



FOR RELEASE: THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010, 12:01AM

Religion, Politics and the President

Growing Number of Americans Say Obama is a Muslim

Results from the 2010 Annual Religion and Public Life Survey

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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).

Sharp Decline in Percentage Saying Obama is a Christian

<i>What is Obama's religion?</i>	Mar 2008	Oct 2008	Mar 2009	Aug 2010	09-10 Change
Christian	47	51	48	34	-14
Muslim	12	12	11	18	+7
Other	2	2	1	2	+1
Don't know	36	32	34	43	+9
Refused	3	3	6	2	
	100	100	100	100	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.
 "Do you happen to know what Barack Obama's religion is? Is he Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic or something else?"

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 21-Aug. 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

Perceptions of Obama's Religion Linked to Job Approval

<i>Obama job performance</i>	<i>Say Obama's religion is...</i>			
	Total %	Christian %	Muslim %	Don't know %
Approve	47	62	26	44
Disapprove	41	29	67	40
Don't know	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>17</u>
	100	100	100	100
N	3003	1121	558	1213

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q1 & Q58. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Presidents and Religion: Comparing Obama and Bush

<i>Relies on his religious beliefs when making policy decisions...</i>	Bush 2004 %	Obama 2010 %	Diff
A great deal	26	14	-12
A fair amount	38	27	-11
Not very much	28	43	+15
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>16</u>	+8
	100	100	

<i>Relies on his religious beliefs when making policy decisions...</i>	Bush 2004	Obama 2010	Diff
Too much	15	11	-4
Too little	21	21	0
Right amount	53	48	-5
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>20</u>	+9
	100	100	

<i>Mentions his religious faith and prayer...</i>	Bush 2006	Obama 2010	Diff
Too much	24	10	-14
Too little	14	19	+5
Right amount	52	53	+1
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>17</u>	+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).

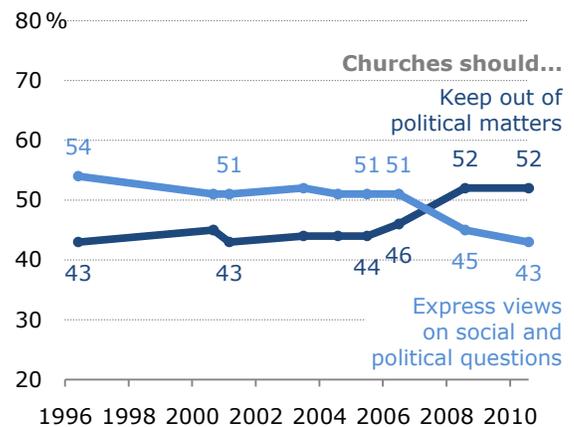
The survey also finds about half of the public (52%) says that churches should keep out of politics, while 43% say churches and other houses of worship should express their views on social and political questions. That is largely unchanged from 2008, but over the previous decade (from 1996 to 2006),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

More Say Churches Should Keep Out of Politics



PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q20.

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.

Increasing Number Uncertain about Obama's Religion

	<i>Obama is a Christian</i>			<i>Obama is a Muslim</i>			<i>Don't know his religion</i>		
	Mar 2009 %	Aug 2010 %	Change	Mar 2009 %	Aug 2010 %	Change	Mar 2009 %	Aug 2010 %	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 who say he mentions his faith the right amount 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.

Views of Obama's Approach to Religion

	<i>Mentions his religious faith and prayer...</i>			<i>Relies on religious beliefs to make policy decisions...</i>		
	Too much	Too little	About right	Too much	Too little	About right
	%	%	%	%	%	%
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

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Q23F2 & Q24F1.

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

Among those who say Obama's religion is...

	Christian	Muslim	Don't know
	%	%	%
<i>Mentions his religious faith and prayer...</i>			
Too much	6	24	9
Too little	12	31	20
Right amount	68	30	51
Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>21</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Relies on religious beliefs to make policy decisions...</i>			
Too much	3	29	9
Too little	18	25	21
Right amount	66	31	43
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>27</u>
	100	100	100
N top	572	282	599
N bottom	543	276	614

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Q23F2, Q24F1 & Q58.

Obama's Reliance on Faith Viewed Less Positively than Bush's

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

	Bush 2004	Obama 2010
<i>% saying this is...</i>		
Too much	27	39
Too little	7	4
Right amount	63	50
Don't know	<u>4</u>	<u>7</u>
	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

Religion Seen as Losing Influence

	<i>% who say religion is losing influence on...</i>					
	<i>American life...</i>			<i>Government leaders...</i>		
	Jul 2006	Aug 2010	Diff	Jul 2006	Aug 2010	Diff
	%	%		%	%	
Total	59	67	+8	45	62	+17
Republican	61	82	+21	52	72	+20
Democrat	60	58	-2	43	52	+9
Independent	56	65	+9	42	67	+25
Protestant	61	70	+9	53	67	+14
White evang	59	79	+20	58	78	+20
White mainline	61	67	+6	47	61	+14
Black Prot.	n/a	55	n/a	n/a	56	n/a
Catholic	61	71	+10	40	62	+22
White Catholic	61	74	+13	43	61	+18
Unaffiliated	n/a	62	n/a	34	54	+20

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.
Q26 & Q27.

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

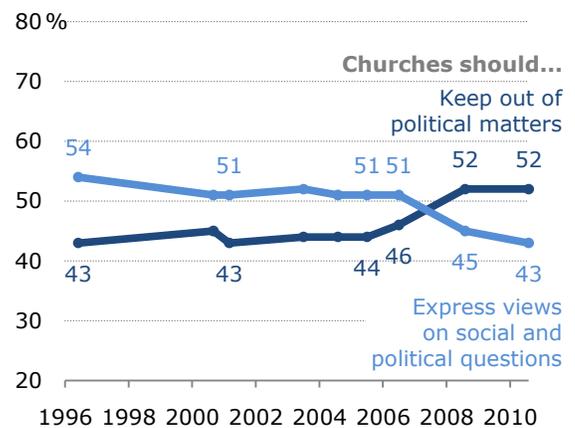
A narrow majority of Americans (52%) now say churches and other houses of worship should keep out of political matters while 43% say that houses of worship should express their views on day-to-day social and political questions.

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).

More Say Churches Should Keep Out of Politics



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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

<i>Churches should express views...</i>	July 2006 %	Aug 2010 %	06-10 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
<i>Religious attendance</i>			
Weekly or more	61	54	-7
Monthly/Yearly	50	39	-11
Seldom/Never	39	31	-8

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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 non-Hispanic 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 %	Disagree %	DK %
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
White evangelical	83	13	4=100
White mainline	64	31	5=100
Black Protestant	71	23	6=100
Catholic	64	32	4=100
White Catholic	66	29	4=100
Hispanic Catholic	61	35	4=100
Unaffiliated	30	66	4=100
Atheist/Agnostic	15	85	0=100
Nothing in particular	36	59	5=100
<i>Religious attendance</i>			
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 one-third (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 %	DK %
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
<i>Religious attendance</i>				
Weekly or more	17	52	22	9=100
Monthly/Yearly	33	32	28	8=100
Seldom/Never	44	21	24	12=100

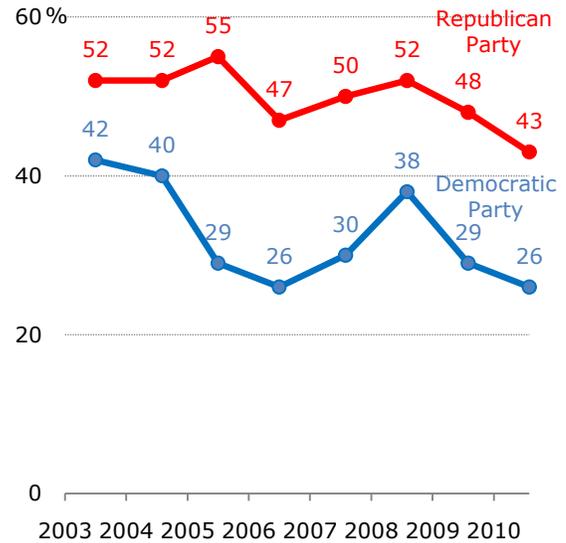
PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Q22.
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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



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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 is friendly toward religion	Democratic Party			Republican Party		
	2009 %	2010 %	Change	2009 %	2010 %	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
White evangelical	19	18	-1	53	46	-7
White mainline	26	23	-3	49	49	0
Black Protestant	45	45	0	26	23	-3
Catholic	24	28	+4	47	41	-6
White Catholic	24	25	+1	49	47	-2
Unaffiliated	36	26	-10	52	46	-6
<i>Religious attendance</i>						
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

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

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 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.

More Aware of the “Religious Right” than “Religious Left”

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

	Religious Right %	Religious Left %
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.

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 %	Dis- agree %	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 %	Dis- agree %	No opinion %	Haven't heard of %
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
White evang	2	20	28	50=100
White mainline	5	10	24	61=100
Black Protestant	6	3	31	60=100
Catholic	4	9	24	62=100
White Catholic	3	11	23	63=100
Hispanic Catholic	5	3	26	65=100
Unaffiliated	2	9	23	66=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010 Q41b, Q42b. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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 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.

Religious Groups and the 2010 Congressional Elections

	Vote Rep %	Vote Dem %	DK %	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
<i>Religious attendance</i>				
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

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 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%).

Interest in Midterms and Likelihood of Voting

	Given a lot of thought to election	Absolutely certain to vote
	%	%
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
<i>Religious attendance</i>		
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.

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 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.

GOP Gains in Party Identification

	<i>Political Party Identification</i>							
	Democrat/ lean Democrat				Republican/ lean Republican			
	2006	2008	2010	08-10 diff	2006	2008	2010	08-10 diff
	%	%	%		%	%	%	
All registered voters	49	51	47	-4	41	39	43	+4
Protestant	45	46	43	-3	46	45	49	+4
White evangelical	29	28	24	-4	63	65	69	+4
White mainline	45	45	41	-4	45	45	49	+4
Black Protestants	82	89	88	-1	10	5	7	+2
Catholic	52	53	48	-5	39	37	43	+6
White Catholic	49	49	41	-8	43	41	50	+9
Hispanic Catholic*	63	66	71	+5	30	25	22	-3
Jewish	68	72	60	-12	26	20	33	+13
Mormon	21	19	21	+2	72	68	73	+5
Unaffiliated**	62	64	57	-7	25	25	29	+4
<i>Religious attendance</i>								
Weekly or more	42	43	40	-3	49	48	53	+5
Monthly/Yearly	53	55	49	-6	39	36	42	+6
Seldom/Never	58	60	55	-5	31	29	32	+3

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

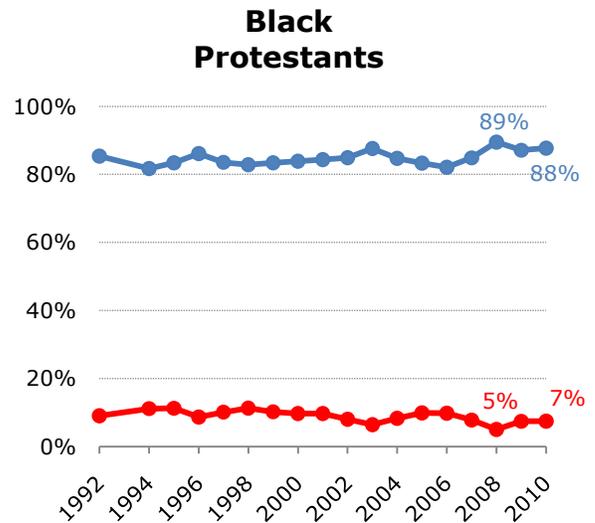
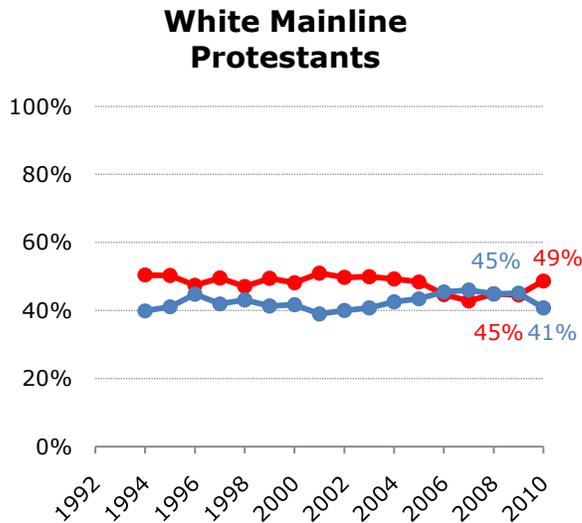
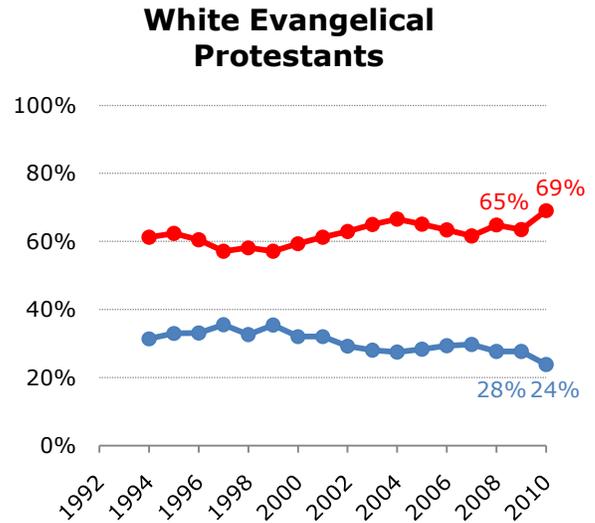
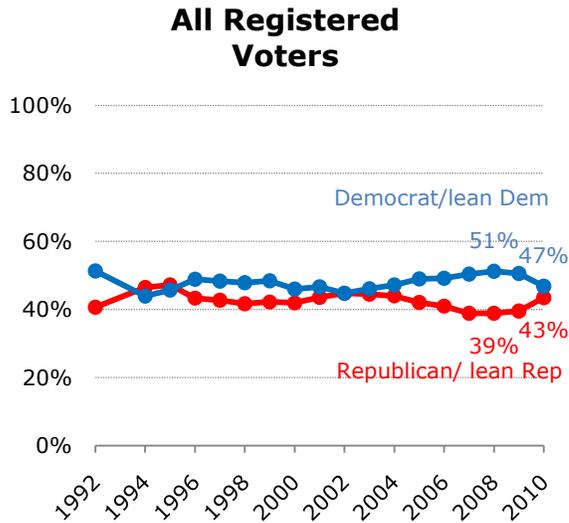
Statistically significant changes are indicated in boldface type.

* 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."

Party Affiliation by Religion – Long Term Trend

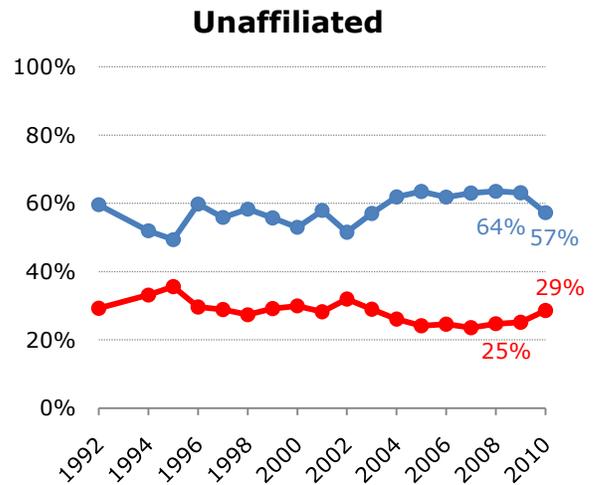
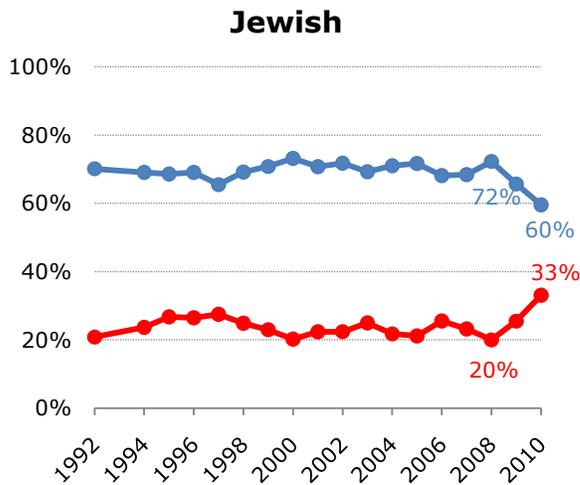
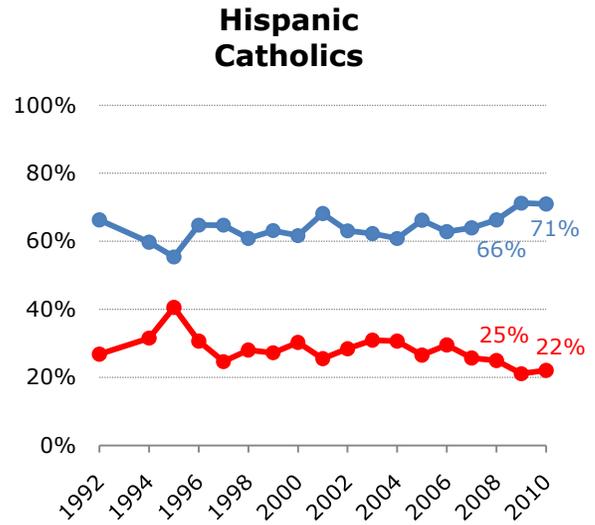
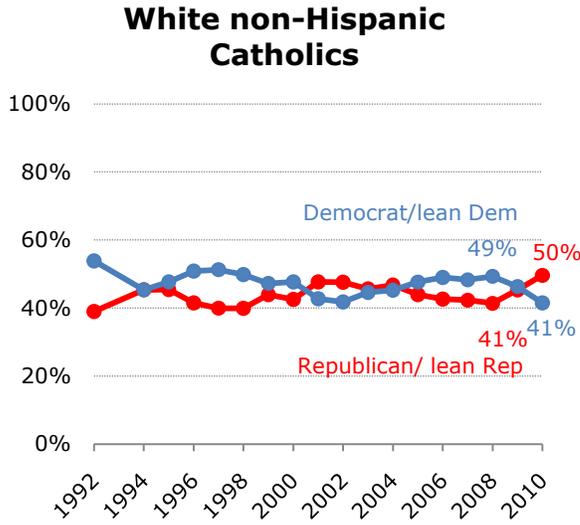
Party identification, including independents who lean toward a party, among registered voters



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Based on aggregated surveys from 1992-2010.
Based on registered voters.

Party Affiliation by Religion – Long Term Trend

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



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Based on aggregated surveys from 1992-2010. Based on registered voters.

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 21-August 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:

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**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE
2010 RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
July 21-August 5, 2010
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]**

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Dis- approve</u>	<u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	41	12
Jun 16-20, 2010	48	43	9
May 6-9, 2010	47	42	11
Apr 21-26, 2010	47	42	11
Apr 8-11, 2010	48	43	9
Mar 10-14, 2010	46	43	12
Feb 3-9, 2010	49	39	12
Jan 6-10, 2010	49	42	10
Dec 9-13, 2009	49	40	11
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	51	36	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	52	36	12
Sep 10-15, 2009	55	33	13
Aug 20-27, 2009	52	37	12
Aug 11-17, 2009	51	37	11
Jul 22-26, 2009	54	34	12
Jun 10-14, 2009	61	30	9
Apr 14-21, 2009	63	26	11
Mar 31-Apr 6, 2009	61	26	13
Mar 9-12, 2009	59	26	15
Feb 4-8, 2009	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 [N=2431]:

		<u>Quite A lot</u>	<u>(VOL.) Some</u>	<u>Only a Little</u>	<u>(VOL.) None/DK/Ref</u>
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	<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1990 ¹	43	7	46	4
	<i>Gallup</i> : October, 1982	29	22	37	12

¹ Gallup trends based on general public.

THOUGHT CONTINUED...

		Quite A lot	(VOL.) Some	Only a Little	(VOL.) DK/Ref
1978	Gallup: October, 1978	23	22	39	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 [N=2431]:

	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	(VOL.) Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
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

February, 1998	41	50	9
Q.2/Q.2a CONTINUED...			
			(VOL.)
	Rep/ <u>Lean Rep</u>	Dem/ <u>Lean Dem</u>	Other/ <u>Undecided</u>
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 to vote	Absolutely certain	Fairly certain	Not certain	No, don't plan to	(VOL.) DK/Ref
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	91	70	17	3	7	2
Jun 16-20, 2010	90	69	19	2	8	2
Mar 11-21, 2010	91	69	20	2	6	3
2008 Election						
Mid-October, 2008 ⁴	97	92	5	*	2	1
Early October, 2008	97	92	4	1	2	1
Late September, 2008	97	91	6	*	2	1
Mid-September, 2008	97	90	6	1	2	1
August, 2008	97	--	--	--	2	1
July, 2008	97	--	--	--	2	1
June, 2008	95	85	8	2	2	3
2006 Election						
November, 2006	90	--	--	--	8	2
Late October, 2006	94	--	--	--	3	3
Early October, 2006	93	75	17	1	4	3
Early September, 2006	92	--	--	--	5	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?"

PLANTO1/PLANTO2 CONTINUED. . .

	Yes, plan to vote	Absolutely certain	Fairly certain	Not certain	No, don't plan to	(VOL.) 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	97	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 <u>2010</u>		Aug <u>2008</u>	Jul <u>2006</u>	Jul <u>2005</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	Mid-Jul <u>2003</u>	Mar <u>2001</u>	Sep <u>2000</u> ⁵	Jun <u>1996</u>	— Gallup — <u>Feb-68</u>	<u>Mar-57</u>
52	Should keep out	52	46	44	44	44	43	45	43	53	44
43	Should express 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 <u>2010</u>		Aug <u>2008</u>	Aug <u>2007</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	Mar <u>2002</u>
24	Should come out in favor of candidates	29	28	25	22
70	Should not come out in favor of candidates	66	63	65	70
6	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	5	9	10	8

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- Aug 5 <u>2010</u>		Aug <u>2008</u>	Aug <u>2007</u>	Jul <u>2005</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	Mid-Jul <u>2003</u>	Mar <u>2002</u> ⁶	Early Oct <u>2001</u> 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 [N=1512]:

Q.23F2 Do you think Barack Obama mentions his religious faith and prayer too much, too little, or about the right amount?

		-----George W. Bush-----			
Jul 21- Aug 5 <u>2010</u>		July <u>2006</u> ⁸	Jul <u>2005</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	Mid- Jul <u>2003</u>
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

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 11th, 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 In July 2006 and before the question asked about George W. Bush.

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?

George W. Bush

Jul 21- Aug 5 <u>2010</u>		Aug <u>2004</u> ⁹	Mid-Jul <u>2003</u>
14	A great deal	26	20
27	A fair amount	38	40
43	Not very much	28	31
16	Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)	8	9

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?

George W. Bush

Jul 21- Aug 5 <u>2010</u>		Aug <u>2004</u> ¹⁰	Mid-Jul <u>2003</u>
11	Too much	15	10
21	Too little	21	21
48	Right amount	53	58
20	Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)	11	11

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 <u>Influence</u>	Losing <u>Influence</u>	Same (VOL.)	No <u>Opinion</u>
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

⁹ 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?"

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 TOTAL FORM 1 [N=1491]:

Jul 21-Aug 5 2010		Jul 2006	Mar 2002
23	Increasing influence	34	37
13	Good thing	21	3
7	Bad thing	11	4
2	Both/Neither/Depends (VOL.)	1	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?

	Increasing Influence	Losing Influence	Same (VOL.)	No Opinion
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	23	62	4	10
Jul 6-19, 2006	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 2010		Jul 2006
23	Increasing influence	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?

	Aug <u>2008</u>	August <u>2007</u>	August <u>2004</u>	Sept <u>2000 (RVs)</u>
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?

	<u>Friendly</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfriendly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
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

	<u>Friendly</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfriendly</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
b. 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):

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

IF R NAMED A NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGION IN PREVIOUS QUESTION (e.g. Native American, Wiccan, Pagan, etc.), DO NOT READ (ENTER "NO" CODE 2)

42	Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
23	Roman Catholic (Catholic)
2	Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
1	Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
2	Jewish (Judaism)
1	Muslim (Islam)
1	Buddhist
*	Hindu
2	Atheist (do not believe in God)
3	Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
1	Something else (SPECIFY)
12	Nothing in particular
9	Christian (VOL.)
*	Unitarian (Universalist) (VOL.)
2	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.)
*	Undesignated
78%	Christian

ASK ALL:

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

	More than <u>once a week</u>	Once <u>a week</u>	Once or twice <u>a month</u>	A few times <u>a year</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	14	25	14	20	15	11	2
August, 2009	14	23	16	18	16	11	1
August, 2008	13	26	16	19	15	10	1
Aug, 2007	14	26	16	18	16	9	1
July, 2006	15	25	15	18	14	12	1
July, 2005	14	27	14	19	14	11	1
Aug, 2004	13	25	15	20	15	11	1
July, 2003	16	27	15	18	14	10	*
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

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]

		(RVs)				
Jul 21-Aug 5 <u>2010</u>		March 2009 ¹¹	Mid-Oct 2008	Mid-Sept 2008	June 2008	March 2008
34	Christian (include volunteers of: Protestant, 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 <u>2010</u>	
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

¹¹ In August 2009 and before, respondents who answered Don't Know were asked: "Is this because you've heard different things about his religion, or because you just don't know enough about him?"

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?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
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	--	--	--	--	--