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Only About Half Identify Obama as Christian

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## Little Voter Discomfort with Romney's Mormon Religion

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## Only About Half Identify Obama as Christian

# Little Voter Discomfort with Romney's Mormon Religion

Most voters continue to say it is important for a president to have strong religious beliefs. But voters have limited awareness of the religious faiths of both Mitt Romney and Barack Obama. And there is little evidence to suggest that concerns about the candidates' respective faiths will have a meaningful impact in the fall elections.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life and the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted June 28-July 9, 2012, among 2,973 adults, including 2,373 registered voters, finds that 60% of voters are aware that Romney is Mormon, virtually unchanged from four months ago, during the GOP primaries.

The vast majority of those who are aware of Romney's faith say it doesn't concern them. Fully eight-in-ten voters who know Romney is Mormon say they are either comfortable with his faith (60%) or that it doesn't matter to them (21%).

Along religious lines, white evangelical Protestants and black Protestants, on the one hand, and atheists and agnostics on the other, are the most likely to say they are uncomfortable with Romney's faith. Yet unease with Romney's religion has little impact on voting preferences. Republicans and white evangelicals overwhelmingly back Romney irrespective of their views of his faith, and Democrats and seculars overwhelmingly oppose him regardless of their impression.

Comfort with Romney's faith, however, is related to the enthusiasm of Republican support for his candidacy. Among Republican and Republican-leaning voters who say they are comfortable with Romney being Mormon, 44% back him strongly. Among those who are uncomfortable with it, just 21% say they back him strongly.

### Most Who Know Romney's Religion Are Comfortable With It

	Nov 2011	Mar 2012	July 2012
<i>What is Mitt Romney's religion?</i>	%	%	%
Mormon	48	58	60
Other	8	7	9
Don't know	<u>44</u>	<u>35</u>	<u>32</u>
	100	100	100

Among those who...

	July 2012 Total	Know he is Mormon	Say he is other
<i>Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with Romney's religious faith?</i>	%	%	%
Comfortable	41	60	61
Uncomfortable	13	19	22
Doesn't matter/DK	14	21	17
Don't know his religion	<u>32</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

A separate Pew Research survey, released July 24, found that voters have little interest in learning more about Romney's religious beliefs. Just 16% said they wanted to hear more about Romney's religious beliefs. Far more wanted to hear more about Romney's record as governor (41%), his federal income tax returns (36%) and his record as chief executive of Bain Capital (35%). (For more see ["Most Say They Already Know Enough about the Candidates," July 24, 2012.](#))

The new survey on religion and politics finds that nearly four years into his presidency the view that Barack Obama is Muslim persists. Currently, 17% of registered voters say that Obama is Muslim; 49% say he is Christian, while 31% say they do not know Obama's religion.

The percentage of voters identifying Obama's religion as Christian has increased since August 2010, from 38% to 49%, while there has been little change in the percentage saying he is Muslim (19% then, 17% today). Still, fewer say Obama is Christian – and more say he is Muslim – than did so in October 2008, near the end of the last presidential campaign. The increase since 2008 is particularly concentrated among conservative Republicans, about a third of whom (34%) describe the president as a Muslim.

Overall, 45% of voters say they are comfortable with Obama's religion, while 19% are uncomfortable. Among those who say Obama is Christian, 82% are comfortable with his religious beliefs. Among those who describe him as a Muslim, just 26% are comfortable with his beliefs.

### Lingering Doubt, Concern about Obama's Religion

	Oct 2008	Aug 2010	July 2012
<i>What is Barack Obama's religion?</i>	%	%	%
Christian	55	38	49
Muslim	12	19	17
Other	2	2	3
Don't know	<u>31</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>31</u>
	100	100	100

*Among those who...*

	July 2012 Total	Know he is Christian	Say he is Muslim
<i>Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with Obama's religious faith?</i>	%	%	%
Comfortable	45	82	26
Uncomfortable	19	12	65
Doesn't matter/DK	5	6	9
Don't know his religion	<u>31</u>	--	--
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q95, Q96. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Conservatives More Likely to Say Obama Is Muslim than in 2008

	Oct 2008	July 2012	Change
<i>Percent saying "Muslim" among...</i>	%	%	
Republican	16	30	+14
Conservative Republican	16	34	+18
Independent	11	16	+5
Democrat	9	8	-1

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q95. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The survey also finds continued public ambivalence about the role of religion in politics. Fully 67% agree “It’s important to me that a president have strong religious beliefs,” an opinion that has changed little over the past decade. And more than half say they are comfortable with politicians expressing their religious beliefs.

Yet the public remains opposed to churches explicitly endorsing political candidates, with two-thirds saying churches and other houses of worship should not come out in favor of political candidates. And a Pew Research Center survey [released in March](#) found that concern about too much church involvement in political matters has been on the rise over the past decade.

The new survey also finds that 66% of the public says that religion is losing its influence on American life. That is little changed from 2010, but among the highest percentages saying religion is losing its influence since the question was first asked in a Gallup poll in 1957. A small but growing share of Americans say it is good that religion’s influence is declining: Currently, 12% say this, up from 6% in 2006.

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### Religion’s Influence Seen as Decreasing

<i>Religion increasing or losing influence in American life?</i>	<b>July 2006</b>	<b>Aug 2010</b>	<b>July 2012</b>
	%	%	%
Increasing	34	23	25
Losing	59	67	66
Other/ DK	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Among those who say religion is <u>losing</u> influence, is this a ...</i>			
Bad thing	50	53	49
Good thing	6	10	12
Other/ DK	3	4	5
	(59)	(67)	(66)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q42/Q42b.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## SECTION 1: CANDIDATES' RELIGIONS AND VIEWS OF MORMONISM

There has been little change in recent years in the public's views about Mormonism. Most adults say that Mormonism is very different from their own religious beliefs, and only about half of the public thinks of Mormonism as a Christian religion. Still, the poll finds that most voters who know that Romney is Mormon say they are not bothered by his faith. And even among those who say they are uncomfortable with Romney's faith, there is little evidence that the discomfort will sway their votes. Regardless of their comfort level, the overwhelming majority of those who are Republicans or lean Republican say they will vote for Romney, and the overwhelming majority of Democratic and Democratic-leaning voters say they will vote for Obama.

Nearly one-in-five voters (17%) say that Obama is Muslim. And 19% of voters say they are uncomfortable with Obama's religion.

Discomfort with Obama's religion is predominantly concentrated among those who say he is Muslim. And there is a much stronger partisan component in views of Obama's religion than Romney's. More than one-third (36%) of Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters say they are uncomfortable with Obama's religion, compared with only 7% of Democratic and Democratic-leaning registered voters. Differences between Republicans and Democrats in views of Romney's religion are much smaller by comparison; 10% of Republican voters and 16% of Democratic voters say they are uncomfortable with Romney's faith.

### Comfort with Obama's Religion Rooted in Partisanship

<i>Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with Obama's religion?</i>	All voters	Rep/lean Rep	Dem/lean Dem
	%	%	%
Comfortable	45	27	61
Uncomfortable	19	36	7
Doesn't matter/No opinion	5	5	4
Don't know his religion	<u>31</u>	<u>33</u>	<u>28</u>
	100	100	100

<i>Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with Romney's religion?</i>	All voters	Rep/lean Rep	Dem/lean Dem
	%	%	%
Comfortable	41	51	35
Uncomfortable	13	10	16
Doesn't matter/No opinion	14	13	15
Don't know his religion	<u>32</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>34</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q19/20, Q95/96. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Views of Romney's Religion

Six-in-ten voters (60%) are able to identify Romney as a Mormon. About one-in-ten voters (9%) say that Romney belongs to some other (non-Mormon) religion and 32% say they do not know what Romney's religion is.

The percentage of voters who know that Romney is a Mormon has remained largely unchanged since March (58%). Last November, before the start of the GOP primaries, 48% said Romney is a Mormon.

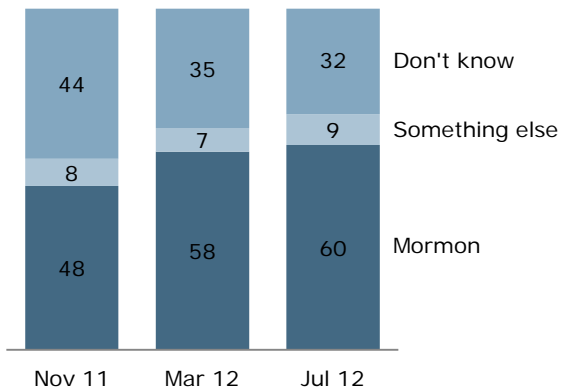
Seven-in-ten Republican voters know that Romney is a Mormon (70%). Fewer Democrats (54%) and independents (60%) identify Romney's faith. Awareness has increased across party lines since last November, when 58% of Republicans, 40% of Democrats and 52% of independent registered voters identified Romney as Mormon. Older voters and college graduates are more likely to be aware of Romney's faith than are younger voters and those with less education.

Among religious groups, atheist and agnostic voters are most knowledgeable about Romney's religion; 81% identify him as a Mormon. Roughly two-thirds of white Catholic voters (68%), white evangelicals (66%) and white mainline Protestants (66%) know that Romney is a Mormon. Fewer black Protestant registered voters know that Romney is a Mormon (38%).

Eight-in-ten voters who are aware of Romney's religion say that they are comfortable with his religious faith (60%), that his religion does not matter to them (19%) or express no opinion (2%). Among voters who know that Romney is Mormon, about one-in-five (19%) say they are uncomfortable with it. This represents 11% of all registered voters, given that many are unaware of his faith.

The general comfort with Romney's Mormonism spans all major religious groups. About six-in-ten white Catholic voters (62%) and white evangelical voters (59%) who know Romney's faith say they are comfortable with it, as do 73% of white mainline Protestants.

### What is Romney's Religion?



PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q19. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Among voters with no religious affiliation, 54% who know Romney is Mormon say they are comfortable with his religious faith, while 23% are uncomfortable. Atheist and agnostic voters are among the most inclined to say Romney's Mormonism makes them uncomfortable (30%).

There are partisan differences in views of Romney's religion, but large majorities of Republicans, Democrats and independents who know Romney's religion say either that they are comfortable with it or that it does not matter. About a quarter of Democratic voters (23%) say they uncomfortable with Romney's religion, as do 18% of independents and 15% of Republicans.

## Most Who Know Romney's Faith Are Comfortable With It

	Know Romney is Mormon	Among registered voters who know he is Mormon					N
		Comfortable or uncomfortable with Romney's religious faith?					
	%	Un-comfor-table	Com-for-table	(Vol.) Doesn't matter	DK		
	%	%	%	%	%		
All voters	60	19	60	19	2=100	1546	
Protestant	58	20	62	14	4=100	852	
White evangelical	66	23	59	13	5=100	393	
White mainline	66	10	73	14	2=100	319	
Catholic	59	18	58	23	1=100	297	
White Catholic	68	14	62	23	1=100	252	
Unaffiliated	60	23	54	22	1=100	482	
Atheist/Agnostic	81	30	46	24	1=100	222	
Nothing in particular	51	18	60	21	*=100	260	
Republican	70	15	68	14	2=100	506	
Democrat	54	23	52	23	2=100	499	
Independent	60	18	61	19	2=100	502	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q19-Q20. Based on registered voters. Whites include only those who are not Hispanic. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Romney's Religion Not Hurting Him in Presidential Race

Discomfort with Romney's Mormonism appears to be of little consequence for the upcoming presidential election. Overwhelming majorities of Republican and Republican-leaning voters who know

Romney is Mormon support him, whether they are comfortable with his religion or not. Conversely, about nine-in-ten Democrats and Democratic-leaning voters intend to vote for Barack Obama, regardless of their view of Romney's faith.

However, Romney supporters who are uncomfortable with his Mormonism are less enthusiastic about his candidacy than those who are not bothered by his faith.

Among Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters who express no discomfort with Romney's Mormonism, 92% plan to vote for Romney, and 42% back him strongly. By comparison, Republican and Republican-leaning voters who are uncomfortable with his faith still prefer Romney over Obama – 93% say they will vote for him – but strong support drops to just 21%.

The same is true among white evangelical voters. White evangelical Protestants overwhelmingly back Romney over Obama regardless of their feelings about his faith. But evangelicals who are comfortable with Romney's Mormonism express substantially more strong support for his candidacy than those who are uncomfortable with his faith (41% vs. 16%).

### Republicans Uncomfortable with Romney's Religion Still Support Him, But Not as Strongly

	Obama/lean Obama			Romney/lean Romney			N
	NET	Strong	Not strong	NET	Strong	Not strong	
<i>Rep/lean Rep RV know Romney is Mormon and...</i>							
Uncomfortable	4	0	4	93	21	72	96
Comfortable/Doesn't matter	5	1	3	92	42	50	633
<i>Dem/lean Dem RV know Romney is Mormon and...</i>							
Uncomfortable	92	60	32	4	0	4	161
Comfortable/Doesn't matter	91	61	30	6	1	5	542
<i>White evangelical RV know Romney is Mormon and...</i>							
Uncomfortable	13	6	7	78	16	63	90
Comfortable/Doesn't matter	17	8	9	77	41	36	289

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Based on registered voters who know Romney is Mormon. Q10/Q10a/Q10b. Those who say they don't know if they are comfortable with Romney's religion are not shown.



## Views of Mormonism

There has been little change in views of Mormonism over the course of the 2012 campaign season. Currently, 23% of non-Mormons say that Mormonism and their own faith have a lot in common, while 61% say Mormonism and their own religious beliefs are very different. These figures are similar to previous polls conducted in November 2011 and August 2007.

Majorities of most religious groups say that Mormonism and their own respective faiths are very different from each other. This point of view is most common among atheists and agnostics, among whom 84% say Mormonism and their own beliefs are very different.

Half of non-Mormons say that Mormonism is a Christian religion, while 31% say it is not a Christian faith, and 19% say they don't know whether Mormonism is Christian. These figures have not changed since 2007.

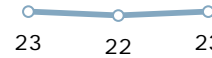
### No Change in Views of the Mormon Faith

*The Mormon religion and your own beliefs?*

Are very different



Have a lot in common

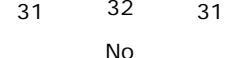


*Is Mormonism a Christian religion?*

Yes



No



Aug 2007    Nov 2011    July 2012

Aug 2007    Nov 2011    July 2012

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q75/76, Q78. Based on non-Mormons.

The greatest skepticism about whether Mormonism is a Christian faith is among white evangelicals (42% of whom say it is not) and black Protestants (38% of whom say it is not). Majorities of white mainline Protestants, white Catholics and religiously unaffiliated respondents say Mormonism is a Christian religion.

### White Evangelicals Remain Divided on Whether Mormonism is a Christian Religion

	<i>The Mormon religion and your own beliefs?</i>			<i>Is Mormonism a Christian religion?</i>		
	<b>Lot in common</b>	<b>Very different</b>	<b>DK</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>DK</b>
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	23	61	16=100	50	31	19=100
Protestant	27	61	12=100	47	35	18=100
White evangelical	27	63	9=100	43	42	15=100
White mainline	32	56	13=100	66	21	14=100
Black Protestant	21	66	13=100	33	38	29=100
Catholic	24	57	19=100	51	30	19=100
White Catholic	28	54	18=100	59	25	16=100
Unaffiliated	13	70	17=100	56	27	17=100
Atheist/agnostic	8	84	8=100	67	22	12=100
Nothing particular	15	65	20=100	51	30	19=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q75/76, Q78. Based on non-Mormons. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

### Views of Obama's Religion

There has long been significant confusion about Barack Obama's religious faith. In mid-October of 2008 – just weeks before his election – only 55% of voters identified him as Christian. Most of the rest (31% of registered voters) said they did not know what his religious faith was, and 12% said they thought he was Muslim.

To the extent that these views have changed over his first term in office, the shift has not been toward greater awareness of Obama's Christian faith. Currently, 49% of registered voters identify Obama as Christian, while 31% say they don't know what he is, and 17% misidentify him as Muslim.

### What is Obama's Religion?

	<b>Oct 2008</b>	<b>Aug 2010</b>	<b>July 2012</b>
	%	%	%
Christian	55	38	49
Muslim	12	19	17
Other	2	2	3
Don't know	<u>31</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>31</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q95. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The slight rise in the number saying that Obama is a Muslim has been most pronounced among conservative Republicans. The number of conservative Republicans who say Obama is a Muslim has doubled since October 2008 (from 16% to 34%). There has been virtually no change in the share of moderate and liberal Republicans who say Obama is Muslim, or among any Democratic or Democratic-leaning groups.

Because of the increasing partisan polarization in perceptions of Obama's faith, a Romney supporter today is much more likely than a McCain voter four years ago to say that Barack Obama is Muslim (30% vs. 17% in October 2008).

Overall, half of registered voters either say they are comfortable with Obama's religion (45%) or that his religious faith does not matter to them (5%). One-in-five registered voters say they are uncomfortable with Obama's religion (19%), which is slightly higher than the percent who say they are uncomfortable with Romney's faith (13%). Not surprisingly, discomfort with Obama's religion is concentrated among those who say he is a Muslim. Two-thirds of registered voters who say Obama is a Muslim say they are uncomfortable with his faith (65%), while eight-in-ten voters who say Obama is Christian say they are comfortable with his religion (82%).

### Conservative Republicans Increasingly Say Obama is Muslim

	Oct 2008	Jul 2012	Change
	%	%	
All voters	12	17	+5
<i>Party</i>			
Republican	16	30	+14
Conservative	16	34	+18
Moderate/Liberal	16	19	+3
Independent	11	16	+5
Lean Republican	16	23	+7
Lean Democratic	7	9	+2
Democrat	9	8	-1
Conservative/Moderate	13	10	-3
Liberal	2	5	+3
<i>Vote preference</i>			
McCain/Romney	17	30	+13
Obama	8	6	-2

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q95. Based on registered voters.

### Most Who Know Obama is Christian are Comfortable With His Religion

Are you comfortable or uncomfortable with Obama's religious faith?	All RVs	Among registered voters who...	
		Know he is Christian	Say he is Muslim
	%	%	%
Comfortable	45	82	26
Uncomfortable	19	12	65
Doesn't matter/No opinion	5	6	9
Don't know his religion	31	--	--
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q95/Q96. Based on registered voters. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## SECTION 2: RELIGION AND POLITICS

Americans have long been comfortable with religion having a role in politics. A sizable majority continues to say it is important for the president to have strong religious beliefs. And a majority says they are not bothered when politicians talk about their religion.

At the same time, however, there is widespread opposition to churches and other houses of worship endorsing one political candidate over another. And recent Pew Research Center polling found that an increasing percentage thinks there has been “too much” religious talk from politicians.

Roughly half of the public believes that conservative Christians have gone too far in trying to impose their religious values on the country. But there is even more concern that liberals have gone too far in trying to keep religion out of schools and government.

This imbalance reflects the continued public view that religious groups, and religion in general, strengthen American society. By two-to-one, most say that churches, synagogues and other houses of worship contribute to solving important social problems. Yet there is a continued sense that religion’s influence is declining in America. An overwhelming majority of those who share this perception see this as a bad thing.

## Most Want President to Have Strong Religious Beliefs

Two-thirds of adults (67%) say it is important for the president to have strong religious beliefs. This number is down since 2008 (72%), but is similar to polls conducted during the 2004 and 2000 elections (70%).

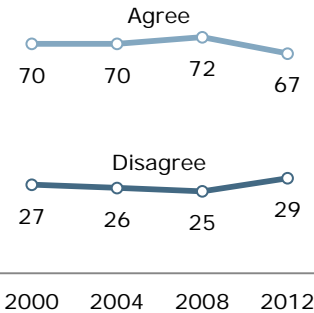
The consistent importance of religion matches another survey finding from a May 2011 [poll](#), which found 61% of adults say they would be less likely to support a presidential candidate who does not believe in God. Of 14 items tested, this was the only potential trait that a clear majority of Americans said would affect their vote negatively.

Eight-in-ten Republicans (81%) say it is important to have a president with strong religious beliefs, which is significantly higher than the number of Democrats (66%) and independents (60%) who say this. Similar partisan divisions have existed since this question was first asked in 2000.

Women are more likely than men to say it is important for a president to have strong religious beliefs (70% vs. 64%). And having a strongly religious president is more important to older people than to younger adults. Those with a high school education or less attach more importance to having a president with strong religious beliefs (74%) than do those with some college (66%), who in turn prioritize this more than college graduates (58%).

### Most Want President Who is Religious

*It is important to me that a president have strong religious beliefs*



PEW RESEARCH CENTER  
June 28-July 9, 2012. Q45. 2000 figures based on registered voters.

### More Republicans See Importance of Strongly Religious President

*It is important to me that a president have strong religious beliefs*

	Agree %	Disagree %	DK %
Total	67	29	4=100
Men	64	32	4=100
Women	70	26	4=100
18-29	59	39	1=100
30-49	65	31	4=100
50-64	71	25	4=100
65+	75	21	5=100
College grad +	58	38	4=100
Some college	66	31	3=100
HS or less	74	22	4=100
Republican	81	17	2=100
Democrat	66	31	3=100
Independent	60	36	4=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q45. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Having a president with strong religious beliefs is important to large majorities across a variety of religious groups. Those who are unaffiliated with a religion, especially atheists and agnostics, are the major exception. Two-thirds of the religiously unaffiliated, including 86% of atheists and agnostics, say it is not important that presidents have strong religious beliefs. White evangelical Protestants (88%), black Protestants (78%) and Hispanic Catholics (79%) are among the most likely to say it is important that a president have strong religious beliefs.

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## How Religious Groups View Importance of Religious President

*It is important to me that a president have strong religious beliefs*

	Agree	Disagree	DK
	%	%	%
Total	67	29	4=100
Protestant	79	17	3=100
White evangelical	88	9	3=100
White mainline	68	30	2=100
Black Protestant	78	17	5=100
Catholic	73	23	3=100
White Catholic	71	25	4=100
Hispanic Catholic	79	19	2=100
Unaffiliated	32	65	3=100
Atheist/Agnostic	11	86	3=100
Nothing in particular	40	57	3=100
<i>Attend services...</i>			
Weekly or more	84	12	4=100
Less often	57	40	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q45. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

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## Most Okay with Religious Talk from Politicians

Overall, half of Americans (52%) say it does not bother them when politicians “talk about how religious they are,” while 43% say this makes them uncomfortable. Views on this question have held steady in recent years.

In addition to asking the long-standing question about comfort with politicians talking about “how religious they are,” the survey also asked half of respondents whether it makes them uncomfortable when politicians talk about “their religious faith and beliefs.” When the question is worded this way, 57% disagree, while 37% agree.

Nearly half of Democrats (48%) say it makes them uncomfortable when politicians talk about how religious they are, while about as many (44%) say they are uncomfortable with politicians talking about their religious faith and beliefs. Only about a third of Republicans express discomfort when politicians talk about how religious they are (34%) and their religious faith and beliefs (31%).

### Democrats More Uncomfortable with Politicians’ Religious Talk

*It makes me uncomfortable when politicians talk about...*

	How religious they are	Their religious faith and beliefs
	%	%
Agree	43	37
Disagree	52	57
Don’t know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100

*% agree among...*

Republican	34	31
Democrat	48	44
Independent	46	36

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q43-Q44. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## Continued Opposition to Churches Endorsing Candidates

Pew Research Center surveys conducted over the past decade show a steady consensus that churches and other houses of worship should not come out in favor of one candidate over another during elections.

Currently, about two-thirds of Americans take this view

(66%), while 27% say churches should endorse one candidate over another.

### Should Churches, Other Houses of Worship Endorse Political Candidates?

	Mar 2002	Aug 2004	Aug 2007	Aug 2008	Aug 2010	July 2012
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Should	22	25	28	29	24	27
Should not	70	65	63	66	70	66
Don’t know	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q41. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

There is broad agreement across many demographic groups on this question. Nearly seven-in-ten Democrats (69%) and independents (68%) say churches and other houses of worship should refrain from voicing support for one political candidate over another. Republicans are less opposed to church endorsements of candidates, though even among Republicans a majority opposes church endorsements (59%).

Among religious groups, roughly three-quarters of white mainline Protestants (73%), white Catholics (74%), and the unaffiliated (75%) say that churches should not come out in favor of one candidate over another. Opposition to political endorsements by churches is less pronounced among white evangelical Protestants (56%) and black Protestants (52%).

People who attend religious services regularly and those who say religion is very important in their lives are more inclined than less religious Americans to support houses of worship making political endorsements. But even among these more religious groups, majorities say churches should refrain from endorsing political candidates (57% and 58%, respectively).

### Limited Support for Church Endorsements, Even Among the Most Religious

	Churches should endorse	Should not	Don't know
Total	27	66	7=100
Men	30	64	6=100
Women	25	67	8=100
White	25	68	7=100
Black	39	55	6=100
Hispanic	32	63	5=100
18-29	27	64	8=100
30-49	31	64	5=100
50-64	25	69	6=100
65+	25	66	10=100
College grad +	23	70	6=100
Some college	27	65	7=100
HS or less	30	63	7=100
Republican	35	59	5=100
Democrat	25	69	6=100
Independent	25	68	8=100
Protestant	32	60	7=100
White evangelical	37	56	7=100
White mainline	20	73	7=100
Black Protestant	42	52	6=100
Catholic	27	69	4=100
White Catholic	22	74	4=100
Hispanic Catholic	34	62	4=100
Unaffiliated	18	75	7=100
Atheist/Agnostic	17	75	8=100
Nothing in particular	18	75	7=100
<i>Attend services...</i>			
Weekly or more	36	57	7=100
Less often	22	71	7=100
<i>Importance of religion</i>			
Very important	34	58	7=100
Less important	18	75	7=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q41. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.



## Liberals, Conservative Christians and Religion in Public Life

Nearly two-thirds of Americans believe liberals have gone too far in trying to keep religion out of the schools and the government (65%), a view that has remained stable in recent years. The public is more divided about whether conservative Christians have gone too far in trying to impose their religious values on the country; 48% say yes while 44% say no.

About a quarter of Americans (27%) say both sides have gone too far when it comes to religion – liberals in trying to keep it out of schools and government, and conservative Christians in trying to impose religious values.

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### Liberals, Conservative Christians and Religion in Society

	July 2005	Aug 2006	July 2012
<i>Have liberals gone too far trying to keep religion out of schools/govt?</i>			
	%	%	%
Yes, too far	67	69	65
No, not too far	28	26	30
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>5</u>
	100	100	100
<i>Have conservative Christians gone too far to try to impose religious values on the country?</i>			
Yes, too far	45	49	48
No, not too far	45	43	44
Don't know	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q46-Q47.  
Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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The view that liberals have gone too far in trying to limit religion's influence in government and schools is more prevalent among older than younger Americans. About half (53%) of adults younger than 30 say liberals have gone too far, compared with 66% of those ages 30-49, 70% of those ages 50-64 and 72% of those ages 65 or older. Those under 30 are more likely than those ages 65 and older to say that conservative Christians have gone too far, though generational differences are more modest on this question.

A large majority of Republicans think liberals have gone too far in keeping religion out of schools and government (86%), compared with about half of Democrats (55%) and six-in-ten independents (62%). Conversely, the view that conservative Christians have gone too far to impose their values is much more common among Democrats (62%) and independents (50%) than Republicans (28%).

Among religious groups, the view that liberals have crossed a line in trying to keep religion out of government is most common among white evangelical Protestants (87%), but is also shared by majorities of black Protestants (74%), white mainline Protestants (67%) and Catholics (64%). By contrast, less than half of the religiously unaffiliated (43%) say liberals have gone too far, including only 19% of atheists and agnostics.

This pattern is essentially reversed when it comes to views of conservative Christians. Only 28% of white evangelical Protestants think conservative Christians have gone too far in trying to impose their values. Roughly half or more of white mainline Protestants (51%), Catholics (50%) and black Protestants (47%) say conservative Christians have gone too far. And the religiously unaffiliated are more likely than any other religious group to say conservative Christians have crossed the line (71%), including fully 86% of atheists and agnostics who express this view.

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### Which Side Has Gone Too Far?

	<b>Liberals</b>	<b>Conservative Christians</b>
	%	%
Total	65	48
18-29	53	54
30-49	66	47
50-64	70	50
65+	72	42
College grad +	55	57
Some college	66	45
HS or less	72	45
Republican	86	28
Democrat	55	62
Independent	62	50
Protestant	77	38
White evangelical	87	28
White mainline	67	51
Black Protestant	74	47
Catholic	64	50
White Catholic	70	46
Hispanic Catholic	56	53
Unaffiliated	43	71
Atheist/Agnostic	19	86
Nothing in particular	53	65

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q46, Q47.  
 Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

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## Religion's Influence on American Life

Two-thirds of Americans (66%) say religion as a whole is losing its influence on American life. The percentage of people who hold this view is up significantly over the last decade (from 52% in 2002), but has not changed since 2010.

One-in-four Americans thinks religion's influence on American life is increasing (25%).

The large majority of those who think religion's influence is on the decline see this as a bad thing (49% of the public as a whole), compared with 12% who think religion's influence is waning and that this is a good thing.

Conversely, most of those who think religion's influence is on the rise think this is a good thing (16% of the public overall), while 8% say religion's influence is growing and see this as a negative.

Though most Americans say religion's influence is declining, two-thirds (65%) still believe churches, synagogues, and other houses of worship contribute either "some" (40%) or "a great deal" (26%) to solving important social problems. While large

majorities have expressed this view for more than a decade, there has been a decline in the number saying churches contribute a great deal or some to solving social problems since 2008 (the last time the question was asked by the Pew Research Center), when 75% of Americans said this.

## Religion's Influence on Society

*Is religion increasing its influence on American life or losing its influence? Is this a good thing or a bad thing?*

	Mar 2002	July 2006	Aug 2010	July 2012
	%	%	%	%
Increasing	37	34	23	25
<i>Good thing</i>	31	21	13	16
<i>Bad thing</i>	4	11	7	8
<i>Other/DK</i>	2	2	3	1
Losing	52	59	67	66
<i>Good thing</i>	5	6	10	12
<i>Bad thing</i>	44	50	53	49
<i>Other/DK</i>	3	3	4	5
Same (VOL.)	3	2	3	2
Don't know	8	5	7	7
	100	100	100	100

*How much do churches, synagogues and other houses of worship contribute to solving important social problems?*

	Mar 2001	July 2005	Aug 2008	July 2012
	%	%	%	%
Great deal/some	75	66	75	65
Not much/nothing	22	30	23	32
Don't know	3	4	2	3
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q40, Q42-Q42b. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted June 28-July 9, 2012, among a national sample of 2,973 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (1,771 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,202 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 596 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source and Universal Survey Center under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone.

An additional 511 interviews were conducted June 28-July 10, 2012, with religiously unaffiliated adults by screening landline and cell phone RDD samples (261 interviews) and by recontacting respondents from recent surveys who had identified as religiously unaffiliated (250 interviews). These interviews are used only when reporting on the religiously unaffiliated (including the unaffiliated subgroups – atheist, agnostic, and those who describe their religion as “nothing in particular”). For the RDD and cell phone recontact samples, respondents were initially selected in the same way as described above. For the landline recontact sample, interviewers asked to speak with the person based on gender and age who participated in the earlier survey. Once the selected respondents were on the phone, interviewers asked them a few questions and then asked their religious affiliation; those who are religiously unaffiliated continued with the remainder of the interview.

The weighting procedure for the additional interviews with religiously unaffiliated respondents used an iterative technique that included all of the parameters described above. In addition, the weighting accounted for the oversampling of unaffiliated respondents in the screened and callback samples, the type of unaffiliated respondent (atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular”), as well as gender, age, region and the 2012 presidential vote preference among the unaffiliated. The parameters for the type of unaffiliated respondent and for gender, age and region among the unaffiliated are based on combined data from Pew Research Center surveys conducted from July 2011-June 2012. The parameter for the 2012 vote preference is based on the vote preferences of unaffiliated respondents in the main sample.

Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

<b>Group</b>	<b>Sample Size</b>	<b>Plus or minus...</b>
Total	2973	2.1 percentage points
Republicans	774	4.1 percentage points
Democrats	995	3.6 percentage points
Independents	1037	3.5 percentage points
Registered voters	2373	2.3 percentage points
Republican voters	686	4.4 percentage points
Democratic voters	837	3.9 percentage points
Independent voters	771	4.1 percentage points
Protestants	1614	2.8 percentage points
White evangelical	659	4.4 percentage points
White mainline	514	5.0 percentage points
Black protestant	270	6.9 percentage points
Catholic	619	4.6 percentage points
White Catholic	397	5.7 percentage points
Unaffiliated	958	3.7 percentage points
Atheist/Agnostic	327	6.3 percentage points
Nothing in particular	631	4.5 percentage points

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

In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE**  
**JULY 2012 RELIGION & POLITICS SURVEY**  
 June 28 – July 9, 2012  
 N=2973

**QUESTIONS 1-3, THOUGHT, 10-13, 18 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**  
**NO QUESTIONS 4-9, 11, 14-17**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.19 Do you happen to know if Mitt Romney is Protestant, Catholic, Mormon, Jewish, Muslim, atheist, agnostic, or some other religion? **[INTERVIEWERS: IF R SAYS "MULTIPLE FAITHS/ALL OF THE ABOVE," RECORD AS "8-SOME OTHER RELIGION" AND RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE]**

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Mar 7-11 <u>2012</u>	Nov 9-14 <u>2011</u>
51	Mormon	48	39
5	Catholic	3	3
3	Protestant	2	3
*	Jewish	1	*
1	Muslim	*	1
*	Atheist	*	*
*	Agnostic	*	*
*	Some other religion	0	0
1	Christian <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
37	Don't know <b>(VOL.)</b>	42	51
1	Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1

**ASK IF GAVE ANSWER IN Q.19(Q.19<98):**

Q.20 And in general, would you say you personally are comfortable or uncomfortable with Mitt Romney's religious faith?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>	
37	Comfortable
12	Uncomfortable
11	Doesn't matter/Doesn't make much difference <b>(VOL.)</b>
2	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>
38	<i>No answer to Romney's religion</i>

**QUESTION 21-22, 24-26, 30-32, HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**  
**NO QUESTIONS 27-29, 33, 36-39**  
**QUESTIONS 23, 34-35 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

On a different subject...

Q.40 These days, how much do you think churches, synagogues and other houses of worship contribute to solving important social problems...a great deal, some, not much, or nothing at all?

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Aug <u>2008</u>	Jul <u>2005</u>	Mar <u>2001</u>	Sept <u>2000</u> <sup>1</sup>
26	A great deal	24	20	23	28
40	Some	51	46	52	44
22	Not much	16	23	18	21
10	Nothing at all	7	7	4	4
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2	4	3	3

**ASK ALL:**

Q.41 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?

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Jul 21-Aug 5 <u>2010</u>	Aug <u>2008</u>	Aug <u>2007</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	Mar <u>2002</u>
27	Should come out in favor of candidates	24	29	28	25	22
66	Should not come out in favor of candidates	70	66	63	65	70
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	6	5	9	10	8

**ASK ALL:**

Q.42 At the present time, do you think religion as a whole is increasing its influence on American life or losing its influence?

	Increasing <u>Influence</u>	Losing <u>Influence</u>	(VOL.) <u>Same</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	25	66	2	7
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	23	67	3	7
July, 2006	34	59	2	5
Mid-July, 2003	30	56	5	9
March, 2002	37	52	3	8
December, 2001 (Gallup)	71	24	2	3
Mid-November, 2001	78	12	3	7
March, 2001	37	55	4	4
March, 2000 (Gallup)	37	58	0	5
June, 1998 (Gallup)	37	56	4	3
March, 1994 (Gallup)	27	69	2	2
March, 1988 (Gallup)	36	49	6	9
June, 1984 (Gallup)	42	39	14	6
December, 1978 (Gallup)	37	48	10	5
December, 1974 (Gallup)	31	56	8	5
April, 1968 (Gallup)	19	67	8	7
February, 1965 (Gallup)	33	45	13	8
February, 1962 (Gallup)	45	32	17	7
March, 1957 (Gallup)	69	14	10	6

<sup>1</sup> Based on registered voters. Question was worded: "These days, how much do you think churches, synagogues and mosques contribute to solving important social problems... a great deal, some, not much, nothing at all?"

**IF GAVE RESPONSE IN Q.42 (Q.42=1,2,3), ASK:**

Q.42b All in all, do you think this is a good thing or a bad thing?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Jul 21-Aug 5 <u>2010</u>	Jul <u>2006</u>	Mar <u>2002</u>
25	Increasing influence	23	34	37
16	Good thing	13	21	31
8	Bad thing	7	11	4
1	Both/Neither/Depends (VOL.)	2	1	1
*	Don't know/Refused	1	1	1
66	Losing influence	67	59	52
12	Good thing	10	6	5
49	Bad thing	53	50	44
3	Both/Neither/Depends (VOL.)	2	2	2
2	Don't know/Refused	2	1	1
2	Same (VOL.)	3	2	3
7	No opinion	7	5	8

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1466]:****RANDOMIZE Q.43F1/Q.44F2 AND Q.45**

Q.43F1 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?

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Aug <u>2008</u>	Aug <u>2007</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	Sep <u>2000 (RVs)</u>
17	Completely agree	17	15	12	25
26	Mostly agree	29	28	28	25
31	Mostly disagree	29	30	34	26
21	Completely disagree	21	20	22	19
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	7	4	5

**ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1507]:****RANDOMIZE Q.43F1/Q.44F2 AND Q.45**

Q.44F2 How do you feel about this statement: It makes me uncomfortable when politicians talk about their religious faith and beliefs. Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely DISagree with it?

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>	
14	Completely agree
23	Mostly agree
33	Mostly disagree
24	Completely disagree
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)



**ASK ALL:****RANDOMIZE Q.43F1/Q.44F2 AND Q.45**

Q.45 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?

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Aug <u>2008</u>	Aug <u>2007</u>	Aug <u>2004</u>	Sept <u>2000 (RVs)</u>
30	Completely agree	32	30	29	35
37	Mostly agree	40	39	41	35
17	Mostly disagree	14	16	15	17
12	Completely disagree	11	11	11	10
4	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	3	4	4	3

**ASK ALL:****RANDOMIZE Q.46 AND Q.47**

Q.46 Do you think that conservative Christians have gone too far in trying to impose their religious values on the country, or don't you think Conservative Christians have gone too far?

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Aug <u>2006</u>	Jul <u>2005</u>
48	Yes, think that conservative Christians have gone too far	49	45
44	No, don't think that conservative Christians have gone too far	43	45
7	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	8	10

**ASK ALL:****RANDOMIZE Q.46 AND Q.47**

Q.47 Do you think that liberals have gone too far in trying to keep religion out of the schools and the government, or don't you think liberals have gone too far?

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Aug <u>2006</u>	Jul <u>2005</u>
65	Yes, think that liberals have gone too far	69	67
30	No, don't think that liberals have gone too far	26	28
5	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	5	5

**FOR ALL READ:**

Thinking now about your religion...

**ASK MAIN SAMPLE (SEGMENT=1,2):**

RELIG What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?

**INTERVIEWER: IF R VOLUNTEERS** "nothing in particular, none, no religion, etc." **BEFORE REACHING END OF LIST, PROMPT WITH:** and would you say that's atheist, agnostic, or just nothing in particular?]

**IF SOMETHING ELSE, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR OR DK/REF (RELIG = 11, 12, 99) ASK:**

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

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

Jun 28-Jul 9

2012

43	Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
22	Roman Catholic (Catholic)
2	Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
1	Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
2	Jewish (Judaism)
1	Muslim (Islam)
1	Buddhist
*	Hindu
3	Atheist (do not believe in God)
3	Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
2	Something else ( <b>SPECIFY</b> )
11	Nothing in particular
7	Christian ( <b>VOL.</b> )
*	Unitarian (Universalist) ( <b>VOL.</b> )
2	Don't Know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )

**IF CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1-4, 13 OR CHR=1), ASK:**

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

Jun 28-Jul 9

2012

37	Yes, would
36	No, would not
*	Undesignated
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused ( <b>VOL.</b> )
77%	Christian

**ASK ALL:**

ATTEND

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

	More than <u>once a week</u>	Once <u>a week</u>	Once or twice <u>a month</u>	A few times <u>a year</u>	<u>Seldom</u>	<u>Never</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	14	25	16	17	15	12	1
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	14	25	14	20	15	11	2
August, 2009	14	23	16	18	16	11	1
August, 2008	13	26	16	19	15	10	1
Aug, 2007	14	26	16	18	16	9	1
July, 2006	15	25	15	18	14	12	1
July, 2005	14	27	14	19	14	11	1
Aug, 2004	13	25	15	20	15	11	1
July, 2003	16	27	15	18	14	10	*
March, 2003	15	24	15	21	15	9	1
March, 2002	15	25	17	18	15	9	1
Mid-Nov, 2001	16	26	14	17	16	10	1
March, 2001	17	26	17	17	15	7	1
Sept, 2000 (RVs)	17	28	16	17	13	8	1
June, 1997	12	26	17	20	15	10	*
June, 1996	14	25	17	21	13	9	1

**ASK ALL:**

Q.50 How important is religion in your life – very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Jul 21-Aug 5 <u>2010</u>	Aug <u>2009</u>	Aug <u>2008</u>	Aug <u>2007</u>
58	Very important	58	57	58	61
22	Somewhat important	24	25	27	24
10	Not too important	9	8	7	8
9	Not at all important	8	8	7	6
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1	1	1

**QUESTIONS 51-54 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTIONS 54-69****QUESTIONS 70-73 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTION 74****ASK IF R IS NOT MORMON (RELIG≠3):**

Now thinking about the Mormon religion, also known as the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints...

**ASK IF R HAS A RELIGION OTHER THAN MORMONISM [RELIG=1-2, 4-8, 11, 13-14 OR (RELIG=99 AND CHR=1)]:**

Q.75 From what you know, do you think that the Mormon religion and your own religion have a lot in common, or do you think that the Mormon religion and your religion are very different?

**ASK IF R IS ATHEIST, AGNOSTIC, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR OR DK & NOT CHRISTIAN (RELIG=9, 10, 12 OR (RELIG=99 AND CHR=2, 9)):**

Q.76 From what you know, do you think that the Mormon religion and your own beliefs have a lot in common, or do you think that the Mormon religion and your beliefs are very different?

**BASED ON TOTAL**

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Nov 9-14 <u>2011</u>	Aug <u>2007</u>
23	A lot in common	22	23
60	Very different	64	63
16	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	12	13
2	<i>Respondent is Mormon</i>	2	2

**ASK FORM 2 IF R IS NOT A MORMON (FORM=2 AND RELIG≠3):**

Q.77 Do you, yourself happen to know anyone who is Mormon?

**BASED ON ALL FORM 2 (N=1507)**

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Nov 9-14 <u>2011</u>	Aug <u>2007</u>
48	Yes	48	48
48	No	49	50
1	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	1	1
2	<i>Respondent is Mormon</i>	2	2

**ASK IF R IS NOT A MORMON (RELIG≠3):**

Q.78 Based on what you have read or heard about Mormons, do you think their religion is a Christian religion, or do you think it is not a Christian religion?

**BASED ON TOTAL**

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Nov 9-14 <u>2011</u>	Aug <u>2007</u>
49	Yes, their religion is a Christian religion	51	51
31	No, their religion is not a Christian religion	31	31
18	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	16	17
2	<i>Respondent is Mormon</i>	2	2

**NO QUESTION 79****QUESTION 80-83 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****NO QUESTION 84-94****ASK ALL:**

Q.95 Now, thinking about Barack Obama's religious beliefs... Do you happen to know what Barack Obama's religion is? Is he Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, or something else? **[INTERVIEWERS: IF R SAYS "MULTIPLE FAITHS/ALL OF THE ABOVE," RECORD AS "8-SOMETHING ELSE" AND RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE]**

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		Jul 21-Aug 5 <u>2010</u>	March <u>2009</u> <sup>2</sup>	Mid-Oct <u>2008</u>	Mid-Sept <u>2008</u>	June <u>2008</u>	March <u>2008</u>
	Christian (include volunteers of: Protestant, Church of Christ, Trinity Church, Baptist, Methodists, etc.)	34	48	51	48	57	47
45		*	0	*	1	1	*
*	Jewish	18	11	12	12	12	12
16	Muslim (include Islam/Islamic)	1	*	0	*	*	*
*	Buddhist	*	*	0	*	*	*
*	Hindu	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	Atheist	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	Agnostic	2	*	1	4	2	1
1	Something else	43	34	32	33	25	36
36	Don't know	2	6	3	2	3	3
1	Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>						

<sup>2</sup> In August 2009 and before, respondents who answered Don't Know were asked: "Is this because you've heard different things about his religion, or because you just don't know enough about him?"

**ASK IF GAVE ANSWER IN Q.95 (Q.95<9):**

Q.96 And in general, would you say you personally are comfortable or uncomfortable with Barack Obama's religious faith?

**BASED ON TOTAL:**

Jun 28-Jul 9

2012

42 Comfortable  
 16 Uncomfortable  
 4 Doesn't matter/Doesn't make much difference (VOL.)  
 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

37 No answer to Obama's religion

**QUESTION 97 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14
Dec 7-11, 2011	23	33	38	3	*	2	12	17
Nov 9-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	1	2	16	15
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	23	33	38	2	1	3	18	16
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3	17	18
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9

## PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No preference</u>	(VOL.) <u>Other party</u>	(VOL.) <u>(VOL.) DK/Ref</u>	<u>Lean Rep</u>	<u>Lean Dem</u>
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

## ASK ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	(VOL.) <u>Haven't heard of</u>	(VOL.) <u>Refused</u>	<u>Not heard of/ DK</u>
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	19	27	49	3	2	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	21	25	52	2	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	16	25	54	2	3	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	20	26	50	3	2	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	19	29	48	2	2	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 <sup>3</sup>	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31

<sup>3</sup> In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."