

2026 PEW RESEARCH CENTER'S AMERICAN TRENDS PANEL
Wave 191: Religion & Public Life
April 6-12, 2026

TOPLINE
N=3,592

Note: All numbers are percentages unless otherwise noted. Percentages less than 0.5% are replaced by an asterisk (*). Rows/columns may not total 100% due to rounding. The questions presented below are part of a larger survey conducted on the American Trends Panel.

"No answer" includes web respondents who do not answer the question as well as telephone respondents who refuse to answer or who say they don't know how to answer. In cases where "not sure" was offered as an explicit option to web and telephone respondents, the "no answer" category includes only web skips and telephone refusals.

This survey was conducted primarily online, with some interviews conducted by live telephone. This topline shows the programming language for online administration. For details on how questions were slightly modified for phone administration, visit the questionnaire.

American Trends Panel surveys conducted between October 2016 and June 2024 were conducted fully online (with tablets and data plans provided to adults without home internet). American Trends Panel surveys conducted prior to October 2016 were conducted primarily online, with some respondents completing by mail. For additional details, visit the methodology.

PN = Programming note

	Sample size	Margin of error at 95% confidence level
U.S. adults	3,592	+/- 1.9 percentage points

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

[PN: RANDOMIZE ORDER OF REL1 AND REL2]

REL1

ASK ALL:

Would you say living in the U.S. today is easier, harder, or about the same as it was 10 years ago for people who do not believe or practice a religious faith?

<u>Apr 6-12, 2026</u>		<u>Sep 13-18, 2022</u>	<u>May 30-Jun 30, 2014</u>
19	Easier today	25	28
39	Harder today	35	33
41	About the same as 10 years ago	38	39
1	No answer	2	1

**REL2
ASK ALL:**

Would you say living in the U.S. today is easier, harder, or about the same as it was 10 years ago for people who have a strong religious faith?

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Sep 13-18, <u>2022</u>	May 30-Jun 30, <u>2014</u> ¹
13	Easier today	13	11
49	Harder today	47	54
37	About the same as 10 years ago	38	35
1	No answer	2	1

KEEPOUT**ASK ALL:**

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST]

In your opinion, should churches and other houses of worship...

	<u>Keep out of political matters</u>	<u>Express their views on day-to-day social and political questions</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Apr 6-12, 2026	66	33	1
Sep 13-18, 2022	67	31	2
Sep 20-26, 2021	70	29	1
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	63	36	1

KEEPOUT PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

Q.79 In your opinion, should churches and other houses of worship **[RANDOMIZE: keep out of political matters; express their views on day-to-day social and political questions]** – or should they **[INSERT OTHER OPTION]**?

	<u>Should keep out</u>	<u>Should express views</u>	<u>DK/Ref (VOL.)</u>
Jun 15-26, 2016 ²	49	47	4
Sep 2-9, 2014	48	49	3
Mar 7-11, 2012	54	40	6
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	52	43	5
Aug, 2008	52	45	3
Jul, 2006	46	51	3
Jul, 2005	44	51	5
Aug, 2004	44	51	5
Mid-Jul, 2003	44	52	4
Mar, 2001	43	51	6
Sep, 2000 (RVs) ³	45	51	4
Jun, 1996	43	54	3
Gallup: Feb, 1968	53	40	7
Gallup: Mar, 1957	44	48	8

¹ In 2014, the question asked about people who have "strong religious faith" rather than "a strong religious faith."

² The telephone question asked: "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]?"

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

CHURCH_CAND
ASK ALL:

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

	Yes, should <u>do this</u>	No, should not <u>do this</u>	<u>No answer</u>
Apr 6-12, 2026	19	79	2
Sep 13-18, 2022	20	77	3
Mar 18-Apr 1, 2019	23	76	2

CHURCH_CAND PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

Q.80 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?

	Should come out in favor of <u>candidates</u>	Should not come out in favor of <u>candidates</u>	DK/Ref (VOL.)
Jun 15-29, 2016	29	66	5
Sep 2-9, 2014	32	63	5
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	27	66	7
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	24	70	6
Aug, 2008	29	66	5
Aug, 2007	28	63	9
Aug, 2004	25	65	10
Mar, 2002	22	70	8

RELIG_INFL1

ASK ALL:

[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST]

At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is...

RELIG_INFL2

ASK IF GAVE RESPONSE IN RELIG_INFL1 (RELIG_INFL1=1,2):

All in all, do you think it's a good thing or a bad thing that religion is [PN: IF RELIG_INFL1=1 INSERT "gaining"; IF RELIG_INFL1=2 INSERT "losing"] influence in American life?

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Feb 3-9, <u>2025</u>	Feb 13-25, <u>2024</u>	Sep 13-18, <u>2022</u>	Mar 18-Apr 1, <u>2019</u>
37	Gaining influence in American life	31	18	23	20
21	Good thing	17	8	9	10
11	Bad thing	10	6	10	6
5	Doesn't make a difference	4	3	4	4
*	No answer	*	*	*	*
61	Losing influence in American life	68	80	74	78
11	Good thing	10	13	16	17
34	Bad thing	42	49	40	42
16	Doesn't make a difference	16	17	18	18
*	No answer	*	1	*	*
2	No answer	1	2	3	2

RELIG_INFL1 PHONE TREND FOR COMPARISON

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

	Increasing influence	Losing influence	Same (VOL.)	DK/Ref (VOL.)
Jan 7-14, 2016	26	68	3	4
Sep 2-9, 2014	22	72	2	4
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	25	66	2	7
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	23	67	3	7
Jul, 2006	34	59	2	5
Mid-Jul, 2003	30	56	5	9
Mar, 2002	37	52	3	8
Mid-Nov, 2001	78	12	3	7
Mar, 2001	37	55	4	4

BIBLE_INFL1**ASK ALL:**

How much influence should the Bible have on the laws of the United States?

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Feb 13-25, <u>2024</u>	Sep 13-18, <u>2022</u>	Feb 4-15, <u>2020</u>
25	A great deal	23	23	23
26	Some	26	24	26
17	Not much	18	16	19
31	None at all	33	36	31
1	No answer	1	1	1

BIBLE_INFL2**ASK IF BIBLE SHOULD HAVE AT LEAST SOME INFLUENCE (BIBLE_INFL1=1,2):**

When the Bible and the will of the people conflict with each other, which should have more influence on the laws of the United States?

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Feb 13-25, <u>2024</u>	Sep 13-18, <u>2022</u>	Feb 4-15, <u>2020</u>
51	NET Bible should have a great deal/some influence on U.S. Laws (in BIBLE_INFL1)	49	47	49
28	The Bible (in BIBLE_INFL2)	28	27	28
21	The will of the people (in BIBLE_INFL2)	19	19	19
1	No answer (in BIBLE_INFL2)	2	2	2
48	NET Bible should have not much influence/none at all (in BIBLE_INFL1)	51	51	50
1	No answer (in BIBLE_INFL1)	1	1	1

NATCHRc3**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-3/3-1, HOLDING 98 AND 99 LAST]**

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if none are exactly right?

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Feb 13-25, <u>2024</u>
17	The federal government should declare Christianity the official religion of the United States	13
43	The federal government should <u>not</u> declare Christianity the official religion of the United States, but it should promote Christian moral values	44
38	The federal government should <u>not</u> declare Christianity the official religion of the United States, and it should <u>not</u> promote Christian moral values	39
2	No answer	3

CHRNATc**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 AND 99 LAST]**

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Feb 13-25, <u>2024</u>	Mar 1-7, <u>2021</u>
13	The federal government should stop enforcing separation of church and state	16	19
54	The federal government should enforce separation of church and state	55	54
32	Neither/no opinion	28	25
1	No answer	1	1

CHRNATe**ASK ALL:****[PN: ROTATE RESPONSE OPTIONS 1-2/2-1, HOLDING 3 AND 99 LAST]**

Which of these statements comes closest to your view, even if neither is exactly right?

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Mar 1-7, <u>2021</u>
5	God favors the United States over all other countries	5
66	God does not favor any one country over all the others	70
28	Neither/No opinion	23
1	No answer	2

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

CHRNAT1a**ASK ALL:**

How much, if anything, have you heard or read about "Christian nationalism?"

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Feb 13-25, <u>2024</u>	Sep 13-18, <u>2022</u>
9	A great deal	6	5
12	Quite a bit	9	9
23	Some	16	17
15	A little	14	14
40	Nothing at all	54	54
*	No answer	1	1

CHRNAT1b**ASK IF HEARD OR READ AT LEAST A LITTLE ABOUT CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM (CHRNAT1a=1-4):**

All in all, do you have a favorable or unfavorable view of Christian nationalism?

SUMMARY TABLE, BASED ON TOTAL

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Feb 13-25, <u>2024</u>	Sep 13-18, <u>2022</u>
59	NET Heard at least a little about Christian nationalism (in CHRNAT1a)	45	45
3	Very favorable	2	2
6	Somewhat favorable	4	4
8	Neither favorable nor unfavorable	6	8
7	Somewhat unfavorable	6	5
23	Very unfavorable	19	19
11	Don't know enough to say	8	8
*	No answer	*	*
40	NET Know nothing at all about Christian nationalism (in CHRNAT1a)	54	54
*	No answer (in CHRNAT1a)	1	1

[PN: RANDOMIZE ORDER OF TOOFARCON AND TOOFARLIB ON SAME SCREEN]

TOOFARCON**ASK ALL:**

Do you think conservative Christians have gone too far in trying to push their religious values in the government and public schools?

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Feb 13-25, <u>2024</u>
52	Yes, conservative Christians have gone too far	48
46	No, I don't think so	49
2	No answer	4

TOOFARLIB
ASK ALL:

Do you think liberals who are not religious have gone too far in trying to keep religious values out of the government and public schools?

Apr 6-12, <u>2026</u>		Feb 13-25, <u>2024</u>
48	Yes, liberals who are not religious have gone too far	50
50	No, I don't think so	47
2	No answer	4

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE