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Public Sees Religion's Influence Waning

*Growing Appetite for Religion in
Politics*

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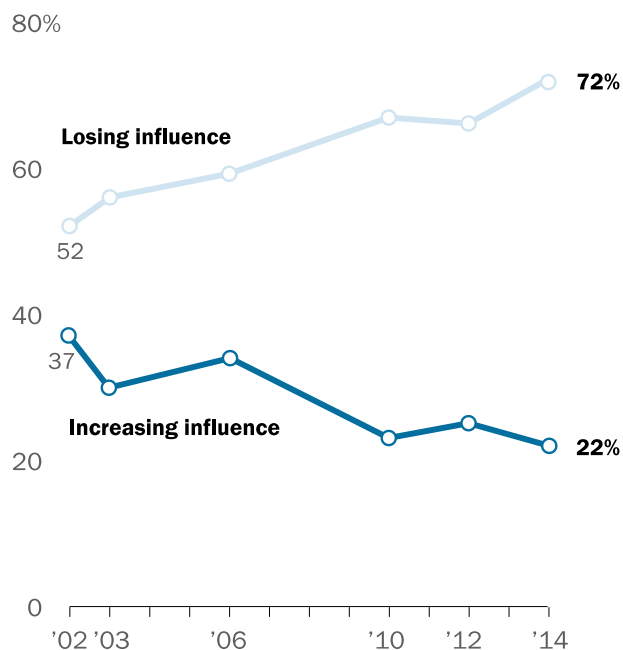
Public Sees Religion's Influence Waning

Growing Appetite for Religion in Politics

Nearly three-quarters of the public (72%) now thinks religion is losing influence in American life, up 5 percentage points from 2010 to the highest level in Pew Research polling over the past decade. And most people who say religion's influence is waning see this as a bad thing.

Rising Number Say Religion Losing Influence

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



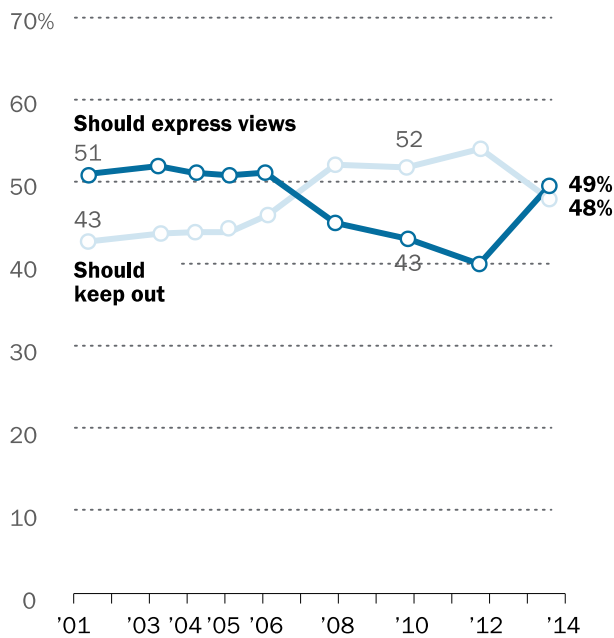
Survey conducted Sept. 2-9, 2014.
Don't know/refused responses not shown.

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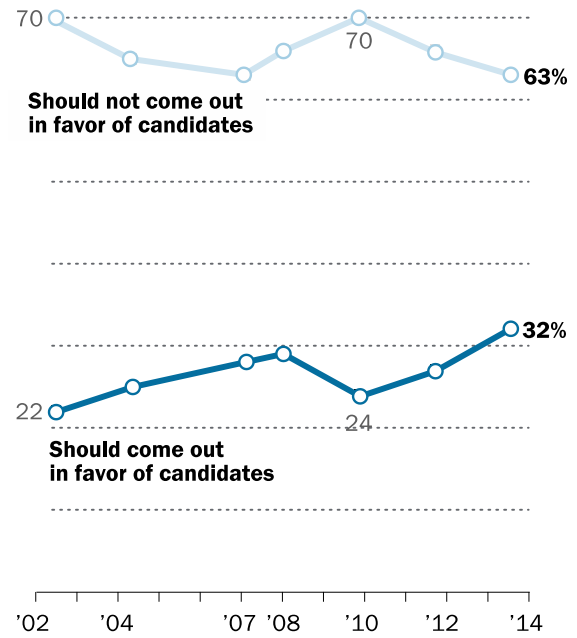
Perhaps as a consequence, a growing share of the American public wants religion to play a role in U.S. politics. The share of Americans who say churches and other houses of worship should express their views on social and political issues is up 6 points since the 2010 midterm elections (from 43% to 49%). The share who say there has been “too little” expression of religious faith and prayer from political leaders is up modestly over the same period (from 37% to 41%). And a growing minority of Americans (32%) think churches should endorse candidates for political office, though most continue to oppose such direct involvement by churches in electoral politics.

Growing Support for Religion in Politics

Should churches and other houses of worship keep out of political matters or express their views on day-to-day social and political questions?



During political elections, should churches and other houses of worship come out in favor of one candidate over another?



Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Don't know/refused responses not shown.

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The findings reflect a widening divide between religiously affiliated Americans and the rising share of the population that is not affiliated with any religion (sometimes called the "nones"). The public's appetite for religious influence in politics is increasing in part because those who continue to identify with a religion (e.g., Protestants, Catholics and others) have become significantly more supportive of churches and other houses of worship speaking out about political issues and political leaders talking more often about religion. The "nones" are much more likely to oppose the intermingling of religion and politics.

Analysis also shows that growing support for religion in politics is concentrated among those who think religion has a positive impact on society. And the desire for religion in public life is much more evident among Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP than among Democrats and Democratic leaners.

Increasing Appetite for Religion in Public Life Among Republicans, Religiously Affiliated

% of each group saying...

	Churches should express views		"Too little" religious talk		Churches should endorse candidates	
	2010	2014	2010	2014	2010	2014
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Religiously affiliated	45	54	41	48	26	35
Religiously unaffiliated	32	32	18	16	15	23
<i>See religion's role in society as...</i>						
Positive	49	58	48	53	27	37
Negative	26	25	13	10	16	18
Republican/Lean Rep	48	59	44	53	28	38
Democrat/Lean Dem	40	42	31	32	23	28

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Those who see religion's role in society as positive are those who say religion's influence is growing and that this is a good thing, or that religion's role in society is shrinking and that this is a bad thing. Those who see religion's role in society as negative are those who say religion's influence is growing and that this is a bad thing, or that religion's role in society is shrinking and that this is a good thing.

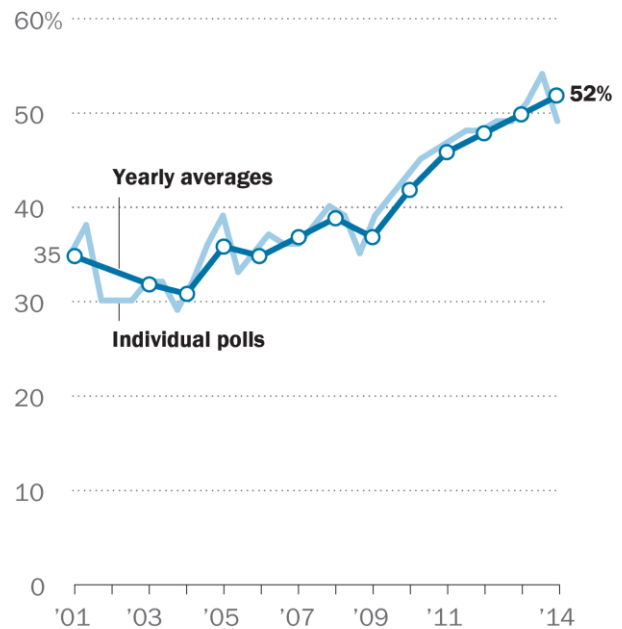
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These are among the key findings from a new survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted Sept. 2-9 among 2,002 U.S. adults. The survey tracks public attitudes about religion in public life, maps the contours of the religious elements of the political landscape heading into the 2014 midterm elections and monitors trends on important social issues.

It finds a slight drop in support for allowing gays and lesbians to marry, with 49% of Americans in favor and 41% opposed – a 5-point dip in support from a February Pew Research poll, but about the same level as in 2013. It is too early to know if this modest decline is an anomaly or the beginning of a reversal or leveling off in attitudes toward gay marriage after years of steadily increasing public acceptance. Moreover, when the February poll and the current survey are combined, the 2014 yearly average level of support for same-sex marriage stands at 52%, roughly the same as the 2013 yearly average (50%).

The new poll also finds that fully half (50%) of the public now considers homosexuality a sin, up from 45% a year ago. And nearly half of U.S. adults think that businesses like caterers and florists should be allowed to reject same-sex couples as customers if the businesses have religious objections to serving those couples.

Trend in Support for Same-Sex Marriage

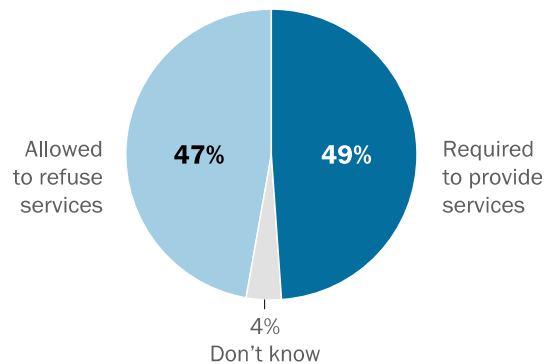


Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014.

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Should Wedding-Related Businesses Be Required to Provide Services to Same-Sex Couples?

If a business provides wedding services, such as catering or flowers, should it be allowed to refuse those services to same-sex couples for religious reasons, or required to provide those services as it would to all other customers?



Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014.

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Heading into the 2014 elections, recent Pew Research polls find a great deal of stability in the partisan preferences of religious groups. For example, large majorities of black Protestants, Jews and religiously unaffiliated voters continue to identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party. At the other end of the spectrum, white evangelical Protestant voters continue to be staunchly supportive of the GOP. Nearly three-quarters of white evangelicals identify with or lean toward the Republican Party, and a similar share say they would vote for the Republican congressional candidate in their district.

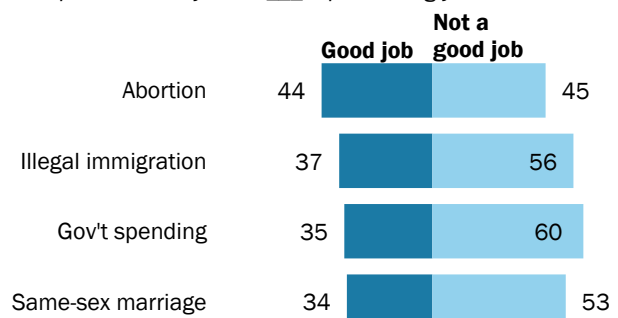
But the new poll also finds some signs of discontent within the GOP among its supporters, including evangelicals. Among Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP, half or more say the party is not doing a good job representing their views on government spending, illegal immigration or same-sex marriage, and they are divided about whether the party is doing a good job representing their views on abortion. Democrats get better ratings from their partisans on all of these issues. Evangelical Republicans who express discontent with the GOP would like to see it move in a more conservative direction on abortion, same-sex marriage and immigration, but non-evangelicals within the GOP are more conflicted over whether the party should move in a more conservative or a more liberal direction on these matters.

Among the report's other key findings:

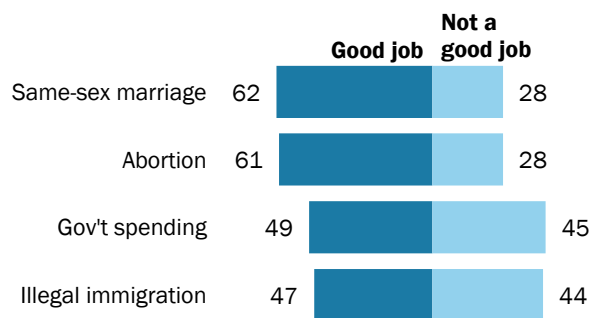
- A larger share of the general public sees the Republican Party as friendly toward religion (47%) than sees the Democratic Party that way (29%).
- A declining share of Americans see the Obama administration as friendly toward religion; 30% now say the Obama administration is friendly toward religion, down 7 points since 2009.

How Republicans and Democrats Rate Their Party on Key Issues

% of Republicans/Republican-leaners who say Republican Party does ___ representing your views on...



% of Democrats/Democratic-leaners who say Democratic Party does ___ representing your views on...



Survey conducted Sept. 2-9, 2014. Asked of Republicans and Republican-leaners about the Republican Party and of Democrats and Democratic-leaners about the Democratic Party.

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- About six-in-ten Americans say it is important for members of Congress to have strong religious beliefs (59%), a figure that has not changed significantly since the most recent midterm campaign in 2010.
- Roughly two-thirds of U.S. adults (65%) think gays and lesbians face a lot of discrimination in the U.S. today, and half or more say the same about Hispanics (50%), blacks (54%) and Muslims (59%). Fewer think that Jews (32%), evangelical Christians (31%), atheists (27%) and Catholics (19%) face a lot of discrimination today.
- About a third of evangelical Christians (34%), including 42% of white evangelical Protestants, and one-in-five Catholics (18%) say it has become more difficult to be a member of their religious group in recent years. Roughly one-in-ten religious "nones" (8%) say it has become harder to be a person with no religion in the U.S. in recent years, while 31% say it has become easier. About half or more in each of these groups say the ease or difficulty of being a member of their group hasn't changed much either way.

Section 1: Religion in Public Life

Religion in Politics

The public is now evenly divided on the question of whether churches and other houses of worship should express their views on day-to-day social and political questions: 49% say they should do this, while 48% say churches and other houses of worship should keep out of political matters. During the last midterm election season, in 2010, those who wanted churches to keep out of politics outnumbered those who wanted churches to express their political views by a 52% to 43% margin.

Public Divided Over Whether Churches Should Express Political Views

<i>Churches and other houses of worship should...</i>	2010	2014
	%	%
Express views on social/political questions	43	49
Keep out of politics	52	48
Don't know	5	3
	100	100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014.
 Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Among Republicans and those who lean toward the Republican Party, nearly six-in-ten (59%) now say that churches should express their views on social and political issues, up 11 percentage points since 2010. By contrast, there has been virtually no change on this question among those who support the Democratic Party; 42% of Democrats and those who lean Democratic say churches should express their political views, while 55% say churches should keep out of politics.

Two-thirds of white evangelical Protestants (66%) now express support for having churches speak out on social and political issues, up from 56% in 2010. Nearly six-in-ten black Protestants (58%) also say churches should express their political views, as do roughly half of Catholics (48%) and white mainline Protestants (49%). Most of those who have no religious affiliation say churches and other houses of worship should keep out of politics (65%), with just 32% saying churches should speak out on political matters.

Rising Numbers Say Churches Should Express Views on Social and Political Questions

	Aug 2010	Sep 2014	Change
	%	%	
Total	43	49	+6
Rep/lean Rep	48	59	+11
Dem/lean Dem	40	42	+2
Protestant	50	58	+8
White evangelical	56	66	+10
White mainline	35	49	+14
Black Protestant	53	58	+5
Catholic	37	48	+11
White Catholic	38	49	+11
Hispanic Catholic	36	50	+14
Unaffiliated	32	32	0

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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The poll also finds a modest but noticeable increase in the share of Americans saying there has been "too little" expression of religious faith and prayer from political leaders. Currently, 41% say there has been too little religious talk from political leaders, while 30% say there has been too much and 23% say there has been about the right amount of religious speech from politicians. During the last midterm campaign, 37% said there had been too little religious talk, 29% said "too much" and 24% said there had been about the right amount.

Most Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP say there has been too little (53%) or the right amount (24%) of religious talk from political leaders, with just 17% saying there has been too much of this kind of discussion. By contrast, a plurality of Democrats say there has been too much religious talk from political leaders (40%).

Most white evangelical Protestants (68%) say there has been too little expression of religious faith and prayer by political leaders. At the other end of the spectrum, most religious "nones" (56%) say there has been too much religious talk from politicians. Other religious groups express more mixed opinions on this question.

Slight Increase in Share Saying Too Little Expression of Religious Faith by Political Leaders

Have political leaders been talking about their faith and prayer...

	Too much	Too little	Right amount	Don't know
	%	%	%	%
Total 2014	30	41	23	7=100
August 2010	29	37	24	10=100
<i>2014 among..</i>				
Rep/lean Rep	17	53	24	6=100
Dem/lean Dem	40	32	23	5=100
Protestant	19	53	21	7=100
White evangelical	10	68	16	7=100
White mainline	26	39	27	7=100
Black Protestant	22	51	23	4=100
Catholic	25	43	27	6=100
White Catholic	25	40	31	5=100
Hispanic Catholic	26	44	23	7=100
Unaffiliated	56	16	21	7=100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Most Americans continue to oppose the idea of churches endorsing particular candidates during political elections, with roughly twice as many people saying churches should not do this as saying they should (63% vs. 32%). Even on this question, however, there has been significant movement in the direction of more support for religious involvement in politics. In 2010, just 24% said churches and other houses of worship should come out in favor of one candidate over another, 8 points lower than in the current poll.

Majorities of both Democrats and Republicans oppose church endorsements of political candidates, though Democrats oppose this in larger numbers than Republicans.

Among all major religious groups, there is more opposition than support for church endorsements of political candidates.

Growing Minority Supports Church Endorsements of Candidates

During elections, should churches and other houses of worship come out in favor of one candidate over another?

	Should %	Should not %	Don't know %
Total 2014	32	63	5=100
August 2010	24	70	6=100
<i>2014 among...</i>			
Rep/lean Rep	38	58	4=100
Dem/lean Dem	28	67	4=100
Protestant	37	58	5=100
White evangelical	42	54	4=100
White mainline	31	65	4=100
Black Protestant	39	57	4=100
Catholic	32	65	3=100
White Catholic	28	69	4=100
Hispanic Catholic	38	62	1=100
Unaffiliated	23	71	6=100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Roughly six-in-ten Americans (59%) say it is important for members of Congress to have strong religious beliefs, a number largely unchanged since the 2010 midterm cycle. Nearly three-quarters of Republicans and those who lean toward the Republican Party say that members of Congress should have strong religious beliefs (72%).

Democrats, by contrast, are evenly divided on this question, with 50% saying it is important for members of Congress to have strong religious beliefs and 48% expressing disagreement with this sentiment.

Most people who identify with a religion, ranging from 83% of white evangelicals to 59% of white Catholics, say it is important for members of Congress to have strong religious beliefs. By comparison, two-thirds of religious "nones" (68%) disagree with the sentiment that it is important for members of Congress to have strong faith.

Six-in-Ten Want Members of Congress Who Have Strong Religious Beliefs

Do you agree or disagree that it's important for members of Congress to have strong religious beliefs?

	Agree %	Disagree %	Don't know %
Total 2014	59	37	3=100
August 2010	61	34	5=100
<hr/>			
<i>2014 among..</i>			
Rep/lean Rep	72	25	3=100
Dem/lean Dem	50	48	2=100
Protestant	74	23	3=100
White evangelical	83	15	2=100
White mainline	64	34	3=100
Black Protestant	73	22	5=100
Catholic	62	34	4=100
White Catholic	59	37	4=100
Hispanic Catholic	63	32	4=100
Unaffiliated	29	68	2=100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Religion's Influence on American Society

Nearly three-quarters of Americans (72%) now say that religion is losing influence in American life, the highest share to hold this view in Pew Research surveys going back to 2001.

As in previous surveys, most people who say religion is losing its influence in American life see this as a negative development, with 56% of the public as a whole saying it is a "bad thing" that religion is losing sway in the U.S. The concern is most pronounced among white evangelical Protestants, 77% of whom say religion is losing influence and that this is a bad thing, but is shared by majorities of white mainline Protestants (66%), black Protestants (65%) and Catholics (61%). The religiously unaffiliated who see religion's influence as waning are evenly divided over whether this is a positive or a negative development.

Among the minority of people who say religion's influence is growing in the United States (22%), there is a much more even balance of opinion over whether this is a good thing or a bad thing. Currently, 12% of Americans say religion's influence is growing and that this is a good thing, while 10% say religion's influence is growing and that this is a bad thing. In previous surveys, those who perceived religion's influence as growing and saw this in a positive light consistently outnumbered those who viewed it negatively, often by a margin of roughly 2-to-1 or more.

Big Majority Says Religion's Influence is Waning

Religion is _____ on American life	%
Increasing its influence	22
Losing its influence	72
Same/Don't know	6
	100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014.
Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Most View Religion's Waning Influence as Negative Development

Religion is losing influence in American life and this is...

	Good thing	Bad thing	Both / neither / other	NET Religion losing influence
	%	%	%	%
Total	12	56	3	=72
Protestant	5	68	2	=75
White evangelical	2	77	1	=80
White mainline	9	66	4	=79
Black Protestant	5	65	2	=72
Catholic	7	61	2	=70
White Catholic	7	67	3	=77
Hispanic Catholic	9	50	0	=59
Unaffiliated	34	30	6	=70

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to totals due to rounding.

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Which Institutions Are Friendly Toward Religion?

Roughly half of adults (47%) think the Republican Party is friendly toward religion, with 30% saying the GOP is neutral toward religion and 15% saying it is unfriendly toward religion. Far fewer (29%) see the Democratic Party as friendly toward religion, with 39% describing the Democratic Party as neutral toward religion and 25% describing it as unfriendly toward religion.

Public opinion on these questions has fluctuated over the years. But the GOP has consistently been rated as friendly toward religion by more people than has the Democratic Party.

The GOP is seen as friendly toward religion by most Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP (58%), as well as by a plurality of those who support the Democratic Party (44%). Democrats are divided over whether their own party is friendly (43%) or neutral (46%) toward religion, while about half of Republicans (49%) say the Democratic Party is unfriendly toward religion.

Views of Religion and the Parties

*% who say the Republican Party is
_____ toward religion*

	Friendly	Neutral	Unfriendly
Total	47	30	15
Rep/lean Rep	58	31	7
Dem/ lean Dem	44	28	22
Protestant	44	32	17
White evangelical	51	31	11
White mainline	51	36	7
Black Protestant	26	33	38
Catholic	41	33	18
White Catholic	46	34	12
Hispanic Catholic	32	32	25
Unaffiliated	60	21	11

*% who say the Democratic Party is
_____ toward religion*

	Friendly	Neutral	Unfriendly
Total	29	39	25
Rep/lean Rep	14	31	49
Dem/ lean Dem	43	46	7
Protestant	25	38	31
White evangelical	16	30	47
White mainline	24	44	27
Black Protestant	41	45	10
Catholic	28	41	24
White Catholic	24	42	28
Hispanic Catholic	33	42	17
Unaffiliated	40	41	15

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Responses of "don't know" and refusals not shown.

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The share of Americans who rate the Obama administration as friendly toward religion has declined sharply in recent years. Currently, 30% say the administration is friendly toward religion, down from 37% in 2009 and 39% in 2012. Nearly three-in-ten (29%) see the Obama administration as unfriendly toward religion, up from 17% in 2009 and 23% in 2012.

The share of Republicans rating the administration as unfriendly toward religion has risen by 22 percentage points since 2009. But even among Democrats and those who lean toward the Democratic Party, there has been an 11-point decline in the share rating the Obama administration as friendly toward religion. Many from this group have moved into the “neutral” category; the administration's “unfriendly” rating has risen just 4 points among Democrats and those who lean Democratic.

The survey finds significant increases in the view that the Obama administration is unfriendly toward religion across several religious groups. Among both white evangelicals and white Catholics, the administration's “unfriendly” ratings have increased by 19 percentage

points since 2009. Evangelical and Catholic leaders have been vocal opponents of the Affordable Care Act's contraception mandate, which they view as restrictive of religious liberty.

Fewer Americans Say Obama Administration is Friendly Toward Religion

<i>Obama administration is...</i>	Aug 2009	Mar 2012	Sep 2014
	%	%	%
Friendly toward religion	37	39	30
Neutral	36	32	37
Unfriendly	17	23	29
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Nearly Three-in-Ten Now See Obama Administration as Unfriendly Toward Religion

	<i>Obama administration is friendly toward religion</i>			<i>Obama administration is unfriendly toward religion</i>		
	2009	2014	Change	2009	2014	Change
	%	%		%	%	
Total	37	30	-7	17	29	+12
Rep/lean Rep	18	13	-5	32	54	+22
Dem/lean Dem	55	44	-11	5	9	+4
Protestant	34	28	-6	23	35	+12
White evangelical	20	13	-7	38	57	+19
White mainline	36	26	-10	18	28	+10
Black Protestant	56	56	0	2	9	+7
Catholic	38	30	-8	15	28	+13
White Catholic	35	25	-10	17	36	+19
Hispanic Catholic	n/a	39	n/a	n/a	16	n/a
Unaffiliated	44	36	-8	6	17	+11

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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Half of the public views the Supreme Court as neutral toward religion, with roughly equal shares describing the high court as friendly (21%) or unfriendly (22%) toward religion.

Half Say Supreme Court Is Neutral Toward Religion

<i>Supreme Court is...</i>	<i>%</i>
Friendly toward religion	21
Neutral	50
Unfriendly	22
Don't know	7
	100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014.
Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Perceptions of Discrimination

Nearly six-in-ten Americans (59%) say they think Muslims face a lot of discrimination in the U.S. today. Far fewer think other religious groups – including Jews (32%), evangelical Christians (31%), atheists (27%) and Catholics (19%) – face a lot of discrimination.

About two-thirds of Americans think gays and lesbians face a lot of discrimination in the U.S. today (65%), and half or more say this about blacks (54%) and Hispanics (50%). These findings are broadly similar to the patterns observed in a 2009 Pew Research survey that included many of the same questions.

Perceptions of Discrimination in U.S.

<i>% saying there is a lot of discrimination against...</i>	<i>%</i>
Gays and lesbians	65
Muslims	59
Blacks	54
Hispanics	50
Jews	32
Evangelical Christians	31
Atheists	27
Catholics	19

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014.

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Those who belong to a particular group tend to be more likely than outsiders to say their group faces significant discrimination in American society. Among religious groups, fully half of white evangelical Protestants (50%) say evangelical Christians face a lot of discrimination compared with 31% of the public overall saying this. And 33% of Catholics say there is a lot of anti-Catholic discrimination (compared with 19% of Americans overall who say this). Additionally, eight-in-ten African Americans (82%) say there is a lot of discrimination against blacks, compared with 61% of Hispanics and 47% of whites who say this. Seven-in-ten Hispanics (71%) say there is a lot of anti-Hispanic discrimination (as do 64% of blacks), but just 42% of whites agree. (The survey included too few interviews with Muslims, Jews and atheists to permit analysis of their responses to these questions, and it did not ask respondents whether they identify as gay or lesbian.)

Group Members Most Likely to Perceive Discrimination Against Their Group

	% saying there is a lot of discrimination against...							
	Gays and lesbians	Muslims	Blacks	Hispanics	Jews	Evangelical Christians	Atheists	Catholics
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	65	59	54	50	32	31	27	19
White	61	58	47	42	28	31	23	16
Black	80	63	82	64	42	31	41	23
Hispanic	73	59	61	71	38	32	35	28
Protestant	62	52	49	43	32	37	24	16
White evangelical	53	45	36	32	29	50	19	16
White mainline	61	55	44	38	26	26	20	11
Black Protestant	76	60	82	61	41	30	38	22
Catholic	67	62	59	57	34	28	27	33
White Catholic	58	60	51	46	27	24	21	26
Hispanic Catholic	79	67	67	77	39	34	38	41
Unaffiliated	72	68	60	57	30	24	36	16

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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Relatively few religious "nones" (8%) say it has become more difficult in the U.S. to be a person with no religion in recent years; most religious "nones" say it has become easier (31%) to be a person with no religion or that it hasn't changed much (60%). Similarly, nearly three-quarters of Catholics (73%) say the ease or difficulty of being Catholic in American society has not changed much in recent years. By comparison, evangelicals are less sanguine about their position in American society, with one-third (34%) saying it has become more difficult to be an evangelical Christian in the U.S.

Consistent with this, three-in-ten white evangelical Protestants say they think of themselves as a religious minority because of their religious beliefs. One-quarter of black Protestants (26%) say the same. Fewer Catholics (13%) and white mainline Protestants (10%) say they consider themselves religious minorities.

Is It Becoming More Difficult to Be Religious in the U.S.?

Based on members of each religious group

	In recent years in U.S., has it become more difficult to be...?		
	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Person w/no religion
	%	%	%
Has become more difficult	34	18	8
Has become easier	8	8	31
Hasn't changed much	53	73	60
Don't know/refused	5	1	2
	100	100	100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Non-Catholics who self-identity as born-again or evangelical Christians were asked whether it is becoming more difficult to be an evangelical Christian; self-identified Catholics were asked whether it is becoming more difficult to be a Catholic in the U.S.; atheists, agnostics and those whose religion is "nothing in particular" were asked whether it is becoming more difficult to be a person with no religion. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Do You Think of Yourself as a Minority Because of Your Religious Beliefs?

	Yes	No	Don't know
	%	%	%
Total	21	78	1=100
Protestant	22	76	1=100
White evangelical	30	68	1=100
White mainline	10	89	1=100
Black Protestant	26	73	2=100
Catholic	13	86	*=100
White Catholic	8	91	*=100
Hispanic Catholic	23	77	0=100
Unaffiliated	17	82	1=100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Section 2: The Religious Landscape of the 2014 Elections

The partisan preferences of religious groups have remained relatively stable in recent years. Majorities of black Protestants and the religiously unaffiliated continue to identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party, and say they would vote for the Democratic congressional candidate in their district this fall. At the other end of the spectrum, white evangelical Protestants continue to support the Republican Party and the Republican candidate in their congressional district.

At the same time, the new poll finds some signs of discontent within the GOP among its supporters. Among Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP, half or more say the party is not doing a good job representing their views on government spending, illegal immigration and same-sex marriage, and they are divided about whether or not the party is doing a good job representing their views on abortion. Evangelical Republicans who express discontent with the GOP would like to see it move in a more conservative direction on all of these issues. Non-evangelicals within the Republican Party share the desire for a more conservative stance on government spending and immigration, but are divided on the party's direction on abortion. And more non-evangelicals who disapprove of the party's stance on same-sex marriage believe the GOP is too conservative than believe it is too liberal. Democrats get better ratings from their partisans on all of these issues.

How Well Do the Parties Represent Their Supporters' Views?

Six-in-ten Democrats and those who lean Democratic say the Democratic Party is doing a good job representing their views on same-sex marriage (62%) and abortion (61%). Smaller numbers rate the Democratic Party positively for representing their views on government spending (49%) and illegal immigration (47%).

On all four issues, Republicans give the GOP lower marks than Democrats give the Democratic Party. In fact, more Republicans say the GOP is *not* doing a good job representing their views on government spending, illegal immigration and same-sex marriage than say the Republican Party is doing a good job on these issues. Republicans are divided over whether the party is doing a good job representing their views on abortion (44% say it is doing a good job, 45% say it is not).

Democrats More Positive Than Republicans in Rating Their Party's Job Representing Their Views

<i>Is the Republican Party doing a good job representing your views on...</i>	<i>Among Rep/lean Rep</i>		
	Good job	Not a good job	Don't know
	%	%	%
Government spending	35	60	6=100
Abortion	44	45	11=100
Same-sex marriage	34	53	13=100
Illegal immigration	37	56	7=100

<i>Is the Democratic Party doing a good job representing your views on...</i>	<i>Among Dem/lean Dem</i>		
	Good job	Not a good job	Don't know
	%	%	%
Government spending	49	45	6=100
Abortion	61	28	11=100
Same-sex marriage	62	28	10=100
Illegal immigration	47	44	9=100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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In the survey, those who said their party is not doing a good job representing their views on a certain issue were asked a follow-up question about the nature of their dissatisfaction.

Republicans unhappy with their party's handling of government spending overwhelmingly say the party should take a more conservative stance on this issue. Roughly half of Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP (48%) say the party is not willing enough to cut government spending, while only 8% say it is too willing to make cuts.

Many Republicans also want to see the party take a more conservative stand on illegal immigration. One-third of Republicans and those who lean toward the Republican

Party say the GOP is not doing a good job representing their views on this issue because it is too willing to allow immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to gain legal status, while just 18% express dissatisfaction with the party because it is not willing enough to allow for legal status.

Republicans are more divided over the direction they would like to see the GOP take on abortion and same-sex marriage. About a quarter (24%) say the GOP is not doing a good job representing their views on abortion because it is too liberal (in that it is not sufficiently willing to restrict abortion), while 19% say the GOP is too conservative on this issue (because it is too willing to restrict abortion). On the issue of same-sex marriage, 22% of Republicans say the GOP is too liberal (i.e., too willing to accept same-sex marriage), while 28% say it is too conservative (not willing enough to accept same-sex marriage).

Across religious groups, Republicans who are dissatisfied with the job the GOP is doing representing their views on government spending are united in the view that the party should take a more conservative stance on this issue. On other issues, however, evangelicals are more likely

Republicans Rate GOP's Job Representing Their Views on the Issues

Based on Republicans and those who lean toward the Republican Party

GOP is doing...	On the issue of...			
	Government spending	Abortion	Same-sex marriage	Illegal immigration
Good job representing my views	35	44	34	37
Not a good job	60	45	53	56
Because it is too conservative*	8	19	28	18
Because it is too liberal*	48	24	22	33
Other reason	4	2	4	5
Don't know	6	11	13	7
	100	100	100	100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*For each issue, respondents who indicated their party is not doing a good job were asked issue-specific follow-up questions to gauge whether they think their party is too conservative or too liberal on the issue. For exact question wording for each issue, see Q83a-d in the topline.

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than Republicans from other religious groups to say the GOP should take a more conservative stance.

For example, one-third of white evangelical Protestant Republicans (34%) say their party is not willing enough to put restrictions on abortion, while just 7% say the party is too willing to restrict abortion. Republicans from other religious groups are much more evenly divided over whether the GOP should take a more conservative or more liberal approach to abortion.

Similarly, most evangelical Republicans who are dissatisfied with the GOP's handling of same-sex marriage say the party is too liberal (too willing to accept same-sex marriage). By contrast, among non-evangelical Republicans who express dissatisfaction with the party's position on same-sex marriage, opinion leans in the opposite direction, with more saying the party is too conservative than saying it is too liberal.

There are smaller differences by religion in Republicans' evaluations of how the GOP is representing their views on illegal immigration. Roughly a third in each major religious group say the party is too willing to allow immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to gain legal status.

Many Evangelical Republicans Want More Conservative GOP

<i>Rating of GOP representing your views on government spending?</i>	Good job %	Not a good job %	<i>Not a good job because they are...</i>		Sample size
			Too conservative (too willing to cut spending) %	Too liberal (not willing enough to cut spending) %	
White evangelical Rep/lean Rep	37	58	6	48	n=268
All other Republican/lean Rep	33	60	8	48	595
White mainline Protestant	38	55	11	42	155
Catholic	38	60	6	47	177
Unaffiliated	25	65	8	56	122
<i>Rating of GOP representing your views on abortion?</i>	Good job	Not a good job	Too conservative (too willing to put restrictions)	Too liberal (not willing enough to put restrictions)	
White evangelical Rep/lean Rep	48	43	7	34	n=268
All other Republican/lean Rep	41	47	24	20	595
White mainline Protestant	44	42	26	13	155
Catholic	42	47	18	25	177
Unaffiliated	31	54	30	19	122
<i>Rating of GOP representing your views on same-sex marriage?</i>	Good job	Not a good job	Too conservative (not willing enough to accept)	Too liberal (too willing to accept)	
White evangelical Rep/lean Rep	38	53	11	37	n=268
All other Republican/lean Rep	32	54	35	15	595
White mainline Protestant	33	53	36	15	155
Catholic	37	52	30	15	177
Unaffiliated	21	60	46	10	122
<i>Rating of GOP representing your views on illegal immigration?</i>	Good job	Not a good job	Too conservative (not willing enough to allow legal status)	Too liberal (too willing to allow legal status)	
White evangelical Rep/lean Rep	42	52	12	35	n=268
All other Republican/lean Rep	35	58	21	32	595
White mainline Protestant	33	55	16	33	155
Catholic	38	57	21	32	177
Unaffiliated	37	53	20	29	122

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Those who said "don't know" or refused to answer are not shown.

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Like Republicans, Democrats who are dissatisfied with the job their party is doing representing their views on government spending think the party is too liberal; 30% of Democrats and those who lean toward the Democratic Party say the party is not willing enough to cut government spending, while just 12% say the party is too willing to cut government spending. On other issues, Democrats who are discontent with the Democratic Party are more evenly split between those who think the party is too liberal and those who think it is too conservative.

Democrats Rate Democratic Party's Job Representing Their Views on the Issues

Based on Democrats and those who lean toward the Democratic Party

<i>Democratic Party is doing...</i>	<i>On the issue of...</i>			
	Government spending	Abortion	Same-sex marriage	Illegal immigration
Good job representing my views	49	61	62	47
Not a good job	45	28	28	44
<i>Because it is too conservative*</i>	12	11	12	20
<i>Because it is too liberal*</i>	30	16	15	21
<i>Other reason</i>	3	2	2	2
Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*For each issue, respondents who indicated their party is not doing a good job were asked issue-specific follow-up questions to gauge whether they thought their party was too conservative or too liberal on the issue. For exact question wording for each issue, see Q85a-d in the topline.

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On government spending and abortion, black Protestant Democrats are at least as positive as other religious groups when it comes to how well the Democratic Party is representing their views. And on illegal immigration, black Protestants are even more positive than most other major religious groups. Black Protestant Democrats give the party relatively low ratings, however, on the issue of same-sex marriage. Those who say the party is not doing a good job representing their views on this issue (42% of black Protestants overall) largely think the party is too willing to accept same-sex marriage (32%), with just 10% saying the party is too conservative on this issue.

Religious Groups' Ratings of the Democratic Party

<i>Rating of Democratic Party representing your views on government spending?</i>	Good job %	Not a good job %	<i>Not a good job because they are...</i>		Sample size
			Too conservative (too willing to cut spending) %	Too liberal (not willing enough to cut spending) %	
White mainline Protestant	40	54	10	38	n=148
Black Protestant	55	39	18	20	125
Catholic	50	46	10	33	183
Unaffiliated	47	47	12	32	231
<i>Rating of Democratic Party representing your views on abortion?</i>	Good job	Not a good job	Too conservative (not willing to put restrictions)	Too liberal (not willing enough to put restrictions)	
White mainline Protestant	63	23	10	11	n=148
Black Protestant	62	30	10	19	125
Catholic	58	32	11	18	183
Unaffiliated	74	20	12	6	231
<i>Rating of Democratic Party representing your views on same-sex marriage?</i>	Good job	Not a good job	Too conservative (not willing enough to accept)	Too liberal (too willing to accept)	
White mainline Protestant	65	21	7	12	n=148
Black Protestant	53	42	10	32	125
Catholic	67	22	12	8	183
Unaffiliated	74	22	14	7	231
<i>Rating of Democratic Party representing your views on illegal immigration?</i>	Good job	Not a good job	Too conservative (not willing enough to allow legal status)	Too liberal (too willing to allow legal status)	
White mainline Protestant	34	50	17	29	n=148
Black Protestant	62	30	12	18	125
Catholic	49	47	27	17	183
White non-Hispanic	47	45	14	30	104
Unaffiliated	50	42	24	18	231

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. Those who said "don't know" or refused to answer are not shown.

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Trends in Party Identification of Religious Groups

Despite some misgivings about the parties' handling of specific issues, overall party preferences have held steady in recent years. In aggregated Pew Research polling conducted through August 2014, 48% of registered voters identify with or lean toward the Democratic Party and 43% favor the Republican Party – figures that are largely unchanged since 2010.

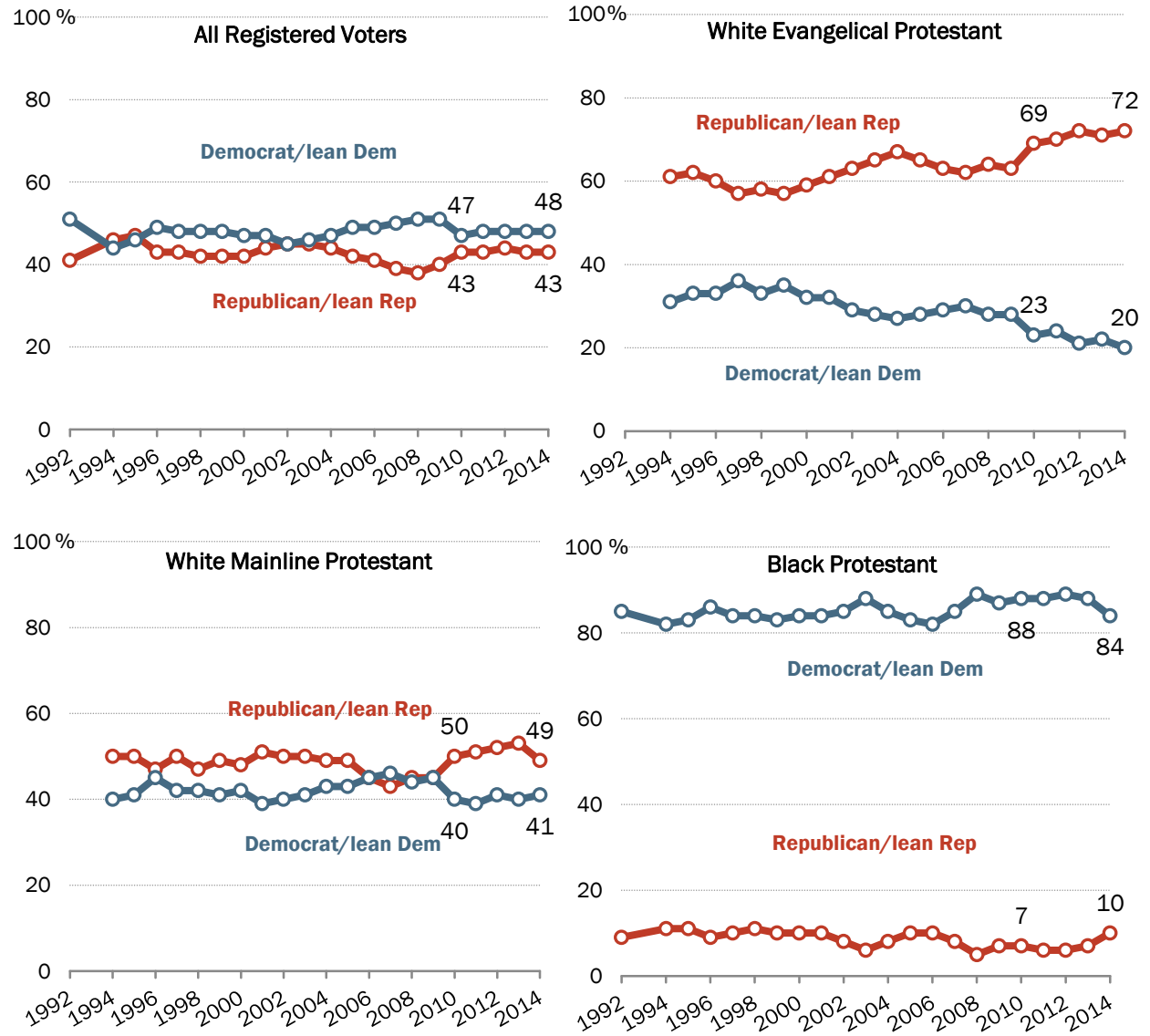
White evangelical Protestants continue to identify predominantly with the Republican Party; 72% identify with or lean toward the Republican Party, up slightly compared with 2010 (when 69% sided with the GOP).

At the other end of the spectrum, black Protestants continue to identify strongly with the Democratic Party, though this share has ticked down slightly from 88% in 2010 to 84% today. Jewish registered voters and those who are religiously unaffiliated also continue to identify mostly with the Democratic Party.

Party identification among Catholics is strongly correlated with race and ethnicity. White Catholics identify with or lean toward the Republican Party more than the Democratic Party (53% vs. 39% in 2014). By contrast, Hispanic Catholics are more than twice as likely to favor the Democratic Party than the Republican Party.

Party Affiliation by Religion: Long-Term Trends

% of registered voters in each group who identify with or lean toward each party

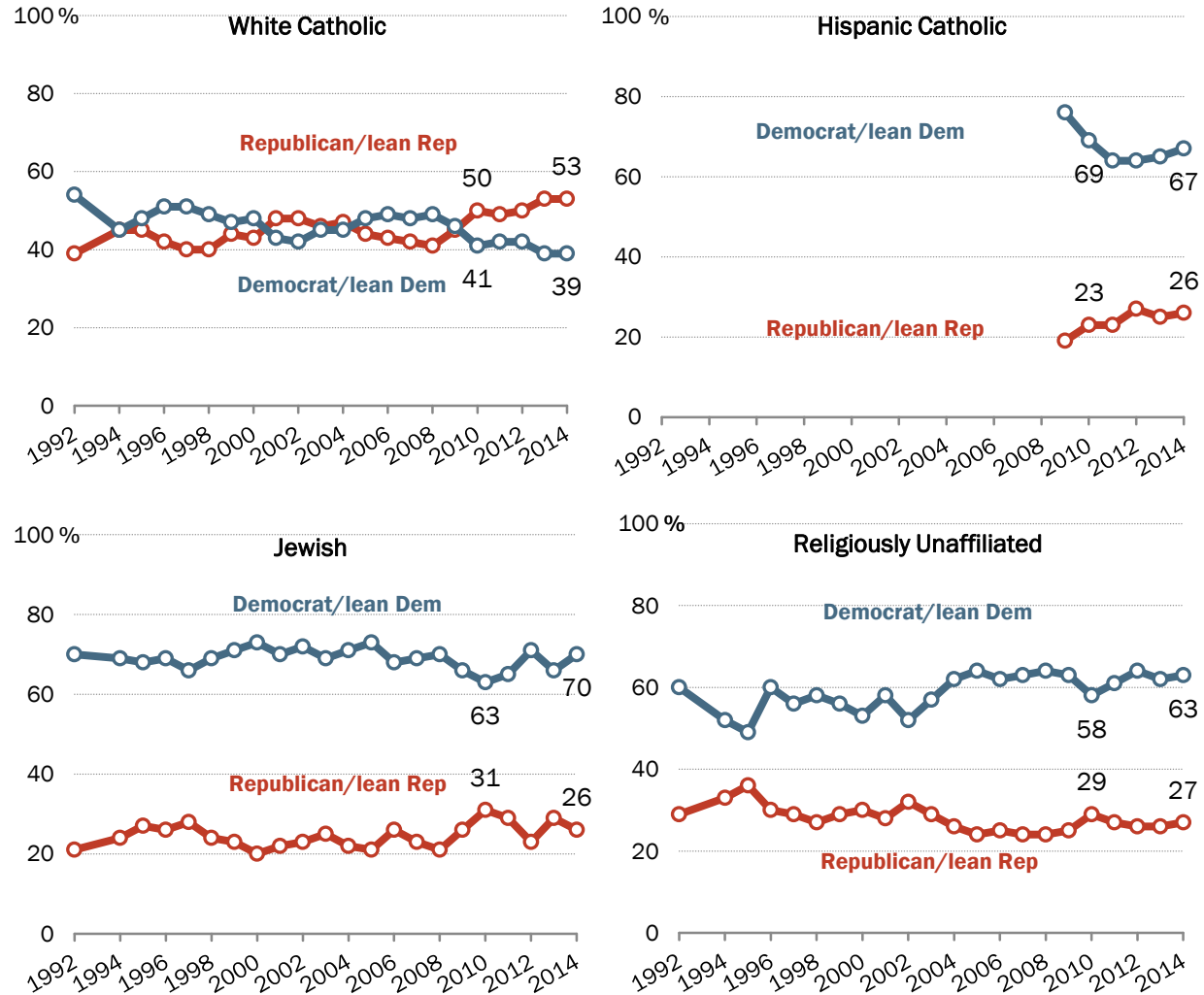


Source: Aggregated surveys conducted by Pew Research Center from 1992 through August 2014. Based on registered voters. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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Party Affiliation by Religion: Long-Term Trends

% of registered voters in each group who identify with or lean toward each party



Source: Aggregated surveys conducted by Pew Research Center from 1992 through August 2014. Based on registered voters. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures for Hispanic Catholics only shown for surveys that included Spanish-language interviewing. Before 2007, unaffiliated category based on those who volunteered their religion as “No religion, not a believer, atheist or agnostic.”

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Interest in the 2014 Elections

Majorities of registered voters in each major religious group say they will definitely vote in the November elections, similar to the last midterm elections. While the shares of white evangelical Protestants, white mainline Protestants, black Protestants and the religiously unaffiliated saying they will definitely vote have remained relatively steady since 2010, more Catholics say they will definitely vote this November than said they would do so around the same time in 2010. About eight-in-ten Catholics (79%) say they will definitely vote in 2014, up 11 percentage points from September 2010.

There is little difference in the share of voters who say they have given "quite a lot" of thought to the upcoming midterm elections. Half of registered voters (51%) say they have thought quite a lot about the 2014 elections, which is virtually identical to the share who said the same in September 2010.

For additional analysis of engagement in the 2014 elections, see ["Wide Partisan Differences Over the Issues That Matter in 2014."](#)

Will Definitely Vote in Upcoming Elections?

	Sep 2010	Sep 2014	10-14 change
	%	%	
All registered voters	71	71	0
Protestant	74	73	-1
White evangelical	76	79	+3
White mainline	76	74	-2
Black Protestant	71	67	-4
Catholic	68	79	+11
Unaffiliated	61	63	+2

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Based on registered voters. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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Given "Quite a Lot" of Thought to November Elections?

	Sep 2010	Sep 2014	10-14 change
	%	%	
All registered voters	50	51	+1
Protestant	54	53	-1
White evangelical	59	57	-2
White mainline	54	51	-3
Black Protestant	43	50	+7
Catholic	47	48	+1
Unaffiliated	39	47	+8

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Based on registered voters. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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Issue Priorities of Religious Groups

The three issues most likely to be considered “very important” by registered voters as they look to the November elections are the economy (83%), health care (77%) and terrorism (75%). These issues are rated as very important by large majorities of nearly all major religious groups.

Roughly two-thirds of voters say the federal budget deficit (65%) and foreign policy (64%) will be very important issues as they think about the 2014 election, and 62% also rate immigration as very important. The budget deficit and immigration are particularly important to white evangelical Protestant voters, with 77% saying the deficit is a very important issue and 74% saying the same about immigration. These issues are less important to religious “nones.” Black Protestants are less likely than other religious groups to describe foreign policy as a very important issue as they think about the November elections.

Three social issues rank relatively low on voters' list of priorities, with 46% of registered voters saying abortion is a very important issue in this election, 36% saying the same about birth control and 32% describing gay marriage as a very important issue. Evangelical voters are more likely than other groups to say abortion and gay marriage are very important issues, but even for evangelicals, these issues rank below several others.

For additional analysis of issue priorities among voters in the 2014 elections, see [“Wide Partisan Differences Over the Issues That Matter in 2014.”](#)

The Economy, Health Care and Terrorism Rank Among Most Important Issues

% of registered voters in each religious group saying each issue is “very important” as they think about the elections for Congress this November

	All	White evangelical Protestant	White mainline Protestant	Black Protestant	Catholic	Unaffiliated
	%	%	%	%	%	%
The economy	83	86	84	88	80	77
Health care	77	82	72	89	75	73
Terrorism	75	86	75	83	84	57
The federal budget deficit	65	77	67	69	69	51
Foreign policy	64	70	66	46	67	61
Immigration	62	74	64	51	65	50
Economic inequality	57	53	47	78	50	61
The environment	54	42	46	72	49	64
Abortion	46	61	33	46	48	40
Birth control	36	31	29	58	33	40
Gay marriage	32	46	24	27	23	34

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Based on registered voters. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

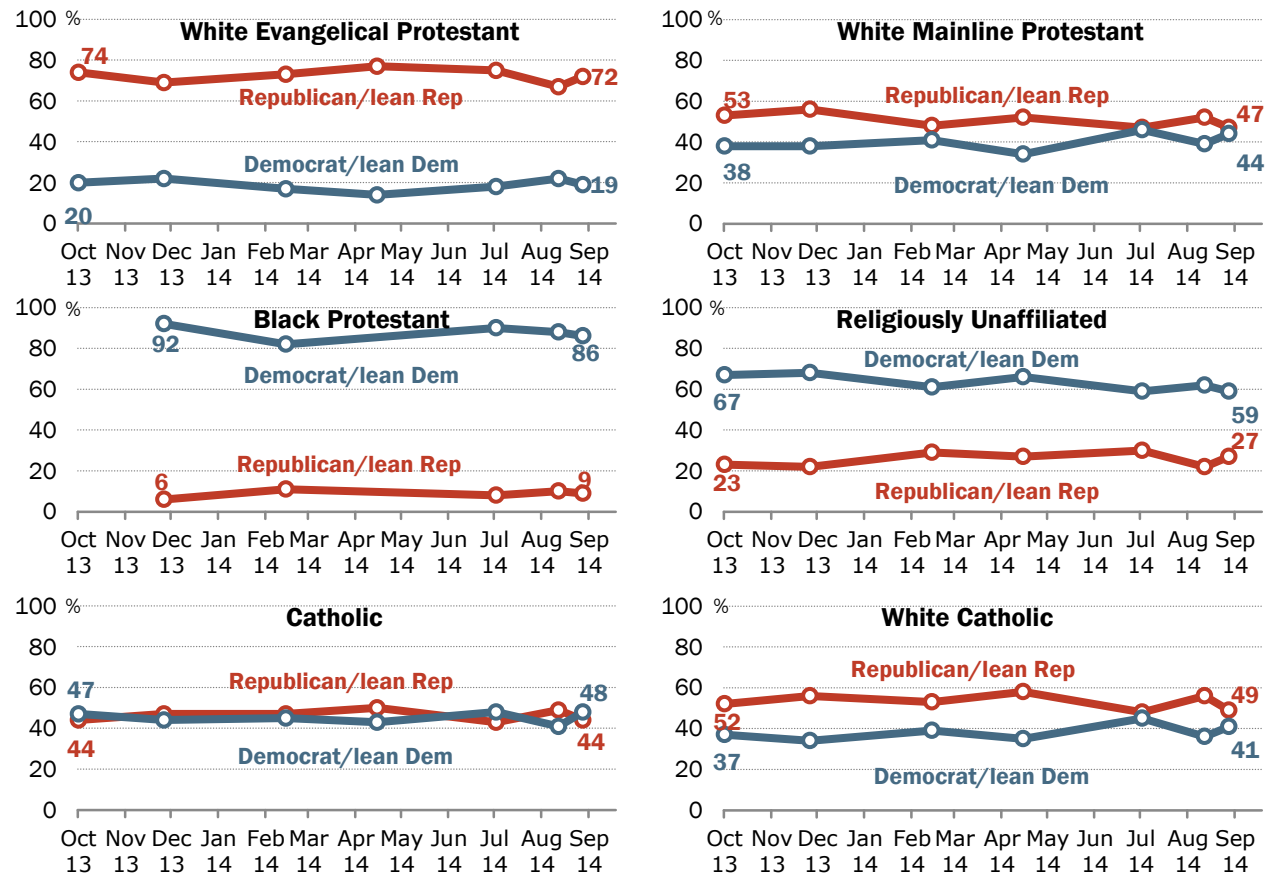
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2014 Congressional Election Preferences by Religion

As the 2014 congressional elections near, voting preferences of religious groups have been fairly stable in Pew Research polls over the past year, and the patterns are largely unchanged from polling leading up to the 2010 midterms. White evangelical Protestant voters lean heavily toward the Republican candidate in their respective districts. At the other end of the spectrum, black Protestants and religiously unaffiliated voters lean strongly toward the Democratic candidate in their districts. White mainline Protestant and Catholic voters are more closely divided.

2014 Congressional Vote Choice by Religion Largely Steady

% of registered voters who would vote for or lean toward the Republican/Democratic candidate in their district



Source: Surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center between October 2013 and September 2014. Based on registered voters. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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Section 3: Social & Political Issues

Homosexuality and Same-Sex Marriage

The public is evenly divided over whether businesses that provide wedding services, like catering or flowers, should be required to provide services to same-sex couples despite religious objections to same-sex marriage. Half (49%) say that wedding-related businesses should be required to provide services to same-sex couples just as they would to all other customers, while 47% say that these businesses should be allowed to refuse services to same-sex couples for religious reasons.

More men than women say that businesses should be allowed to refuse services for same-sex weddings for religious reasons (52% vs. 42%), and whites (52%) are more likely than either blacks (36%) or Hispanics (35%) to say the same. There is also a large generation gap on this issue. Most Americans ages 65 and older (60%) say that wedding-related businesses should be able to decline to provide services for same-sex weddings, while most adults under the age of 30 (62%) take the opposite view, saying that businesses should be required to provide services for same-sex weddings. Those between the ages of 30 and 64 are evenly divided on this question.

Among religious groups, white evangelical Protestants express the strongest support for allowing businesses to refuse to provide services for same-sex weddings (71%). At the other end of the spectrum, majorities of Hispanic Catholics (64%) and the religiously

Public Split on Requiring Wedding-Related Businesses to Provide Services for Same-Sex Weddings

If a business provides wedding services, such as catering or flowers, should it be allowed to refuse those services to same-sex couples for religious reasons, or required to provide those services as it would to all other customers?

	Allowed to refuse %	Required to provide %	Don't know %
Total	47	49	4=100
Men	52	44	5=100
Women	42	54	4=100
White, non-Hispanic	52	45	4=100
Black, non-Hispanic	36	61	3=100
Hispanic	35	56	9=100
Age 18-29	35	62	3=100
30-49	46	50	4=100
50-64	48	48	5=100
65+	60	36	4=100
Protestant	54	41	5=100
White evangelical	71	25	3=100
White mainline	49	47	4=100
Black Protestant	37	59	4=100
Catholic	40	57	4=100
White Catholic	45	53	2=100
Hispanic Catholic	30	64	6=100
Unaffiliated	36	61	3=100
<i>Homosexuality a sin?</i>			
Yes	60	35	5=100
No	31	67	2=100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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unaffiliated (61%) say businesses should be required to provide wedding services for same-sex couples, as do 59% of black Protestants. White Catholics and white mainline Protestants are more evenly split on this question.

The survey also finds a close link between views of whether homosexual behavior is a sin and requiring businesses to provide services for same-sex weddings. Among those who say homosexual behavior is a sin, six-in-ten say that businesses should not be required to provide services for same-sex weddings. But among those who say homosexual behavior is not a sin, two-thirds say businesses should be required to service same-sex weddings.

The number of people who view homosexual behavior as sinful has ticked up in the past year, from 45% in 2013 to 50% in the current poll.

The view that homosexual behavior is sinful is most common among white evangelical Protestants (82%) and black Protestants (77%). By contrast, nearly three-quarters of religious "nones" (72%) say that homosexual behavior is not sinful. White mainline Protestants and Catholics are more evenly divided about whether homosexual behavior is sinful.

Is Homosexual Behavior Sinful?

% who say that homosexual behavior is...

	A sin	Not a sin	DK/Ref
	%	%	%
Total 2014	50	43	8=100
May 2013	45	45	10=100
<hr/>			
<i>2014 among..</i>			
Protestant	67	26	7=100
White evangelical	82	13	5=100
White mainline	42	46	12=100
Black Protestant	77	18	5=100
Catholic	44	49	7=100
White Catholic	47	44	8=100
Hispanic Catholic	38	56	7=100
Unaffiliated	19	72	9=100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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The current poll finds 49% of the public expressing support for same-sex marriage and 41% expressing opposition. Three-quarters of white evangelical Protestants oppose same-sex marriage. By contrast, three-quarters of the religiously unaffiliated support allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. There is also more support than opposition to same-sex marriage among Catholics and white mainline Protestants.

Support for same-sex marriage in the current poll is on par with Pew Research polls conducted in 2013, when 50% expressed support for same-sex marriage and 43% registered opposition, but down slightly from a February 2014 Pew Research poll that found 54% support for same-sex marriage. It is too early to know whether this is an anomaly or the beginning of a reversal or leveling off of the growth in support for same-sex marriage widely observed in polls over the past decade.

Views on Same-Sex Marriage

Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
	%	%	%
Total	49	41	10=100
Rep/lean Rep	34	57	9=100
Dem/lean Dem	62	30	8=100
Protestant	35	56	9=100
White evangelical	18	75	7=100
White mainline	57	33	9=100
Black Protestant	36	51	13=100
Catholic	52	35	13=100
White Catholic	50	38	12=100
Hispanic Catholic	55	29	16=100
Unaffiliated	76	16	8=100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Size of Government

About half of U.S. adults say they would prefer a smaller government with fewer services (50%), while 42% prefer a bigger government with more services. These findings are comparable to polling conducted in 2013.

Nearly eight-in-ten Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP (78%) say they prefer a smaller government that provides fewer services. Most Democrats express the opposite view, with 62% saying they prefer a bigger government that provides more services.

Among religious groups, majorities of white evangelicals (70%), white Catholics (61%) and white mainline Protestants (56%) prefer a smaller government, while Hispanic Catholics (72%) and black Protestants (65%) prefer a bigger government. Among the religiously unaffiliated, equal shares express a preference for a smaller government and a bigger government (47% each).

Views on Size of Government

% saying they would rather have a ...

	Smaller government, fewer services	Bigger government, more services	Depends/ Don't know
	%	%	%
Total 2014	50	42	8=100
September 2013	51	40	9=100
<hr/>			
<i>2014 among...</i>			
Rep/lean Rep	78	19	3=100
Dem/lean Dem	28	62	10=100
Protestant	52	38	9=100
White evangelical	70	23	7=100
White mainline	56	34	10=100
Black Protestant	22	65	13=100
Catholic	47	48	5=100
White Catholic	61	33	6=100
Hispanic Catholic	25	72	3=100
Unaffiliated	47	47	6=100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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Abortion

U.S. public opinion has also remained largely stable on the issue of abortion. A majority of Americans (55%) express the opinion that abortion should be legal in all or most cases; four-in-ten say it should be illegal in all or most cases.

There is little difference in opinion about abortion between men and women.

Generational differences also are muted, though Americans ages 65 and older express more opposition to abortion than do younger adults. About two-thirds of Democrats and those who lean Democratic (65%) say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while among Republicans and those who lean toward the GOP, 52% say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases and 44% say abortion should be mostly legal.

Among religious groups, white evangelical Protestants express the strongest opposition to abortion; two-thirds say it should be illegal in all or most cases. By contrast, three-quarters of religious "nones" (75%) say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases, as do two-thirds of white mainline Protestants (65%). Catholics and black Protestants are more evenly split on this issue.

Views on Abortion

% saying abortion should be ...

	Legal in all or most cases	Illegal in all or most cases	Don't know
	%	%	%
Total	55	40	5=100
Men	54	40	6=100
Women	57	40	4=100
Age 18-29	58	39	2=100
30-49	59	38	3=100
50-64	56	37	8=100
65+	46	48	6=100
Rep/lean Rep	44	52	4=100
Dem/lean Dem	65	31	4=100
Protestant	47	49	4=100
White evangelical	30	66	3=100
White mainline	65	30	5=100
Black Protestant	56	39	5=100
Catholic	52	43	5=100
White Catholic	54	42	4=100
Hispanic Catholic	52	42	6=100
Unaffiliated	75	20	5=100

Survey conducted September 2-9, 2014. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

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About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted Sept. 2-9, 2014, among a national sample of 2,002 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (801 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone and 1,201 were interviewed on a cellphone, including 673 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cellphone random-digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cellphone sample was weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2012 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also was weighted to match current patterns of telephone status (landline only, cellphone only, or both landline and cellphone), based on extrapolations from the 2013 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landlines and cellphones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

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

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	2,002	2.5 percentage points
Protestant	983	3.6 percentage points
White evangelical	377	5.8 percentage points
White mainline	337	6.2 percentage points
Black Protestant	148	9.3 percentage points
Catholic	400	5.7 percentage points
White Catholic	262	7.0 percentage points
Hispanic Catholic	99	11.4 percentage points
Unaffiliated	409	5.6 percentage points
Republican/lean Rep	863	3.8 percentage points
Democrat/lean Dem	913	3.7 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.

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.

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PEW RESEARCH CENTER
SEPTEMBER 2014 RELIGION & POLITICS SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
September 2-9, 2014
N=2,002

QUESTIONS 1-2, 5-8, 13 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 3-4, 9-12

ASK ALL:

Next,

Q.14 If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?

	Smaller government, <u>fewer services</u>	Bigger government, <u>more services</u>	(VOL.) <u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 2-9, 2014	50	42	3	5
Sep 4-8, 2013	51	40	2	7
Sep 12-16, 2012	51	40	4	6
Jan 4-8, 2012	52	39	2	7
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	48	41	2	8
Mar 8-14, 2011	50	42	3	5
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	50	42	3	5
Apr 1-5, 2010	50	39	4	8
Feb 3-9, 2010	50	40	3	7
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	51	40	4	6
Mar 9-12, 2009	48	40	3	9
Late October 2008	42	43	4	11
November 2007	47	42	4	7
January 2007	45	43	4	8
<i>LA Times/Bloomberg: January 2006</i>	49	38	--	13
<i>LA Times: January 2005</i>	52	36	--	12
<i>ABC/Wash Post: June 2004</i>	50	46	--	4
<i>CBS/NYT: November 2003</i>	45	42	4	9
<i>CBS/NYT: July 2003</i>	48	40	5	7
<i>ABC: November 2002 (Likely voters)</i>	60	35	--	5
<i>Wash Post: September 2002</i>	54	39	--	7
<i>ABC/Wash Post: July 2002</i>	53	42	--	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post: January 2002</i>	54	41	--	5
<i>CBS/NYT: January 2002</i>	46	40	3	11
<i>LA Times: November 2001</i>	48	41	--	11
<i>CBS/NYT: October 2001</i>	48	39	3	11
<i>LA Times: March 2001</i>	59	29	--	12
<i>CBS: January 2001</i>	51	36	5	8
<i>CBS: November 2000</i>	54	31	5	10
<i>CBS: October 2000</i>	57	32	5	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post: October 2000 (RV)</i>	58	32	--	10
<i>ABC/Wash Post: Early October 2000 (RV)</i>	58	33	--	9
<i>LA Times: September 2000 (RV)</i>	59	26	--	15
<i>ABC/Wash Post: July 2000</i>	59	34	--	7
<i>ABC/Wash Post: April 2000</i>	56	38	--	7
<i>CBS: September 1999</i>	46	43	5	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post: August 1998</i>	59	35	--	6
<i>ABC/Wash Post: August 1996</i>	63	32	--	5
<i>LA Times: April 1996</i>	62	28	--	10
<i>CBS/NYT: February 1996</i>	61	30	4	5
<i>LA Times: October 1995</i>	68	23	--	9
<i>LA Times: September 1995</i>	62	27	--	11
<i>LA Times: January 1995</i>	63	27	--	10
<i>LA Times: June 1993</i>	60	29	--	11

Q.14 CONTINUED...

	Smaller government, <u>fewer services</u>	Bigger government, <u>more services</u>	(VOL.) <u>Depends</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : February 1993	67	30	--	2
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1992	55	38	--	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1991	42	43	7	8
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : January 1989 ¹	41	48	4	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1988 (<i>Likely voters</i>)	47	37	7	9
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1988	49	45	--	6
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : May 1988	43	44	5	8
<i>ABC/Wash Post</i> : July 1984	49	43	--	7
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : March 1980	54	32	--	14
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : June 1978	53	36	--	11
<i>Wash Post</i> : January 1978	40	39	--	21
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : November 1976	42	45	--	13
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : October 1976 (<i>RV</i>)	49	37	--	14
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : September 1976 (<i>RV</i>)	48	41	--	11
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : June 1976	42	43	--	15
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : May 1976	41	43	--	16
<i>CBS/NYT</i> : April 1976	40	44	--	16

QUESTIONS 15-16 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTION 17**

And thinking about some issues...

RANDOMIZE Q.18 AND Q.19**ASK ALL:**

Q.18 Do you think abortion should be **[READ IN ORDER TO RANDOM HALF OF SAMPLE, IN REVERSE ORDER TO OTHER HALF OF SAMPLE]**?

	Legal in all <u>cases</u>	Legal in most <u>cases</u>	Illegal in most <u>cases</u>	Illegal in all <u>cases</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	NET <i>Legal in</i> <u>all/most</u>	NET <i>Illegal in</i> <u>all/most</u>
Sep 2-9, 2014	22	34	26	14	5	55	40
Jul 17-21, 2013	20	34	24	15	7	54	40
Oct 24-28, 2012	23	32	25	13	7	55	39
Apr 4-15, 2012	23	31	23	16	7	53	39
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	31	26	17	6	51	43
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	35	25	16	5	54	41
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	18	36	26	16	4	54	42
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	17	33	27	17	7	50	44
August 11-27, 2009	16	31	27	17	8	47	45
April, 2009	18	28	28	16	10	46	44
Late October, 2008	18	35	24	16	7	53	40
Mid-October, 2008	19	38	22	14	7	57	36
August, 2008	17	37	26	15	5	54	41
June, 2008	19	38	24	13	6	57	37
November, 2007	18	33	29	15	5	51	44
October, 2007	21	32	24	15	8	53	39
August, 2007	17	35	26	17	5	52	43
<i>AP/Ipsos-Poll</i> : February, 2006	19	32	27	16	6	51	43
<i>ABC/WaPo</i> : December, 2005	17	40	27	13	3	57	40
<i>ABC/WaPo</i> : April, 2005	20	36	27	14	3	56	41
<i>ABC/WaPo</i> : December, 2004	21	34	25	17	3	55	42
<i>ABC/WaPo</i> : May, 2004	23	31	23	20	2	54	43
<i>ABC/WaPo</i> : January, 2003	23	34	25	17	2	57	42
<i>ABC/WaPo</i> : August, 2001	22	27	28	20	3	49	48

¹ In 1989 and earlier, CBS/NYT question read, "In general, government grows bigger as it provides more services. If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing less services or a bigger government providing more services?"

Q.18 CONTINUED...

	Legal in all <u>cases</u>	Legal in most <u>cases</u>	Illegal in most <u>cases</u>	Illegal in all <u>cases</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>	NET <i>Legal in</i> <u>all/most</u>	NET <i>Illegal in</i> <u>all/most</u>
ABC/BeliefNet: June, 2001	22	31	23	20	4	53	43
ABC/WaPo: January, 2001	21	38	25	14	1	59	39
ABC/WaPo: September, 2000 (RVs)	20	35	25	16	3	55	41
ABC/WaPo: July, 2000	20	33	26	17	4	53	43
ABC/WaPo: September, 1999	20	37	26	15	2	57	41
ABC/WaPo: March, 1999	21	34	27	15	3	55	42
ABC/WaPo: July, 1998	19	35	29	13	4	54	42
ABC/WaPo: August, 1996	22	34	27	14	3	56	41
ABC/WaPo: June, 1996	24	34	25	14	2	58	39
ABC/WaPo: October, 1995	26	35	25	12	3	61	37
ABC: September, 1995	24	36	25	11	4	60	36
ABC/WaPo: July, 1995	27	32	26	14	1	59	40

RANDOMIZE Q.18 AND Q.19

ASK ALL:

Q.19 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<i>Strongly</i> <u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<i>Strongly</i> <u>oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
Sep 2-9, 2014	49	24	25	41	20	22	10
Feb 12-26, 2014	54	24	30	39	19	20	7
May 1-5, 2013 ²	51	21	30	42	19	22	8
Mar 13-17, 2013	49	22	27	44	22	21	8
Oct 24-28, 2012	49	22	27	40	19	21	11
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	48	23	25	44	24	20	8
Jun 7-17, 2012	48	23	25	44	23	21	9
Apr 4-15, 2012	47	22	25	43	22	21	11
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	--	--	44	--	--	9
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	45	20	25	46	25	21	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	16	27	47	26	22	10
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	41	17	24	48	24	24	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	39	14	25	53	31	22	8
Mid-April, 2009	35	14	21	54	31	23	11
August, 2008	39	13	26	52	30	22	9
June, 2008	40	15	25	52	31	21	8
Late May, 2008	38	15	23	49	29	20	13
November, 2007	36	12	24	54	29	25	10
August, 2007	36	13	23	55	31	24	9
Early January, 2007	37	13	24	55	33	22	8
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	30	10	20	57	31	26	13
July, 2006	35	12	23	56	31	25	9
June, 2006	33	13	20	55	32	23	12
March, 2006	39	10	29	51	28	23	10
July, 2005	36	13	23	53	31	22	11
December, 2004	32	14	18	61	38	23	7
August, 2004	29	8	21	60	35	25	11
July, 2004	32	10	22	56	33	23	12
Mid-March, 2004	32	10	22	59	35	24	9
Early February, 2004	30	9	21	63	42	21	7
November, 2003	30	10	20	62	41	21	8
October, 2003	30	9	21	58	33	25	12

² In May 1-5, 2013, Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012, Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011, July 21-Aug 5, 2010, Aug 11-17, 2009, August 2008, August 2007, Early January 2007, Early November 2006, March 2006, July 2005, December 2004, Early February 2004, November 2003, Mid-July 2003, March 2001 and June 1996 the question was asked as part of a list of items. In Jun 7-17, 2012, Apr 4-15, 2012, August 2009, April 2009, May 2008 and June 2008, the question read "allowing gay and lesbian couples;" all other instances read "allowing gays and lesbians."

Q.19 CONTINUED...

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<i>Strongly</i>			<i>Strongly</i>			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
Mid-July, 2003	38	10	28	53	30	23	9
March, 2001	35	8	27	57	34	23	8
June, 1996	27	6	21	65	41	24	8

NO QUESTIONS 20-34**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

- Q.35 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]**?

	<u>Should keep out</u>	<u>Should express views</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 2-9, 2014	48	49	3
Mar 7-11, 2012	54	40	6
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	52	43	5
August, 2008	52	45	3
July, 2006	46	51	3
July, 2005	44	51	5
August, 2004	44	51	5
Mid-July, 2003	44	52	4
March, 2001	43	51	6
September, 2000 (RVs) ³	45	51	4
June, 1996	43	54	3
Gallup: February, 1968	53	40	7
Gallup: March, 1957	44	48	8

ASK ALL:

- Q.36 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?

	<u>Should come out in favor of candidates</u>	<u>Should not come out in favor of candidates</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 2-9, 2014	32	63	5
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	27	66	7
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	24	70	6
August, 2008	29	66	5
August, 2007	28	63	9
August, 2004	25	65	10
March, 2002	22	70	8

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?

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 2-9, 2014	30	41	23	7
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	30	25	7
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	29	37	24	10
August, 2008	29	36	28	7

³ In 2000 and earlier, the question did not include "and other houses of worship."

Q.37 CONTINUED...

	<u>Too much</u>	<u>Too little</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 2007	27	38	26	9
July, 2005	26	39	27	8
August, 2004	27	31	32	10
Mid-July, 2003	21	41	29	9
March, 2002 ⁴	16	24	53	7
Early October, 2001	12	22	60	6

ASK ALL:

Q.38 At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on American life or losing its influence?

	<u>Increasing Influence</u>	<u>Losing Influence</u>	(VOL.) <u>Same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Sep 2-9, 2014	22	72	2	4
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	25	66	2	7
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	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

ASK IF GAVE RESPONSE IN Q.38 (Q.38=1,2,3), ASK:

Q.39 All in all, do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?

BASED ON TOTAL:

Sep 2-9 <u>2014</u>		Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>	Jul 21-Aug 5 <u>2010</u>	Jul <u>2006</u>	Mar <u>2002</u>
22	Increasing influence	25	23	34	37
12	Good thing	16	13	21	31
10	Bad thing	8	7	11	4
1	Both/Neither/Depends (VOL.)	1	2	1	1
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*	1	1	1
72	Losing influence	66	67	59	52
12	Good thing	12	10	6	5
56	Bad thing	49	53	50	44
2	Both/Neither/Depends (VOL.)	3	2	2	2
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	2	1	1
2	Same (VOL.)	2	3	2	3
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	7	5	8

⁴ In March 2002 the question was worded, "Since September 11th, 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."

NO QUESTIONS 40-41**ASK ALL:**

Q.42 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?

Sep 2-9 2014		Jul 21-Aug 5 2010
21	Completely agree	21
38	Mostly agree	40
20	Mostly disagree	21
18	Completely disagree	13
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5

NO QUESTIONS 43-46**ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.47 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; RANDOMIZE]** is generally friendly toward religion, neutral toward religion, or unfriendly toward religion? How about **[SECOND ITEM]**? Do you feel that **[ITEM]** is generally friendly toward religion, neutral toward religion, or unfriendly toward religion? And, how about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Do you feel that [ITEM] is generally friendly toward religion, neutral toward religion, or unfriendly toward religion?]**

	Friendly	Neutral	Unfriendly	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a. The Democratic Party				
Sep 2-9, 2014	29	39	25	6
Mar 7-11, 2012	35	36	21	8
Nov 9-14, 2011	30	40	20	11
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. The Republican Party				
Sep 2-9, 2014	47	30	15	7
Mar 7-11, 2012	54	24	13	10
Nov 9-14, 2011	43	26	19	12
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
c. The Obama administration				
Sep 2-9, 2014	30	37	29	4
Mar 7-11, 2012	39	32	23	6
Aug 20-27, 2009	37	36	17	10

Q.47 CONTINUED...

	<u>Friendly</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfriendly</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
d. The Supreme Court Sep 2-9, 2014	21	50	22	7

NO QUESTIONS 48-51**ASK ALL:**

Now a different kind of question...

Q.52 If a business provides wedding services, such as catering or flowers, should that business **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]** OR, should it **[READ]**?

Sep 2-9

2014

47

Be allowed to refuse those services to same-sex couples for religious reasons
Be required to provide those services to same-sex couples as it would to all other

49 customers

4 Don't know/Refused **(VOL.)**

QUESTIONS 53-54, 59, 61-64 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 55-58, 60, 65-66****ASK ALL:**

Q.67 Just your impression, in the United States today, is there a lot of discrimination against **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**, or not? In the United States today, is there a lot of discrimination against **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**, or not? How about **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**? **[REPEAT ONLY AS NECESSARY: In the United States today, is there a lot of discrimination against [INSERT], or not?]**

	<u>Yes, there is a lot of discrimination</u>	<u>No, not a lot of discrimination</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
a. Evangelical Christians			
Sep 2-9, 2014	31	62	7
Jun 13-16, 2013	30	57	12
Aug 11-17, 2009	27	56	17
b. Muslims			
Sep 2-9, 2014	59	36	5
Jun 13-16, 2013	47	43	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	58	29	13
c. Jews			
Sep 2-9, 2014	32	64	4
Jun 13-16, 2013	24	68	8
Aug 11-17, 2009	35	54	11
d. Catholics			
Sep 2-9, 2014	19	77	4
Jun 13-16, 2013	17	78	5
e. Atheists, that is, people who don't believe in God			
Sep 2-9, 2014	27	67	6
Jun 13-16, 2013	24	68	8
Aug 11-17, 2009	26	59	14

Q.67 CONTINUED...

	<u>Yes, there is a lot of discrimination</u>	<u>No, not a lot of discrimination</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
f. Blacks			
Sep 2-9, 2014	54	43	2
Jun 13-16, 2013	47	50	3
Aug 11-17, 2009	49	46	5
g. Hispanics			
Sep 2-9, 2014	50	48	3
Jun 13-16, 2013	46	50	4
Aug 11-17, 2009	52	41	7
h. Gays and lesbians			
Sep 2-9, 2014	65	32	3
Jun 13-16, 2013	58	37	5
Aug 11-17, 2009	64	30	6

ASK ALL:

Q.68 Do you think it is a sin, or not, to engage in homosexual behavior?

<u>Sep 2-9</u> <u>2014</u>		<u>May 1-5</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>Oct</u> <u>2003</u>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>Aug 1987</u>
50	Is a sin	45	55	69
43	Is not a sin	45	33	21
8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	10	12	10

**QUESTION 69 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 70-77****ASK ALL:**

Q.78 Do you think of yourself as a member of a minority because of your religious beliefs, or not?

<u>Sep 2-9</u> <u>2014</u>		<u>Aug 11-17</u> <u>2009</u>	<u>Mar</u> <u>2001</u>
21	Yes	19	19
78	No	78	78
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	3

ASK IF EVANGELICAL CHRISTIAN AND NOT CATHOLIC (BORN=1 AND (RELIG=1,3,4,13 OR CHR=1)):

Q.79 In recent years, has it become more difficult to be an evangelical Christian in the U.S., has it become easier, or hasn't it changed very much?

BASED ON EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS [N=581]:

<u>Sep 2-9</u> <u>2014</u>	
34	Has become more difficult
8	Has become easier
53	Hasn't changed very much
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK IF CATHOLIC (RELIG=2):

Q.80 In recent years, has it become more difficult to be a Catholic in the U.S., has it become easier, or hasn't it changed very much?

BASED ON CATHOLICS [N=400]:

Sep 2-9

2014

18	Has become more difficult
8	Has become easier
73	Hasn't changed very much
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

* Undesignated⁵**ASK IF UNAFFILIATED (RELIG=9,10,12):**

Q.81 In recent years, has it become more difficult to be a person with no religion in the U.S., has it become easier, or hasn't it changed very much?

BASED ON THOSE UNAFFILIATED WITH A RELIGION [N=409]:

Sep 2-9

2014

8	Has become more difficult
31	Has become easier
60	Hasn't changed very much
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

Q.82a Thinking about how the Republican Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on **[ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on **[ITEM]**? And, how about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]**

ASK Q.83a IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITEM IN Q.82a IF RESPONSE IS "NOT DOING A GOOD JOB" (Q.82a=2):

Q.83a Would you say that the Republican Party is [too willing to cut government spending] OR is it [not willing enough to cut government spending]? **[RANDOMIZE WORDING IN BRACKETS]**

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=863]:

a. Government spending

Sep 2-9

2014

35	Good job
60	Not a good job
8	Too willing to cut government spending
48	Not willing enough to cut government spending
4	Other reason/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

⁵ For some questions asked of a subset of eligible respondents and filtered on previous questions subject to backcoding, the term "undesignated" is used to denote those respondents who did not receive the question even though they should have received it.

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

Q.82b Thinking about how the Republican Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM]? And, how about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]

ASK Q.83b IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITEM IN Q.82b IF RESPONSE IS "NOT DOING A GOOD JOB" (Q.82b=2):

Q.83b Would you say that the Republican Party is [too willing to put restrictions on abortion] OR is it [Not willing enough to put restrictions on abortion]? [RANDOMIZE WORDING IN BRACKETS]

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=863]:

b. Abortion

Sep 2-9

2014

44	Good job
45	Not a good job
19	Too willing to put restrictions on abortion
24	Not willing enough to put restrictions on abortion
2	Other reason/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

Q.82c Thinking about how the Republican Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM]? And, how about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]

ASK Q.83c IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITEM IN Q.82c IF RESPONSE IS "NOT DOING A GOOD JOB" (Q.82c=2):

Q.83c Would you say that the Republican Party is [too willing to accept same-sex marriage] OR is it [not willing enough to accept same-sex marriage]? [RANDOMIZE WORDING IN BRACKETS]

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=863]:

c. Same-sex marriage

Sep 2-9

2014

34	Good job
53	Not a good job
22	Too willing to accept same-sex marriage
28	Not willing enough to accept same-sex marriage
4	Other reason/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

Q.82d Thinking about how the Republican Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM]? And, how about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]

ASK Q.83d IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITEM IN Q.82d IF RESPONSE IS "NOT DOING A GOOD JOB" (Q.82d=2):

Q.83d Would you say that the Republican Party is [too willing to allow immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to gain legal status] OR is it [not willing enough to allow immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to gain legal status]? [RANDOMIZE WORDING IN BRACKETS]

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=863]:

d. Illegal immigration

Sep 2-9

2014

37	Good job
56	Not a good job
33	Too willing to allow immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to gain legal status
18	Not willing enough to allow immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to gain legal status
5	Other reason/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2):

Q.84a Thinking about how the Democratic Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM]? And, how about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]

ASK Q.85a IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITEM IN Q.84a IF RESPONSE IS "NOT DOING A GOOD JOB" (Q.84a):

Q.85a Would you say that the Democratic Party is [too willing to cut government spending] OR is it [not willing enough to cut government spending]? [RANDOMIZE WORDING IN BRACKETS]

BASED ON DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS [N=913]:

a. Government spending

Sep 2-9

2014

49	Good job
45	Not a good job
12	Too willing to cut government spending
30	Not willing enough to cut government spending
3	Other reason/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2):

Q.84b Thinking about how the Democratic Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM]? And, how about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]

ASK Q.85b IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITEM IN Q.84b IF RESPONSE IS "NOT DOING A GOOD JOB" (Q.84b):

Q.85b Would you say that the Democratic Party is [too willing to put restrictions on abortion] OR is it [Not willing enough to put restrictions on abortion]? [RANDOMIZE WORDING IN BRACKETS]

BASED ON DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS [N=913]:

b. Abortion

Sep 2-9

2014

61	Good job
28	Not a good job
11	Too willing to put restrictions on abortion
16	Not willing enough to put restrictions on abortion
2	Other reason/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2):

Q.84c Thinking about how the Democratic Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM; RANDOMIZE]? How about [NEXT ITEM]? Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on [ITEM]? And, how about [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]

ASK Q.85c IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITEM IN Q.84c IF RESPONSE IS "NOT DOING A GOOD JOB" (Q.84c):

Q.85c Would you say that the Democratic Party is [too willing to accept same-sex marriage] OR is it [not willing enough to accept same-sex marriage]? [RANDOMIZE WORDING IN BRACKETS]

BASED ON DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS [N=913]:

c. Same-sex marriage

Sep 2-9

2014

62	Good job
28	Not a good job
15	Too willing to accept same-sex marriage
12	Not willing enough to accept same-sex marriage
2	Other reason/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2):

Q.84d Thinking about how the Democratic Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on **[ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on **[ITEM]**? And, how about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]**

ASK Q.85d IMMEDIATELY AFTER ITEM IN Q.84d IF RESPONSE IS "NOT DOING A GOOD JOB" (Q.84d):

Q.85d Would you say that the Democratic Party is [too willing to allow immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to gain legal status] OR is it [not willing enough to allow immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to gain legal status]? **[RANDOMIZE WORDING IN BRACKETS]**

BASED ON DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS [N=913]:

d. Illegal immigration

Sep 2-9

2014

47	Good job
44	Not a good job
21	Too willing to allow immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to gain legal status
20	Not willing enough to allow immigrants living in the U.S. illegally to gain legal status
2	Other reason/Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

QUESTIONS 86-87 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE