

Additional Findings

The Connection Opportunity: Insights for Bringing Americans Together Across Difference
Last Updated March 18, 2025

Interest in bridging connection, by demographics

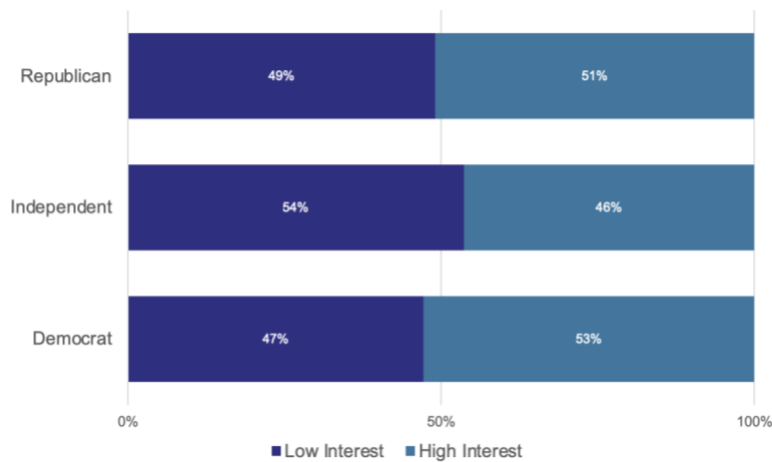
We explored whether interest in connection differed based on respondents' demographic characteristics.¹

By Party Affiliation

When looking at how people's political identity affects interest in cross-political interaction, we find little difference between Republicans (51 percent have "high" interest) and Democrats (53 percent have "high" interest). Independents are slightly less interested (46 percent have "high" interest) than these two groups.

Figure AD1: Interest in Cross-Political Connection, by Party Affiliation

On average, interest in bridging across political lines of difference does not vary drastically among partisans



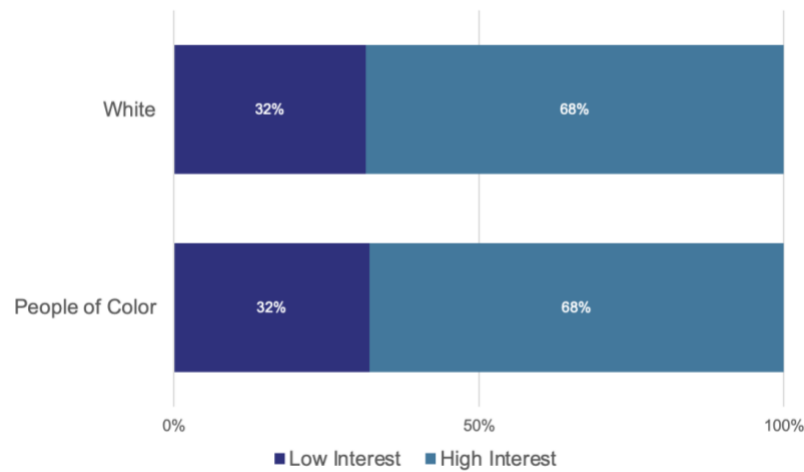
Note: To calculate high vs. low interest, we first averaged interest in the seven bridging activities for political viewpoint together. High interest is quantified by having a score of 3 or higher; low interest reflects scores from 1 to 3.
Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

¹ All continuous variables have been binarized using the midpoint on the scale and below as low and midpoint (inclusive) and above as high.

By Race

Our results suggested there were no differences in interest in engagement across racial/ethnic lines for white Americans compared to non-white Americans. A majority of people (68 percent), regardless of their race, have “high” interest in cross-race connection, on average.

Figure AD2: Interest in Cross-Racial/Ethnic Connection, by Race
On average, interest in cross-racial/ethnic connection is roughly equivalent between white Americans and Americans of color



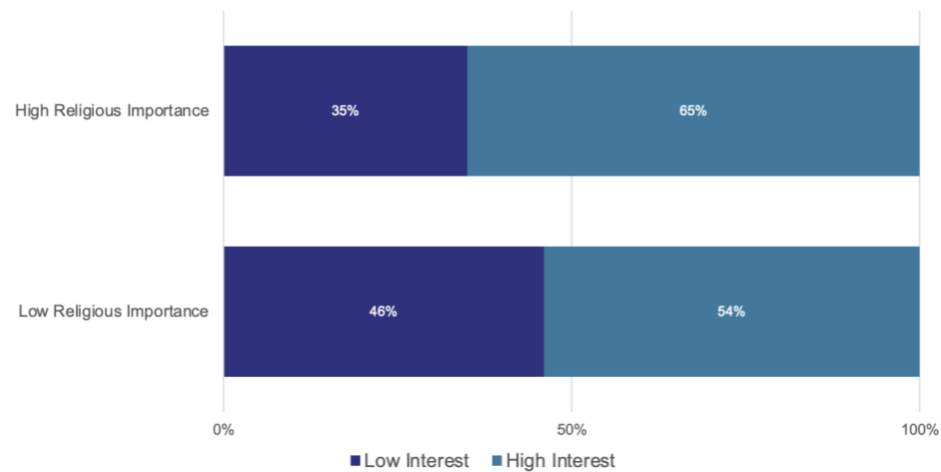
Note: To calculate high vs. low interest, we first averaged interest in the seven bridging activities for race/ethnicity together. High interest is quantified by having a score of 3 or higher; low interest reflects scores from 1 to 3.
Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

By Religion

We do find evidence of slight differences in interest for connecting across religious lines of difference: 65 percent of highly religious people have “high” interest in cross-religious connection, compared to 54 percent of people who are not as religious.

Figure AD3: Interest in Cross- Religion Connection, by Religious Importance

On average, interest in connection across religious lines of difference is 6 percent higher among people who report high (vs. low) religious importance



Note: To calculate high vs. low interest, we first averaged interest in the seven bridging activities for religion together. High interest is quantified by having a score of 3 or higher; low interest reflects scores from 1 to 3. People low in religious importance selected “not at all” or “not too important” on a scale of religious importance; people high in religious importance selected “very” or “somewhat” important on the scale.

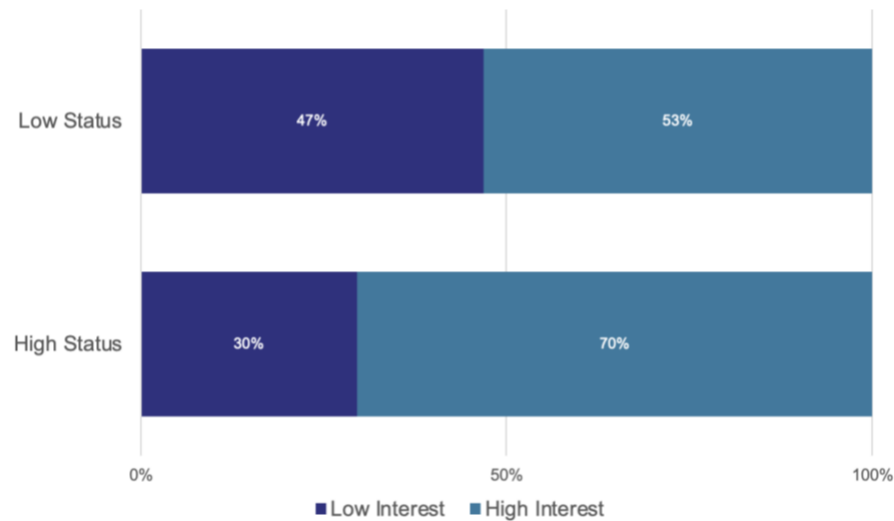
Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

By Socioeconomic Status

There were also slight differences when looking along socioeconomic (SES) lines. 70 percent of people who have high status have “high” interest in cross-SES connection, compared to 53 percent of people who have lower status.

Figure AD4: Interest in Cross-Socioeconomic Status (SES) Connection, by Status

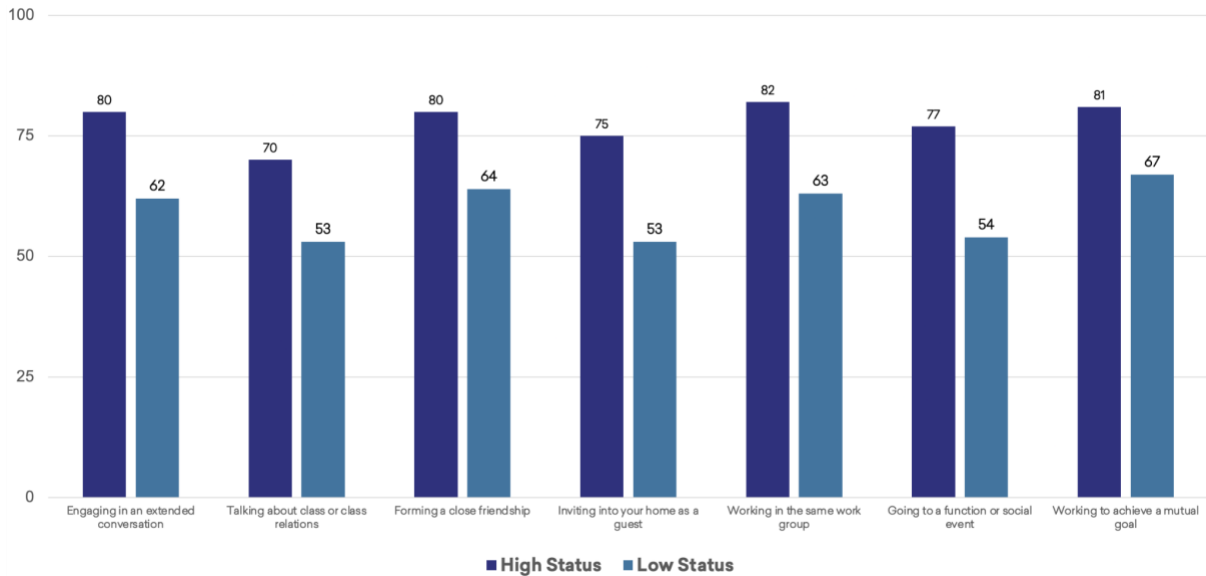
On average, interest in cross-SES connection is 17 percent higher among high (vs. low) status Americans



Note: To calculate high vs. low interest, we first averaged interest in the seven bridging activities for socioeconomic status together. High interest is quantified by having a score of 3 or higher; low interest reflects scores from 1 to 3. To determine status, we asked respondents to use the 10-point social status ladder to self-report if they were either high status (greater than 6) or low status (6 and below).
Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

Figure AD5: Interest in Engaging in Cross-Socioeconomic Status (SES) Bridging Activities, by Status

High status individuals have higher levels of interest in engaging with low SES people across all bridging activities compared to low status individuals' interest in engaging in these activities with people from high SES backgrounds. (X-axis = % Interested)



Question: Thinking about the near future, please indicate how interested you are in doing each of the following with someone from a [higher/lower] socioeconomic status than you: [1 - Not at all interested to 5 - Extremely interested]. X-axis = % Moderately + Very + Extremely Interested. To determine status, we asked respondents to use the 10-point social status ladder to self-report if they were either high status (greater than 6) or low status (6 and below). Respondents in the high status group answered questions about low SES people, and respondents in the low status group answered questions about high SES people. Wording of items has been edited for clarity.

Source: More in Common (2025). Survey of 4,522 US adults.

Attitudes toward integrated communities, by demographics

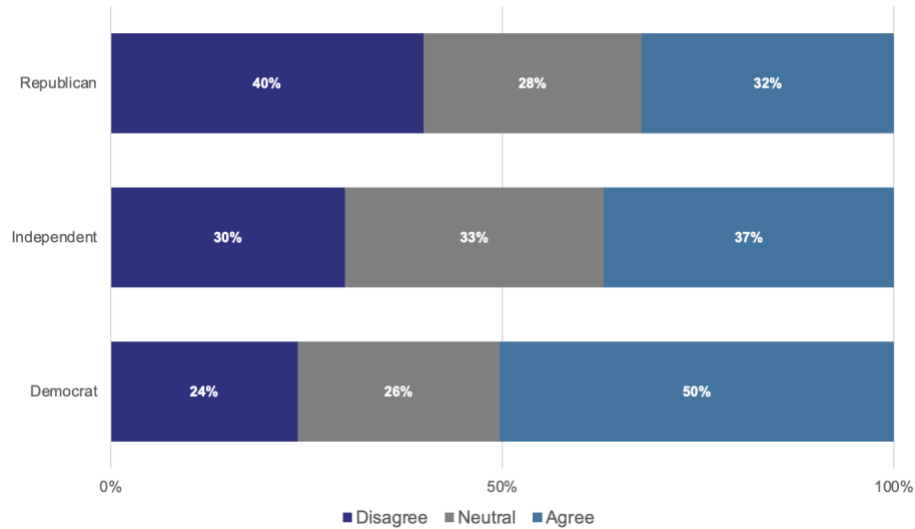
Below we provide the demographic breakdowns for the following question about attitudes toward integrated communities:

“Please indicate how much you agree or disagree with the following statement: *Greater integration of people from different [group] would make my community a better place to live.*”

Overall, we find evidence that there is support for this statement, though agreement with this statement varies slightly for different demographics. This is especially pronounced for the issue of political integration (see **Figure AD6**).

By Party Affiliation

Figure AD6: Support for Greater Integration of People with Different Political Viewpoints, by Political Party
Republicans are nearly twice as likely as Democrats to disagree with the statement that having more integration along political lines would make communities better.



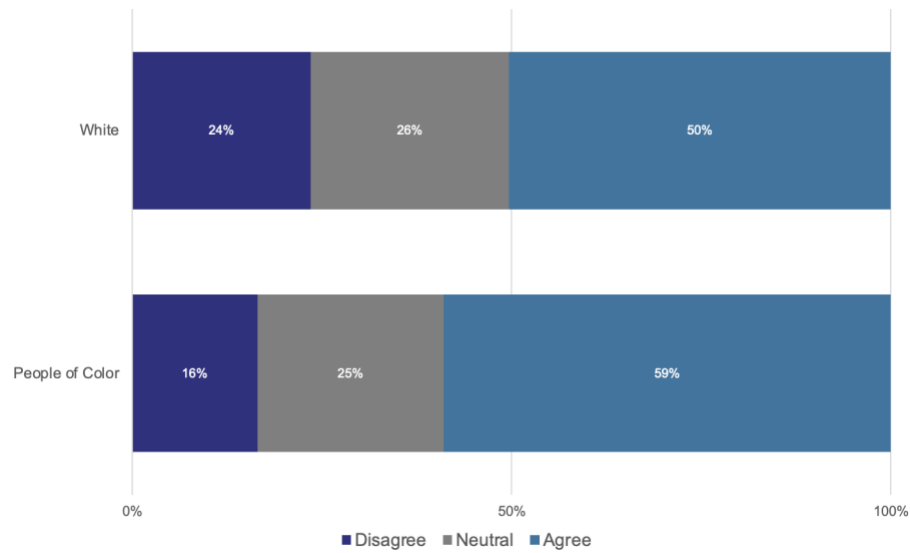
Note: Respondents who selected 1 (Strongly disagree) through 3 were categorized as “Disagree”, those who selected 4 were categorized as “Neutral”, and those who selected 5 through 7 (Strongly Agree) were categorized as “Agree.”

Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

By Race

Figure AD7: Support for Greater Integration of People from a Different Race/Ethnicity, by Race

People of color, on average, are slightly more likely to agree that greater integration of people from different races/ethnicities would make their communities better.

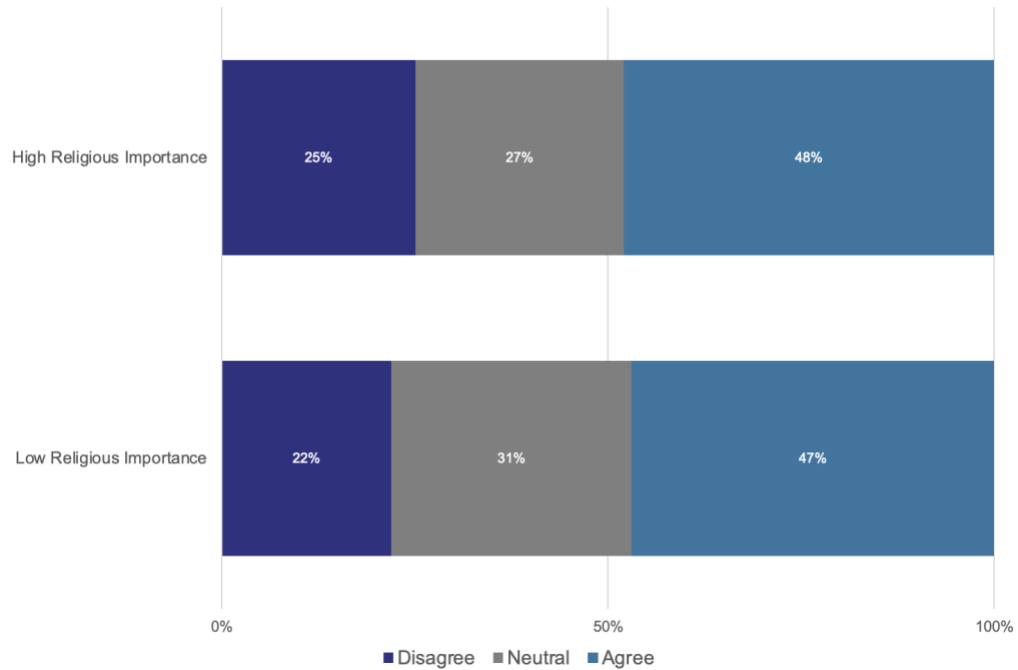


Note: Respondents who selected 1 (Strongly disagree) through 3 were categorized as “Disagree”, those who selected 4 were categorized as “Neutral”, and those who selected 5 through 7 (Strongly Agree) were categorized as “Agree.”
Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

By Religion

Figure AD8: Support for Greater Integration of People from Different Religions, by Religious Importance

Support for greater religious integration is roughly the same among people with higher and lower feelings of religious importance



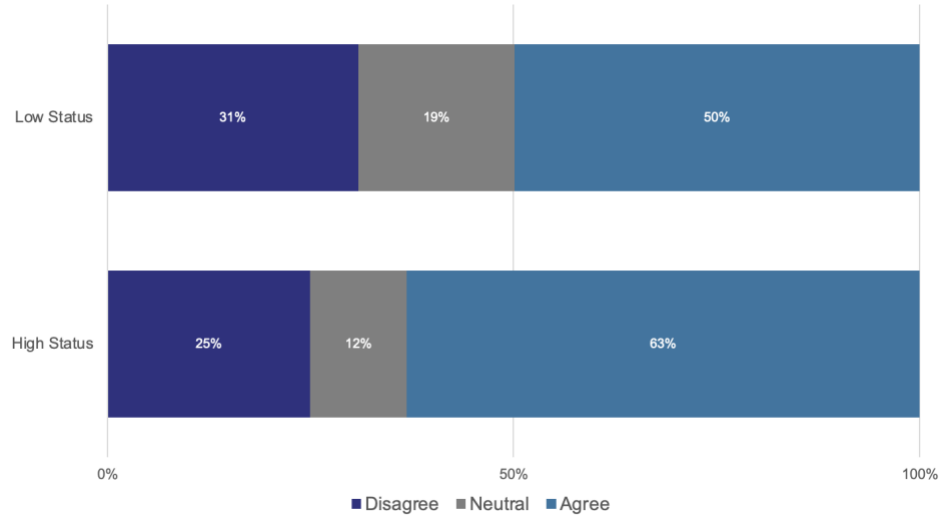
Note: Respondents who selected 1 (Strongly Disagree) through 3 were categorized as “Disagree”, those who selected 4 were categorized as “Neutral”, and those who selected 5 through 7 (Strongly Agree) were categorized as “Agree.” People low in religious importance selected “not at all” or “not too important” on a scale of religious importance; people high in religious importance selected “very” or “somewhat” important on the scale.

Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

By Socioeconomic Status

Figure AD9: Support for Greater Integration of People from Different Socioeconomic Backgrounds, by Status

High SES individuals have slightly higher levels of support, on average, for greater cross-SES integration relative to low SES individuals' levels of support



Note: Respondents who selected 1 (Strongly Disagree) through 3 were categorized as “Disagree”, those who selected 4 were categorized as “Neutral”, and those who selected 5 through 7 (Strongly Agree) were categorized as “Agree.” To determine status, we asked respondents to use the 10-point social status ladder to self-report if they were either high status (greater than 6) or low status (6 and below).
Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

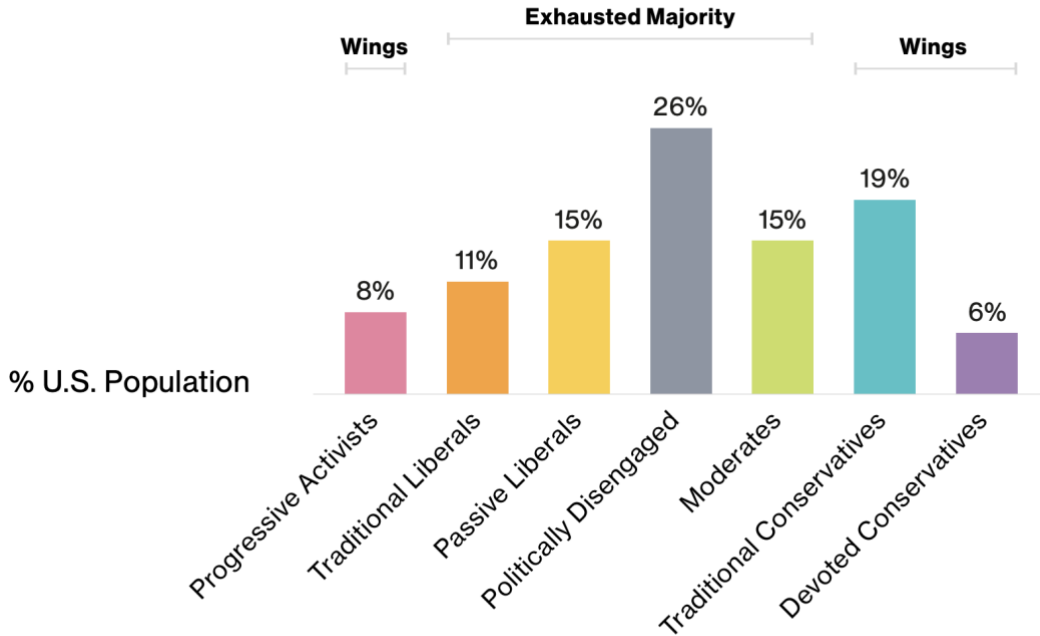
Responses by Hidden Tribes

Hidden Tribes: An Overview

More in Common created the [Hidden Tribes model](#) to better understand variations in attitudes and beliefs across the political spectrum in the United States.² The three outer segments form the “Wings” and the four inner segments form the “Exhausted Majority.”

² More information about More in Common’s Hidden Tribes is located here: <https://hiddentribes.us/>

Figure AD10: The Hidden Tribes of America



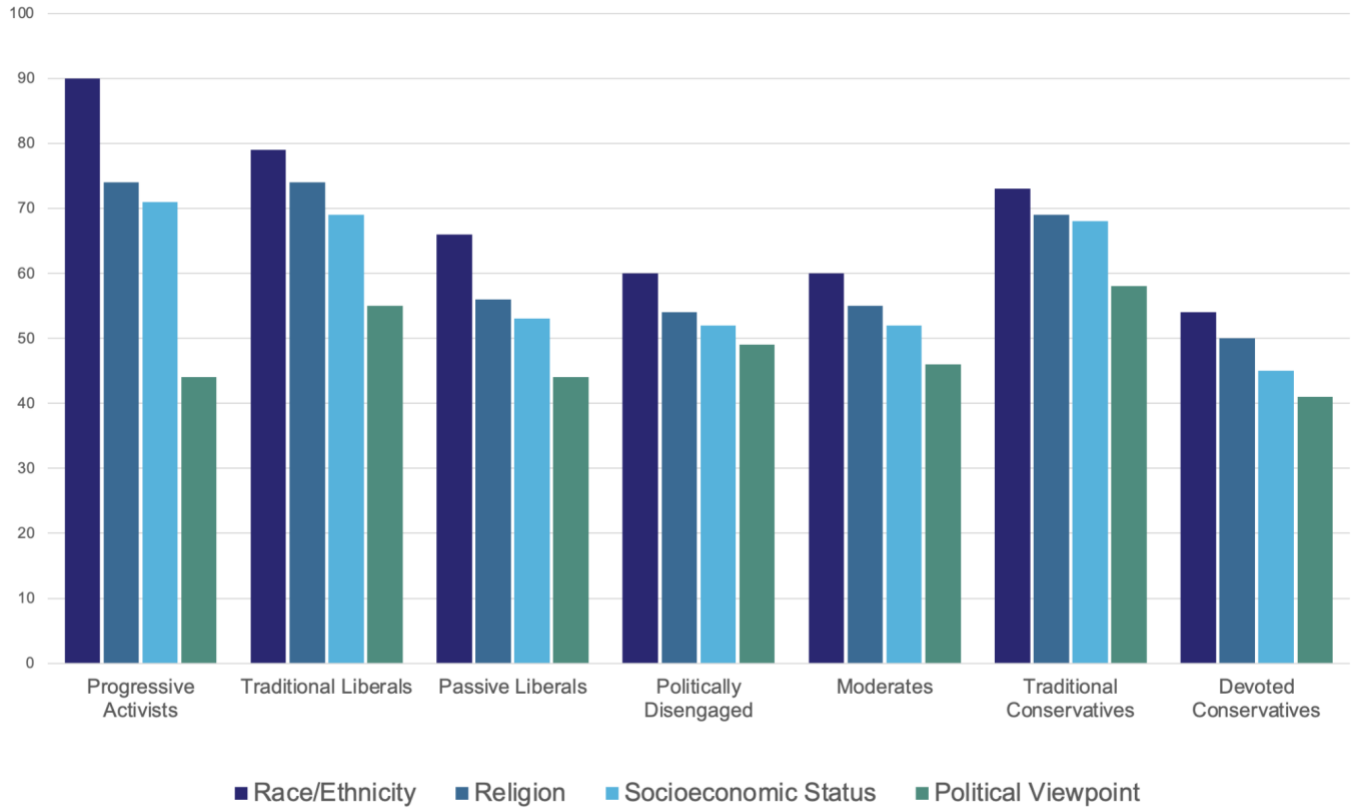
Source: More in Common, Hidden Tribes. 2018.

While we find broad interest in engaging across lines of difference (see our main report), America's Hidden Tribes reveal important differences in interest in connection. Progressive Activists and Traditional Liberals are the most interested in connecting across lines of religious, socioeconomic, and racial differences: Over about 70 percent of Progressive Activists and Traditional Liberals are at least moderately interested in engaging across those lines of difference (on average). In contrast, Devoted Conservatives, Politically Disengaged, and Moderates show the least interest in engaging across all lines of difference, including race, socioeconomic status, and religion.

When it comes to politics, the story changes. Traditional Liberals and Traditional Conservatives express more interest in connecting across political lines of difference than do the other Tribes.

Figure AD11: Interest in Future Connection Across Each Line of Difference, by Hidden Tribe

Interest varies by line of difference and by Hidden Tribe. (X-axis = % Interested)



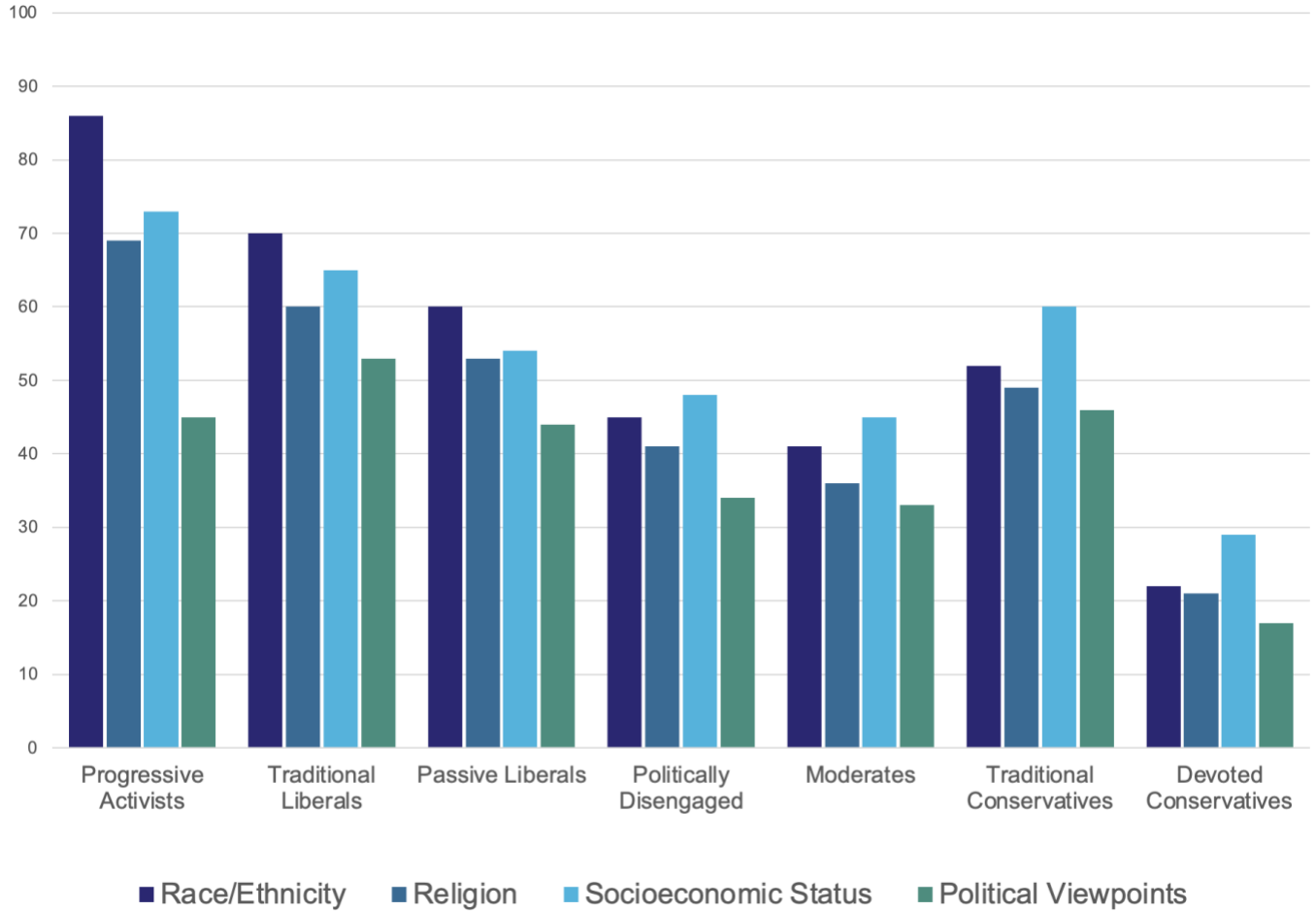
Note: % Interested is quantified by having a score of 3 or higher on the average of the bridging activities.

Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

When we look at attitudes on integrated communities across each line of difference, we see similar patterns. Over 70 percent of Traditional Liberals and Progressive Activists support or are “neutral” about increasing racial/ethnic integration in their communities (81 percent for religious integration; 60 percent for socioeconomic integration). Support again drops for politics. Only a slim majority of Traditional Liberals (53 percent) support or are “neutral” about having more politically integrated communities. Overall, Devoted Conservatives show the least overall support for integrated communities across all lines of difference.

Figure AD12: Support for Integrated Communities Across Each Line of Difference, by Hidden Tribe

Support varies by line of difference and by Hidden Tribe. (X-axis = % Support or are “Neutral” towards greater [group] integration)

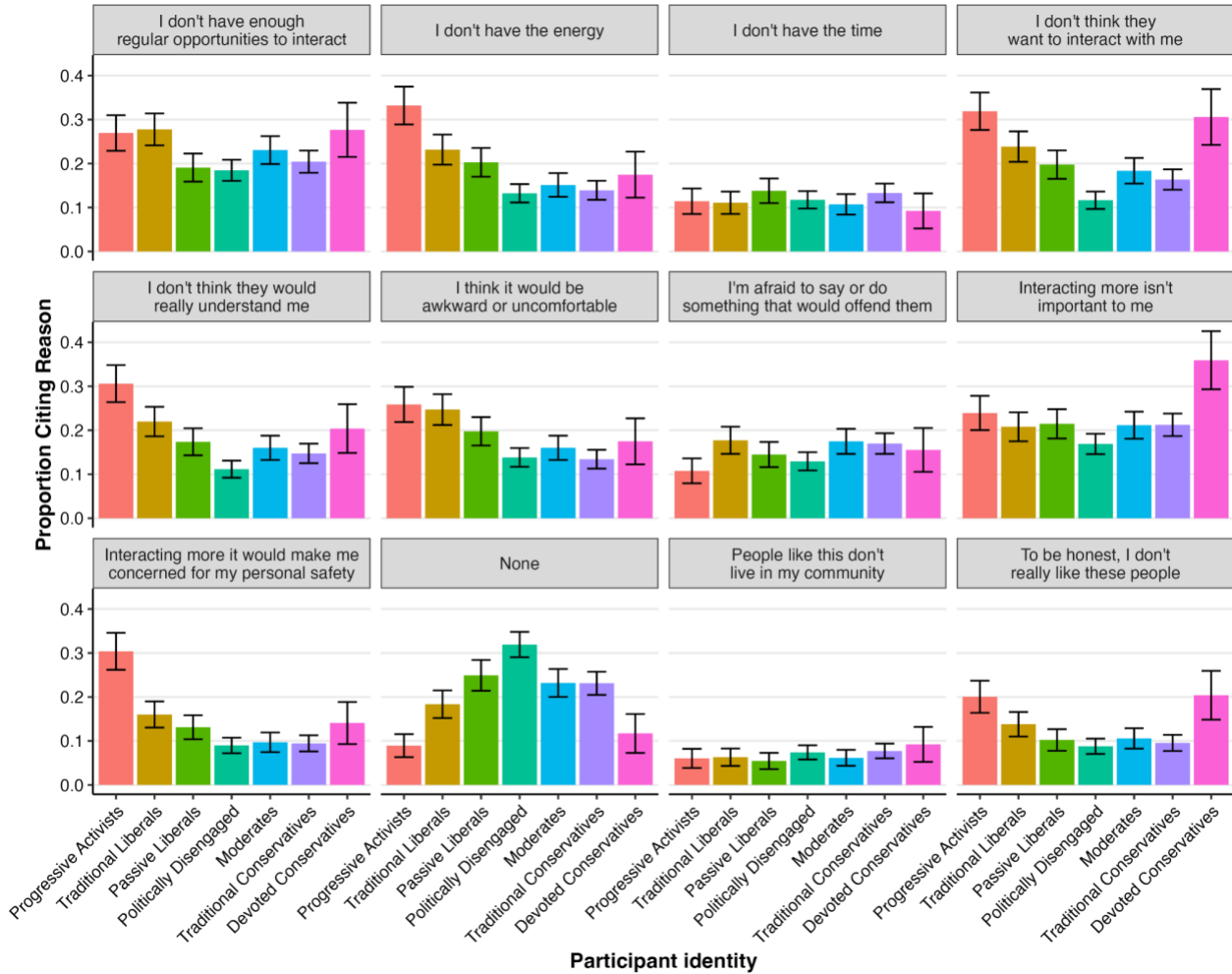


Note: % Support or are “neutral” is quantified by interest is quantified by having a score of 4 or higher on the support for greater integration item.
 Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

We also looked at how the Hidden Tribes responded to the question about challenges to connecting across lines of political difference. We wanted to know why people (specifically people in the Wings) were expressing more hesitations to this type of connection. We found that negative meta-perceptions—or holding the belief that the other political group “doesn't want to interact with me”—are highest among the Wings. Similarly, those on the Wings are more likely to feel that people with differing views don't “understand them.”

Additionally, “concern for my personal safety” is highest among Progressive Activists, as is “lacking energy.” Feeling that the interaction is “not important” is highest for Devoted Conservatives. Feeling that there are no challenges to connection is highest for the Politically Disengaged.

Figure AD13: Challenges to Connecting across Political Lines of Difference, by Hidden Tribes

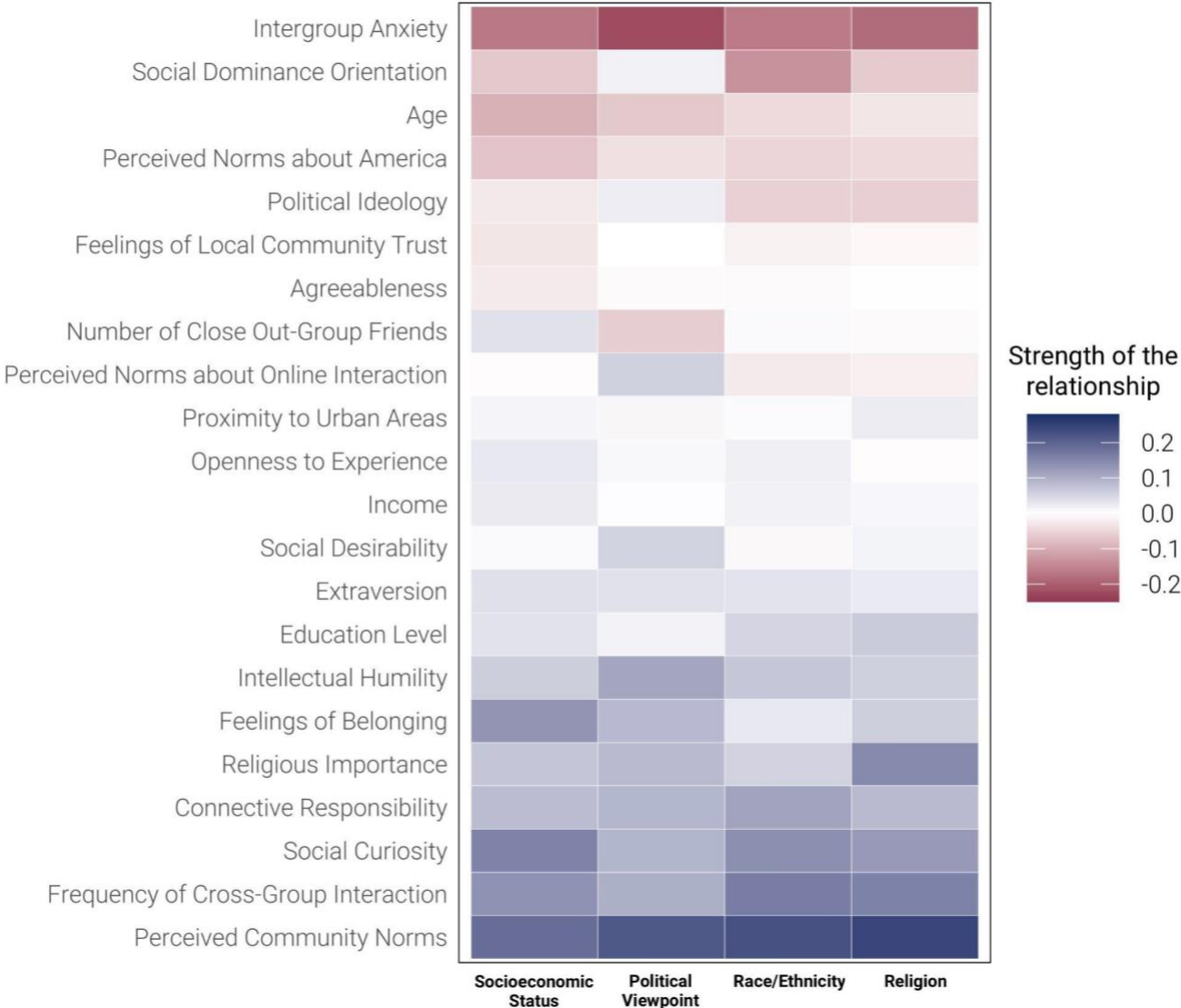


Question: “Which of the following statements reflects why you might not interact more with people who had a different political viewpoint than you? (Please select all that apply).” Error bars represent 95% confidence intervals. Items related to lacking social support were removed, due to low response. “Another reason” was also removed. The wording of the items has been shortened for clarity.
 Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

The Impact of Psychological and Demographic Factors, by Line of Difference

As in the Chapter 3 of the main report, we conducted a multiple regression across all four lines of difference that included all relevant variables—from social and relational factors like community norms to demographic factors like age—to test what best predicts interest in cross-group interaction. There was little variation in the influence of these factors on interest in cross-group interaction across the four lines of difference. Overall, perceptions of community norms is the strongest positive predictor of interest in connecting across lines of difference, and intergroup contact anxiety is the strongest negative predictor.

Figure AD14: Strength of Predictors, by Line of Difference



Note: Values represent standardized beta values from each multiple regression. Darker shades indicate stronger relationships. Blues indicate positive relationships and pinks indicate negative relationships. Note that “Perceived Norms about America” refer to perceived norms of cross-group connection at the country-level; “Perceived Norms about Online Interaction” refer to perceived norms of cross-group connection online. “Perceptions of Community Norms” refer to perceived norms of cross-group connection at the “local community” level. For definitions of the other predictors, see our main report.
 Source: More in Common, 2025. Survey of 4,522 US adults.

Regression Tables: Panel Analysis

Tables AD1-4. The tables below illustrate the regression coefficients and significance values from the “Connection Cascades” section of Chapter 3. Predictors are listed in the left column; regression coefficients are listed on the right with standard errors in parentheses. The primary predictor of interest is listed first. The first and second panel show that higher frequency of interaction across race (but not politics) predicts greater interest in subsequent interaction. The third and fourth panel show that, the more people have experiences of forming cross-race friendships, the more interested they are in cross-race interactions—but “talking about racial tensions” does not predict increased interest in cross-race interaction.

	<i>Dependent variable:</i> race_interest_post		<i>Dependent variable:</i> politics_interest_post
race_interact_frequency	0.119*** (0.034)		politics_interact_frequency 0.015 (0.031)
ideology	-0.102*** (0.027)		ideology -0.022 (0.028)
genderMale	-0.132* (0.074)		genderMale 0.212*** (0.077)
age	-0.008*** (0.002)		age -0.010*** (0.002)
incomeLow	-0.142* (0.081)		incomeLow -0.038 (0.085)
educ	0.048* (0.025)		educ 0.052** (0.026)
race_interest_pre	0.552*** (0.036)		politics_interest_pre 0.538*** (0.038)
Constant	1.730*** (0.273)		Constant 1.327*** (0.248)
Observations	493		Observations 491
R ²	0.464		R ² 0.388
Adjusted R ²	0.457		Adjusted R ² 0.379
Residual Std. Error	0.823 (df = 485)		Residual Std. Error 0.840 (df = 483)
F Statistic	60.049*** (df = 7; 485)		F Statistic 43.659*** (df = 7; 483)
<i>Note:</i>	***p***p<0.01 □		<i>Note:</i> ***p***p<0.01 □

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>
	race_interest_post
race_friendship	-0.187** (0.089)
ideology	-0.104*** (0.028)
genderMale	-0.134* (0.075)
age	-0.008*** (0.002)
incomeLow	-0.152* (0.082)
educ	0.044* (0.026)
race_interest_pre	0.562*** (0.037)
Constant	2.508*** (0.322)
Observations	493
R ²	0.455
Adjusted R ²	0.447
Residual Std. Error	0.830 (df = 485)
F Statistic	57.917*** (df = 7; 485)

Note: *p**p***p<0.01 □

	<i>Dependent variable:</i>
	race_interest_post
race_tensions	-0.093 (0.088)
ideology	-0.095*** (0.028)
genderMale	-0.135* (0.075)
age	-0.009*** (0.002)
incomeLow	-0.150* (0.082)
educ	0.047* (0.026)
race_interest_pre	0.576*** (0.036)
Constant	2.276*** (0.309)
Observations	493
R ²	0.452
Adjusted R ²	0.444
Residual Std. Error	0.833 (df = 485)
F Statistic	57.044*** (df = 7; 485)

Note: *p**p***p<0.01 □