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**GOP THE RELIGION-FRIENDLY PARTY**

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**But Stem Cell Issue May Help Democrats**  
**GOP THE RELIGION-FRIENDLY PARTY**

As the Republicans gather in New York to nominate George W. Bush for a second term, more Americans see the Republican Party than the Democratic Party as friendly toward religion. And most express comfort with President Bush's reliance on his religious beliefs in making policy decisions. On the issue of gay marriage, Bush and his party benefit from the strong support of religious conservatives and division among Democrats.

But a second policy debate with a strong religious linkage – embryonic stem cell research – is emerging as an issue that may help the Democrats. The stem cell controversy is growing in visibility, and a majority of the public (52%) now feels that the potential benefits of such research are more important than preserving the embryos that would be destroyed – up from 43% in March 2002. Significantly, swing voters are much closer to John Kerry's voters than to Bush's supporters on this issue.

The nationwide survey of 1,512 adults, conducted August 5-10 by the Pew Research Center and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, shows that in a campaign dominated by the war in Iraq, terrorism and the economy, moral issues could have a significant impact. Fully 64% of voters say the issue of "moral values" will be very important to their vote. Kerry and Bush run about even among voters on the question of which candidate could do the best job in improving the nation's moral climate (45% Kerry vs. 41% Bush).

At the same time, the public expresses ambivalence on general questions concerning the appropriate role for churches and other houses of worship in politics, and outright skepticism on specific issues relating to religion that have arisen during the current campaign. By nearly three-to-one (64%-22%), Americans say it is improper for Catholic church leaders to deny communion to Catholic politicians whose views on abortion and other "life" issues go against church teachings.

	March 2002	Aug 2004
<i>Stem cell debate:</i>		
<i>Heard about...</i>	%	%
A lot	27	42
A little	52	43
Nothing at all	20	15
Don't know	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>
	100	100
<i>More important to...</i>		
Conduct research	43	52
Protect embryos	38	34
Don't know	<u>19</u>	<u>14</u>
	100	100

<i>Stem cell debate:</i>	<i>More important to...</i>	<i>Vote preference*</i>			
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Bush</u>	<u>Kerry</u>	<u>Swing Voters</u>
	%	%	%	%	
Conduct research	52	37	67	56	
Protect embryos	34	52	21	30	
Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	
	100	100	100	100	
<i>Gay marriage...</i>					
Favor	29	13	43	27	
Oppose	60	82	46	58	
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>15</u>	
	100	100	100	100	

\*Registered voters. Total based on general public.

This opinion is widely shared across the religious and political spectrum, and those who place great personal importance on religion – and Catholics themselves – decisively reject the idea of Catholic church leaders withholding communion from politicians whose views defy church teachings on abortion and related issues.

There also is widespread opposition, again among people of different denominations and varying levels of religious commitment, to political parties asking church members for lists of congregants so the parties can encourage them to register and vote. In a similar vein, Americans continue to oppose the idea of churches and other houses of worship endorsing political candidates. Nearly two-thirds (65%) say churches should not do this, while just 25% find it acceptable.

The poll paints a portrait of a public comfortable with politicians who talk about their religious beliefs and who rely on religion in making decisions. Roughly seven-in-ten voters (72%) continue to say it is important to them that a president have strong religious beliefs. Majorities feel both Bush and Kerry mention their faith the right amount.

The percentage of Americans who criticize the president for discussing his religious faith too much has grown from a year ago, but this remains a minority viewpoint. In July 2003, just 14% said the president mentioned his faith and prayer too much – today nearly a quarter (24%) says he does, and the increase has come equally from both Democrats and independents.

But overall, most Americans are not critical of the way Bush and Kerry cite their religious faith and prayer. Bush receives more criticism than does Kerry on this front – about a third of Democrats (35%) and independents (32%) say Bush discusses his faith too much.

And on another church-state issue that has generated considerable controversy – the failed

### Churches, Politics and the Government

	Total %	Importance of religion in your life		
		Very %	Fairly %	Not %
<b><i>Catholic leaders denying communion to politicians</i></b>				
Proper	22	28	16	13
Improper	64	55	76	75
Don't know	<u>14</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b><i>Parties asking for church rosters</i></b>				
Proper	26	31	21	20
Improper	69	63	74	76
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100	100	100
<b><i>Churches endorsing political candidates</i></b>				
Should	25	30	19	19
Should not	65	61	72	69
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>12</u>
	100	100	100	100

### Politicians and their Faith

<i>President should have strong religious beliefs</i>	Sept 2000	Aug 2004
	%	%
Agree	70	72
Disagree	27	24
Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>
	100	100

Based on registered voters.

effort by Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore to display a monument to the Ten Commandments in the State Supreme Court building – a sizable majority of the public (72%) believes that it is proper to display the commandments in public buildings; just 23% say this is improper. More Republicans (86%) than Democrats (64%) say it is proper to display the Ten Commandments in government buildings. Among certain Kerry voters a majority (57%) agree. Seculars are evenly divided on the question (45% say it is proper, 48% improper).

	July	Aug	---Party ID---		
	2003	2004	Rep	Dem	Ind
<i>Bush mentions</i>	%	%	%	%	%
his faith...					
Too much	14	<b>24</b>	6	35	32
Too little	11	<b>11</b>	4	15	11
Right amount	62	<b>53</b>	84	36	47
Don't know	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>10</u>
	100	<b>100</b>	100	100	100
<i>Kerry mentions</i>					
his faith..					
Too much	--	<b>10</b>	9	8	15
Too little	--	<b>15</b>	23	12	11
Right amount	--	<b>56</b>	38	68	63
Don't know	--	<u>19</u>	<u>30</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>11</u>
		<b>100</b>	100	100	100

***GOP Seen as More Friendly to Religion***

While neither political party is seen as particularly unfriendly toward religion, somewhat more say the Republican Party is friendly toward religion (52%) than the Democratic Party (40%). There is a much bigger gap in views of whether conservatives and liberals have a favorable attitude toward religion. By roughly five-to-one (49% to 9%), more say conservatives are friendly than unfriendly toward religion. Public opinion is split over liberals; 21% say liberals are friendly toward religion, 23% unfriendly.

Partisans on both sides see their party as the more friendly toward religion, but the divide is particularly stark on the right. Seven-in-ten Republicans say the GOP is friendly toward religion and just 27% say the same about the Democratic Party. Among Democrats, half see their own party as friendly toward religion, but 45% also say the same about the Republican Party. African-Americans, who

	<i>Group's attitude toward religion</i>			
	<u>Friendly</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfriendly</u>	<u>DK</u>
	%	%	%	%
The Republican Party	52	24	10	14=100
The Democratic Party	40	34	13	13=100
Conservatives	49	23	9	19=100
Liberals	21	36	23	20=100

are largely Democratic in partisan affiliation, diverge somewhat from this pattern. While about half of blacks (51%) see the Democratic Party as friendly toward religion, just 28% say the Republican Party is friendly. Three-in-ten African Americans see the GOP as unfriendly toward religion.

***The Issues: Stem Cell Research***

Public awareness of the debate over stem cell research has increased markedly over the past two years. In March 2002, only about a quarter of Americans (27%) said they had heard a lot about this issue. Today, 42% of Americans say they have heard a lot about the stem cell debate.

Nearly all demographic groups express more familiarity with this issue than two years ago, but the shift has been particularly striking among Americans in their 50s and early 60s. Today, more than half of those age 50-64 (54%) say they have heard a lot about the stem cell debate, far more than any other group and nearly double the number in March 2002 (29%). Twice as many college graduates as high school graduates say they have heard a lot about the debate over stem cell research (62%-31%). There are no major political or religious differences in attention to the issue, however.

<b>Most Attentive, Most Supportive</b>			
<i>More important to...</i>	<i>Heard about stem cell debate...</i>		
	<u>A lot</u>	<u>A little</u>	<u>Nothing</u>
	%	%	%
Conduct research	63	47	32
Not destroy embryo	28	37	40
Don't know	<u>9</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>28</u>
	100	100	100

***Awareness Matters***

People who have heard a lot about the stem cell debate are much more supportive of research in this area than are those who have heard little or nothing. By more than two-to-one (63%-28%), those who have heard a great deal about the issue believe it is more important to conduct stem cell research that may result in medical cures than to not destroy the potential life of human embryos.

***Shifting Sentiment on Stem Cells***

Overall, a narrow majority of Americans (52%) now say it is more important to conduct stem cell research than to not destroy embryos, up from 43% who expressed this view in March 2002. The shift on this issue has been broad-based, but has been particularly notable among African Americans (16 points), high school graduates (15 points) and those with a moderate level of religious commitment (15 points).

Education is clearly associated with opinions on stem cell research, as well as attention to the issue. However, while 61% of college graduates say it is more important to conduct such research than to not destroy embryos – more than any other education

<b>More Support for Stem Cell Research</b>			
	<i>More important to conduct research</i>		
	<u>2002</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>'02-'04</u>
	%	%	
Total	43	52	+9
18-29	46	54	+8
30-49	46	55	+9
50-64	40	52	+12
65+	34	44	+10
College Grad	55	61	+6
Some College	46	50	+4
High School Grad	34	49	+15
Less than HS Grad	36	47	+11
White Protestant	38	48	+10
-- Evangelical	26	33	+7
-- Mainline	51	65	+14
White Catholic	43	55	+12
Secular	66	68	+2
<i>Religious Commitment*</i>			
High	21	34	+13
Moderate	40	55	+15
Low	61	66	+5
Conserv Republican	32	35	+3
Mod/Liberal Republican	48	54	+6
Independent	49	57	+8
Conserv/Mod Democrat	43	57	+14
Liberal Democrat	55	72	+17

\* Combination of attendance and importance of religion.

category -- there has been a bigger shift on this issue among high school graduates. In March 2002,

only about a third of high school graduates (34%) said it was more important to pursue stem cell research than to not destroy embryos. In the current survey, nearly half (49%) express that view.

Among religious groups, nearly two-thirds of white non-evangelical Christians (65%) now place greater importance on conducting stem cell research than on not destroying embryos; only about half in this group (51%) held that opinion in March 2002. White Catholics also have become much more supportive of stem cell research (55% now, 43% March 2002).

Majorities of white evangelical Protestants (53%) and members of all religious denominations who have a high level of religious commitment (52%) continue to say it is more important not to destroy embryos than to conduct stem cell research. However, there has been some movement among these groups to the view that it is more important to engage in stem cell research (seven points among white evangelical Protestants and 13 points among people with a high degree of religious commitment).

***Catholic Leaders and Communion***

Catholics are even more opposed than other Americans to the idea of Catholic church leaders denying communion to politicians whose views on abortion and related issues contradict church teachings. But white evangelical Protestants are more comfortable with this practice.

Fully seven-in-ten Catholics (72%) say it is improper for Catholic Church leaders to deny communion to politicians who defy church teachings on abortion and related issues. Opposition to this idea is widespread among various subgroups of Catholics, although male Catholics; Catholics who identify with the GOP; and those who attend church at least weekly are somewhat more supportive of Catholic leaders withholding communion from such politicians.

White evangelical Protestants also believe it is improper for Catholic leaders to deny communion to politicians who go against church teachings on life issues, but by a much smaller margin than Catholics. A plurality of white evangelical Protestants (47%) say this is improper, while 35% find it acceptable.

	<u>Proper</u> %	<u>Im- proper</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	22	64	14=100
White			
--Evangelical Prot.	35	47	18=100
--Mainline Prot.	15	70	15=100
Black Protestant	20	57	23=100
Secular	12	75	13=100
<i>Among Catholics</i>			
All Catholics	23	72	5=100
Men	32	63	5=100
Women	14	80	6=100
Republican	31	65	4=100
Democrat	15	81	4=100
Independent	27	67	6=100
Church attendance			
Weekly	29	63	8=100
Less often	20	77	3=100

The public takes a dim view of partisan efforts to recruit church members to assist in voter registration drives. Just 26% in the poll believe it is proper for political parties to ask church members for church rosters for the purpose of encouraging parishioners to register and vote; 69% say it is improper.

Opposition to the practice is as great among Republicans as among Democrats and independents. Although slightly more white evangelicals approve of the practice (33%), six-in-ten do not. Only among black Protestants do as many say the practice is proper as say it is improper (45% vs. 44%, respectively).

	<u>Proper</u> %	<u>Im- proper</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	26	69	5=100
White			
--Evangelical Prot.	33	60	7=100
--Mainline Prot.	19	77	4=100
--Catholic	19	78	3=100
Black Protestant	45	44	11=100
Secular	21	74	5=100
Democrat	30	64	6=100
Republican	29	68	3=100
Independent	21	74	5=100
Certain Bush	28	67	5=100
Certain Kerry	28	69	3=100
Swing	21	71	8=100

**Religion and Politics**

Although the public is comfortable with political leaders who talk about their religion and use their religious beliefs to guide policymaking, they are much less comfortable when churches and other houses of worship get involved in partisan politics. A bare majority approves of churches and other houses of worship expressing their views on day-to-day social and political questions (51%, versus 44% who think they should not). There is much less support for churches and other houses of worship endorsing political candidates; nearly two-thirds (65%) oppose this idea.

Views about the appropriateness of churches expressing views on political questions have been relatively stable the past eight years, varying by only a few percentage points since 1996. And since last year, there has been little change in the opinion that churches should not endorse political candidates.

White evangelicals and black Protestants are much more apt than members of other religious groups to feel that churches should express their views on politics. Fully 71% of evangelicals – and 80% among those who attend church weekly – say this is appropriate, as do 64% of black Protestants. Most white Catholics (60%) and white mainline Protestants 51% think churches should stay out of politics. Nearly six-in-ten (59%) secular individuals agree.

	<u>Yes</u> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
August 2004	51	44	5=100
July 2003	52	44	4=100
March 2001	51	43	6=100
Sept 2000*	51	45	4=100
June 1996	54	43	3=100
Feb 1968**	40	53	7=100
March 1957	48	44	8=100

\*Asked of registered voters. In 2000 and earlier, the question did not include “and other houses of worship.” \*\*Gallup

But even among high-attendance white evangelicals, fewer than a majority (42%) support the idea of churches endorsing candidates; just 32% of black Protestants agree. Only 15% of white Catholics and 20% of white mainline Protestants think this is appropriate.

**Most Want a President with Faith**

By three-to-one (72% to 24%) most registered voters say it is important to them that the president have strong religious beliefs. This is virtually unchanged from four years ago, when 70% said it was important, and 27% said it was not. Roughly three-in-ten voters (31%) say they “completely agree” that it is important for a president to have strong religious beliefs, and these voters favor George W. Bush over John Kerry by nearly two-to-one (60% vs. 34%). Kerry holds a slight 52% to 40% edge among the plurality of voters who “mostly agree” that religiosity is an important quality in a president, and Kerry’s lead among those who say this is not important is a sizeable 67% to 24%.

<b>Importance of Faith and the Vote</b>			
<i>Presidential vote choice</i>	<i>Important that a president have strong religious beliefs</i>		
	<i>Completely agree</i>	<i>Mostly agree</i>	<i>Dis- agree</i>
	<u>        </u> %	<u>        </u> %	<u>        </u> %
Bush	60	40	24
Kerry	34	52	67
Nader	2	1	5
Other/DK	<u>  4  </u>	<u>  7  </u>	<u>  4  </u>
	100	100	100
Number of cases	185	237	151

In this regard, while most Americans say George W. Bush relies on his own religious beliefs in making policy decisions either a great deal (26%) or a fair amount (38%), most feel that the influence of religion on his policymaking is appropriate. Just 15% of Americans believe Bush relies on his religious beliefs too much in making policy – slightly more (21%) would prefer he rely on religion more often. The majority (53%) says Bush relies on religion about the right amount.

<b>Influence of Religion on Policymaking</b>		
	<u>George Bush</u>	<u>John Kerry</u>
	<u>        </u> %	<u>        </u> %
A great deal	26	10
A fair amount	38	33
Not very much	28	46
Don't know	<u>  8  </u>	<u> 11  </u>
	100	100

Respondents were asked how much Bush relies on his religious beliefs in making policy decisions, and, if Kerry becomes president, how much he will do so.

In fact, the only respondents who are highly critical of the president’s reliance on religion are those who think the president’s decisions are currently not affected by his faith. Of the 28% who say the president does *not* rely on his own religious beliefs when making policy decisions, most (53%) would like to see him do so more. Among those who say the president relies on religion a great deal or a fair amount, sizable majorities say it is appropriate.

By comparison, John Kerry is seen as a less religiously oriented candidate. Only one-in-ten believe Kerry, if he is elected president, will rely on his own religious beliefs a great deal in making policy decisions. Nearly half (46%) say Kerry’s faith will not influence him much at all.



***Mentions of Faith – Too Much or Not Enough?***

Generally, most Americans are critical of the amount of expressions of religious faith and prayer by political leaders, but criticism is divided evenly between those who say there is too little reference to religion in political rhetoric (31%) and those who say there is too much (27%). This marks a clear shift from a year ago when, by a margin of two-to-one (41% to 21%), more said politicians discussed their religious faith too little, not too much.

Across virtually all groups, fewer today say that there is too little discussion of faith by politicians, but the shift is most notable among white Catholics. A year ago, 37% of Catholics said there was too little discussion of personal faith by politicians, today just 16% feel this way, while the proportion saying faith and prayer are mentioned too often has risen from 20% to 30%.

Blacks have long expressed a preference for more discussion of faith and prayer by political leaders, but the percentage backing expressing this view has declined from 62% to 43% over the past year.

The electoral implications of these attitudes are stark. By more than two-to-one (61% to 29%), people who wish there was more discussion of faith by political leaders back Bush over Kerry in the 2004 election, and by a similar margin (63% to 32%) people who think there is too much of it favor Kerry over Bush. And those who think there is the right amount of religious rhetoric today are divided evenly (50% favor Bush, 46% Kerry).

***Gay Marriage a Low Priority***

The economy, terrorism, health care, Iraq, and education are the issues that voters say are most important to them this year. In contrast, gay marriage ranks as among the least important issues tested in the new survey. Roughly a third (34%) say gay marriage will be a very important factor in their choice – about as many (30%) say it will not be a factor at all. By comparison, twice as many voters see the economy, terrorism and Iraq – as well as health care and education – as very important to them.

But the general issue of morality may play central role in this year’s election. Nearly two-thirds of voters (64%) say that the issue of “moral values” will be very important in their decision

<b>Politicians Mention Their Own Faith and Religion...*</b>						
	----- 2003 -----			----- 2004 -----		
	Too much	Too little	Right amount	Too much	Too little	Right amount
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	21	41	29	27	31	32
White	21	38	32	26	29	36
--Evangel. Prot	6	64	26	11	50	32
--Mainline Prot	22	23	44	27	22	39
--Catholic	20	37	35	30	16	47
Black	18	62	14	22	43	19
Hispanic	18	46	23	29	40	21

\*Asked about politicians in general.

about who to vote for. And while much of the campaign news focuses on the issues of the economy, terrorism and Iraq, voters rate the issues of health care and education just as high.

Swing voters divide over the issue of gay marriage much the way Americans do overall – 57% oppose legalizing gay marriage, while 32% are in favor. But there is little to suggest that the issue will affect the swing vote in a substantial way. Just 26% of swing voters say the issue of gay marriage will be a very important factor for them, placing it far below any other issue included in the survey. But the issue is clearly of greater relevance to opponents than proponents, even when the analysis is limited to swing voters. Just 15% of swing voters who are in favor of legalizing gay marriage say it is very important to them, compared with 36% of swing voters who oppose legalization.

<b>Voting Priorities</b>		
<u>Certain Bush</u>	<u>Certain Kerry</u>	<u>Swing Voters</u>
79 Terrorism	88 Health care	79 Economy
<b>78 Moral values</b>	87 Economy	76 Health care
67 Iraq	80 Education	71 Terrorism
63 Economy	78 Iraq	68 Education
58 Education	75 Terrorism	62 Iraq
54 Abortion	75 Environment	58 Budget deficit
52 Health care	72 Budget deficit	<b>57 Moral values</b>
<b>51 Gay marriage</b>	66 Energy	55 Energy
40 Energy	<b>55 Moral values</b>	46 Environment
38 Environment	36 Abortion	42 Abortion
36 Budget deficit	<b>23 Gay marriage</b>	<b>26 Gay marriage</b>

Percent ranking each as a very important issue.

The economy, health care, terrorism and education top the list of concerns among swing voters, with two-thirds or more ranking each as a very important issue. Another 57% of swing voters say that “moral values” is very important in their thinking about the 2004 election – about the same number of committed Kerry supporters (55%) say the same. By comparison, committed Bush supporters rank moral values at the very top of their list of important campaign issues – fully 78% rank both it and the issue of terrorism as very important concerns.

### *White Evangelicals Care Most*

The issue of gay marriage is of significant importance only to white evangelical Protestants, and even within this group, only those who are the most religiously active place great priority on this issue. Among white evangelicals who attend church weekly, fully two-thirds (67%) rank gay marriage as a very important issue in this election. To put this in context, gay marriage ranks as high as the economy, higher than Iraq and just a step below terrorism in the minds of these voters, who make up 17% of registered voters. By comparison, less than half as many white evangelicals who attend church less frequently say gay marriage will be very important in their voting decision (28%).

This latter view prevails among all other ethnic and religious groups. Barely a quarter of white mainline Protestants (26%) rate gay marriage as a very important issue, as do only 22% of white Catholics. Among blacks, gay marriage is particularly unimportant – fully 43% say it is not important at all in their thinking about the election.

Not surprisingly, gay marriage remains far more influential for those who oppose it than for those who support it. Only 20% of gay marriage proponents say it will be a very important issue in casting their vote, while 35% say they will not consider it at all. Twice as many opponents (44%) say it will be very important in casting their vote, while just 26% say it will not matter at all.

	<b>How Important is Gay Marriage to Your Vote?</b>			
	<u>Very</u>	<u>Somewhat/</u>	<u>Not</u>	<u>DK</u>
	<u>%</u>	<u>Not very</u>	<u>at all</u>	<u>%</u>
	%	%	%	%
Total	34	34	30	2=100
Men	34	31	33	2=100
Women	35	35	28	2=100
White	35	34	29	2=100
--Evangel Prot	<b>55</b>	29	14	2=100
Attend wkly	<b>67</b>	19	14	0=100
Less often	28	40	27	5=100
--Mainline Prot	26	35	36	3=100
--Catholic	22	41	34	3=100
Black	26	28	<b>43</b>	3=100
Hispanic	30	36	34	0=100
Secular	30	39	30	1=100
18-29	38	39	22	1=100
30-49	34	35	29	2=100
50-64	30	31	<b>37</b>	2=100
65+	37	30	28	5=100
College grad	27	39	33	1=100
Some college	<b>38</b>	33	26	3=100
H.S. or less	<b>37</b>	29	31	3=100
Republican	<b>49</b>	26	23	2=100
Democrat	25	40	<b>33</b>	2=100
Independent	28	35	<b>35</b>	2=100
Certain Bush	<b>51</b>	25	22	2=100
Certain Kerry	23	41	<b>34</b>	2=100
Swing voter	25	34	<b>38</b>	3=100
Red states	<b>44</b>	28	26	2=100
Blue states	31	33	<b>34</b>	2=100
Battleground	28	38	31	3=100
<i>Attend church</i>				
Weekly	<b>50</b>	26	22	2=100
Sometimes	22	39	<b>37</b>	2=100
Seldom/Never	25	37	<b>36</b>	2=100
<i>Gay marriage</i>				
Favor	20	44	<b>35</b>	1=100
Oppose	<b>44</b>	28	26	2=100

Based on registered voters.

## **ABOUT THE SURVEY**

Results for the August 2004 New Interest Index survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a nationwide sample of 1,512 adults, 18 years of age or older, during the period August 5-10, 2004. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points. For results based on registered voters (N=1,166) the sampling error is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. For results based on either Form 1 (N=739) or Form 2 (N=773), the sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points. If based on Form 1 or Form 2 registered voters only (N=569 or N=597), the sampling error is plus or minus 4.5 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.

## **SURVEY METHODOLOGY IN DETAIL**

The sample for this survey is a random digit sample of telephone numbers selected from telephone exchanges in the continental United States. The random digit aspect of the sample is used to avoid "listing" bias and provides representation of both listed and unlisted numbers (including not-yet-listed). The design of the sample ensures this representation by random generation of the last two digits of telephone numbers selected on the basis of their area code, telephone exchange, and bank number.

The telephone exchanges were selected with probabilities proportional to their size. The first eight digits of the sampled telephone numbers (area code, telephone exchange, bank number) were selected to be proportionally stratified by county and by telephone exchange within county. That is, the number of telephone numbers randomly sampled from within a given county is proportional to that county's share of telephone numbers in the U.S. Only working banks of telephone numbers are selected. A working bank is defined as 100 contiguous telephone numbers containing three or more residential listings.

The sample was released for interviewing in replicates. Using replicates to control the release of sample to the field ensures that the complete call procedures are followed for the entire sample. The use of replicates also insures that the regional distribution of numbers called is appropriate. Again, this works to increase the representativeness of the sample.

At least 10 attempts were made to complete an interview at every sampled telephone number. The calls were staggered over times of day and days of the week to maximize the chances of making a contact with a potential respondent. All interview breakoffs and refusals were re-contacted at least once in order to attempt to convert them to completed interviews. In each contacted household, interviewers asked to speak with the "youngest male 18 or older who is at home." If there is no eligible man at home, interviewers asked to speak with "the oldest woman 18 or older who is at home." This systematic respondent selection technique has been shown empirically to produce samples that closely mirror the population in terms of age and gender.

Non-response in telephone interview surveys produces some known biases in survey-derived estimates because participation tends to vary for different subgroups of the population, and these subgroups are likely to vary also on questions of substantive interest. In order to compensate for these known biases, the sample data are weighted in analysis.

The demographic weighting parameters are derived from a special analysis of the most recently available Annual Social & Economic Supplement data from the Census Bureau (March 2003). This analysis produced population parameters for the demographic characteristics of households with adults 18 or older, which are then compared with the sample characteristics to construct sample weights. The analysis only included households in the continental United States that contain a telephone. The weights are derived using an iterative technique that simultaneously balances the distributions of all weighting parameters.

## VIEWS ON STEM CELL RESEARCH

----March 2002----

----August 2004----

	More important to...			More important to...			<i>Change in conduct research</i>
	<u>Conduct research</u>	<u>Not destroy embryos</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Conduct research</u>	<u>Not destroy embryos</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	
<b>Total</b>	43	38	19=100	52	34	14=100	+9
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	47	35	18	53	33	14	+6
Female	39	41	20	51	35	14	+12
<b>Race</b>							
White	44	38	18	53	34	13	+9
Non-white	36	40	24	45	37	18	+9
Black	31	43	26	47	34	19	+16
Hispanic*	43	45	12	50	37	13	+7
<b>Race and Sex</b>							
White Men	49	35	16	55	32	13	+6
White Women	40	41	19	52	35	13	+12
<b>Age</b>							
Under 30	46	40	14	54	34	12	+8
30-49	46	38	16	55	34	11	+9
50-64	40	40	20	52	35	13	+12
65+	34	36	30	44	33	23	+10
<b>Sex and Age</b>							
Men under 50	49	36	15	55	35	10	+6
Women under 50	43	42	15	54	33	13	+11
Men 50+	43	35	22	50	30	20	+7
Women 50+	33	40	27	48	37	15	+15
<b>Education</b>							
College Grad.	55	32	13	61	27	12	+6
Some College	46	38	16	50	37	13	+4
High School Grad.	34	44	22	49	37	14	+15
< H.S. Grad.	36	37	27	47	35	18	+11
<b>Family Income</b>							
\$75,000+	53	34	13	62	29	9	+9
\$50,000-\$74,999	53	37	10	56	34	10	+3
\$30,000-\$49,999	43	40	17	50	38	12	+7
\$20,000-\$29,999	40	43	17	53	35	12	+13
<\$20,000	33	44	23	44	37	19	+11

\* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: All in all, which is more important.... Conducting stem cell research that might result in new medical cures OR Not destroying the potential life of human embryos involved in this research?

*Continued on next page....*

	----March 2002----			----August 2004----			<i>Change in conduct research</i>
	More important to...			More important to...			
	<u>Conduct research</u> %	<u>Not destroy embryos</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %	<u>Conduct research</u> %	<u>Not destroy embryos</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %	
<b>Total</b>	43	38	19=100	52	34	14=100	+9
<b>Region</b>							
East	50	32	18	58	29	13	+8
Midwest	45	40	15	53	33	14	+8
South	35	45	20	46	36	18	+11
West	46	32	22	55	36	9	+9
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>							
Total White Protestant	38	43	19	48	38	14	+10
- Evangelical	26	55	19	33	52	15	+7
- Non-Evangelical	51	29	20	66	22	12	+15
White Catholic	43	39	18	55	31	14	+12
Secular	66	17	17	68	19	13	+2
<b>Community Size</b>							
Large City	45	35	20	56	30	14	+11
Suburb	49	38	13	56	30	14	+7
Small City/Town	42	36	22	50	38	12	+8
Rural Area	35	47	18	48	38	14	+13
<b>Party ID</b>							
Republican	38	47	15	41	45	14	+3
Democrat	45	37	18	60	26	14	+15
Independent	49	33	18	57	31	12	+8
<b>Party and Ideology</b>							
Conservative Republican	32	54	14	35	53	12	+3
Moderate/Liberal Rep.	48	38	14	54	32	14	+6
Conservative/Mod. Dem.	43	39	18	58	29	13	+15
Liberal Democrat	55	31	14	72	19	9	+17
<b>Bush Approval</b>							
Approve	--	--	--	42	45	13	--
Disapprove	--	--	--	64	22	14	--
<b>Religious Commitment</b>							
High	21	59	20	34	53	13	+13
Moderate	40	39	21	55	30	15	+15
Low	61	23	16	66	20	14	+5
<b>Labor Union</b>							
Union Household	49	35	16	57	29	14	+8
Non-Union Household	42	39	19	51	35	14	+9

## RELIGION AND POLITICS CONTROVERSIES

	<i>Parties asking church members for voter registration</i>			<i>Catholic leaders denying communion to politicians</i>			<i>Ten Commandments being displayed in gov't buildings</i>		
	<u>Proper</u>	<u>Improper</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Proper</u>	<u>Improper</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Proper</u>	<u>Improper</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	26	69	5=100	22	64	14=100	72	23	5=100
<b>Sex</b>									
Male	27	68	5	27	59	14	70	25	5
Female	26	69	5	18	67	15	74	22	4
<b>Race</b>									
White	23	72	5	23	64	13	73	23	4
Non-white	39	54	7	18	62	20	70	25	5
Black	43	48	9	17	63	20	71	23	6
Hispanic*	31	65	4	28	62	10	66	34	0
<b>Race and Sex</b>									
White Men	24	71	5	28	60	12	72	24	4
White Women	23	73	4	19	68	13	74	21	5
<b>Age</b>									
Under 30	33	65	2	27	62	11	68	25	7
30-49	26	69	5	22	68	10	74	23	3
50-64	26	68	6	20	62	18	69	27	4
65+	20	71	9	19	57	24	77	18	5
<b>Sex and Age</b>									
Men under 50	30	67	3	30	59	11	71	24	5
Women under 50	26	69	5	18	73	9	73	23	4
Men 50+	22	69	9	22	60	18	69	26	5
Women 50+	25	70	5	18	59	23	76	19	5
<b>Education</b>									
College Grad.	22	72	6	22	66	12	55	37	8
Some College	26	68	6	24	63	13	74	23	3
High School Grad.	28	68	3	22	63	15	81	15	4
< H.S. Grad.	29	68	3	19	61	20	79	19	2
<b>Family Income</b>									
\$75,000+	28	69	3	23	66	11	64	31	5
\$50,000-\$74,999	28	68	4	18	72	10	74	20	6
\$30,000-\$49,999	27	68	5	26	63	11	70	25	5
\$20,000-\$29,999	23	76	1	23	63	14	74	25	1
<\$20,000	28	65	7	19	64	17	80	16	4

\* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Do you believe it is proper or improper for political parties to ask church members for lists of people who attend their church so the parties can encourage them to register and vote?

Do you believe it is proper or improper for Catholic church leaders to deny communion to Catholic politicians whose views on abortion and other life issues go against church teachings?

Do you believe that it is proper or improper for the Ten Commandment to be displayed in a government building?

*Continued on next page..*

	<i>Parties asking church members for voter registration</i>			<i>Catholic leaders denying communion to politicians</i>			<i>Ten Commandments being displayed in gov't buildings</i>		
	<u>Proper</u>	<u>Improper</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Proper</u>	<u>Improper</u>	<u>DK/ Ref</u>	<u>Proper</u>	<u>Improper</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
<b>Total</b>	26	69	5=100	22	64	14	72	23	5=100
<b>Region</b>									
East	22	72	6	16	74	10	64	32	4
Midwest	27	69	4	21	67	12	74	21	5
South	28	66	6	24	56	20	77	19	4
West	26	70	4	26	63	11	69	26	5
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>									
Total White Protestant	26	68	6	26	58	16	82	15	3
- Evangelical	33	60	7	35	47	18	89	8	3
- Non-Evangelical	19	77	4	15	70	15	75	22	3
White Catholic	19	78	3	18	77	5	73	23	4
Secular	21	74	5	12	75	13	45	48	7
<b>Community Size</b>									
Large City	27	66	7	23	64	13	67	30	3
Suburb	27	70	3	22	67	11	65	29	6
Small City/Town	25	70	5	22	63	15	75	20	5
Rural Area	26	69	5	23	62	15	79	17	4
<b>Party ID</b>									
Republican	30	64	6	34	53	13	86	11	3
Democrat	29	68	3	13	73	14	64	33	3
Independent	21	74	5	21	67	12	68	27	5
<b>Party and Ideology</b>									
Conservative Republican	32	64	4	39	47	14	90	8	2
Moderate/Liberal Rep.	25	66	9	25	65	10	77	18	5
Conservative/Mod. Dem.	30	67	3	15	72	13	72	24	4
Liberal Democrat	27	71	3	10	80	10	39	60	1
<b>Bush Approval</b>									
Approve	29	66	5	32	55	13	85	12	3
Disapprove	25	71	4	13	74	13	60	36	4
<b>Religious Commitment</b>									
High	35	58	7	31	50	19	84	12	4
Moderate	24	73	3	20	67	13	78	18	4
Low	20	75	5	16	74	10	56	38	6
<b>Labor Union</b>									
Union Household	21	75	4	18	70	12	72	24	4
Non-Union Household	27	68	5	22	63	15	72	23	5



## HOMOSEXUALS AND MARRIAGE

	<i>Allow homosexuals to marry legally</i>			<i>Legal agreements with many of the same rights as marriage</i>			<u>(N)</u>
	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %	
<b>Total</b>	29	60	11=100	49	44	7=100	(1512)
<b>Sex</b>							
Male	27	65	8	47	46	7	(728)
Female	32	55	13	50	42	8	(784)
<b>Race</b>							
White	31	60	9	51	43	6	(1230)
Non-white	22	62	16	39	49	12	(258)
Black	21	64	15	34	50	16	(162)
Hispanic*	37	53	10	53	40	7	(91)
<b>Race and Sex</b>							
White Men	29	64	7	50	44	6	(596)
White Women	32	57	11	51	43	6	(634)
<b>Age</b>							
Under 30	40	50	10	57	37	6	(256)
30-49	32	58	10	48	46	6	(551)
50-64	28	61	11	51	40	9	(378)
65+	13	73	14	36	55	9	(307)
<b>Sex and Age</b>							
Men under 50	32	61	7	48	46	6	(407)
Women under 50	38	49	13	55	38	7	(400)
Men 50+	20	69	11	46	45	9	(317)
Women 50+	23	63	14	44	48	8	(368)
<b>Education</b>							
College Grad.	41	50	9	64	32	4	(561)
Some College	30	59	11	46	46	8	(385)
High School Grad.	24	63	13	45	47	8	(463)
< H.S. Grad.	21	71	8	33	59	8	(99)
<b>Family Income</b>							
\$75,000+	34	58	8	57	38	5	(370)
\$50,000-\$74,999	35	57	8	54	41	5	(246)
\$30,000-\$49,999	30	60	10	52	41	7	(312)
\$20,000-\$29,999	30	60	10	47	47	6	(179)
<\$20,000	20	66	14	35	55	10	(230)

\* The designation Hispanic is unrelated to the white-black categorization.

Question: Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples?

*Continued on next page..*

	<i>Allow Homosexuals to marry legally</i>			<i>Legal agreements with many of the same rights as marriage</i>			
	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %	
<b>Total</b>	29	60	11=100	49	44	7=100	(1512)
<b>Region</b>							
East	39	48	13	62	30	8	(287)
Midwest	27	62	11	47	47	6	(349)
South	25	66	9	41	51	8	(544)
West	31	57	12	52	41	7	(332)
<b>Religious Affiliation</b>							
Total White Protestant	22	69	9	42	52	6	(699)
- Evangelical	12	81	7	26	67	7	(367)
- Non-Evangelical	32	56	12	61	34	5	(332)
White Catholic	35	54	11	60	33	7	(262)
Secular	63	29	8	75	18	7	(156)
<b>Community Size</b>							
Large City	36	54	10	52	42	6	(283)
Suburb	30	58	12	54	39	7	(391)
Small City/Town	26	62	12	45	46	9	(529)
Rural Area	27	66	7	43	50	7	(290)
<b>Party ID</b>							
Republican	16	77	7	38	56	6	(505)
Democrat	38	50	12	56	36	8	(503)
Independent	36	52	12	54	39	7	(410)
<b>Party and Ideology</b>							
Conservative Republican	10	84	6	33	63	4	(337)
Moderate/Liberal Rep.	28	65	7	51	42	7	(156)
Conservative/Mod. Dem.	28	59	13	49	43	8	(336)
Liberal Democrat	66	28	6	77	18	5	(146)
<b>Bush Approval</b>							
Approve	18	74	8	39	56	5	(710)
Disapprove	42	46	12	60	33	7	(678)
<b>Religious Commitment</b>							
High	13	79	8	29	64	7	(549)
Moderate	29	57	14	49	42	9	(434)
Low	46	43	11	67	27	6	(529)
<b>Labor Union</b>							
Union Household	28	63	9	52	42	6	(211)
Non-Union Household	30	59	11	48	44	8	(1296)

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE**  
**AUGUST 2004 NEWS INTEREST INDEX**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**August 5 - 10, 2004 / N=1512**

Q.1 Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush 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 George W. Bush is handling his job as president? IF STILL DEPENDS ENTER AS DK]**

	<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't know		<u>Approve</u>	Dis- approve	Don't know
August, 2004	46	45	9=100	June, 2002	70	20	10=100
July, 2004	46	46	8=100	April, 2002	69	18	13=100
June, 2004	48	43	9=100	Early April, 2002	74	16	10=100
May, 2004	44	48	8=100	February, 2002	78	13	9=100
Late April, 2004	48	43	9=100	January, 2002	80	11	9=100
Early April, 2004	43	47	10=100	<b>2001</b>			
Late March, 2004	47	44	9=100	Mid-November, 2001	84	9	7=100
Mid-March, 2004	46	47	7=100	Early October, 2001	84	8	8=100
February, 2004	48	44	8=100	Late September, 2001	86	7	7=100
Mid-January, 2004	56	34	10=100	Mid-September, 2001	80	9	11=100
Early January, 2004	58	35	7=100	Early September, 2001	51	34	15=100
<b>2003</b>				August, 2001	50	32	18=100
December, 2003	57	34	9=100	July, 2001	51	32	17=100
November, 2003	50	40	10=100	June, 2001	50	33	17=100
October, 2003	50	42	8=100	May, 2001	53	32	15=100
September, 2003	55	36	9=100	April, 2001	56	27	17=100
Mid-August, 2003	56	32	12=100	March, 2001	55	25	20=100
Early August, 2003	53	37	10=100	February, 2001	53	21	26=100
Mid-July, 2003	58	32	10=100				
Early July, 2003	60	29	11=100				
June, 2003	62	27	11=100				
May, 2003	65	27	8=100				
April 10-16, 2003	72	22	6=100				
April 9, 2003	74	20	6=100				
April 2-7, 2003	69	25	6=100				
March 28-April 1, 2003	71	23	6=100				
March 25-27, 2003	70	24	6=100				
March 20-24, 2003	67	26	7=100				
March 13-16, 2003	55	34	11=100				
February, 2003	54	36	10=100				
January, 2003	58	32	10=100				
<b>2002</b>							
December, 2002	61	28	11=100				
Late October, 2002	59	29	12=100				
Early October, 2002	61	30	9=100				
Mid-September, 2002	67	22	11=100				
Early September, 2002	63	26	11=100				
Late August, 2002	60	27	13=100				
August, 2002	67	21	12=100				
Late July, 2002	65	25	10=100				
July, 2002	67	21	12=100				

**QUESTION 2 RELEASED PREVIOUSLY**

Q.3 How much thought have you given to the coming presidential election... Quite a lot or only a little?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1166]:**

	Quite <u>A lot</u>	(VOL.) <u>Some</u>	Only a <u>Little</u>	(VOL.) <u>None</u>	DK/ <u>Ref.</u>
August, 2004	69	2	26	2	1=100
July, 2004	67	2	28	2	1=100
June, 2004	58	3	36	2	1=100
May, 2004	59	6	30	4	1=100
Late March, 2004	60	4	31	4	1=100
Mid-March, 2004	65	2	31	2	*=100
<b>2000</b> Early November, 2000	72	6	19	2	1=100
Late October, 2000	66	6	24	4	*=100
Mid-October, 2000	67	9	19	4	1=100
Early October, 2000	60	8	27	4	1=100
September, 2000	59	8	29	3	1=100
July, 2000	46	6	45	3	*=100
June, 2000	46	6	43	5	*=100
May, 2000	48	4	42	5	1=100
April, 2000	45	7	41	7	*=100
<b>1996</b> November, 1996	67	8	22	3	*=100
October, 1996	65	7	26	1	1=100
Late September, 1996	61	7	29	2	1=100
Early September, 1996	56	3	36	4	1=100
July, 1996	55	3	41	1	*=100
June, 1996	50	5	41	3	1=100
<b>1992</b> October, 1992	77	5	16	1	1=100
September, 1992	69	3	26	1	1=100
August, 1992	72	4	23	1	*=100
June, 1992	63	6	29	1	1=100
<b>1988</b> <b>Gallup:</b> November, 1988	73	8	17	2	0=100
<b>Gallup:</b> October, 1988	69	9	20	2	0=100
<b>Gallup:</b> August, 1988	61	10	27	2	0=100
<b>Gallup:</b> September, 1988	57	18	23	2	0=100

Q.4 If the presidential election were being held TODAY, would you vote [INSERT, ROTATE REPUBLICAN AND DEMOCRATIC TICKETS WITH NADER TICKET LAST] for the Republican ticket of George W. Bush and Dick Cheney, for the Democratic ticket of John Kerry and John Edwards, or for the ticket of Ralph Nader and Peter Camejo?

**IF CHOSE BUSH, KERRY OR NADER IN Q.4, ASK:**

Q.4a Do you support (INSERT PRESIDENTIAL CHOICE FROM Q.4, – LAST NAME ONLY, DO NOT READ VP CHOICE) strongly or only moderately?

**IF OTHER OR DK (Q.4=4,9), ASK:**

Q.4b As of TODAY, do you LEAN more to [READ, ROTATE IN SAME ORDER AS Q.4]?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1166]:**

		Late Mid-					Sept		Early		Oct			
		July	June <sup>1</sup>	May	Mar	Mar	2000	July	Sept	July	1996	1996	1992	June
		<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>2000</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1996</u>		<u>1992</u>	<u>1992</u>	
45	Bush/Lean Bush	44	46	43	44	42	41	42	<i>Bush</i>	34	34	<i>Dole</i>	35	31
32	Strongly						21			17			14	
13	Only moderately						19			17			21	
*	Don't know						1			*			--	
47	Kerry/Lean Kerry	46	42	46	43	49	47	41	<i>Gore</i>	52	44	<i>Clinton</i>	48	28
28	Strongly						25			26			23	
19	Only moderately						21			26			25	
*	Don't know						1			0			--	
2	Nader/Lean Nader	3	6	6	6	4	2	6	<i>Nader</i>	8	16	<i>Perot</i>	8	36
6	Other/Don't know	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>		<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>		<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100		100	100		100	100

**QUESTION 5 THROUGH 10 RELEASED PREVIOUSLY**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.11 In making your decision about who to vote for, will the issue of [INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE – OBSERVE FORM SPLITS] be very important, somewhat important, or not too important, or not at all important? ... How important will the issue of [NEXT ITEM] be?

**BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=1166]:**

		Very	Somewhat	Not too	Not at all	Don't Know/ Refused
		<u>Important</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Refused</u>
a.	The economy	76	22	1	1	*=100
b.	Iraq	70	24	3	2	1=100
c.	Terrorism	75	19	3	2	1=100
d.	Gay marriage	34	19	15	30	2=100
e.	Moral values	64	25	6	4	1=100

<sup>1</sup> In June 2004 and earlier, the question did not specify vice presidential candidates. In 2000 the question also asked about the candidacy of "Pat Buchanan, of the Reform Party."

**Q.11 CONTINUED...**

	Very <u>Important</u>	Somewhat <u>Important</u>	Not too <u>Important</u>	Not at all <u>Important</u>	Don't Know/ <u>Refused</u>
<b>ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=569]:</b>					
f.F1 Abortion	45	25	13	14	3=100
g.F1 The federal budget deficit	55	35	7	3	*=100
h.F1 Energy	53	40	6	*	1=100
<b>ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=597]:</b>					
i.F2 Health care	72	21	5	2	*=100
j.F2 Education	70	26	3	1	*=100
k.F2 The environment	55	35	7	3	*=100

**QUESTION 12 THROUGH 20 RELEASED PREVIOUSLY**

On a different subject...

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=739]:**

Q.21F1 In your opinion, should churches and other houses of worship keep out of political matters – or should they express their views on day-to-day social and political questions?

	Mid-July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2001</u>	Sept <u>2000<sup>2</sup></u>	June <u>1996</u>	— Gallup —		
					<u>Feb 1968</u>	<u>March 1957</u>	
44	Should keep out	44	43	45	43	53	44
51	Should express views	52	51	51	54	40	48
<u>5</u>	No opinion	<u>4</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=773]:**

Q.22F2 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?

	March <u>2002</u>	
25	Should come out in favor of candidates	22
65	Should not come out in favor of candidates	70
<u>10</u>	No Opinion	<u>8</u>
100		100

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<sup>2</sup> September 2000 results are based on registered voters. In 2000 and earlier, the question did not include “and other houses of worship.”

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=739]:**

Q.23F1 Do you think there has been too much, too little or the right amount of expressions of religious faith and prayer by political leaders?

		Mid-July <u>2003</u>
27	Too much	21
31	Too little	41
32	Right amount	29
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>9</u>
100		100

**[ROTATE Q24F2 AND Q25F2]**

**[ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=773]:**

Q.24F2 Do you think John Kerry mentions his religious faith and prayer too much, too little, or about the right amount?

10	Too much
15	Too little
56	About the right amount
<u>19</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

Q.25F2 Do you think George W. Bush mentions his religious faith and prayer too much, too little, or about the right amount?

		Mid-July <u>2003</u>
24	Too much	14
11	Too little	11
53	About the right amount	62
<u>12</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>13</u>
100		100

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=739]:**

Q.26F1 How much do you think George W. Bush relies on his own religious beliefs in making policy decisions – a great deal, a fair amount, or not very much?

		Mid-July <u>2003</u>
26	A great deal	20
38	A fair amount	40
28	Not very much	31
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>9</u>
100		100

Q.27F1 Do you think he relies on his religious beliefs too MUCH, too LITTLE or about the right amount when making policy decisions?

	Mid-July <u>2003</u> <sup>3</sup>	
15	Too much	10
21	Too little	21
53	About the right amount	58
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>11</u>
100		100

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=773]:**

Q.28F2 If John Kerry becomes president, how much do you think he will rely on his own religious beliefs in making policy decisions – a great deal, a fair amount, or not very much?

10	A great deal
33	A fair amount
46	Not very much
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**ASK ALL:**

**ROTATE Q.29 – Q.30 – Q.31**

Q.29 Do you believe that it is proper or improper for political parties to ask church members for lists of people who attend their church so the parties can encourage them to register and vote?

26	Proper
69	Improper
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.30 Do you believe that it is proper or improper for Catholic church leaders to deny communion to Catholic politicians whose views on abortion and other life issues go against church teachings?

22	Proper
64	Improper
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

Q.31 Do you believe that it is proper or improper for the Ten Commandments to be displayed in a government building?

72	Proper
23	Improper
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

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<sup>3</sup>

In July 2003 question worded: "In making policy decisions, do you think he relies on his religious beliefs too much, too little or about the right amount?"



**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=739]:**

Q.32F1 Thinking again about candidates and elections...How do you feel about this statement: It makes me uncomfortable when politicians talk about how religious they are. Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely DISagree with it?

<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>		<u>Sept 2000 (RVs)</u>
12	14	Completely Agree	25
28	26	Mostly Agree	25
34	34	Mostly Disagree	26
22	22	Completely Disagree	19
<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>5</u>
100	100		100

(N=569)

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=773]:**

Q.33F2 Thinking again about candidates and elections... 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?

<u>Total</u>	<u>RVs</u>		<u>Sept 2000 (RVs)</u>
29	31	Completely Agree	35
41	41	Mostly Agree	35
15	14	Mostly Disagree	17
11	10	Completely Disagree	10
<u>4</u>	<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>3</u>
100	100		100

(N=597)

Q.34F2 As I name a group please tell me whether you feel that group is generally friendly toward religion, neutral toward religion, or unfriendly toward religion? Do you think ... **[INSERT ITEM AND RANDOMIZE]** is/are generally friendly, neutral, or unfriendly toward religion?

	<u>Friendly</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfriendly</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
a. The Democratic party	40	34	13	13=100
Mid-July, 2003	42	36	12	10=100
b. The Republican party	52	24	10	14=100
Mid-July, 2003	52	27	10	11=100
c. Liberals	21	36	23	20=100
Mid-July, 2003	26	33	27	14=100
d. Conservatives	49	23	9	19=100
Mid-July, 2003	51	25	10	14=100

**NO QUESTION 35**

On another subject...

Q.36 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

		July <u>2004</u>	March <u>2004</u>	Early Feb <u>2004</u>	Nov <u>2003</u>	Oct <sup>4</sup> <u>2003</u>	Mid- July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2001</u>	June <u>1996</u>
8	Strongly favor	10	10	9	10	9	10	8	6
21	Favor	22	22	21	20	21	28	27	21
25	Oppose	23	24	21	21	25	23	23	24
35	Strongly oppose	33	35	42	41	33	30	34	41
<u>11</u>	Don't know/Ref. (VOL.)	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Q.37 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples?

		July <u>2004</u>	March <u>2004</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>
15	Strongly favor	18	16	14
33	Favor	31	33	31
21	Oppose	18	18	20
24	Strongly oppose	25	26	27
<u>7</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100	100

**IF OPPOSE GAY MARRIAGE (3,4 IN Q.36), ASK FORM 1 ONLY:**

Q.38F1 There has been a proposal to change the U.S. Constitution to ban gay marriage. Do you think amending the Constitution to ban gay marriage is a good idea, or a bad idea?

		July <u>2004</u>	March <u>2004</u>
30	Favor	32	32
60	Oppose	56	59
35	Good idea / Pro-Constitutional amendment	31	36
22	Bad idea / Anti-Constitutional amendment	22	21
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	3	2
<u>10</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>
100		100	100

**NO QUESTION 39**

<sup>4</sup> The October 2003 trend questions about gay marriage and civil unions are based on Form 1 respondents only (N=735). In an experiment, Form 2 respondents were asked the questions in the reverse order. The experiment found that the order of the questions has a significant impact on responses to the civil unions question.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.40 As you may know, the federal government has debated whether to fund certain kinds of medical research known as 'stem cell research' ... How much have you heard about this? **[READ, IN ORDER]**

		March <u>2002</u>
42	A lot	27
43	A little [OR]	52
15	Nothing at all	20
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>1</u>
		100

Q.41 All in all, which is more important... **[READ, IN ORDER]**

		March <u>2002</u>
52	Conducting stem cell research that might result in new medical cures [OR]	43
34	Not destroying the potential life of human embryos involved in this research	38
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused [VOL, DO NOT READ]	<u>19</u>
100		100

**NO QUESTIONS 42 THROUGH 45**

**QUESTIONS 42 THROUGH 62 IN PREVIOUS RELEASE**

RELIG What is your religious preference — Protestant, Roman Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Mormon, or an orthodox church such as the Greek or Russian Orthodox Church?

57	Protestant (include Baptist, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian, Episcopalian, Pentecostal, Jehovah's Witness, Church of Christ, etc.)
23	Roman Catholic
2	Jewish
2	Mormon (include Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints)
1	Orthodox Church (Greek or Russian)
*	Islam/Muslim
2	Other religion ( <b>SPECIFY</b> )
11	No religion, not a believer, atheist, agnostic
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**IF RELIG = 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 9 ASK [N=1321]:**

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

42	Yes, would
54	No, would not
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	

**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?

		<u>July</u> <u>2003</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2003</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2002</u>	<u>Mid-Nov</u> <u>2001</u>	<u>March</u> <u>2001</u>	<u>Sept</u> <u>2000<sup>5</sup></u>	<u>June</u> <u>1997</u>	<u>June</u> <u>1996</u>
13	More than once a week	16	15	15	16	17	17	12	14
25	Once a week	27	24	25	26	26	28	26	25
15	Once or twice a month	15	15	17	14	17	16	17	17
20	A few times a year	18	21	18	17	17	17	20	21
15	Seldom	14	15	15	16	15	13	15	13
11	Never	10	9	9	10	7	8	10	9
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

**RELIMP** How important would you say religion is in your own life – very important, fairly important, or not very important?

	<u>Very</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Fairly</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Not very</u> <u>Important</u>	<u>Don't know/</u> <u>Refused</u>
August, 2004	57	26	16	1=100
October, 2003	62	24	13	1=100
Mid-July, 2003	61	24	14	1=100
December, 2002	60	27	12	1=100
March, 2002	63	24	12	1=100
Mid-November, 2001	61	24	14	1=100
March, 2001	64	23	12	1=100
March, 2000 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	61	27	12	*=100
June, 1998 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	62	25	12	1=100
June, 1996	59	26	15	*=100
March, 1994 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	59	29	11	1=100
March, 1988 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	54	31	14	1=100
March, 1984 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	56	30	13	1=100
April, 1978 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	52	32	14	2=100
November, 1965 ( <i>Gallup</i> )	70	22	7	1=100

<sup>5</sup>

September 2000 results are based on registered voters.