



Napolitan News Service Survey
of 1,000 Registered Voters
Conducted January 10-12, 2026

1 The Supreme Court has ruled that it is unconstitutional for colleges to give preferential admission to students based on race. Do you agree or disagree with this ruling?*

43% Strongly agree
25% Somewhat agree
14% Somewhat disagree
9% Strongly disagree
10% Not sure

Totals			
	Approve	Disapprove	Net
January 10-12, 2026	68%	23%	+45
October 27-28, 2025	72%	19%	+53
Source: Napolitan News Service			

2 Do elite schools like Harvard accept the best students exclusively on merit or do they accept some students to ensure racial diversity?*

28% They accept the best students exclusively on merit
49% They accept some students to ensure racial diversity
23% Not sure

Conducted by RMG Research, Inc. January 10-12, 2026
Margin of Sampling Error: +/- 3.1 percentage points



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3 Approximately 40% of new students at Harvard are of Asian descent. Only about 7% of Americans are Asian. If students were accepted into Harvard solely on merit, would the number of Asian students be higher, lower, or about the same?*

13%	Much higher
20%	Somewhat higher
14%	Somewhat lower
10%	Much lower
20%	About the same
23%	Not sure

4 A little more than 10% of Harvard's new students are Black, roughly the same as the percentage of Black Americans. If students were accepted into Harvard solely on merit, would the number of Black students be higher, lower, or about the same?*

6%	Much higher
15%	Somewhat higher
19%	Somewhat lower
11%	Much lower
28%	About the same
21%	Not sure



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5 Nobody knows what would happen if colleges like Harvard accepted students solely on merit. Suppose that in a merit-based system, the number of Asian students grew dramatically so that most Harvard students were Asian. If that were to happen, would you favor a completely merit based system or should there be limits on the number of Asian students accepted at Harvard?*

- 55% A completely merit based system
- 17% Limits on the number of Asian students
- 28% Not sure

6 Okay, suppose that in a merit-based system, the number of Black students fell dramatically so that only one or two percent of Harvard students were Black. If that were to happen, would you favor a completely merit based system or should preferences be established to increase the number of Black students accepted at Harvard?*

- 57% A completely merit based system
- 22% Preferences to increase the number of Black students
- 21% Not sure

7 Given all of the complexities, should colleges accept students solely based on merit or should preferences be given to ensure racial diversity?*

- 58% Solely based on merit
- 27% Preferences to ensure racial diversity
- 15% Not sure



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Methodology

This survey of 1,000 Registered Voters was conducted online by Scott Rasmussen on January 10-12, 2026. Field work for the survey was conducted by RMG Research, Inc. Certain quotas were applied, and the sample was lightly weighted by geography, gender, age, race, education, internet usage, and political party to reasonably reflect the nation's population of Registered Voters. Other variables were reviewed to ensure that the final sample is representative of that population.

The margin of sampling error for the full sample is +/- 3.1 percentage points.

This survey was paid for by Napolitan News Service as part of the service provided for our Gold Circle Members.