Why would feminists vote for Donald Trump?

According to a new survey designed to reveal New Yorkers' attitudes toward women, yes. The poll revealed 29 percent of men and 30 percent of women said they were in favor of both gender equality and the president-elect, whose November victory was made official Monday by vote of the Electoral College.

The question about feminism and Trump was among 57 questions posed by Women@Work's View on Women (VOW) poll. It is an initiative of the Times Union, created through the Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz and conducted by Siena College Research Institute. The online poll was a survey of 1,050 New Yorkers, allowing for diversity of location, race, ethnicity and gender. The questions were about women's roles in work, politics and leadership, media, education and family.

It's hard to know what exactly was going on in the minds of the men and women who responded to the poll, said its creator, Eve Waltermaurer, director of research at the Benjamin Center. But the responses to two questions regarding gender equality seem to suggest two things. One, the offensive things Trump said on the campaign trail — both the direct attacks on specific women and about women in general — didn't cause his supporters to leave him. Two, it suggests feminist voters didn't all choose Hillary Clinton.

Waltermaurer specializes in social and behavioral research. She found surveys in 60 countries about gender roles, but discovered no one ever asked similar questions of Americans. The poll showed 15 percent of women and 23 percent of men believe men are better skilled than women at science and math; 56 percent of women and 50 percent of men believe a mother must put looking after her young child ahead of her career; and 11 percent of women and 18.7 percent of men believe it's a wife's obligation to have sex with her husband even if she does not want to.
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*Why didn't the person with the most political experience and who would have been a great representative as the first woman president, win the election?*

The results of VOW will be shared throughout 2017 in the Times Union, timesunion.com and Women@Work, with detailed data and analysis available to members of Women@Work, a magazine and network for working women. The data will also serve as the basis for the New York State of Women Summit, being held by Women@Work in the spring, which will be aimed at finding ways to address these attitudes about women, particularly as they affect women in the workplace.

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