

**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		Mar 7-11	Nov 9-14
<u>2012</u>		<u>2012</u>	<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	Jewish	*	0	*	1	1	*
*	Muslim (include Islam/Islamic)	18	11	12	12	12	12
16	Buddhist	1	*	0	*	*	*
*	Hindu	*	*	0	*	*	*
*	Atheist	*	*	*	*	*	*
*	Agnostic	*	*	*	*	*	*
1	Something else	2	*	1	4	2	1
36	Don't know	43	34	32	33	25	36
1	Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	2	6	3	2	3	3

<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."