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# Most Democrats and Republicans Know Biden Is Catholic, but They Differ Sharply About How Religious He Is

*Catholics are divided along party lines on whether Biden should be allowed to receive Communion*

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## How we did this

Pew Research Center conducted this survey to measure what Americans know and think about the religious faith of Joe Biden and Kamala Harris. The study also explores Catholics' attitudes about whether Catholic politicians – including Joe Biden – should be barred from receiving Communion if they disagree with the Catholic Church's teachings about a variety of political issues. For this report, we surveyed 12,055 U.S. adults (including 2,492 Catholics) from March 1 to 7, 2021. All respondents to the survey are part of the Center's American Trends Panel (ATP), an online survey panel that is recruited through national random sampling of residential addresses. This way nearly all U.S. adults have a chance of selection. The survey is weighted to be representative of the U.S. adult population by gender, race, ethnicity, partisan affiliation, education, religious affiliation and other categories. For more, see the [ATP's methodology](#) and the [methodology for this report](#).

The questions used in this report can be found [here](#).

# Most Democrats and Republicans Know Biden Is Catholic, but They Differ Sharply About How Religious He Is

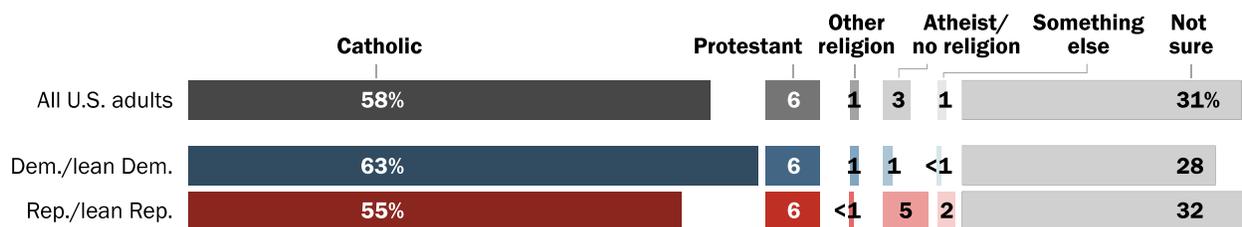
*Catholics are divided along party lines on whether Biden should be allowed to receive Communion*

Joe Biden is just the second Catholic president in U.S. history, after John F. Kennedy. Most U.S. adults know that Biden is Catholic, including majorities within both major political parties, according to a new Pew Research Center survey.

But partisan similarities in views about Biden’s religion end there. Republicans and Democrats have vastly different views about how religious Biden is and whether he talks about his religious faith too much, too little or the right amount. This political divide extends even to Biden’s fellow Catholics, who are deeply split along party lines over whether Biden’s views about abortion should disqualify him from receiving Communion.

## Roughly six-in-ten U.S. adults know Joe Biden is Catholic

*As far as you know, what is Joe Biden’s religion?*



Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults.

“Most Democrats and Republicans Know Biden Is Catholic, but They Differ Sharply About How Religious He Is”

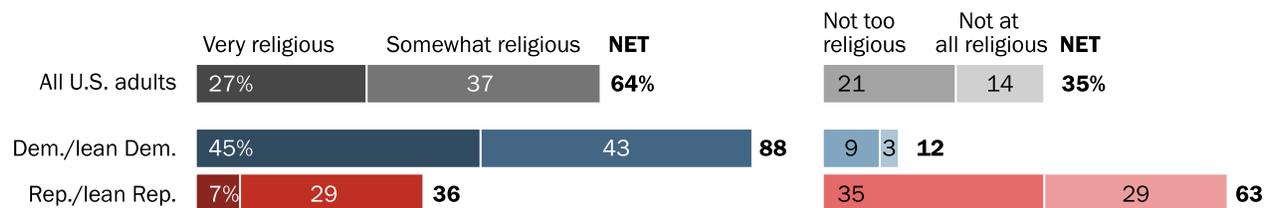
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Overall, roughly six-in-ten U.S. adults – including 63% of Democrats and independents who lean toward the Democratic Party, along with a slightly smaller majority of Republicans and Republican leaners (55%) – say Joe Biden is Catholic. Most of the remainder say they are not sure what Biden’s religion is, while about one-in-ten say that Biden practices a religion other than Catholicism or that he is not religious. A small handful of Republicans volunteer that Biden is a “fake Catholic” or a “Catholic in name only,” or offer other insulting comments.

While majorities in both parties know that Biden is Catholic, they disagree profoundly about the role of religion in his private and public life. Nearly nine-in-ten Democrats say that Biden is at least “somewhat” religious, including 45% who say they think he is a “very” religious person. By contrast, almost two-thirds of people who identify with or lean toward the GOP (63%) say that Biden is “not too” or “not at all” religious.

## Most Democrats say Biden is at least somewhat religious and mentions his faith about the right amount; most Republicans disagree

*How religious do you think Joe Biden is?*



*Do you think Joe Biden mentions his religious faith and prayer ...*



Note: Those who did not answer the question about how religious Joe Biden is are not shown. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults.

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On the whole, the share of Americans who say Biden is a “very” or “somewhat” religious person has risen from 55% in February 2020 to 64% today. Over that period, there has been a particularly pronounced increase in the share of Americans who say Biden is “very” religious (from 9% in February 2020 to 27% today). But virtually all of this increase has happened among Democrats; among members of Biden’s own party, 13% described him as very religious early last year, compared with 45% today.

It is possible that Democrats heard Biden talking about his faith on the campaign trail and since his election. Religion has been a consistent theme in his remarks in recent months, from the [Democratic National Convention](#) to his [victory speech in November](#) to his [inauguration in January](#).

While eight-in-ten Democrats (79%) say Joe Biden mentions his religious faith and prayer about the right amount, fewer than half of Republicans (42%) agree.

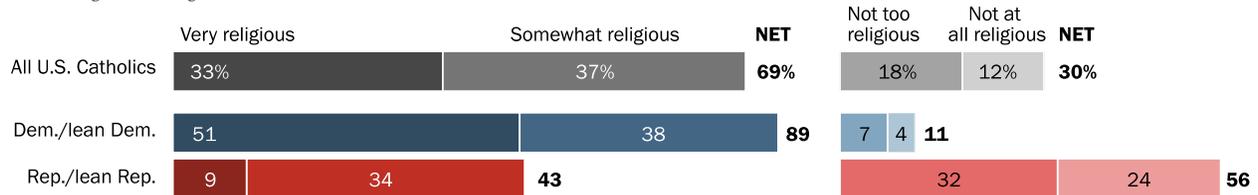
Even among Biden’s fellow Catholics, partisanship permeates views of Biden’s religion. Nine-in-ten Democratic and Democratic-leaning Catholics say they think Biden is at least somewhat religious, including half who say he is “very” religious. Among Republican and Republican-leaning Catholics, by contrast, a 56% majority say Biden is “not too” or “not at all” religious. And while eight-in-ten Catholic Democrats say they think Biden discusses his faith “about the right amount,” barely half as many Catholic Republicans say the same (42%).

The survey finds, furthermore, that a slim majority of Catholic Republicans (55%) think that Biden’s views about abortion should disqualify him from receiving Communion in the Catholic Church. But nearly nine-in-ten Catholic Democrats (87%) come down on the other side of this question, saying that Biden *should* be allowed to receive the Eucharist. [Biden has said](#) that he wants to make *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark 1973 Supreme Court decision that established a woman’s right to an abortion nationwide, the “law of the land,” among [other policy changes](#). As a result, some Catholic clergy have [called for Biden to be denied Communion](#), and U.S. bishops [may produce a document](#) on the issue.

## Most Catholic Republicans think Biden's abortion views should disqualify him from Communion; nine-in-ten Catholic Democrats disagree

Based on U.S. Catholics

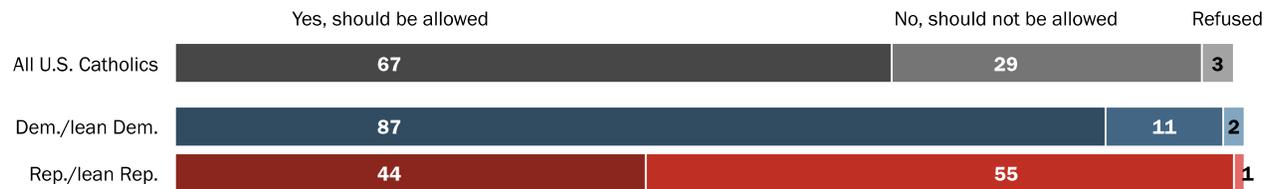
How religious do you think Joe Biden is?



Do you think Joe Biden mentions his religious faith and prayer ...



Thinking about Biden and his views about abortion, do you think he should be allowed to receive Communion in the Catholic Church?



Note: Based on Catholics. Those who did not answer the question about how religious Joe Biden is are not shown. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults.

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These are among the key findings of a new Pew Research Center survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among 12,055 U.S. adults (including 2,492 Catholics) on the Center’s online, nationally representative American Trends Panel. More information on how the survey was conducted is available in the methodology.

In addition to asking about whether Biden should be allowed to receive Communion, the survey also asked Catholics whether, in general, Catholic politicians who disagree with the church’s teachings about a variety of issues should be allowed to go to Communion.

Overall, three-in-ten Catholics say that Catholic political figures who disagree with church teaching about abortion should be barred from Communion.<sup>1</sup> But fewer say this should be the case for those who disagree with the church over homosexuality (19%) or the death penalty (18%), and just one-in-ten say Catholic politicians who disagree with the church’s teachings on immigration should be disqualified from receiving the Eucharist.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> In 2004 – the last time either of the major parties had a Catholic at the top of the presidential ticket (John Kerry was the Democratic nominee) – Pew Research Center asked a different question on a telephone survey about Catholic politicians and access to Communion. At that time, 23% of Catholics said that it was “proper ... for Catholic Church leaders to deny Communion to Catholic politicians whose views on abortion and other life issues go against church teachings,” while 72% said this was “improper” and 5% expressed no opinion.

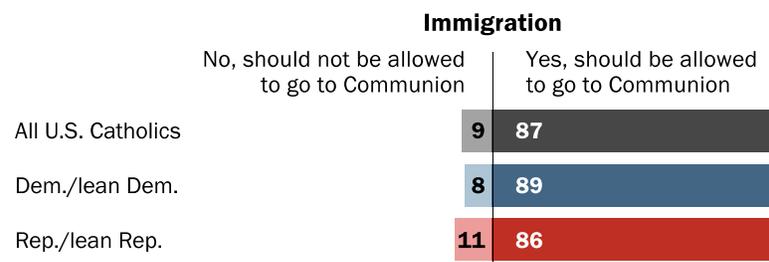
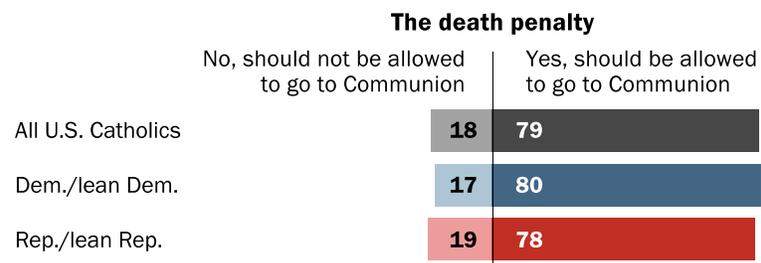
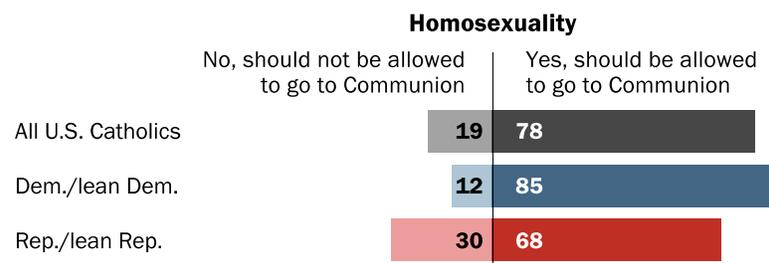
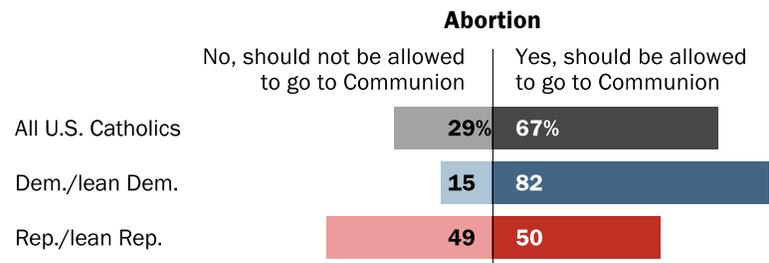
<sup>2</sup> The [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#) teaches that “[every procured abortion](#)” is a “[moral evil](#).” The church also [opposes same-sex marriage](#), and while the Catechism says that people who have “homosexual tendencies ... must be accepted with respect, compassion, and sensitivity,” it also says that “[homosexual acts are intrinsically disordered](#).” The death penalty is opposed by the church; Pope Francis recently revised [this section](#) of the Catechism to say that capital punishment is “inadmissible because it is an attack on the inviolability and dignity of the person.” On immigration, the [Catholic Church teaches](#) that people have a right to migrate to sustain their lives, and that while countries have a right to control their borders, the “more prosperous nations are obliged, to the extent they are able, to welcome the foreigner in search of the security and the means of livelihood which he cannot find in his country of origin.”

There are big partisan differences over whether politicians' views about abortion and homosexuality should make them ineligible for Communion. (Both of these are issues on which Catholic teaching might be described as "conservative" in the context of American politics.) Roughly half of Catholic Republicans (49%) say politicians who support legal abortion should *not* be able to receive the sacrament; just 15% of Catholic Democrats agree. And there is a partisan gap of 18 percentage points on the question about homosexuality: 30% of Catholic Republicans say politicians should be barred from Communion if they disagree with the church about homosexuality, compared with just 12% of Catholic Democrats who say the same.

On the other two issues raised in the survey – the death penalty and immigration, where Catholic teaching might best be described as "liberal" within the U.S. political context – there are no such partisan differences. Large majorities of Catholics in both parties say that Catholic politicians who

## Half of Catholic Republicans say politicians who disagree with church about abortion should not get Communion; fewer say the same about other issues

*Do you think Catholic politicians who disagree with the church's teachings about \_\_\_ should be allowed to go to Communion? (Based on U.S. Catholics)*



Note: Based on Catholics. Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults.

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disagree with the church about these issues should be able to present themselves for Communion.

Combining these questions shows that seven-in-ten Catholic Democrats don't think disagreeing with the church about *any* of the four issues raised by the survey should disqualify Catholic politicians from receiving Communion.

By contrast, most Republicans say they think it should be disqualifying if a Catholic politician disagrees with the church on at least one of these issues. This includes 18% of Catholic Republicans who think abortion is the sole issue of those presented by the survey that should be a litmus test for receiving Communion, along with 17% of Republicans who name both abortion and

one other issue (usually homosexuality). An additional 14% of Catholic Republicans say that three or four of these issues should be grounds for disqualifying Catholic politicians from receiving Communion in the event of a disagreement with the church.

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### Seven-in-ten Catholic Democrats say Catholic politicians should be allowed to go to Communion even if they disagree with church on variety of issues

*Of the political issues asked about in the survey, which should disqualify Catholic politicians from Communion if they disagree with the church's teachings? (Based on U.S. Catholics)*

	All U.S. Catholics	Dem./lean Dem.	Rep./lean Rep.
	%	%	%
<b>None</b>	<b>61</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>45</b>
<b>Abortion alone</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Abortion and another issue</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>17</b>
Abortion and homosexuality	7	2	13
Abortion and death penalty	3	3	2
Abortion and immigration	1	1	2
<b>Other combination of two issues (but not abortion)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Other single issue (but not abortion)</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Three or four issues</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>14</b>
	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Note: Based on Catholics. Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults.

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## Most U.S. adults do not know Vice President Harris' religion

The public is less familiar with Vice President Kamala Harris' religious identity than with Biden's, and fewer people say they think Harris is a religious person than say the same about Biden. Two-thirds of U.S. adults say they are not sure what Harris' religious identity is, while just 12% say that she is a Protestant (Harris identifies as Baptist).

About half of U.S. adults say they think Harris is a "very religious" (8%) or "somewhat religious" person (38%), while the other half say that she is "not too religious" (28%) or "not at all religious" (23%). Again, Democrats are far more likely than Republicans to see Harris as at least somewhat religious (69% vs. 19%), although equal shares in both parties say they do not know what Harris' religion is (64% each).

The remainder of this report explores these and other findings in more detail.

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## Two-thirds of Americans not sure what Kamala Harris' religion is

<i>As far as you know, what is Kamala Harris' religion?</i>	%
<b>Catholic</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Protestant</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Jewish</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Muslim</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Hindu</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Atheist</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Nothing in particular</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Something else</b>	<b>2</b>
Critical/negative comment	1
Other	1
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>65</b>
<b>No answer</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>100</b>

<i>How religious do you think Kamala Harris is?</i>	
<b>NET Very/somewhat religious</b>	<b>46</b>
Very religious	8
Somewhat religious	38
<b>NET Not too/not at all religious</b>	<b>52</b>
Not too religious	28
Not at all religious	23
<b>No answer</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>100</b>

Note: Figures may not add to 100% or to subtotals indicated due to rounding.  
Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults.

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## Six-in-ten U.S. adults know Biden is Catholic

Two-thirds of U.S. Catholics, including three-quarters of White Catholics, know that Joe Biden shares their religious identity. Three-quarters of U.S. Jews also know that Biden is Catholic, as do two-thirds of self-described atheists and agnostics. Among Black Protestants and those who describe their religion as “nothing in particular,” roughly half or fewer are able to identify Biden’s religion.

## Two-thirds of U.S. Catholics know that Biden is Catholic

*As far as you know, what is Joe Biden’s religion?*

	Catholic	Protestant	Other religion (Jewish, Hindu, etc.)	No religion	Other responses (e.g., insults, comments, etc.)	Not sure	No answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
All U.S. adults	58	6	1	3	1	31	<1=100
Christian	60	5	1	3	1	29	<1
Protestant	57	6	1	3	1	31	<1
White evangelical	62	4	<1	5	2	26	<1
White, not evang.	61	6	1	2	<1	29	<1
Black Protestant	46	8	1	1	0	43	1
Catholic	66	4	2	2	1	24	<1
White Catholic	75	4	2	1	2	16	<1
Hispanic Catholic	55	4	2	2	1	35	1
Jewish	75	11	0	6	0	8	0
Unaffiliated	51	7	1	2	1	38	1
Atheist/agnostic	66	10	1	1	<1	21	<1
Nothing in particular	43	5	1	3	1	47	1
Republican/lean Rep.	55	6	<1	5	2	32	<1
Democrat/lean Dem.	63	6	2	1	0	28	<1

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults.

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Americans are far less familiar with Kamala Harris’ religion than with Biden’s. Overall, about two-thirds of U.S. adults (65%) say they are not sure what the vice president’s religion is. One-in-eight (12%) correctly describe Harris as Protestant, while 3% say she is Hindu. Harris’ mother was from India and her father was from Jamaica, and “she was raised on Hinduism and Christianity,” according to [Religion News Service](#).

Majorities across a wide variety of religious groups say they are not sure what Harris' religion is. Jews, Black Protestants and self-described atheists and agnostics are able to correctly identify Harris' religion at slightly higher rates than those in some other religious groups. Still, even among these most knowledgeable groups, only about one-in-five know that Harris is Protestant.

While Democrats and Republicans are equally likely to say they don't know what Harris' religion is, there are differences among those who do give a response. Democrats are more likely to say that Harris is Protestant (18% vs. 7%), while Republicans are more inclined to say that she does not have a religion (15% vs. 3%).

## Two-thirds of U.S. adults say they are not sure what Harris' religion is

*As far as you know, what is Kamala Harris' religion?*

	Protestant	Catholic	Hindu	Other religion (Jewish, Muslim, etc.)	No religion	Other responses (e.g., insults, comments, etc.)	Not sure	No answer
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
All U.S. adults	12	5	3	4	8	1	65	2=100
Christian	12	5	2	3	10	1	64	3
Protestant	13	4	1	3	11	1	64	2
White evangelical	9	4	1	3	19	1	61	1
White, not evang.	14	3	1	3	8	<1	68	2
Black Protestant	19	5	2	3	3	0	63	5
Catholic	11	7	4	4	7	<1	64	3
White Catholic	13	4	3	3	11	<1	64	3
Hispanic Catholic	7	13	5	5	3	<1	66	1
Jewish	22	11	3	5	10	0	48	2
Unaffiliated	12	5	2	4	4	<1	71	2
Atheist/agnostic	21	7	2	4	4	<1	61	2
Nothing in particular	8	4	1	4	5	1	77	1
Republican/lean Rep.	7	5	2	4	15	1	64	2
Democrat/lean Dem.	18	6	3	3	3	<1	64	3

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults.

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### **Nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults say Biden is at least somewhat religious; fewer say the same about Harris**

Across a variety of religious groups, sizable majorities say they think Biden is at least somewhat religious, ranging from 60% of White Protestants who are not evangelical to 87% among Black Protestants. There is just one exception to this pattern: Only one-third of White evangelical Protestants (35%) say they think Biden is a religious person, while almost two-thirds (63%) say he is “not too” or “not at all” religious.

Fewer people in most religious groups say they think Harris is a “very” or “somewhat” religious person. Here again, the view that Harris is a religious person is most common among Black Protestants (78%) and least common among White evangelical Protestants (20%).

These differences among religious groups are [in line with patterns of partisanship](#): Black Protestants are among the most strongly and consistently Democratic constituencies in U.S. politics, while White evangelical Protestants are among the most reliably Republican groups.

## Democrats far more likely than Republicans to view Biden, Harris as religious people

*How religious do you think each of the following people are?*

	NET Very/ somewhat %	Joe Biden			NET Very/ somewhat %	Kamala Harris		
		Very %	Somewhat %	NET Not too/ not at all %		Very %	Somewhat %	NET Not too/ not at all %
All U.S. adults	<b>64</b>	27	37	<b>35</b>	<b>46</b>	8	38	<b>52</b>
Christian	<b>59</b>	26	34	<b>39</b>	<b>42</b>	8	34	<b>55</b>
Protestant	<b>55</b>	23	33	<b>43</b>	<b>40</b>	8	31	<b>57</b>
White evangelical	<b>35</b>	11	24	<b>63</b>	<b>20</b>	3	17	<b>77</b>
White, not evang.	<b>60</b>	25	35	<b>39</b>	<b>41</b>	3	38	<b>56</b>
Black Protestant	<b>87</b>	44	43	<b>11</b>	<b>78</b>	28	50	<b>20</b>
Catholic	<b>69</b>	33	37	<b>30</b>	<b>49</b>	9	40	<b>48</b>
White Catholic	<b>64</b>	31	33	<b>35</b>	<b>39</b>	5	34	<b>58</b>
Hispanic Catholic	<b>79</b>	36	43	<b>21</b>	<b>66</b>	14	51	<b>31</b>
Jewish	<b>67</b>	41	26	<b>33</b>	<b>41</b>	5	36	<b>57</b>
Unaffiliated	<b>72</b>	27	45	<b>27</b>	<b>53</b>	6	47	<b>45</b>
Atheist/agnostic	<b>80</b>	33	47	<b>19</b>	<b>51</b>	2	48	<b>48</b>
Nothing in particular	<b>67</b>	24	43	<b>32</b>	<b>54</b>	8	46	<b>44</b>
Republican/lean Rep.	<b>36</b>	7	29	<b>63</b>	<b>19</b>	3	16	<b>79</b>
Democrat/lean Dem.	<b>88</b>	45	43	<b>12</b>	<b>69</b>	12	57	<b>29</b>

Note: Those who did not answer are not shown.

Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults.

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The survey also asked respondents about how religious they think former President Donald Trump is, with overall results similar to early 2020. Today, 32% of U.S. adults say Trump is "very" or "somewhat" religious, while 67% say he is "not too" or "not at all" religious. In February 2020, 35% said Trump was at least somewhat religious and 63% said he was not too or not at all religious.

## Six-in-ten say Biden talks about his faith ‘about the right amount’

Six-in-ten U.S. adults say they think Biden mentions his religious faith and prayer “about the right amount,” while the remainder are divided as to whether he discusses his faith “too much” (14%) or “too little” (21%).

Majorities of people in nearly every religious group analyzed express the view that Biden discusses his religion the appropriate amount, topping out at 78% among Black Protestants. White evangelicals are the only group in which fewer than half of respondents say Biden discusses his faith “about the right amount” (41%); a similar share (39%) say Biden doesn’t talk about his faith enough.

Respondents who identify as atheist or agnostic are more likely than other Americans to say Biden discusses his faith too much (28%), but still, two-thirds in this group say Biden talks about religion the right amount (68%).

## Most Americans comfortable with how much Biden talks about his religion

% who say Joe Biden mentions his religious faith and prayer ...

	Too much %	Too little %	About the right amount %	Refused %
All U.S. adults	14	21	61	4=100
Christian	12	25	58	5
Protestant	11	28	56	6
White evangelical	14	39	41	6
White, non-evang.	13	20	61	5
Black Protestant	2	16	78	4
Catholic	14	19	64	3
White Catholic	18	16	63	3
Hispanic Catholic	8	23	67	2
Jewish	15	14	69	2
Unaffiliated	18	11	68	3
Atheist/agnostic	28	2	68	2
Nothing in particular	12	16	67	4
Republican/lean Rep.	20	33	42	5
Democrat/lean Dem.	8	11	79	1

Note: Figures may not add to 100% due to rounding. White and Black adults include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults. “Most Democrats and Republicans Know Biden Is Catholic, but They Differ Sharply About How Religious He Is”

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## Four-in-ten weekly Mass attenders say Biden, other politicians who disagree with the Catholic Church about abortion should not be allowed to go to Communion

U.S. Catholics who attend Mass at least once a week are considerably more likely than those who attend Mass less often to say that politicians who disagree with the church's position on abortion should be ineligible for Communion (42% vs. 24%). Weekly churchgoers also are more inclined than other Catholics to say disagreements over homosexuality and the death penalty are cause for barring politicians from the Eucharist. But there are no differences among Catholics based on frequency of church attendance when it comes to whether politicians who disagree with the church about immigration should be able to receive Communion.

## Three-in-ten Catholics say disagreeing with the church about abortion should disqualify Catholic politicians from Communion

*Should a Catholic politician who disagrees with the church's teaching about \_\_\_\_ be allowed to receive Communion in the Catholic Church? (Based on U.S. Catholics)*

	Abortion		Homosexuality		The death penalty		Immigration	
	Yes, should be allowed	No, should not be allowed	Yes, should be allowed	No, should not be allowed	Yes, should be allowed	No, should not be allowed	Yes, should be allowed	No, should not be allowed
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
All U.S. Catholics	67	29	78	19	79	18	87	9
Attend Mass weekly	55	42	71	27	73	22	88	8
Attend less	73	24	81	16	82	15	87	9
White, non-Hispanic	67	31	79	18	83	13	89	8
Hispanic	69	26	77	20	71	26	85	10
Ages 18-49	71	25	78	19	76	21	86	11
Ages 50+	65	33	77	19	81	14	89	7
Republican/lean Rep.	50	49	68	30	78	19	86	11
Democrat/lean Dem.	82	15	85	12	80	17	89	8

Note: Based on Catholics. Those who did not answer are not shown. White respondents include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.

Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults.

"Most Democrats and Republicans Know Biden Is Catholic, but They Differ Sharply About How Religious He Is"

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Catholics ages 50 and older are a bit more likely than younger Catholics to say politicians who support abortion rights should be ineligible for Communion, while younger Catholics are slightly more likely than their elders to say a politician who disagrees with church teachings about capital punishment or immigration should be disqualified from Communion.

More specifically, four-in-ten Catholics who attend Mass at least once a week say that Biden's views about abortion should disqualify him from receiving the Eucharist – 15 points higher than the share who say this among those who attend Mass less often. White Catholics and those 50 and older are somewhat more inclined than Hispanic Catholics and those under 50 to say Biden should not be allowed to go to Communion.

### Three-in-ten Catholics say Biden should not be allowed to go to Communion because of his abortion views

*Thinking specifically about Joe Biden and his views about abortion, do you think he should be allowed to receive Communion in the Catholic Church?  
(Based on U.S. Catholics)*

	<b>Yes, should be allowed</b>	<b>No, should not be allowed</b>
	%	%
All U.S. Catholics	67	29
Attend Mass weekly	58	40
Attend less	71	25
White, non-Hispanic	65	33
Hispanic	72	23
Ages 18-49	71	25
Ages 50+	64	33
Republican/lean Rep.	44	55
Democrat/lean Dem.	87	11

Note: Based on Catholics. Those who did not answer are not shown. White respondents include those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.  
Source: Survey conducted March 1-7, 2021, among U.S. adults.  
"Most Democrats and Republicans Know Biden Is Catholic, but They Differ Sharply About How Religious He Is"

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## Methodology

### The American Trends Panel survey methodology

#### Overview

The American Trends Panel (ATP), created by Pew Research Center, is a nationally representative panel of randomly selected U.S. adults. Panelists participate via self-administered web surveys. Panelists who do not have internet access at home are provided with a tablet and wireless internet connection. Interviews are conducted in both English and Spanish. The panel is being managed by Ipsos.

Data in this report is drawn from the panel wave conducted March 1 to March 7, 2021. A total of 12,055 panelists responded out of 13,545 who were sampled, for a response rate of 89%. This does not include two panelists who were removed from the data due to extremely high rates of refusal or straightlining. The cumulative response rate accounting for nonresponse to the recruitment surveys and attrition is 4%. The break-off rate among panelists who logged on to the survey and completed at least one item is 1%. The margin of sampling error for the full sample of 12,055 respondents is plus or minus 1.5 percentage points.

#### Panel recruitment

The ATP was created in 2014, with the first cohort of panelists invited to join the panel at the end of a large, national, landline and cellphone random-digit-dial survey that was conducted in both English and Spanish. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2015 and 2017, respectively. Across these three surveys, a total of 19,718 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 9,942 (50%) agreed to participate.

In August 2018, the ATP switched from telephone to address-based recruitment. Invitations were sent to a random, address-based sample of households selected

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#### American Trends Panel recruitment surveys

Recruitment dates	Mode	Invited	Joined	Active panelists remaining
Jan. 23 to March 16, 2014	Landline/ cell RDD	9,809	5,338	2,183
Aug. 27 to Oct. 4, 2015	Landline/ cell RDD	6,004	2,976	1,243
April 25 to June 4, 2017	Landline/ cell RDD	3,905	1,628	621
Aug. 8 to Oct. 31, 2018	ABS/web	9,396	8,778	5,900
Aug. 19 to Nov. 30, 2019	ABS/web	5,900	4,720	2,329
June 1 to July 19, 2020	ABS/web	1,865	1,636	1,269
	<b>Total</b>	<b>36,879</b>	<b>25,076</b>	<b>13,545</b>

Note: Approximately once per year, panelists who have not participated in multiple consecutive waves or who did not complete an annual profiling survey are removed from the panel. Panelists also become inactive if they ask to be removed from the panel.

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from the U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File. Two additional recruitments were conducted using the same method in 2019 and 2020, respectively. Across these three address-based recruitments, a total of 17,161 adults were invited to join the ATP, of whom 15,134 (88%) agreed to join the panel and completed an initial profile survey. In each household, the adult with the next birthday was asked to go online to complete a survey, at the end of which they were invited to join the panel. Of the 25,076 individuals who have ever joined the ATP, 13,545 remained active panelists and continued to receive survey invitations at the time this survey was conducted.

The U.S. Postal Service's Delivery Sequence File has been estimated to cover as much as 98% of the population, although some studies suggest that the coverage could be in the low 90% range.<sup>3</sup> The American Trends Panel never uses breakout routers or chains that direct respondents to additional surveys.

### **Sample design**

The overall target population for this survey was non-institutionalized persons ages 18 and older, living in the U.S., including Alaska and Hawaii.

### **Questionnaire development and testing**

The questionnaire was developed by Pew Research Center in consultation with Ipsos. The web program was rigorously tested on both PC and mobile devices by the Ipsos project management team and Pew Research Center researchers. The Ipsos project management team also populated test data which was analyzed in SPSS to ensure the logic and randomizations were working as intended before launching the survey.

### **Incentives**

All respondents were offered a post-paid incentive for their participation. Respondents could choose to receive the post-paid incentive in the form of a check or a gift code to Amazon.com or could choose to decline the incentive. Incentive amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20 depending on whether the respondent belongs to a part of the population that is harder or easier to reach. Differential incentive amounts were designed to increase panel survey participation among groups that traditionally have low survey response propensities.

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<sup>3</sup> AAPOR Task Force on Address-based Sampling. 2016. "[AAPOR Report: Address-based Sampling](#)."

## Data collection protocol

The data collection field period for this survey was March 1 to March 7, 2021. Postcard notifications were mailed to all ATP panelists with a known residential address on March 1, 2021.

On March 1 and March 2, invitations were sent out in two separate launches: Soft Launch and Full Launch. Sixty panelists were included in the soft launch, which began with an initial invitation sent on March 1. The ATP panelists chosen for the initial soft launch were known responders who had completed previous ATP surveys within one day of receiving their invitation. All remaining English- and Spanish-speaking panelists were included in the full launch and were sent an invitation on March 2.

All panelists with an email address received an email invitation and up to two email reminders if they did not respond to the survey. All ATP panelists that consented to SMS messages received an SMS invitation and up to two SMS reminders.

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### Invitation and reminder dates

	Soft Launch	Full Launch
Initial invitation	March 1, 2021	March 2, 2021
First reminder	March 4, 2021	March 4, 2021
Final reminder	March 6, 2021	March 6, 2021

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## Data quality checks

To ensure high-quality data, the Center’s researchers performed data quality checks to identify any respondents showing clear patterns of satisficing. This includes checking for very high rates of leaving questions blank, as well as always selecting the first or last answer presented. As a result of this checking, two ATP respondents were removed from the survey dataset prior to weighting and analysis.

## Weighting

The ATP data was weighted in a multistep process that accounts for multiple stages of sampling and nonresponse that occur at different points in the survey process. First, each panelist begins with a base weight that reflects their probability of selection for their initial recruitment survey (and the probability of being invited to participate in the panel in cases where only a subsample of respondents were invited). The base weights for panelists recruited in different years are scaled to be proportionate to the effective sample size for all active panelists in their cohort. To correct for nonresponse to the initial recruitment surveys and gradual panel attrition, the base weights for all

active panelists are calibrated to align with the population benchmarks identified in the accompanying table to create a full-panel weight.

For ATP waves in which only a subsample of panelists are invited to participate, a wave-specific base weight is created by adjusting the full-panel weights for subsampled panelists to account for any differential probabilities of selection for the particular panel wave. For waves in which all active panelists are invited to participate, the wave-specific base weight is identical to the full-panel weight.

In the final weighting step, the wave-specific base weights for panelists who completed the survey are again calibrated to match the population benchmarks specified above. These weights are trimmed (typically at about the 1st and 99th percentiles) to reduce the loss in precision stemming from variance in the weights. Sampling errors and tests of statistical significance take into account the effect of weighting.

## Weighting dimensions

Variable	Benchmark source
Age x Gender	2019 American Community Survey
Education x Gender	
Education x Age	
Race/Ethnicity x Education	
Born inside vs. outside the U.S. among Hispanics and Asian Americans	
Years lived in the U.S.	
Census region x Metro/Non-metro	2019 CPS March Supplement
Volunteerism	2017 CPS Volunteering & Civic Life Supplement
Voter registration	2016 CPS Voting and Registration Supplement
Party affiliation	2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey
Frequency of internet use	
Religious affiliation	

Note: Estimates from the ACS are based on non-institutionalized adults. The 2016 CPS was used for voter registration targets for this wave in order to obtain voter registration numbers from a presidential election year. Voter registration is calculated using procedures from Hur, Achen (2013) and rescaled to include the total U.S. adult population. The 2020 National Public Opinion Reference Survey featured 1,862 online completions and 2,247 mail survey completions.

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The following tables show 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.

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<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>	
All U.S. adults	12,055	1.5 percentage points	
Christian	7,577	1.9 percentage points	
Protestant	4,794	2.3 percentage points	
White evangelical	1,821	3.6 percentage points	
White non-evangelical	1,544	4.0 percentage points	
Black Protestant	692	5.7 percentage points	
Catholic	2,492	3.4 percentage points	
Jewish	335	9.8 percentage points	
Unaffiliated	3,552	3.0 percentage points	
Atheist/agnostic	1,626	4.3 percentage points	
Nothing in particular	1,926	3.9 percentage points	
	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Weighted %</b>	
Republican/lean Rep.	4,796	43	2.3 percentage points
Democrat/lean Dem.	6,988	52	2.1 percentage points

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<b>Group</b>	<b>Unweighted sample size</b>	<b>Plus or minus ...</b>	
<i>Among U.S. Catholics</i>			
Attend Mass weekly	754	6.2 percentage points	
Attend less	1,730	4.1 percentage points	
White, non-Hispanic	1,457	3.8 percentage points	
Hispanic	889	6.9 percentage points	
Ages 18-49	949	5.7 percentage points	
Ages 50+	1,520	4.0 percentage points	
Republican/lean Rep.	1,075	4.8 percentage points	
Democrat/lean Dem.	1,357	4.8 percentage points	

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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.

### Dispositions and response rates

Final dispositions	AAPOR code	Total
Completed interview	1.1	12,055
Logged onto survey; broke-off	2.12	119
Logged onto survey; did not complete any items	2.1121	72
Never logged on (implicit refusal)	2.11	1,297
Survey completed after close of the field period	2.27	0
Completed interview but was removed for data quality		2
Screened out		0
<b>Total panelists in the survey</b>		<b>13,545</b>
Completed interviews	I	12,055
Partial interviews	P	0
Refusals	R	1,490
Non-contact	NC	0
Other	O	0
Unknown household	UH	0
Unknown other	UO	0
Not eligible	NE	0
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,545</b>
AAPOR RR1 = $I / (I+P+R+NC+O+UH+UO)$		89%

Cumulative response rate	Total
Weighted response rate to recruitment surveys	11%
% of recruitment survey respondents who agreed to join the panel, among those invited	73%
% of those agreeing to join who were active panelists at start of Wave 84	57%
Response rate to Wave 84 survey	89%
<b>Cumulative response rate</b>	<b>4%</b>

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