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Religion and the Issues

Few Say Religion Shapes Immigration, Environment Views

Results from the 2010 Annual Religion and Public Life Survey

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

Andrew Kohut, Director

Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research

Carroll Doherty, Associate Director, Editorial

Michael Dimock, Associate Director, Research

Tel (202) 419-4350

www.peoplepress.org

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

Luis Lugo, Director

Alan Cooperman, Associate Director

Greg Smith, Senior Researcher

Tel (202) 419-4550

www.pewforum.org

Religion and the Issues

Few Say Religion Shapes Immigration, Environment Views

Many Americans continue to say their religious beliefs have been highly influential in shaping their views about social issues, including abortion and same-sex marriage. But far fewer cite religion as a top influence on their opinions about several other social and political issues, including how the government should deal with immigration, the environment and poverty.

Despite the fact that many religious leaders have been outspoken advocates for immigration reform, just 7% of adults who take a position on immigration say that religion is the most important influence on their views on this issue. About one-in-four churchgoers (24%) say the clergy at their places of worship have spoken out about immigration, nearly the same as in 2006. About half of those who hear about immigration in church say their clergy are favorable to immigrants and immigration, but nearly one-quarter are hearing anti-immigration messages.

Where Religion Matters Most – Views on Same-Sex Marriage, Abortion

<i>% citing religion as most important influence on opinion</i>	Among those whose positions on the issue are...		
	Total*	Liberal	Conservative
	%	%	%
Same-sex marriage	35	5	60
Abortion	26	9	45
Death penalty	19	32	13
Gov't assistance to poor	10	12	4
Immigration	7	8	5
Environment	6	6	9

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.

*Based on those with an opinion on each issue.

In contrast with the issue of immigration, 35% say religion is the top influence on their thinking about same-sex marriage, including fully 60% among those who oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. More than four-in-ten (44%) hear clergy speak out about homosexuality in church, with the overwhelming majority hearing negative messages about homosexuality. On the issue of abortion, 26% overall say religion is the most important influence on their opinion, including 45% among abortion opponents.

The death penalty is another issue on which a substantial number of Americans cite religion as a key influence. Nearly one-in-five (19%) say religion is the most important

factor in their thinking, including about one-third (32%) among death penalty opponents. Just 13% of death penalty supporters say religion is the key influence on their opinion.

The vast majority of regular churchgoers (88%) say they hear about the issue of hunger and poverty from their clergy, but just 10% cite religion as the top influence on their opinions about government's role in providing assistance to the poor. Nearly half (47%) say their clergy speak out on the environment, almost always to encourage environmental protection. But just 6% say their own views on the environment are shaped primarily by their religious beliefs.

These are among the key findings of a survey exploring religion's connection with opinions about current social and political issues. The survey was conducted July 21-Aug. 5 by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. It interviewed 3,003 respondents reached on landlines and cell phones in both English and Spanish.

For most voters, the economy and jobs outpace all other issues in the election this fall, and religious voters are no exception. As previously reported (see [“Republicans Faring Better with Men, Whites, Independents and Seniors.”](#) Aug. 10, 2010), nine-in-ten voters (90%) rate the economy as very important, and 88% do so for jobs; the numbers are nearly identical among all major religious groups, including people who are unaffiliated with a religion. Health care also rates near the top, with 78% saying it will be very important. Terrorism, the budget deficit and taxes are also seen as important, especially by white evangelicals and black Protestants.

Economy and Jobs Are Top Voter Concerns

% saying each issue is "very important"

90	Economy
88	Jobs
78	Health care
71	Terrorism
69	Budget deficit
68	Taxes
65	Financial system
62	Energy
59	Afghanistan
58	Immigration
57	Environment
43	Abortion
32	Same-sex marriage

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

Based on registered voters.

In contrast, hot-button social and cultural issues fall at or near the bottom of the list, even for relatively conservative religious groups such as white evangelical Protestants. Though both issues are among the least important for evangelicals, abortion (61% very important) and same-sex marriage (46%) are more

important to evangelicals than to other religious groups. About four-in-ten voters (43%) overall rate abortion as very important and about one-third (32%) say this about same-sex marriage.

White evangelicals also stand out for the relatively high importance they place on immigration: 67% say immigration is a very important issue, compared with 60% among Catholics, 56% among white mainline Protestants, 50% among the unaffiliated and 48% among black Protestants.

Economy, Jobs Trump Social Issues in 2010

	% saying each issue is "very important"				
	Economy	Jobs	Immigration	Abortion	Same-sex marriage
	%	%	%	%	%
Total	90	88	58	43	32
Protestant	90	88	60	48	35
White evangelical	91	88	67	61	46
White mainline	88	86	56	30	20
Black Protestant	94	94	48	44	25
Catholic	92	91	60	43	24
White Catholic	92	89	59	43	23
Unaffiliated	89	89	50	32	27

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

Based on registered voters.

Immigration

A plurality of Americans (42%) favor immigration policy that gives equal priority both to better border security and stronger enforcement of immigration laws as well as to creating a way for

illegal immigrants to become citizens (a so-called path to citizenship). One-third (33%) believe the priority should be on better border security and greater enforcement, while slightly more than one-in-five (22%) consider offering a path to citizenship the top priority.

Support for placing a priority on strict enforcement of current immigration laws is higher among whites (37%) than blacks (26%) and stands at roughly one-in-ten (11%) among Hispanics. A similar divide is seen among religious groups: Relatively few Hispanic Catholics would make

better border security the top priority (8%). Support for doing so is much higher among white Catholics (37%), evangelicals (42%) and mainline Protestants (40%).

Priorities in Dealing with Illegal Immigration

	Better border security %	Creating path to citizenship %	Both %	None/DK %
Total	33	22	42	4=100
White	37	18	41	4=100
Black	26	23	47	3=100
Hispanic	11	41	45	2=100
Republican	47	12	37	3=100
Democrat	21	30	46	3=100
Independent	34	20	43	3=100
Protestant	37	19	41	3=100
White evangelical	42	15	39	4=100
White mainline	40	17	40	3=100
Black Protestant	27	24	46	2=100
Catholic	28	24	45	3=100
White Catholic	37	16	44	3=100
Hispanic Catholic	8	42	47	3=100
Unaffiliated	32	27	38	4=100
<i>Immigrant members at house of worship*</i>				
Nearly all/Many	22	35	40	3=100
Just some/Very few	37	17	43	3=100
<i>Influence on views</i>				
Religion	25	25	50	*=100
A personal experience	36	23	40	1=100
Other influence	33	22	44	1=100

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

*Based on those who attend services at least once or twice a month.

While nearly half (47%) of Republicans prioritize better border protection, just 21% of Democrats do. There is also a large divide between those whose house of worship includes many immigrants and those whose house of worship is comprised of fewer immigrants. Among those who attend congregations where many or nearly all members are immigrants, 22% favor better border protection, while support stands at nearly four-in-ten among those with fewer immigrants at their house of worship (37%).

Few Americans (7%) consider religion the most important influence on their opinions about immigration policy. Larger numbers cite a personal experience (27%), their education (20%) or something they have seen or read in the media (21%). Those who cite religion as the most important influence are somewhat less likely than other respondents to place priority on enhanced immigration enforcement.

The subject of immigration does come up during religious services. About one-quarter (24%) of those who attend religious services at least once a month say their clergy have spoken out about the issue. Catholics (32%) are more likely than Protestants (20%) to say their clergy speak out about the issue. Among those who attend religious services at least once or twice a month, nearly four-in-ten of those whose house of worship includes many immigrants (38%) and nearly one-third (32%) of those who place a priority on creating a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants have heard their clergy speak out on the issue.

Respondents who say they have heard about immigration in their house of worship were asked to describe what kinds of things they have heard from their clergy. Nearly half (49%) say their clergy were generally favorable toward immigration and immigrants, with 24% specifically urging tolerance or a welcoming attitude toward strangers. About

Few Say Religion Major Influence on Views on Immigration

	Religion is biggest influence*	Clergy speak out about immigration**
	%	%
Total	7	24
East	7	21
Midwest	6	18
South	10	25
West	5	30
Protestant	9	20
White evangelical	12	16
White mainline	3	15
Black Protestant	14	29
Catholic	7	32
White Catholic	5	25
Hispanic Catholic	9	-
Unaffiliated	3	-

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.

* Based on those with an opinion on immigration.

** Based on those who attend services at least once or twice a month.

one-quarter (23%) characterize the messages from their clergy as generally negative about immigration, with equal numbers saying they have heard their clergy appeal for strict enforcement of the law (7%), contend that immigrants are a burden because they unfairly take jobs and government services (7%), or make general anti-immigrant remarks (7%).

Roughly half of the public (49%) sees immigrants as strengthening society while 38% say immigrants threaten traditional American customs and values. Attitudes on this question are somewhat more favorable toward immigrants than in mid-June, when 44% saw them as a positive influence and the same number said that immigrants threaten American customs and values.

The public is more evenly divided on immigrants' contribution to the economy: 42% believe that immigrants strengthen the country with their hard work and talents, while 45% believe they are a burden because they take jobs, housing and health care.

Democrats, younger Americans, Hispanic Catholics and the religiously unaffiliated are more likely than other groups to express positive views of immigrants on both of these questions; white evangelicals are among those expressing the least favorable views of immigrants, with 27% saying immigrants

Democrats, Younger Americans and Religiously Unaffiliated More Accepting of Immigrants

	Percent who believe that...	
	Immigrants work hard, are not a burden	Immigrants strengthen society, don't threaten values
	%	%
Total	42	49
Republican	30	42
Democrat	52	54
Independent	43	52
18-29	51	65
30-49	46	51
50-64	39	44
65+	30	34
Protestant	36	42
White evangelical	27	36
White mainline	34	43
Black Protestant	40	42
Catholic	50	52
White Catholic	39	48
Hispanic Catholic	73	62
Unaffiliated	49	59
<i>Immigrant members at house of worship*</i>		
Nearly all/Many	62	64
Just some/Very few	39	44
<i>Favor...</i>		
Better border protection	20	32
Creating citizenship path	68	65
Both	49	56
<i>Clergy speak out on immigration...*</i>		
Yes	52	50
No	38	44

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.

* Based on those who attend services at least once or twice a month.

strengthen the country with their hard work and talents and 36% saying they strengthen society rather than threaten traditional customs and values.

Roughly half of those whose clergy speak out about immigration say immigrants strengthen the country with their hard work and talents, compared with 38% among regular worship attenders whose clergy do not speak about immigration. There is very little difference between these two groups on the question of immigrants' impact on American customs and values. Those who report that many or most members of their congregation are immigrants are far more favorable toward immigrants than those whose house of worship is comprised of fewer immigrants.

Environment

By a wide margin, Americans favor tougher laws and regulations to protect the environment. Eight-in-ten (81%) favor greater protections, while just 14% oppose them. Similar questions from past Pew Research polls show comparable levels of support for environmental protection; however, fewer people prioritize environmental protection over keeping energy prices low (See *Public Remains of Two Minds on Energy Policy*, June 14, 2010).

While an overwhelming majority favors tougher environmental protections, the subject of the environment is only a mid-tier issue for voters in the fall Congressional elections. Roughly six-in-ten voters (57%) cite the environment as very important, far behind the economy (90% cite it as very important) or jobs (88%), but higher than social issues such as abortion (43%) or same-sex marriage (32%).

Views on Tougher Environmental Laws and Regulations

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Total	81	14	5=100
Republican	73	23	5=100
Democrat	88	8	4=100
Independent	80	15	5=100
Protestant	78	17	5=100
White evangelical	73	22	5=100
White mainline	81	12	7=100
Black Protestant	79	17	3=100
Catholic	85	11	3=100
White Catholic	86	11	3=100
Hispanic Catholic	89	7	4=100
Unaffiliated	84	12	4=100
Atheist/Agnostic	90	9	1=100
Nothing in particular	82	13	5=100
Top influence on views			
Religion	78	22	NA
Other influence	86	14	NA

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

For many policy issues, political or religious affiliations reveal sizeable gaps in support, but on the general question of stronger environmental protection these differences are relatively modest. Fewer Republicans favor tougher environmental laws and regulations than either Democrats (88%) or independents (80%), but even among Republicans, 73% support stronger safeguards for the environment.

There is only a modest religious element in attitudes about environmental protection. Solid majorities of all major religious traditions favor stronger laws and regulation, including 73% of white evangelical Protestants, 79% of black Protestants, 85% of Catholics and 84% of the unaffiliated.

Religion has far less influence on opinions about environmental policy than other factors do. Just 6% say that their religious beliefs have had the biggest influence on what they think about tougher environmental rules. Education and what people hear or read in the media are the strongest drivers of opinions about environmental regulations; roughly three-in-ten cite their education (29%), and 26% mention the media as having the most influence on their thinking about this issue.

While few describe religion's influence as most important in shaping their thinking on environmental protection, some variation exists among religious groups. White evangelical Protestants, black Protestants and Hispanic Catholics are more likely than white mainline Protestants and white Catholics to cite religion's influence as most important to their views on the environment.

Although religion is generally not a key influence on people's opinions about the environment, many churchgoers report that clergy at their place of worship discuss the topic. Just under half (47%) of those who attend worship services regularly say that their clergy speak out on the environment.

Religion's Small Influence on Views of Environmental Laws and Regulations

	Religion is biggest influence*	Clergy speak out about environment**
	%	%
Total	6	47
Protestant	9	48
White evangelical	11	39
White mainline	2	47
Black Protestant	12	59
Catholic	5	44
White Catholic	3	34
Hispanic Catholic	9	--
Unaffiliated	2	--

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.

* Based on those with an opinion on tougher environmental rules.

** Based on those who attend services at least once or twice a month.

More black Protestants (59%) than other religious groups report hearing about the environment from their clergy. The majority of white Catholics (64%), white evangelical Protestants (59%) and white mainline Protestants (51%) in the survey say that the environment is not discussed at their place of worship.

Those hearing about the environment in church report hearing a variety of mostly pro-environment messages. Roughly three-in-ten (29%) are encouraged to “protect it” or “clean it up,” while 11% say their clergy encourage conservation. One-in-five (20%) report warnings and discussion about environmental damage, including the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico (6%). For 10% of those who hear about the environment, the messages include explicit religious language and themes promoting stewardship of the earth or care for God’s creation.

Homosexuality and Abortion

In contrast with many other social and political issues, religion is clearly an important influence on public opinion about same-sex marriage and abortion. Significant numbers of Americans report that religion is the most important factor in their thinking about these topics, and sizeable numbers of churchgoers hear about them from their clergy.

On the issue of abortion, half of Americans (50%) say abortion should be legal in all (17%) or most (33%) cases while fewer, 44%, say it should be illegal in all (17%) or most (27%) cases. Support for legal abortion has edged upward since last 2009, when 47% said it should be legal in all or most cases.

Almost six-in-ten Democrats (59%) and 53% of independents say abortion should be legal in all or most cases, while 59% of Republicans take the opposite view, saying it should be *illegal* in all or most cases. Religious groups also vary significantly in the extent to which they support legal abortion. Almost seven-in-ten (69%) of the religiously unaffiliated (including 85% of atheists and agnostics) say abortion should be legal, as do 60% of white mainline Protestants and 50% of white Catholics. By contrast, just 41% of black Protestants and 32% of white evangelical Protestants say abortion should be legal in most or all cases.

Opinion on Abortion

	Legal in all/most cases %	Illegal in all/most cases %	DK %
Total	50	44	7=100
Republican	37	59	4=100
Democrat	59	34	7=100
Independent	53	41	6=100
Protestant	43	51	6=100
White evangelical	32	63	5=100
White mainline	60	33	6=100
Black Protestant	41	50	9=100
Catholic	47	45	8=100
White Catholic	50	42	9=100
Hispanic Catholic	41	52	7=100
Unaffiliated	69	25	6=100
Atheist/Agnostic	85	11	4=100
Nothing in Particular	63	30	7=100
Top influence on views			
Religion	18	82	NA
Other influence	64	36	NA

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.
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Roughly a quarter (26%) of those with an opinion on abortion say religion is the most important influence on their views about the issue. A similar number cite their education (23%), while fewer say that a personal experience (17%) was most important in determining their views on abortion.

Fully 45% of those who say abortion should be illegal in all or most cases cite religious beliefs as the top influence on their views, compared with just 9% of those who say abortion should be legal. Among religious groups, just over half of white evangelical Protestants (53%) say religion has the biggest influence on their views of abortion, while a third of black Protestants (33%), roughly a quarter of Catholics (23%) and 17% of white mainline Protestants say the same.

Almost six-in-ten regular churchgoers (59%) say their clergy speak out on the issue of abortion, higher than for any other issue in the survey except hunger and poverty (88%). Despite divided opinions on abortion among Catholics as a whole, seven-in-ten Catholics (70%) who attend church at least once a month report that their clergy speak out on the issue of abortion. Similarly, 65% of white evangelical Protestants and 55% of black Protestants who attend services at least once a month report that their clergy talk about abortion, while fewer mainline Protestants (39%) say this.

Among those who attend religious services at least once a month and say abortion should be illegal in most or all cases, two-thirds (66%) report having heard about the issue from their clergy. Among regular worship attenders who think abortion should be legal in most or all cases, fewer (50%) report having heard about this issue from their clergy. Half of those who say their clergy speak out on abortion cite religion as the most important influence on their views on abortion, compared with 29% of those who do not hear from their clergy about the issue.

Religion's Influence on Opinion about Abortion

	Religion is biggest influence*	Clergy speak out on the issue of abortion**
	%	%
Total	26	59
Protestant	37	57
White evangelical	53	65
White mainline	17	39
Black Protestant	33	55
Catholic	23	70
White Catholic	25	72
Unaffiliated	6	--

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.

* Based on those with an opinion on abortion.

** Based on those who attend services at least once or twice a month.

On the issue of same-sex marriage, about four-in-ten Americans (41%) say they favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally while 48% are opposed. A slight majority of Democrats (52%) favor same-sex marriage, while independents are evenly split (44% favor, 45% oppose) and two-thirds (67%) of Republicans are opposed. Democrats are divided sharply along racial lines; 63% of white Democrats favor same-sex marriage, compared with just 27% of black Democrats and 46% of Hispanic Democrats.

Stark differences in opinion exist across religious groups. Roughly six-in-ten of the religiously unaffiliated (61%) favor same-sex marriage, including fully 78% of atheists and agnostics and 54% of those who say their religion is “nothing in particular.” Slightly fewer than half of white mainline Protestants (48%) and white Catholics (49%) favor same-sex marriage. By contrast, just 22% of white evangelical Protestants favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry, along with 26% of black Protestants. Roughly one-quarter (24%) those who attend worship services at least once a week favor same-sex marriage, but that rises to 49% among those who attend monthly or yearly and 57% among those who attend seldom or never.

Opinion on Same-Sex Marriage

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Total	41	48	10=100
Republican	26	67	7=100
Democrat	52	38	10=100
Independent	44	45	11=100
Protestant	31	59	10=100
White evangelical	22	71	7=100
White mainline	48	38	14=100
Black Protestant	26	64	11=100
Catholic	46	42	12=100
White Catholic	49	41	10=100
Hispanic Catholic	40	45	15=100
Unaffiliated	61	29	10=100
Atheist/Agnostic	78	15	6=100
Nothing in particular	54	34	12=100
Top influence on views			
Religion	6	94	NA
Other influence	66	34	NA

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

More than a third of those who hold an opinion on same-sex marriage say that their religious beliefs are the biggest influence on their views (35%); roughly half as many say a personal experience plays the greatest role in their views (17%) and about one-in-ten cite their education (13%) or views of friends and family (10%).

Support for same-sex marriage is closely tied to what respondents report as the most important influence on their views. Among those who say religious beliefs are the most important influence on their opinion on same-sex marriage, a scant 6% favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry, but among those who cite some other influence (including education, views of friends and family, or a personal experience), two-thirds (66%) are in favor.

Religion is more commonly cited as the top influence on opinion by people in certain religious groups, including 62% of white evangelical Protestants and 46% of black Protestants. Fewer white mainline Protestants (30%) and white Catholics (27%) name religion as a key factor.

More than four-in-ten regular churchgoers (44%) report hearing their clergy speak about laws regarding homosexuality. About half of white evangelical Protestants (52%) and black Protestants (54%) say they hear about this subject from their clergy, while only a third of white mainline Protestants (34%) and Catholics (33%) say their clergy speak about homosexuality.

Of those who report hearing about homosexuality, roughly seven-in-ten (72%) report that their clergy say it should be discouraged, while just 8% say it should be accepted.

Religion's Impact on Opinion about Same-Sex Marriage

	Religion is biggest influence*	Clergy speak out about laws regarding homosexuality**
	%	%
Total	35	44
Protestant	48	49
White evangelical	62	52
White mainline	30	34
Black Protestant	46	54
Catholic	27	33
White Catholic	27	30
Unaffiliated	12	NA

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.

* Based on those with an opinion on the same-sex marriage.
 ** Based on those who attend services at least once or twice a month.

Religion also appears to shape public attitudes on another issue related to homosexuality: whether or not to allow gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. By a two-to-one margin, most Americans support allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military (60% favor vs. 30% oppose). The level of support has been consistent in recent years. Majorities of Democrats (67%) and independents (64%) favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the military, while Republicans are more divided (47% favor and 43% oppose).

Large majorities of white mainline Protestants (68%), white Catholics (71%), Hispanic Catholics (60%) and the religiously unaffiliated (66%) favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, while support is lower among white evangelical Protestants (43%) and black Protestants (46%). Even among the least supportive religious groups, though, less than half oppose allowing gays and lesbians to serve in the military.

Views on Gays and Lesbians in the Military

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Total	60	30	10=100
Republican	47	43	10=100
Democrat	67	24	9=100
Independent	64	27	9=100
Protestant	52	37	11=100
White evangelical	43	47	10=100
White mainline	68	21	11=100
Black Protestant	46	41	13=100
Catholic	68	23	9=100
White Catholic	71	21	9=100
Hispanic Catholic	60	29	11=100
Unaffiliated	66	24	9=100
Atheist/Agnostic	84	10	6=100
Nothing in particular	60	30	11=100
Clergy speak out on laws regarding homosexuality...*			
Yes	49	42	9=100
No	56	33	11=100

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

*Based on those who attend services at least once or twice a month.

Death Penalty

Americans continue to express support for the death penalty for persons convicted of murder. Currently 62% favor the death penalty, while 30% oppose it. This is nearly identical to the level of support in 2007 but somewhat lower than earlier in the 2000s and especially the 1990s. In 1996, 78% favored the death penalty and just 18% were opposed.

Support for the death penalty is lower among Democrats than independents or Republicans, but even among Democrats, half (50%) are in favor of it.

There are relatively modest differences in support across religious groups, with majorities of white evangelicals (74%), white mainline Protestants (71%) and white Catholics (68%) favoring capital punishment. But less than half of black Protestants (37%) and Hispanic Catholics (43%) favor the death penalty.

Views on the Death Penalty

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Total	62	30	9=100
Republican	78	16	7=100
Democrat	50	42	7=100
Independent	62	30	8=100
Protestant	65	26	9=100
White evangelical	74	19	7=100
White mainline	71	21	8=100
Black Protestant	37	49	14=100
Catholic	60	32	8=100
White Catholic	68	26	6=100
Hispanic Catholic	43	45	13=100
Unaffiliated	61	32	6=100
Top influence on views			
Religion	45	55	NA
Other influence	73	27	NA

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

About one-in-five Americans with an opinion about the death penalty (19%) say that religion is the most important influence on their thinking about the issue. A comparable number (22%) cite their education as most important. Slightly fewer cite the media or personal experience (15% each). Just 7% say the views of friends or family are the most important influence.

Death penalty opponents are more apt to cite religion as the top influence on their views than are death penalty supporters. About one-third of those who oppose capital punishment (32%) cite religion, compared with 13% among those who favor it. Black Protestants (35% cite religion) and white evangelicals (31%) were the religious groups most apt to cite religion's influence. Fewer white mainline Protestants (14%) and Catholics (17%) do so, though among opponents of the death penalty, 31% of Catholics cite religion as the top influence.

Most regular churchgoers do not report hearing about the death penalty from their clergy; just 24% say that their clergy speak out about the issue. Among Catholics, roughly one-third of regular churchgoers (32%) say they hear about the death penalty from their clergy. Despite their own low levels of support for the death penalty, black Protestants are no more likely than the average churchgoer to report that their clergy speak out on the issue.

Religion's Influence on Opinions About the Death Penalty

	Religion is biggest influence*	Clergy speak out about death penalty**
	%	%
Total	19	24
Protestant	26	21
White evangelical	31	24
White mainline	14	13
Black Protestant	35	23
Catholic	17	32
White Catholic	15	29
Unaffiliated	5	-

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.

* Based on those with an opinion on the death penalty.
 ** Based on those who attend services at least once or twice a month.

Government Assistance to the Poor

By a margin of about two-to-one, Americans support providing more generous government assistance to the poor. In the current survey, 63% favor more generous aid to the poor while 31% are opposed; this marks a slight decline in support from July 2005, when 69% favored more generous assistance to the poor and a quarter (25%) were opposed.

There are sharp partisan differences in opinion on increased government aid to the poor. A large majority of Democrats (80%) favor more government aid to the needy, while just 16% oppose increased aid. By contrast, half of Republicans (50%) are against increasing aid to the poor, while 43% favor such a measure. Independents, on balance, favor increased assistance to the poor by a 60%-34% margin.

Majorities of all major religious groups favor more government assistance to the poor, and support is especially high among black Protestants and Hispanic Catholics. Overall, 62% of Protestants favor more generous government aid to the poor; this includes 54% of white evangelicals, 57% of white mainline Protestants and 81% of black Protestants. Similarly, most white Catholics (58%) favor more government assistance to the needy and support is even higher among Hispanic Catholics (77% favor).

Most Favor Additional Government Assistance to the Poor

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Total	63	31	6=100
Republican	43	50	7=100
Democrat	80	16	4=100
Independent	60	34	6=100
White	57	36	7=100
Black	81	17	3=100
Hispanic	78	19	3=100
Protestant	62	32	7=100
White evangelical	54	37	9=100
White mainline	57	35	8=100
Black Protestant	81	17	3=100
Catholic	64	30	6=100
White Catholic	58	36	6=100
Hispanic Catholic	77	19	4=100
Unaffiliated	64	31	5=100
<i>Top influence on views</i>			
Religion	84	16	NA
Other influence	65	35	NA

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

Just one-in-ten (10%) of those with an opinion on government assistance to the poor say their religious beliefs are the most important influence on their views of the issue. More cite a personal experience (35%) or their education (20%) as having the biggest influence on their views. Those who favor increased aid are more likely than those who are opposed to cite religion as the main influence on their views (12% vs. 4%).

While religion plays a relatively minor role in shaping views of government assistance to the poor, most regular churchgoers say they hear about the issue of hunger and poverty at their place of worship. Overall, 88% of those who

attend services at least once or twice a month say their clergy speak out on the issue. There is very little variance on this question across religious groups. A somewhat higher number of those who favor additional assistance to the poor have heard about their clergy's views on the issue (90%) than those who oppose additional government assistance to the poor (86%).

Few Say Religious Beliefs Biggest Influence on Views of Government Aid to Poor

	Religion is biggest influence*	Clergy speak out on hunger and poverty**
	%	%
Total	10	88
Protestant	12	88
White evangelical	13	89
White mainline	7	88
Black Protestant	15	90
Catholic	10	90
White Catholic	8	94
Unaffiliated	4	-

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.

* Based on those with an opinion on providing more generous government assistance to the poor.

** Based on those who attend services at least once or twice a month.

Clergy Discussion of Iraq and Afghanistan, Candidates and Elections

Roughly half of regular worship attenders (51%) say the clergy at their congregation speaks out about the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan. Nearly two-thirds of black Protestants (63%) have heard their clergy discuss Iraq or Afghanistan, compared with 50% of white evangelical Protestants and 46% among both white mainline Protestants and white Catholics. Roughly one-quarter of religious service attenders (24%) say their clergy speak out about candidates and elections. Fully half of black Protestants say clergy at their congregation discuss candidates and elections, much higher than the one-quarter (25%) of white evangelical Protestants, 15% of white Catholics and 13% of white mainline Protestants who say the same.

Clergy Discussion of Iraq and Afghanistan, Candidates and Elections

*% who say clergy speak out about...**

	Wars in Iraq or Afghanistan	Candidates and elections
	%	%
Total	51	24
Protestant	52	28
White evangelical	50	25
White mainline	46	13
Black Protestant	63	50
Catholic	51	20
White Catholic	46	15

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.

*Based on those who attend services at least once or twice a month.

About the Survey

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of 3,003 adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older, from July 21-August 5, 2010 (2,002 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,001 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 431 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2009 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following table shows the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

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.	Group	Sample Size	Plus or minus ...
	Total sample	3,003	2.5 percentage points
Protestant	1609	3.0 percentage points	
White evangelical	663	5.0 percentage points	
White mainline	534	5.5 percentage points	
Black Protestant	270	7.5 percentage points	
Catholic	657	5.0 percentage points	
White Catholic	477	5.5 percentage points	
Hispanic Catholic	130	10.5 percentage points	
Unaffiliated	446	6.0 percentage points	
Atheist/Agnostic	126	10.5 percentage points	
Nothing in particular	320	7.0 percentage points	

About the Projects

The survey is a joint effort of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Both organizations are sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts and are projects of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of the Center's current survey results are made available free of charge.

The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life seeks to promote a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs. It studies public opinion, demographics and other important aspects of religion and public life in the U.S. and around the world. It also provides a neutral venue for discussions of timely issues through roundtables and briefings.

This report is a collaborative product based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

Luis Lugo, Director

Alan Cooperman, Associate Director

Sandra Stencel, Associate Director

Greg Smith, Senior Researcher

John C. Green, Senior Research Advisor

Neha Sahgal and Christine Bhutta,
Research Associates

Scott Clement, Research Analyst

Tracy Miller and Hilary Ramp, Editors

Diana Yoo, Graphic Designer

Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

Andrew Kohut, Director

Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research

Carroll Doherty, Associate Director, Editorial

Michael Dimock, Associate Director, Research

Michael Remez, Senior Writer

Leah Christian and Jocelyn Kiley, Senior Researchers

Robert Suls, Shawn Neidorf and Alec Tyson,
Research Associates

Jacob Poushter, Research Analyst

Mattie Ressler and Danielle Gewurz,
Research Assistants

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE
2010 RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
July 21-August 5, 2010
N=3,003**

**QUESTIONS 1 AND 2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
NO QUESTIONS 3-6
QUESTION 7 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

ASK ALL:

Q.8 As you think about the elections for Congress this November, how important are each of the following issues to you. Is the issue of **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: As you think about the elections for Congress this November, is the issue of [ITEM] very, somewhat, not too, or not at all important to you?] [INTERVIEWER: PLEASE RE-READ RESPONSE OPTIONS AS NECESSARY TO REMIND RESPONDENTS OF OPTIONS]**

BASED ON REGISTERED VOTERS [N=2431]:

		<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
ASK ALL:						
a.	The economy					
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	90	9	1	*	*
	Mid-October, 2008	91	7	2	*	*
	August, 2008	87	12	1	*	*
	Late May, 2008	88	9	1	1	1
	October, 2007	79	18	1	1	1
	June, 2007	74	22	2	1	1
	Mid-October, 2004	78	18	3	1	*
	August, 2004	76	22	1	1	*

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1207]:

b.F1	Gay marriage					
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	29	20	16	32	2
	Mid-October, 2008	28	21	21	27	3
	August, 2008	28	20	18	32	2
	Late May, 2008	28	21	19	29	3
	October, 2007	22	21	21	32	4

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1224]:

b.F2	Same sex marriage					
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	32	20	17	30	2

b.F1/b.F2

BASED ON ALL REGISTERED VOTERS:

	Gay marriage/ Same sex marriage					
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	31	20	17	31	2

ASK ALL:

c.	Abortion					
	Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	43	24	13	17	3
	Mid-October, 2008	41	29	16	12	2
	August, 2008	39	26	17	15	3
	Late May, 2008	40	27	15	15	3
	October, 2007	39	26	17	13	5
	June, 2007	40	30	13	14	3
	Mid-October, 2004	47	27	12	11	3
	August, 2004	45	25	13	14	3

Q.8 CONTINUED...

	<u>Very Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not too Important</u>	<u>Not at all Important</u>	<u>Don't Know/ Refused</u>
Mid-October, 2004	32	22	19	24	3
August, 2004	34	19	15	30	2

ASK ALL:

d. The environment					
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	57	33	7	3	1
Mid-October, 2008	57	31	8	3	1
August, 2008	59	31	6	3	1
Late May, 2008	62	27	8	3	*
October, 2007	58	31	8	2	1
June, 2007	55	36	6	3	*
Mid-October, 2004	53	37	7	2	1
August, 2004	55	35	7	3	*

ASK ALL:

e. Immigration					
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	58	29	8	4	1
Mid-October, 2008	49	32	13	5	1
August, 2008	52	33	10	4	1
Late May, 2008	54	32	9	3	2
October, 2007	56	31	7	4	2
June, 2007	54	34	7	3	2

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1207]:

f.F1 Afghanistan					
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	59	28	6	4	3

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1207]:

g.F1 Jobs					
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	88	9	1	1	*
Mid-October, 2008	80	15	2	2	1
Late May, 2008	78	17	3	1	1
October, 2007	71	23	3	2	1
Mid-October, 2004	76	19	4	1	*

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1207]:

h.F1 Energy					
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	62	30	5	2	1
Mid-October, 2008	78	18	3	1	*
August, 2008	77	19	2	1	1
Late May, 2008	77	20	2	*	1
October, 2007	65	28	3	2	2
June, 2007	61	32	4	2	1
Mid-October, 2004	54	37	6	2	1
August, 2004	53	40	6	*	1

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=1207]:

i.F1 The banking and financial system					
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	65	27	4	2	1

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1224]:

j.F2 Terrorism					
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	71	18	6	3	1
Mid-October, 2008	69	20	7	3	1
August, 2008	72	20	5	2	1
Late May, 2008	68	23	6	2	1
October, 2007	69	22	5	3	1
June, 2007	69	24	4	2	1
Mid-October, 2004	77	17	3	2	1

Q.8 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>
August, 2004	75	19	3	2	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1224]:					
k.F2 Health care					
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	78	17	3	1	*
Mid-October, 2008	77	19	2	1	1
August, 2008	73	21	5	1	*
Late May, 2008	78	17	3	2	*
October, 2007	76	18	4	1	1
June, 2007	71	23	4	2	*
Mid-October, 2004	73	22	4	1	*
August, 2004	72	21	5	2	*
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1224]:					
l.F2 Taxes					
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	68	24	6	2	1
Mid-October, 2008	71	24	3	1	1
Late May, 2008	68	24	5	2	1
October, 2007	63	28	6	1	2
June, 2007	62	29	7	2	*
Mid-October, 2004	59	31	7	2	1
ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=1224]:					
m.F2 The federal budget deficit					
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	69	22	5	2	2
Late May, 2008	69	21	4	3	3
October, 2007	61	28	8	1	2
Mid-October, 2004	57	32	7	3	1
August, 2004	55	35	7	3	*

QUESTIONS 9 AND 10 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

ASK "INFLUENCE" FOLLOW-UP AS INDICATED IN Q.14 IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING EACH SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE IN Q.11-Q.13

RANDOMIZE Q.11-Q.13, MAINTAINING Q.12A-E AS A BLOCK

ASK ALL:

Q.11 What should be the priority for dealing with ILLEGAL immigration in the U.S.? **[RANDOMIZE; (one) better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws; OR (two) creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements] OR should BOTH be given equal priority?**

Jul 21-Aug 5

2010

33	Better border security and stronger enforcement of our immigration laws
22	Creating a way for illegal immigrants already here to become citizens if they meet certain requirements
42	Should BOTH be given equal priority
1	None of these (VOL. DO NOT READ)
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL. DO NOT READ)

RANDOMIZE Q.11-Q.13, MAINTAINING Q.12A-E AS A BLOCK**ASK ALL:**

Q.12 Now, I'd like to get your views on some issues. All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose **[INSERT NEXT ITEM]**?

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Total	Strongly Favor	Favor	Total	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	
a. The death penalty for persons convicted of murder							
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	62	30	32	30	10	20	8
August, 2007	62	29	33	32	11	21	6
Early January, 2007	64	30	34	29	11	18	7
March, 2006	65	27	38	27	8	19	8
July, 2005	68	32	36	24	8	16	8
Mid-July, 2003	64	28	36	30	10	20	6
March, 2002	67	33	34	26	9	17	7
March, 2001	66	30	36	27	10	17	7
September, 1999	74	41	33	22	7	15	4
June, 1996	78	43	35	18	7	11	4
b. Allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally							
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	41	17	24	48	24	24	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	39	14	25	53	31	22	8
Mid-April, 2009	35	14	21	54	31	23	11
August, 2008	39	13	26	52	30	22	9
June, 2008 ¹	40	15	25	52	31	21	8
Late May, 2008	38	15	23	49	29	20	13
November, 2007	36	12	24	54	29	25	10
August, 2007	36	13	23	55	31	24	9
Early January, 2007	37	13	24	55	33	22	8
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	30	10	20	57	31	26	13
July, 2006	35	12	23	56	31	25	9
June, 2006	33	13	20	55	32	23	12
March, 2006	39	10	29	51	28	23	10
July, 2005	36	13	23	53	31	22	11
December, 2004	32	14	18	61	38	23	7
August, 2004	29	8	21	60	35	25	11
July, 2004	32	10	22	56	33	23	12
Mid-March, 2004	32	10	22	59	35	24	9
Early February, 2004	30	9	21	63	42	21	7
November, 2003	30	10	20	62	41	21	8
October, 2003	30	9	21	58	33	25	12
Mid-July, 2003	38	10	28	53	30	23	9
March, 2001	35	8	27	57	34	23	8
June, 1996	27	6	21	65	41	24	8
c. Providing more generous government assistance to the poor							
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	63	26	37	31	10	21	6
July, 2005	69	29	40	25	6	19	6
December, 2003	71	30	41	24	6	18	5
March, 2002	68	24	44	27	5	22	5
March, 2001	73	28	45	23	6	17	4

1 In May and June 2008, November 2007, June and July 2006, mid-March through August 2004, and October 2003, the question was not part of a list of items. In May and June 2008 the question asked about "allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally."

Q.12 CONTINUED...

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Total	Strongly Favor	Favor	Total	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	
d. Tougher laws and regulations to protect the environment Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	81	38	43	14	6	9	5
e. Allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military							
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	60	21	39	30	13	17	10
Feb 3-9, 2010 ²	61	18	43	27	10	17	12
Mar 9-12, 2009	59	19	40	32	13	19	9
March, 2006	60	20	40	32	13	19	8
July, 2005	58	15	43	32	15	17	10
July, 1994	52	16	36	45	26	19	3

RANDOMIZE Q.11-Q.13, MAINTAINING Q.12A-E AS A BLOCK**ASK ALL:**Q.13 Do you think abortion should be **[READ]****(PLEASE READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF THE SAMPLE)**

	Legal in all cases	Legal in most cases	Illegal in most cases	Illegal in all cases	[VOL. DO NOT READ] DK/Ref	NET Legal in all/most	NET Illegal in all/most
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	17	33	27	17	7	50	44
August 11-27, 2009	16	31	27	17	8	47	45
April, 2009	18	28	28	16	10	46	44
Late October, 2008	18	35	24	16	7	53	40
Mid-October, 2008	19	38	22	14	7	57	36
August, 2008	17	37	26	15	5	54	41
June, 2008	19	38	24	13	6	57	37
November, 2007	18	33	29	15	5	51	44
October, 2007	21	32	24	15	8	53	39
August, 2007	17	35	26	17	5	52	43
February, 2006 AP/Ipsos-Poll	19	32	27	16	6	51	43
December 2005 ABC/Wash Post	17	40	27	13	3	57	40
April 2005 ABC/Wash Post	20	36	27	14	3	56	41
December 2004 ABC/Wash Post	21	34	25	17	3	55	42
May 2004 ABC/Wash Post	23	31	23	20	2	54	43
January 2003 ABC/Wash Post	23	34	25	17	2	57	42
August 2001 ABC/Wash Post	22	27	28	20	3	49	48
June 2001 ABC/BeliefNet	22	31	23	20	4	53	43
January 2001 ABC/Wash Post	21	38	25	14	1	59	39
September 2000 (RVs) ABC/Wash Post	20	35	25	16	3	55	41
July 2000 ABC/Wash Post	20	33	26	17	4	53	43
September 1999 ABC/Wash Post	20	37	26	15	2	57	41
March 1999 ABC/Wash Post	21	34	27	15	3	55	42
July 1998 ABC/Wash Post	19	35	29	13	4	54	42
August 1996 ABC/Wash Post	22	34	27	14	3	56	41
June 1996 ABC/Wash Post	24	34	25	14	2	58	39
October 1995 ABC/Wash Post	26	35	25	12	3	61	37
September 1995 ABC/Wash Post	24	36	25	11	4	60	36
July 1995 ABC/Wash Post	27	32	26	14	1	59	40

ASK ALL:

Q.14 Which one of the following has had the biggest influence on your thinking on this issue... **[READ AND RANDOMIZE RESPONSE OPTIONS WITH OPTION 6 ALWAYS LAST BUT KEEP THE SAME ORDER OF RESPONSE CATEGORIES FOR ALL ITEMS] [IF R SAYS ALL OR MORE THAN ONE, PROBE WITH: Which has had the biggest influence?]**

	Religious beliefs	Education	Personal experience	Friend/ family views	Media	Some- thing Else	DK/Ref	No opinion on issue	(N)
ASK ALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER Q.11 IF Q.11<9:									
a. Dealing with illegal immigration in the U.S									
BASED ON TOTAL:									
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	7	20	26	6	20	16	2	3	(3003)
<i>What should be the priority...</i>									
Border security	5	18	29	5	20	19	3	--	(1008)
Path to citizenship	8	23	27	9	18	11	3	--	(628)
Both	8	20	25	6	23	16	2	--	(1258)
ASK FORM 1 IMMEDIATELY AFTER Q.12a IF Q.12a<9:									
b. The death penalty for persons convicted of murder									
BASED ON TOTAL FORM 1:									
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	17	20	14	7	13	18	2	9	(1491)
Favor	13	22	17	8	16	23	2	--	(922)
Oppose	32	23	11	5	12	14	2	--	(429)
March, 2001	21	13	12	5	24	16	2	7	(2041)
ASK FORM 2 IMMEDIATELY AFTER Q.12b IF Q.12b<9:									
c. Allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally									
BASED ON TOTAL FORM 2:									
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	31	12	15	9	6	14	3	11	(1512)
Favor	5	19	29	18	8	21	2	--	(596)
Oppose	60	9	7	3	6	11	4	--	(758)
March, 2001	38	12	11	7	8	14	1	8	(2041)
ASK FORM 2 IMMEDIATELY AFTER Q.12c IF Q.12c<9:									
d. Providing more generous gov't assistance to the poor									
BASED ON TOTAL FORM 2:									
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	9	18	33	8	13	10	3	6	(1512)
Favor	12	18	33	9	14	11	3	--	(893)
Oppose	4	23	37	7	14	11	3	--	(516)
March, 2001	12	16	27	7	18	13	2	4	(2041)

Q.14 CONTINUED...

	Religious beliefs	Education	Personal experience	Friend/ family views	Media	Some- thing Else	DK/Ref	No opinion on the issue (N)
ASK ALL IMMEDIATELY AFTER								
Q.12d IF Q.12d<9:								
BASED ON TOTAL:								
e. Tougher laws and regulations to protect the environment								
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	6	28	18	6	24	11	2	5 (3003)
Favor	6	30	18	6	27	11	2	-- (2381)
Oppose	9	26	21	5	20	14	3	-- (461)
TREND FOR COMPARISON:								
Stricter environmental laws and regulations cost too many jobs and hurt the economy, OR Stricter environmental laws and regulations are worth the cost Jul, 2006 ³								
	7	23	20	6	22	10	1	12 (2041)
ASK FORM 1 IMMEDIATELY AFTER Q.13 IF Q.13<9:								
BASED ON TOTAL FORM 1:								
f. Abortion								
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	24	21	16	6	6	16	3	8 (1491)
Legal in most cases/ all cases	9	29	22	8	6	22	3	-- (729)
Illegal in most cases/ all cases	45	16	12	6	6	12	2	-- (646)
Aug, 2009	29	19	13	6	4	18	1	10 (2010)

3 In July 2006, respondents who said neither or both statements come closest to their view were not asked: "Which of the following had the greatest influence...". These respondents are included with "No opinion on the issue".

ASK ALL:

Q.15 Which of these statements comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right—**[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE ITEMS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN]**?

a.	The growing number of newcomers from other countries threatens traditional <u>American customs and values</u>	The growing number of newcomers from other countries strengthens <u>American society</u>	(VOL.) Neither/ Both equally/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	38	49	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	44	44	12
November, 2007	50	40	10
March, 2006	48	45	7
December, 2004	40	50	10
b.	Immigrants today strengthen our country because of their <u>hard work and talents</u>	Immigrants today are a burden on our country because they take our jobs, <u>housing and health care</u>	(VOL.) Neither/ Both equally/ <u>DK/Ref</u>
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	42	45	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	39	50	11
Oct 28-Nov 30, 2009	46	40	14
September, 2006	41	41	18
March, 2006	41	52	7
December, 2005	45	44	11
December, 2004	45	44	11
June, 2003	46	44	10
September, 2000	50	38	12
August, 1999	46	44	10
October, 1997	41	48	11
June, 1997	41	48	11
April, 1997	38	52	10
June, 1996	37	54	9
July, 1994	31	63	6

**NO QUESTIONS 16-19
QUESTIONS 20 THROUGH 30 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

ASK ALL:

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

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

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

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

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

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

ASK IF CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1-4, 13 OR ((RELIG=11 OR RELIG=99) AND CHR=1)):

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

BASED ON TOTAL

35	Yes, would
39	No, would not
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
*	Undesignated
78%	Christian

ASK ALL:

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

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

NO QUESTIONS 31-39**ASK ALL:**

Q.40 How important is religion in your life – very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

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

QUESTIONS 41 AND 42 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**ASK IF ATTEND AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH (ATTEND<4):**

Q.43 Does the clergy at your place of worship ever speak out [INSERT FIRST ITEM; READ AND RANDOMIZE]? And do they ever speak out [INSERT NEXT ITEM]?

BASED ON THOSE WHO ATTEND SERVICES AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH [N=1663]

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>
a. On the issue of abortion			
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	59	39	1
July, 2006	59	39	2
November, 2005	52	45	3
October, 2003	63	35	2
June, 1996	60	39	1
b. On the wars in Iraq or Afghanistan			
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	51	49	1

TREND FOR COMPARISON

On the issue of the situation in Iraq

July, 2006	53	46	1
November, 2005	50	47	3
October, 2003	53	45	2
March, 2003 ⁴	57	41	2

c. About immigration

Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	24	75	1
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TREND FOR COMPARISON

Laws regarding immigration

July, 2006	21	77	2
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d. About hunger and poverty

Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	88	11	1
July, 2006	92	8	*
June, 1996	87	12	1

e. About the environment

Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	47	52	1
July, 2006	48	50	2

⁴ In March 2003 the question was not asked as part of a list and was worded: "Has the clergy at your place of worship spoken recently about the issue of war with Iraq, or not?"

Q.43 CONTINUED...**BASED ON THOSE WHO ATTEND SERVICES AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH [N=1663]**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>
f. About laws regarding homosexuality			
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	44	55	1

TREND FOR COMPARISON

<i>Laws regarding homosexuals</i>			
July, 2006	52	47	1
October, 2003	41	57	2
June, 1996	36	62	2
g. On the issue of the death penalty			
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	24	75	2
July, 2006	31	67	2
November, 2005	27	69	4
October, 2003	28	69	3
June, 1996	27	70	3
h. About candidates and elections			
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	24	74	1
October, 2003	26	72	2
June, 1996	21	77	2

NO QUESTIONS 44A OR 44B**RANDOMIZE Q.44c/Q.44e IN SAME ORDER AS Q.43****ASK IF Q.43c=1 AND ALWAYS BEFORE Q.44f**

Q.44c Now just in your own words, when your clergy has spoken about the issue of immigration, what kinds of things have they said? [**OPEN-END; RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE; PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS DON'T KNOW.**]

BASED ON THOSE WHO ATTEND SERVICES AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH AND WHOSE CLERGY SPEAKS OUT ON IMMIGRATION [N=363]

Jul 21-Aug 5,

2010

49	Favor immigration (NET)
	Be tolerant towards diversity/welcome strangers/we are all God's children/created equally/love thy neighbor
24	
12	Favor immigration (General)
8	Help the needy
7	Help immigrants assimilate and/or become legal
23	Oppose immigration (NET)
7	Advocate for strict enforcement of laws including border security
7	Oppose immigration (General)
7	Immigrants take American jobs and government assistance
3	People should follow the law of the land
3	Neutral position
12	Other
21	Nothing/Don't know/Refused

NO QUESTION 44D

RANDOMIZE Q.44c/Q.44e IN SAME ORDER AS Q.43**ASK IF Q.43e=1 AND ALWAYS BEFORE Q.44f**

Q.44e Now just in your own words, when your clergy has spoken about the environment, what kinds of things have they said [**OPEN-END; RECORD VERBATIM RESPONSE; PROBE ONCE IF RESPONDENT ANSWERS DON'T KNOW.**]?

BASED ON THOSE WHO ATTEND SERVICES AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH AND WHOSE CLERGY SPEAKS OUT ON ENVIRONMENT [N=768]

Jul 21-Aug 5,

2010

29	Protect/take care of/clean up the environment (General)
20	Environmental damage (NET)
13	Warnings about damage to the environment (Misc.)
6	Oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico
2	Warnings about global warming
11	Conservation (NET)
4	Encourage recycling
3	Promote conservation (energy, H ₂ O, food, etc.)
3	Go green message
2	Take action to protect the environment
6	Take care of God's creation/honor nature
4	Practice stewardship of the Earth
3	Need to preserve environment for future generations/our children
1	The end is coming
16	Other
20	Nothing/Don't know/Refused

ASK IF Q.43f=1 AND ALWAYS AFTER Q.44c/Q44e.

Q.44f When your clergy has spoken about homosexuality, do they say it is something that should be ACCEPTED, something that should be DISCOURAGED, or don't they take a position on the issue?

BASED ON THOSE WHO ATTEND SERVICES AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH AND WHOSE CLERGY SPEAKS OUT ABOUT LAWS REGARDING HOMOSEXUALITY [N=701]

Jul 21-Aug 5,

2010

Oct

2003⁵

8	Accepted	4
72	Discouraged	82
15	No position	11
3	Other / Multiple positions [VOL. DO NOT READ]	2
2	Don't know/Refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]	1

⁵

For October 2003 this item is based on those who attend services at least once or twice a month and whose clergy speaks out on "laws regarding homosexuals."

And on another topic,

ASK ALL:

Q.45 Which comes closest to your view? **[READ IN ORDER]**

[Holy book: If Christian or no religion (RELIG =1-4, 9, 10, 12, 13 OR CHR=1) insert "the Bible"; If Jewish (RELIG =5), insert "the Torah"; If Muslim (RELIG=6), insert, "the Koran"; If other non-Christian affiliations (RELIG=7,8,14 OR (RELIG=11 AND CHR=2,9)), insert "the Holy Scripture"; IF DK/REF IN RELIGION (RELIG=99) AND CHR=2,9, insert "the Bible"]

ASK IF BELIEVE HOLY BOOK IS WORD OF GOD (Q.45=1):

Q.46 And would you say that **[READ IN ORDER]**?

July 21-Aug 5, <u>2010</u>		August <u>2009</u>
68	[Holy book] is the word of God	69
34	[Holy book] is to be taken literally, word for word [OR]	34
33	Not everything in [Holy book] should be taken literally, word for word/Other/DK	35
23	[Holy book] is a book written by men and is not the word of God	23
9	Other/Don't know (VOL.)	8

ASK IF ATTEND AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH (ATTEND<4):

Q.47 Thinking about the church or house of worship where you attend religious services most often, about how many of its members are immigrants born outside the U.S.? Would you say nearly all, many, just some or very few?

BASED ON THOSE WHO ATTEND SERVICES AT LEAST ONCE OR TWICE A MONTH [N=1663]

Jul 21-Aug 5, <u>2010</u>	
4	Nearly all
9	Many
23	Just some
55	Very few
9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

NO QUESTIONS 48-57

ASK ALL:

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

ASK IF ANSWERED 3, 4, 5 OR 9 IN PARTY:

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

	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean <u>Rep</u>	Lean <u>Dem</u>
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	26	33	34	4	*	3	14	14
Jun 16-20, 2010	27	34	34	3	1	2	15	15
Apr 21-26, 2010	26	33	36	3	1	3	16	13
Apr 8-11, 2010	23	32	38	5	*	2	17	13
Apr 1-5, 2010	24	29	40	3	1	3	17	15
Mar 18-21, 2010	24	30	40	2	1	3	17	13
Mar 11-21, 2010	28	34	32	3	*	3	13	12
Mar 10-14, 2010	22	33	37	6	*	3	14	13
Feb 3-9, 2010	26	31	37	3	*	3	14	17
Jan 6-10, 2010	22	33	42	2	1	2	17	16
Dec 9-13, 2009	25	32	38	2	*	2	14	15
Oct 28-Nov 8, 2009	27	35	32	3	*	2	13	13
Sep 30-Oct 4, 2009	23	34	37	3	1	3	16	14
Sep 10-15, 2009	23	34	34	4	*	5	13	17
Aug 20-27, 2009	26	32	36	3	*	3	14	16
Aug 11-17, 2009	23	33	38	3	*	3	16	15

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	No	Other	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
				preference	party			
Jul 22-26, 2009	22	34	37	5	*	2	15	14
Jun 10-14, 2009	25	34	34	3	*	3	11	16
Yearly Totals								
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.3	35.8	31.7	3.8	.3	3.1	10.5	15.4
2007	25.4	32.9	33.7	4.6	.4	3.1	10.7	16.7
2006	27.6	32.8	30.3	5.0	.4	3.9	10.2	14.5
2005	29.2	32.8	30.3	4.5	.3	2.8	10.2	14.9
2004	29.7	33.4	29.8	3.9	.4	2.9	11.7	13.4
2003	29.8	31.4	31.2	4.7	.5	2.5	12.1	13.0
2002	30.3	31.2	30.1	5.1	.7	2.7	12.6	11.6
2001	29.2	33.6	28.9	5.1	.5	2.7	11.7	11.4
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	28.2	34.6	29.5	5.0	.5	2.1	11.7	12.5
2000	27.5	32.5	29.5	5.9	.5	4.0	11.6	11.6
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.5	33.2	31.9	4.6	.4	2.4	11.8	13.5
1997	28.2	33.3	31.9	4.0	.4	2.3	12.3	13.8
1996	29.2	32.7	33.0	5.2	--	--	12.7	15.6
1995	31.4	29.7	33.4	5.4	--	--	14.4	12.9
1994	29.8	31.8	33.8	4.6	--	--	14.3	12.6
1993	27.4	33.8	34.0	4.8	--	--	11.8	14.7
1992	27.7	32.7	35.7	3.9	--	--	13.8	15.8
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	4.5	--	--	14.6	10.8
1990	31.0	33.1	29.1	6.8	--	--	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--