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# Growing Number of Americans Say Obama is a Muslim 

Results from the 2010 Annual Religion and Public Life Survey

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press
Andrew Kohut, Director
Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research
Carroll Doherty, Associate Director, Editorial
Michael Dimock, Associate Director, Research
Tel (202) 419-4350
www.peoplepress.org

Pew Forum on Religion \& Public Life
Luis Lugo, Director
Alan Cooperman, Associate Director
Greg Smith, Senior Researcher
Tel (202) 419-4550
www.pewforum.org

## Religion, Politics and the President

## Growing Number of Americans Say Obama is a Muslim

A substantial and growing number of Americans say that Barack Obama is a Muslim, while the proportion saying he is a Christian has declined. More than a year and a half into his presidency, a plurality of the public says they do not know what religion Obama follows.

A new national survey by the Pew Research Center finds that nearly one-in-five Americans (18\%) now say Obama is a Muslim, up from 11\% in March 2009. Only about one-third of adults (34\%) say Obama is a Christian, down sharply from $48 \%$ in 2009. Fully $43 \%$ say they do not know what Obama's religion is. The survey was completed in early August, before Obama's recent comments about the proposed construction of a mosque near the site of the former World Trade Center.

The view that Obama is a Muslim is more widespread among his political opponents than among his backers. Roughly a third of conservative Republicans (34\%) say Obama is a Muslim, as do $30 \%$ of those who disapprove of Obama's job performance. But even among many of his supporters and allies, less than half now say Obama is a Christian. Among Democrats, for instance, $46 \%$ say Obama is a Christian, down from 55\% in March 2009.

The belief that Obama is a Muslim has increased most sharply among Republicans (up 14 points since 2009), especially conservative Republicans (up 16 points). But the number of independents who say Obama is a Muslim has also increased significantly (up eight points). There has been little change in the number of Democrats who say Obama is a Muslim, but fewer Democrats today say he is a Christian (down nine points since 2009).

When asked how they learned about Obama's religion in an open-ended question, 60\% of those who say Obama is a Muslim cite the media. Among specific media sources, television (at 16\%) is mentioned most frequently. About one-in-ten (11\%) of those who say Obama is a Muslim say they learned of this through Obama's own words and behavior.

Beliefs about Obama's religion are closely linked to political judgments about him. Those who say he is a Muslim overwhelmingly disapprove of his job performance, while a majority of those who think he is a Christian approve of the job Obama is doing. Those who are unsure about Obama's religion are about evenly divided in their views of his performance.

The new poll by the Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion \& Public Life - conducted July 21Aug. 5 among 3,003 respondents reached on landlines and cell phones, and interviewed in both English and Spanish -finds that despite increasing uncertainty about Obama's religion, the public generally says he handles his religious beliefs appropriately.

The public sees Obama as less influenced by religion compared with George W. Bush when he was president. Yet relatively small percentages say Obama mentions his faith too infrequently or that he relies too little on his religious beliefs when making policy decisions.

Currently, $41 \%$ say Obama relies on his religious beliefs "a great deal" (14\%) or a "fair amount" (27\%) when making policy decisions; in August 2004, 64\% said Bush relied on his

|  |  | Say Obam | a's relig | on is... |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Obama job performance | $\begin{gathered} \text { Total } \\ \text { \% } \end{gathered}$ | Christian \% | Muslim <br> \% | Don't know \% |
| Approve | 47 | 62 | 26 | 44 |
| Disapprove | 41 | 29 | 67 | 40 |
| Don't know | $\underline{12}$ | $\underline{9}$ | $\underline{7}$ | $\underline{17}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| N | 3003 | 1121 | 558 | 1213 |

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Presidents and Religion: Comparing Obama and Bush

| Relies on his religious <br> beliefs when making <br> policy decisions... | Bush <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | Obama <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ <br> A great deal | Diff |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| A fair amount | 26 | 14 | -12 |
| Not very much | 38 | 27 | -11 |
| Don't know | 28 | 43 | +15 |
|  | $\underline{8}$ | $\underline{16}$ | +8 |
| Relies on his religious | 100 | 100 |  |
| beliefs when making |  |  |  |
| policy decisions... | $\mathbf{B u s h}$ | $\mathbf{0 b a m a}$ |  |
| Too much | 15 | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | Diff |
| Too little | 21 | 21 | -4 |
| Right amount | 53 | 48 | -5 |
| Don't know | $\underline{11}$ | $\underline{20}$ | +9 |
|  | 100 | 100 |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Mentions his religious | $\mathbf{B u s h}$ | $\mathbf{O b a m a}$ |  |
| faith and prayer... | $\mathbf{2 0 0 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | Diff |
| Too much | 24 | 10 | -14 |
| Too little | 14 | 19 | +5 |
| Right amount | 52 | 53 | +1 |
| Don't know | $\underline{10}$ | $\underline{17}$ | +7 |
|  | 100 | 100 |  |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q23-25. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding.
religious beliefs either a great deal (26\%) or a fair amount (38\%).

Nonetheless, as was the case with Bush, the public generally says that Obama relies on his religious beliefs the right amount when making policy decisions. Roughly half of Americans (48\%) think that Obama relies on his beliefs the right amount when making policy, while $21 \%$ say he relies too little on his beliefs and $11 \%$ too much; in 2004, slightly more ( $53 \%$ ) said Bush relied on his beliefs the right amount when making policy. In addition, about as many say Obama ( $53 \%$ ) mentions his religious faith and prayer the right amount as said that about Bush (52\%) in 2006, though far fewer say Obama mentions his faith too much ( $10 \%$ vs. $24 \%$ for Bush).

The survey also finds about half of the public (52\%) says that churches should keep out of politics, while $43 \%$ say churches and other houses of worship should express their views on social and political questions. That is largely unchanged from 2008, but over the previous decade (from 1996 to 2006), narrow majorities had expressed support for churches' involvement in political matters.

The decline since 2006 in the number saying that churches should speak out on social and political issues has been broad-based, including Democrats and Republicans and people from a variety of religious backgrounds. The percentage of black Protestants who say churches should speak out on political matters has dropped sharply, going from $69 \%$ in 2006 to $53 \%$ today.

Despite the growing opposition to political involvement on the part of churches, most people continue to say they want political leaders who are religious. About six-in-ten (61\%) agree that it is important that members of Congress have strong religious beliefs. And as in previous surveys, a slight plurality (37\%) says that in general there has been too little expression of religious faith and prayer by political leaders.

The survey also finds:

- The Republican Party continues to be more widely viewed as friendly toward religion than the Democratic Party. However, both parties are facing declines in the percentages saying they are friendly to religion.
- The religious landscape is far more favorable to Republicans than was the case as recently as 2008. Half of white non-Hispanic Catholics (50\%) currently identify with or lean toward the Republican Party, up nine points since 2008. Among religiously unaffiliated voters, who have been stalwart supporters of Democrats in recent elections, $29 \%$ currently identify with or lean toward the Republican Party, up from $25 \%$ in 2008 (the proportion identifying as Democrats has fallen seven points since then). And $33 \%$ of Jewish voters identify with or lean toward the Republican Party, up from $20 \%$ in 2008.
- Roughly six-in-ten people (58\%) have heard of the "religious right," while $41 \%$ are familiar with the "religious left." Among those who have heard of the religious right and the religious left, sizable numbers express no opinion as to whether or not they generally agree or disagree with them.

NOTE: This report includes comparisons of opinions among different religious groups, which are based on a combination of religious tradition and race/ethnicity. The categories White evangelical Protestants, White mainline Protestants and White Catholics do not include Hispanics. Similarly, Black Protestants do not include Hispanics. Hispanic respondents can be of any race. The survey was conducted in English and Spanish.

## SECTION 1: OBAMA AND RELIGION

## Obama's Religious Beliefs

The share of Americans who believe Barack Obama is a Muslim - which held steady at between $11 \%$ and $12 \%$ from early 2008 through early 2009 - has jumped to $18 \%$. There also has been a steep decline in the number of people who identify Obama as a Christian $-34 \%$ today, down from $48 \%$ in March 2009 and 51\% in October 2008. A plurality (43\%) now say they do not know what Obama's religion is, up from $34 \%$ in 2009.

|  | Obama is a Christian |  |  | Obama is a Muslim |  |  | Don't know his religion |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2009 \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Aug } \\ \mathbf{2 0 1 0} \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | Change | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2009 \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Aug } \\ \mathbf{2 0 1 0} \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | Change | $\begin{gathered} \text { Mar } \\ 2009 \end{gathered}$ | $\begin{gathered} \text { Aug } \\ \mathbf{2 0 1 0} \\ \% \end{gathered}$ | Change |
| Total | 48 | 34 | -14 | 11 | 18 | +7 | 34 | 43 | +9 |
| White | 50 | 35 | -15 | 11 | 21 | +10 | 32 | 40 | +8 |
| Black | 56 | 43 | -13 | 6 | 7 | +1 | 36 | 46 | +10 |
| Republican | 47 | 27 | -20 | 17 | 31 | +14 | 28 | 39 | +11 |
| Conservative Rep | 44 | 28 | -16 | 18 | 34 | +16 | 29 | 34 | +5 |
| Mod/Lib Rep | 53 | 26 | -27 | 14 | 24 | +10 | 25 | 44 | +19 |
| Democrat | 55 | 46 | -9 | 7 | 10 | +3 | 32 | 41 | +9 |
| Cons/Mod Dem | 51 | 39 | -12 | 9 | 12 | +3 | 35 | 45 | +10 |
| Liberal Dem | 67 | 59 | -8 | 5 | 6 | +1 | 23 | 31 | +8 |
| Independent | 45 | 34 | -11 | 10 | 18 | +8 | 38 | 44 | +6 |
| Protestant | 47 | 33 | -14 | 13 | 21 | +8 | 33 | 43 | +10 |
| White evangelical | 39 | 27 | -12 | 20 | 29 | +9 | 33 | 42 | +9 |
| White mainline | 51 | 36 | -15 | 10 | 22 | +12 | 32 | 40 | +8 |
| Catholic | 51 | 32 | -19 | 10 | 18 | +8 | 36 | 46 | +10 |
| White Catholic | 61 | 35 | -26 | 9 | 22 | +13 | 26 | 40 | +14 |
| Unaffiliated | 47 | 38 | -9 | 6 | 13 | +7 | 37 | 44 | +7 |

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The view that Obama is a Muslim is highest among his political opponents ( $31 \%$ of Republicans and $30 \%$ of those who disapprove of his job performance express this view). It is lower among his supporters ( $10 \%$ among both Democrats and those who approve of his job performance). The share of Republicans who say Obama is a Muslim has nearly doubled over the past year and a half - from $17 \%$ to $31 \%$.

Currently, about as many Republicans believe Obama is a Muslim (31\%) as believe he is a Christian (27\%); a plurality of Republicans (39\%) say they do not know Obama's religion. In March 2009, far more Republicans said Obama was a Christian (47\%) than a Muslim (17\%).

The impression that Obama is a Muslim is also more widespread today among independents $-18 \%$ say this today, up from $10 \%$ in 2009. There has been virtually no change in the share of Democrats who say Obama is a Muslim (10\% today, $7 \%$ in 2009). But even among Democrats, fewer than half (46\%) now identify his religion as Christian, down from $55 \%$ last year.

There is also a wide racial divide in the perception that Obama is a Muslim. The number of whites who believe this rose from $11 \%$ to $21 \%$ since March 2009, while there has been virtually no change in blacks' views on this question ( $7 \%$ say Obama is Muslim today, compared with $6 \%$ in 2009). But both blacks and whites are less likely today to say Obama is a Christian.

Among religious groups, a higher proportion of white evangelical Protestants say Obama is a Muslim than any other religious group surveyed; 29\% hold this view today, up from 20\% in 2009. But the share of people saying Obama is a Muslim has increased across all religious groups. Indeed, both white mainline Protestants and white Catholics are roughly twice as likely today as in 2009 to say the president is a Muslim. And significantly fewer people in nearly all religious groups say Obama is a Christian than did so in 2009.

## Obama, Bush and Religion

Obama is perceived as being much less reliant on his faith than was George W. Bush; a plurality (43\%) says Obama is not very reliant on his religious beliefs in making policy decisions, compared with just $28 \%$ who said that about Bush in 2004.

While Obama is seen as less reliant on his religious beliefs than Bush, the public expresses roughly similar levels of satisfaction with Obama's approach to religion as compared with his predecessor. Nearly half (48\%) say Obama relies on his religious beliefs about the right amount when making policy decisions, and $53 \%$ say that Obama mentions his faith and prayer about the right amount. Roughly similar numbers said the same thing when asked in 2006 about Bush's mentions of faith and prayer and in 2004 when asked about Bush's reliance on religion in making policy decisions.

Substantial majorities of Democrats say Obama mentions his faith about the right amount (69\%) and that he relies on it the right amount when making policy decisions ( $67 \%$ ). This compares with just $34 \%$ of Republicans

Views of Obama's Approach to Religion

|  | Mentions his religious faith and prayer... |  |  | Relies on religious beliefs to make policy decisions... |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Too | Too | About | Too |  | About |
|  | $\underset{\%}{\text { much }}$ |  | $\underset{\%}{\text { right }}$ | much |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { right } \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ |
| Total | 10 | 19 | 53 | 11 | 21 | 48 |
| White | 12 | 19 | 50 | 12 | 23 | 45 |
| Black | 2 | 14 | 69 | 3 | 13 | 67 |
| Hispanic | 9 | 26 | 51 | 10 | 18 | 55 |
| Republican | 16 | 30 | 34 | 14 | 40 | 26 |
| Democrat | 6 | 13 | 69 | 6 | 10 | 67 |
| Independent | 11 | 19 | 55 | 12 | 18 | 51 |
| Protestant | 9 | 26 | 49 | 11 | 29 | 42 |
| Wh evang | 10 | 38 | 34 | 14 | 44 | 27 |
| Wh mainl | 12 | 15 | 56 | 13 | 17 | 48 |
| Black Prot. | 2 | 14 | 71 | 4 | 16 | 64 |
| Catholic | 9 | 16 | 60 | 12 | 16 | 57 |
| Wh Catholic | 10 | 14 | 59 | 12 | 19 | 55 |
| Unaffiliated | 14 | 9 | 61 | 9 | 9 | 55 |
| PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q23F2 \& Q24F1. |  |  |  |  |  |  | who say he mentions his faith the right amount Q23F2 \& Q24F1. and $26 \%$ who say he relies on his religious beliefs the right amount when making policy decisions. And higher proportions of white evangelical Protestants than other religious groups say Obama mentions his faith and prayer too little and relies on his beliefs too little when making policy.

In addition, views of Obama's approach to religion are linked with perceptions of his own religious beliefs. Only about three-in-ten of those who think Obama is a Muslim say he mentions his faith the right amount (30\%) and relies on his beliefs the right amount when making policy decisions (31\%).

By comparison, large majorities of those who say he is a Christian say he mentions his faith the right amount and relies on his beliefs when making policy decisions the right amount (68\%, 66\% respectively).

The survey also finds some discomfort with the idea that Obama relies a great deal on his faith when making policy decisions, especially compared with Bush in 2004. Among those who say that Obama relies on his religion a great deal when making policy decisions, $50 \%$ say he relies on his beliefs the right amount while $39 \%$ say that Obama relies on his faith too much.

In 2004, by contrast, the balance of opinion was much more positive for Bush; $63 \%$ of those who said he relied on his beliefs when making policy said this was appropriate while $27 \%$ said he relied on his beliefs too much.

Those Who See Obama as Muslim Are More Critical of His Approach to Religion

| Mentions his religious | Among those who say Obama's religion is... |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | Don't |
|  | Christian | Muslim | know |
| faith and prayer... | \% | \% | \% |
| Too much | 6 | 24 | 9 |
| Too little | 12 | 31 | 20 |
| Right amount | 68 | 30 | 51 |
| Don't know | 14 | 14 | $\underline{21}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| Relies on religious beliefs to make policy decisions... |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| Too much | 3 | 29 | 9 |
| Too little | 18 | 25 | 21 |
| Right amount | 66 | 31 | 43 |
| Don't know | 13 | 14 | $\underline{27}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| N top | 572 | 282 | 599 |
| N bottom | 543 | 276 | 614 |
| PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q23F2, Q24F1 \& Q58. |  |  |  |
| Obama's Relia Less Positively | ce on F than Bu | ith Vie sh's | ewed |

Among those saying president relies on beliefs a great deal... Bush Obama

| \% saying this is... | $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Too much | 27 | 39 |
| Too little | 7 | 4 |
| Right amount | 63 | 50 |
| Don't know | $\underline{4}$ | $\underline{7}$ |
|  | 100 | 100 |
| N | 200 | 196 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q24F1 \& Q25F1.

## SECTION 2: RELIGION AND POLITICS

## Religion's Influence on Society and Government

Two-thirds of Americans (67\%) currently say that religion is losing its influence on American life, compared with 59\% who said this in July 2006. More people now say religion's influence is on the decline than at any time since 1994, when $69 \%$ of respondents in a Gallup poll said religion's influence on American life was waning.

More people also say religion's influence on government leaders, such as the president and members of Congress, is declining. Currently, $62 \%$ say that religion is losing its influence on government leaders, compared with $45 \%$ who said this in 2006.

The number saying that religion is losing influence on American life has increased most among Republicans, with $82 \%$ expressing this view, up 21 points since 2006. Similarly, $72 \%$ of Republicans now say that religion's influence on government leaders is declining, up 20 points since 2006.

More independents also say that religion is losing its influence on American life (up nine points) and on government leaders (up 25 points). Among Democrats, the number saying that religion is losing influence on government leaders (52\%) has increased nine points since 2006, but there has been no significant change in the number of Democrats saying religion's influence on American society is declining ( $58 \%$ today vs. $60 \%$ in 2006).

Among religious groups, nearly eight-in-ten white evangelical Protestants see religion's influence decreasing on both American society ( $79 \%$, up 20 points since 2006) and on government leaders ( $78 \%$, up 20 points since 2006). Fewer white mainline Protestants and black Protestants say that religion's influence is declining. Nearly three-quarters of white Catholics ( $74 \%$ ) say that religion has a declining influence on American society, up

13 points since 2006, and $61 \%$ say that religion is losing its influence on government leaders, up 18 points since 2006.

As in the past, most of those who say that religion has less influence on American life see this as a bad thing; $53 \%$ of the total public says this is a bad thing while just $10 \%$ see it as a good thing. Similarly, $42 \%$ of the public says religion's declining influence on government leaders is a bad thing while just $15 \%$ say it is a positive development.

## Views of Churches' Involvement in Politics

A narrow majority of Americans (52\%) now say churches and other houses of worship should keep out of political matters while $43 \%$ say that houses of worship should express their views on day-to-day social and political questions.

These opinions are little changed since 2008, but in 2006 - and over the preceding decade narrow majorities had expressed support for churches speaking out on social and political issues. Today's attitudes are on par with results from 1968, when $53 \%$ said churches should keep out of politics and $40 \%$ said they should express their views.


The decline in support for churches and other houses of worship speaking out on social and political issues has been broad-based. Democrats and Republicans, liberals and conservatives, Catholics and white mainline Protestants are all less supportive of churches and other houses of worship speaking out on political issues.

The most dramatic changes in views on this question are seen among black Protestants ( $53 \%$ now say churches should speak out on political matters, compared with $69 \%$ in 2006) and people with less than a high school education ( $39 \%$ now say churches should speak out, down from $58 \%$ in 2006).

While most religious groups are less supportive of churches expressing their views on issues, there continue to be substantial differences on this measure. Majorities of white evangelical Protestants (56\%) and black Protestants (53\%) say churches should speak out on issues; far fewer white non-Hispanic Catholics (37\%) or white mainline Protestants (35\%) agree.

Republicans continue to be more supportive of churches and other houses of worship expressing their views compared with independents and Democrats. About half of Republicans ( $51 \%$ ) favor churches speaking out, compared with $41 \%$ of independents and $39 \%$ of Democrats.

The survey also finds that Americans continue to overwhelmingly oppose churches and houses of worship endorsing specific candidates for public office. Fully 70\% say churches should not come out in favor of candidates during political elections while just a quarter ( $24 \%$ ) supports such endorsements. These opinions have changed little in recent years. More than half of every major religious group opposes such endorsements.

| Fewer Favor Churches Expressing Views on Political, Social Issues |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Churches should express views... | $\begin{aligned} & \text { July } \\ & 2006 \end{aligned}$ \% | Aug <br> 2010 <br> \% | 06-10 <br> Change |
| Total | 51 | 43 | -8 |
| College grad+ | 49 | 45 | -4 |
| Some college | 50 | 46 | -4 |
| HS grad | 51 | 40 | -11 |
| Less than HS | 58 | 39 | -19 |
| Republican | 59 | 51 | -8 |
| Democrat | 47 | 39 | -8 |
| Independent | 49 | 41 | -8 |
| Conservative | 63 | 51 | -12 |
| Moderate | 49 | 42 | -7 |
| Liberal | 40 | 32 | -8 |
| Protestant | 58 | 50 | -8 |
| White evangelical | 62 | 56 | -6 |
| White mainline | 42 | 35 | -7 |
| Black Protestant | 69 | 53 | -16 |
| Catholic | 45 | 37 | -8 |
| White Catholic | 45 | 38 | -7 |
| Unaffiliated | 36 | 32 | -4 |
| Religious attendance |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 61 | 54 | -7 |
| Monthly/Yearly | 50 | 39 | -11 |
| Seldom/Never | 39 | 31 | -8 |
| PEW ReSEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q20. |  |  |  |

## Most Say Lawmakers Should Be Religious

Though the public expresses reservations about churches' involvement in politics, there is widespread agreement that politicians should be religious. Fully $61 \%$ say that is important that members of Congress have strong religious beliefs; just 34\% disagree.

Majorities across all major religious groups with the exception of the religiously unaffiliated - agree it is important for members of Congress to have strong religious beliefs. More than eight-in-ten white evangelical Protestants (83\%) express this view, as do roughly two-thirds of white nonHispanic Catholics (66\%) and white mainline Protestants (64\%). And about seven-in-ten black Protestants (71\%) say it is important that lawmakers have strong religious beliefs.

In contrast, by more than two-to-one ( $66 \%$ to $30 \%$ ), the religiously unaffiliated disagree that it is important for members of Congress to have strong religious beliefs. Among atheists and agnostics, fully $85 \%$ say it is not important for congressional representatives to have strong religious beliefs.
Important for Members
of Congress to Have
Strong Religious Beliefs...

|  | Agree <br> $\%$ | Disagree <br> $\%$ | DK <br> $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 61 | 34 | $5=100$ |
| Republican | 77 | 20 | $4=100$ |
| Democrat | 55 | 40 | $5=100$ |
| Independent | 58 | 38 | $4=100$ |
| Conservative | 76 | 20 | $4=100$ |
| Moderate | 59 | 37 | $4=100$ |
| Liberal | 42 | 53 | $5=100$ |
| Protestant | 74 | 21 | $5=100$ |
| $\quad$ White evangelical | 83 | 13 | $4=100$ |
| $\quad$ White mainline | 64 | 31 | $5=100$ |
| $\quad$ Black Protestant | 71 | 23 | $6=100$ |
| Catholic | 64 | 32 | $4=100$ |
| $\quad$ White Catholic | 66 | 29 | $4=100$ |
| Hispanic Catholic | 61 | 35 | $4=100$ |
| Unaffiliated | 30 | 66 | $4=100$ |
| $\quad$ Atheist/Agnostic | 15 | 85 | $0=100$ |
| Nothing in particular | 36 | 59 | $5=100$ |
| Religious attendance |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 79 | 16 | $5=100$ |
| Monthly/Yearly | 58 | 38 | $4=100$ |
| Seldom/Never | 41 | 54 | $6=100$ |

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Figures may not add to 100\% because of rounding.

The public continues to be divided about the level of religious expression among political leaders. Nearly four-in-ten (37\%) say there has been too little expression of faith by political leaders; $29 \%$ say there has been too much, while $24 \%$ say political leaders speak on faith and prayer the right amount. These opinions have changed little in recent years.

Majorities of white evangelical Protestants (56\%) and black Protestants (51\%) say there has been too little expression of faith by political leaders. Only about three-in-ten white mainline Protestants (31\%) and white Catholics (30\%) agree.

The religiously unaffiliated continue to say there has been too much - rather than too little - expression of religious faith by political leaders. Fully $53 \%$ of the religiously unaffiliated say that politicians speak too much about faith and prayer.

Across all religious groups, roughly half (52\%) of those who say they attend worship services weekly or more think politicians talk too little about their faith, compared with about onethird (32\%) of those who attend services monthly or yearly and just $21 \%$ of those who seldom or never attend services.

| Expressions of Faith by Political Leaders... |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Too Much \% | Too Little \% | Right Amount \% | $\begin{aligned} & \text { DK } \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ |
| Total | 29 | 37 | 24 | $10=100$ |
| Republican | 18 | 48 | 25 | $8=100$ |
| Democrat | 32 | 34 | 24 | $10=100$ |
| Independent | 36 | 31 | 25 | $9=100$ |
| Conservative | 17 | 54 | 22 | $7=100$ |
| Moderate | 33 | 28 | 31 | $9=100$ |
| Liberal | 49 | 24 | 18 | $9=100$ |
| Protestant | 20 | 47 | 24 | $9=100$ |
| White evangelical | 14 | 56 | 22 | $8=100$ |
| White mainline | 31 | 31 | 28 | $10=100$ |
| Black Protestant | 21 | 51 | 23 | $5=100$ |
| Catholic | 29 | 35 | 28 | $8=100$ |
| White Catholic | 29 | 30 | 35 | $5=100$ |
| Unaffiliated | 53 | 18 | 20 | $9=100$ |
| Religious attendance |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 17 | 52 | 22 | $9=100$ |
| Monthly/Yearly | 33 | 32 | 28 | $8=100$ |
| Seldom/Never | 44 | 21 | 24 | $12=100$ |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q22.
Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding.

## Fewer See Parties as Friendly Toward Religion

A plurality of the public (43\%) sees the Republican Party as generally friendly toward religion, while $28 \%$ say it is neutral and $14 \%$ say it is unfriendly. By comparison, just $26 \%$ say the Democratic Party is friendly toward religion; $41 \%$ say it is neutral and $19 \%$ say it is unfriendly.

The percentages saying each party is friendly to religion have declined over the past two years. In 2008, a narrow majority of the public (52\%) said the Republican Party was friendly to religion; that percentage slipped to $48 \%$ last year and $43 \%$ in the current survey. There has been a comparable decline in the percentage saying the Democratic Party is friendly to religion - from 38\% in 2008, to $29 \%$ in 2009 and $26 \%$ currently.

Declining Percentages Say Each Party Is Friendly to Religion


20

$$
0
$$

$$
20032004200520062007200820092010
$$

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q30a,b.

There is no political or religious group in which a majority views the Democratic Party as friendly to religion; even among Democrats themselves, just $42 \%$ say the party is friendly to religion, down slightly from last year (47\%).

Most Republicans (57\%) see the GOP as friendly to religion, which is little changed from last year (59\%). However, the proportion of white evangelicals saying the Republican Party is friendly to religion has slipped, from $53 \%$ last year to $46 \%$ today.

## Fewer than Half of White Evangelicals See GOP as Friendly to Religion

| \% saying each party <br> is friendly toward <br> religion | Democratic Party <br> $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ <br> $\%$ |  |  | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ <br> $\%$ | Change | $\mathbf{y y y}$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\mathbf{2 0 0 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 1 0}$ | Republican Party |  |  |  |  |
| Change |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total | 29 | 26 | -3 | 48 | 43 | -5 |
| White | 25 | 23 | -2 | 51 | 49 | -2 |
| Black | 47 | 40 | -7 | 33 | 24 | -9 |
| Hispanic | 29 | 29 | 0 | 39 | 28 | -11 |
| Republican | 12 | 15 | +3 | 59 | 57 | -2 |
| Democrat | 47 | 42 | -5 | 44 | 36 | -8 |
| Independent | 26 | 20 | -6 | 47 | 42 | -5 |
| Conservative | 16 | 20 | +4 | 48 | 45 | -3 |
| Moderate | 34 | 27 | -7 | 48 | 43 | -5 |
| Liberal | 46 | 38 | -8 | 54 | 46 | -8 |
| Protestant | 27 | 25 | -2 | 46 | 42 | -4 |
| $\quad$ White evangelical | 19 | 18 | -1 | 53 | 46 | -7 |
| $\quad$ White mainline | 26 | 23 | -3 | 49 | 49 | 0 |
| $\quad$ Black Protestant | 45 | 45 | 0 | 26 | 23 | -3 |
| Catholic | 24 | 28 | +4 | 47 | 41 | -6 |
| $\quad$ White Catholic | 24 | 25 | +1 | 49 | 47 | -2 |
| Unaffiliated | 36 | 26 | -10 | 52 | 46 | -6 |
| Religious attendance |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 25 | 23 | -2 | 47 | 41 | -6 |
| Monthly/Yearly | 29 | 28 | -1 | 45 | 43 | -2 |
| Seldom/Never | 35 | 29 | -6 | 54 | 46 | -8 |

[^0]
## The Religious Right and Left

A majority of Americans (58\%) have heard a lot (25\%) or a little (33\%) about the "religious right," or the Christian conservative movement. Fewer are familiar with the liberal or progressive religious movement sometimes known as the "religious left," with $41 \%$ saying they have heard either a lot (10\%) or a little (30\%) about it.

About two-thirds of white evangelical Protestants (66\%) say they have heard at least a little about the religious right. That compares with $59 \%$ of white mainline Protestants, $55 \%$ of Catholics and the religiously unaffiliated, and $47 \%$ of black Protestants.

Among political groups, large majorities of both conservative Republicans (71\%) and liberal Democrats (68\%) say they have heard at least a little about the religious right, while fewer moderate and liberal Republicans (54\%) and conservative and moderate Democrats (50\%) have heard something about the movement.

Half of white evangelical Protestants (50\%) say they have heard at least a little about the religious left. Among other religious groups, significantly smaller proportions (ranging from

More Aware of the "Religious Right" than "Religious Left"

Percent who have heard a lot/little about...

|  | Religious <br> Right <br> $\%$ | Religious <br> Left <br> $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 58 | 41 |
| Republican | 65 | 46 |
| Conservative Rep | 71 | 52 |
| Mod/Lib Rep | 54 | 34 |
| Independent | 59 | 41 |
| Democrat | 56 | 38 |
| Cons/Mod Dem | 50 | 36 |
| Liberal Dem | 68 | 43 |
| Protestant | 60 | 45 |
| White evangelical | 66 | 50 |
| White mainline | 59 | 39 |
| Black Protestant | 47 | 40 |
| Catholic | 55 | 38 |
| White Catholic | 58 | 37 |
| Hispanic Catholic | 47 | 35 |
| Unaffiliated | 55 | 34 |
| PEW RESEARCH CENTER July $21-$ August 5, 2010. Q41a,b. |  |  | $34 \%$ to $40 \%$ ) say they know about the

movement. Conservative Republicans are the only political group where as many as half (52\%) say they are familiar with the religious left. Just $43 \%$ of liberal Democrats say they have heard a lot or a little about the movement.

Support for the conservative Christian movement is highest among conservative Republicans and white evangelical Protestants. More than four-in-ten conservative Republicans (41\%) and $29 \%$ of white evangelicals say they agree with the conservative Christian movement. Just 4\% and $6 \%$, respectively, say they disagree with the movement.

By contrast, $45 \%$ of liberal Democrats disagree with the conservative Christian movement while just $2 \%$ agree. The religiously unaffiliated disagree with the Christian conservative movement by $30 \%$ to $3 \%$.

Yet across all religious and political groups regardless of their view of the movement large percentages either have not heard of the conservative Christian movement or express no opinion of it. Majorities of conservative Republicans (55\%) and white evangelicals (64\%) have no opinion of the movement or have not heard of it; this also is the case among liberal Democrats (54\%) and the religiously unaffiliated (66\%).

Even fewer people have formed an opinion of the liberal or progressive religious movement; just 4\% agree with this movement while $11 \%$ disagree. A quarter of the public ( $25 \%$ ) expresses no opinion, while $59 \%$ have not heard about the progressive religious movement.

Of those who have an opinion on the movement, conservative Republicans (28\% disagree) and white evangelicals (20\%) express

## Opinion of the Conservative Christian Movement

|  | Agree \% | Disagree \% | No opinion \% | Haven't heard of \% |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 14 | 17 | 27 | $42=100$ |
| Conservative Rep | 41 | 4 | 26 | $29=100$ |
| Mod/Lib Rep | 9 | 11 | 34 | $46=100$ |
| Independent | 11 | 19 | 28 | $41=100$ |
| Cons/Mod Dem | 8 | 12 | 30 | $50=100$ |
| Liberal Dem | 2 | 45 | 22 | $32=100$ |
| Protestant | 20 | 11 | 29 | $40=100$ |
| White evang | 29 | 6 | 30 | $34=100$ |
| White mainline | 12 | 21 | 26 | $41=100$ |
| Black Protestant | 10 | 6 | 31 | $53=100$ |
| Catholic | 10 | 13 | 31 | $45=100$ |
| White Catholic | 10 | 16 | 32 | $42=100$ |
| Hispanic Catholic | 10 | 7 | 30 | $53=100$ |
| Unaffiliated | 3 | 30 | 21 | $45=100$ |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q41a, Q42a. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding.

Opinion of the Progressive Religious Movement

|  | Agree <br> \% | Dis- <br> $\%$ | No <br> opinion <br> $\%$ | Haven't <br> heard of <br> $\%$ |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | 4 | 11 | 25 | $59=100$ |
| Conservative Rep | 2 | 28 | 22 | $48=100$ |
| Mod/Lib Rep | 2 | 7 | 26 | $66=100$ |
| Independent | 3 | 11 | 27 | $59=100$ |
| Cons/Mod Dem | 5 | 5 | 27 | $64=100$ |
| Liberal Dem | 14 | 3 | 25 | $57=100$ |
| Protestant | 4 | 13 | 27 | $55=100$ |
| $\quad$ White evang | 2 | 20 | 28 | $50=100$ |
| $\quad$ White mainline | 5 | 10 | 24 | $61=100$ |
| $\quad$ Black Protestant | 6 | 3 | 31 | $60=100$ |
| Catholic | 4 | 9 | 24 | $62=100$ |
| $\quad$ White Catholic | 3 | 11 | 23 | $63=100$ |
| $\quad$ Hispanic Catholic | 5 | 3 | 26 | $65=100$ |
| Unaffiliated | 2 | 9 | 23 | $66=100$ |

[^1]the highest rate of disagreement with the religious left. Liberal Democrats express the highest levels of support for the religious left, with $14 \%$ saying they agree with the movement.

## SECTION 3: RELIGION AND THE 2010 ELECTIONS

## Voting Intentions Divided

Voter preferences for the upcoming congressional elections remain closely divided, with $45 \%$ currently expressing support for the Democratic candidate in their district and $44 \%$ saying they back the Republican candidate. Opinions about the midterm have changed little since the start of the year; in four previous surveys this year, voters also were evenly divided.

Among religious groups, white evangelical Protestants overwhelmingly favor the Republican candidate in their district (by $67 \%$ to $23 \%$ ). That is little changed from this point in the previous midterm campaign in 2006. (For a detailed comparison between current voting preferences and the 2006 midterm, see "Republicans Faring Better with Men, Whites, Independents and Seniors," Aug. 10, 2010 http://people-press.org/report/643/).

Opinions are more evenly divided among white non-Hispanic Catholics and white mainline Protestants, but the GOP is running better

| Religious Groups and the 2010 Congressional Elections |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Vote Rep \% | Vote Dem \% | $\begin{aligned} & \text { DK } \\ & \% \end{aligned}$ | N |
| All registered voters | 44 | 45 | 11 | 2431 |
| Protestant | 49 | 42 | 9 | 1352 |
| White evangelical | 67 | 23 | 10 | 566 |
| White mainline | 50 | 41 | 9 | 460 |
| Black Protestants | 7 | 86 | 7 | 227 |
| Catholic | 41 | 49 | 10 | 528 |
| White Catholic | 48 | 43 | 9 | 420 |
| Unaffiliated | 36 | 49 | 16 | 320 |
| Atheist/Agnostic | 27 | 64 | 9 | 96 |
| Nothing in particular | 39 | 42 | 19 | 224 |
| Religious attendance |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 51 | 39 | 10 | 1049 |
| Monthly/Yearly | 43 | 47 | 10 | 776 |
| Seldom/Never | 34 | 53 | 14 | 575 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010 Q2, Q2a. Based on registered voters, includes those who lean to candidates of each party. Figures read across among both groups than it did four years ago.

Religiously unaffiliated voters currently favor the Democrats over the Republicans by a $49 \%-36 \%$ margin. Among this group, those who describe themselves as atheists and agnostics are largely loyal to the Democratic Party ( $64 \%$ favor Democrats, $27 \%$ favor Republicans). However, those who say their religion is "nothing in particular" are more evenly divided; $39 \%$ favor Republicans and $42 \%$ favor Democrats, with a large percentage (19\%) saying they do not know how they will vote.

Black Protestants favor the Democrats by a wide margin. Fully $86 \%$ of black Protestants say they will vote Democratic, while just 7\% say they will support the Republican candidate, which is little changed from this point in the 2006 campaign.

Registered voters who say they attend worship services weekly or more favor Republicans by a 12 -point margin ( $51 \%$ vs. $39 \%$ ), while those who say they attend services monthly or yearly are more evenly divided ( $43 \%$ favor Republicans, $47 \%$ favor Democrats). Voters who say they attend services seldom or never are 19 points more supportive of Democrats (53\%) than Republicans (34\%).

As the Pew Research Center noted in its Aug. 10 report, the Republican Party continues to hold an engagement advantage over the Democratic Party. More than half of Republicans (55\%) say they have given a lot of thought to the election, compared with $37 \%$ of Democrats.

Among religious groups, about half of white evangelical Protestants (51\%) have given a lot of thought to the election, as have $48 \%$ of white mainline Protestants and $45 \%$ of white Catholics. By contrast, just $36 \%$ of the religiously unaffiliated and $29 \%$ of black Protestants say they have given a lot of thought to the November election.

Despite these differences in how much voters have thought about the election, there is less

| Interest in Midterms <br> and Likelihood of Voting <br> Given a lot <br> of thought <br> to election <br> $\%$ | Absolutely <br> certain to <br> vote <br> $\%$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| All registered voters | 44 | 70 |
| Protestant | 45 | 70 |
| White evangelical | 51 | 74 |
| White mainline | 48 | 71 |
| Black Protestants | 29 | 64 |
| Catholic | 46 | 72 |
| White Catholic | 45 | 76 |
| Unaffiliated | 36 | 67 |
| Atheist/Agnostic | 37 | 67 |
| Nothing in Particular | 36 | 67 |
| Religious attendance |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 48 | 75 |
| Monthly/Yearly | 43 | 68 |
| Seldom/Never | 39 | 66 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010 Questions THOUGHT, PLANTO1/PLANTO2. Based on registered voters. variation in the proportions who say they are "absolutely certain" to vote in November. Overall, $70 \%$ of registered voters say they are absolutely certain to vote in the fall. Among religious groups, $76 \%$ of white non-Hispanic Catholics and $74 \%$ of white evangelical Protestants say they are certain to vote as do $67 \%$ of the religiously unaffiliated and $64 \%$ of black Protestants.

Three-quarters ( $75 \%$ ) of those who say they attend worship services weekly or more say they are certain to vote, compared with two-thirds of those who say they attend monthly or yearly ( $68 \%$ ) or attend seldom or never ( $66 \%$ ).

## Trends in Party Identification

Analysis of aggregated Pew
Research Center surveys from 2006, 2008 and 2010 reveals that Republicans have made gains in the proportion who identify with the GOP or lean to the Republican Party. Overall, $47 \%$ of registered voters in 2010 Pew Research Center surveys identify with the Democratic Party or say they lean Democratic, while 43\% are Republican or lean Republican. In 2008, 51\% identified as Democrats and 39\% as Republicans.

Half of white Catholics (50\%) now identify themselves as Republican or lean toward

GOP Gains in Party Identification
Political Party Identification


PEW RESEARCH CENTER Based on aggregated surveys from 2006, 2008 and 2010. Based on registered voters.

Statistically significant changes are indicated in boldface type.

* Most surveys in this analysis did not include Spanish language interviews.
** In 2006 includes those who volunteered their religion as "No religion, not a believer, atheist, or agnostic." the GOP, up nine points
since 2008. Republicans also have made gains among Jewish voters; 33\% now identify or lean Republican, up from $20 \%$ in 2008.


## Party Affiliation by Religion - Long Term Trend

Party identification, including independents who lean toward a party, among registered voters

All Registered Voters


White Evangelical Protestants


## White Mainline

 Protestants

20\%

$$
0 \%
$$

Black Protestants



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Based on aggregated surveys from 2006, 2008 and 2010.

## Party Affiliation by Religion - Long Term Trend

Party identification, including independents who lean toward a party, among registered voters

## White non-Hispanic Catholics



Hispanic
Catholics




Unaffiliated




## About the Survey

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 3,003 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from July 21August 5, 2010 (2,002 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,001 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 431 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see http://people-press.org/methodology/.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 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 2009 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 combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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 | 3,003 | 2.5 percentage points |
| Registered voters | 2,431 | 2.5 percentage points |
| Republican | 842 | 4.5 percentage points |
| Democratic | 992 | 4.0 percentage points |
| Independent | 977 | 4.0 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

The 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:

| Pew Forum on Religion \& Public Life | Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press |
| :--- | :--- |
| Luis Lugo, Director | Andrew Kohut, Director |
| Alan Cooperman, Associate Director | Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research |
| Sandra Stencel, Associate Director | Carroll Doherty, Associate Director, Editorial |
| Greg Smith, Senior Researcher | Michael Dimock, Associate Director, Research |
| John C. Green, Senior Research Advisor | Michael Remez, Senior Writer |
| Neha Sahgal and Christine Bhutta, | Leah Christian and Jocelyn Kiley, Senior Researchers |
| Research Associates | Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf and Alec Tyson, |
| Scott Clement, Research Analyst | Research Associates |
| Tracy Miller and Hilary Ramp, Editors | Jacob Poushter, Research Analyst |
| Diana Yoo, Graphic Designer | Mattie Ressler, Research Assistant |

# PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE \& THE PRESS <br> AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION \& PUBLIC LIFE 2010 RELIGION \& PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY <br> FINAL TOPLINE <br> July 21-August 5, 2010 <br> N=3,003 

ASK ALL:
Q. 1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama 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 Barack Obama is handling his job as President? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]

| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | Approve <br> Jun 16-20, 2010 | Dis- <br> approve | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| May 6-9, 2010 | 48 | 41 | 12 |
| Apr 21-26, 2010 | 47 | 43 | 9 |
| Apr 8-11, 2010 | 47 | 42 | 11 |
| Mar 10-14, 2010 | 48 | 42 | 11 |
| Feb 3-9, 2010 | 46 | 43 | 9 |
| Jan 6-10, 2010 | 49 | 39 | 12 |
| Dec 9-13, 2009 | 49 | 42 | 12 |
| Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 | 49 | 40 | 10 |
| Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009 | 51 | 36 | 11 |
| Sep 10-15, 2009 | 52 | 36 | 12 |
| Aug 20-27, 2009 | 55 | 33 | 13 |
| Aug 11-17, 2009 | 52 | 37 | 12 |
| Jul 22-26, 2009 | 51 | 37 | 11 |
| Jun 10-14, 2009 | 54 | 34 | 12 |
| Apr 14-21, 2009 | 61 | 30 | 9 |
| Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009 | 63 | 26 | 11 |
| Mar 9-12, 2009 | 61 | 26 | 13 |
| Feb 4-8, 2009 | 59 | 26 | 15 |
|  | 64 | 17 | 19 |

## ASK ALL:

The congressional elections will be coming up later this year
THOUGHT How much thought have you given to the coming November election... Quite a lot or only a little?
BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [ $\mathbf{N}=2431$ ]:

|  |  | Quite <br> A lot | (VOL.) <br> Some | Only a Little | (VOL.) <br> None/DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2010 | Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 44 | 5 | 44 | 7 |
| 2006 | November, 2006 | 61 | 5 | 28 | 6 |
|  | Late October, 2006 | 54 | 6 | 35 | 5 |
|  | Early October, 2006 | 51 | 4 | 40 | 5 |
|  | September, 2006 | 45 | 4 | 48 | 3 |
| 2002 | Early November, 2002 | 52 | 6 | 35 | 7 |
|  | Early October, 2002 | 45 | 6 | 45 | 4 |
|  | Early September, 2002 | 36 | 5 | 54 | 5 |
| 1998 | Late October, 1998 | 49 | 11 | 35 | 5 |
|  | Early October, 1998 | 42 | 8 | 43 | 7 |
| 1994 | November, 1994 | 56 | 7 | 32 | 5 |
|  | Late October, 1994 | 45 | 7 | 45 | 3 |
|  | Early October, 1994 | 44 | 2 | 50 | 4 |
| 1990 | Gallup: October, 1990 ${ }^{1}$ | 43 | 7 | 46 | 4 |
|  | Gallup: October, 1982 | 29 | 22 | 37 | 12 |

[^2]THOUGHT CONTINUED...

1978 Gallup: October, 1978 A lot $\quad \frac{\text { Some }}{23} \quad$| 22 | $\frac{\text { Little }}{39}$ | $\frac{\text { DK/Ref }}{17}$ |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |
|  | Gallup: September, 1978 | 21 | 18 | 44 |
| 18 |  |  |  |  |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 2 If the elections for U.S. Congress were being held TODAY, would you vote for [RANDOMIZE: "the Republican Party's candidate" OR "the Democratic Party's candidate"] for Congress in your district?
ASK IF ANSWERED OTHER OR DON'T KNOW (Q.2=3,9):
Q.2a As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to the [READ IN SAME ORDER AS Q.2; IF NECESSARY: "for U.S. Congress in your district"]?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [ $\mathbf{N}=2431$ ]:

|  | Rep/ <br> Lean Rep | Dem/ Lean Dem | (VOL.) <br> Other/ <br> Undecided |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 44 | 45 | 11 |
| Jun 16-20, 2010 | 45 | 45 | 10 |
| Mar 11-21, 2010 | 44 | 44 | 12 |
| Feb 3-9, 2010 | 42 | 45 | 13 |
| Jan 6-10, 2010 | 44 | 46 | 10 |
| Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 | 42 | 47 | 11 |
| Aug 20-27, 2009 | 44 | 45 | 10 |
| 2008 Election |  |  |  |
| June, 2008 | 37 | 52 | 11 |
| 2006 Election |  |  |  |
| November, 2006 | 40 | 48 | 12 |
| Late October, 2006 | 38 | 49 | 13 |
| Early October, 2006 | 38 | 51 | 11 |
| September, 2006 | 39 | 50 | 11 |
| August, 2006 | 41 | 50 | 9 |
| June, 2006 | 39 | 51 | 10 |
| April, 2006 | 41 | 51 | 8 |
| February, 2006 | 41 | 50 | 9 |
| Mid-September, 2005 | 40 | 52 | 8 |
| 2004 Election |  |  |  |
| June, 2004 | 41 | 48 | 11 |
| 2002 Election |  |  |  |
| Early November, 2002 | 42 | 46 | 12 |
| Early October, 2002 | 44 | 46 | 10 |
| Early September, 2002 | 44 | 46 | 10 |
| June, 2002 | 44 | 46 | 10 |
| February, 2002 | 46 | 45 | 9 |
| Early November, 2001 | 44 | 44 | 12 |
| 2000 Election |  |  |  |
| Early November, 2000 | 42 | 48 | 10 |
| Early October, 2000 | 43 | 47 | 10 |
| July, 2000 | 43 | 47 | 10 |
| February, 2000 | 44 | 47 | 9 |
| October, 1999 | 43 | 49 | 8 |
| June, 1999 | 40 | 50 | 10 |
| 1998 Election |  |  |  |
| Late October, 1998 | 40 | 47 | 13 |
| Early October, 1998 | 43 | 44 | 13 |
| Early September, 1998 | 45 | 46 | 9 |
| Late August, 1998 | 44 | 45 | 11 |
| Early August, 1998 | 42 | 49 | 9 |
| June, 1998 | 44 | 46 | 10 |
| March, 1998 | 40 | 52 | 8 |


|  | Q.2/Q.2a CONTINUED... |  | 9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  | (VOL.) |
|  | Rep/ | Dem/ | Other/ |
|  | Lean Rep | Lean Dem | Undecided |
| January, 1998 | 41 | 51 | 8 |
| August, 1997 | 45 | 48 | 7 |
| 1996 Election |  |  |  |
| November, 1996 ${ }^{2}$ | 44 | 48 | 8 |
| October, 1996 | 42 | 49 | 9 |
| Late September, 1996 | 43 | 49 | 8 |
| Early September, 1996 | 43 | 51 | 6 |
| July, 1996 | 46 | 47 | 7 |
| June, 1996 | 44 | 50 | 6 |
| March, 1996 | 44 | 49 | 7 |
| January, 1996 | 46 | 47 | 7 |
| October, 1995 | 48 | 48 | 4 |
| August, 1995 | 50 | 43 | 7 |
| 1994 Election |  |  |  |
| November, 1994 | 45 | 43 | 12 |
| Late October, 1994 | 47 | 44 | 9 |
| Early October, 1994 | 52 | 40 | 8 |
| September, 1994 | 48 | 46 | 6 |
| July, 1994 | 45 | 47 | 8 |

## ASK ALL:

PLANTO1 Thinking ahead to November, do you yourself plan to vote in the Congressional election this November, or not? ${ }^{3}$

## ASK IF YES (PLANTO1=1):

PLANTO2
How certain are you that you will vote? Are you absolutely certain, fairly certain, or not certain?

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2431]:

|  | Yes, plan <br> to vote | $\frac{\text { certain }}{}$ | Fairly <br> certain | Not <br> certain | No, don't <br> plan to | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | $\mathbf{9 1}$ | 70 | 17 | 3 | $\mathbf{7}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ |
| Jun 16-20, 2010 | $\mathbf{9 0}$ | 69 | 19 | 2 | $\mathbf{8}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ |
| Mar 11-21, 2010 | $\mathbf{9 1}$ | 69 | 20 | 2 | $\mathbf{6}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ |
| 2008 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mid-October, 2008 | $\mathbf{9 7}$ | 92 | 5 | $*$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| Early October, 2008 | $\mathbf{9 7}$ | 92 | 4 | 1 | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| Late September, 2008 | $\mathbf{9 7}$ | 91 | 6 | $*$ | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| Mid-September, 2008 | $\mathbf{9 7}$ | 90 | 6 | 1 | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| August, 2008 | $\mathbf{9 7}$ | -- | -- | -- | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| July, 2008 | $\mathbf{9 7}$ | -- | -- | -- | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{1}$ |
| June, 2008 | $\mathbf{9 5}$ | 85 | 8 | 2 | $\mathbf{2}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ |
| 2006 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 2006 | $\mathbf{9 0}$ | -- | -- | -- | $\mathbf{8}$ | $\mathbf{2}$ |
| Late October, 2006 | $\mathbf{9 4}$ | -- | -- | -- | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ |
| Early October, 2006 | $\mathbf{9 3}$ | 75 | 17 | 1 | $\mathbf{4}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ |
| Early September, 2006 | $\mathbf{9 2}$ | -- | -- | -- | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{3}$ |

[^3]
## PLANTO1/PLANTO2 CONTINUED. . .

|  | Yes, plan to vote | Absolutely certain | Fairly certain | Not certain | No, don't plan to | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2004 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 2004 | 97 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 1 |
| Mid-October, 2004 | 98 | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 1 |
| Early October, 2004 | 98 | 91 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| September, 2004 | 98 | 91 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| August, 2004 | 98 | 89 | 8 | 1 | 2 | * |
| June, 2004 | 96 | 85 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 2002 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Early November, 2002 | 90 | -- | -- | -- | 8 | 2 |
| Early October, 2002 | 95 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | 2 |
| 2000 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Early November, 2000 | 96 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | 1 |
| Late October, 2000 | 97 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 1 |
| Mid-October, 2000 | 96 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 2 |
| Early October, 2000 | 97 | 87 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| September, 2000 | 95 | 84 | 10 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| June, 2000 | 95 | 84 | 10 | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| 1998 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Late October, 1998 | 91 | -- | -- | -- | 6 | 3 |
| Early October, 1998 | 92 | -- | -- | -- | 4 | 4 |
| Early September, 1998 | 95 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 3 |
| Late August, 1998 | 93 | 75 | 17 | 1 | 3 | 4 |
| June, 1998 | 95 | 74 | 19 | 2 | 3 | 2 |
| 1996 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 1996 | 96 | -- | -- | -- | 2 | 2 |
| October, 1996 | 98 | 87 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Late September, 1996 | 98 | 89 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Early September, 1996 | 96 | 83 | 11 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| July, 1996 | 95 | 82 | 12 | 1 | 3 | 2 |
| June, 1996 | 96 | 84 | 11 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| 1994 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| November, 1994 | 93 | -- | -- | -- | 5 | 2 |
| October, 1994 | 95 | -- | -- | -- | 3 | 2 |
| 1992 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| October, 1992 | 98 | 91 | 6 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| September, 1992 | 98 | 85 | 11 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| August, 1992 | 97 | 89 | 8 | * | 1 | 2 |
| June, 1992 | 97 | 88 | 8 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 1988 Election |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gallup: November, 1988 | 8897 | 87 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| October, 1988 | 98 | -- | -- | -- | 1 | 1 |

NO QUESTIONS 3-6
QUESTIONS 7-10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
QUESTIONS 11-15 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTIONS 16-19

## ASK ALL:

Q. 20 In your opinion, should churches and other houses of worship [RANDOMIZE: keep out of political matters; express their views on day-to-day social and political questions] - or should they [INSERT OTHER OPTION]?

Jul 21-

| Aug 5 |  | Aug | Jul | Jul | Aug | Mid-Jul | Mar | Sep | Jun | - Gallup - |  |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\underline{2010}$ |  | $\underline{2008}$ | $\underline{2006}$ | $\underline{2005}$ | $\underline{2004}$ | $\underline{2003}$ | $\underline{2001}$ | $\underline{2000^{5}}$ | $\underline{1996}$ | $\underline{\text { Feb-68 }}$ | $\underline{M a r-57}$ |
| 52 | Should keep out <br> Should express | 52 | 46 | 44 | 44 | 44 | 43 | 45 | 43 | 53 | 44 |
| 43 | views | 45 | 51 | 51 | 51 | 52 | 51 | 51 | 54 | 40 | 48 |
| 5 | DK/Ref (VOL.) | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 4 | 3 | 7 | 8 |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 21 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?

Jul 21-

| Aug 5 <br> $\frac{2010}{24}$ | Aug | Aug | Aug |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | | Mar |
| :---: |

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1491]:

Q.22F1 Do you think there has been too much, too little or the right amount of expressions of religious faith and prayer by political leaders?

| Jul 21- |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Early |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aug 5 |  | Aug | Aug | Jul | Aug | Mid-Jul | Mar | Oct |
| $\underline{2010}$ |  | $\underline{2008}$ | $\underline{2007}$ | $\underline{2005}$ | $\underline{2004}$ | $\underline{2003}$ | $\underline{2002}{ }^{6}$ | $\underline{2001}{ }^{7}$ |
| 29 | Too much | 29 | 27 | 26 | 27 | 21 | 16 | 12 |
| 37 | Too little | 36 | 38 | 39 | 31 | 41 | 24 | 22 |
| 24 | Right amount | 28 | 26 | 27 | 32 | 29 | 53 | 60 |
| 10 | Don't Know/Refused (VOL.) | 7 | 9 | 8 | 10 | 9 | 7 | 6 |

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=1512$ ]:
Q.23F2 Do you think Barack Obama mentions his religious faith and prayer too much, too little, or about the right amount?

| Jul 21- |  | ---------George W. Bush--------- |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  |  |  |  | Mid- |
| Aug 5 |  | July | Jul | Aug | Jul |
| 2010 |  | $\underline{2006}{ }^{8}$ | 2005 | 2004 | $\underline{2003}$ |
| 10 | Too much | 24 | 28 | 24 | 14 |
| 19 | Too little | 14 | 10 | 11 | 11 |
| 53 | Right amount | 52 | 52 | 53 | 62 |
| 17 | Don't Know/Refused (VOL.) | 10 | 10 | 12 | 13 |

[^4]
## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1491]:

Q.24F1 How much do you think Barack Obama relies on his own religious beliefs in making policy decisions - a great deal, a fair amount, or not very much?

| Jul 21- |  | Aug | Mid-Jul |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aug 5 |  | $\frac{2004^{9}}{}$ | $\frac{2003}{26}$ |
| $\frac{2010}{14}$ | A great deal | 38 | 40 |
| 27 | A fair amount | 28 | 31 |
| 43 | Not very much | 8 | 9 |
| 16 | Don't Know/Refused (VOL.) |  |  |

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1491]:

Q.25F1 Do you think he relies on his religious beliefs too MUCH, too LITTLE or about the right amount when making policy decisions?

Jul 21-

| Aug 5 |  | Aug <br> $\underline{2010}$ <br> 11 | Too much |
| :---: | :--- | :---: | :---: | | Mid-Jul |
| :---: |
| 21 | Too little $\quad 15$| $\underline{2004^{10}}$ |
| :---: |

## ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1491]:

Q.26F1 At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on American life or losing its influence?

|  | Increasing <br> Influence | Losing <br> Influence | Same <br> (VOL.) | No <br> Opinion |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 23 | 67 | 3 | 7 |
| July, 2006 | 34 | 59 | 2 | 5 |
| Mid-July, 2003 | 30 | 56 | 5 | 9 |
| March, 2002 | 37 | 52 | 3 | 8 |
| December, 2001 (Gallup) | 71 | 24 | 2 | 3 |
| Mid-November, 2001 | 78 | 12 | 3 | 7 |
| March, 2001 (Gallup) | 37 | 55 | 4 | 4 |
| March, 2000 (Gallup) | 37 | 58 | 0 | 5 |
| June,1998 (Gallup) | 37 | 56 | 4 | 3 |
| March, 1994 (Gallup) | 27 | 69 | 2 | 2 |
| March, 1988 (Gallup) | 36 | 49 | 6 | 9 |
| June,1984 (Gallup) | 42 | 39 | 14 | 6 |
| December, 1978 (Gallup) | 37 | 48 | 10 | 5 |
| December, 1974 (Gallup) | 31 | 56 | 8 | 5 |
| April, 1968 (Gallup) | 19 | 67 | 8 | 7 |
| February, 1965 (Gallup) | 33 | 45 | 13 | 8 |
| February, 1962 (Gallup) | 45 | 32 | 17 | 7 |
| March, 1957 (Gallup) | 69 | 14 | 10 | 6 |

[^5]PEW RESEARCH CENTER

IF GAVE RESPONSE IN Q.26F1 (Q.26F1=1,2,3), ASK:
Q.28F1 All in all, do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?

| BASED ON <br> Jul 21-Aug 5 | FORM 1 [N=1491]: | Jul | Mar |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\underline{2010}$ |  | 2006 | $\underline{2002}$ |
| 23 | Increasing influence | 34 | 37 |
| 13 | Good thing | 21 | 3 |
| 7 | Bad thing | 11 | 4 |
| 2 | Both/Neither/Depends (VOL.) |  | 1 |
| 1 | Don't know/Refused | 1 | 1 |
| 67 | Losing influence | 59 | 52 |
| 10 | Good thing | 6 | 5 |
| 53 | Bad thing | 50 | 44 |
| 2 | Both/Neither/Depends (VOL.) | ) 2 | 2 |
| 2 | Don't know/Refused | 1 | 1 |
| 3 | Same (VOL.) | 2 | 3 |
| 7 | No opinion | 5 | 8 |

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1512]:
Q.27F2 At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on government leaders and institutions such as the President, Congress, and the Supreme Court, or losing its influence?

Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 Jul 6-19, 2006

| Increasing <br> Influence | Losing <br> Influence | Same <br> (VOL.) | No <br> Opinion |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 42 | 62 |  | 4 | $\frac{10}{10}$ |
| 42 | 45 | 6 | 7 |  |

IF GAVE RESPONSE IN Q.27F2 (Q.27F2=1,2,3), ASK:
Q.28F2 All in all, do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?

| BASED ON TOTAL FORM $2[N=1512]:$ |  |  |
| :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Jul 21-Aug 5 |  | Jul |
| $\frac{2010}{23}$ | Increasing influence | $\frac{2006}{42}$ |
| 9 | Good thing | 15 |
| 13 | Bad thing | 24 |
| 2 | Both/Neither/Depends (VOL.) | 2 |
| 1 | Don't know/Refused | 1 |
| 62 | Losing influence | 45 |
| 15 | Good thing | 8 |
| 42 | Bad thing | 36 |
| 4 | Both/Neither/Depends (VOL.) | $*$ |
| 2 | Don't know/Refused | 1 |
| 4 | Same (VOL.) | 6 |
| 10 | No opinion | 7 |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 29 How do you feel about this statement: It's important to me that members of Congress have strong religious beliefs. Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely DISagree with it?

```
Jul 21-
Aug 5
    2010
    21 Completely Agree
    40 Mostly Agree
    21 Mostly Disagree
    13 Completely Disagree
    5 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
```


## TREND FOR COMPARISON:

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?

|  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Aug } \\ & 2008 \end{aligned}$ | August 2007 | August 2004 | $\begin{gathered} \text { Sept } \\ \underline{2000(R V s)} \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Completely Agree | 32 | 30 | 29 | 35 |
| Mostly Agree | 40 | 39 | 41 | 35 |
| Mostly Disagree | 14 | 16 | 15 | 17 |
| Completely Disagree | 11 | 11 | 11 | 10 |
| Don't know/refused (VOL.) | 3 | 4 | 4 | 3 |

## ASK ALL:

Q. 30 Do you feel that [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE] is generally friendly toward religion, neutral toward religion, or unfriendly toward religion?

|  |  | Friendly | Neutral | Unfriendly | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| a. | The Democratic Party |  |  |  |  |
|  | Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 26 | 41 | 19 | 14 |
|  | 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. |  | Friendly | Neutral | Unfriendly | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
|  | The Republican Party |  |  |  |  |
|  | Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 43 | 28 | 14 | 15 |
|  | 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 |

## 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?]

## ASK IF SOMETHING ELSE, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR OR DK/REF (RELIG=11, 12, 99): <br> CHR Do you think of yourself as a Christian or not? <br> IF R NAMED A NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN PREVIOUS QUESTION (e.g. Native American, Wiccan, Pagan, etc.), DO NOT READ (ENTER "NO" CODE 2)

Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal,
42 Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
23 Roman Catholic (Catholic)
2 Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
1 Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
2 Jewish (Judaism)
1 Muslim (Islam)
1 Buddhist
Hindu
Atheist (do not believe in God)
Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
Something else (SPECIFY)
Nothing in particular
Christian (VOL.)
Unitarian (Universalist) (VOL.)
Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)
ASK 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

| 35 | Yes, would |
| :---: | :--- |
| 39 | No, would not |
| 4 | Don't know/Refused (VOL.) |
| $\stackrel{*}{48} \%$ | Undesignated |
| 7 | Christian |


#### Abstract

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?


|  | More than <br> once a week | Once <br> a week | Once or twice <br> a month | A few times <br> a year | Seldom | Never | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 14 | 25 | 14 | 20 | 15 | 11 | 2 |  |
| August, 2009 | 14 | 23 | 16 | 20 | 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 | $*$ |  |
| 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 (RVs) | 17 | 28 | 16 | 17 | 13 | 8 | 1 |  |
| June, 1997 | 12 | 26 | 17 | 20 | 15 | 10 | $*$ |  |
| June, 1996 | 14 | 25 | 17 | 21 | 13 | 9 | 1 |  |

## NO QUESTIONS 31-39

## QUESTION 40 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:
Q. 41 How much, if anything, have you heard about [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? Have you heard [READ]?
a. The conservative Christian movement sometimes known as the religious right

```
Jul 21-Aug 5
        2010
    25 A lot
    33 A little [OR]
    41 Nothing at all
        1 Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]
```

b. The liberal or progressive religious movement sometimes known as the religious left

Jul 21-Aug 5 $\underline{2010}$
10 A lot
30 A little [OR]
59 Nothing at all
1 Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]
ASK IF Q.41a<3 OR Q41.b<3
Q. 42 In general, do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with [INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.41] or don't you have an opinion either way?

## ASK IF Q.41a<3:

a. The conservative Christian movement

## BASED ON TOTAL:

4 Strongly agree
9 Agree
9 Disagree
7 Strongly disagree
27 No opinion either way
1 DK/Refused (VOL.)
42 Not heard of conservative Christian movement/DK

## ASK IF Q.41b<3:

b. The liberal or progressive religious movement

## BASED ON TOTAL:

1 Strongly agree
4 Agree
6 Disagree
5 Strongly disagree
25 No opinion either way
1 Refused (VOL.)
59 Not heard of liberal or progressive religious movement/DK

## QUESTION 43-47 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

## NO QUESTIONS 48-57

## ASK ALL:

Q. 58 Now, thinking about Barack Obama's religious beliefs... Do you happen to know what Barack Obama's religion is? Is he Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, or something else?
[INTERVIEWERS: IF R SAYS "MULTIPLE FAITHS/ALL OF THE ABOVE," RECORD AS "8-SOMETHING ELSE" AND RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE]

| $\begin{gathered} \text { Jul 21-Aug } 5 \\ 2010 \end{gathered}$ |  | (RVs) |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | March | Mid-Oct | Mid-Sept | June | March |
|  |  | $\underline{2009}{ }^{11}$ | $\underline{2008}$ | $\underline{2008}$ | $\underline{2008}$ | $\underline{2008}$ |
|  | Christian (include volunteers of: Protestant, |  |  |  |  |  |
| 34 | Church of Christ, Trinity Church, Baptist, Methodists, etc.) | 48 | 51 | 48 | 57 | 47 |
| * | Jewish | 0 | * | 1 | 1 | * |
| 18 | Muslim (include Islam/Islamic) | 11 | 12 | 12 | 12 | 12 |
| 1 | Buddhist | * | * | * | * | * |
| * | Hindu | * | 0 | * | * | * |
| * | Atheist | * | * | * | * | * |
| * | Agnostic | * | * | * | * | * |
| 2 | Something else | * | 1 | 4 | 2 | 1 |
| 43 | Don't know | 34 | 32 | 33 | 25 | 36 |
| 2 | Refused (VOL.) | 6 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 |

ASK IF SAYS OBAMA IS MUSLIM (Q.58=3) [N=558]:
Q.58a And how did you learn about Barack Obama's religion? [OPEN END; CODE UP TO THREE RESPONSES]

```
Jul 21-Aug 5
        2010
            60 Media (NET)
            36 Media or news (non-specific)
            16 Television
            6 Newspapers
            3 Magazines
            1 Radio
            1 Book (non-specific)
            1 Obama's book(s)
            11 Obama's behaviors or his own words
            7 Things heard or read (non-specific)
            7 Internet
            6 Things heard or read during presidential campaign
            4 Views of family or friends
            4 Obama's ancestry - family background, name, appearance
            1 My own opinion
            1 Obama's policies towards Muslim countries or religion in the U.S.
            7 Other
            2 Don't know/Refused/Undesignated
```

ASK ALL:
PARTY
In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?
ASK IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY:
PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

|  | Republican | Democrat | Independent | (VOL.) No preference | (VOL.) <br> Other <br> party | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Lean } \\ & \text { Rep } \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Lean } \\ & \text { Dem } \end{aligned}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010 | 26 | 33 | 34 | 4 | * | 3 | 14 | 14 |
| Jun 16-20, 2010 | 27 | 34 | 34 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 15 |
| Apr 21-26, 2010 | 26 | 33 | 36 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 13 |
| Apr 8-11, 2010 | 23 | 32 | 38 | 5 | * | 2 | 17 | 13 |
| Apr 1-5, 2010 | 24 | 29 | 40 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 15 |
| Mar 18-21, 2010 | 24 | 30 | 40 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 17 | 13 |
| Mar 11-21, 2010 | 28 | 34 | 32 | 3 | * | 3 | 13 | 12 |
| Mar 10-14, 2010 | 22 | 33 | 37 | 6 | * | 3 | 14 | 13 |
| Feb 3-9, 2010 | 26 | 31 | 37 | 3 | * | 3 | 14 | 17 |
| Jan 6-10, 2010 | 22 | 33 | 42 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 16 |
| Dec 9-13, 2009 | 25 | 32 | 38 | 2 | * | 2 | 14 | 15 |
| Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009 | 27 | 35 | 32 | 3 | * | 2 | 13 | 13 |
| Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009 | 23 | 34 | 37 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 14 |
| Sep 10-15, 2009 | 23 | 34 | 34 | 4 | * | 5 | 13 | 17 |
| Aug 20-27, 2009 | 26 | 32 | 36 | 3 | * | 3 | 14 | 16 |
| Aug 11-17, 2009 | 23 | 33 | 38 | 3 | * | 3 | 16 | 15 |
| Jul 22-26, 2009 | 22 | 34 | 37 | 5 | * | 2 | 15 | 14 |
| Jun 10-14, 2009 | 25 | 34 | 34 | 3 | * | 3 | 11 | 16 |
| Yearly Totals |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 2009 | 23.9 | 34.4 | 35.1 | 3.4 | . 4 | 2.8 | 13.1 | 15.7 |
| 2008 | 25.3 | 35.8 | 31.7 | 3.8 | . 3 | 3.1 | 10.5 | 15.4 |
| 2007 | 25.4 | 32.9 | 33.7 | 4.6 | . 4 | 3.1 | 10.7 | 16.7 |
| 2006 | 27.6 | 32.8 | 30.3 | 5.0 | . 4 | 3.9 | 10.2 | 14.5 |
| 2005 | 29.2 | 32.8 | 30.3 | 4.5 | . 3 | 2.8 | 10.2 | 14.9 |
| 2004 | 29.7 | 33.4 | 29.8 | 3.9 | . 4 | 2.9 | 11.7 | 13.4 |
| 2003 | 29.8 | 31.4 | 31.2 | 4.7 | . 5 | 2.5 | 12.1 | 13.0 |
| 2002 | 30.3 | 31.2 | 30.1 | 5.1 | . 7 | 2.7 | 12.6 | 11.6 |
| 2001 | 29.2 | 33.6 | 28.9 | 5.1 | . 5 | 2.7 | 11.7 | 11.4 |
| 2001 Post-Sept 11 | 30.9 | 31.8 | 27.9 | 5.2 | . 6 | 3.6 | 11.7 | 9.4 |
| 2001 Pre-Sept 11 | 28.2 | 34.6 | 29.5 | 5.0 | . 5 | 2.1 | 11.7 | 12.5 |
| 2000 | 27.5 | 32.5 | 29.5 | 5.9 | . 5 | 4.0 | 11.6 | 11.6 |
| 1999 | 26.6 | 33.5 | 33.7 | 3.9 | . 5 | 1.9 | 13.0 | 14.5 |
| 1998 | 27.5 | 33.2 | 31.9 | 4.6 | . 4 | 2.4 | 11.8 | 13.5 |
| 1997 | 28.2 | 33.3 | 31.9 | 4.0 | . 4 | 2.3 | 12.3 | 13.8 |
| 1996 | 29.2 | 32.7 | 33.0 | 5.2 | -- | -- | 12.7 | 15.6 |
| 1995 | 31.4 | 29.7 | 33.4 | 5.4 | -- | -- | 14.4 | 12.9 |
| 1994 | 29.8 | 31.8 | 33.8 | 4.6 | -- | -- | 14.3 | 12.6 |
| 1993 | 27.4 | 33.8 | 34.0 | 4.8 | -- | -- | 11.8 | 14.7 |
| 1992 | 27.7 | 32.7 | 35.7 | 3.9 | -- | -- | 13.8 | 15.8 |
| 1991 | 30.9 | 31.4 | 33.2 | 4.5 | -- | -- | 14.6 | 10.8 |
| 1990 | 31.0 | 33.1 | 29.1 | 6.8 | -- | -- | 12.4 | 11.3 |
| 1989 | 33 | 33 | 34 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |
| 1987 | 26 | 35 | 39 | -- | -- | -- | -- | -- |


[^0]:    PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q30a, b.

[^1]:    PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010 Q41b, Q42b. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding.

[^2]:    1 Gallup trends based on general public.

[^3]:    2 November 1996 trends based on likely voters.
    3 Question began with "Thinking ahead to November," on June 16-20, 2010 and March 11-21, 2010 surveys. Surveys prior to March, 2010 did not ask specifically about voting in the "Congressional election."
    4 In Mid-October 2008 and from Mid-October 2004 to November 2006 and in Early November 2002, the "Yes, Plan to vote" category also includes people who volunteered that they already voted. In November 2006, Early November 2002, Early November, 2000, Late October 1998, November 1996 and November 1994 the question was worded: "Do you yourself plan to vote in the election this Tuesday, or not?"

[^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?"
    7 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."
    $8 \quad$ In July 2006 and before the question asked about George W. Bush.

[^5]:    $9 \quad$ In August 2004 and before the question asked about George W. Bush.
    10 In August 2004 and before the question asked about George W. Bush. In July 2003 the question read: "In making policy decisions, do you think he relies on his religious beliefs too much, too little or about the right amount?"

