



# CIVICS EDUCATION INITIATIVE

*100 Facts Every High School Student Should Know*

## **Civics Education Statistics and Surveys**

### **National Assessments & Test Results**

#### **2014 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)**

- Representative sample comprised of 29,000 eighth graders across the country, in both public and private schools
- Only 18% of students scored at or above proficient in U.S. History.
- Only 27% scored at or above proficient in Geography.
- Only 23% scored at or above proficient in Civics.
- Unfortunately, there has been no significant improvement in test scores in each of the three subjects over the four year period of the study, highlighting the crisis in civics education nationwide.

### **National Studies & Surveys**

#### **Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania – 2014**

##### **(telephone survey of 1,416 adults)**

- Only 36% of respondents could name all three branches of the U.S. government. Just as many (35%) could not name a single one.
- Only 27% of Americans know it takes a two-thirds vote of the House and Senate to override a presidential veto.
- One in five Americans (21 percent) incorrectly think that a 5-4 Supreme Court decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration.
- Asked which party has the most members in the House of Representatives, 38 percent said they knew the Republicans are the majority, but 17 percent responded the Democrats, and 44 percent reported that they did not know (up from 27 percent who said they did not know in 2011).
- Asked which party controls the Senate, 38 percent correctly said the Democrats, 20 percent said the Republicans, and 42 percent said they did not know (also up from 27 percent who said they did not know in 2011).

#### **Center for the Study of the American Dream at Xavier University in Cincinnati – 2012**

##### **(telephone survey of 1,023 native-born Americans that asked 10 questions from the citizenship test)**

- 85 percent could not define "the rule of law."
- 75 percent did not know function of the judicial branch.
- 71 percent were unable to identify the Constitution as the "supreme law of the land."
- 63 percent could not name one of their state's U.S. Senators.
- 62 percent did not know the name the Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.
- 62 percent could not identify the Governor of their state.
- 57 percent could not define an "amendment."
- Only 44% of those with a high school education or less passed the test

#### **NEWSWEEK – 2011**

##### **(Asked 1,000 U.S. citizens to take the citizenship test)**

- 29% couldn't name the vice president
- 73 % couldn't correctly say why we fought the Cold War
- 44% were unable to define the Bill of Rights
- And 6% couldn't even circle Independence Day on a calendar