The political views of the Class of 2020 can be characterized as follows:

First Years are engaged in political issues, with 70% indicating there is a very good chance they will vote in a local, state or national election.

With respect to specific issues raised in the 2016 election cycle:

- 71% strongly agreed that sexual activity that occurs without the presence of explicit, affirmative consent (yes means yes) is considered sexual assault.
- 70% strongly agreed that addressing global climate change should be a federal priority.
- 52% strongly agree the federal government should have stricter gun control laws.
- 42% strongly agreed wealthy people should pay a larger share of taxes than they do now.
- 11% strongly agreed that the federal government should raise taxes to reduce the deficit.
- 10% strongly agreed affirmative action in college admissions should be abolished.
First years indicate the following personal goals are very important or essential to them...

- Helping others in difficulty (71%)
- Influencing social values (45%)
- Keeping up to date with political affairs (40%)
- Becoming a community leader (40%)
- Being involved in programs to clean up the environment (37%)
- Influencing the political structure (22%)
- Participating in a community action program (21%)

...but that does not always directly translate to behavior.

- 46% frequently discussed politics.
- 32% frequently performed volunteer work.
- 12% frequently publically communicated their opinion about a cause (blog, email, petition).
- 4% frequently helped raise money for a cause or campaign.
- 2% frequently demonstrated for a cause (boycott, rally, protest).