

SHOULD THERE BE AGE LIMITS FOR POLITICIANS?

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Public opinion data based on 161 survey responses



Columbine Health Systems
Center for Healthy Aging
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY



CSU

YEAR OF
DEMOCRACY

Age of Respondents

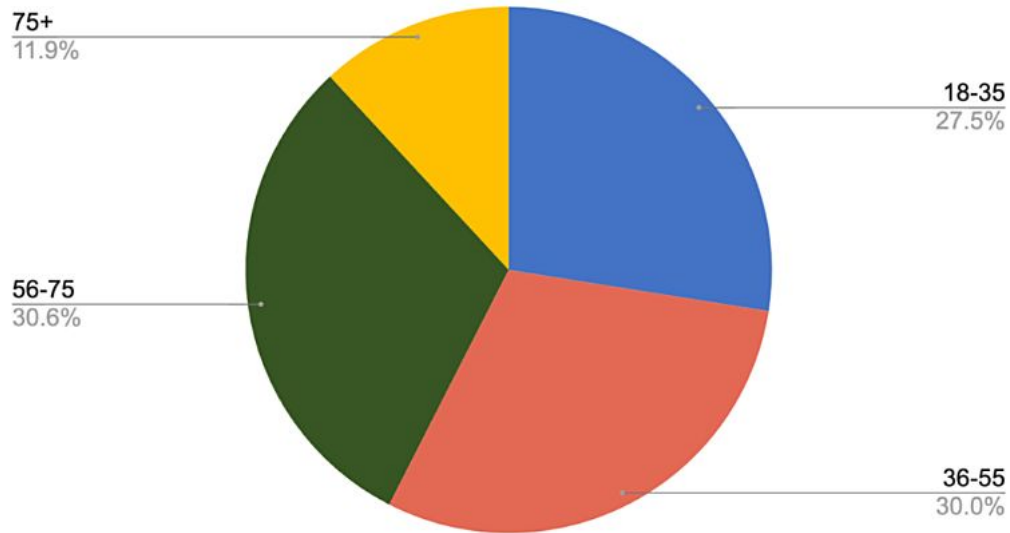


Figure 1. Age of respondents. This circle graph shows the age breakdown of all respondents to the survey, n=161. Approximately 45 respondents were aged 18-35; 48 were aged 35-55 years old; 49 were aged 56-75, and 19 were 75 years of age or older.

In your opinion, should there be a maximum age limit for individuals running for the presidency or other high-level political offices?

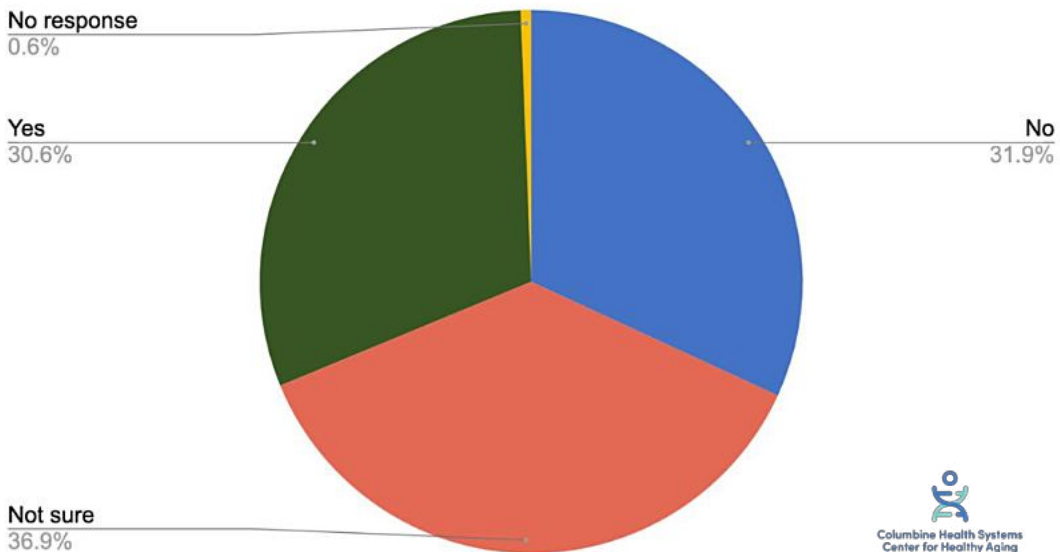


Figure 2. Age limits, all respondents. This circle graphs shows how all 161 participants responded to the question of age limits for politicians. The majority were unsure of if there should be age limits for politicians, while 32% responded no, and 31% responded yes.

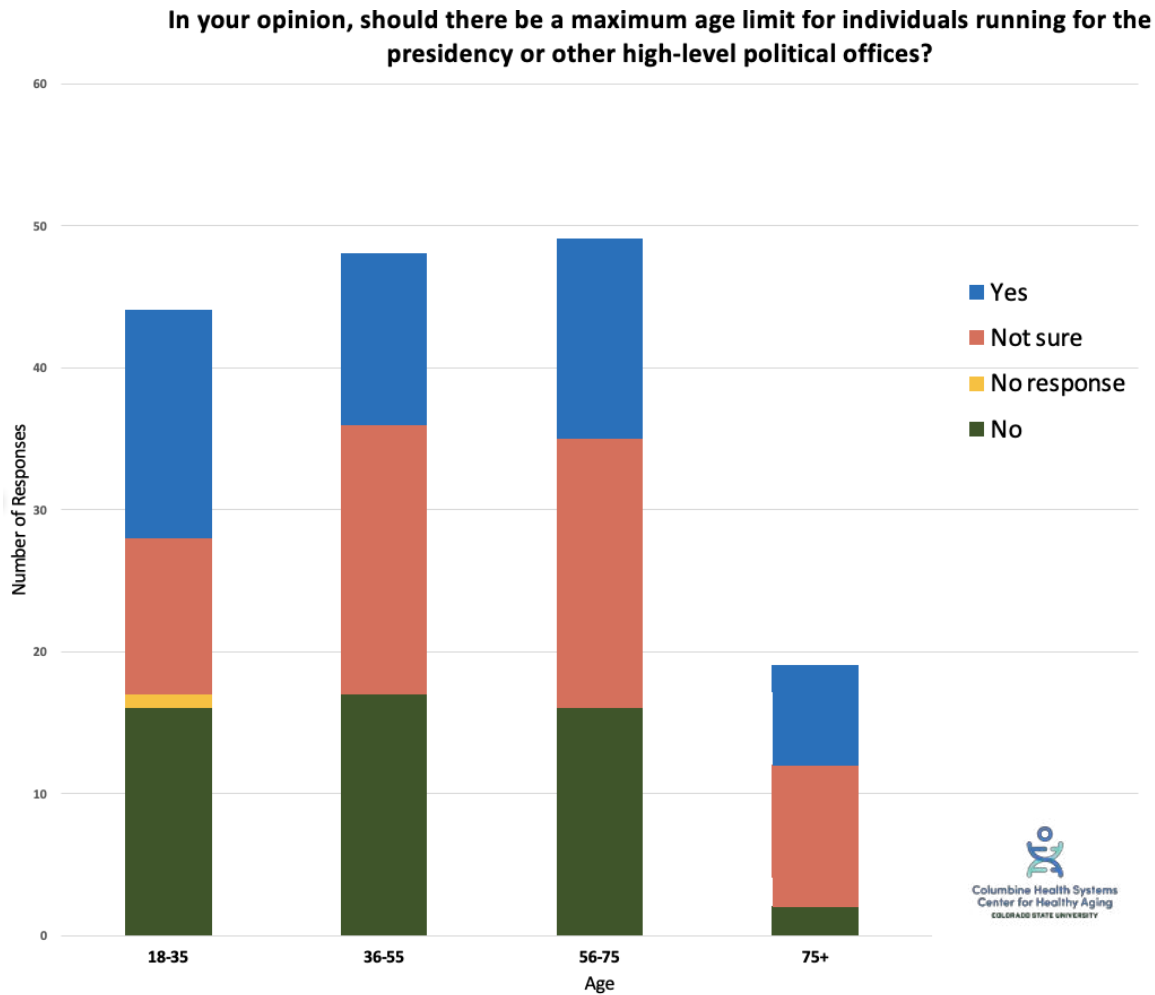


Figure 3. Age limits, by respondents' age. For these data, younger respondents were more likely to agree that, yes, there should be a maximum age limit for political positions. For the other three age groups, respondents were more likely to answer with, 'not sure'. The 75+ age group had the largest difference in respondents answering, 'yes' or 'no', with more agreeing that, yes, there should be an age limit.

Should people running for elected positions have to take a cognitive test, and should their results be shared with the public?

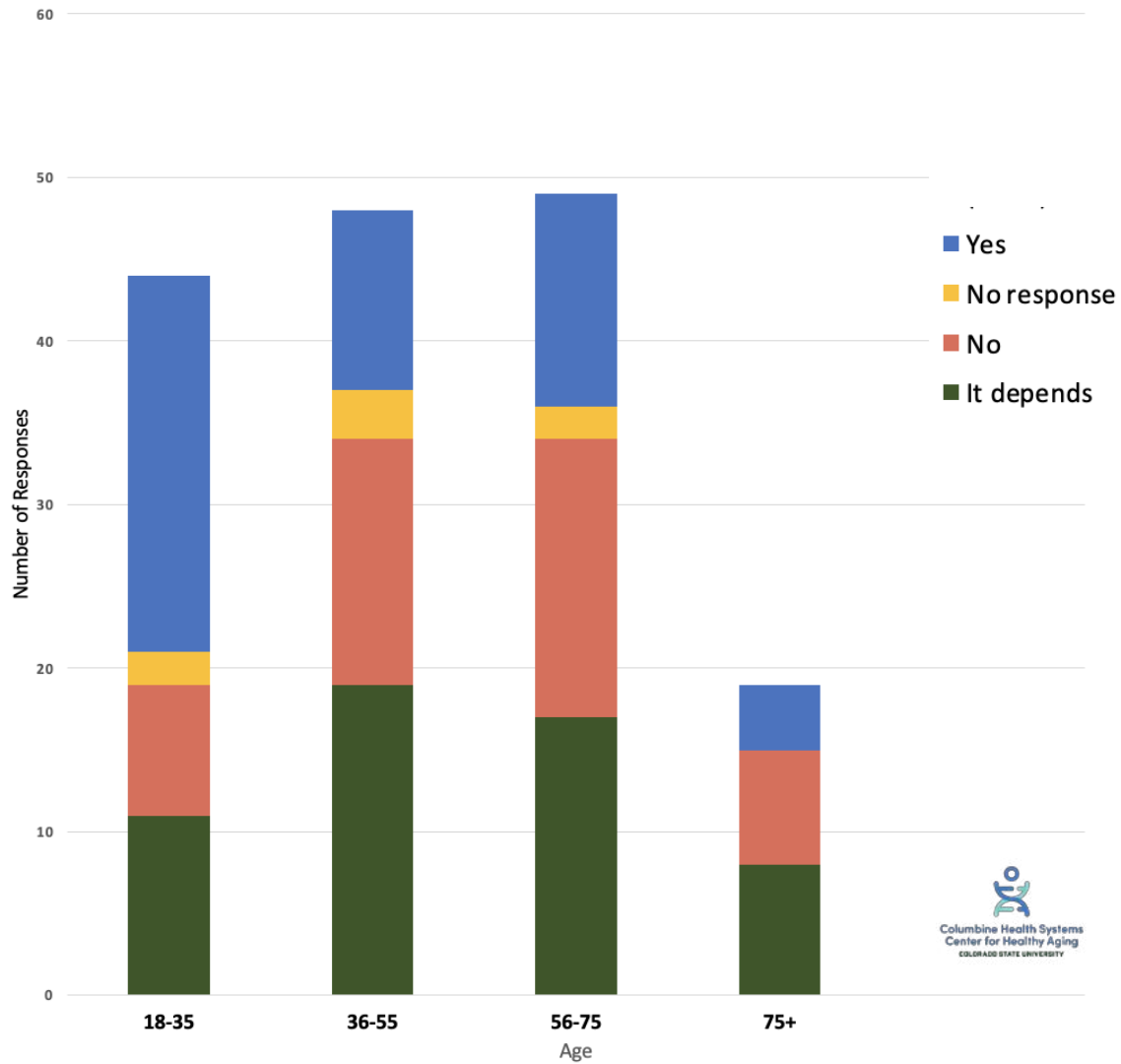


Figure 4. Cognitive testing, by respondents' age. These data show that younger respondents are more likely to agree that cognitive tests should be conducted and shared with the public on people running for elected positions. For the age groups of 36-55, 56-75, and 75+, respondents were more likely to answer with either 'no' or 'it depends', about equally, and were less likely to agree that cognitive tests should be conducted.

Do you think the age of Congress members in the United States impacts the effectiveness of the legislative process?

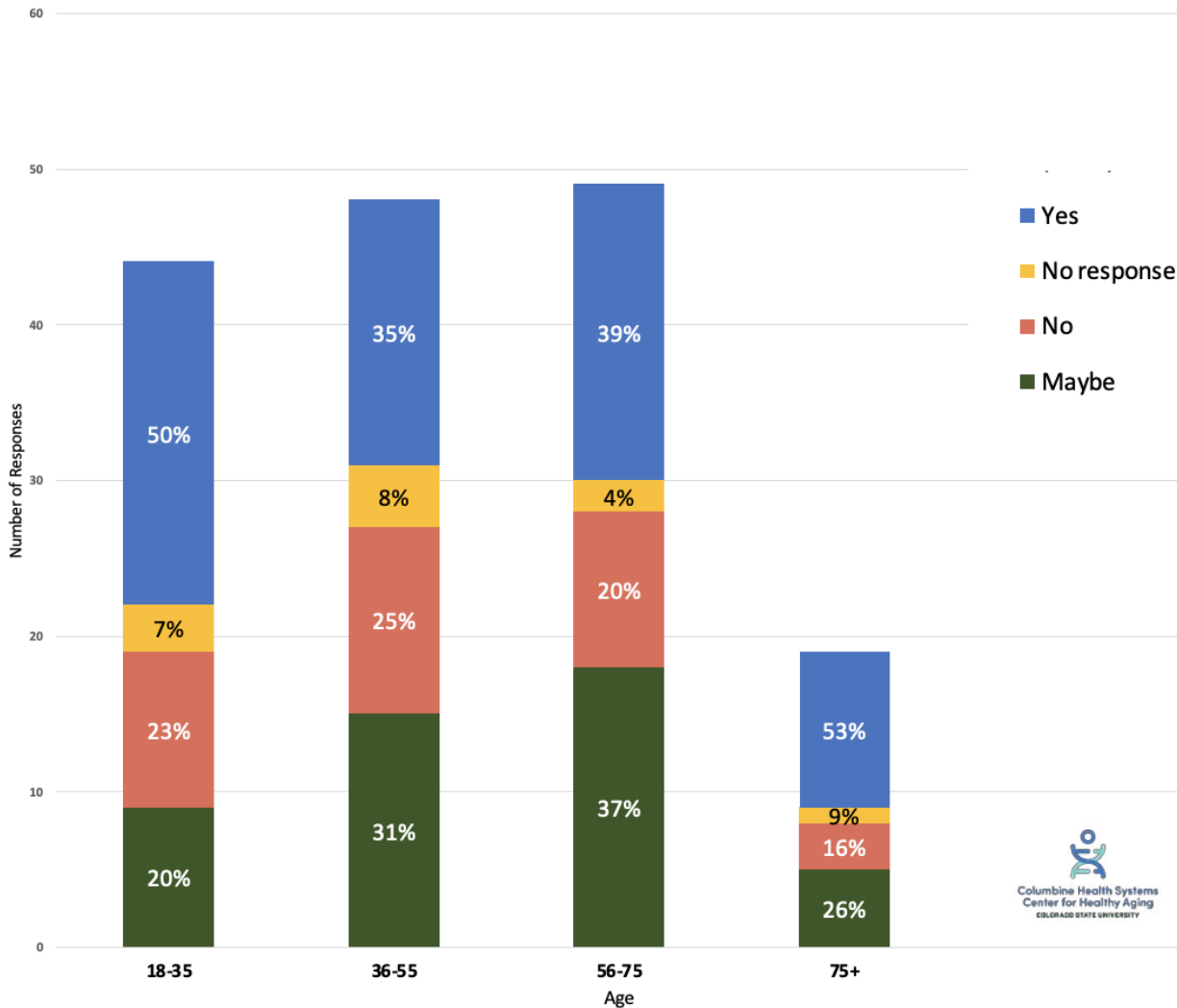


Figure 5. Age impacts effectiveness, by respondents' age. Most respondents answered yes, that the age of Congress members in the U.S. impacts the effectiveness of the legislative process. The oldest and youngest populations responded similarly to this question. Half of younger respondents answered that, yes, age has an impact on the effectiveness of the legislative process, while 23% answered that it does not have an impact, and 20% answered that it maybe has an impact. For the 75+ age group, 53% of the respondents answered yes, 16% answered no, and 26% answered maybe. 36-55- and 56-75-year-olds answered yes about equally (35 and 39% respectively) that yes, age does have an impact. For all four age groups, most of the respondents answered yes.

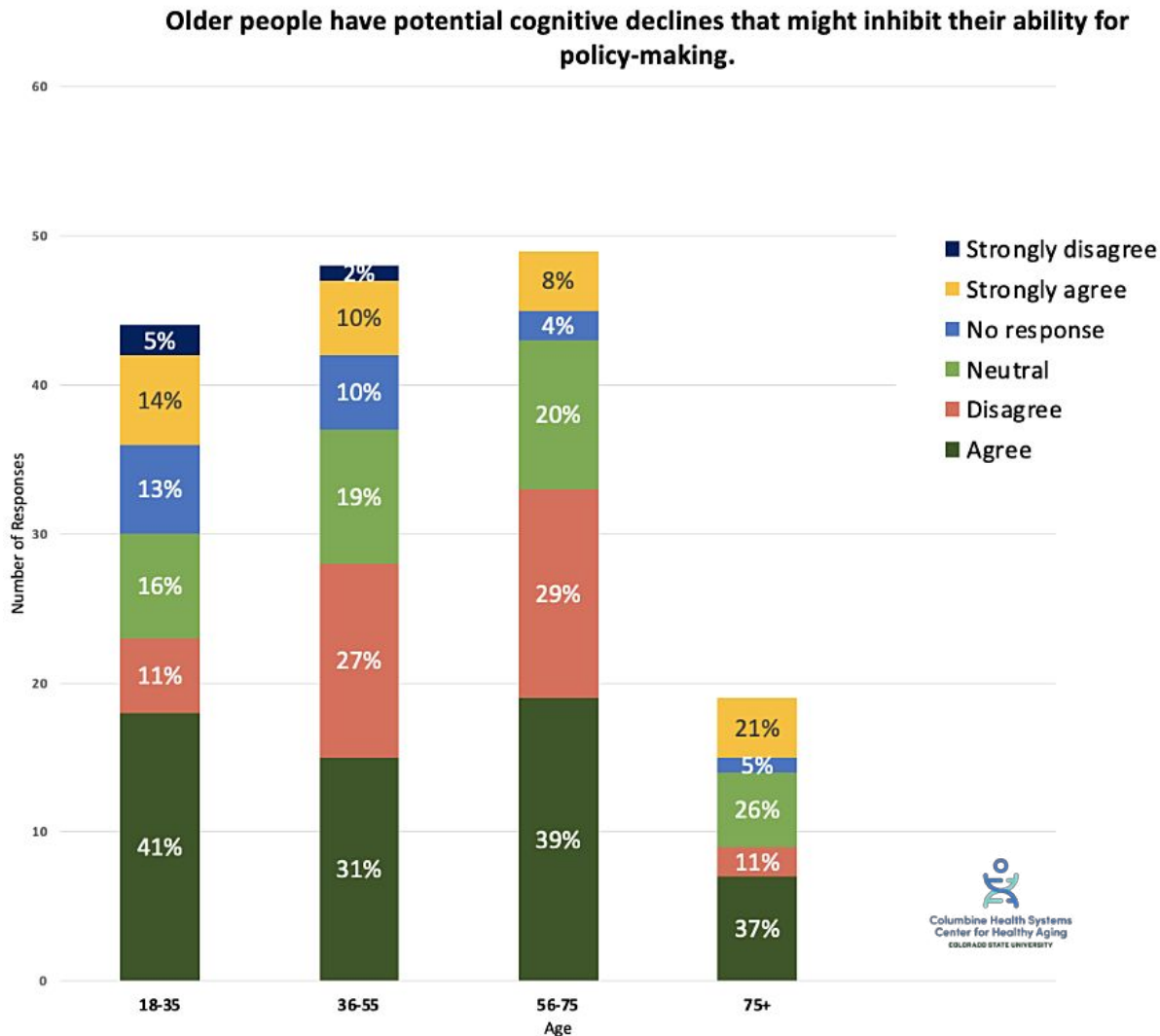


Figure 6. Older people have cognitive declines, by respondents' age. For these data, 41% of respondents aged 18-35 agreed that older people have potential cognitive declines that might inhibit their ability for policymaking, 14% strongly agreed, 16% were neutral, 11% disagreed, and 5% strongly disagreed. For the age group of 36-55, 31% of respondents agreed, 10% strongly agreed, 19% were neutral, 27% disagreed, and 2% strongly disagreed. For the age group of 56-75, 39% agreed, 8% strongly agreed, 20% were neutral, and 29% disagreed. Finally, for the 75+ age group, 37% agreed, 21% strongly agreed, 26% were neutral, and 11% disagreed. For all age groups, most agreed that older people have potential cognitive declines that might inhibit their ability for policymaking.

Age brings valuable experience and wisdom, which can be crucial for making informed decisions and providing effective leadership.

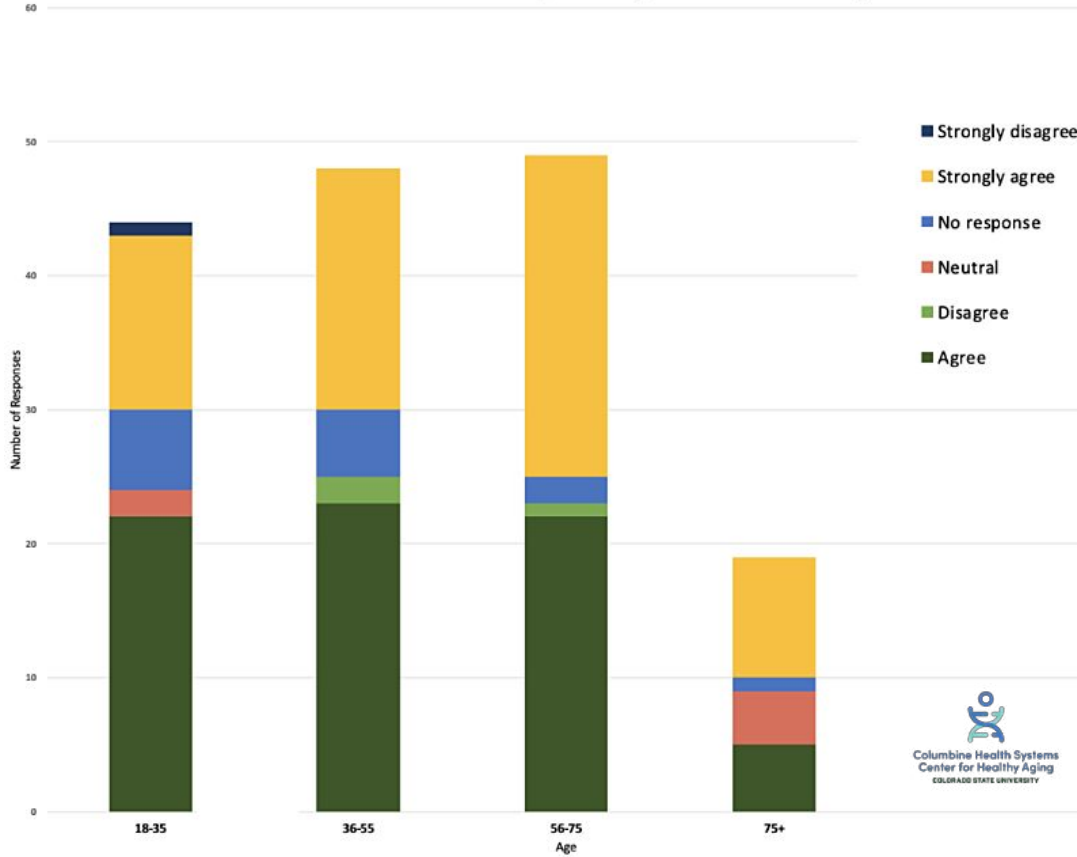


Figure 7. Age brings wisdom and experience, by respondents' age. For all age groups, respondents were more likely to agree or strongly agree that age brings valuable experience and wisdom to political leadership and decision-making. The 75+ group was more likely to be neutral about the statement than the other age groups. The 36-55 and the 56-75 age group were the only age groups to have respondents disagree, and the 18-35 age group was the only group to have respondents strongly disagree.

Younger politicians may lack the experience needed to navigate complex political landscapes and make well-informed decisions.

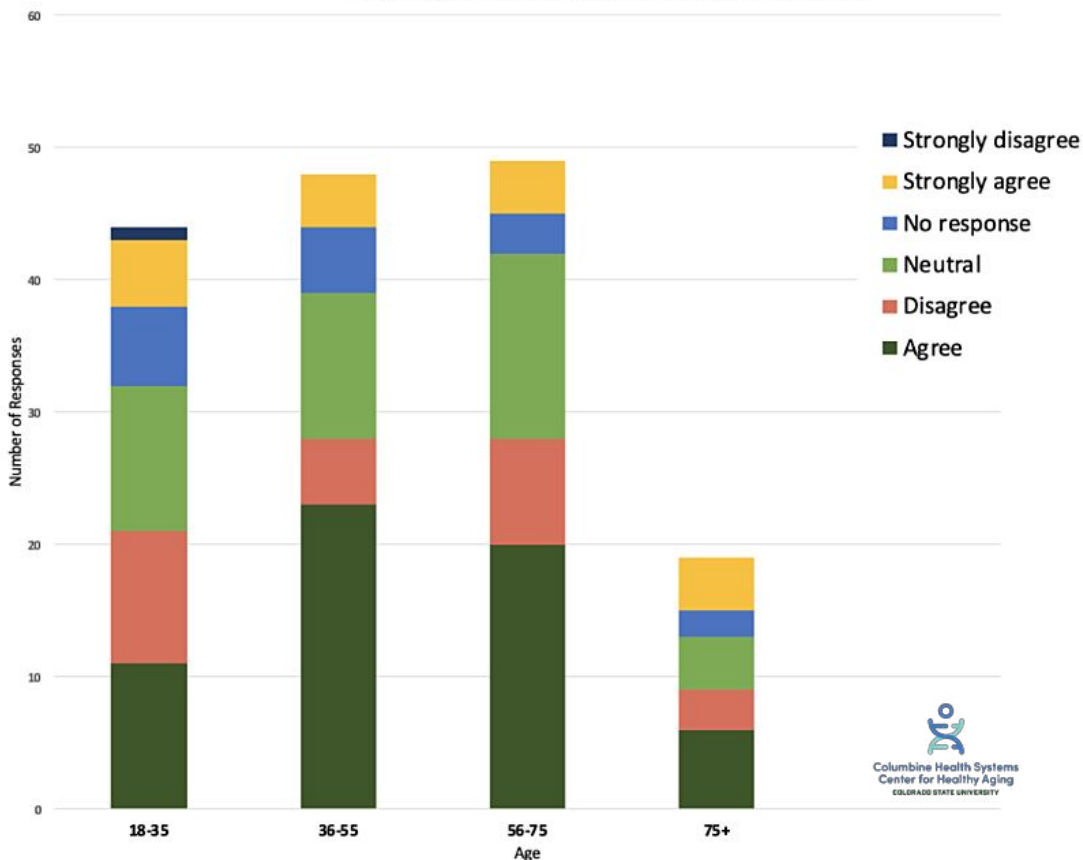


Figure 8. Younger politicians lack experience, by respondents' age. The age groups of 36-55 and 56-75 are more likely to agree that younger politicians lack the experience to navigate complex political landscapes and make well informed decisions. Younger people are more likely to disagree or strongly disagree with this statement than other age groups. Across age groups, most respondents felt neutral about the statement.

Younger representatives bring fresh ideas and perspectives to policymaking.

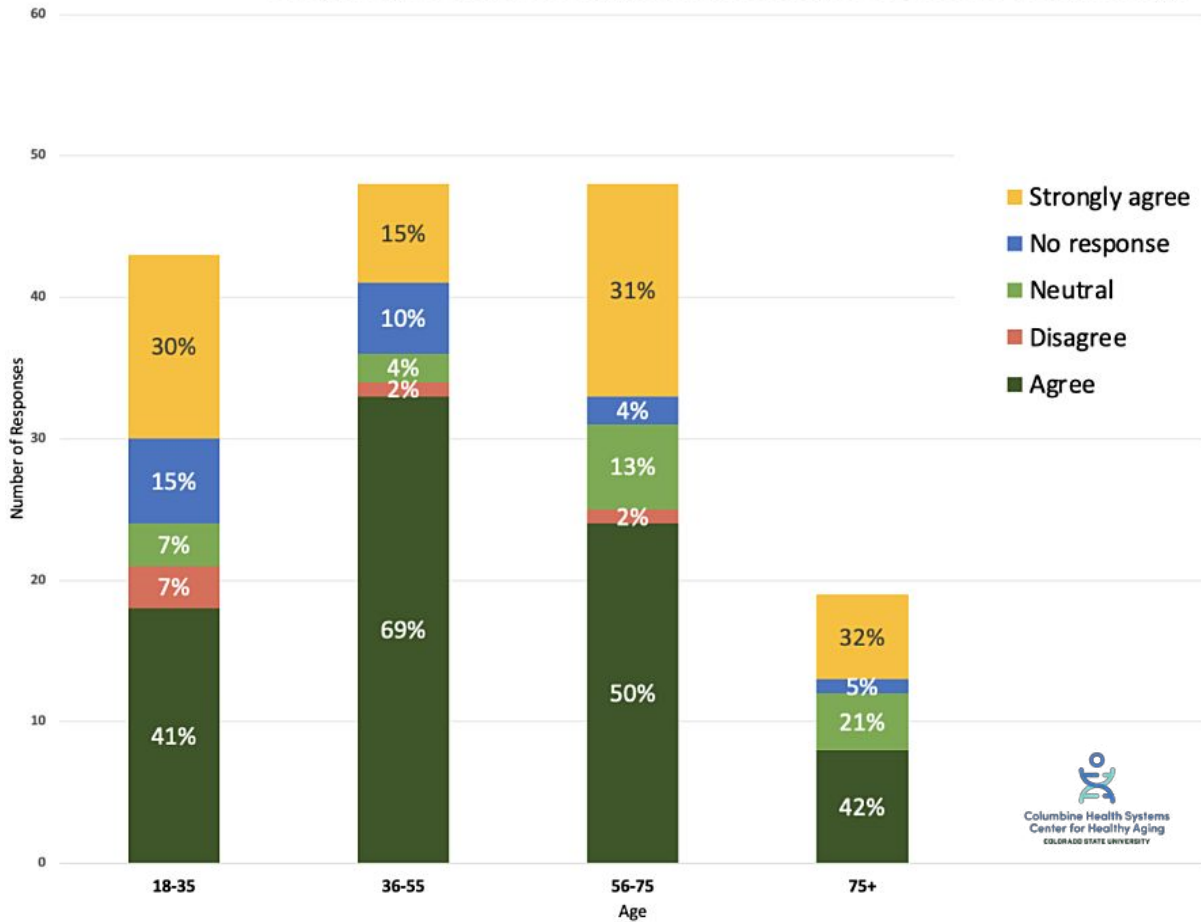


Figure 9. Young people bring fresh ideas, by respondents' age. These data show that 41% of younger respondents are more likely to agree that younger representatives bring fresh ideas and perspectives to policymaking, 30% strongly agree, 7% are neutral, and 7% disagree. For the 36-55 age group, 69% of respondents agree, 15% strongly agree, 4% are neutral, and 2% disagree. For the 56-75 age group, 50% agree, 31% strongly agree, 13% are neutral, and 2% disagree. Finally, for the 75+ age group, 42% agree, 32% strongly agree, and 21% are neutral.

Age limits would ensure a continuous turnover of representatives, promoting generational diversity in politics and preventing a concentration of power within a specific age group.

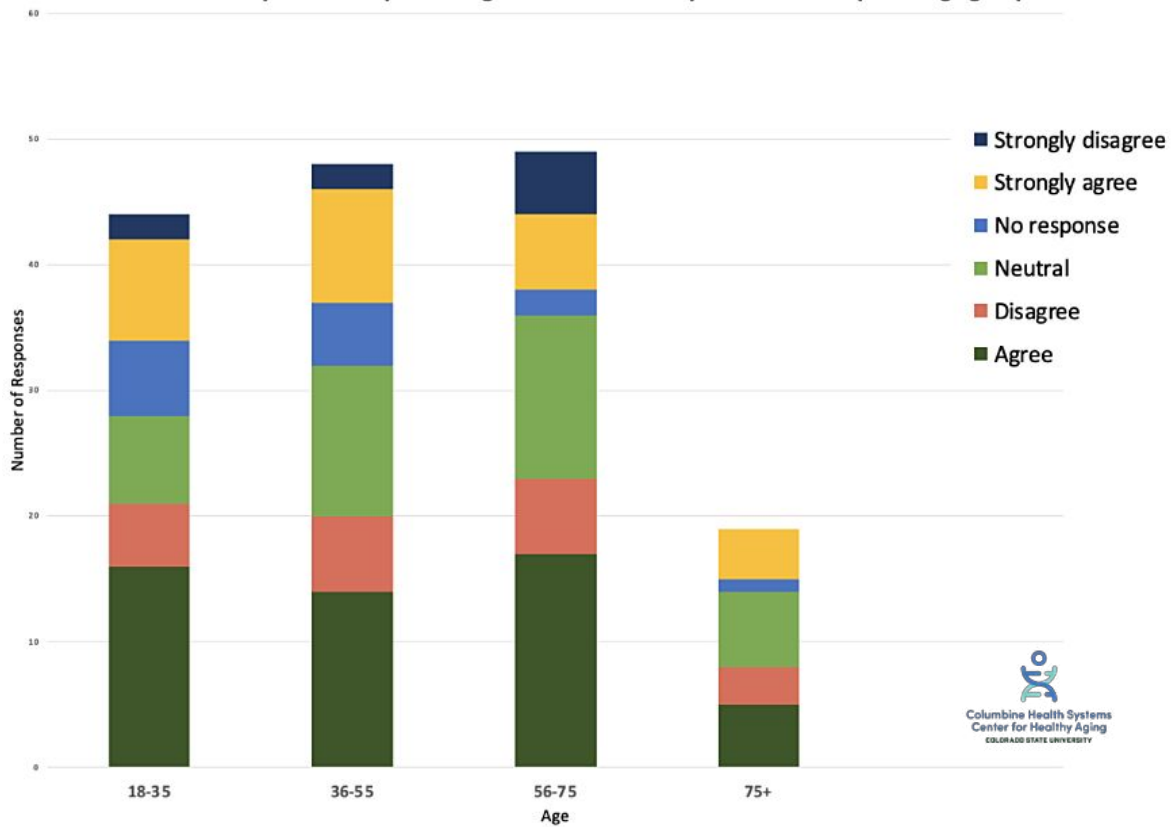


Figure 10. Age limits ensure turnover, by respondents' age. Younger people were more likely to respond, yes, that age limits would ensure a continuous turnover of representatives, promoting generational diversity in politics, and preventing a concentration of power within a specific age group. Most respondents were neutral or agreed with the statement. The 36-55 age group had the largest number of respondents who answered strongly agree, while the 56-75 age group had the largest number of respondents who answered strongly disagree. All four age groups had similar numbers of respondents who answered disagree to the statement. For all age groups, respondents had a diversity of opinions on this statement.

The focus should be on competence and experience rather than strictly age.

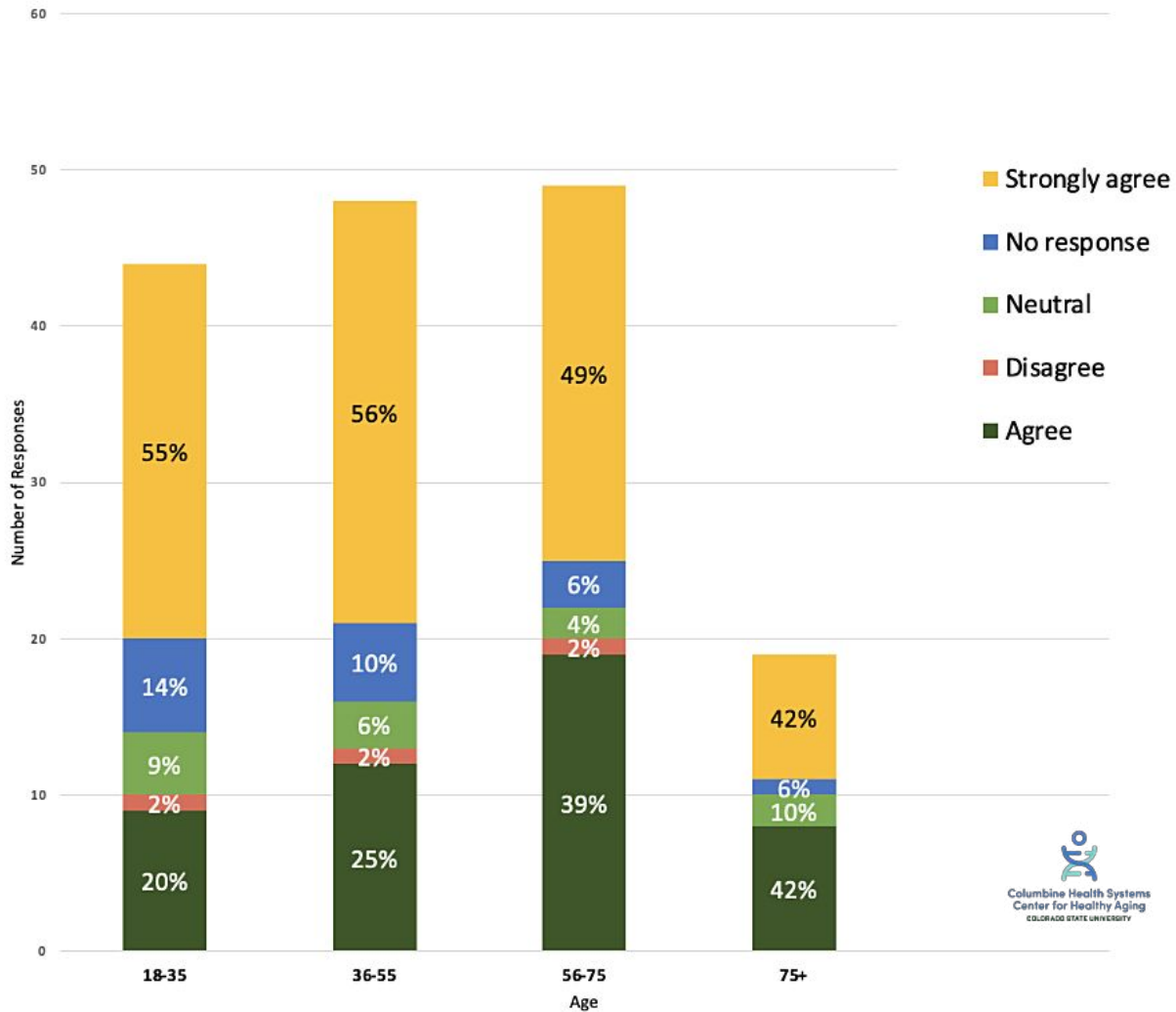


Figure 11. Competence, by respondents' age. For these data, 55% of the 18-35 age group strongly agreed that the focus should be on competence and experience rather than strictly age, 20% agreed, 9% were neutral, and 2% disagreed. For the 36-55 age group, 56% strongly agreed, 25% agreed, 6% were neutral, and 2% disagreed. For the 56-75 age group, 49% strongly agreed, 39% agreed, 4% were neutral, and 2% disagreed. For the 75+ age group, 42% strongly agreed and another 42% agreed, and 10% were neutral.

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