

Those who studied government more likely to vote, Stockton poll finds



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CHRSTIAN HETRICK, Staff Writer

New Jersey adults who studied U.S. government or civics in school were more likely to vote in recent elections, according to a Stockton University poll released Wednesday by the William J. Hughes Center for Public Policy.

The poll found 90 percent of those who studied civics voting in the 2012 presidential election, compared to 72 percent of those who never studied government voting in that election.

The same was true of the 2014 midterm election, with 72 percent of those who studied government voting, compared to just 56 percent of those who did not study government.

“With Independence Day upon us, the poll points to the need to reaffirm our commitment to civic education and the importance of our independence and our system of government,” said Daniel J. Douglas, director of the Hughes Center at Stockton University.

The poll was conducted with 876 adults who live in New Jersey from March 20-27.

The results of the poll follow June's primary election, where about 5 percent of registered voters cast ballots. That was the lowest turnout for a primary election in at least 90 years, according to the Associated Press.