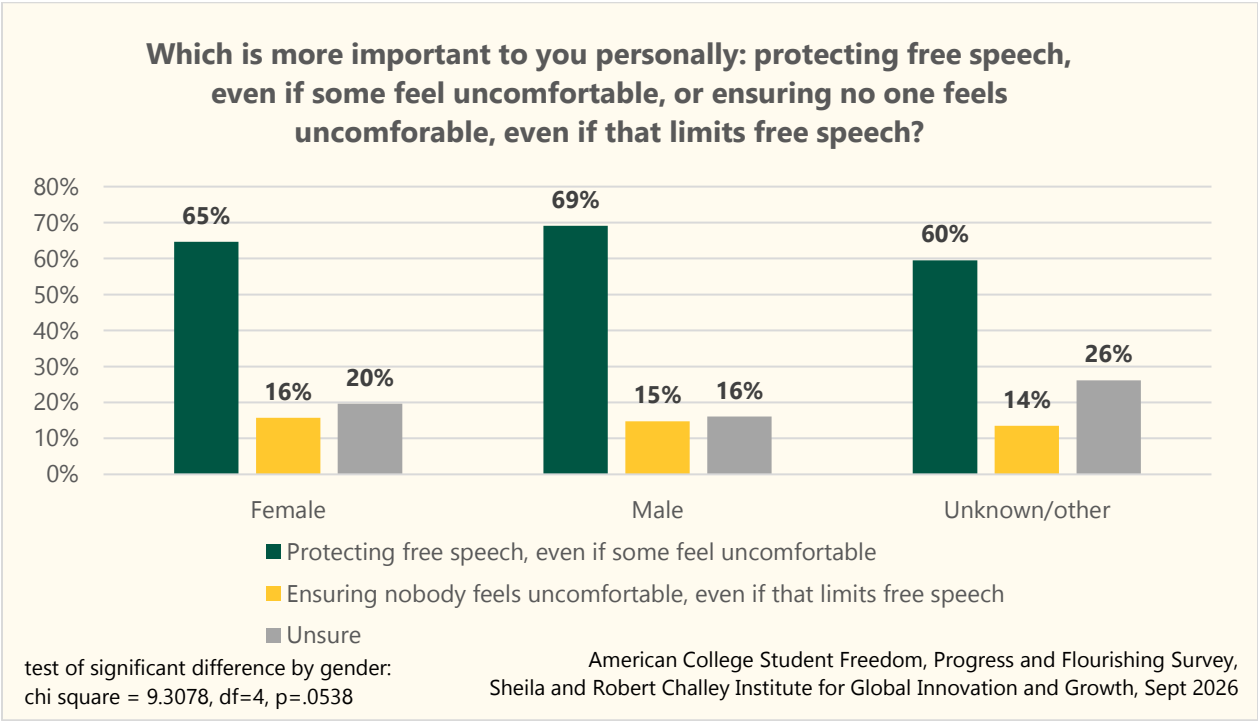


Figure 45: Female, male, and unknown/other students all say that protecting free speech is more important than making people feel comfortable.

Nearly 60 Percent of Students Say That it is Acceptable to Shout Down a Speaker Who Comes to Campus to Speak on a Controversial Topic Related to Police Shootings, Vaccines, and Sex/Gender



Figure 46: 58 percent of students say it is acceptable to shout down a speaker who comes to campus to speak on a controversial topic.

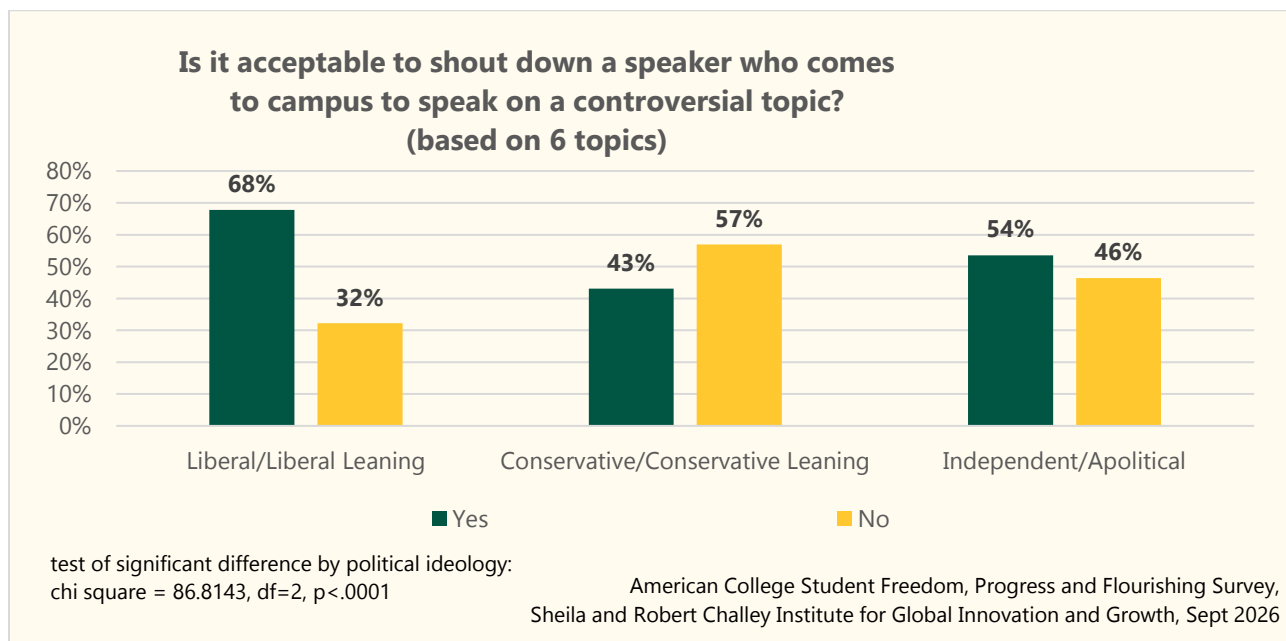


Figure 47: There are significant differences by political ideology on whether it is acceptable to shout down speakers.

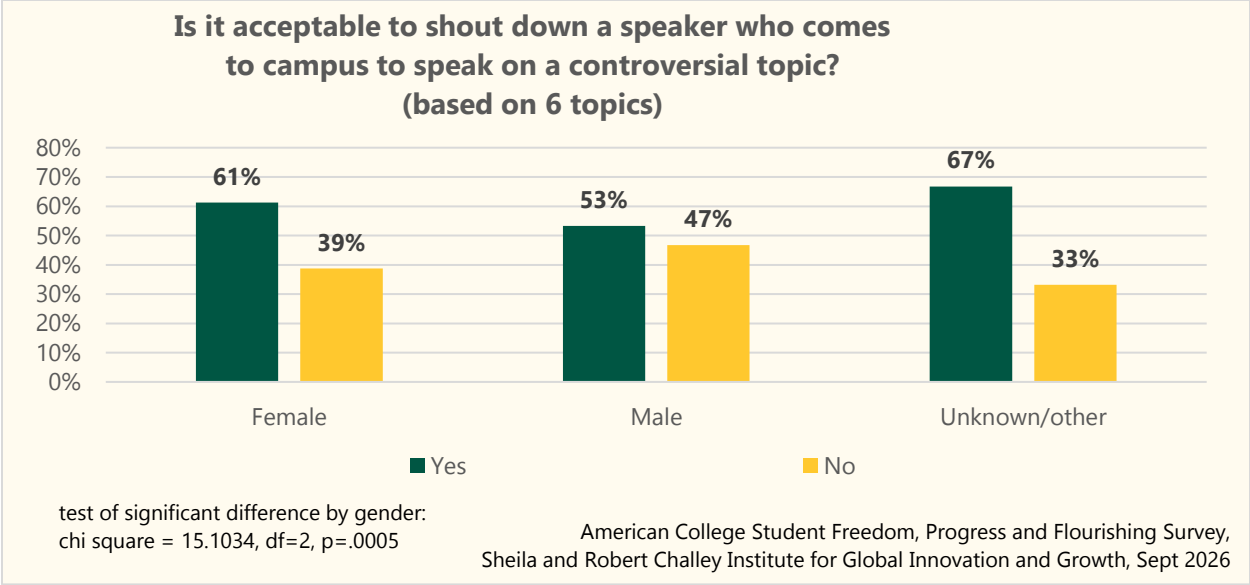


Figure 48: Significant differences exist by gender in whether students believe it is acceptable to shout down controversial speakers.

42 Percent of Students Believe it is Acceptable to Block a Speaker who Comes to Campus to Speak on a Controversial Topic from Entering the Auditorium (speaking on police shootings, vaccines, or sex/gender)

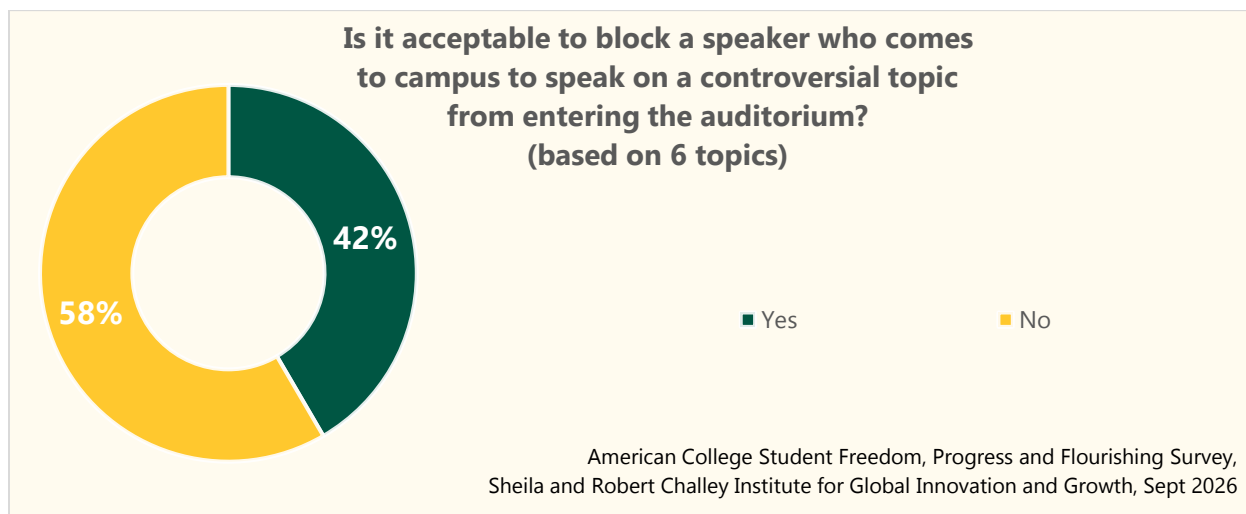


Figure 49: 42 percent of students believe it is acceptable to block a controversial speaker from entering the auditorium.

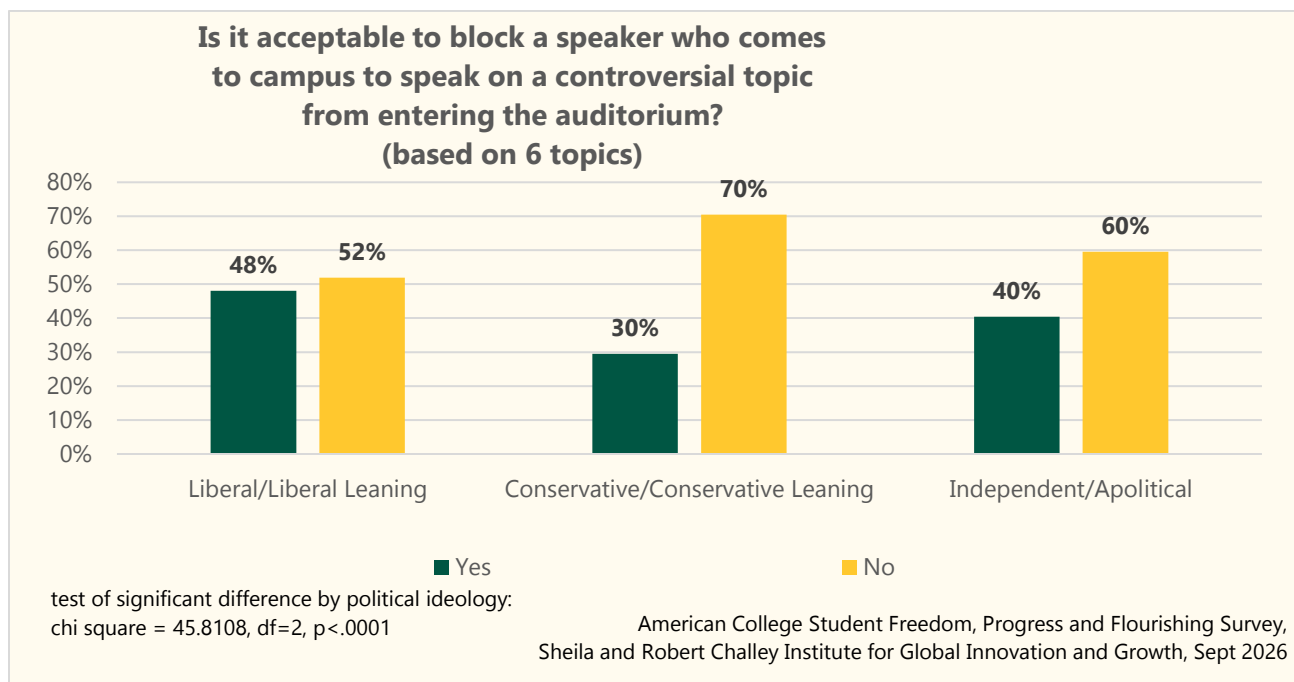


Figure 50: Significant differences by political ideology exist on beliefs of whether it is acceptable to block controversial speakers from entering the auditorium.

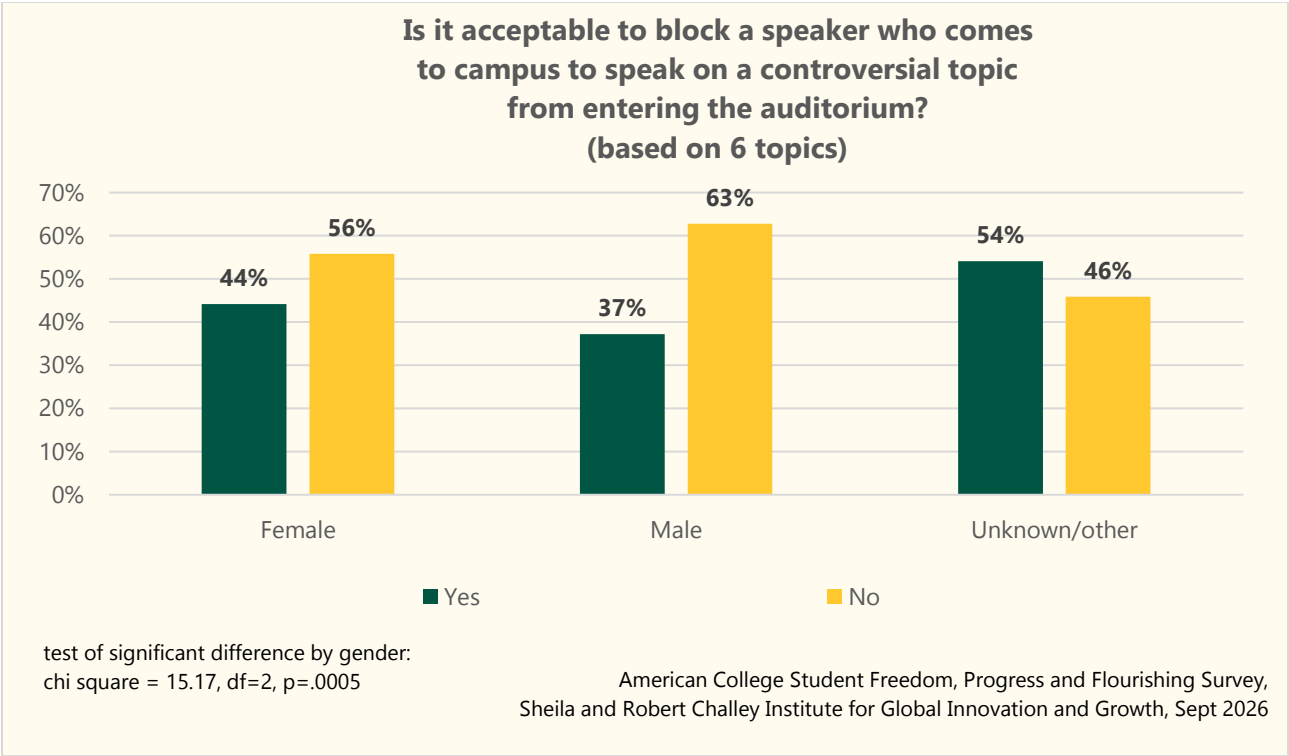


Figure 51: Significant differences by gender exist on beliefs of whether it is acceptable to block a controversial speaker from entering the auditorium.

13 Percent of Students Believe it is Okay to Use Violence to Stop a Controversial Speaker from Speaking on Police Shootings, Vaccines, or Sex/Gender



Figure 52: 13 percent of students believe it is acceptable to use violence to prevent a controversial speaker from speaking on campus.

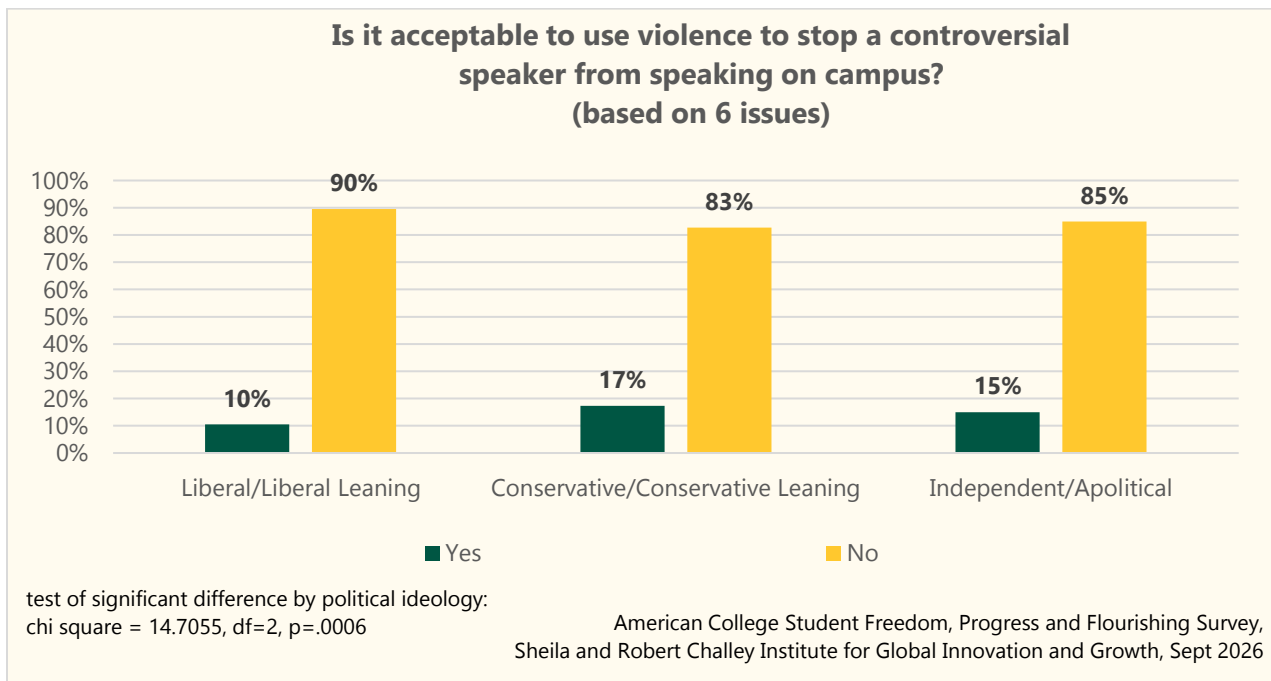


Figure 53: Student beliefs on whether it is acceptable to use violence to stop a controversial speaker vary by political ideology.

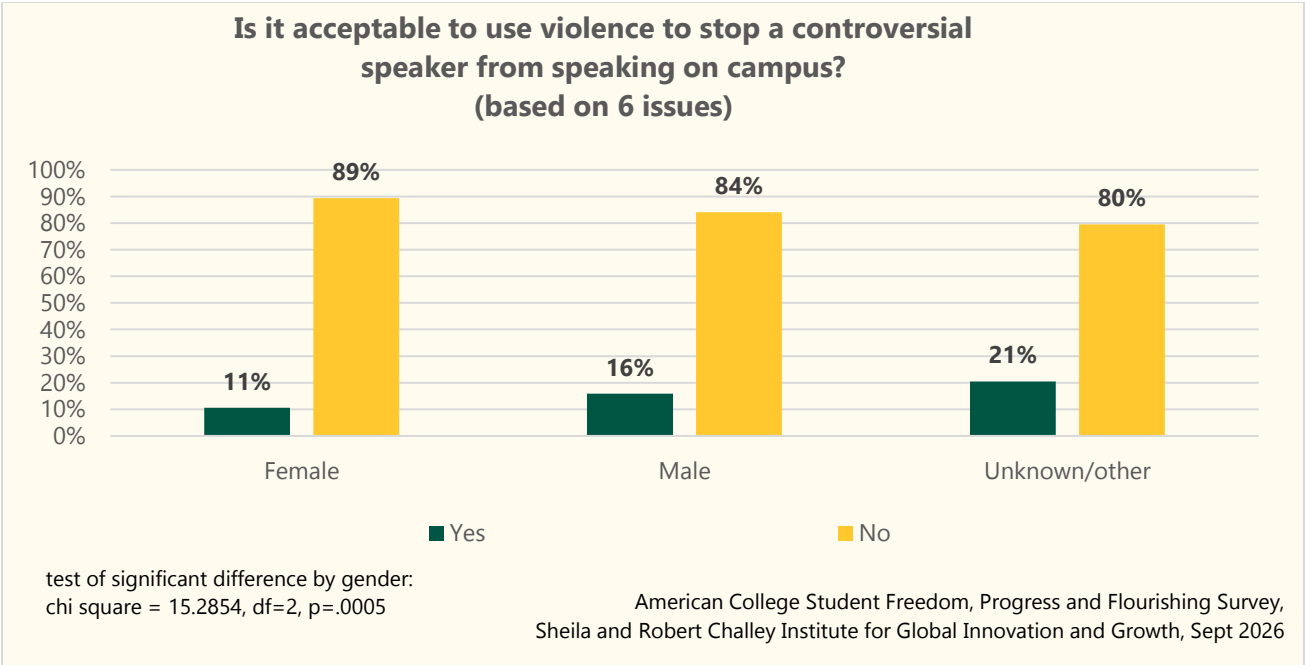


Figure 54: Student beliefs on whether it is acceptable to use violence to prevent a controversial speaker from speaking vary significantly by gender.

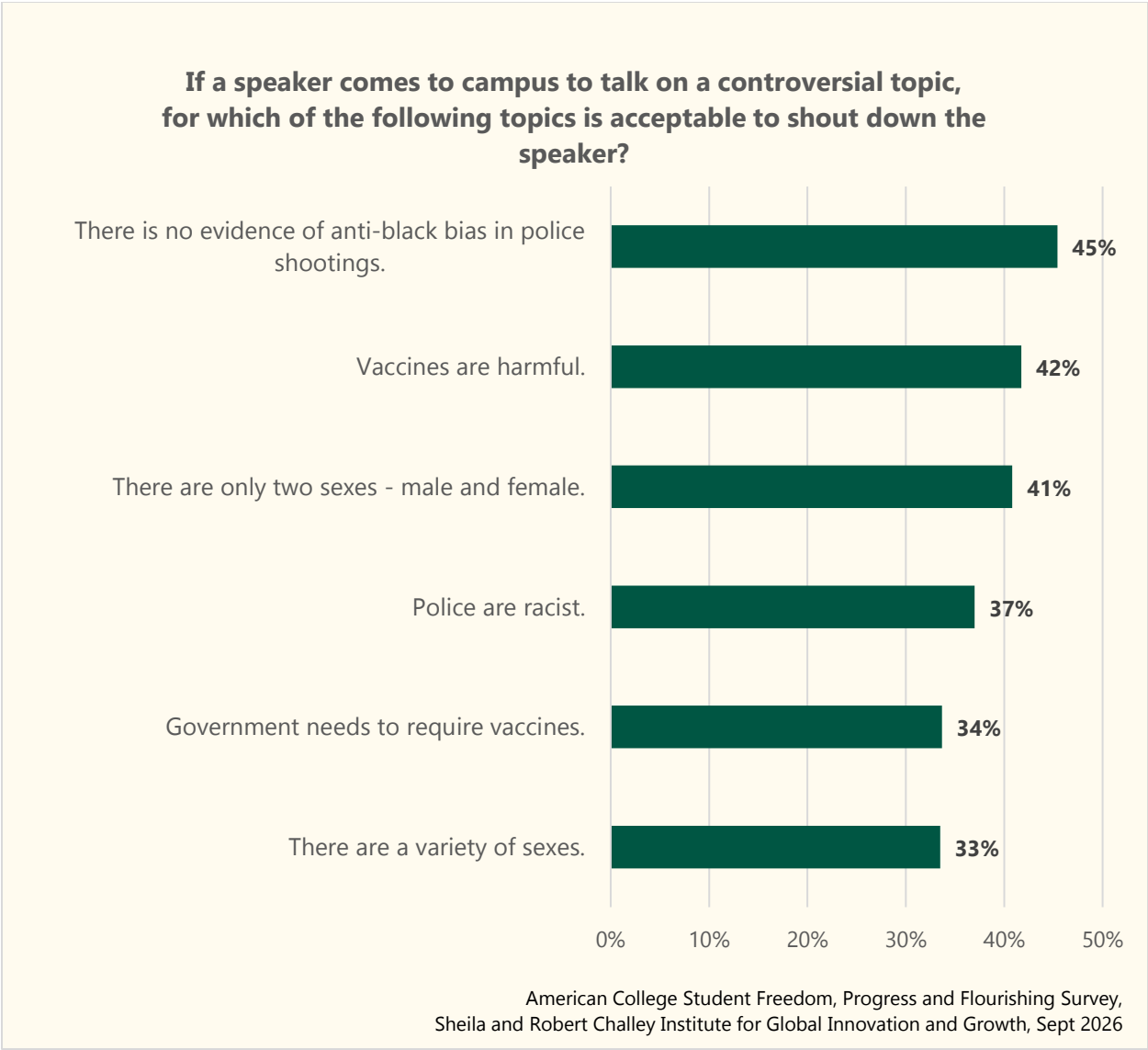


Figure 55: Percent of all students who believe it is acceptable to shout down speakers who are making the arguments above.

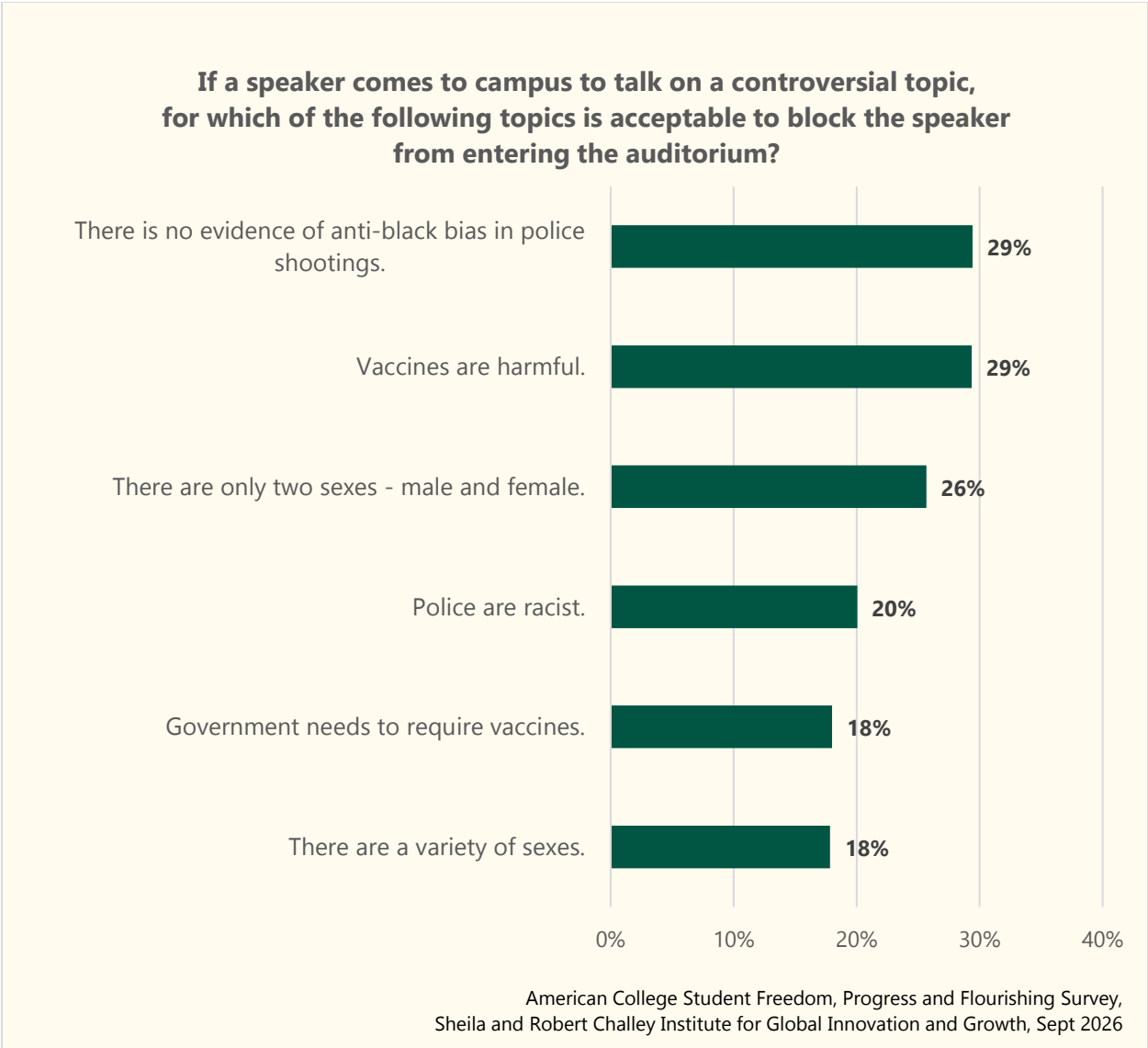


Figure 56: Percent of all students who believe it is acceptable to block speakers from entering the auditorium, when they are making the arguments above.

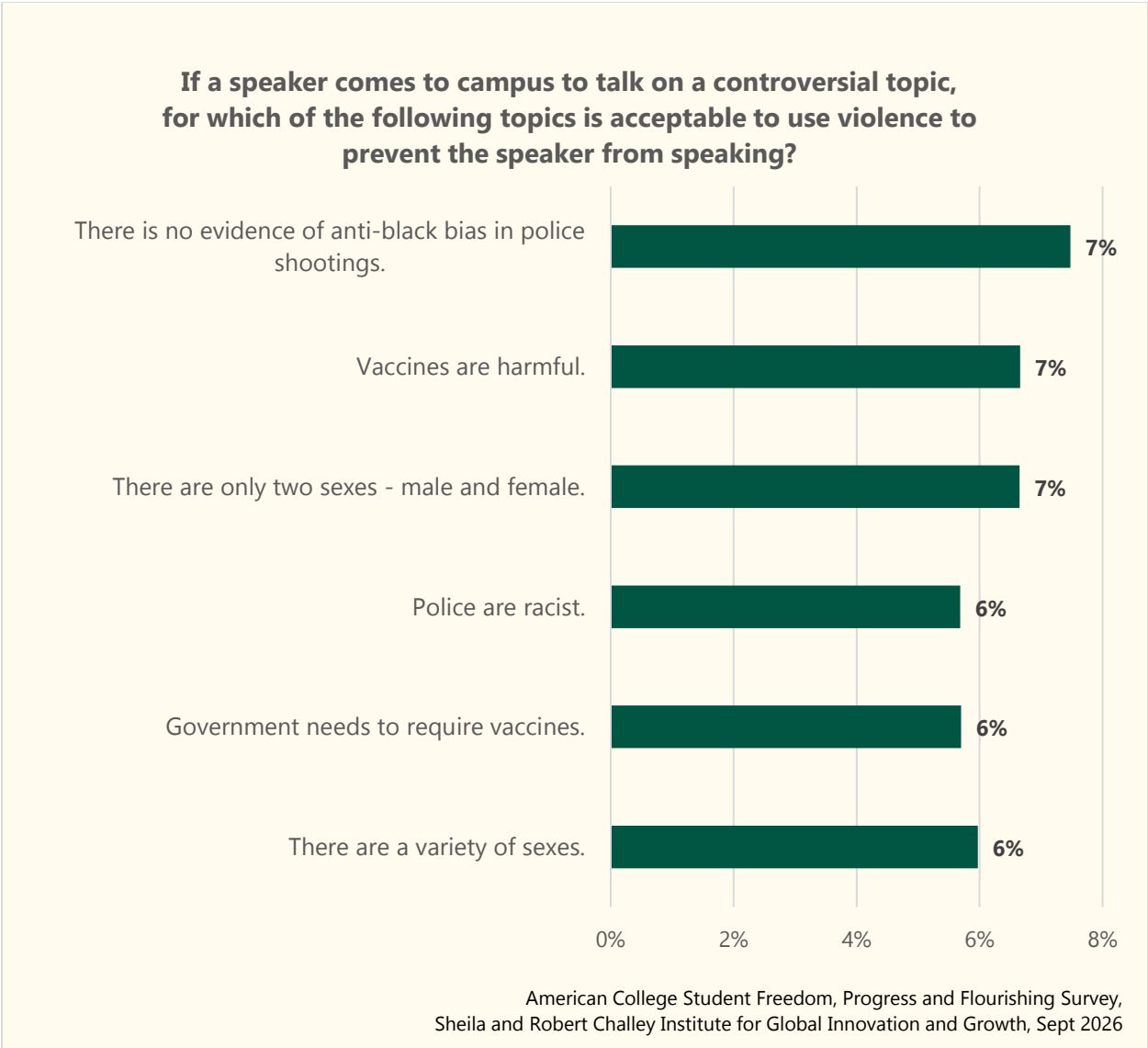


Figure 57: Percent of all students who believe it is acceptable to use violence to prevent speakers from making the arguments above.

Student Attitudes Toward Speech Issues for Those Who Say They Value Free Speech More Than Comfort

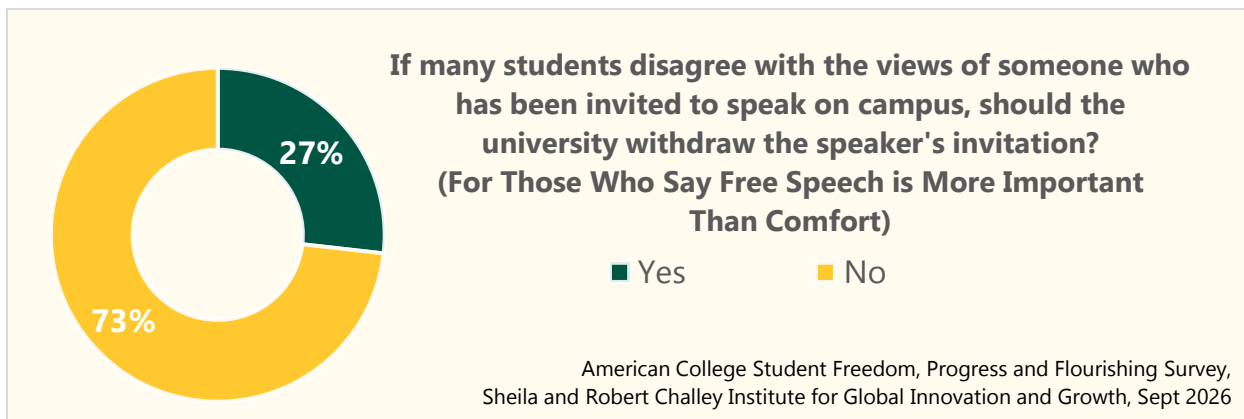


Figure 58: 27 percent of students who say free speech is more important than comfort are in favor of withdrawing controversial speaker invitations.



Figure 59: 25 percent of students who say free speech is more important than comfort are in favor of dropping readings that make students uncomfortable.

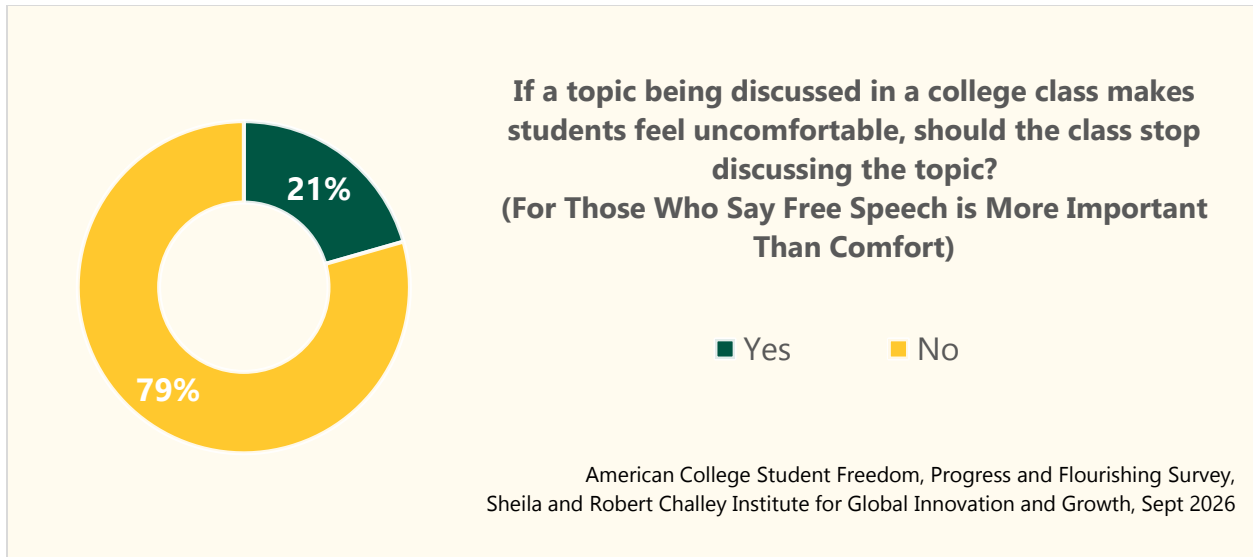


Figure 60: 21 percent of students who say free speech is more important than comfort are in favor of dropping class discussion topics that make students feel uncomfortable.

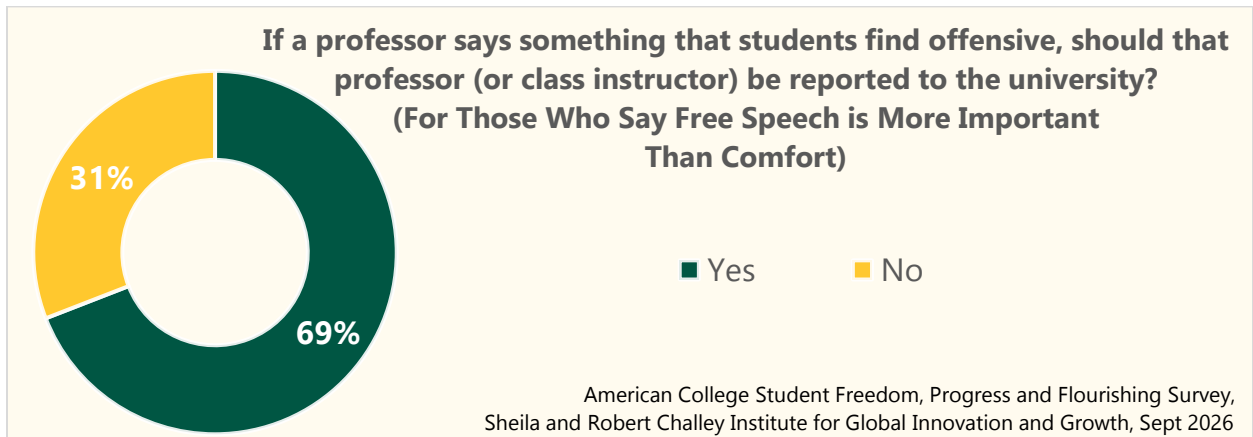


Figure 61: 69 percent of students who say free speech is more important than comfort are in favor of reporting professors for saying something deemed offensive.

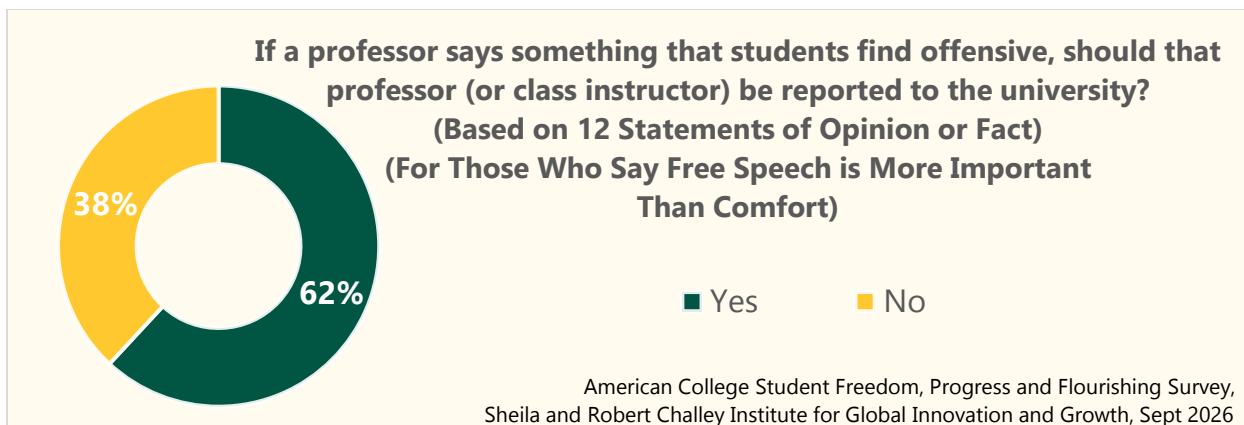


Figure 62: 62 percent of students who say free speech is more important than comfort are in favor of reporting professors for statements of opinion or fact that they disagree with.



Figure 63: 50 percent of students who say free speech is more important than comfort are in favor of reporting other students who say something deemed offensive.



Figure 64: 53 percent of students who say free speech is more important than comfort say it is acceptable to shout down a speaker who comes to present a controversial opinion related to police shootings, vaccines, or sex/gender.

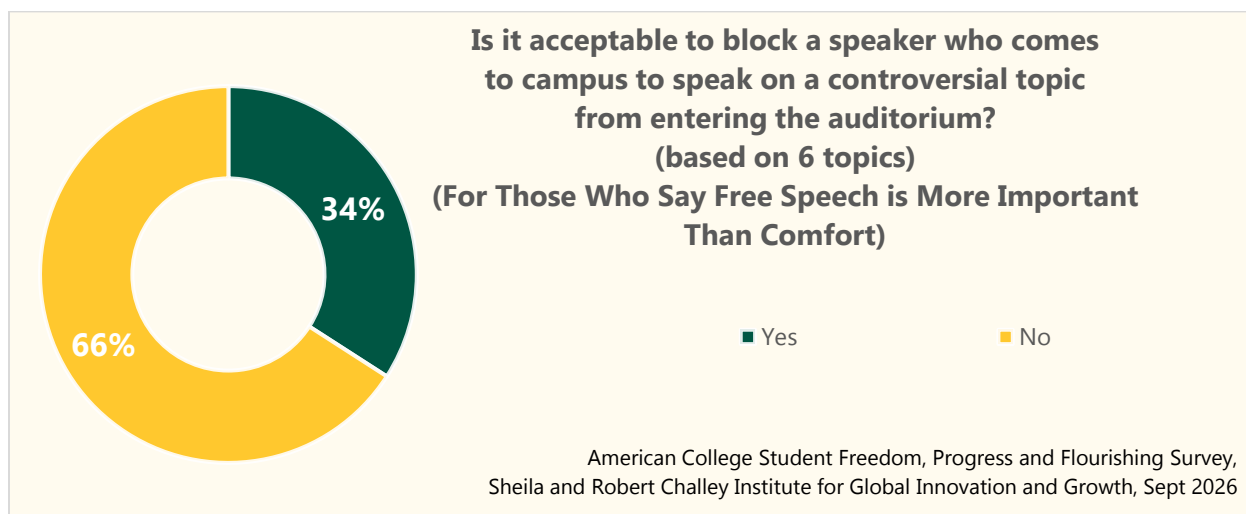


Figure 65: 34 percent of students who say free speech is more important than comfort say it is acceptable to block a speaker who comes to present a controversial opinion related to police shootings, vaccines, or sex/gender from entering the auditorium.



Figure 66: 9 percent of students who say free speech is more important than comfort say it is acceptable to use violence to prevent a speaker who comes to present a controversial opinion related to police shootings, vaccines, or sex/gender from speaking.