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## Why would feminists vote for Donald Trump?

View On Women poll by Women@Work magazine examines gender roles

By Leigh Hornbeck Published 11:21 pm, Monday, December 19, 2016

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FILE - In this Thursday, Dec. 15, 2016, file photo, President-elect Donald Trump speaks during a rally at the Giant Center in Hershey, Pa. Trump's closest advisers see Democrats' complaints that Moscow hacked ... [more](#)

Can you call yourself a feminist and still support **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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### More Information

#### For more information

Do you want to be sure not to miss any of the information and analysis from Women@Work's View on Women poll?

In addition to receiving a subscription to Women@Work magazine and connections to the network's 1,700 members through its events, Women@Work members will have free access to the VOW reports as they're released throughout 2017 leading up to Women@Work's New York State of Women Summit this spring. The summit is aimed at finding ways to address the attitudes toward women revealed in VOW, particularly as they affect women in the workplace.

Sign up for Women@Work for \$25 a year at [tuwomenatwork.com](http://tuwomenatwork.com).

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Asked if they preferred a male supervisor at work, 16 percent of respondents said yes. Of those who said yes, 47.1 percent of them voted for Clinton. Of the 84 percent who disagreed with the statement, 50 percent voted for Clinton and 29.8 percent voted for Trump.

Another question asked if men in executive positions are better at taking risks than women. Of the 30 percent who agreed, 41.2 percent voted for Clinton and 42 percent voted for Trump. Of those who disagreed, 53 percent voted for Clinton and 26.9 percent voted for Trump.

Clinton had many detractors — her likability rating was consistently low and she was dogged by questions about her business dealings, how she handled Benghazi, and her use of a private server for sensitive email — but Waltermat said the poll reveals far-reaching sexism as well.

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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](http://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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