THE PEW FORUM
ON RELIGION
\& PUBLIC LIFE

# The Pew Research Center For The People \& The Press 

# Some Social Conservative Disillusionment MORE AMERICANS QUESTION RELIGION'S ROLE IN POLITICS 

Results from the
2008 Annual Religion and Public Life Survey

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# PEW FORUM ON RELIGION \& PUBLIC LIFE PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE \& THE PRESS 2008 RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY <br> TABLE OF CONTENTS 

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## Some Social Conservative Disillusionment MORE AMERICANS QUESTION RELIGION'S ROLE IN POLITICS

Some Americans are having a change of heart about mixing religion and politics. A new survey finds a narrow majority of the public saying that churches and other houses of worship should keep out of political matters and not express their views on day-to-day social and political matters. For a decade, majorities of Americans had voiced support for religious institutions speaking out on such issues.

The new national survey by the Pew Research Center reveals that most of the reconsideration of the desirability of religious involvement in politics has occurred among conservatives. Four years ago, just $30 \%$ of conservatives believed that churches and other houses of worship should stay out of politics. Today, $50 \%$ of conservatives express this view.


As a result, conservatives' views on this issue are much more in line with the views of moderates and liberals than was previously the case. Similarly, the sharp divisions between Republicans and Democrats that previously existed on this issue have disappeared.

There are other signs in the new poll about a potential change in the climate of opinion about mixing religion and politics. First, the survey finds a small but significant increase since 2004 in the percentage of respondents saying that they are uncomfortable when they hear politicians talk about how religious they are from $40 \%$ to $46 \%$. Again, the increase in negative sentiment about religion and politics is much more apparent among Republicans than among Democrats.

## Party Gap Disappears on Mixing Religion \& Politics

|  |  |  |  | D-R |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Rep | Dem | Ind | gap |
| August 2008 | \% | \% | \% |  |
| Keep out | 51 | 52 | 55 | +1 |
| Express views | 48 | 46 | 42 | -2 |
| Don't know | $\frac{1}{100}$ | $\frac{2}{10}$ | $\frac{3}{100}$ |  |
| August 2004 |  |  |  |  |
| Keep out | 37 | 51 | 45 | +14 |
| Express views | 58 | 45 | 50 | -13 |
| Don't know | $\frac{5}{100}$ | $\frac{4}{100}$ | $\frac{5}{100}$ |  |
| Change in "keep out" | +14 | +1 | +10 |  |

Second, while the Republican Party is most often seen as the party friendly toward religion, the Democratic Party has made gains in this area. Nearly four-in-ten (38\%) now say the Democratic Party is generally friendly toward religion, up from just $26 \%$ two years ago.

Nevertheless, considerably more people (52\%) continue to view the GOP as friendly toward religion.

The poll by Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion \& Public Life finds increasing numbers of Americans believing that religiously defined ideological groups have too much control over the parties themselves. Nearly half (48\%) say religious conservatives have too much influence over the Republican Party, up from 43\% in August 2007. At the same time, more

| Who Controls the Parties? |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Religious conservatives | Aug | Aug |
| have too much control | $\frac{2007}{\%}$ | $\frac{2008}{\%}$ |
| over the Republican Party | 43 | 48 |
| Agree | 41 | 41 |
| Disagree | $\underline{16}$ | $\underline{11}$ |
| Don't know | 100 | 100 |
| Liberals who are not religious |  |  |
| have too much control |  |  |
| over the Democratic Party |  |  |
| Agree | 37 | 43 |
| Disagree | 47 | 45 |
| Don't know | $\underline{16}$ | $\underline{12}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | people say that liberals who are not religious have too much sway over the Democrats than did so last year (43\% today vs. $37 \%$ then).

## Social Conservatives' Discontents

In addition to somewhat greater worries about the way religious and non-religious groups are influencing the parties, the survey suggests that frustration and disillusionment among social conservatives may be a part of the reason why a greater number now think that religious institutions should keep out of politics. However, there is little to suggest that social conservatives want religion to be a less important element in American politics.

The greatest increases since 2004 in the view that churches and other houses of worship should not express themselves on political matters have occurred among less-educated Republicans and people who say that social issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage will be important to their vote. For example, among people who rate gay marriage as a top voting issue, the percentage saying that churches should stay out of politics soared from $25 \%$ in 2004 to $50 \%$ currently; there was little change over this period on this question among people who do not view same-sex marriage
 as a very important issue.

Another indication that disillusionment may be in play in increased opposition to the mixing of religion and politics is seen in the fact that this sentiment has increased most among
people who rate the major parties as unfriendly toward religion. The views of citizens who see the parties as neutral or friendly toward religion have been more stable on the question of whether churches and other houses of worship should speak out on political issues.

In short, the change of mind about the role of religious institutions in politics is most apparent among people who are most concerned about the very issues that churches and other houses of worship have focused on, and among those who fault the parties for their friendliness toward religion.

Changes in views about the role of churches in politics notwithstanding, many of the contours of American public opinion relating to broad questions of religion and politics remain largely unchanged. Two-thirds of the public (66\%) say that churches and other houses of worship should not endorse one candidate over another, which is unchanged since 2004 (65\%). And while most say it is important for presidents to have strong religious beliefs, they are divided about whether there currently is too much, or too little, in the way of expressions of faith by contemporary political leaders. Roughly comparable numbers say political leaders express their religious beliefs too much (29\%), too little (36\%) or the right amount (28\%).

Despite their increased reluctance to see religious institutions speaking out on politics, conservatives and Republicans continue to express very strong support for a religious president and relatively high levels of support for expressions of religious faith and prayer by political leaders.

## Soft Support Among Social Conservatives for McCain

While some social conservatives are expressing changed views about religion and politics, there is little indication that they are changing their voting preferences: John McCain has about as large a lead over Barack Obama among conservatives and white evangelicals as George Bush did at this stage in the campaign four years ago.

However, as has been the case since June, the current survey shows much more tepid support for McCain among white evangelical Protestants and conservatives generally than Bush enjoyed in August 2004. Just $28 \%$ of white evangelical Protestants say they are strong backers of the Arizona senator. Four years ago, $57 \%$ of white evangelicals described themselves as strong backers of President Bush.

| White Evangelicals Back McCain, <br> But Not Strongly |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Sep | Aug | Aug |
|  | $\underline{2000}$ | $\frac{2004}{\%}$ | $\frac{2008}{\%}$ |
|  | 59 | 71 | 68 |
| Bush/ McCain | 34 | 57 | 28 |
| Strongly | 25 | 14 | 40 |
| Not strongly | $\underline{12}$ | 24 | 24 |
| Gore/ Kerry/ Obama | 29 | $\frac{5}{100}$ | $\underline{8}$ |
| Other/ DK |  | 100 |  |
| Based on white evangelical Protestant registered |  |  |  |
| voters. |  |  |  |

As was the case in previous presidential elections, the voting inclinations of Catholic voters - especially white non-Hispanic Catholics - remain fluid. Four years ago at this time John Kerry held a slight edge over Bush among white non-Hispanic Catholics; but he lost that lead by the election. In the current poll, this group, which accounts for $18 \%$ of the electorate, is divided almost evenly: 45\% support McCain, while 44\% favor Obama.

## Other Findings

The survey was conducted by telephone - both landline phones and cell phones - from July 31-Aug. 10 among a national sample of 2,905 adults. It finds that as the Democratic Party’s advantage in party identification has grown, there have been some notable changes in party affiliation within key religious groups. In 2008, about half of registered voters (51\%) identify themselves as Democrats or lean toward the Democratic Party, while just 38\% identify as Republicans or Republican leaners. In 2004, Democrats held only a slight, three-point advantage in party affiliation (47\% to 44\%).

While white non-Hispanic Catholics are divided in their presidential choices, they are increasingly identifying as Democrats. In surveys conducted this year, $49 \%$ of white nonHispanic Catholics either affiliate with or lean toward the Democratic Party, while $40 \%$ identify with the GOP. In 2004, $47 \%$ of white non-Hispanic Catholics identified with the GOP while 45\% affiliated with the Democratic Party.

The survey finds that the economy continues to dominate the concerns of voters. Nearly nine-in-ten (87\%) say the economy will be very important to their vote this fall, up from $78 \%$ in October 2004. Energy has surged among voters' concerns: 77\% view energy as very important, compared with only $54 \%$ in the closing weeks of the last campaign.

For the most part, the issues that are important to the public as a whole are also important to particular religious groups. However, social issues, such as same-sex marriage, continue to be more important for white evangelicals than for other registered voters. Currently, $46 \%$ of white evangelicals say same-sex marriage will be a very important voting issue, compared with $28 \%$ of all voters. That is only somewhat less than the percentage of white evangelical voters who viewed same-sex marriage as very important in October 2004 (49\%).

## Section 1: The Mix of Religion and Politics

## More Say Churches Should Keep Out of Politics

A slim majority of the public (52\%) says that churches and other houses of worship should keep out of politics, an eight point increase compared with 2004. Fewer (45\%) take the view that churches should express their views on day-to-day social and political questions. This marks the first time since the Pew Research Center began asking the question in 1996 that those who say churches should keep out of politics outnumber those who say churches should express their political views.

While Democrats and liberals have
 traditionally been the most wary of church involvement in political matters, the increase in opposition over the past four years has come mostly from Republicans and conservatives. As a result, where there was once a substantial partisan and ideological gap on this question, there is now far less of a divide.

The share of Republicans who say churches should keep out of social and political matters has increased from 37\% to $51 \%$ since 2004. Opposition to church involvement also is up 10 points among political independents (from $45 \%$ to 55\%). Meanwhile, Democratic views remain largely unchanged. The sharp partisan divisions on this question that existed in 2004, when Democrats were significantly more opposed than Republicans to church involvement in politics, have disappeared almost completely, with slim majorities of both parties now agreeing that churches should keep out of politics.

| Growing Conservative Reluctance |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Aug | July | Aug | 04-08 |
|  | $\underline{2004}$ | 2006 | 2008 | Change |
|  | \% | \% | \% |  |
| Total | 44 | 46 | 52 | +8 |
| Republican | 37 | 39 | 51 | +14 |
| Democrat | 51 | 50 | 52 | +1 |
| Independent | 45 | 48 | 55 | +10 |
| Conservative | 30 | 36 | 50 | +20 |
| Moderate | 52 | 48 | 53 | +1 |
| Liberal | 62 | 56 | 57 | -5 |
| Candidate preference |  |  |  |  |
| Bush/ McCain | 38 | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | 52 | +14 |
| Kerry/ Obama | 54 | n/a | 54 | 0 |
| College graduate | 49 | 48 | 50 | +1 |
| Some college or less | 42 | 45 | 53 | +11 |
| Total Protestant | 35 | 39 | 47 | +12 |
| White evangelical | 28 | 34 | 39 | +11 |
| White mainline | 51 | 52 | 64 | +13 |
| Black Protestant | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | 29 | 36 | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ |
| Total Catholic | 54 | 52 | 55 | +1 |
| White non-Hispanic | 60 | 54 | 59 | -1 |
| Unaffiliated | 59 | 59 | 68 | +9 |
| Attend services |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 31 | 36 | 45 | +14 |
| Less often | 52 | 52 | 58 | +6 |

This pattern is equally stark along ideological lines. In 2004, liberals were twice as likely as conservatives ( $62 \%$ vs. $30 \%$ ) to say churches should keep out of political matters. Today, the ideological divide is much smaller, with $57 \%$ of liberals and $50 \%$ of conservatives holding this view.

As a result of the shifting opinions on the right, this is no longer an issue that divides supporters of the Democratic and Republican presidential candidates. In August of 2004, just $38 \%$ of Bush's supporters felt that churches should keep out of political matters, compared with $54 \%$ of Kerry's supporters. Today, supporters of McCain and Obama are nearly identical in their views on this question ( $52 \%$ and $54 \%$, respectively, say churches should keep out of politics).

Among demographic and religious groups, the increase is seen primarily among those with lower levels of education, Protestants and the religiously unaffiliated. A majority of those with less than a college education now oppose churches expressing their political views, an 11 point increase since 2004. Similarly, white Protestants, both evangelical and mainline alike, are significantly more wary of church involvement today as compared with 2004. And nearly half ( $45 \%$ ) of those who attend religious services weekly or more now say that churches should keep out of politics, up 14 points in four years.

Further analysis shows that among Republicans, opposition to churches expressing their political views has increased most among conservatives, Protestants, weekly churchgoers and those with lower levels of education. Roughly half of conservative Republicans now want churches to keep out of politics, up 18 points over four years ago. Similarly, $46 \%$ of Republican Protestants now express reservations about church involvement in politics, up from $28 \%$ in 2004. Even among white evangelical Republicans, more than one-third (36\%)

| Within GOP, More Conservatives, Protestants and Churchgoers Tell Churches Keep Out |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Aug | July | Aug | 04-08 | 2008 |
|  | 2004 | 2006 | $\underline{2008}$ | Change | N |
| All Republicans | 37 | 39 <br> 9 | 51 | +14 | 426 |
| College grad. | 42 | 42 | 45 | +3 | 172 |
| Some college or less | 34 | 38 | 54 | +20 | 251 |
| Conservative | 30 | 34 | 48 | +18 | 309 |
| Moderate/ liberal | 50 | 49 | 59 | +9 | 117 |
| Protestant | 28 | 36 | 46 | +18 | 279 |
| White evangelical | 20 | 30 | 36 | +16 | 158 |
| Attend services |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 24 | 31 | 43 | +19 | 215 |
| Less often | 48 | 49 | 59 | +11 | 209 | now want churches to keep out of politics, up 16 points since 2004.

## Continuing Opposition to Church Endorsement of Candidates

Two-thirds of all adults say that churches should not come out in favor of one political candidate over another. The high level of opposition to church endorsement of candidates is consistent with Pew polling conducted in recent years and is found across a wide variety of groups in the population.

Older adults are more likely than younger adults to say churches should refrain from endorsing candidates ( $75 \%$ of those over the age of 65 take this point of view); but even among those under 30, more than six-in-ten (62\%) say churches should avoid favoring one candidate over another. Similarly, majorities of every religious group, including black Protestants (55\%), white evangelicals (64\%) and those who attend church at least once a week (63\%) oppose church endorsements of political candidates.

While the overall balance of public opinion has been steady on this question, Republicans have become

Should Churches Endorse One Candidate Over Another?

|  | $\frac{Y e s}{}$ | $\frac{\text { No }}{}$ | $\frac{\text { DK }}{\%}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| August, 2008 | 29 | 66 | $5=100$ |
| August, 2007 | 28 | 63 | $9=100$ |
| August, 2004 | 25 | 65 | $10=100$ |
| March, 2002 | 22 | 70 | $8=100$ |
| Age 18-29 | 32 | 62 | $6=100$ |
| $30-49$ | 33 | 64 | $3=100$ |
| 50-64 | 28 | 68 | $4=100$ |
| 65+ | 18 | 75 | $7=100$ |
|  |  |  |  |
| White Protestant | 29 | 68 | $3=100$ |
| $\quad$ Evangelical | 34 | 64 | $2=100$ |
| $\quad$ Mainline | 23 | 73 | $4=100$ |
| Black Protestant <br> Catholic | 36 | 55 | $9=100$ |
| $\quad$ White, non-Hisp. | 30 | 67 | $36=100$ |
| Unaffiliated | 27 | 68 | $4=100$ |
|  |  |  | $5=100$ |
| Attend services... | 32 | 63 | $5=100$ |
| Weekly or more | 27 | 69 | $4=100$ |

Question: "During political elections, should churches and other houses of worship come out in favor of one candidate over another, or shouldn't they do this?"

More Republicans Say Churches Should NOT Endorse Candidates


## When Candidates Talk About Their Faith

Overall, half of Americans (50\%) say that it does not bother them when politicians talk about how religious they are, but the number expressing discomfort has edged upward over the past four years. Today, $46 \%$ say they are uncomfortable when politicians talk about how religious they are, up from $40 \%$ in 2004. More Republicans, in particular, are expressing discomfort with politicians talking about their own religion. McCain supporters, for instance, are substantially more likely than were Bush supporters in 2004 to say they are uncomfortable with politicians talking about how religious they are ( $40 \%$ of McCain backers today vs. $30 \%$ of Bush backers in 2004).

Despite increasing Republican discomfort with politicians' religious talk, Democrats (49\%) and political independents (48\%) remain more likely than Republicans (40\%) to say they are uncomfortable hearing politicians talk about their religion.

| More Discomfort with Politicians Talking About Their Religion |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Dis |  |
|  | $\frac{\text { Agree }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { agree }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\mathrm{DK}}{\%}$ |
| August, 2008 | 46 | 50 | $4=100$ |
| August, 2007 | 43 | 50 | 7=100 |
| August, 2004 | 40 | 56 | 4=100 |
| Republican | 40 | 57 | 3=100 |
| Democrat | 49 | 47 | 4=100 |
| Independent | 48 | 48 | 4=100 |
| White Protestant | 41 | 55 | $4=100$ |
| Evangelical | 38 | 58 | 4=100 |
| Mainline | 44 | 52 | 4=100 |
| Black Protestant | 43 | 54 | 3=100 |
| White Catholic | 47 | 49 | 4=100 |
| Unaffiliated | 57 | 40 | 3=100 |
| Question: Agree/ Disagree with the statement "It makes me uncomfortable when politicians talk about how religious they are." |  |  |  |

Protestants - especially white evangelicals (58\%) - tend to be most comfortable with politicians' talking about how religious they are. White Catholics, by contrast, are evenly divided on this issue ( $47 \%$ say this makes them uncomfortable while 49\% disagree), and a large majority of the religiously unaffiliated (57\%) express discomfort with hearing about politicians' religion.

| More Republicans Uncomfortable With Expressions of Faith |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Aug } \\ 2004 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |  | 04-08 Change | $\begin{array}{r} 2008 \\ \underline{e} \quad \underline{N} \end{array}$ |
|  | \% | \% |  |  |
| Total population | 40 | 46 | +6 | 2,905 |
| Republican | 30 | 40 | +10 | 833 |
| College grad | 36 | 36 | 0 | 324 |
| Less education | 26 | 41 | +15 | 505 |
| Democrat | 53 | 49 | -4 | 944 |
| Independent | 41 | 48 | +7 | 969 |
| Candidate pref. |  |  |  |  |
| Bush/ McCain | 30 | 40 | +10 | 1097 |
| Kerry/ Obama | 53 | 51 | -2 | 1071 |

## Important That a President Have Strong Religious Beliefs

An overwhelming majority of the public continues to say that it is important to them that a president have strong religious beliefs. More than seven-in-ten Americans express this opinion, and attitudes on this issue have not changed in recent years.

Republicans especially want to have a president who has strong religious beliefs, with $86 \%$ expressing this opinion. But even among Democrats and independents, more than two-thirds ( $68 \%$ and $66 \%$, respectively) say that presidents should have strong religious beliefs. A similar consensus exists across religious groups; only among the religiously unaffiliated do fewer than half (36\%) express a desire for a president with strong religious beliefs.

The poll also finds that public opinion about the amount of religious expression by political leaders has held steady in recent years. A 36\% plurality of Americans say that there is too little expression of religious faith and

| Presidents Should Have Strong Religious Beliefs |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Dis |  |
|  | $\frac{\text { Agree }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { agree }}{\%}$ | DK |
| August, 2008 | 72 | 25 | $3=100$ |
| August, 2007 | 69 | 27 | 4=100 |
| August, 2004 | 70 | 26 | 4=100 |
| Republican | 86 | 12 | $2=100$ |
| Democrat | 68 | 29 | $3=100$ |
| Independent | 66 | 31 | $3=100$ |
| White Protestant | 83 | 15 | $2=100$ |
| Evangelical | 90 | 8 | 2=100 |
| Mainline | 76 | 21 | 3=100 |
| Black Protestant | 80 | 18 | $2=100$ |
| White Catholic | 77 | 19 | 4=100 |
| Unaffiliated | 36 | 62 | $2=100$ |
| Attend services... |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 85 | 12 | 3=100 |
| Monthly/ yearly | 72 | 25 | 3=100 |
| Seldom/ never | 51 | 47 | $2=100$ |
| Question: Agree/ Disagree with the statement "It's important to me that a president have strong religious beliefs." |  |  |  | prayer by political leaders, while $29 \%$ say there is too much and $28 \%$ say there is the right amount. Compared with 2004, there has been a slight increase among the public overall in the number saying there has been too little religious talk from politicians ( $36 \%$ now vs. $31 \%$ in 2004), and a ten point increase among Republicans taking this point of view ( $46 \%$ now compared with $36 \%$ in 2004).


| Expressions of Religious Faith and Prayer by Political Leaders |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Too | Too | Right |
|  | much | $\frac{\text { little }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { mount }}{\%} \frac{\text { DK }}{\text { \% }}$ |
| August, 2008 | 29 | 36 | 28 7=100 |
| August, 2007 | 27 | 38 | 26 9=100 |
| July, 2005 | 26 | 39 | 27 8=100 |
| August, 2004 | 27 | 31 | 32 10=100 |

## Are the Parties Religion-Friendly?

The Republican Party has long been viewed as being religion-friendly. Currently, about half of Americans (52\%) say the GOP is friendly toward religion, $29 \%$ say it is neutral and just $9 \%$ say the party is unfriendly toward religion. These views have remained stable over the past five years.


By contrast, views of the Democratic Party's relationship with religion have varied substantially in recent years. The latest Pew survey finds a significant increase in the number saying that the Democratic Party is friendly toward religion; $38 \%$ of the public now expresses this point of view, up from just $26 \%$ in 2006. An additional $37 \%$ say that the Democratic Party is neutral toward religion, down from $42 \%$ two years ago and just $15 \%$ say the party is unfriendly toward religion, down from 20\% in 2006.

Despite these gains, the Democrats still trail Republicans in perceptions of friendliness toward religion. A slim majority (52\%) says the GOP is friendly toward religion, compared with $38 \%$ who say the same about the Democratic Party.

For the most part, views of the Democratic Party's friendliness toward religion mirror opinions in 2004, when $40 \%$ said the party was friendly toward religion. This perception changed in 2005, when just 29\% said the Democratic Party was friendly toward religion.

People who view a party as unfriendly toward religion tend to express unfavorable views of that party, while those who see a party as neutral or friendly toward religion are much more positively inclined toward that party overall. This is particularly true when it comes to the Democratic Party. Overall, 57\% of Americans have a positive view of the Democratic Party. This number is highest (70\%) among those who see the party as friendly toward religion and lowest (22\%) among those who say the party is unfriendly toward religion. The Republican Party's image is far less favorable than that of the Democratic Party - just 43\% overall have a favorable opinion of the GOP. Even among those who say it is friendly toward

| Friendliness Toward Religion Matters to Party Favorability |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| View of Democrats |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Can't |  |
|  |  |  | $\frac{\text { rate }}{\%}$ | N |
| Total population | 57 | 37 | $6=100$ | 2,905 |
| See Dems as... |  |  |  |  |
| Friendly to religion | 70 | 25 | 5=100 | 1,101 |
| Neutral | 61 | 35 | 4=100 | 1,069 |
| Unfriendly | 22 | 75 | 3=100 | 475 |
| View of Republicans |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  | Can't |  |
|  | $\frac{\mathrm{Fav}}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Unfav }}{\%}$ |  | N |
| Total population | 43 | 49 | $8=100$ | 2,905 |
| See GOP as.. |  |  |  |  |
| Friendly to religion | 48 | 48 | 4=100 | 1,663 |
| Neutral | 47 | 47 | 6=100 | 780 |
| Unfriendly | 21 | 73 | 6=100 | 201 | religion, just 48\% view the Republican Party favorably. Favorability falls to just $21 \%$ among the small number who say the Republican Party is unfriendly toward religion.

## Who Controls the Parties?

It is also possible for a party to be viewed as too closely tied to particular religious groups, and the poll indicates that the public increasingly sees polarization between the two parties; for example, nearly half of adults (48\%) say that religious conservatives have too much power over the GOP, up from $43 \%$ one year ago. And nearly as many (43\%) say that liberals who are not religious have too much control over the Democratic Party, an impression that has also become more widespread over the past year ( $37 \%$ held this view a year ago).

| Power over the Parties |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Religious conservatives have too much power over the Rep Party Aug Aug 20072008 change |  |  | Non-religious liberals have too much power over the Dem Party Aug Aug 20072008 change |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total population | 43 | 48 | +5 | 37 | 43 | +6 |
| Republican | 30 | 31 | +1 | 58 | 62 | +4 |
| Democrat | 53 | 57 | +4 | 23 | 31 | +8 |
| Independent | 48 | 51 | +3 | 34 | 44 | +10 |
| White Protestant | 37 | 44 | +7 | 42 | 53 | +9 |
| Evangelical | 28 | 36 | $+8$ | 52 | 60 | +8 |
| Mainline | 49 | 53 | +4 | 32 | 46 | +14 |
| Black Protestant | 42 | 49 | +7 | 31 | 34 | +3 |
| White Catholic | 41 | 48 | +7 | 37 | 41 | +4 |
| Unaffiliated | 63 | 62 | -1 | 29 | 28 | -1 |

Not surprisingly, Democrats (57\%) and political independents (51\%) are each substantially more likely than Republicans (31\%) to see the GOP as overly beholden to religious conservatives. Within religious groups, white evangelicals are less likely than other groups to say religious conservatives have too much power over the Republican Party; 36\% of evangelicals take this view, compared with $48 \%$ of white Catholics, $49 \%$ of black Protestants, $53 \%$ of white mainline Protestants and $62 \%$ of the religiously unaffiliated. While low, the number of white evangelicals who see the GOP as unduly influenced by religious conservatives has increased significantly from $28 \%$ a year ago to $36 \%$ today.

Most Republicans (62\%) believe that secular liberals have too much power over the Democratic Party. Far fewer independents (44\%) or Democrats (31\%) hold this impression. Among religious groups, white evangelical Protestants express the most concern about secular liberals' control over the Democratic Party (60\%); among all other religious traditions, fewer than half espouse this point of view.

## Section 2: The Campaign, Candidates and Bush

## Overview

The broad contours of religion in the 2008 election campaign remain largely unchanged from previous election cycles. White evangelical Protestants remain overwhelmingly Republican, and they favor McCain over Obama by roughly the same margins that they favored Bush over his 2000 and 2004 Democratic opponents. But white evangelical Protestants express far less enthusiasm for McCain than they did for Bush. And despite Democratic gains in party identification in two key swing constituencies - white mainline Protestants and white Catholics Obama is doing no better against McCain than either Gore or Kerry did against Bush.

While Obama leads McCain as the candidate who voters think shares their values overall, when voters rate their own moral values on a liberal/conservative spectrum, they place themselves far closer to McCain - on the conservative side of the scale - than they do to Obama on the liberal side. McCain is not seen as being as conservative on moral issues as Bush, and Obama is not seen as being as liberal as Bill Clinton on morality.

| Religion and the Vote in 2008 vs. 2004 and 2000* |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 2000 |  | 2004 |  | 2008 |  | $\begin{gathered} 2008 \\ \underline{N} \end{gathered}$ |
|  | Gore | Bush | Kerry | Bush | Obama | McCain |  |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |  |
| Total | 47 | 41 | 47 | 45 | 46 | 43 | 2414 |
| Total Protestant | 44 | 45 | 41 | 52 | 42 | 49 | 1364 |
| White evangelical | 29 | 59 | 24 | 71 | 24 | 68 | 576 |
| White mainline | 44 | 45 | 43 | 49 | 39 | 50 | 501 |
| Black Protestant | 82 | 8 | 84 | 6 | 88 | 6 | 186 |
| Total Catholic | 51 | 40 | 54 | 42 | 47 | 42 | 548 |
| White Non-Hispanic | 47 | 43 | 50 | 47 | 44 | 45 | 440 |
| Unaffiliated | 56 | 21 | 67 | 23 | 59 | 27 | 282 |
| Whites | 57 | 21 | 66 | 23 | 56 | 32 | 233 |
| Among white evangelicals |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Attend weekly or more | 27 | 61 | 19 | 77 | 20 | 74 | 386 |
| Less often | 35 | 54 | -- | -- | 33 | 57 | 188 |
| 18-49 | 21 | 70 | 18 | 77 | 23 | 71 | 202 |
| 50+ | 38 | 47 | 29 | 65 | 26 | 66 | 368 |
| *Surveys from September 2000, August 2004 and August 2008. In 2000 and 2004, the horserace question included Ralph Nader. Based on registered voters. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Religion and the Horserace

Several of the patterns of religious support seen in the 2004 presidential race continue to hold in 2008. White evangelical Protestants, mainstays of Bush’s base in both 2000 and 2004, support McCain over Obama by a wide margin. McCain leads Obama by 44-percentage points among white evangelicals - comparable to Bush's 47-point lead over Kerry with this group in
the summer of 2004, and even larger than Bush's 30 -point lead over Gore in the summer of 2000. As was the case four years ago, this advantage is more pronounced among the most religiously observant - evangelicals who attend church at least once a week favor McCain over Obama by a $74 \%$ to $20 \%$ margin. Even among younger evangelicals, McCain holds a substantial lead over Obama ( $71 \%$ to $23 \%$ among those 18 to 49 years old, and $70 \%$ to $24 \%$ among those under the age of 40).

Support among white mainline Protestants shows little change from the 2004 election cycle; McCain's $50 \%$ to $39 \%$ lead over Obama among white mainline Protestants is roughly similar to the $49 \%$ to $43 \%$ lead Bush held over Kerry with this group. Among Catholics, however, there has been a small shift. Fewer than half of white non-Hispanic Catholics (44\%) now support Obama; in August 2004, half (50\%) supported Kerry.

As in past elections, black Protestants, who have supported Democratic candidates by ratios of greater than ten-to-one, now support Barack Obama to a similar degree (88\% support Obama, compared with just $6 \%$ who support McCain). The religiously unaffiliated - another traditionally Democratic group - also heavily back Obama; he enjoys a greater than two-to-one ( $59 \%$ to $27 \%$ ) advantage over McCain among those with no religious affiliation.

## Little Enthusiasm for McCain

While the overall religious contours of the horserace are little changed from 2004, the strength of voters’ commitment to the candidates differs substantially from four years ago. McCain has lower levels of strong support than Bush did in 2004, and this decline in commitment to the Republican candidate is most apparent among white evangelicals and the most religiously observant. By contrast, Obama's overall level of strong support is almost identical to Kerry's four years ago, as is his level of strong support among the religiously observant. However he enjoys less strong support among Catholics.

Among the $43 \%$ of voters who favor John McCain in Pew's August survey, only $17 \%$ say they support him "strongly," while $26 \%$ just lean toward him or favor him "only moderately." This is roughly half the number of strong supporters that Bush had in August of 2004, when 32\% of voters backed him strongly. Among voters who attend religious services at least once a week, this decline is even more pronounced - fully $45 \%$ of weekly attenders supported Bush strongly four years ago, compared with $21 \%$ who say the same about McCain today.

While white evangelicals back McCain at high levels overall, they express much less strong support than they did for Bush four years ago. Only $28 \%$ of this group supports McCain strongly, compared with fully 57\% who asserted strong support for Bush in 2004. Further, evangelicals who support McCain today are far more likely to describe their vote as mostly a
vote against Barack Obama than evangelicals who supported Bush four years ago in his race against John Kerry.

| Strong Support in 2008 vs. 2004 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Dem candidates |  |  | Rep candidates |  |  |
|  | Kerry | bama |  | Bush | McCain |  |
|  | $\frac{2004}{\%}$ | $\frac{2008}{\%}$ | change | $\frac{2004}{\%}$ | $\frac{2008}{\%}$ | change |
| Total | 28 | 27 | -1 | 32 | 17 | -15 |
| Total Protestant | 17 | 27 | +10 | 45 | 19 | -26 |
| White evangelical | 12 | 11 | -1 | 57 | 28 | -29 |
| White mainline | 23 | 19 | -4 | 31 | 20 | -11 |
| Black Protestant | 58 | 76 | +18 | 4 |  | -2 |
| Total Catholic | 36 | 21 | -15 | 27 | 17 | -10 |
| White Non-Hisp | 31 | 19 | -12 | 33 | 19 | -14 |
| Unaffiliated | 34 | 36 | +2 | 12 | 11 | -1 |
| Attend services |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 24 | 25 | +1 | 45 | 21 | -24 |
| Less often | 31 | 29 | -2 | 24 | 14 | -10 |
| Based on registered "strongly support" e | ers. Pe candid | ntage <br> e. | are the sh | all vot | rs saying | they |

While overall strength of support for Barack Obama differs little from that of his Democratic predecessor, the strength of his support among Catholics is considerably weaker than Kerry's. Today, only 19\% of white non-Hispanic Catholics strongly support Obama; by contrast, Kerry enjoyed strong support from $31 \%$ of this group. At the same time, Catholic enthusiasm for John McCain is also substantially lower than it was for Bush four years ago.

## Who "Shares My Values"?

A small plurality of American voters say that Barack Obama (47\%) more than McCain (39\%) is the presidential candidate who most shares their values. But views differ substantially across religious lines. Most white evangelical Protestant voters (60\%) more than any other major religious group say that McCain shares their values compared with just $27 \%$ who attribute this characteristic to Obama. White mainline Protestant voters are more evenly divided on the question of which presumptive nominee, McCain or Obama, most closely shares their values (45\%

| Which Candidate "Shares My Values" |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | (Vol.) |  |  |
|  | McCain |  | Both/ Neither |  | N |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% |  |
| All Voters | 39 | 47 | 9 | $5=100$ | 1208 |
| Total Protestant | 43 | 44 | 8 | $5=100$ | 685 |
| White evangelical | 60 | 27 | 9 | 4=100 | 281 |
| White mainline | 45 | 37 | 11 | $7=100$ | 244 |
| Black Protestant | 7 | 87 | 4 | $2=100$ | 103 |
| Total Catholic | 36 | 49 | 10 | $5=100$ | 272 |
| White non-Hisp | 41 | 45 | 10 | $4=100$ | 216 |
| Unaffiliated | 28 | 56 | 13 | $3=100$ | 140 |
| Attend services |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 47 | 40 | 8 | $5=100$ | 500 |
| Less often | 33 | 53 | 10 | $4=100$ | 695 |
| Based on registered voters. |  |  |  |  |  |

vs. $37 \%$, respectively). White non-Hispanic Catholics are also split, with $41 \%$ citing McCain and $45 \%$ Obama. The majority (56\%) of voters with no religious affiliation say Obama shares their values, while $28 \%$ say this about McCain.

## A "Moral Values" Scale

When asked to describe McCain's moral values on an ideological scale from very liberal to very conservative, most voters (58\%) say McCain has moral values that are either conservative (45\%) or very conservative (13\%). The average rating places McCain well to the right on the spectrum of moral values, but not quite as far right as Bush, who $62 \%$ rate as conservative or very conservative.

Meanwhile, just under half (48\%) of voters say Obama has moral values that are either liberal (32\%) or very liberal (16\%). This places him well to the left of center in this dimension, though not quite

| Rating Moral Values of Leaders, and Yourself |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Moral values of... |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | John | Barack | G.W. | Bill | Your |
|  | McCain | Obama | Bush | Clinton | own |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Very conservative | e 13 | 6 | 24 | 5 | 17 |
| Conservative | 45 | 14 | 38 | 10 | 32 |
| Moderate | 22 | 22 | 15 | 21 | 29 |
| Liberal | 8 | 32 | 8 | 34 | 14 |
| Very liberal | 3 | 16 | 6 | 21 | 6 |
| Don't know | 9 | 10 | $\underline{9}$ | 9 | $\underline{2}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| NET Conservative | 58 | 20 | 62 | 15 | 49 |
| NET Liberal | 11 | 48 | 14 | 55 | 20 | as far left as Bill Clinton, who 55\% rate as liberal or very liberal.

The average voter places themselves much closer to McCain than to Obama. When asked to assess their own moral values on a scale from liberal to conservative, $49 \%$ of Americans place themselves on the conservative side of the scale, while just $20 \%$ place themselves on the liberal side (29\% describe themselves as moderate.)


Not surprisingly, ratings of one's own moral values, as well as of political figures, often differ substantially between voters of different religious affiliations. More than seven-in-ten (72\%) white evangelical Protestant voters see themselves as morally conservative. Fewer (59\%) say the same about John McCain, placing the average evangelical voter to the right of McCain. By a smaller margin, white evangelical Protestants also see themselves to the right of Bush $33 \%$ rate themselves as very conservative when it comes to moral values, while just $18 \%$ say the same about Bush.

The average white mainline Protestant and white non-Hispanic Catholic offers a more moderate assessment of their moral values, though conservatives still outnumber liberals in both groups, making the average voter in either group more closely aligned with how they see McCain than Obama on this matter. By contrast, there are more liberals than conservatives when it comes to the moral values of religiously unaffiliated voters. As a result, the average religiously unaffiliated voter is closer to where they place Obama on this scale than where they place McCain.

Voters in all four of these
 religious groups give similar ratings of John McCain's moral values - half or more see him as
conservative. There is more variation in how these voters see Obama on this scale, with white evangelicals and white mainline Protestants placing Obama further to the left than white nonHispanic Catholics. Most white evangelicals (58\%) and white mainline Protestants (55\%) see Obama as having liberal moral values, compared with $44 \%$ of white non-Hispanic Catholics. About half (51\%) of religiously unaffiliated voters say the same.

## All Religious Groups Highly Engaged

As has been the case throughout the campaign, engagement with the current election is considerably higher than in previous years. Almost three-in-four voters (74\%) say they have given "quite a lot" of thought to the election, compared with $69 \%$ four years ago, and just $59 \%$ in 2000. This increased engagement cuts across most religious groups. In particular, white evangelical engagement with the campaign remains high, despite their low level of enthusiasm for either candidate.

| Thought "A Lot" about the Election |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Sept | Aug | Aug | $00-08$ |
|  | $\frac{2000}{}$ | $\frac{2004}{\%}$ | $\frac{2008}{\%}$ | $\underline{\text { diff }}$ |
| Total | 59 | 69 | 74 | +15 |
| Total Protestant | 59 | 69 | 77 | +18 |
| White evangelical | 60 | 70 | 79 | +19 |
| White mainline | 60 | 68 | 78 | +18 |
| Black protestant | 53 | -- | 71 | +18 |
| Total Catholic | 56 | 72 | 70 | +11 |
| White Non-Hispanic | 58 | 74 | 71 | +13 |
| Unaffiliated | 60 | 65 | 70 | +10 |
| Based on registered voters. |  |  |  |  |

## Support for Candidates' Religiosity Associated With the Vote

While most voters (73\%) say that it is important to them that a president have strong religious beliefs, those who feel most strongly about this favor McCain over Obama by a substantial margin ( $55 \%$ to $37 \%$ ), while those voters who "mostly agree" with the statement are nearly evenly split between the two candidates and Obama has a clear edge ( $60 \%$ to $25 \%$ ) among those who do not share this belief.

Views about displays of religious faith by politicians are also related to the vote - Obama leads McCain by 23 points among those who agree completely with the statement "it makes me uncomfortable when politicians talk about how religious they are," while McCain leads Obama by 12 points among those who say they completely disagree. These patterns are similar to, if slightly weaker than, those seen in 2004.

| Importance of Faith and the Vote |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |
| It's important to me that | Oba- | Mc- | Other/ |  |
| a president have strong | $\frac{\text { ma }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Cain }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\mathrm{DK}}{\%}$ | $\underline{\mathrm{~N}}$ |
| religious beliefs | 37 | 55 | $8=100$ | 761 |
| Completely agree | 45 | 47 | $8=100$ | 1004 |
| Mostly agree | 60 | 25 | $15=100$ | 587 |
| Completely/ mostly disagree |  |  |  |  |
| It makes me uncomfortable |  |  |  |  |
| when politicians talk about |  |  |  |  |
| how religious they are | 56 | 33 | $11=100$ | 402 |
| Completely agree | 50 | 41 | $9=100$ | 703 |
| Mostly agree | 45 | 46 | $9=100$ | 736 |
| Mostly disagree | 38 | 50 | $12=100$ | 476 |
| Completely disagree |  |  |  |  |
| Based on registered voters.     |  |  |  |  |

## Party Affiliation and Religion

Democrats hold a substantial 13-point advantage in party identification in $2008-51 \%$ of registered voters either call themselves Democratic or lean toward the Democratic Party, while $38 \%$ are Republicans or Republican-leaners. By comparison, Democrats held only a three-point identification advantage in 2004 ( $47 \%$ to 44\%), and a four-point edge ( $46 \%$ to 42\%) in 2000.

The balance of party identification has shifted little among white evangelical Protestants. In polling since January, $62 \%$ identify with the Republican Party, while about half as many (30\%) are Democrats or Democratic-leaners. Four years ago the margin was $66 \%$ to $28 \%$. Democrats have made some gains among white mainline Protestants - the balance of party ID is now about even ( $45 \%$ Democratic, $44 \%$ Republican), compared with a $49 \%$ to $43 \%$ GOP advantage in 2004.

Democrats have opened a substantial $49 \%$ to $40 \%$ advantage among white non-Hispanic Catholics - four years ago the GOP held a slim $47 \%$ to $45 \%$ edge with this group. The last election year in which Democrats led by this kind of margin among Catholics was 1996, when they held a $51 \%$ to $41 \%$ edge in party identification.

Voters without a religious affiliation have become substantially more aligned with the Democratic Party over the past eight years. In 2000 just over half (53\%) of those who describe themselves as atheists, agnostics or simply as having no religious preference said they were Democrats or leaned Democratic. That grew to $62 \%$ in 2004 and stands at $64 \%$ today. Meanwhile, the share of religiously unaffiliated voters who are Republicans fell from 30\% in 2000 to $26 \%$ in 2004 to $23 \%$ today.


## Bush Approval Among Religious Groups

In the current survey, roughly two-thirds of Americans (66\%) disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as president, while $28 \%$ approve of his performance. This performance rating has barely moved since March.

White evangelical Protestants remain more supportive of Bush than any other major religious group. But even among evangelicals, fewer than half (47\%) approve of Bush's performance in office, while $48 \%$ disapprove. Among white mainline Protestants, $61 \%$ disapprove and $32 \%$ approve, and the margin is even larger among white non-Hispanic Catholics ( $67 \%$ disapprove, $25 \%$ approve). Not surprisingly, black Protestants express the most criticism of President Bush, with fully 88\% disapproving of his performance in office.


## Broad Dissatisfaction with National Conditions

Almost three-quarters of Americans (74\%) say they are dissatisfied with the way things are going in the country today, while $21 \%$ say they are satisfied. These figures have varied little since early February, when $70 \%$ were dissatisfied and $24 \%$ were satisfied. However, dissatisfaction is up substantially from recent years. Dissatisfaction has risen eight points since October 2007 and 19 points since the summer of 2004.

When it comes to evaluating the state of the nation, Americans of all religious faiths largely agree. Across all religious groups, more than seven-in-ten express dissatisfaction with the way things are going, with the highest rate among black Protestants (80\%) and the lowest among white mainline and white evangelical Protestants

| Satisfaction with State of the Nation Remains Low |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | July | July | July | Oct | Aug |
|  | $\underline{2004}$ | $\underline{2005}$ | 2006 | 2007 | 2008 |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Satisfied | 38 | 35 | 30 | 28 | 21 |
| Dissatisfied | 55 | 58 | 65 | 66 | 74 |
| Don't know | $\frac{7}{100}$ | $\frac{7}{100}$ | $\frac{5}{100}$ | $\frac{6}{100}$ | $\frac{5}{100}$ |
| 2008 Satisfaction |  | Satis- <br> fied | Dissatisfied |  | DK |
| Among... |  | \% |  | \% | \% |
| Total Protestant |  | 21 |  | 74 | $5=100$ |
| White evangelical |  | 21 |  | 73 | 6=100 |
| White mainline |  | 22 |  | 72 | $6=100$ |
| Black Protestant |  | 16 |  | 80 | $4=100$ |
| Total Catholic |  | 22 |  | 72 | $6=100$ |
| White non-Hispanic |  | 19 |  | 76 | $5=100$ |
| Unaffiliated |  | 21 |  | 76 | $3=100$ | (72\% and 73\%, respectively).

## Democratic Leaders in Congress

Nearly six-in-ten Americans (58\%) disapprove of the job Democratic leaders in Congress are doing, the highest proportion giving a negative assessment since the question was first asked in June 2001. Disapproval has risen 24 points from January 2007, when Democrats took control of both houses of Congress.

White Protestants are more critical of Democratic leaders than are black Protestants or the unaffiliated: 67\% of white evangelicals and 64\% of white mainline Protestants disapprove of the job congressional Democratic leaders are doing, a view shared by fewer than half of black
 Protestants (49\%) and the unaffiliated (49\%).
Catholics fall between these groups in assessing the job Democratic congressional leaders have done: $55 \%$ of all Catholics and $59 \%$ of white non-Hispanic Catholics disapprove of the job

Democratic leaders in Congress are doing. Disapproval has grown among all these religious groups since the start of this year.

## Section 3: Issues and the 2008 Election

## Top Issues for 2008

The economy continues to lead the list of issues voters say will be very important to their candidate choice this fall. Fully $87 \%$ of voters say the economy will be very important to their vote this fall, which is virtually unchanged since May (88\%) but greater than the proportion of voters citing the economy as very important in October 2004 (78\%). And while terrorism, Iraq and other issues rivaled the economy in importance four years ago, the economy rates 10 points higher than any other issue this year.

Energy ranks second, with $77 \%$ saying this issue will be very important. That represents a substantial increase of 23 percentage points from October 2004. Four other issues cluster just below, with 72\%-73\% mentioning health care, education, the war in Iraq and terrorism. The number citing terrorism as very important has declined five points since October 2004. Majorities also mention moral values ( $61 \%$ very important), the environment (59\%) and immigration (52\%). About half (49\%) say trade policy will be very important.

Two social issues are at the bottom of the list in terms of perceived importance to voters: abortion was mentioned by $39 \%$ as very important, down eight points

| Economy Tops List of Voter Concerns |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Oct | Aug | 04-08 |
| Very important | $\underline{2004}$ | $\underline{2008}$ | Change |
| to your vote: | \% | \% |  |
| Economy | 78 | 87 | +9 |
| Energy | 54 | 77 | +23 |
| Health care | 73 | 73 | 0 |
| Education | 75 | 73 | -2 |
| Iraq | 74 | 72 | -2 |
| Terrorism | 77 | 72 | -5 |
| Moral values | 63 | 61 | -2 |
| Environment | 53 | 59 | +6 |
| Immigration | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | 52 | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ |
| Trade policy | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ | 49 | $\mathrm{n} / \mathrm{a}$ |
| Abortion | 47 | 39 | -8 |
| Gay marriage | 32 | 28 | -4 |
| Based on registered voters. |  |  |  | from October 2004, while gay marriage is mentioned by $28 \%$, compared with $32 \%$ during the closing weeks of the 2004 campaign.

Voters who are strongly opposed to abortion and gay marriage are much more likely than other voters to say that these are very important voting issues. More than half of those who are strongly opposed to gay marriage say that it is very important ( $54 \%$ vs. $28 \%$ overall). Among the $13 \%$ of voters who say abortion should never be permitted, more than three-quarters (78\%) say it will be a very important issue in their vote this fall.

## Dueling Issue Agendas

As in 2004, there are substantial differences between supporters of the two major candidates in how they prioritize the issues. Voters who say they are certain they will vote for McCain are far more likely than those who are certain they will vote for Obama to rate terrorism as a very important issue: $83 \%$ of committed McCain voters say this, compared with $64 \%$ of committed Obama voters and $70 \%$ of swing voters. In October 2004, 88\% of committed Bush voters said terrorism was very important, a higher percentage than for any other issue. And as with committed Bush supporters, significantly more committed McCain voters than his opponent's supporters say moral values will be very important to their vote.

| Voting Priorities |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Certain McCain |  | Cert | tain Obama |  | ng Voters |
| 83 | Terrorism | 92 | Economy | 88 | Economy |
| 81 | Economy | 87 | Health care | 78 | Energy |
| 73 | Energy | 83 | Education | 74 | Education |
| 71 | Moral values | 80 | Energy | 73 | Health care |
| 71 | Iraq |  | Iraq | 70 | Terrorism |
| 65 | Immigration | 72 | Environment | 67 | Iraq |
| 61 | Education | 64 | Terrorism | 59 | Environment |
| 58 | Health care | 55 | Moral values | 58 | Moral values |
| 49 | Trade policy | 46 | Trade policy | 51 | Trade policy |
| 47 | Abortion | 43 | Immigration | 48 | Immigration |
| 44 | Environment | 36 | Abortion | 36 | Abortion |
| 38 | Gay marriage | 22 | Gay marriage | 25 | Gay marriage |
| $\mathrm{N}=822$ |  | 803 |  | 789 |  |
| Based on registered voters. |  |  |  |  |  |

By contrast, more Obama voters than McCain voters mention health care and education as very important. The economy ranks high among all voters, but slightly more Obama supporters and swing voters ( $92 \%$ and $88 \%$, respectively) than McCain voters ( $81 \%$ ) view the economy as very important. Abortion is somewhat more important for McCain voters than for others. Gay marriage trails all issues among the committed voters for both candidates (and for swing voters as well), although more McCain voters than Obama supporters view it as very important (38\% vs. 22\%).

## Religion and Issue Priorities

For the most part, the issues that are important to the public as a whole are also important to particular religious groups. But there are some notable differences. Two groups of voters defined by their religious identity are of particular interest in the election this year: white evangelical Protestants, at approximately $23 \%$ of all voters, and white non-Hispanic Catholics (18\%). White evangelicals have been among the most dependably Republican groups in the population, while Catholics have become a strongly contested swing voter group.

Social issues, and especially the question of moral values, are more important for white evangelicals than for other voters: $77 \%$ say moral values will be very important to their vote, and $54 \%$ say this about abortion. Slightly fewer (46\%) say gay marriage will be very important. The percentage of white evangelicals citing these issues as very important in October 2004 was similar: $81 \%$ for moral values, $61 \%$ for abortion and $49 \%$ for gay marriage.

More religiously observant white evangelicals are more likely to stress social issues than those who are less observant. Among white evangelicals who attend

| Issue Priorities for White Evangelicals and White Catholics |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | White Evangelical Protestant |  | White Non-Hisp Catholic |  |
| Very | Attend | Less | Attend | Less |
| important | weekly | often | weekly | often |
| to your vote: | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Economy | 83 | 93 | 89 | 87 |
| Energy | 76 | 81 | 77 | 77 |
| Education | 69 | 72 | 73 | 66 |
| Health care | 63 | 76 | 70 | 72 |
| Terrorism | 82 | 71 | 79 | 71 |
| Iraq | 71 | 70 | 72 | 75 |
| Moral values | 85 | 62 | 71 | 53 |
| Environment | 51 | 56 | 57 | 55 |
| Immigration | 62 | 58 | 53 | 48 |
| Trade policy | 50 | 61 | 46 | 47 |
| Abortion | 64 | 35 | 47 | 23 |
| Gay marriage | 56 | 27 | 24 | 15 |
| $\mathrm{N}=$ | 386 | 188 | 216 | 223 |
| Based on regist | ed voters. |  |  |  | church at least weekly, moral values rate at the top of the issues agenda, along with the economy and terrorism; $85 \%$ cite moral values as very important, compared with $83 \%$ who mention the economy and $82 \%$ terrorism. White evangelical voters who attend church less frequently are far less likely to cite moral values as very important (62\%).

More-observant evangelical voters cite abortion and gay marriage far more often than do other religious groups: $64 \%$ say abortion will be a very important issue and $56 \%$ cite gay marriage. White evangelicals who do not attend church as frequently are much less concerned about these issues: just $35 \%$ cite abortion and $27 \%$ say gay marriage will be very important.

The issue of moral values and abortion also are more important for white non-Hispanic Catholic voters who attend Mass regularly than for white Catholics who attend less frequently. Among white Catholics who attend church regularly, $71 \%$ say moral values will be very important, compared with $53 \%$ among those who attend less frequently. Abortion is cited as very important by $47 \%$ of regular churchgoing white Catholics and by only $23 \%$ of the less observant.

## Issue Priorities Among Younger and Older Voters

The focus on young voters this year has raised the question of whether this voting group has different priorities than other voters. In fact, there are relatively few age differences in the importance assigned to various issues. Only one issue, education, stands out as more important for voters younger than 30 than for their older counterparts. The economy ranks first among issues for all age groups. Similarly, all age groups place gay marriage at the bottom of the list in importance, and abortion also ranks low among all age groups.

| Issue Importance by Age and Gender |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Very |  |  | 30- |  |  |  | Wo- |  |  |
| important | All |  |  |  |  | Gap* | men | Men | Gap |
| to your vote: | \% |  | \% | \% |  |  |  |  |  |
| Economy | 87 |  | 88 | 88 | 87 | -2 | 89 | 85 | +4 |
| Energy | 77 |  | 75 | 81 | 83 | -13 | 78 | 77 | +1 |
| Education | 73 |  | 73 | 69 | 72 | +9 | 78 | 68 | +10 |
| Health care | 73 | 68 | 72 | 74 | 77 | -9 | 78 | 67 | +11 |
| Terrorism | 72 | 65 | 72 | 74 | 74 | -9 | 76 | 67 | +9 |
| Iraq | 72 |  | 70 | 73 | 73 | -4 | 76 | 67 | +9 |
| Moral values | 61 |  | 59 | 62 | 71 | -19 | 66 | 56 | +10 |
| Environment | 59 |  | 59 | 58 | 61 | -3 | 65 | 51 | +14 |
| Immigration | 52 |  | 49 | 56 | 59 | -14 | 55 | 49 | +6 |
| Trade policy | 49 |  | 49 | 53 | 52 | -13 | 49 | 49 | 0 |
| Abortion | 39 | 44 | 40 | 36 | 41 | +3 | 44 | 35 | +9 |
| Gay marriage | 28 |  | 25 | 27 | 32 | -1 | 28 | 27 | +1 |
| Based on registered voters. <br> * Between 18-29 year-olds and those 65 and older. |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

There is a sizable gender gap regarding the importance of most issues, including the environment, health care, education and moral values. Nearly two-thirds of women voters (65\%) say the environment will be very important to their vote compared with only about half of men (51\%). The differences are nearly as large over other domestic issues, such as health care (11 points) and education (10 points), as well as over moral values (10 points) and abortion (9 points).

More women than men also view terrorism and Iraq as very important. Views about the importance of other issues, including the economy and energy, do not significantly differ by gender.

## Views on Issues: Government-Funded Health Insurance

A government guarantee of universal health insurance, even if it means raising taxes, continues to attract broad support. Nearly two-thirds of Americans (63\%) favor such a proposal, while $34 \%$ are opposed. Public support for government-backed health insurance was somewhat greater at a comparable stage in the 2004 campaign; in early September of that year, $66 \%$ supported this proposal, while $26 \%$ were opposed.

Democrats continue to be the most supportive of government-guaranteed health insurance - 79\% of Democrats, including 85\% of liberal Democrats, favor it. A majority of independents (63\%) and moderate and liberal Republicans (54\%) also say the government should guarantee health insurance for all, even if it means raising taxes. Conservative Republicans disagree; $59 \%$ of conservative Republicans oppose government-backed insurance and just $38 \%$ favor it.

Among religious groups, about half of white evangelicals (53\%) favor the government

| Views of Government-Funded Health Insurance |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\frac{\text { Oppose }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\mathrm{DK}}{\%}$ | N |
| Total | 63 | 34 | 3=100 | 2905 |
| Conserv Rep | 38 | 59 | 3=100 | 607 |
| Mod/ Lib Rep | 54 | 42 | $4=100$ | 221 |
| Independent | 63 | 34 | $3=100$ | 969 |
| Conserv/ Mod Dem | 76 | 22 | $2=100$ | 595 |
| Liberal Dem | 85 | 12 | 3=100 | 329 |
| Total Protestant | 58 | 38 | $4=100$ | 1592 |
| White evangelical | 53 | 43 | 4=100 | 675 |
| White mainline | 58 | 38 | $4=100$ | 566 |
| Black Protestant | 66 | 32 | $2=100$ | 220 |
| Total Catholic | 67 | 30 | 3=100 | 679 |
| White non-Hispanic | 62 | 35 | $3=100$ | 493 |
| Hispanic | 78 | 19 | $3=100$ | 139 |
| Unaffiliated | 68 | 30 | $2=100$ | 362 | guaranteeing health insurance for all. Considerably larger majorities of black Protestants (66\%) and Catholics (67\%) - including 78\% of Hispanic Catholics - favor government-funded health insurance, as do $68 \%$ of the religiously unaffiliated.

## Same-Sex Marriage

About half of Americans (52\%) oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, which is little changed from measures in June (52\%) and late May (49\%) of this year. But there is somewhat less opposition to same-sex marriage currently than at this stage in the campaign four years ago; in August 2004, 60\% opposed allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, while just 29\% favored that idea (compared with 39\% currently).

Compared with four years ago, support for same-sex marriage has increased among Democrats. In August 2004, half of Democrats opposed allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, while $38 \%$ favored it. Today, $51 \%$ favor same-sex marriage and $42 \%$ oppose it.


White evangelical Protestants and Republicans - especially conservative Republicans continue to be overwhelmingly opposed to same-sex marriage. About seven-in-ten Republicans (72\%) - including 78\% of conservative Republicans - oppose same-sex marriage. Three-quarters of white evangelicals oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally.

There is less opposition to same-sex marriage among younger white evangelicals than among older white evangelicals, though majorities in both groups oppose same-sex marriage. Among white evangelicals younger than $35,64 \%$ oppose and $31 \%$ favor same-sex marriage, while $78 \%$ of those 35 and older oppose it and $16 \%$ favor it. Across all Christian groups, those who attend church weekly or more are significantly more opposed to same-sex marriage than those who attend church less often.

| Views of Same-Sex Marriage |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\frac{\text { Favor }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Oppose }}{\%}$ | DK | N |
| Total | 39 | 52 | $9=100$ | 2905 |
| Republican | 21 | 72 | $7=100$ | 833 |
| Democrat | 51 | 42 | $7=100$ | 944 |
| Independent | 42 | 46 | $12=100$ | 969 |
| Men | 34 | 56 | $10=100$ | 1459 |
| Women | 44 | 48 | $8=100$ | 1446 |
| White | 41 | 50 | $9=100$ | 2292 |
| Black | 30 | 63 | $7=100$ | 281 |
| 18-29 | 54 | 37 | $9=100$ | 418 |
| 30-49 | 41 | 50 | $9=100$ | 933 |
| 50-64 | 35 | 55 | $10=100$ | 899 |
| 65+ | 23 | 68 | $9=100$ | 601 |
| College grad+ | 51 | 39 | $10=100$ | 1081 |
| Some college | 42 | 48 | $10=100$ | 739 |
| HS or less | 32 | 59 | $9=100$ | 1049 |
| Total Protestant | 30 | 62 | $8=100$ | 1592 |
| White evangelical | 19 | 75 | $6=100$ | 675 |
| White mainline | 43 | 45 | $12=100$ | 566 |
| Black Protestant | 28 | 63 | $9=100$ | 220 |
| Total Catholic | 42 | 46 | $12=100$ | 679 |
| White non-Hispanic | C 44 | 46 | $10=100$ | 493 |
| Hispanic | 39 | 45 | $16=100$ | 139 |
| Unaffiliated | 62 | 29 | $9=100$ | 362 |

## Most Americans Favor Civil Unions

While most Americans oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, $54 \%$ say they favor allowing gays and lesbians to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples, while $40 \%$ oppose civil unions. In August 2004, the public was more evenly split over this issue: $48 \%$ favored civil unions while $45 \%$ were opposed.

Support for civil unions is higher than support for same-sex marriage across all demographic groups. The contrast is especially notable among Republicans and independents. More than seven-in-ten Republicans (72\%) oppose legalizing same-sex marriage and just $21 \%$ favor it; when it comes to civil unions, a much narrower majority of Republicans (55\%) oppose it and $40 \%$ favor it. Independents, who are split on same-sex marriage ( $42 \%$ for and $46 \%$ against), are solidly in support of civil unions fully six-in-ten favor it.


As with same-sex marriage, white evangelical Protestants and black Protestants express more opposition to civil unions than do members of other religious groups. About six-in-ten white evangelicals (59\%) and a similar share of black Protestants (55\%) oppose allowing gays and lesbians to enter into civil unions.

More than six-in-ten white mainline Protestants (64\%) and white non-Hispanic Catholics (62\%) favor civil unions, as does a smaller majority of Hispanic Catholics (52\%). The religiously unaffiliated are among the most likely to support civil unions: 71\% favor such arrangements while just $23 \%$ oppose them.

## Mixed Views on Adoption by Homosexuals

Public opinion is divided on the issue of allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children. About the same number say they favor adoption by same-sex couples (46\%) as say they oppose it (48\%), which is little changed from 2006.

As is the case with support for same-sex marriage and for civil unions, support for allowing same-sex couples to adopt is more prevalent among women (50\%) than men (42\%) and also more among whites (48\%) than among blacks (35\%). Solid majorities of college graduates (59\%), those younger than 30 (58\%) and the religiously unaffiliated (64\%) favor allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children, as do smaller majorities of Democrats (54\%) and independents (53\%). Only 31\% of Republicans are in favor of adoption by same-sex couples and fully $64 \%$ oppose it.

Majorities of white mainline Protestants (56\%) and white non-Hispanic Catholics (54\%) express support for allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children. But white evangelical Protestants and black Protestants oppose it by large margins; 66\% of white evangelical Protestants and 59\% of black Protestants are against adoption by same-sex couples.

Among white Catholics and white

| Allowing Gays and Lesbians to Adopt Children |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |
|  | $\frac{\text { Favor }}{}$ |  | Oppose | $\frac{D K}{}$ |
| Total | 46 | 48 | $6=100$ | 2905 |
| Total Protestant | 40 | 55 | $5=100$ | 1592 |
| White evangelical | 29 | 66 | $5=100$ | 675 |
| Attend weekly+ | 21 | 75 | $4=100$ | 443 |
| Attend less often | 44 | 50 | $6=100$ | 230 |
| White mainline | 56 | 39 | $5=100$ | 566 |
| Attend weekly+ | 51 | 43 | $6=100$ | 155 |
| Attend less often | 58 | 37 | $5=100$ | 406 |
| Black Protestant | 35 | 59 | $6=100$ | 220 |
| Total Catholic | 49 | 44 | $7=100$ | 679 |
| White non-Hisp | 54 | 40 | $6=100$ | 493 |
| Attend weekly+ | 44 | 48 | $8=100$ | 230 |
| Attend less often | 60 | 34 | $6=100$ | 262 |
| Hispanic | 39 | 50 | $11=100$ | 139 |
| Unaffiliated | 64 | 31 | $5=100$ | 362 |
|  |  |  |  |  | evangelicals, frequent church attendance is associated with higher levels of opposition to gay adoption. Differences between more observant and less observant white mainline Protestants are less pronounced.

## Abortion Opinion Stable

Consistent with recent findings, a majority of Americans (54\%) say abortion should be legal in most (37\%) or all (17\%) cases, while $41 \%$ oppose legalized abortion in most (26\%) or all ( $15 \%$ ) circumstances. Men and women are about equally as likely to express support for abortion rights - $53 \%$ of men and $54 \%$ of women say it should be legal - but women are somewhat more likely than men to say abortion should be legal in all cases ( $20 \%$ of women vs. $14 \%$ of men).

Republicans are considerably more likely than Democrats and independents to oppose legalized abortion; 56\% of Republicans say abortion should be illegal in most or all cases, compared with $39 \%$ of independents and just one-third of Democrats. More than six-in-ten Democrats (63\%) express support for legalized abortion in most (41\%) or all (22\%) cases. And while just 41\% of all Republicans say abortion should be legal, fully two-thirds (67\%) of moderate and liberal Republicans express this view.

Among major religious groups, only white evangelical Protestants express solid opposition to legalized abortion - 62\% say it should be illegal in most (43\%) or all (19\%) cases, while $33 \%$ say abortion should

|  | Abortion Should Be... |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Legal all | Legal most | IIlegal most | IIlegal all |  |  |
|  | $\frac{\text { cases }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { cases }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { cases }}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { cases }}{\%}$ | DK | N |
| Total | 17 | 37 | 26 | 15 | $5=100$ | 2905 |
| Republican | 10 | 31 | 37 | 19 | $3=100$ | 833 |
| Democrat | 22 | 41 | 19 | 14 | 4=100 | 944 |
| Independent | 19 | 37 | 26 | 13 | 5=100 | 969 |
| Men | 14 | 39 | 27 | 15 | 5=100 | 1459 |
| Women | 20 | 34 | 26 | 16 | 4=100 | 1446 |
| White | 17 | 38 | 27 | 13 | 5=100 | 2292 |
| Black | 16 | 33 | 26 | 20 | 5=100 | 281 |
| 18-29 | 18 | 34 | 27 | 18 | 3=100 | 418 |
| 30-49 | 19 | 36 | 26 | 14 | 5=100 | 933 |
| 50-64 | 18 | 40 | 27 | 11 | 4=100 | 899 |
| 65+ | 11 | 35 | 26 | 22 | $6=100$ | 601 |
| College grad+ | 20 | 44 | 23 | 8 | $5=100$ | 1081 |
| Some college | 20 | 37 | 28 | 11 | 4=100 | 739 |
| HS or less | 15 | 32 | 27 | 21 | 5=100 | 1049 |
| Total Protestant | 14 | 35 | 31 | 15 | 5=100 | 1592 |
| White evangelical | 9 | 24 | 43 | 19 | 5=100 | 675 |
| White mainline | 18 | 51 | 20 | 6 | 5=100 | 566 |
| Black Protestant | 17 | 31 | 26 | 21 | 5=100 | 220 |
| Total Catholic | 16 | 33 | 26 | 21 | 4=100 | 679 |
| White non-Hisp | 13 | 38 | 29 | 15 | $5=100$ | 493 |
| Hispanic | 21 | 24 | 20 | 32 | 3=100 | 139 |
| Unaffiliated | 27 | 45 | 16 | 7 | $5=100$ | 362 | be legal under most (24\%) or all (9\%) circumstances. Unlike on the issue of same-sex marriage, younger white evangelical Protestants are as opposed to abortion, or even more opposed, than are older white evangelicals.

Opinion on abortion among Catholics is closely divided, with about half (49\%) saying abortion should be legal and a similar percentage (47\%) saying it should not be. Among white non-Hispanic Catholics, opinion on abortion varies significantly based on frequency of church attendance. Nearly six-in-ten (57\%) of those who attend church at least once a week oppose legalized abortion, including $27 \%$ who say it should be illegal in all cases. Among white nonHispanic Catholics who attend church less frequently, a large majority (62\%) say abortion should be legal and just $35 \%$ say it should not be.

Like Catholics, black Protestants are split in their views on legalized abortion. Just under half say abortion should be legal (48\%), and about the same number (47\%) say abortion should be illegal. The religiously unaffiliated express the most support for legalized abortion. Nearly three-quarters (72\%) of those who do not identify as belonging to any particular religion say abortion should be legal in most (45\%) or all (27\%) cases.

## Section 4: Faith-Based Aid Favored - With Qualifications

## Public Views of Faith-Based Initiatives

Since early 2001, when the Bush administration first established a White House office to expand the role of religious organizations in providing social services, there have been clear divisions in public attitudes toward faith-based initiatives. The public has continuously supported the principle of allowing houses of worship, along with other organizations, to apply for federal funds to provide social services.

But there remains substantial opposition to the prospect of certain religious groups, notably Muslim mosques, taking on such a role. And the public overwhelmingly continues to reject the idea of groups that encourage religious conversion applying for federal funding to provide social services.

Currently, $67 \%$ say they favor allowing churches and other houses of worship to apply, along with other organizations, for government funding to provide social services, such as job training or drug treatment counseling, to those who need them. Support for this practice peaked in March 2001 at 75\%.

Republican support for such initiatives, which rose early in Bush's first term, has declined. Currently, 63\% of Republicans say they favor allowing churches and other religious groups to apply for federal funds to provide social services, down from 81\% in March 2001.


By contrast, Democratic support for the prospect of faith-based social involvement has remained remarkably consistent (71\% today, 70\% in March 2001). However, as was the case in 2001, conservative and moderate Democrats are more likely than liberal Democrats to favor this proposal; currently $75 \%$ of conservative and moderate Democrats favor faith-based initiatives compared with $62 \%$ of the party's liberals.

African Americans remain strongly supportive of faith-based initiatives, while white support has slipped. About eight-in-ten African Americans (81\%) say they favor allowing churches to apply for government funding to provide social services, which is largely unchanged from March 2001 (83\%). White support for such programs has fallen by 10 points (from 74\% to 64\%).

Support for faith-based initiatives has declined among most religious groups, with the exception of black Protestants. Those with no religious affiliation also are increasingly skeptical of faith-based groups applying for government

Support for Faith-Based Initiatives
 funding to provide services: just 53\% favor that idea today, down from 67\% in 2001.

## The Contributions of Churches

Most Americans continue to say that churches, synagogues and other religious organizations contribute at least some to solving important social problems. But only about a quarter ( $24 \%$ ) believes that churches contribute a great deal to solving major problems. These attitudes have changed little in recent years.

Religiously observant people and white evangelical Protestants are much more likely than others to say that churches contribute a great deal to solving important social problems. Nearly four-in-ten white evangelicals (37\%) say churches contribute a great deal in this regard, compared with about a quarter of black Protestants (26\%) and all Catholics (25\%), and even fewer white mainline Protestants (16\%) and the unaffiliated (8\%).

## Who Can Do Best in Helping the Needy?

There is no clear consensus about whether religious organizations - or non-religious groups or government agencies - can do the best job of providing social services. Roughly three-in-ten (31\%) say religious organizations can do best in aiding the needy, but about as many say government agencies (31\%), or non-religious, community-based groups (29\%).

This represents a change since 2001, when a plurality (37\%) said religious organizations could do the best job of providing services to people in need. There have been declines in the proportions of both Democrats and Republicans who say religious organizations can do best in providing services to the needy, though Republicans are still far more likely to express this view than are Democrats ( $40 \%$ vs. 23\%).

White evangelicals remain the most likely to believe that religious organizations can do best in delivering social services to the needy, but fewer evangelicals express this view today than did so in

| Most Agree Churches Help Solve <br> Society's Problems |  |  |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| March July |  |  |  |  | Aug |
| Churches contribute | $\frac{2001}{\%}$ | $\frac{2005}{\%}$ | $\frac{2008}{\%}$ |  |  |
| to solving problems... | 23 | 20 | 24 |  |  |
| A great deal | 52 | 46 | 51 |  |  |
| Some | 18 | 23 | 16 |  |  |
| Not much | 4 | 7 | 7 |  |  |
| Nothing at all | $\frac{3}{0}$ | $\frac{4}{2}$ | $\underline{2}$ |  |  |
| Don't know | 100 | 100 | 100 |  |  |


| Who Can Do Best in Providing Services for the Needy? |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { March } \\ & \underline{2001} \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Aug } \\ 2008 \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| Can do best job... | \% | \% |
| Religious organizations | 37 | 31 |
| Non-religious organizations | 27 | 29 |
| Government agencies | 28 | 31 |
| None/ Don't know | $1 \frac{8}{00}$ | $\frac{9}{0}$ |


| Fewer Say Religious Groups Can Do <br> Best J ob of Helping the Needy |  |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| \%saying religious | March | Aug |  |
| orgs can do best | $\frac{2001}{\%}$ | $\frac{2008}{\%}$ | $\frac{\text { Change }}{\%}$ |
| in helping needy | 37 | 31 | -6 |
| Total | 49 | 40 | -9 |
| Republican | 33 | 23 | -10 |
| Democrat | 32 | 31 | -1 |
| Independent | 44 | 37 | -7 |
| Total Protestant | 53 | 47 | -6 |
| White evangelical | 33 | 24 | -9 |
| White mainline | 41 | 35 | -6 |
| $\quad$ Black Protestant | 33 | 29 | -4 |
| Total Catholic | 35 | 27 | -8 |
| White non-Hispanic | -- | 33 | -- |
| Hispanic | 19 | 17 | -2 |
| Unaffiliated |  |  |  |

2001 (47\% vs. 53\% then).

## Views on Funding Specific Groups

As was the case in 2001, solid majorities favor religious charitable organizations and individual houses of worship applying for government funding to provide social services for needy people. Fully $68 \%$ support religious charities being eligible for such funding, while $60 \%$ say the same about individual churches and other houses of worship.

However, the public continues to oppose groups that encourage religious conversion applying for government funding to provide social services. About six-in-ten (61\%) oppose this, which is unchanged from 2001 (59\%).

Public views about whether specific religious groups should be eligible for government funding to provide social services also are stable. Solid majorities say Catholic churches (61\%),

| Who Should Be Eligible for Government Funds to Provide Social Services? |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Favor | Oppose | DK |
| Type of organization | \% | \% | \% |
| Religious charities | 68 | 28 | $4=100$ |
| Individual houses of worship | 60 | 36 | $4=100$ |
| Groups that encourage religious conversion | 32 | 61 | $7=100$ |
| Catholic churches | 61 | 35 | $4=100$ |
| Protestant churches | 59 | 35 | $6=100$ |
| Evangelical Christian churches | 55 | 38 | $7=100$ |
| J ewish synagogues | 55 | 39 | $6=100$ |
| Mormon churches | 50 | 44 | $6=100$ |
| Muslim mosques | 40 | 53 | $7=100$ | Protestant churches (59\%), evangelical Christian churches (55\%) and Jewish synagogues (55\%) should be able to apply for funding to provide services, though in each case more than a third is opposed.

There is less support for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints applying for such funding ( $50 \%$ favor). And just 40\% favor Muslim mosques applying for government funding to aid needy people; 53\% oppose mosques applying for government funding, which is up somewhat from 2001 (46\%).

## Older People Wary

Older Americans, particularly those 65 and older, continue to be very skeptical of faithbased initiatives. And they are far less likely than younger people to favor religious groups generally - and those associated with specific denominations - applying for government funding to provide social services to the needy.

For instance, just $56 \%$ of those 65 and older favor charitable organizations with a religious affiliation applying for government funding to provide services to the needy. Larger majorities in younger age groups, including 77\% of those younger than 30, favor religious charities applying for government funding for this purpose.

Republican support for groups applying for government funds to provide social services has slipped since 2001. For instance, $72 \%$ of Republicans favored Protestant churches applying for funds in


Favor org applying for govt funding...

Houses of worship
Groups that encourage religious conversion

Protestant churches
Evangelical churches

Mormon churches
*Between 18-29 year olds and those 65 and older. 2001, but that has fallen to $60 \%$ today. And the share that says charitable organizations with a religious affiliation should apply for funds dropped from $75 \%$ to $68 \%$ over the same time period. Meanwhile, Democrats are somewhat more likely to back groups applying for funds now than they were in 2001. Generally, Democrats today are at least as likely as Republicans to support religious groups applying for federal funding to provide social services.

## Few Favor Funding for Groups that Proselytize

By nearly two-to-one ( $61 \%$ to $32 \%$ ), people oppose allowing groups that encourage religious conversion applying for federal funding to provide services for the needy.

By three-to-one, white mainline Protestants reject allowing groups that encourage religious conversion to be eligible for government funding ( $69 \%$ vs. 23\%). Even among white evangelicals, 55\% oppose these groups applying for government funding while $39 \%$ are in favor.

But black Protestants are divided: 46\% favor these groups applying for government funding to provide social services while 43\% are opposed.

| Funding Groups That <br> Encourage Conversion |  |
| :--- | :--- |
| Favor making |  |
| eligible for funding... | $\frac{\%}{32}$ |
| Total |  |
| Republican | 31 |
| Democrat | 33 |
| Independent | 34 |
| Total Protestant | 34 |
| White evangelical | 39 |
| White mainline | 23 |
| Black Protestant | 46 |
| Total Catholic | 34 |
| White non-Hispanic | 32 |
| Hispanic | 40 |
| Unaffiliated | 23 |

## Religious Groups Differ

Catholics, especially Hispanics, are much more likely to favor Catholic churches than other religious groups applying for government funds to provide social services. Fully eight-inten Hispanic Catholics support making Catholic churches eligible for such funding; no more than six-in-ten favors making any other group eligible for government funds.

| Religious Groups Differ on Who Should Receive Funding |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Favor each group applying for government funds Evangelical LDS/ |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Catholic churches | Protestant churches | Christian churches | Jewish synagogues | Mormon churches | Muslim mosques |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |
| Total | 61 | 59 | 55 | 55 | 50 | 40 |
| Among... |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| White evang Prot | 62 | 65 | 63 | 60 | 48 | 35 |
| White mainline Prot | 55 | 56 | 50 | 53 | 47 | 38 |
| Black Protestant | 73 | 65 | 72 | 65 | 57 | 52 |
| White non-Hisp Cath | 71 | 67 | 55 | 62 | 57 | 45 |
| Hisp Catholic | 80 | 47 | 59 | 51 | 54 | 39 |
| Unaffiliated | 46 | 47 | 40 | 46 | 42 | 38 |

By contrast, white evangelical Protestants are no more supportive of evangelical Christian churches applying for government funding than they are of Protestant churches, or even Catholic churches, applying for funding. Similar percentages of white evangelicals favor Protestant churches (65\%), evangelical Christian churches (63\%) and Catholic churches (62\%) applying for funding to provide services for needy people. Majorities of black Protestants favor permitting every religious group listed, including Muslim mosques, to apply for government finding to provide social services.

## Strong Opposition to Religious Hiring

In spite of broad support for a variety of religious groups applying for government aid to provide social services, Americans draw the line at letting religious organizations that use government funds hire only people who share their religious beliefs. An overwhelming majority (73\%) say religious groups should not be allowed to do this, down slightly from 78\% in 2001.

Even the strongest supporters of funding for faith-based programs are opposed to allowing groups that receive federal funds to hire only people who share their religious beliefs. Majorities of both Republicans and Democrats say religious organizations that use government funds should not be able to do this, although Republicans are nearly twice as likely as Democrats to say such restricted hiring is acceptable ( $30 \%$ vs. $17 \%$ ).

Religion and religious commitment play a role in shaping attitudes on hiring based on religion. White evangelical Protestants (36\%) are about twice as likely as mainline Protestants, black Protestants and white non-Hispanic Catholics to favor permitting groups that receive federal funds to hire based on religious beliefs. Roughly a quarter of Hispanic Catholics (24\%) also support this practice. Among Americans who attend worship services at least weekly, nearly a third (29\%) say religious groups receiving government funds should be allowed to hire only people who share their religious beliefs, compared with $14 \%$ of those who seldom or never attend services.


## ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Abt SRBI, Inc., among a nationwide sample of 2,905 adults, 18 years of age or older, from July 31-August 10, 2008 (2,254 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 651 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 262 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International.

The combined landline and cell phone data were weighted using demographic weighting parameters derived from the March 2007 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey, along with an estimate of current patterns of telephone status in the U.S. derived from the 2007 National Health Interview Survey, using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters. The weighting procedure also accounted for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones had a greater probability of being included in the sample.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the $95 \%$ level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

| Group | Sample Size | Plus or minus... |
| :--- | :---: | :--- |
| Total sample | 2,905 | 2.0 percentage points |
| Registered voter sample | 2,414 | 2.5 percentage points |

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## ABOUT THE PROJ ECTS

This survey is a joint effort of the Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion \& Public Life. Both organizations are sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts and are projects of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Pew Forum on Religion \& Public Life seeks to promote a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs. It studies public opinion, demographics and other important aspects of religion and public life in the U.S. and around the world. It also provides a neutral venue for discussions of timely issues through roundtables and briefings.

The Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of the Center's current survey results are made available free of charge.

This report is a collaborative product based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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Alec Tyson ........................Research Analysts
James Albrittain..............Research Assistant

# PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE \& THE PRESS AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION \& PUBLIC LIFE AUGUST 2008 RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY <br> FINAL TOPLINE <br> July 31-August 10, 2008 <br> $N=2905$ 

## ASK ALL:

Q. 1 All in all, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today?

|  | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | $\qquad$ |  | Satisfied | Dissatisfied | No Opinion |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| August, 2008 | 21 | 74 | 5=100 | June, 2001 | 43 | 52 | $5=100$ |
| July, 2008 | 19 | 74 | $7=100$ | March, 2001 | 47 | 45 | $8=100$ |
| June, 2008 | 19 | 76 | $5=100$ | February, 2001 | 46 | 43 | $11=100$ |
| Late May, 2008 | 18 | 76 | $6=100$ | January, 2001 | 55 | 41 | $4=100$ |
| March, 2008 | 22 | 72 | $6=100$ | October, 2000 (RVs) | 54 | 39 | $7=100$ |
| Early February, 2008 | 24 | 70 | $6=100$ | September, 2000 | 51 | 41 | $8=100$ |
| Late December, 2007 | 27 | 66 | $7=100$ | June, 2000 | 47 | 45 | $8=100$ |
| October, 2007 | 28 | 66 | $6=100$ | April, 2000 | 48 | 43 | $9=100$ |
| February, 2007 | 30 | 61 | $9=100$ | August, 1999 | 56 | 39 | $5=100$ |
| Mid-January, 2007 | 32 | 61 | $7=100$ | January, 1999 | 53 | 41 | $6=100$ |
| Early January, 2007 | 30 | 63 | $7=100$ | November, 1998 | 46 | 44 | $10=100$ |
| December, 2006 | 28 | 65 | $7=100$ | Early September, 1998 | 54 | 42 | $4=100$ |
| Mid-November, 2006 | 28 | 64 | $8=100$ | Late August, 1998 | 55 | 41 | $4=100$ |
| Early October, 2006 | 30 | 63 | $7=100$ | Early August, 1998 | 50 | 44 | $6=100$ |
| July, 2006 | 30 | 65 | $5=100$ | February, 1998 | 59 | 37 | 4=100 |
| May, 2006 | 29 | 65 | $6=100$ | January, 1998 | 46 | 50 | $4=100$ |
| March, 2006 | 32 | 63 | $5=100$ | September, 1997 | 45 | 49 | $6=100$ |
| January, 2006 | 34 | 61 | $5=100$ | August, 1997 | 49 | 46 | $5=100$ |
| Late November, 2005 | 34 | 59 | $7=100$ | January, 1997 | 38 | 58 | $4=100$ |
| Early October, 2005 | 29 | 65 | $6=100$ | July, 1996 | 29 | 67 | $4=100$ |
| July, 2005 | 35 | 58 | $7=100$ | March, 1996 | 28 | 70 | $2=100$ |
| Late May, 2005 | 39 | 57 | $4=100$ | October, 1995 | 23 | 73 | 4=100 |
| February, 2005 | 38 | 56 | $6=100$ | June, 1995 | 25 | 73 | $2=100$ |
| January, 2005 | 40 | 54 | $6=100$ | April, 1995 | 23 | 74 | $3=100$ |
| December, 2004 | 39 | 54 | $7=100$ | July, 1994 | 24 | 73 | $3=100$ |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 36 | 58 | $6=100$ | March, 1994 | 24 | 71 | 5=100 |
| July, 2004 | 38 | 55 | $7=100$ | October, 1993 | 22 | 73 | $5=100$ |
| May, 2004 | 33 | 61 | $6=100$ | September, 1993 | 20 | 75 | $5=100$ |
| Late February, 2004 | 39 | 55 | $6=100$ | May, 1993 | 22 | 71 | $7=100$ |
| Early January, 2004 | 45 | 48 | $7=100$ | January, 1993 | 39 | 50 | $11=100$ |
| December, 2003 | 44 | 47 | $9=100$ | January, 1992 | 28 | 68 | $4=100$ |
| October, 2003 | 38 | 56 | $6=100$ | November, 1991 | 34 | 61 | $5=100$ |
| August, 2003 | 40 | 53 | $7=100$ | Late February, 1991 (Gallup) | ) 66 | 31 | $3=100$ |
| April 8, 2003 | 50 | 41 | $9=100$ | August, 1990 | 47 | 48 | $5=100$ |
| January, 2003 | 44 | 50 | $6=100$ | May, 1990 | 41 | 54 | $5=100$ |
| November, 2002 | 41 | 48 | $11=100$ | January, 1989 | 45 | 50 | $5=100$ |
| September, 2002 | 41 | 55 | $4=100$ | September, 1988 (RVs) | 50 | 45 | $5=100$ |
| Late August, 2002 | 47 | 44 | $9=100$ | May, 1988 | 41 | 54 | $5=100$ |
| May, 2002 | 44 | 44 | $12=100$ | January, 1988 | 39 | 55 | $6=100$ |
| March, 2002 | 50 | 40 | $10=100$ |  |  |  |  |
| Late September, 2001 | 57 | 34 | $9=100$ |  |  |  |  |
| Early September, 2001 | 41 | 53 | $6=100$ |  |  |  |  | little?

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2414]:

|  | ON REGISTERED VOTER |  |  |  |  | (VOL.) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Quite | (VOL.) | Only a | (VOL.) | DK/ |
|  |  | A lot | Some | Little | None | Ref. |
| 2008 | August, 2008 | 74 | 6 | 17 | 2 | 1=100 |
|  | July, 2008 | 74 | 2 | 20 | 3 | $1=100$ |
|  | June, 2008 | 72 | 2 | 23 | 2 | $1=100$ |
|  | Late May, 2008 | 75 | 4 | 17 | 3 | $1=100$ |
|  | April, 2008 | 77 | 7 | 13 | 2 | 1=100 |
|  | March, 2008 | 78 | 3 | 15 | 3 | 1=100 |
|  | Late February, 2008 | 74 | 3 | 19 | 2 | $2=100$ |
| 2004 | November, 2004 | 82 | 3 | 12 | 2 | 1=100 |
|  | Mid-October, 2004 | 76 | 5 | 15 | 3 | $1=100$ |
|  | Early October, 2004 | 74 | 4 | 19 | 2 | $1=100$ |
|  | September, 2004 | 71 | 3 | 22 | 3 | 1=100 |
|  | August, 2004 | 69 | 2 | 26 | 2 | 1=100 |
|  | July, 2004 | 67 | 2 | 28 | 2 | 1=100 |
|  | June, 2004 | 58 | 3 | 36 | 2 | 1=100 |
|  | May, 2004 | 59 | 6 | 30 | 4 | 1=100 |
|  | Late March, 2004 | 60 | 4 | 31 | 4 | $1=100$ |
|  | Mid-March, 2004 | 65 | 2 | 31 | 2 | * $=100$ |
| 2000 | November, 2000 | 72 | 6 | 19 | 2 | 1=100 |
|  | Late October, 2000 | 66 | 6 | 24 | 4 | * $=100$ |
|  | Mid-October, 2000 | 67 | 9 | 19 | 4 | 1=100 |
|  | Early October, 2000 | 60 | 8 | 27 | 4 | $1=100$ |
|  | September, 2000 | 59 | 8 | 29 | 3 | 1=100 |
|  | July, 2000 | 46 | 6 | 45 | 3 | *=100 |
|  | June, 2000 | 46 | 6 | 43 | 5 | *=100 |
|  | May, 2000 | 48 | 4 | 42 | 5 | 1=100 |
|  | April, 2000 | 45 | 7 | 41 | 7 | *=100 |
| 1996 | November, 1996 | 67 | 8 | 22 | 3 | * $=100$ |
|  | October, 1996 | 65 | 7 | 26 | 1 | $1=100$ |
|  | Late September, 1996 | 61 | 7 | 29 | 2 | 1=100 |
|  | Early September, 1996 | 56 | 3 | 36 | 4 | $1=100$ |
|  | July, 1996 | 55 | 3 | 41 | 1 | * $=100$ |
|  | June, 1996 | 50 | 5 | 41 | 3 | 1=100 |
| 1992 | Early October, 1992 | 77 | 5 | 16 | 1 | $1=100$ |
|  | September, 1992 | 69 | 3 | 26 | 1 | $1=100$ |
|  | August, 1992 | 72 | 4 | 23 | 1 | *=100 |
|  | June, 1992 | 63 | 6 | 29 | 1 | $1=100$ |
| 1988 | Gallup: November, 1988 | 73 | 8 | 17 | 2 | $0=100$ |
|  | Gallup: October, 1988 | 69 | 9 | 20 | 2 | $0=100$ |
|  | Gallup: August, 1988 | 61 | 10 | 27 | 2 | $0=100$ |
|  | Gallup: September, 1988 | 57 | 18 | 23 | 2 | $0=100$ |

## REGIST, REGICERT, PRECINCT AND OFTVOTE PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

## NO QUESTIONS 2 THROUGH 4

## ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q. 5 Now, suppose the 2008 presidential election was being held TODAY. If you had to choose between [READ AND ROTATE] who would you vote for?
IF OTHER OR DK (Q. $5=3,9$ ), ASK:
Q.5a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to [READ, ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.5]?

IF CHOSE MCCAIN OR OBAMA IN Q. 5 (Q.5=1,2), ASK:
Q.5b Do you support (INSERT PRESIDENTIAL CHOICE FROM Q.5-LAST NAME ONLY) strongly or only moderately?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2414]:

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Mc- } \\ & \text { Cain } \end{aligned}$ | Strongly | Only <br> $\mathrm{Mod}^{1}$ | DK | Oba- <br> ma | Strongly | Only <br> Mod | DK | Third <br> party | Fourth party | Other/ <br> Don't <br> know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| August, 2008 | 43 | 17 | 26 | * | 46 | 27 | 19 | * | n/a | n/a | 11=100 |
| July, 2008 | 42 | 17 | 24 | 1 | 47 | 24 | 22 | 1 | n/a | n/a | $11=100$ |
| June, 2008 | 40 | 14 | 26 | * | 48 | 28 | 19 | 1 | n/a | n/a | $12=100$ |
| Late May, 2008 | 44 |  |  |  | 47 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $9=100$ |
| April, 2008 | 44 |  |  |  | 50 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $6=100$ |
| March, 2008 | 43 |  |  |  | 49 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $8=100$ |
| Late February, 2008 | 43 |  |  |  | 50 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $7=100$ |
|  | Bush |  |  |  | Kerry |  |  |  | Nader |  |  |
| November, 2004 | 45 | 34 | 11 | * | 46 | 29 | 16 | 1 | 1 | n/a | $8=100$ |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 45 | 32 | 13 | * | 45 | 28 | 16 | 1 | 1 | n/a | $9=100$ |
| Early October, 2004 | 48 | 35 | 12 | 1 | 41 | 24 | 17 | * | 2 | n/a | $9=100$ |
| September, 2004 | 49 | 33 | 15 | 1 | 43 | 22 | 20 | 1 | 1 | n/a | $7=100$ |
| August, 2004 | 45 | 32 | 13 | * | 47 | 28 | 19 | * | 2 | n/a | $6=100$ |
| July, 2004 | 44 |  |  |  | 46 |  |  |  | 3 | n/a | $7=100$ |
| June, 2004 | 46 |  |  |  | 42 |  |  |  | 6 | n/a | $6=100$ |
| May, 2004 | 43 |  |  |  | 46 |  |  |  | 6 | n/a | $5=100$ |
| Late March, 2004 | 44 |  |  |  | 43 |  |  |  | 6 | n/a | $7=100$ |
| Mid-March, 2004 | 42 |  |  |  | 49 |  |  |  | 4 | n/a | $5=100$ |
| Two-way trial heats: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| June, 2004 | 48 |  |  |  | 46 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $6=100$ |
| May, 2004 | 45 |  |  |  | 50 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $5=100$ |
| Late March, 2004 | 46 |  |  |  | 47 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $7=100$ |
| Mid-March, 2004 | 43 |  |  |  | 52 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $5=100$ |
| Late February, 2004 | 44 |  |  |  | 48 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $8=100$ |
| Early February, 2004 | 47 |  |  |  | 47 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $6=100$ |
| Early January, 2004 | 52 |  |  |  | 41 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $7=100$ |
| October, 2003 | 50 |  |  |  | 42 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $8=100$ |
|  | Bush |  |  |  | Gore |  |  |  | Nader Buchanan |  |  |
| November, 2000 | 41 | 26 | 15 | * | 45 | 25 | 19 | 1 | 4 | 1 | $9=100$ |
| Late October, 2000 | 45 | 29 | 16 | * | 43 | 24 | 19 | * | 4 | 1 | $7=100$ |
| Mid-October, 2000 | 43 | 25 | 18 | * | 45 | 22 | 23 | * | 4 | 1 | $7=100$ |
| Early October, 2000 | 43 | 26 | 17 | * | 44 | 22 | 22 | * | 5 | * | $8=100$ |

[^0]
## Q.5/Q.5a/Q.5b CONTINUED..

|  | Bush | Strongly | Only <br> Mod | DK | Gore | Strongly | Only <br> Mod | DK | Third party | Fourth party | Other/ Don't know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| September, 2000 | 41 | 21 | 19 | 1 | 47 | 25 | 21 | 1 | 2 | 1 | $9=100$ |
| July, 2000 | 42 |  |  |  | 41 |  |  |  | 6 | 2 | $9=100$ |
| Late June, 2000 | 42 |  |  |  | 35 |  |  |  | 2 | 2 | $19=100$ |
| Mid-June, 2000 | 41 |  |  |  | 42 |  |  |  | 4 | 3 | $10=100$ |
| January, 2000 | 51 |  |  |  | 39 |  |  |  | n/a | 4 | $6=100$ |
| September, 1999 | 49 |  |  |  | 35 |  |  |  | n/a | 10 | $6=100$ |

Two-way trial heats:

| July, 2000 | 48 |  |  |  | 46 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $6=100$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mid-June, 2000 | 45 | 20 | 25 | * | 46 | 18 | 27 | 1 | n/a | n/a | $9=100$ |
| May, 2000 | 46 |  |  |  | 45 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $9=100$ |
| March, 2000 | 43 |  |  |  | 49 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $8=100$ |
| February, 2000 | 46 | 19 | 27 | * | 45 | 18 | 26 | 1 | n/a | n/a | $9=100$ |
| December, 1999 | 55 |  |  |  | 40 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $5=100$ |
| October, 1999 | 54 |  |  |  | 39 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $7=100$ |
| September, 1999 | 54 |  |  |  | 39 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $7=100$ |
| July, 1999 | 53 |  |  |  | 42 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | 5=100 |
| March, 1999 | 54 |  |  |  | 41 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $5=100$ |
| January, 1999 | 50 |  |  |  | 44 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $6=100$ |
| Early September, 1998 | 53 |  |  |  | 40 |  |  |  | n/a | n/a | $7=100$ |
|  | Dole |  |  |  | Clinton |  |  |  | Perot |  |  |
| November, 1996 | 32 | 17 | 15 | * | 51 | 26 | 24 | 1 | 9 | n/a | $8=100$ |
| October, 1996 | 34 | 17 | 16 | 1 | 51 | 25 | 26 | * | 8 | n/a | $7=100$ |
| Late September, 1996 | 35 | 16 | 18 | 1 | 51 | 26 | 25 | * | 7 | n/a | $7=100$ |
| Early September, 1996 | 34 | 17 | 17 | * | 52 | 26 | 26 | 0 | 8 | n/a | $6=100$ |
| July, 1996 | 34 |  |  |  | 44 |  |  |  | 16 | n/a | $6=100$ |
| March, 1996 | 35 |  |  |  | 44 |  |  |  | 16 | n/a | $5=100$ |
| September, 1995 | 36 |  |  |  | 42 |  |  |  | 19 | n/a | $3=100$ |
| July, 1994 | 36 |  |  |  | 39 |  |  |  | 20 | n/a | $5=100$ |
| Two-way trial heats: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| July, 1996 | 42 | 11 | 30 | * | 53 | 20 | 31 | 1 | n/a | n/a | $5=100$ |
| June, 1996 | 40 | 13 | 23 | 1 | 55 | 22 | 29 | 1 | n/a | n/a | $5=100$ |
| April, 1996 | 40 |  |  |  | 54 |  |  |  |  |  | $6=100$ |
| March, 1996 | 41 |  |  |  | 53 |  |  |  |  |  | 6=100 |
| February, 1996 | 44 |  |  |  | 52 |  |  |  |  |  | 4=100 |
| January, 1996 | 41 |  |  |  | 53 |  |  |  |  |  | 6=100 |
| July, 1994 | 49 |  |  |  | 46 |  |  |  |  |  | $5=100$ |


| Bush, Sr. |  |  |  | Clinton |  |  | Perot |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Late October, 1992 | 34 | 20 | 14 | -- | 44 | 26 | 18 | -- | 19 | n/a | $3=100$ |
| Early October, 1992 | 35 | 14 | 21 | -- | 48 | 23 | 25 | -- | 8 | n/a | $9=100$ |
| June, 1992 | 31 |  |  |  | 27 |  |  |  | 36 | n/a | $6=100$ |
| Two-way trial heats: |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| September, 1992 | 38 | 14 | 21 | -- | 53 | 25 | 28 | -- | n/a | n/a | $9=100$ |
| August, 1992 | 37 | 14 | 23 | -- | 57 | 24 | 33 | -- | n/a | n/a | $6=100$ |
| June, 1992 | 46 | 13 | 33 | -- | 41 | 9 | 32 | -- | n/a | n/a | $13=100$ |
| May, 1992 | 46 | 15 | 31 | -- | 43 | 10 | 33 | -- | n/a | n/a | $11=100$ |
| Late March, 1992 | 50 | 19 | 31 | -- | 43 | 9 | 34 | -- | n/a | n/a | $7=100$ |

October, 1988
September, 1988
May, 1988

| Bush, Sr. | Strongly | Only | Duk- |  | Only |  |  | Third party | Fourth party | Don't <br> know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Mod | $\underline{\text { DK }}$ | akis | Strongly | Mod | DK |  |  |  |
| 50 | 24 | 26 | -- | 42 | 20 | 22 | -- | n/a | n/a | 8=100 |
| 50 | 26 | 24 | -- | 44 | 19 | 25 | -- | n/a | n/a | $6=100$ |
| 40 | 12 | 28 | -- | 53 | 14 | 39 | -- | n/a | n/a | $7=100$ |

QUESTIONS 6 THROUGH 10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 11 THROUGH 15
ROTATE Q.16/Q. 17 BLOCK WITH Q.18/Q. 19 BLOCK. AFTER FIRST RANDOMIZATION OF RESPONSE OPTIONS KEEP SAME ORDER FOR ALL OF Q. 16 THROUGH Q. 19

## ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

Q. 16 Which of the following, if any, do you like most about John McCain? Is it [READ AND RANDOMIZE
$\mathbf{1 , 2 , 3}$ with 4 last]

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2414]:
8 His positions on moral and social issues
10 His positions on economic issues
16 His positions on foreign policy issues
40 (OR) His personal abilities and experiences
19 None (VOL)
$\underline{7}$ Don’t know/refused (VOL.)
100

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):
Q. 17 And which of the following, if any, TROUBLES you most about John McCain? Is it [READ AND RANDOMIZE 1,2,3 with 4 last]

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2414]:

[^1]
## ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):

## Q. 18 Which of the following, if any, do you like most about Barack Obama? Is it [READ AND RANDOMIZE 1,2,3 with 4 last]

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2414]:

17 His positions on moral and social issues
24 His positions on economic issues
$9 \quad$ His positions on foreign policy issues
14 (OR) His personal abilities and experiences
28 None (VOL)
$\underline{8}$ Don't know/refused (VOL.)

ASK ALL REGISTERED VOTERS (REGICERT=1):
Q. 19 And which of the following, if any, TROUBLES you most about Barack Obama? Is it [READ AND RANDOMIZE 1,2,3 with 4 last]

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2414]:
11 His positions on moral and social issues
12 His positions on economic issues
18 His positions on foreign policy issues
33 (OR) His personal abilities and experiences
17 None (VOL)
$\underline{9}$ Don't know/refused (VOL.)
100

## NO QUESTION 20

ASK ALL:
Q. 21 And as I read a list of phrases, tell me if you think each phrase better describes [ROTATE ORDER OF CANDIDATES] John McCain or Barack Obama. [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] - does this better describe [READ IN SAME ORDER: McCain or Obama]? What about [INSERT ITEM]?
[REPEAT IF NECESSARY: "Would you say this better describes [READ IN SAME ORDER: McCain or Obama]?

QUESTIONS Q21a.F1 THROUGH Q21d.F1 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

| ASK FORM 1 REGISTERED | John | Barack | (VOL.) | (VOL.) <br> Both |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| VOTERS ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=1208$ ]: | McCain | Obama | Neither | Equally | DK/Ref. |
| e.F1 Shares my values |  |  |  |  |  |
| August, 2008 | 39 | 47 | 6 | 3 | $5=100$ |
| June, 2008 | 38 | 44 | 8 | 4 | $6=100$ |
| Bush/Gore June, 2000 | 40 | 35 | 11 | 5 | $9=100$ |

QUESTIONS Q21f.F2 THROUGH Q21j.F2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK ALL:
Now I'd like to ask about how important some issues are to you...
Q. 22 In making your decision about who to vote for this fall, will the issue of [INSERT ITEM;

RANDOMIZE] be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important? How about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: How important will the issue of [ITEM] be to you?] [INTERVIEWER: PLEASE RE-READ RESPONSE OPTIONS EVERY THREE OR FOUR ITEMS]

## BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2414]

|  |  | Very Important | Somewhat Important | Not too <br> Important | Not at all Important | Don’t Know/ Refuse |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. | The economy |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | August, 2008 | 87 | 12 | 1 | * | *=100 |
|  | Late May, 2008 | 88 | 9 | 1 | 1 | $1=100$ |
|  | October, 2007 | 79 | 18 | 1 | 1 | $1=100$ |
|  | June, 2007 | 74 | 22 | 2 | 1 | $1=100$ |
|  | Mid-October, 2004 | 78 | 18 | 3 | 1 | *=100 |
|  | August, 2004 | 76 | 22 | 1 | 1 | *=100 |
| b. | Iraq |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | August, 2008 | 72 | 21 | 4 | 2 | $1=100$ |
|  | Late May, 2008 | 72 | 20 | 4 | 2 | $2=100$ |
|  | October, 2007 | 76 | 18 | 2 | 2 | $2=100$ |
|  | June, 2007 | 73 | 20 | 3 | 3 | $1=100$ |
|  | Mid-October, 2004 | 74 | 20 | 3 | 2 | $1=100$ |
|  | August, 2004 | 70 | 24 | 3 | 2 | $1=100$ |
| C. | Terrorism |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | August, 2008 | 72 | 20 | 5 | 2 | $1=100$ |
|  | Late May, 2008 | 68 | 23 | 6 | 2 | $1=100$ |
|  | October, 2007 | 69 | 22 | 5 | 3 | $1=100$ |
|  | June, 2007 | 69 | 24 | 4 | 2 | $1=100$ |
|  | Mid-October, 2004 | 77 | 17 | 3 | 2 | $1=100$ |
|  | August, 2004 | 75 | 19 | 3 | 2 | $1=100$ |
| d. | Gay marriage |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | August, 2008 | 28 | 20 | 18 | 32 | $2=100$ |
|  | Late May, 2008 | 28 | 21 | 19 | 29 | $3=100$ |
|  | October, 2007 | 22 | 21 | 21 | 32 | $4=100$ |
|  | Mid-October, 2004 | 32 | 22 | 19 | 24 | $3=100$ |
|  | August, 2004 | 34 | 19 | 15 | 30 | $2=100$ |
| e. | Moral values |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | August, 2008 | 61 | 28 | 7 | 3 | $1=100$ |
|  | Late May, 2008 | 62 | 24 | 7 | 6 | $1=100$ |
|  | October, 2007 | 61 | 26 | 7 | 4 | $2=100$ |
|  | Mid-October, 2004 | 63 | 23 | 8 | 4 | $2=100$ |
|  | August, 2004 | 64 | 25 | 6 | 4 | $1=100$ |
| f. | Abortion |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | August, 2008 | 39 | 26 | 17 | 15 | $3=100$ |
|  | Late May, 2008 | 40 | 27 | 15 | 15 | $3=100$ |
|  | October, 2007 | 39 | 26 | 17 | 13 | $5=100$ |
|  | June, 2007 | 40 | 30 | 13 | 14 | $3=100$ |
|  |  |  | 47 |  |  |  |

## Q. 22 CONTIUNED...

Mid-October, 2004
August, 2004
g. Energy


June, 2007
Mid-October, 2004
August, 2004
h. Health care
August, 2008

73
Late May, 2008
October, 2007
78

June, 2007
Mid-October, 2004
August, 2004
i. Education
August, 2008
Late May, 2008

73
78
October, 200775
Mid-October, 2004
75
August, 2004
70
j. The environment

August, 2008
Late May, 2008
October, 2007
59

June, 2007
Mid-October, 2004
August, 2004

## NO ITEM k.

1. Immigration August, 2008 Late May, 2008 October, 2007 June, 2007
m. Trade policy

August, 2008
Late May, 2008
49
38
38
8
6
$3=100$
$4=100$

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1465]:

On another subject...
Q.23F2 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? [IF DK

ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

|  | Approve | Disapprove | Don't <br> know |  | Approve | Disapprove | Don't <br> know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| August, 2008 | 28 | 66 | $6=100$ | August, 2004 | 46 | 45 | $9=100$ |
| July, 2008 | 27 | 68 | $5=100$ | July, 2004 | 46 | 46 | $8=100$ |
| April, 2008 | 27 | 65 | $8=100$ | June, 2004 | 48 | 43 | $9=100$ |
| March, 2008 | 28 | 63 | $9=100$ | May, 2004 | 44 | 48 | $8=100$ |
| Late February, 2008 | 33 | 59 | $8=100$ | Late April, 2004 | 48 | 43 | $9=100$ |
| Early February, 2008 | 31 | 62 | $7=100$ | Early April, 2004 | 43 | 47 | $10=100$ |
| January, 2008 | 31 | 59 | $10=100$ | Late March, 2004 | 47 | 44 | $9=100$ |
| Late December, 2007 | 31 | 60 | $9=100$ | Mid-March, 2004 | 46 | 47 | $7=100$ |
| November, 2007 | 30 | 59 | $11=100$ | February, 2004 | 48 | 44 | $8=100$ |
| October, 2007 | 30 | 63 | $7=100$ | Mid-January, 2004 | 56 | 34 | $10=100$ |
| September, 2007 | 31 | 59 | $10=100$ | Early January, 2004 | 58 | 35 | $7=100$ |
| August, 2007 | 31 | 59 | $10=100$ | December, 2003 | 57 | 34 | $9=100$ |
| July, 2007 | 29 | 61 | $10=100$ | November, 2003 | 50 | 40 | $10=100$ |
| June, 2007 | 29 | 61 | $10=100$ | October, 2003 | 50 | 42 | $8=100$ |
| April, 2007 | 35 | 57 | $8=100$ | September, 2003 | 55 | 36 | $9=100$ |
| March, 2007 | 33 | 58 | $9=100$ | Mid-August, 2003 | 56 | 32 | $12=100$ |
| February, 2007 | 33 | 56 | $11=100$ | Early August, 2003 | 53 | 37 | $10=100$ |
| Mid-January, 2007 | 33 | 59 | $8=100$ | Mid-July, 2003 | 58 | 32 | $10=100$ |
| Early January, 2007 | 33 | 57 | $10=100$ | Early July, 2003 | 60 | 29 | $11=100$ |
| December, 2006 | 32 | 57 | $11=100$ | June, 2003 | 62 | 27 | $11=100$ |
| Mid-November, 2006 | 32 | 58 | $10=100$ | May, 2003 | 65 | 27 | $8=100$ |
| Early October, 2006 | 37 | 53 | $10=100$ | April 10-16, 2003 | 72 | 22 | $6=100$ |
| September, 2006 | 37 | 53 | $10=100$ | April 9, 2003 | 74 | 20 | $6=100$ |
| August, 2006 | 37 | 54 | $9=100$ | April 2-7, 2003 | 69 | 25 | $6=100$ |
| July, 2006 | 36 | 57 | $7=100$ | March 28-April 1, 2003 | 71 | 23 | $6=100$ |
| June, 2006 | 36 | 54 | $10=100$ | March 25-27, 2003 | 70 | 24 | $6=100$ |
| April, 2006 | 33 | 56 | $11=100$ | March 20-24, 2003 | 67 | 26 | $7=100$ |
| Early April, 2006 | 35 | 55 | $10=100$ | March 13-16, 2003 | 55 | 34 | $11=100$ |
| March, 2006 | 33 | 57 | $10=100$ | February, 2003 | 54 | 36 | $10=100$ |
| February, 2006 | 40 | 52 | $8=100$ | January, 2003 | 58 | 32 | $10=100$ |
| January, 2006 | 38 | 54 | $8=100$ | December, 2002 | 61 | 28 | $11=100$ |
| December, 2005 | 38 | 54 | $8=100$ | Late October, 2002 | 59 | 29 | $12=100$ |
| Early November, 2005 | 36 | 55 | $9=100$ | Early October, 2002 | 61 | 30 | $9=100$ |
| Late October, 2005 | 40 | 52 | $8=100$ | Mid-September, 2002 | 67 | 22 | $11=100$ |
| Early October, 2005 | 38 | 56 | $6=100$ | Early September, 2002 | 63 | 26 | $11=100$ |
| September 8-11, 2005 | 40 | 52 | $8=100$ | Late August, 2002 | 60 | 27 | $13=100$ |
| September 6-7, 2005 | 40 | 52 | $8=100$ | August, 2002 | 67 | 21 | $12=100$ |
| July, 2005 | 44 | 48 | $8=100$ | Late July, 2002 | 65 | 25 | $10=100$ |
| June, 2005 | 42 | 49 | $9=100$ | July, 2002 | 67 | 21 | $12=100$ |
| Late May, 2005 | 42 | 48 | $10=100$ | June, 2002 | 70 | 20 | $10=100$ |
| Mid-May, 2005 | 43 | 50 | $7=100$ | April, 2002 | 69 | 18 | $13=100$ |
| Late March, 2005 | 49 | 46 | $5=100$ | Early April, 2002 | 74 | 16 | $10=100$ |
| Mid-March, 2005 | 45 | 46 | $9=100$ | February, 2002 | 78 | 13 | $9=100$ |
| February, 2005 | 46 | 47 | $7=100$ | January, 2002 | 80 | 11 | $9=100$ |
| January, 2005 | 50 | 43 | $7=100$ | Mid-November, 2001 | 84 | 9 | $7=100$ |
| December, 2004 | 48 | 44 | $8=100$ | Early October, 2001 | 84 | 8 | $8=100$ |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 44 | 48 | $8=100$ | Late September, 2001 | 86 | 7 | $7=100$ |

## Q. 23 CONTINUED...

|  | App- <br> rove | Disapprove | Don't know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Mid-September, 2001 | 80 | 9 | $11=100$ |
| Early September, 2001 | 51 | 34 | $15=100$ |
| August, 2001 | 50 | 32 | $18=100$ |
| July, 2001 | 51 | 32 | $17=100$ |
| June, 2001 | 50 | 33 | $17=100$ |
| May, 2001 | 53 | 32 | $15=100$ |
| April, 2001 | 56 | 27 | $17=100$ |
| March, 2001 | 55 | 25 | $20=100$ |
| February, 2001 | 53 | 21 | 26=100 |

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1465]:

Q.24F2 Do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? [IF DK ENTER AS DK. IF DEPENDS PROBE ONCE WITH: Overall do you approve or disapprove of the job the Democratic leaders in Congress are doing? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

|  | Approve | Disapprove | Don't know |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| August, 2008 | 31 | 58 | 11=100 |
| January, 2008 | 31 | 53 | $16=100$ |
| November, 2007 | 35 | 50 | $15=100$ |
| October, 2007 | 31 | 54 | $15=100$ |
| July, 2007 | 33 | 54 | $13=100$ |
| June, 2007 | 34 | 49 | $17=100$ |
| April, 2007 | 36 | 43 | $21=100$ |
| March, 2007 ${ }^{\text {² }}$ | 37 | 42 | $21=100$ |
| February, 2007 | 41 | 36 | $23=100$ |
| Mid-January, 2007 | 39 | 34 | $27=100$ |
| Early October, 2006 | 35 | 53 | $12=100$ |
| June, 2006 | 32 | 50 | $18=100$ |
| March, 2006 | 34 | 46 | $20=100$ |
| January, 2006 | 34 | 48 | $18=100$ |
| Early November, 2005 | 56 | 44 | $20=100$ |
| Early October, 2005 | 32 | 48 | $20=100$ |
| Mid-September, 2005 | 36 | 45 | $19=100$ |
| Mid-May, 2005 | 39 | 41 | $20=100$ |
| Mid-March, 2005 | 37 | 44 | $19=100$ |
| Early February, 2004 | 38 | 42 | $20=100$ |
| June, 2002 | 47 | 36 | $17=100$ |
| May, 2002 | 42 | 37 | $21=100$ |
| February, 2002 | 49 | 30 | $21=100$ |
| Early September, 2001 | 19 | 30 | $21=100$ |
| June, 2001 | 50 | 28 | $22=100$ |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 25 Now, I'd like to get your views on some issues that are being discussed in this country today. All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose [RANDOMIZE a and b first, then read $\mathbf{c}$, $\mathbf{d}$, and $\mathbf{e}$ in order;]? Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose [NEXT ITEM]?

|  | -------FAVOR------- |  |  | --------OPPOSE------- |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Strongly |  |  | Strongly |  |  | (VOL.) |
|  | Total | Favor | Favor | Total | Oppose | Oppose | DK/Ref |
| a. The U.S. government guaranteeing health insurance for all citizens, even if it means raising taxes |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| August, 2008 | 63 | 30 | 33 | 34 | 13 | 21 | $3=100$ |
| August, 2007 | 63 | 26 | 37 | 32 | 13 | 19 | $5=100$ |
| Early January, 2007 | 66 | 27 | 39 | 29 | 11 | 18 | $5=100$ |
| July, 2005 | 64 | 25 | 39 | 30 | 10 | 20 | $6=100$ |
| December, 2004 | 65 | 31 | 34 | 30 | 10 | 20 | $5=100$ |
| Early September, 2004 | 66 | 30 | 36 | 26 | 11 | 15 | $8=100$ |
| August, 2003 | 67 | 23 | 44 | 29 | 10 | 19 | $4=100$ |
| b. Allowing churches and other houses of worship to apply, along with other organizations, for government funding to provide social services such as job training or drug treatment counseling to people who need them |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| August, 2008 | 67 | 26 | 41 | 29 | 10 | 19 | $4=100$ |
| July, 2005 | 66 | 25 | 41 | 30 | 8 | 22 | $4=100$ |
| February, 2004 | 69 | 28 | 41 | 29 | 10 | 19 | $2=100$ |
| March, 2002 | 70 | 26 | 44 | 27 | 9 | 18 | $3=100$ |
| June, 2001 | 72 | 30 | 42 | 25 | 10 | 15 | $3=100$ |
| March, 2001 | 75 | 30 | 45 | 21 | 8 | 13 | $4=100$ |
| February, 2001 | 64 | 28 | 36 | 30 | 11 | 19 | $6=100$ |
| September, 2000 (RVs) | 67 | 32 | 35 | 29 | 12 | 17 | $4=100$ |
| c. Allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| August, 2008 | 39 | 13 | 26 | 52 | 30 | 22 | $9=100$ |
| June, $2008{ }^{3}$ | 40 | 15 | 25 | 52 | 31 | 21 | $8=100$ |
| Late May, 2008 | 38 | 15 | 23 | 49 | 29 | 20 | 13=100 |
| November, 2007 | 36 | 12 | 24 | 54 | 29 | 25 | $10=100$ |
| August, 2007 | 36 | 13 | 23 | 55 | 31 | 24 | $9=100$ |
| Early January, 2007 | 37 | 13 | 24 | 55 | 33 | 22 | $8=100$ |
| Early November, 2006 (RVs) | 30 | 10 | 20 | 57 | 31 | 26 | $13=100$ |
| July, 2006 | 35 | 12 | 23 | 56 | 31 | 25 | $9=100$ |
| June, 2006 | 33 | 13 | 20 | 55 | 32 | 23 | $12=100$ |
| March, 2006 | 39 | 10 | 29 | 51 | 28 | 23 | $10=100$ |
| July, 2005 | 36 | 13 | 23 | 53 | 31 | 22 | $11=100$ |
| December, 2004 | 32 | 14 | 18 | 61 | 38 | 23 | $7=100$ |
| August, 2004 | 29 | 8 | 21 | 60 | 35 | 25 | $11=100$ |
| July, 2004 | 32 | 10 | 22 | 56 | 33 | 23 | $12=100$ |
| Mid-March, 2004 | 32 | 10 | 22 | 59 | 35 | 24 | $9=100$ |
| Early February, 2004 | 30 | 9 | 21 | 63 | 42 | 21 | $7=100$ |
| November, 2003 | 30 | 10 | 20 | 62 | 41 | 21 | $8=100$ |

[^2]
## Q. 25 CONTINUED...

October, 2003
Mid-July, 2003
March, 2001
June, 1996

| -------FAVOR------- |  |  | -------OPPOSE------- |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Strongly |  |  | Strongly |  |  | (VOL.) |
| Total | Favor | Favor | Total | Oppose | Oppose | DK/Ref |
| 30 | 9 | 21 | 58 | 33 | 25 | 12=100 |
| 38 | 10 | 28 | 53 | 30 | 23 | $9=100$ |
| 35 | 8 | 27 | 57 | 34 | 23 | $8=100$ |
| 27 | 6 | 21 | 65 | 41 | 24 | $8=100$ |

d. Allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples

| August, 2008 | 54 | 18 | 36 | 40 | 21 | 19 | $6=100$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Late May, 2008 | 51 | 21 | 30 | 41 | 25 | 16 | $8=100$ |
| July, 2006 | 54 | 19 | 35 | 42 | 24 | 18 | $4=100$ |
| July, 2005 | 53 | 22 | 31 | 40 | 24 | 16 | $7=100$ |
| August, 2004 | 48 | 15 | 33 | 45 | 24 | 21 | $7=100$ |
| July, 2004 | 49 | 18 | 31 | 43 | 25 | 18 | $8=100$ |
| Mid-March, 2004 | 49 | 16 | 33 | 44 | 26 | 18 | $7=100$ |
| October, 2003 | 45 | 14 | 31 | 47 | 27 | 20 | $8=100$ |

e. Allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children

| August, 2008 | 46 | 16 | 30 | 48 | 26 | 22 | $6=100$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| July, 2006 | 42 | 11 | 31 | 52 | 28 | 24 | $6=100$ |
| March, 2006 | 46 | 14 | 32 | 48 | 26 | 22 | $6=100$ |
| September, 1999 | 38 | 10 | 28 | 57 | 30 | 27 | $5=100$ |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 26 Do you think abortion should be (READ)

## (PLEASE READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE)

August, 2008
June, 2008
November, 2007
October, 2007
August, 2007
March, 2007 Pew Social Trends
February, 2006 Associated Press/Ipsos-Poll
December 2005 ABC/Washington Post
April 2005 ABC/Washington Post
December 2004 ABC/Washington Post
May 2004 ABC/Washington Post
January 2003 ABC/Washington Post
August 2001 ABC/Washington Post June 2001 ABC/BeliefNet Poll January 2001 ABC/Washington Post
September 2000 (RVs) ABC/Washington Post 20
July 2000 ABC/Washington Post 20
September 1999 ABC/Washington Post March 1999 ABC/Washington Post
July 1998 ABC/Washington Post

| Legal in <br> all cases | Legal in <br> most cases | Illegal <br> in most <br> cases | Illegal <br> in all <br> cases | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 17 | 37 | 26 | 15 | $5=100$ |
| 19 | 38 | 24 | 13 | $6=100$ |
| 18 | 33 | 29 | 15 | $5=100$ |
| 21 | 32 | 24 | 15 | $8=100$ |
| 17 | 35 | 26 | 17 | $5=100$ |
| 15 | 30 | 30 | 20 | $5=100$ |
| 19 | 32 | 27 | 16 | $6=100$ |
| 17 | 40 | 27 | 13 | $3=100$ |
| 20 | 36 | 27 | 14 | $3=100$ |
| 21 | 34 | 25 | 17 | $3=100$ |
| 23 | 31 | 23 | 20 | $2=99$ |
| 23 | 34 | 25 | 17 | $2=100$ |
| 22 | 27 | 28 | 20 | $3=100$ |
| 22 | 31 | 23 | 20 | $4=100$ |
| 21 | 38 | 25 | 14 | $1=99$ |
| 20 | 35 | 25 | 16 | $3=99$ |
| 20 | 33 | 26 | 17 | $4=100$ |
| 20 | 37 | 26 | 15 | $2=100$ |
| 21 | 34 | 27 | 15 | $3=100$ |
| 19 | 35 | 29 | 13 | $4=100$ |

## Q. 26 CONTINUED...

|  | Legal in all cases | Legal in most cases | Illegal in most cases | Illegal in all cases | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| August 1996 ABC/Washington Post | 22 | 34 | 27 | 14 | 3=100 |
| June 1996 ABC/Washington Post | 24 | 34 | 25 | 14 | $2=99$ |
| October 1995 ABC/Washington Post | 26 | 35 | 25 | 12 | $3=100$ |
| September 1995 ABC/Washington Post | 24 | 36 | 25 | 11 | 4=100 |
| July 1995 ABC/Washington Post | 27 | 32 | 26 | 14 | $1=100$ |

## NO QUESTION 27

ASK ALL:
Q. 28 On another topic... Would you say your overall opinion of [INSERT, ROTATE] is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable?

|  | -------Favorable------ |  |  | -----Unfavorable----- |  |  | Never <br> $\underline{\text { Heard of }}$ | Can't <br> Rate |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Total | Very | Mostly | Total | Very | Mostly |  |  |
| a. The Democratic Party |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| August, 2008 | 57 | 16 | 41 | 37 | 13 | 24 | * | $6=100$ |
| Late May, 2008 | 57 | 14 | 43 | 37 | 14 | 23 | * | $6=100$ |
| July, 2007 | 51 | 13 | 38 | 41 | 14 | 27 | 0 | $8=100$ |
| Early January, 2007 | 54 | 15 | 39 | 35 | 12 | 23 | * | $11=100$ |
| Late October, 2006 | 53 | 13 | 40 | 36 | 11 | 25 | * | $11=100$ |
| July, 2006 | 47 | 13 | 34 | 44 | 13 | 31 | 2 | $7=100$ |
| April, 2006 | 47 | 12 | 35 | 42 | 14 | 28 | * | $11=100$ |
| February, 2006 | 48 | 14 | 34 | 44 | 17 | 27 | 0 | $8=100$ |
| Late October, 2005 | 49 | 14 | 35 | 41 | 15 | 26 | * | $10=100$ |
| July, 2005 | 50 | 15 | 35 | 41 | 14 | 27 | * | $9=100$ |
| June, 2005 | 52 | 12 | 40 | 39 | 13 | 26 | * | $9=100$ |
| December, 2004 | 53 | 13 | 40 | 41 | 14 | 27 | * | $6=100$ |
| June, 2004 | 54 | 12 | 42 | 36 | 11 | 25 | 0 | $10=100$ |
| Early February, 2004 | 58 | 14 | 44 | 37 | 9 | 28 | * | $5=100$ |
| June, 2003 | 54 | 11 | 43 | 38 | 10 | 28 | 0 | $8=100$ |
| April, 2003 | 57 | 13 | 44 | 36 | 11 | 25 | * | $7=100$ |
| December, 2002 | 54 | 15 | 39 | 37 | 10 | 27 | * | $9=100$ |
| July, 2001 | 58 | 18 | 40 | 34 | 10 | 24 | * | $8=100$ |
| January, 2001 | 60 | 18 | 42 | 30 | 9 | 21 | 1 | $9=100$ |
| September, 2000 (RVs) | 60 | 16 | 44 | 35 | 12 | 23 | * | $5=100$ |
| August, 1999 | 59 | 14 | 45 | 37 | 9 | 28 | * | $4=100$ |
| February, 1999 | 58 | 11 | 47 | 37 | 11 | 26 | 0 | $5=100$ |
| January, 1999 | 55 | 14 | 41 | 38 | 12 | 26 | 0 | $7=100$ |
| Early December, 1998 | 59 | 18 | 41 | 34 | 10 | 24 | 0 | $7=100$ |
| Early October, 1998 (RVs) | 56 | 11 | 45 | 38 | 9 | 29 | * | $6=100$ |
| Early September, 1998 | 60 | 13 | 47 | 33 | 8 | 25 | * | $7=100$ |
| March, 1998 | 58 | 15 | 43 | 36 | 10 | 26 | * | $6=100$ |
| August, 1997 | 52 | 11 | 41 | 42 | 10 | 32 | 0 | $6=100$ |
| June, 1997 | 61 | 10 | 51 | 33 | 8 | 25 | * | $6=100$ |
| January, 1997 | 60 | 13 | 47 | 35 | 7 | 28 | * | $5=100$ |
| October, 1995 | 49 | 9 | 40 | 48 | 11 | 37 | 0 | $3=100$ |
| December, 1994 | 50 | 13 | 37 | 44 | 13 | 31 | * | $6=100$ |


| Q. 28 CONTINUED.... | -------Favorable------ |  |  | ------Unfavorable----- |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { (VOL.) } \\ \text { Never } \\ \text { Heard of } \end{gathered}$ | (VOL.) <br> Can't <br> Rate |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | Total | Very | Mostly | Total | Very | Mostly |  |  |
| July, 1994 | 62 | 13 | 49 | 34 | 7 | 27 | * | $4=100$ |
| May, 1993 | 57 | 14 | 43 | 34 | 9 | 25 | 0 | $9=100$ |
| July, 1992 | 61 | 17 | 44 | 33 | 9 | 24 | * | $6=100$ |
| b. The Republican Party |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| August, 2008 | 43 | 9 | 34 | 49 | 18 | 31 | 1 | $7=100$ |
| Late May, 2008 | 39 | 7 | 32 | 53 | 20 | 33 | * | $8=100$ |
| July, 2007 | 39 | 7 | 32 | 53 | 22 | 31 | 0 | $8=100$ |
| Early January, 2007 | 41 | 9 | 32 | 48 | 21 | 27 | 1 | 10=100 |
| Late October, 2006 | 41 | 9 | 32 | 50 | 20 | 30 | * | $9=100$ |
| July, 2006 | 40 | 10 | 30 | 52 | 23 | 29 | 1 | $7=100$ |
| April, 2006 | 40 | 10 | 30 | 50 | 21 | 29 | * | $10=100$ |
| February, 2006 | 44 | 11 | 33 | 50 | 24 | 26 | * | $6=100$ |
| Late October, 2005 | 42 | 12 | 30 | 49 | 24 | 25 | * | $9=100$ |
| July, 2005 | 48 | 13 | 35 | 43 | 18 | 25 | * | $9=100$ |
| June, 2005 | 48 | 11 | 37 | 44 | 20 | 24 | 0 | $8=100$ |
| December, 2004 | 52 | 15 | 37 | 42 | 17 | 25 | 0 | 6=100 |
| June, 2004 | 51 | 12 | 39 | 40 | 14 | 26 | 0 | $9=100$ |
| Early February, 2004 | 52 | 14 | 38 | 42 | 16 | 26 | * | 6=100 |
| June, 2003 | 58 | 14 | 44 | 33 | 10 | 23 | 0 | $9=100$ |
| April, 2003 | 63 | 14 | 49 | 31 | 10 | 21 | * | $6=100$ |
| December, 2002 | 59 | 18 | 41 | 33 | 11 | 22 | * | $8=100$ |
| July, 2001 | 48 | 11 | 37 | 42 | 15 | 27 | * | 10=100 |
| January, 2001 | 56 | 13 | 43 | 35 | 13 | 22 | * | $9=100$ |
| September, 2000 (RVs) | 53 | 11 | 42 | 40 | 12 | 28 | 0 | $7=100$ |
| August, 1999 | 53 | 8 | 45 | 43 | 12 | 31 | * | $4=100$ |
| February, 1999 | 44 | 7 | 37 | 51 | 15 | 36 | 0 | $5=100$ |
| January, 1999 | 44 | 10 | 34 | 50 | 23 | 27 | 0 | $6=100$ |
| Early December, 1998 | 46 | 11 | 35 | 47 | 20 | 27 | * | $7=100$ |
| Early October, 1998 (RVs) | 52 | 9 | 43 | 42 | 14 | 28 | 0 | $6=100$ |
| Early September, 1998 | 56 | 9 | 47 | 37 | 11 | 26 | * | $7=100$ |
| March, 1998 | 50 | 10 | 40 | 43 | 12 | 31 | * | $7=100$ |
| August, 1997 | 47 | 9 | 38 | 47 | 11 | 36 | * | $6=100$ |
| June, 1997 | 51 | 8 | 43 | 42 | 11 | 31 | 1 | $6=100$ |
| January, 1997 | 52 | 8 | 44 | 43 | 10 | 33 | * | $5=100$ |
| October, 1995 | 52 | 10 | 42 | 44 | 16 | 28 | * | $4=100$ |
| December, 1994 | 67 | 21 | 46 | 27 | 8 | 19 | * | 6=100 |
| July, 1994 | 63 | 12 | 51 | 33 | 8 | 25 | * | $4=100$ |
| May, 1993 | 54 | 12 | 42 | 35 | 10 | 25 | 0 | 11=100 |
| July, 1992 | 46 | 9 | 37 | 48 | 17 | 31 | * | $6=100$ |

## NO QUESTION 29

## ASK ALL

On another subject...
Q. 30 In general, who do you think can do the best job of providing services to people in need... [READ AND ROTATE]

|  |  | March |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| 31 | Religious organizations | $\frac{2001}{37}$ |
| 29 | Non-religious, community-based organizations [OR] | 27 |
| 31 | Federal and state government agencies | 28 |
| 3 | None of the above (VOL.) | 2 |
| $\underline{6}$ | Don’t know/refused (VOL.) | $\underline{6}$ |
| 100 |  | 100 |

## ASK ALL

Q. 31 These days, how much do you think churches, synagogues and other houses of worship contribute to solving important social problems... a great deal, some, not much, or nothing at all?

|  |  | July | March | Sept |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{2005}$ | $\underline{2001}$ | $\underline{2000}{ }^{4}$ |
| 24 | A great deal | 20 | 23 | 28 |
| 51 | Some | 46 | 52 | 44 |
| 16 | Not much | 23 | 18 | 21 |
| 7 | Nothing at all | 7 | 4 | 4 |
| $\underline{2}$ | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | $\underline{4}$ | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{3}$ |
| 100 |  | 100 | 100 | 100 |

## ASK ALL

Q. 32 I'm going to read the names of some specific religious groups. For each one that I name, please tell me whether you would favor or oppose this group applying for government funds to provide social services to people who need them. First, [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE WITHIN BLOCKS, BEGINNING WITH a./b., THEN c. THRU j.; ITEM k SHOULD ALWAYS COME LAST]

|  | Favor | Oppose | DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Individual churches, synagogues \& other houses of worship | 60 | 36 | 4=100 |
| March, 2001 | 60 | 35 | $5=100$ |
| b. Charitable organizations that have a religious affiliation | 68 | 28 | $4=100$ |
| March, 2001 | 69 | 26 | $5=100$ |
| c. Catholic churches | 61 | 35 | $4=100$ |
| March, 2001 | 62 | 32 | $6=100$ |
| d. Protestant churches | 59 | 35 | $6=100$ |
| March, 2001 | 61 | 31 | $8=100$ |
| e. Muslim mosques | 40 | 53 | $7=100$ |
| March, 2001 | 38 | 46 | $16=100$ |

[^3]
## Q. 32 CONTINUED...

| f. Jewish synagogues | $\frac{\text { Favor }}{}$ | $\frac{\text { Oppose }}{}$ | DK/Ref <br> March, 2001 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 58 | 39 | $6=100$ |
|  |  | 34 | $8=100$ |

## NO ITEMS g. OR h.

| i. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or Mormon churches | 50 | 44 | $6=100$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| March, 2001 | 51 | 41 | $8=100$ |
| j. Evangelical Christian churches | 55 | 38 | $7=100$ |
| March, 2001 | 52 | 35 | $13=100$ |
| k. Groups that encourage religious conversion as |  |  |  |
| part of the services they provide | 32 | 61 | $7=100$ |
| March, 2001 | 32 | 59 | $9=100$ |

## ASK ALL

Q. 33 If religious organizations do use government funds to provide social services, do you think these organizations should be allowed to ONLY hire people who share their religious beliefs, or should they not be allowed to do this?

|  |  | March |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| 22 | Should be allowed to only hire people who share their religious beliefs | $\frac{2001}{18}$ |
| 73 | Shouldn't be allowed to do this | 78 |
| $\underline{5}$ | Don't know/refused (VOL.) | $\underline{4}$ |
| 100 |  | 100 |

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N}=1440$ ]:

Q.34aF1 Now a different kind of question. Please tell me if you think of each person I name as having moral values that are very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal. (First,) [INSERT NAME; RANDOMIZE]. From what you've read and heard, would you say [NAME] has moral values that are very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal? How about [NEXT NAME]? [IF NECESSARY: From what you've read and heard, would you say [NAME] has moral values that are very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal?]

|  | Very <br> Conservative | $\frac{\text { Conservative }}{}$ | $\frac{\text { Moderate }}{}$ | Liberal | Very <br> Liberal | Don’t <br> Know |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| aF1. George W. Bush | 24 | 38 |  | 6 | $9=100$ |  |
| bF1. Bill Clinton | 5 | 10 | 21 | 34 | 21 | $9=100$ |
| cF1. Barack Obama | 6 | 14 | 22 | 32 | 16 | $10=100$ |
| dF1. John McCain | 13 | 45 | 22 | 8 | 3 | $9=100$ |

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N}=1440$ ]:

Q.34bF1And how would you describe your own moral values? Would you say your moral values are [READ, IN

## ORDER]

| 17 | Very conservative |
| :---: | :--- |
| 32 | Conservative |
| 29 | Moderate |
| 14 | Liberal OR |
| 6 | Very liberal |
| $\underline{2}$ | Don't know/refused (VOL.) |
| 100 |  |

On a different subject...

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N}=1440$ ]:

Q.35F1 In your opinion, should churches and other houses of worship (keep out of political matters) - or should they (express their views on day-to-day social and political questions) [ROTATE ITEMS IN
PARENTHESES]

|  | July | July | Aug | Mid-July | March | Sept | June | -Gallup - |  |  |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\underline{2006}$ | $\underline{2005}$ | $\underline{2004}$ | $\underline{2003}$ | $\underline{2001}$ | $\underline{2000^{5}}$ | $\underline{1996}$ | $\underline{\text { Feb-68 }}$ | $\underline{\text { Mar-57 }}$ |
| 52 | Should keep out | 46 | 44 | 44 | 44 |  | 43 | 45 | 43 | 53 |
| 45 | Should express views | 51 | 51 | 51 | 52 | 51 | 51 | 54 | 40 | 48 |
| $\underline{3}$ | Don't know/refused (VOL.) | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{5}$ | $\underline{4}$ | $\underline{6}$ | $\underline{4}$ | $\underline{3}$ | $\underline{7}$ | $\underline{8}$ |
| 100 |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

## ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $\mathbf{N}=1465$ ]:

Q.36F2 During political elections, should churches and other houses of worship come out in favor of one candidate over another, or shouldn't they do this?

|  |  | August | August | March |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 29 | Should come out in favor of candidates | $\underline{2007}$ | $\underline{2004}$ | $\underline{2002}$ |
| 66 | Should not come out in favor of candidates | 63 | 65 | 70 |
| $\underline{5}$ | Don't know/refused (VOL.) | $\underline{9}$ | $\underline{10}$ | $\underline{8}$ |
| 100 |  | 100 | 100 | 100 |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 37 Do you think there has been too much, too little or the right amount of expressions of religious faith and prayer by political leaders?


NO QUESTIONS 38 THROUGH 41.

[^4]
## ASK ALL:

## ROTATE Q. 42 AND Q. 43

Q. 42 How do you feel about this statement: It makes me uncomfortable when politicians talk about how religious they are. Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely DISagree with it?

|  |  | August <br> August | Sept <br> 17 | Completely Agree |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 29 | Mostly Agree | 15 | $\underline{2004}$ | $\underline{12}$ |
| 29 | Mostly Disagree | 28 | 28 | 25 |
| 21 | Completely Disagree | 30 | 34 | 25 |
| $\underline{4}$ | Don't know/refused (VOL.) | 20 | 22 | 26 |
| 100 |  | $\underline{7}$ | $\underline{4}$ | 19 |
| 100 | 100 | 100 |  |  |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 43 How do you feel about this statement: It's important to me that a president have strong religious beliefs. Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely DISagree with it?

|  |  | August <br> August | Sept <br> 32 | Completely Agree |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 40 | Mostly Agree | 3007 | $\frac{2004}{29}$ | $\underline{2000(R V s)}$ |
| 14 | Mostly Disagree | 39 | 41 | 35 |
| 11 | Completely Disagree | 16 | 15 | 35 |
| $\underline{3}$ | Don't know/refused (VOL.) | 11 | 11 | 17 |
| 100 |  | 100 | $\underline{4}$ | 10 |
| 100 | 100 |  |  |  |

## ASK ALL

Q. 44 Do you feel that [INSERT ITEM AND RANDOMIZE] is generally friendly toward religion, neutral toward religion, or unfriendly toward religion?

|  | Friendly | Neutral |  | Unfriendly |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | 38 |  | 37 |  | 15 |
| a. The Democratic Party |  |  | $10=100$ |  |  |
| August, 2007 | 30 | 37 |  | 15 | $18=100$ |
| July, 2006 | 26 |  | 42 |  | 20 |
| July, 2005 | 29 | 38 |  | 20 | $12=100$ |
| August, 2004 | 40 | 34 |  | 13 | $13=100$ |
| Mid-July, 2003 | 42 | 36 | 12 | $10=100$ |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| b. The Republican Party | 52 | 29 | 9 | $10=100$ |  |
| August, 2007 | 50 | 23 | 9 | $18=100$ |  |
| July, 2006 | 47 | 28 | 13 | $12=100$ |  |
| July, 2005 | 55 | 23 | 9 | $13=100$ |  |
| August, 2004 | 52 | 24 | 10 | $14=100$ |  |
| Mid-July, 2003 | 52 | 27 | 10 | $11=100$ |  |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 45 Here are a couple of statements about the political parties. For each, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely DISagree with it. (The first one is...) (INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS)

|  | Total | AGRE Comp letely | Mostly | Total | SAGR Comp letely | Mostly | DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. Religious conservatives have too much |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| August, 2007 | 43 | 15 | 28 | 41 | 10 | 31 | 16=100 |
| July, 2005 | 45 | 14 | 31 | 43 | 11 | 32 | $12=100$ |
| Early September, $2004{ }^{8}$ | 43 | 17 | 26 | 48 | 18 | 30 | $9=100$ |
| b. Liberals who are not religious have too |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| August, 2007 | 37 | 13 | 24 | 47 | 14 | 33 | 16=100 |
| July, 2005 | 44 | 12 | 32 | 42 | 11 | 31 | $14=100$ |

## ASK ALL:

RELIG What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?

INTERVIEWER: IF R VOLUNTEERS "nothing in particular, none, no religion, etc." BEFORE REACHING END OF LIST, PROMPT WITH: and would you say that's atheist, agnostic, or just nothing in particular?]

Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian,

25 Roman Catholic (Catholic)
2 Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)

* Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)

2 Jewish (Judaism)
1 Muslim (Islam)

* Buddhist
* Hindu

2 Atheist (do not believe in God)
2 Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
1 Something else (SPECIFY)
10 Nothing in particular
$9 \quad$ Christian (VOL.)

* Unitarian (Universalist) (VOL.)
$\underline{3}$ Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)
100


## IF CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1-4, 13 OR CHR=1), ASK [N=2382]:

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

## BASED ON TOTAL <br> Yes <br> No <br> Don’t know/refused (VOL.) <br> Undesignated <br> Christian ${ }^{9}$

## ASK ALL:

ATTEND Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

|  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Aug } \\ & 2007 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 2006 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 2005 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Aug } \\ & 2004 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 2003 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { March } \\ \underline{2003} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { March } \\ \underline{2002} \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Mid- <br> Nov <br> 2001 | $\begin{gathered} \text { March } \\ \underline{2001} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Sept } \\ \underline{2000}^{10} \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 1997 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { June } \\ & 1996 \\ & \hline \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 13 | More than once a week | 14 | 15 | 14 | 13 | 16 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 17 | 12 | 14 |
| 26 | Once a week | 26 | 25 | 27 | 25 | 27 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 26 | 28 | 26 | 25 |
| 16 | Once or twice a month | 16 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 17 | 14 | 17 | 16 | 17 | 17 |
| 19 | A few times a year | 18 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 18 | 21 | 18 | 17 | 17 | 17 | 20 | 21 |
| 15 | Seldom | 16 | 14 | 14 | 15 | 14 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 15 | 13 | 15 | 13 |
| 10 | Never | 9 | 12 | 11 | 11 | 10 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| $\underline{1}$ | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) | $\underline{1}$ | 1 | $\underline{1}$ | $\underline{1}$ | * | $\underline{1}$ | $\underline{1}$ | $\underline{1}$ | $\underline{1}$ | $\underline{1}$ | * | $\underline{1}$ |
| 100 |  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |

## NO QUESTIONS 46 THROUGH 49

## ASK ALL:

Q. 50 How important is religion in your life - very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

|  |  | August <br> 58 |
| :---: | :--- | :---: |
| $\frac{2007}{61}$ |  |  |
| 27 | Very important | 24 |
| 7 | Not too important | 8 |
| 7 | Not at all important | 6 |
| $\underline{1}$ | Don't know/refused (VOL.) | $\underline{1}$ |
| 100 |  | 100 |

## NO QUESTIONS 51-53

## QUESTIONS 54 THROUGH 59 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

[^5]ASK ALL:
PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

## IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY, ASK:

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

|  | Republican | Democrat | Independent | (VOL.) (VOL.) (VOL.) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  | No | Other | DK/ | Lean | Lean |
|  |  |  |  | Preference | Party | Ref | Rep | Dem |
| August, 2008 | 26 | 34 | 34 | 4 | * | $2=100$ | 12 | 17 |
| July, 2008 | 24 | 36 | 34 | 3 | * | $3=100$ | 12 | 15 |
| June, 2008 | 26 | 37 | 32 | 3 | * | $2=100$ | 11 | 16 |
| Late May, 2008 | 25 | 35 | 35 | 2 | * | $3=100$ | 13 | 15 |
| April, 2008 | 24 | 37 | 31 | 5 | 1 | 2=100 | 11 | 15 |
| March, 2008 | 24 | 38 | 29 | 5 | * | $4=100$ | 9 | 14 |
| Late February, 2008 | 24 | 38 | 32 | 3 | * | $3=100$ | 10 | 17 |
| Early February, 2008 | 26 | 35 | 31 | 5 | * | $3=100$ | 11 | 14 |
| January, 2008 | 24 | 33 | 37 | 4 | * | $2=100$ | 12 | 18 |
| Late December, 2007 | 25 | 32 | 36 | 4 | * | $3=100$ | 12 | 18 |
| November, 2007 | 28 | 33 | 32 | 4 | 1 | $2=100$ | 9 | 16 |
| October, 2007 | 25 | 37 | 33 | 3 | * | $2=100$ | 11 | 17 |
| September, 2007 | 27 | 32 | 32 | 6 | * | $3=100$ | 8 | 16 |
| August, 2007 | 26 | 32 | 32 | 5 | 1 | $4=100$ | 10 | 16 |
| July, 2007 | 27 | 32 | 34 | 4 | * | $3=100$ | 11 | 17 |
| June, 2007 | 25 | 34 | 32 | 6 | * | $3=100$ | 10 | 17 |
| April, 2007 | 25 | 28 | 40 | 5 | * | $2=100$ | 13 | 17 |
| March, 2007 | 25 | 36 | 33 | 3 | * | $3=100$ | 12 | 16 |
| February, 2007 | 25 | 34 | 34 | 4 | * | $3=100$ | 10 | 18 |
| Mid-January, 2007 | 24 | 35 | 34 | 3 | * | 4=100 | 12 | 18 |
| Early-January, 2007 | 23 | 31 | 39 | 4 | * | $3=100$ | 12 | 18 |
| Yearly Totals |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2007 | 25.4 | 32.9 | 33.7 | 4.6 | . 4 | $3.1=100$ | 10.7 | 16.7 |
| 2006 | 27.6 | 32.8 | 30.3 | 5.0 | . 4 | $3.9=100$ | 10.2 | 14.5 |
| 2005 | 29.2 | 32.8 | 30.3 | 4.5 | . 3 | $2.8=100$ | 10.2 | 14.9 |
| 2004 | 29.5 | 33.1 | 30.0 | 4.0 | . 4 | $3.0=100$ | 11.8 | 13.6 |
| 2003 | 29.8 | 31.4 | 31.2 | 4.7 | . 5 | $2.5=100$ | 12.1 | 13.0 |
| 2002 | 30.3 | 31.2 | 30.1 | 5.1 | . 7 | $2.7=100$ | 12.6 | 11.6 |
| 2001 | 29.2 | 33.6 | 28.9 | 5.1 | . 5 | $2.7=100$ | 11.7 | 11.4 |
| 2001 Post-Sept 11 | 30.9 | 31.8 | 27.9 | 5.2 | . 6 | $3.6=100$ | 11.7 | 9.4 |
| 2001 Pre-Sept 11 | 28.2 | 34.6 | 29.5 | 5.0 | . 5 | $2.1=100$ | 11.7 | 12.5 |
| 2000 | 27.5 | 32.5 | 29.5 | 5.9 | . 5 | $4.0=100$ | 11.6 | 11.6 |
| 1999 | 26.6 | 33.5 | 33.7 | 3.9 | . 5 | $1.9=100$ | 13.0 | 14.5 |
| 1998 | 27.5 | 33.2 | 31.9 | 4.6 | . 4 | $2.4=100$ | 11.8 | 13.5 |
| 1997 | 28.2 | 33.3 | 31.9 | 4.0 | . 4 | $2.3=100$ | 12.3 | 13.8 |
| 1996 | 29.2 | 32.7 | 33.0 | $5.2=100$ |  |  | 12.7 | 15.6 |
| 1995 | 31.4 | 29.7 | 33.4 | $5.4=100$ |  |  | 14.4 | 12.9 |
| 1994 | 29.8 | 31.8 | 33.8 | $4.6=100$ |  |  | 14.3 | 12.6 |
| 1993 | 27.4 | 33.8 | 34.0 | $4.8=100$ |  |  | 11.8 | 14.7 |
| 1992 | 27.7 | 32.7 | 35.7 | $3.9=100$ |  |  | 13.8 | 15.8 |
| 1991 | 30.9 | 31.4 | 33.2 | $4.5=100$ |  |  | 14.6 | 10.8 |
| 1990 | 31.0 | 33.1 | 29.1 | $6.8=100$ |  |  | 12.4 | 11.3 |
| 1989 | 33 | 33 | $34=100$ |  |  |  |  |  |
| 1987 | 26 | 35 | $39=100$ |  |  |  |  |  |


[^0]:    1 Includes those who say they "lean McCain" or "lean Obama" in Q.5a.

[^1]:    13
    26
    25
    His positions on moral and social issues
    His positions on economic issues
    His positions on foreign policy issues
    (OR) His personal abilities and experiences
    None (VOL)
    Don't know/refused (VOL.)

[^2]:    3 In May and June 2008, November 2007, June and July 2006, mid-March through August 2004, and October 2003, the question was not part of a list of items. In May and June 2008 the question asked about "allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally."

[^3]:    Based on registered voters. Question was worded: "These days, how much do you think churches, synagogues and mosques contribute to solving important social problems... a great deal, some, not much, nothing at all?"

[^4]:    5 September 2000 results are based on registered voters. In 2000 and earlier, the question did not include "and other houses of worship."
    6 In March 2002 the question was worded, "Since September $11^{\text {th }}$, has there been too much, too little or the right amount of expressions of religious faith and prayer by political leaders?"
    In Early October 2001 the question was part of a series and began, "As I read from a list, tell me if you think there has been too much, too little or the right amount of what I mention."

[^5]:    9
    Respondents coded as "Something else" or "Don't Know/Refused" in the religious affiliation question (RELIG) are asked if they think of themselves as Christian or not. An additional 2\% of the public stated that they do think of themselves as Christian.
    September 2000 results are based on registered voters.

