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Obama Seen as More Friendly Than His Party
GOP SEEN AS FRIENDLIER TO RELIGION THAN DEMOCRATS

Results from the
2009 Annual Religion and Public Life Survey

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Obama Seen as More Friendly Than His Party **GOP SEEN AS FRIENDLIER TO RELIGION THAN DEMOCRATS**

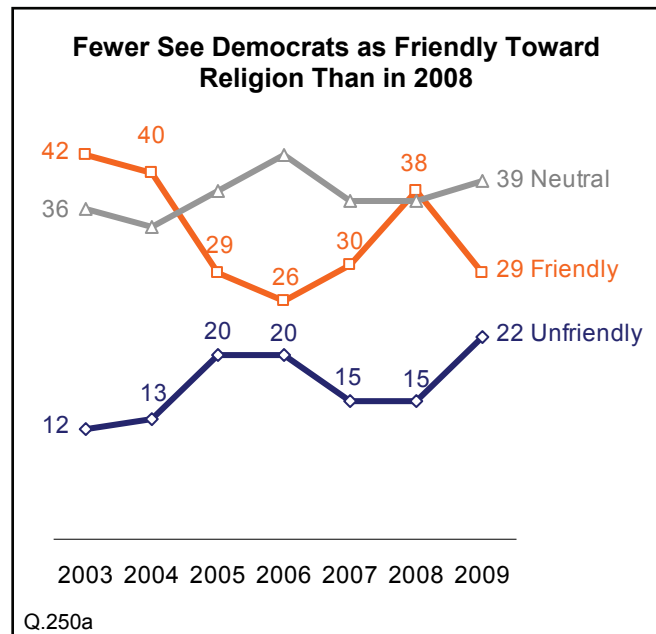
More Americans continue to view the Republican Party as friendly toward religion (48%) than rate the Democratic Party that way (29%). President Barack Obama's administration, however, is seen as friendly toward religion by more people (37%) than the Democratic Party as a whole. And all three get higher ratings for friendliness toward religion than the news media (14%), scientists (12%) or Hollywood (11%).

	<u>Friendly</u> %	<u>Neutral</u> %	<u>Unfriendly</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Republican Party	48	29	12	12=100
Obama administration	37	36	17	10=100
Democratic Party	29	39	22	11=100
News media	14	42	35	9=100
Scientists	12	42	35	11=100
Hollywood	11	34	47	9=100

Q250 a-g. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

After peaking at 38% in mid-2008 during Obama's presidential election campaign, the number of Americans describing the Democratic Party as friendly toward religion returned in mid-2009 to levels similar to those seen in 2005 through 2007. About one-in-five say Democrats are *unfriendly* toward religion (22%), up from 15% who felt that way last year but about the same as in surveys conducted in 2005 and 2006.

Views of the Democrats' stance toward religion have soured sharply among groups that were already inclined to view the Democratic Party negatively, such as Republicans and white evangelical Protestants. But they have also turned more negative among both independents as well as Democrats who are ideologically moderate or conservative. These are among the main findings of a survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, conducted Aug. 11-27 among 4,013 adults reached on both landlines and cell phones.



Only 9% of conservative Republicans say the Democratic Party is friendly toward religion, less than half the number who said this in 2008 (23%). Moderate and liberal

Republicans are 11 percentage points less likely to see Democrats as friendly toward religion than they were last year (21% in 2009 vs. 32% in 2008). The number of independents describing the Democrats as friendly toward religion is down nine points (from 35% to 26%), and the number of conservative and moderate Democrats taking this view is down eight points (from 50% to 42%). At the same time, 56% of liberal Democrats view their political party as friendly toward religion, identical to last year's level.

Views of the Democrats' friendliness toward religion have declined among nearly all major religious groups. Only 19% of white evangelical Protestants now say Democrats are friendly toward religion, slightly less than the 24% of white Catholics and 26% of white mainline Protestants who say the same. By contrast, more than one-third (36%) of the religiously unaffiliated say the Democratic Party is friendly toward religion, down 11 percentage points since last year. And among black Protestants, nearly half (45%) say the Democrats are friendly toward religion.

For Obama as well as for both political parties, being viewed as friendly toward religion is closely associated with popularity generally. Among those who say the Obama administration

is friendly toward religion, fully three-quarters approve of the job he is doing (77%), compared with half of those who say the administration is neutral toward religion (51%) and a scant 7% of those who say it is unfriendly. More than eight-in-ten of those who say the Obama administration is unfriendly toward religion disapprove of his job performance.

Likewise, almost three-quarters of those who see the Democratic Party as friendly toward religion have a favorable view of the party (73%), compared with just 15% of those who say it is unfriendly. For the Republican Party, the link is less pronounced. Almost half of those who say the GOP is friendly toward religion view the party favorably (48%), compared with 41% among those who say it is neutral and 21% for those who say it is unfriendly.

Democrats Viewed as Less Friendly Toward Religion			
	<u>Aug 08</u>	<u>Aug 09</u>	<u>Change</u>
	%	%	
Total	38	29	-9
Conserv Rep	23	9	-14
Mod/Lib Rep	32	21	-11
Independent	35	26	-9
Cons/Mod Dem	50	42	-8
Liberal Dem	56	56	0
Protestant	36	27	-9
White evangelical	28	19	-9
White mainline	36	26	-10
Black Protestant	58	45	-13
Catholic	37	24	-13
White non-Hisp	37	24	-13
Unaffiliated	47	36	-11
<i>Attend religious services...</i>			
Weekly or more	34	25	-9
Monthly/yearly	40	29	-11
Seldom/Never	40	35	-5
Q250a. Entries are percentages saying Democratic Party is friendly toward religion.			

Hollywood, the Media, and Scientists Seen as More Unfriendly Toward Religion

While the Democratic Party's image with respect to religion has slipped, more Americans perceive the party as friendly toward religion (29%) than unfriendly (22%). The same cannot be said for Hollywood, the news media and scientists. Public ratings of Hollywood in this regard are the most lopsided – 47% say Hollywood is generally unfriendly toward religion and just 11% say it is generally friendly. This is largely unchanged from the balance of opinion in 2003 (45% unfriendly, 16% friendly).

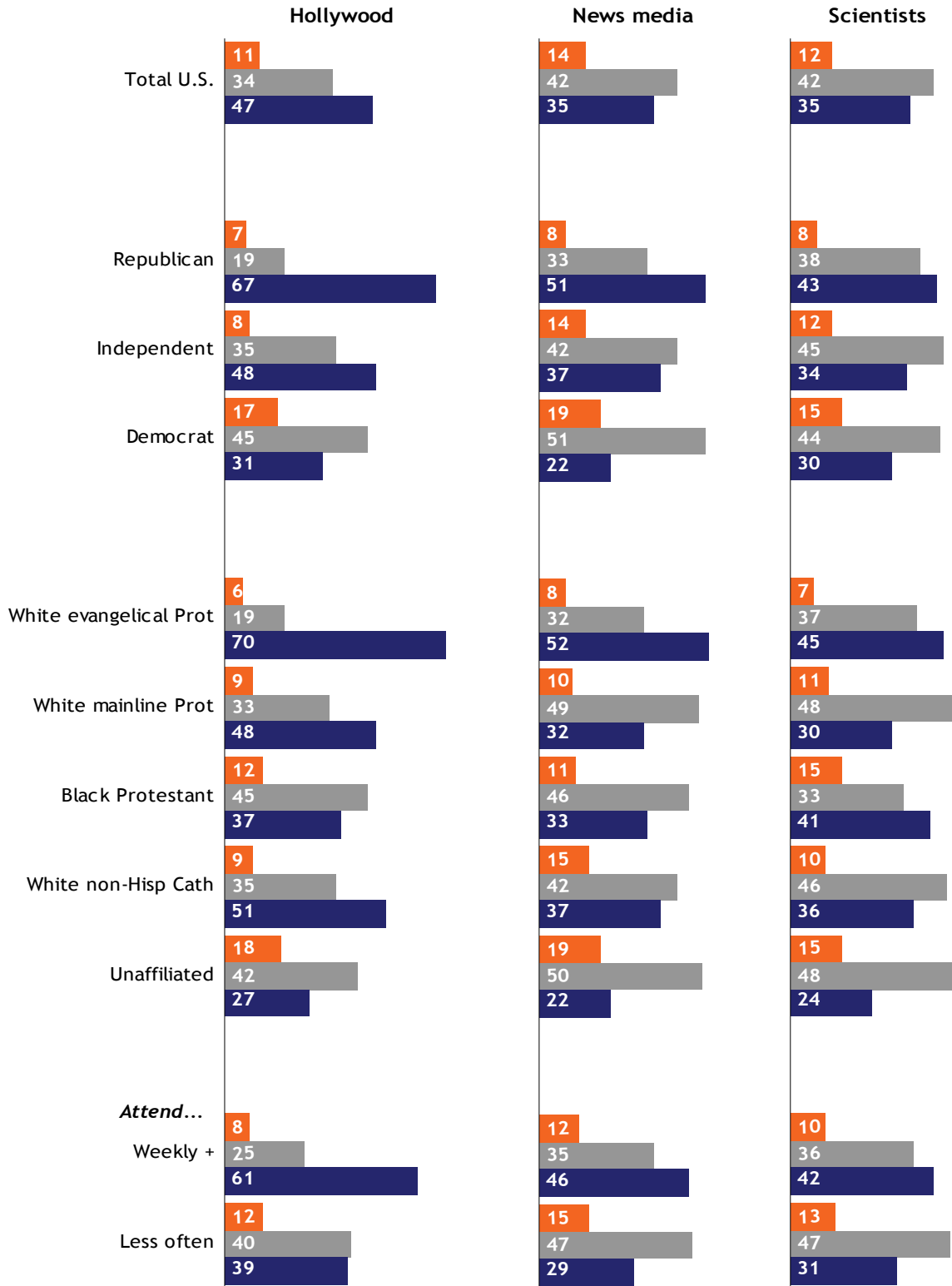
Compared with other groups, more Republicans, evangelicals and people who attend worship services at least weekly see Hollywood as unfriendly toward religion. For example, two-thirds of Republicans (67%) say Hollywood and the makers of movies and TV shows are unfriendly toward religion, compared with 48% of independents and just 31% of Democrats. Likewise, 61% of those who attend church at least weekly say Hollywood is unfriendly, compared with 39% of those who attend less often.

A plurality of those surveyed (42%) say the news media are neutral toward religion, and 35% say the media are unfriendly toward religion. Far fewer say the news media are friendly toward religion (14%). Again, views of the news media's handling of religion are virtually unchanged from 2003, when 41% said they were neutral, 34% rated them as unfriendly and 16% viewed them as friendly toward religion. A plurality also says that scientists are neutral toward religion (42%), while 35% say scientists are unfriendly and just 12% view scientists as friendly toward religion.

Political and religious differences are somewhat less stark, but still apparent, in views of how friendly the media and scientists are toward religion. Pluralities of independents and Democrats say the media and scientists are neutral to religion. But majorities of Republicans (51%) and white evangelical Protestants (52%) in the survey say the news media are unfriendly toward religion. And almost half of weekly worship attenders say the media are unfriendly toward religion (46%), compared with 29% among those who attend religious services less often. Republicans, evangelicals, black Protestants and weekly churchgoers also stand out compared with other groups for viewing scientists as unfriendly toward religion.

Hollywood Seen as Most Unfriendly Toward Religion, Followed by News Media and Scientists

■ Friendly
 ■ Neutral
 ■ Unfriendly



Q250e-g

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 4,013 adults, 18 years of age or older. Interviews were conducted in two waves, the first from August 11-17, 2009 (Survey A) and the second from August 20-27, 2009 (Survey B). In total, 3,012 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,001 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 347 who had no landline telephone. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample is weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2008 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2008 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have 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. The topline survey results included at the end of this report clearly indicate whether each question in the survey was asked of the full sample, Survey A only or Survey B only.

Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus...
Total sample	4,013	2.0 percentage points
Survey A	2,010	2.5 percentage points
Form 1	1,011	3.5 percentage points
Form 2	999	3.5 percentage points
Survey B	2,003	2.5 percentage points
Form 1	1,034	3.5 percentage points
Form 2	969	3.5 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 PROJECTS

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 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.

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.

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

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE
2009 RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE**

Survey A: August 11-17, 2009, N=2,010

Survey B: August 20-27, 2009, N=2,003

Combined N=4,013

NOTE: QUESTION NUMBERING IS NOT CONTINUOUS BECAUSE SOME ITEMS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL SURVEY B:

Q.250 As I name some groups, please tell me whether you feel each one is generally FRIENDLY toward religion, NEUTRAL toward religion, or UNFRIENDLY toward religion? First, do you feel that **[INSERT ITEM AND RANDOMIZE]** [is/are] generally friendly toward religion, neutral toward religion, or unfriendly toward religion? How about **[NEXT ITEM; REPEAT OPTIONS AS NECESSARY]**

	<u>Friendly</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfriendly</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. The Democratic Party				
August 20-27, 2009	29	39	22	11
August, 2008	38	37	15	10
August, 2007	30	37	15	18
July, 2006	26	42	20	12
July, 2005	29	38	20	13
August, 2004	40	34	13	13
Mid-July, 2003	42	36	12	10
b. The Republican Party				
August 20-27, 2009	48	29	12	12
August, 2008	52	29	9	10
August, 2007	50	23	9	18
July, 2006	47	28	13	12
July, 2005	55	23	9	13
August, 2004	52	24	10	14
Mid-July, 2003	52	27	10	11
c. Hollywood and the makers of movies and TV entertainment shows				
August 20-27, 2009	11	34	47	9
July, 2003	16	31	45	8
d. News reporters and the news media				
August 20-27, 2009	14	42	35	9
July, 2003	16	41	34	9
NO ITEM e.				
f. The Obama administration				
August 20-27, 2009	37	36	17	10
g. Scientists				
August 20-27, 2009	12	42	35	11

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?]

IF SOMETHING ELSE, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR OR DK/REF (RELIG=11, 12, 99) ASK:

CHR Do you think of yourself as a Christian or not?

- 40 Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah’s Witness, etc.)
- 23 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)
- * Muslim (Islam)
- 1 Buddhist
- * Hindu
- 2 Atheist (do not believe in God)
- 3 Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
- 2 Something else (**SPECIFY**)
- 12 Nothing in particular
- 11 Christian (**VOL.**)
- * Unitarian (Universalist) (**VOL.**)
- 2 Don’t Know/Refused (**VOL.**)

IF CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1-4, 13 OR ((RELIG=11 OR RELIG=99) AND CHR=1)):

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

BASED ON TOTAL

- 34 Yes, would
- 40 No, would not
- 4 Don’t know/Refused (**VOL.**)
- 78% Christian

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?

NOTE: ATTEND FOR BOTH SURVEY A AND SURVEY B ARE PRESENTED HERE.

	More than <u>once a week</u>	Once <u>a week</u>	Once or twice <u>a month</u>	A few times <u>a year</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
August 11-27, 2009	14	23	16	18	16	11	1
August, 2008	13	26	16	19	15	10	1
Aug, 2007	14	26	16	18	16	9	1
July, 2006	15	25	15	18	14	12	1
July, 2005	14	27	14	19	14	11	1
Aug, 2004	13	25	15	20	15	11	1
July, 2003	16	27	15	18	14	10	*

ATTEND CONTINUED...

	<u>More than once a week</u>	<u>Once a week</u>	<u>Once or twice a month</u>	<u>A few times a year</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
March, 2003	15	24	15	21	15	9	1
March, 2002	15	25	17	18	15	9	1
Mid-Nov, 2001	16	26	14	17	16	10	1
March, 2001	17	26	17	17	15	7	1
Sept, 2000 (<i>RVs</i>)	17	28	16	17	13	8	1
June, 1997	12	26	17	20	15	10	*
June, 1996	14	25	17	21	13	9	1