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Religion In Campaign '08

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ROMNEY'S RELIGION RAISES CONCERNS**

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- Social issues trumped by economy, Iraq
- Little awareness of Giuliani's pro-choice stance
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Religion In Campaign '08

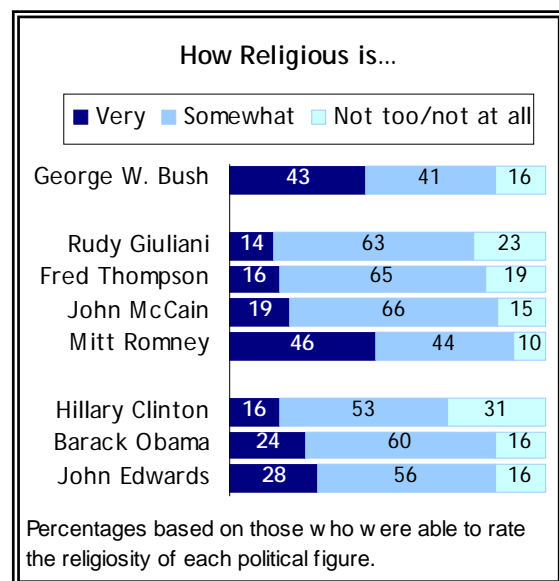
CLINTON AND GIULIANI SEEN AS NOT HIGHLY RELIGIOUS; ROMNEY'S RELIGION RAISES CONCERNS

So far religion is not proving to be a clear-cut positive in the 2008 presidential campaign. The candidates viewed by voters as the least religious among the leading contenders are the current frontrunners for the Democratic and Republican nominations – Hillary Clinton and Rudy Giuliani, respectively. On the other hand, the candidate seen as far and away the most religious – Mitt Romney – is handicapped by this perception because of voter concerns about Mormonism.

As in the past, most Americans continue to say that it is important for a president to have strong religious beliefs. And voters who see presidential candidates as religious express more favorable views toward those candidates than do voters who view them as not religious. But the latest Pew survey finds that candidates for the White House need not be seen as *very* religious to be broadly acceptable to the voting public.

Among people who offer an opinion of the religiosity of leading Democrats, more say that John Edwards (28%) and Barack Obama (24%) are very religious than say the same about Hillary Clinton (16%). Yet wide majorities see all three as at least somewhat religious, and those who do view the candidates in overwhelmingly favorable terms.

Similarly, just 14% who offer an opinion see Rudy Giuliani as very religious, but another 63% see him as somewhat religious, and both groups offer comparably favorable assessments of the former New York City mayor. Mitt Romney stands apart from the other candidates tested – nearly half (46%) of those who express an opinion say Romney is very religious; that is roughly the same number saying that George W. Bush is very religious (43%), though many more people express an opinion about Bush's religiosity than Romney's. However, a quarter of Americans – Democrat, independent and Republican alike – say they would be less likely to vote for a presidential candidate who is Mormon. And those who say this have substantially less favorable impressions of Mitt Romney.



In general, being a Mormon is viewed as far less of a liability for a presidential candidate than not believing in God or being a Muslim. Roughly six-in-ten Americans (61%) say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who does not believe in God, while 45% say they would be reluctant to vote for a Muslim. At the same time, more people express reservations about voting for a Mormon (25%) than about supporting a candidate who is an evangelical Christian (16%), a Jew (11%) or a Catholic (7%).

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, conducted Aug. 1-18 among 3,002 adults, finds that social issues such as abortion and gay marriage continue to be greatly overshadowed in the presidential campaign by both domestic issues and the war in Iraq. This is consistent with a Pew Research Center survey in June in which abortion was rated as the least important issue of the nine tested in the survey (*see June 4, 2007: [Thompson Demonstrates Broad Potential Appeal](#)*).

More than three-quarters of Americans (78%) say domestic issues such as the economy, health care and the environment will be very important in their decisions about whom to support for president; 72% say the same about the war in Iraq. By comparison, just 38% say that social issues like abortion and gay marriage will be very important in their voting decisions.

Social issues are lagging in importance among members of both parties. White evangelical Protestants are the only major political or religious group in which a majority (56%) says that social issues like abortion and gay marriage will be very important in their presidential voting decisions. Even among white evangelicals, however, social issues trail domestic matters and the war in Iraq: 72% of white evangelicals cite the economy and other domestic issues as very important, while 66% rate the war in Iraq as very important to their vote.

The survey finds that the Republican Party continues to hold a substantial advantage over the Democratic Party in terms of being seen as more friendly to religion. Half of Americans say the GOP is friendly to religion, compared with just 30% who see the Democratic Party as friendly toward religion. A plurality (37%) says the Democratic Party is neutral to religion, while 15% see it as unfriendly to religion. The proportion saying the Democratic Party is unfriendly to religion has declined slightly since July 2006 (20%).

	Importance of...		
	Iraq	issues	Social issues
<i>% very important</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>%</i>
Total	72	78	38
Republican	63	65	45
Democrat	80	88	36
Independent	70	78	36
White Protestant	67	74	43
Evangelical	66	72	56
Mainline	68	76	28
Black Protestant	78	88	42
Catholic	76	82	31
White non-Hispanic	76	81	28
Unaffiliated*	76	77	33

* Includes self-described atheists, agnostics and those who say their religion is "nothing in particular."

In addition, nearly half of Americans (47%) now disagree with the idea that “liberals who are not religious have too much control over the Democratic Party,” and 37% agree with this statement. In July 2005, the public was evenly split as to whether secular liberals exert too much influence over the Democratic Party.

Fewer Worry about Liberal Influence over Democratic Party		
<i>Who has too much control?</i>	July	Aug
<i>Liberals who are not religious over the Democratic Party</i>	<u>2005</u>	<u>2007</u>
	%	%
Agree	44	37
Disagree	42	47
Don't know/Refused	<u>14</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100
<i>Religious conservatives over the Republican Party</i>	%	%
Agree	45	43
Disagree	43	41
Don't know/Refused	<u>12</u>	<u>16</u>
	100	100

The widespread perception that Mitt Romney is very religious would appear to be an asset for the former Massachusetts governor in his race for the Republican nomination: far more Republicans (44%) than either Democrats (26%) or independents (23%) completely agree that it is important for the president to have strong religious beliefs.

But the political benefit Romney receives from this perception is being offset by the concerns that some voters express about Mormonism. Overall, Romney is viewed favorably by 75% of Republican and Republican-leaning voters who offer an opinion of him. However, his favorability rating is much lower among Republican voters who say they would be less likely to vote for a Mormon than among those who have no reluctance about supporting a Mormon (54% vs. 82%).

A quarter of Republican and Republican-leaning voters say they would be less likely to vote for a Mormon. But among white Republican evangelical Protestants, 36% express reservations about voting for a Mormon. That compares with 21% of white Catholic Republican voters, and 16% of white non-evangelical Protestant Republicans.

GOP Evangelicals Reluctant to Vote for a Mormon	
	Less likely to vote for Mormon
	<u>%</u>
All Rep/lean Rep RVs	25
White evangelical Prot	36
Attend church weekly	41
Attend less often	23
White Mainline Prot.	16
White non-Hisp Catholic	21
Based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters	

Meanwhile, there is no evidence that Rudy Giuliani’s image has been affected much by his pro-choice stance on abortion. At this stage in the campaign, there is minimal public awareness of Giuliani’s position on abortion. Overall, just 22% of the public – and just 31% of Republicans – know that Giuliani is pro-choice. Even among Republican and Republican-leaning voters who rate social issues as very important, just 33% are aware of Giuliani’s position on abortion.

Perhaps more important, it does not appear that Giuliani’s stance has appreciably hurt his image within his party’s conservative base. Giuliani’s favorability rating among social-issue Republican and Republican-leaning voters who are aware that he is pro-choice is not significantly lower than among those who are unaware of his position on abortion (76% vs. 80%).

Little Awareness of Giuliani’s Abortion Position				
	<i>Giuliani’s abortion position is...</i>			
	<u>Pro- choice</u> %	<u>Pro- life</u> %	<u>Not sure</u> %	<u>DK/ Ref</u> %
Total	22	7	68	3=100
Republican	31	7	60	2=100
Democrat	18	6	74	2=100
Independent	20	9	69	2=100
<i>Among Rep/lean Rep RVs who say social issues are...</i>				
Very important	33	6	59	2=100
Somewhat important	27	4	67	2=100
Not too/not at all imp	35	11	52	2=100

Religiosity of '08 Candidates

The survey finds that all of the leading presidential contenders in both parties are perceived as at least somewhat religious by large majorities of the public. But among those expressing an opinion about the religiosity of the candidates, far more view Romney as “very religious” than say that about the other candidates. Indeed, comparable numbers who expressed an opinion see Romney and President Bush as very religious (46% vs. 43%), though far fewer offered an opinion about Romney’s religiosity than the president’s (47% vs. 87%).

Far smaller numbers view Democrats John Edwards (28%) and Barack Obama (24%) as very religious; still, more people view each of these candidates as highly religious than say that about any other Republican candidate except Romney. Fewer than one-in-five says that John McCain (19%), Fred Thompson (16%) and Rudy Giuliani (14%) are very religious, based on those expressing an opinion, though most see them as at least somewhat religious.

Fewer people view Hillary Clinton as very religious than say that about other leading Democrats (16%). In addition, 31% of Americans view Clinton as not too religious or not at all religious – the highest percentage for any leading candidate in either party. The perception that Clinton is not very religious is widespread among Republicans (55%); among Democrats, by contrast, nearly nine-in-ten see Clinton as religious (25% very religious, 62% somewhat religious). Opinions about Clinton’s religiosity have changed little over the past decade. A 1996 Pew survey found that of those who could rate Clinton’s religiosity, 14% described her as very religious, 56% as somewhat religious, and 31% as not too or not at all religious.

Democrats are substantially more likely than Republicans to describe John Edwards as religious, but even among Republicans nearly three-in-four (73%) say Edwards is religious. Partisan differences are smaller for the other candidates; among those who could rate the

<i>How religious is...</i>	<u>Very</u> %	<u>Some- what</u> %	<u>Not too/ not at all</u> %	<u>Can't rate</u> %
George W. Bush	43	41	16=100	13
Mitt Romney	46	44	10=100	53
John McCain	19	66	15=100	40
Fred Thompson	16	65	19=100	65
Rudy Giuliani	14	63	23=100	35
John Edwards	28	56	16=100	35
Barack Obama	24	60	16=100	40
Hillary Clinton	16	53	31=100	22

Percentages based on those who were able to rate the religiosity of each candidate. The share of the total population unable to answer is shown to the right.

	% very/somewhat religious among			R-D
	<u>Rep</u> %	<u>Dem</u> %	<u>Ind</u> %	<u>gap</u>
Clinton	45	87	69	-42
Edwards	73	92	84	-19
Obama	79	90	83	-11
McCain	88	85	80	+3
Romney	91	89	90	+2
Thompson	87	81	76	+6
Giuliani	81	73	77	+8

Based on those who were able to rate the religiosity of each candidate.

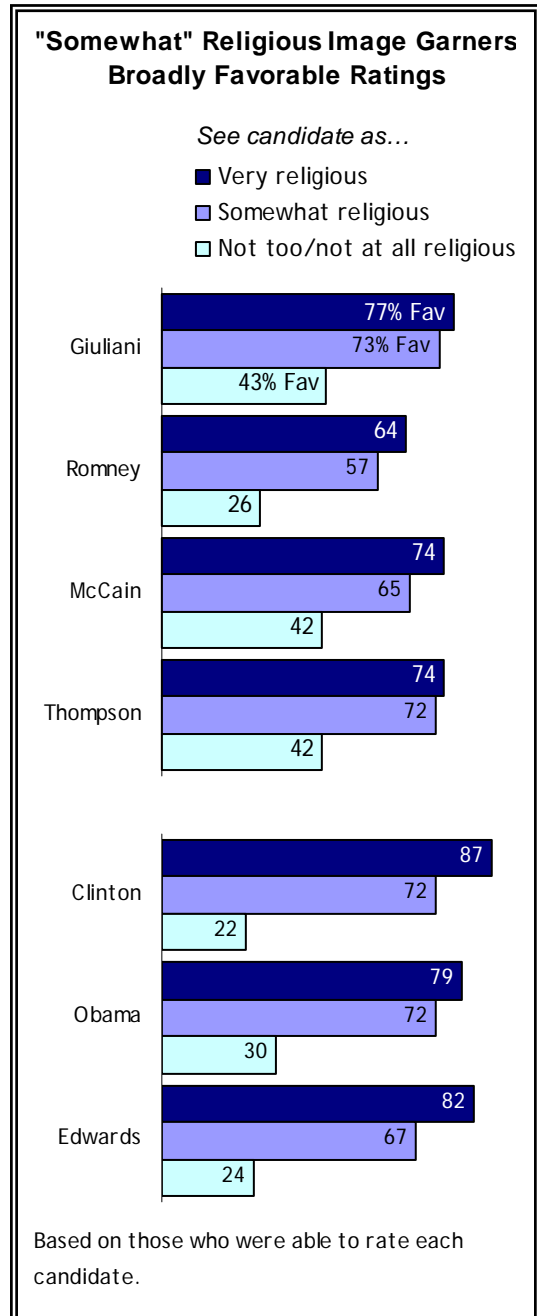
religiosity of the candidates, overwhelming majorities in both parties describe Obama, Giuliani, Romney, McCain and Thompson as at least somewhat religious.

Religiosity and Candidate Images

Overall views of the presidential candidates are linked with views of their religiosity; those who perceive a candidate as being very religious tend to express the most favorable overall views of each candidate, followed by those who perceive the candidate as being somewhat religious. Those who view candidates as being not too or not at all religious, on the other hand, are much less likely to express favorable views.

This pattern holds for Republican and Democratic candidates alike. Among those who describe Giuliani as being very religious, 76% express a favorable view of him, as do 73% of those who view him as being somewhat religious. Among those who say Giuliani is not too or not at all religious, by contrast, just 43% say they hold a favorable view. Similarly, 87% of those who describe Clinton as very religious and 72% of those who describe her as somewhat religious express a favorable view of the New York senator; among those who say she is not too or not at all religious, just 22% express a positive view.

While being perceived as highly religious is an asset for candidates, the greatest differences in favorability are between people who view them as at least somewhat religious and people who view them as not too or not at all religious. By contrast, being seen as very religious provides a smaller boost for candidates. Thompson’s favorability rating, for instance, is 30 points higher among those who see him as somewhat religious than among those who see him as not too or not at all religious, but his favorability rating rises only another two percentage points among those who see him as *very* religious. Similar patterns are seen for the other candidates.



The link between views of a candidate's religiosity and overall views of the candidate persists regardless of one's own party affiliation. While Republicans and GOP leaners are much less likely than Democrats to express favorable views of Clinton, members of both parties are much more likely to hold a favorable view of Clinton if they see her as at least somewhat religious.

Candidate Religiosity Seen as Asset in Both Parties						
<i>Fav. view of...</i>	<i>Republicans' rating of candidate's religiosity</i>			<i>Democrats' rating of candidate's religiosity</i>		
	Very/	Not too/	<i>Diff</i>	Very/	Not too/	<i>Diff</i>
	somewhat	not at all		somewhat	not at all	
	%	%		%	%	
Giuliani	88	63	+25	62	29	+33
Romney	83	NA	--	39	NA	--
McCain	77	48	+29	58	40	+18
Clinton	40	8	+32	90	62	+28
Edwards	50	12	+38	86	NA	--
Obama	55	14	+41	87	46	+41

Favorability ratings based on those who were able to rate each candidate. NA indicates too few cases to report results. Based on partisans and leaners.

Four-in-ten Republicans and Republican leaners who say Clinton is very or somewhat religious express a favorable view of her, compared with only 8% among Republicans who see Clinton as not very religious, a difference of 32 percentage points. Likewise, Clinton's favorability rating is 28 points higher among Democrats and Democratic leaners who say she is religious (90%) than among those who say she is not religious (62%). A similar pattern is seen in both political parties for other candidates.

Notably, even people who themselves are not particularly observant have a more positive opinion of candidates they believe are at least somewhat religious. Among people who attend religious services infrequently – those who attend a few times a year or less often or never – majorities who see all of the candidates as religious have a favorable opinion of them. But fewer than half of infrequent church-goers who see the candidates as not religious express favorable opinions of them.

Both Observant and Less-Observant View Religious Commitment as an Asset						
<i>Fav. view of...</i>	<i>Weekly churchgoers' rating of candidate's religiosity</i>			<i>Infrequent churchgoers' rating of candidate's religiosity</i>		
	Very/	Not too/	<i>Diff</i>	Very/	Not too/	<i>Diff</i>
	somewhat	not at all		somewhat	not at all	
	%	%		%	%	
Giuliani	76	44	+32	71	41	+30
Romney	68	NA	--	55	NA	--
McCain	70	39	+31	63	46	+17
Clinton	69	14	+55	79	30	+49
Edwards	69	15	+54	75	31	+44
Obama	71	19	+52	79	45	+34

Favorability ratings based on those who were able to rate each candidate. NA indicates too few cases to report results.

Romney and Religion

Romney, more than any other candidate, is viewed as highly religious. Yet the political benefit he stands to gain from being perceived as very religious is limited by the reservations that some Americans have about voting for a Mormon.

Among Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters, Romney's overall favorability rating, though high at 75%, is significantly lower than the favorability ratings of Giuliani (84%) and Thompson (88%), and roughly equal to the favorability rating for McCain (71%). Romney's standing relative to the other candidates is particularly poor among those who say they would be less likely to vote for a Mormon; among this group, Romney's favorable rating (54%) is substantially lower than those for Giuliani (76%), McCain (72%) and Thompson (82%).

	Rom- ney %	Giuliani %	Mc- Cain %	Thomp- son %
All Rep/lean Rep RVs	75	84	71	88
Less likely to vote for Mormon	54	76	72	82
All others	81	86	71	90

Based on those who able to rate each candidate.

Romney's relative standing is much better among Republican and Republican-leaning voters who do not express reluctance about voting for a Mormon; indeed, among this group, Romney's favorability rating (81%) is significantly better than McCain's (71%), while somewhat lower than Giuliani's (86%) and Thompson's (90%).

Candidate Traits and Voting Decisions

While 25% of Americans say they would be less likely to vote for a Mormon for president, 45% express reluctance about voting for a Muslim and 61% say they would be less likely to support a candidate who does not believe in God.

Far fewer express reservations about voting for an evangelical Christian, a Jew, or a Catholic. Moreover, about as many people say they would be more likely to vote for an evangelical Christian or a Jew as say they would be less likely, and about twice as many people see being a Catholic as an asset as see it as a liability (13% vs. 7%). By comparison, just 5% say they would be more likely to vote for a Mormon, though two-thirds (66%) say it would make no difference in their vote.

<i>Candidate traits:</i>	<i>Willingness to support</i>			
	Less likely	More likely	No Diff	DK
	%	%	%	%
Doesn't believe in God	61	3	34	2=100
Muslim	45	3	49	3=100
Mormon	25	5	66	4=100
Evangelical Christian	16	19	60	5=100
Jewish	11	9	79	1=100
Catholic	7	13	79	1=100
Hispanic	15	9	75	1=100
Woman	12	15	72	1=100
Black	6	9	84	1=100

The Parties and Religion

The Republican Party continues to be seen as more friendly toward religion than the Democratic Party, though the number who see the Democrats as unfriendly toward religion has declined slightly since 2006. Currently, half of the public (50%) says the Republican Party is friendly toward religion, about the same as it has been since 2003. Roughly a quarter (23%) say the party is neutral toward religion, and just 9% says it is unfriendly toward religion.

	July 2003	Aug 2004	July 2005	July 2006	Aug 2007
<i>Democratic Party is...</i>					
Friendly to religion	42	40	29	26	30
Neutral toward religion	36	34	38	42	37
Unfriendly to religion	12	13	20	20	15
Don't know	10	13	13	12	18
	100	100	100	100	100
<i>Republican Party is...</i>					
Friendly to religion	52	52	55	47	50
Neutral toward religion	27	24	23	28	23
Unfriendly to religion	10	10	9	13	9
Don't know	11	14	13	12	18
	100	100	100	100	100

By contrast, just three-in-ten (30%) say the Democratic Party is friendly toward religion, up slightly from last year but still 10 points lower than in August 2004, during the last presidential election. Even though most people do not see the party as friendly toward religion, they do not see it as particularly unfriendly either. Just 15% say the party is unfriendly, with 37% saying the party is neutral.

	Democrats are religion friendly %	Republicans are religion friendly %
Total	30	50
Republican	17	66
Democrat	44	45
Independent	29	48

After respondents were asked about the friendliness of each party to religion, they were asked: "In your view, is this a good thing, a bad thing, or doesn't it matter to you?" Friendliness toward religion is clearly valued as a good thing: half of those who say the Democratic Party is friendly toward religion believe this is a good thing (15% out of the total 30% who saw the party as friendly), and hardly anyone says it is bad. The same pattern holds for the Republican Party (23% of the total 50%). But importantly, neutrality towards religion by either party is not perceived negatively by most Americans.

Although the Democratic Party continues to be seen as less friendly to religion than the Republican Party, fewer people today than in 2005 believe that liberals who are not religious have too much control of the Democratic Party. In the current survey, 37% say this is true; in 2005, 44% felt this way.

The number of people who say secular liberals have too much control over the party has declined within most of the major religious traditions, though a majority of white evangelicals (52%) continues to feel this way. It also is down nine points among independents and 11 points among Democrats themselves. Currently, about a third of independents (34%) and one-quarter of Democrats (23%) say secular liberals have too much control over the party. Notably, though, Republicans today are only slightly less likely than they were two years ago to express this opinion (58% now vs. 60% in 2005).

Influence of Secular Liberals, Religious Conservatives				
	<i>Who has too much control?</i>			
	<i>Non-religious liberals over Dem Party</i>		<i>Religious conservatives over GOP</i>	
	July 2005	Aug 2007	July 2005	Aug 2007
Total agree	44	37	45	43
Republican	60	58	30	30
Democrat	34	23	58	53
Independent	43	34	54	48
White Protestant	53	42	38	37
Evangelical	60	52	30	27
Mainline	43	32	47	49
White non-Hisp Catholic	48	37	50	41
Unaffiliated	22	29	56	63

As was the case two years ago, a small plurality (43%) agrees with the statement that “religious conservatives have too much control over the Republican Party,” while 41% disagree. About half of white mainline Protestants (49%) think religious conservatives have too much sway over the party, but just 27% of white evangelicals feel this way. Fewer white Catholics today express this view than did so in 2005 (41% now vs. 50% in 2005), but the proportion of people who have no religious affiliation agreeing with this has increased by seven points (63% now vs. 56% in 2005).

Religion and Politics

Americans continue to be generally comfortable with a role for religion in politics, though these views are not unanimously held. Most want a president who has strong religious beliefs, and most think it is proper for journalists to ask politicians about their religion. Similarly, only a small minority says that there has been too much expression of religious faith and prayer by political leaders. But the public draws a clear line against the active involvement of churches in election campaigns, with a solid majority (63%) opposing churches endorsing specific candidates.

The vast majority (69%) of Americans agree that it is important for a president to have strong religious beliefs. However, there are important political and religious differences in the degree to which Americans agree with this view. Republicans are much more intense in their view that the president should have strong religious beliefs than are Democrats or independents (44% vs. 26% and 23% completely agree, respectively).

Most white evangelical Protestants (54%) and black Protestants (43%) strongly agree that a president should have strong religious beliefs compared to only 21% of white mainline Protestants and 22% of white non-Hispanic Catholics. The religiously unaffiliated are the only group where the majority (62%) disagrees that a president should have strong religious convictions.

While the public wants a president with strong religious beliefs, many people are resistant to too much display of religiosity by politicians. More than four-in-ten (43%) say that it makes them uncomfortable when politicians talk about how religious they are, a number that is little changed since the heat of the presidential campaign in 2004.

However, most people do not currently feel that political leaders are crossing the line. Just 27% in the poll say that there has been too much expression of religious faith and prayer by political leaders. A similar number (26%) says there has been the right amount of religious expression, and nearly four-in-ten (38%) would like to hear more talk about religion from politicians. Only among white evangelicals (57%) and black

	Comp agree %	Mostly agree %	Dis- agree %	DK %
Total	30	39	27	4=100
College grad	22	38	38	2=100
Some college	29	42	25	4=100
HS or less	36	38	22	4=100
Age 18-29	21	37	38	4=100
Age 65+	36	39	19	6=100
Northeast	22	41	32	5=100
Midwest	26	42	27	5=100
South	40	38	19	3=100
West	25	35	36	4=100
Republican	44	39	14	3=100
Democrat	26	38	33	3=100
Independent	23	40	33	4=100
White Protestant	39	41	17	3=100
Evangelical	54	36	8	2=100
Mainline	21	45	28	5=100
Black Protestant	43	41	13	3=100
Catholic	27	43	27	3=100
White non-Hispanic	22	47	29	2=100
Unaffiliated	8	26	62	4=100

Protestants (59%) do majorities say they want to hear more expression of faith and prayer from political leaders.

A majority of Americans see nothing improper with journalists asking politicians how their religious beliefs affect their opinions on issues of the day – 58% of those polled say it is proper for them to do so, while 37% say it is improper. Even among religiously unaffiliated individuals, 53% think it is okay. Only among older respondents (those 65 and older) is there an even division of opinion on the question (45% say it’s proper, 45% say it is improper). There has been no change in views on this question over the past four years.

Most Comfortable with Journalists Asking Politicians about Religion			
	<i>Journalists asking about religion is...</i>		
	<u>Proper</u> %	<u>Improper</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	58	37	5=100
18-29	60	35	5=100
30-49	63	34	3=100
50-65	58	38	4=100
65+	45	45	10=100
White Protestant	60	35	5=100
Evangelical	67	28	5=100
Mainline	52	42	6=100
Black Protestant	60	32	8=100
White non-Hisp Cath	56	41	3=100
Unaffiliated	53	45	2=100

While most Americans accept a role for religion in politics, a sizable majority (63%) opposes churches endorsing candidates during election campaigns. Just 28% say churches should come out in favor of candidates, but that number has grown slightly since 2002 when only 22% held this opinion.

There is majority opposition to churches endorsing candidates among people of all religious traditions, including 68% of white mainline Protestants and white non-Hispanic Catholics, 58% of black Protestants, and 53% of white evangelicals. Even among conservative Republicans, a group that tends to be friendly to religious involvement in politics, 52% oppose churches endorsing candidates.

Broad Opposition toward Church Endorsement of Candidates			
<i>Among...</i>	<i>Should churches endorse candidates?</i>		
	<u>Yes</u> %	<u>No</u> %	<u>DK</u> %
Total	28	63	9=100
White Protestant	32	60	8=100
Evangelical	38	53	9=100
Mainline	24	68	8=100
Black Protestant	29	58	13=100
White non-Hisp Cath	26	68	6=100
Unaffiliated	21	69	10=100

Issues: Stem Cell Research

After showing consistent increases between 2002 and 2005, the survey finds that support for stem cell research has declined slightly since then, from a peak of 57% in July 2005 to 51% today. Roughly one-third of the public (35%) opposes stem cell research, saying that protecting the potential life of embryos is more important than conducting the research.

The issue of stem cell research continues to divide Americans along political fault lines. Majorities of Democrats (60%) and political independents (55%) say it is more important to conduct stem cell research that might result in new medical cures than it is to avoid destroying the potential life of human embryos, but only 37% of Republicans agree. And nearly twice as many self-identified liberals (69%) and moderates (61%) support stem cell research as conservatives (35%).

The differences between religious groups are also quite large. Solid majorities of the religiously unaffiliated (68%), white mainline Protestants (58%) and white non-Hispanic Catholics (59%) support stem cell research; however, support for stem cell research is much lower (46%) among white non-Hispanic Catholics who attend religious services at least weekly.

A majority (57%) of white evangelical Protestants say that it is more important to avoid destroying potential human life than to conduct stem cell research, a view that is particularly pronounced among white evangelicals who attend church at least weekly (68%). Black Protestants remain split over the issue of stem cell research, with 40% favoring it, 40% opposing it, and 20% undecided.

As in past years there continues to be an important link between the public's knowledge about the stem cell debate and support for conducting research. Overall, 45% say they have heard a lot about the issue, while 43% have heard a little; just 12% have heard nothing at all. Public awareness of the debate has not changed much in recent years. Among those who say they

Political, Religious Divides Over Stem Cell Research			
	More important to...		
	Conduct research	Not destroy embryos	DK
	%	%	%
Total	51	35	14=100
Republican	37	50	13=100
Democrat	60	26	14=100
Independent	55	32	13=100
White Protestant	44	44	12=100
Evangelical	31	57	12=100
Attend weekly	23	68	9=100
Less often	47	37	16=100
Mainline	58	28	14=100
Black Protestant	40	40	20=100
White non-Hisp Cath	59	32	9=100
Attend weekly	46	46	8=100
Less often	67	22	11=100
Unaffiliated	68	21	11=100
<i>Heard about stem cell debate...</i>			
A lot	62	30	8=100
A little	45	40	15=100
Nothing at all	33	39	28=100
Question wording: "All in all which is more important, conducting stem cell research that might result in new cures OR not destroying the potential life of human embryos involved in this research."			

have heard a lot about the debate fully 62% support conducting research, compared with just a third (33%) of those who have heard nothing at all about the stem-cell debate.

Issues: Gay Marriage

Attitudes toward gay marriage have remained virtually unchanged since July 2006, with 36% of Americans favoring it and 55% expressing opposition to allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. As is the case with other social issues, opinions about this issue are closely linked with partisanship, ideology, and religion. Support for gay marriage is highest among liberal Democrats (71%) and lowest among conservative Republicans (11%), with other ideological and partisan groups falling in between.

Among religious groups, evangelical Protestants overwhelmingly oppose gay marriage, including 81% of white evangelicals and 79% of black evangelicals. A large proportion in both groups – 55% of white evangelicals and 48% of black evangelicals – say they strongly oppose gay marriage. White mainline Protestants and Catholics are more evenly divided on the issue. The religiously unaffiliated are the only group in which a majority (60%) expresses support for gay marriage.

Overall, those who attend church weekly or more are significantly more opposed to gay marriage (73%) than those who attend church less often (43%). These differences extend across a variety of religious groups, including white evangelicals (among whom weekly church attenders are 19 percentage points more opposed to gay marriage compared with less frequent attenders), white mainline Protestants (among whom there is a 14 percentage point gap) and white non-Hispanic Catholics (17-point gap).

	Fav %	Opp %	DK %
Total	36	55	9=100
Conserv Rep	11	83	6=100
Mod/Liberal Rep	33	59	8=100
Independent	41	49	10=100
Mod/Cons Dem	40	50	10=100
Liberal Dem	71	26	3=100
White Protestant	27	66	7=100
Evangelical	14	81	5=100
Mainline	43	47	10=100
Black Protestant	25	64	11=100
Evangelical	15	79	6=100
Catholic	42	48	10=100
White non-Hispanic	41	49	10=100
Unaffiliated	60	30	10=100

	Fav %	Opp %	DK %
<i>Church attendance</i>			
Attend weekly or more	21	73	6=100
Attend less Often	47	43	10=100
<i>White evangelical Protestant</i>			
Attend weekly or more	9	88	3=100
Attend less often	23	69	8=100
<i>White mainline Protestant</i>			
Attend weekly or more	37	58	5=100
Attend less often	44	44	12=100
<i>White non-Hispanic Catholic</i>			
Attend weekly or more	30	59	11=100
Attend less often	49	42	9=100

Issues: Abortion Opinion Stable

The poll finds that a majority (52%) of Americans express support for legalized abortion in most (35%) or all (17%) cases, while 43% oppose legalized abortion in most (26%) or all (17%) circumstances. These findings are consistent with the results from other surveys over the past few years.

Women are slightly more likely than men (21% to 14%) to say that abortion should be legal in all cases. College graduates are significantly more likely than those without any college education to say abortion should be legal (62% vs. 46%).

Among major political groups, liberal Democrats are by far the most supportive of legalized abortion, with 85% saying it should be legal in all (35%) or most (50%) cases. Majorities of moderate and liberal Republicans (54%), political independents (54%), and moderate and conservative Democrats (58%) also say abortion should be legal. Among conservative Republicans, by contrast, 69% say abortion should be illegal in most (42%) or all (27%) cases.

Among religious groups, white evangelical Protestants are most opposed to abortion. Less than a third (31%) believes that it should be legal, while two-thirds believe it should be illegal in most (39%) or all (26%) cases. Majorities in most other major religious groups support legalized abortion, including white Catholics (51%), white mainline Protestants (63%), black Protestants (60%) and the unaffiliated (68%).

	Legal all cases %	Legal most cases %	Illegal most cases %	Illegal all cases %	DK %
Total	17	35	26	17	5=100
Men	14	36	27	17	6=100
Women	21	34	24	17	4=100
College graduate	23	39	24	10	5=100
Some college	19	37	27	14	3=100
HS or less	14	32	26	22	6=100
Conserv Repub	6	22	42	27	3=100
Mod/lib Repub	14	40	28	14	4=100
Independent	19	35	26	14	6=100
Mod/cons Dem	19	39	23	14	5=100
Liberal Democrat	35	50	5	7	3=100
White Protestant	14	32	31	18	5=100
Evangelical	8	23	39	26	4=100
Mainline	20	43	21	9	7=100
Black Protestant	21	39	19	18	3=100
Catholic	16	35	26	18	5=100
White non-Hisp	18	36	26	15	5=100
Unaffiliated	27	41	17	8	7=100

Since the Supreme Court upheld the congressional ban on partial birth abortion earlier this year, views of the procedure have remained relatively stable. An overwhelming number of Americans (75%) favor keeping partial birth or late term abortion illegal. Even among those who say abortion should be legal in all cases, almost half (49%) believe that partial birth abortion procedures should be illegal. Overall, only 17% of Americans say that partial birth abortion should be legal.

Issues: Death Penalty

More than six-in-ten Americans (62%) favor the death penalty for people convicted of murder. Opinion about the death penalty has remained fairly steady in recent years, though there is less support now than during the 1990s (78% in 1996).

Support for the death penalty is particularly high among Republicans (80%), while smaller majorities of independents (60%) and Democrats (52%) also support capital punishment in murder cases.

White evangelical Protestants support the death penalty at slightly higher rates than do white mainline Protestants (74% to 68%), while about half (51%) of black Protestants oppose it. Among white non-Hispanic Catholics, 66% support capital punishment, but support is significantly lower among weekly attending white Catholics (55%) than among those who attend church less often (73%).

	Fav %	Opp %	DK %
Total	62	32	6=100
January 2007	64	29	7=100
July 2005	68	24	8=100
March 2001	66	27	7=100
June 1996	78	18	4=100
<hr/>			
White Protestant	71	23	6=100
Evangelical	74	21	5=100
Mainline	68	26	6=100
Black Protestant	38	51	11=100
Catholic	59	35	6=100
White non-Hispanic	66	28	6=100
Attend weekly	55	39	6=100
Attend less often	73	22	5=100
Unaffiliated	59	36	5=100

ABOUT THE SURVEY

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Schulman, Ronca, & Bucuvalas, Inc. among a nationwide sample of 3,002 adults, 18 years of age or older, from August 1-18, 2007. For results based on the total sample, one can say with 95% confidence that the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 2 percentage points. For results based on Form 1 (N=1,541) or Form 2 (N=1,461) only, the error attributable to sampling is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

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

ABOUT THE PROJECTS

This 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 Forum on Religion & Public Life delivers timely, impartial information on issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs. The Forum is a nonpartisan organization and does not take positions on policy debates. Based in Washington, D.C., the Forum is directed by Luis Lugo.

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.

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AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE
AUGUST 2007 RELIGION AND PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
August 1-18, 2007
N= 3,002**

QUESTIONS 1-2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

Q.3 Now, I'd like to get your views on some issues that are being discussed in this country today. All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose [READ AND RANDOMIZE]? Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose [NEXT ITEM]?

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Total	Strongly Favor	Favor	Total	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	
a. The death penalty for persons convicted of murder	62	29	33	32	11	21	6=100
Early January, 2007	64	30	34	29	11	18	7=100
March, 2006	65	27	38	27	8	19	8=100
July, 2005	68	32	36	24	8	16	8=100
Mid-July, 2003	64	28	36	30	10	20	6=100
March, 2002	67	33	34	26	9	17	7=100
March, 2001	66	30	36	27	10	17	7=100
September, 1999	74	41	33	22	7	15	4=100
June, 1996	78	43	35	18	7	11	4=100
b. The U.S. government guaranteeing health insurance for all citizens, even if it means raising taxes	63	26	37	32	13	19	5=100
Early January, 2007	66	27	39	29	11	18	5=100
July, 2005	64	25	39	30	10	20	6=100
December, 2004	65	31	34	30	10	20	5=100
Early September, 2004	66	30	36	26	11	15	8=100
August, 2003	67	23	44	29	10	19	4=100
c. Allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally	36	13	23	55	31	24	9=100
Early January, 2007	37	13	24	55	33	22	8=100
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	30	10	20	57	31	26	13=100
July, 2006 ¹	35	12	23	56	31	25	9=100
June, 2006	33	13	20	55	32	23	12=100
March, 2006	39	10	29	51	28	23	10=100
July, 2005	36	13	23	53	31	22	11=100
December, 2004	32	14	18	61	38	23	7=100
August, 2004	29	8	21	60	35	25	11=100
July, 2004	32	10	22	56	33	23	12=100
Mid-March, 2004	32	10	22	59	35	24	9=100
Early February, 2004	30	9	21	63	42	21	7=100
November, 2003	30	10	20	62	41	21	8=100
October, 2003	30	9	21	58	33	25	12=100
Mid-July, 2003	38	10	28	53	30	23	9=100
March, 2001	35	8	27	57	34	23	8=100
June, 1996	27	6	21	65	41	24	8=100

¹ In June and July 2006, mid-March through August 2004, and October 2003, the question was not part of a list of items.

Q.3 CONTINUED...

	-----FAVOR-----			-----OPPOSE-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Total	Strongly Favor	Favor	Total	Strongly Oppose	Oppose	
d. Reducing legal immigration	45	19	26	45	15	30	10=100

NO QUESTION 4

Q.5 Do you think abortion should be **(READ)**

(FORM 1 READ CATEGORIES IN ORDER, FORM 2 READ IN REVERSE ORDER)

	Legal in <u>all cases</u>	Legal in <u>most cases</u>	Illegal in most <u>cases</u>	Illegal in all <u>cases</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
August, 2007	17	35	26	17	5=100
March, 2007 Pew Social Trends	15	30	30	20	5=100
February 2006 <i>Associated Press/Ispos-Poll</i>	19	32	27	16	6=100
December 2005 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i> ²	17	40	27	13	3=100
April 2005 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	20	36	27	14	3=100
December 2004 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	21	34	25	17	3=100
May 2004 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	23	31	23	20	2=99
January 2003 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	23	34	25	17	2=100
August 2001 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	22	27	28	20	3=100
June 2001 <i>ABC/BeliefNet Poll</i>	22	31	23	20	4=100
January 2001 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	21	38	25	14	1=99
September 2000 (RVs) <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	20	35	25	16	3=99
July 2000 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	20	33	26	17	4=100
September 1999 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	20	37	26	15	2=100
March 1999 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	21	34	27	15	3=100
July 1998 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	19	35	29	13	4=100
August 1996 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	22	34	27	14	3=100
June 1996 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	24	34	25	14	2=99
October 1995 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	26	35	25	12	3=100
September 1995 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	24	36	25	11	4=100
July 1995 <i>ABC/Washington Post</i>	27	32	26	14	1=100

Q.6 Now I would like to ask your opinion about a specific abortion procedure known as “late-term” abortion or “partial birth” abortion, which is sometimes performed on women during the last few months of pregnancy. Do you think that this procedure should be legal or illegal?

		<i>Gallup</i> <u>May 2007</u>
17	Legal	22
75	Illegal	72
<u>8</u>	Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)	<u>5</u>
100		99

² Percentages from ABC/Washington Post surveys may not add to 100% due to rounding.

Q.7 As you may know, the federal government has debated whether to fund certain kinds of medical research known as 'stem cell research' ... How much have you heard about this? **[READ, IN ORDER]**

		July <u>2006</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Dec. <u>2004</u>	Aug. <u>2004</u>	March <u>2002</u>
45	A lot	43	48	47	42	27
43	A little [OR]	42	42	41	43	52
12	Nothing at all	15	10	11	15	20
*	[VOL, DO NOT READ] Don't Know/Refused	*	*	<u>1</u>	*	<u>1</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.8 All in all, which is more important... **[READ, IN ORDER]**

		July <u>2006</u>	July <u>2005</u>	Dec. <u>2004</u>	Aug. <u>2004</u>	March <u>2002</u>
51	Conducting stem cell research that might result in new medical cures	56	57	56	52	43
	OR					
35	Not destroying the potential life of human embryos involved in this research	32	30	32	34	38
<u>14</u>	[VOL, DO NOT READ] Don't Know/Refused	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>14</u>	<u>19</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

QUESTION 9 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL

Q.10 Now I'd like your views on some people. (First,) would you say your overall opinion of... **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? **[INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**
 How about (NEXT NAME)? **[IF NECESSARY: would you say your overall opinion is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly UNfavorable, or very unfavorable? INTERVIEWERS: PROBE TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN "NEVER HEARD OF" AND "CAN'T RATE."]**

	----Favorable----			----Unfavorable----			(VOL.) Never heard of	(VOL.) Can't rate/Ref
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly		
a. George W. Bush	40	12	28	57	34	23	*	3=100
December, 2006	39	12	27	57	34	23	*	4=100
April, 2006	40	15	25	57	35	22	*	3=100
Late October, 2005	46	17	29	51	29	22	*	3=100
July, 2005	51	22	29	46	25	21	0	3=100
Late March, 2005	53	23	30	45	27	18	0	2=100
Mid-October, 2004 (RVs)	56	26	30	42	23	19	*	2=100
Early October, 2004 (RVs)	57	27	30	40	20	20	0	3=100
Early September, 2004	52	25	27	43	24	19	*	5=100
August, 2004	58	27	31	39	22	17	0	3=100
June, 2004	52	19	33	45	22	23	*	3=100
Early February, 2004	53	21	32	44	25	19	0	3=100
January 29-February 1, 2004	52	--	--	47	--	--	--	1=100
Gallup: January 2-5, 2004	65	--	--	35	--	--	--	*=100
Gallup: October 6-8, 2003	60	--	--	39	--	--	--	1=100
Gallup: June 9-10, 2003	66	--	--	33	--	--	--	1=100

Q.10 CONTINUED...

	----Favorable----			----Unfavorable----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
April, 2003	72	37	35	25	11	14	0	3=100
January, 2003	70	28	42	28	10	18	0	2=100
December, 2002	68	35	33	27	11	16	0	5=100
July, 2001	61	22	39	35	14	21	*	4=100
January, 2001	60	24	36	33	12	21	0	7=100
May, 2000	58	18	40	31	12	19	1	10=100
March, 1999 ³	61	21	40	21	7	14	4	14=100
November, 1997	54	13	41	18	6	12	9	19=100
b. Rudy Giuliani	54	12	42	28	9	19	8	10=100
Early April, 2006	70	26	44	14	4	10	10	6=100
Late October, 2005	63	22	41	17	6	11	10	10=100
Late March, 2005	60	20	40	17	5	12	7	16=100
May, 2000	37	9	28	18	6	12	26	19=100
c. Mitt Romney	28	5	23	24	7	17	29	19=100
d. John McCain	47	8	39	29	8	21	12	12=100
December, 2006	51	13	38	26	6	20	10	13=100
April, 2006	54	14	40	26	7	19	8	12=100
Late October, 2005	56	15	41	19	5	14	10	15=100
Late March, 2005	59	15	44	17	4	13	8	16=100
July, 2001	51	14	37	22	5	17	13	14=100
January, 2001	59	18	41	15	3	12	9	17=100
May, 2000	54	14	40	20	5	15	11	15=100
e. Fred Thompson	29	8	21	16	4	12	35	20=100
f. Hillary Clinton	55	21	34	39	21	18	2	4=100
December, 2006	56	22	34	39	21	18	*	5=100
April, 2006	54	20	34	42	21	21	1	3=100
Late October, 2005	56	20	36	38	19	19	1	5=100
Late March, 2005	57	22	35	36	17	19	*	7=100
December, 2002	47	15	32	44	23	21	1	8=100
July, 2001	53	20	33	42	23	19	1	4=100
January, 2001	60	25	35	35	16	19	*	5=100
May, 2000	49	15	34	42	22	20	1	8=100
Early December, 1998	66	32	34	31	15	16	*	3=100
Early October, 1998 (RVs)	58	24	34	36	18	18	*	6=100
Early September, 1998	64	24	40	31	13	18	0	5=100
Late August, 1998	63	25	38	34	13	21	*	3=100
March, 1998	65	26	39	31	14	17	*	4=100

³ In March 1999 and November 1997 the category was listed: "Texas Governor George W. Bush."

Q.10 CONTINUED...

	----Favorable----			----Unfavorable----			(VOL.)	(VOL.)
	Total	Very	Mostly	Total	Very	Mostly	Never heard of	Can't rate/Ref
January, 1997	57	17	40	40	17	23	*	3=100
June, 1996	53	13	40	43	17	26	*	4=100
April, 1996	49	12	37	46	19	27	0	5=100
February, 1996	42	14	28	54	27	27	0	4=100
January, 1996	42	10	32	54	26	28	0	4=100
October, 1995	58	14	44	38	14	24	--	4=100
August, 1995	49	16	33	47	22	25	*	4=100
December, 1994	50	17	33	45	20	25	1	4=100
July, 1994	57	19	38	40	18	22	1	2=100
May, 1993	60	19	41	29	11	18	1	10=100
g. John Edwards	47	10	37	29	10	19	11	13=100
Early April, 2006	47	10	37	27	9	18	11	15=100
Late October, 2005	50	12	38	23	6	17	10	17=100
Mid-October, 2004 (RVs)	58	18	40	31	13	18	1	10=100
Early October, 2004 (RVs)	50	16	34	28	11	17	2	20=100
Early September, 2004	49	16	33	31	11	20	3	17=100
August, 2004	58	22	36	24	6	18	4	14=100
Early February, 2004	42	9	33	24	7	17	8	26=100
January, 2003	22	4	18	14	4	10	43	21=100
h. Barack Obama	48	14	34	26	10	16	13	13=100
NO QUESTIONS Q10i-Q10l								
m. Pope Benedict XVI	50	14	36	18	6	12	8	24=100
July, 2005	44	10	34	11	4	7	4	41=100
June, 1996 (John Paul II)	76	28	48	13	4	9	1	10=100
May, 1990 (John Paul II)	79	31	48	11	4	7	1	9=100
May, 1987 (John Paul II)	76	28	48	14	4	10	1	9=100
n. Billy Graham	60	28	32	20	8	12	10	10=100
May, 1987	66	22	44	26	16	10	2	6=100
o. James Dobson	21	8	13	15	6	9	46	18=100

Q.11 In making your decision about who to vote for in the presidential election of 2008, will **[INSERT ITEM, RANDOMIZE]** be very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important? ... How important will **[NEXT ITEM]** be?

	Very <u>important</u>	Somewhat <u>important</u>	Not too <u>important</u>	Not at all <u>important</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The issue of Iraq	72	21	3	3	1=100
June, 2007 (<i>RVs</i>)	73	20	3	3	1=100
Mid-October, 2004 (<i>RVs</i>)	74	20	3	2	1=100
August, 2004 (<i>RVs</i>)	70	24	3	2	1=100
b. Domestic issues such as the economy, health care, and the environment	78	18	2	1	1=100
c. Social issues like abortion and gay marriage	38	32	17	11	2=100

Now a different kind of question.

Q.12 Regardless of the specific candidates who are running for president, we'd like to know how you generally feel about some different traits. First, would you be more likely or less likely to support a candidate for president who **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**, or wouldn't this matter to you? How about if a candidate **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[INTERVIEWER NOTE: PLEASE PROMPT RESPONDENT WITH RESPONSE OPTIONS WHEN NECESSARY]**

	More <u>likely</u>	Less <u>likely</u>	Wouldn't <u>matter</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. Is a woman	15	12	72	1=100
February, 2007	13	11	75	1=100
b. Is black	9	6	84	1=100
February, 2007	7	4	88	1=100
c. Is Hispanic	9	15	75	1=100
February, 2007	4	14	80	2=100
d. Is Mormon	5	25	66	4=100
February, 2007	2	30	64	4=100
e. Is Muslim	3	45	49	3=100
February, 2007	1	46	49	4=100
f. Is an evangelical Christian	19	16	60	5=100
g. Does not believe in God	3	61	34	2=100
February, 2007	3	63	32	2=100
h. Is Catholic	13	7	79	1=100
i. Is Jewish	9	11	79	1=100

Q.13 On the abortion issue, do you happen to know if Rudy Giuliani is...pro-choice, that is, a supporter of abortion rights, pro-life, that is, favors new laws to outlaw abortion in almost all cases, or are you not sure where he stands on this issue?

	Republican Registered Voters ⁴		<i>Newsweek</i> Feb. 2007 ⁵
22	31	Pro-choice, that is, a support of abortion rights	34
7	7	Pro-life, that is, favors new laws to outlaw abortion in almost all cases	12
68	60	Not sure	51
<u>3</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>3</u>
100	100		100

NO QUESTIONS 14-24

Thinking about another topic...

Q.25 Do you think there has been too much, too little or the right amount of expressions of religious faith and prayer by political leaders?

		July <u>2005</u>	August <u>2004</u>	Mid- July <u>2003</u>	March <u>2002</u> ⁶	Early Oct. <u>2001</u> ⁷
27	Too much	26	27	21	16	12
38	Too little	39	31	41	24	22
26	Right amount	27	32	29	53	60
<u>9</u>	[VOL, DO NOT READ] Don't Know/Refused	<u>8</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

Q.26 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?

		August <u>2004</u>	March <u>2002</u>
28	Should come out in favor of candidates	25	22
63	Should not come out in favor of candidates	65	70
<u>9</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>10</u>	<u>8</u>
100		100	100

⁴ Based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters.

⁵ The *Newsweek* 2007 survey was based on Republican and Republican-leaning registered voters.

⁶ In March 2002 the question was worded, "Since September 11th, has there been too much, too little or the right amount of expressions of religious faith and prayer by political leaders?"

⁷ In Early October 2001 the question was part of a series and began, "As I read from a list, tell me if you think there has been too much, too little or the right amount of what I mention."

ROTATE Q.27/Q.28

Q.27 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?

		August <u>2004</u>	Sept <u>2000 (RVs)</u>
15	Completely Agree	12	25
28	Mostly Agree	28	25
30	Mostly Disagree	34	26
20	Completely Disagree	22	19
<u>7</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>
100		100	100

Q.28 And 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?

		August <u>2004</u>	Sept <u>2000 (RVs)</u>
30	Completely Agree	29	35
39	Mostly Agree	41	35
16	Mostly Disagree	15	17
11	Completely Disagree	11	10
<u>4</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>	<u>3</u>
100		100	100

Q.29 Do you believe that it is proper or improper for journalists to ask politicians how their religious beliefs affect their opinions on issues of the day?

		July <u>2003</u>
58	Proper	57
37	Improper	39
<u>5</u>	Don't know/refused (VOL.)	<u>4</u>
100		100

On another subject,

Q.30 Do you feel that [INSERT ITEM AND RANDOMIZE] is generally friendly toward religion, neutral toward religion, or unfriendly toward religion? **PROGRAMMING INSTRUCTION: Q.30c SHOULD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW Q.30a, AND Q.30d SHOULD IMMEDIATELY FOLLOW Q.30b.**

	<u>Friendly</u>	<u>Neutral</u>	<u>Unfriendly</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a. The Democratic Party	30	37	15	18=100
July, 2006	26	42	20	12=100
July, 2005	29	38	20	13=100
August, 2004	40	34	13	13=100
Mid-July, 2003	42	36	12	10=100
b. The Republican Party	50	23	9	18=100
July, 2006	47	28	13	12=100
July, 2005	55	23	9	13=100
August, 2004	52	24	10	14=100
Mid-July, 2003	52	27	10	11=100

IF THINK DEMOCRATS ARE FRIENDLY/NEUTRAL/UNFRIENDLY TO RELIGION (Q.30a=1, 2, 3), ASK:

Q.30c And in your view, is this a good thing, a bad thing, or doesn't it matter to you?

a. The Democratic Party

30 Friendly
15 Good thing
2 Bad thing
13 Doesn't matter
* Don't know/refused (VOL.)
37 Neutral
13 Good thing
7 Bad thing
17 Doesn't matter
* Don't know/refused (VOL.)
15 Unfriendly
* Good thing
12 Bad thing
3 Doesn't matter
* Don't know/refused (VOL.)
18 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
100

IF THINK REPUBLICANS ARE FRIENDLY/NEUTRAL/UNFRIENDLY TO RELIGION (Q.30b=1, 2, 3), ASK:

Q.30d And in your view, is this a good thing, a bad thing, or doesn't it matter to you?

b. The Republican Party

50 Friendly
23 Good thing
11 Bad thing
16 Doesn't matter
* Don't know/refused (VOL.)
23 Neutral
6 Good thing
4 Bad thing
13 Doesn't matter
* Don't know/refused (VOL.)
9 Unfriendly
1 Good thing
5 Bad thing
3 Doesn't matter
* Don't know/refused (VOL.)
18 Don't know/refused (VOL.)
100

ASK ALL:

Q.31 Here are a couple of statements about the political parties. For each, please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree, or completely DISagree with it. (The first one is...) **(INSERT ITEM; ROTATE ITEMS)**

	-----AGREE-----			-----DISAGREE-----			<u>DK/Ref</u>
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Comp letely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Comp letely</u>	<u>Mostly</u>	
a. Religious conservatives have too much control over the Republican Party							
July, 2005	43	15	28	41	10	31	16=100
Early September, 2004 ⁸	45	14	31	43	11	32	12=100
	43	17	26	48	18	30	9=100
b. Liberals who are not religious have too much control over the Democratic Party							
July, 2005	37	13	24	47	14	33	16=100
	44	12	32	42	11	31	14=100

NO QUESTIONS 32-34

QUESTIONS 35-39 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.40 Now I am going to read you a list of some political figures. For each name that I read, please tell me how religious you think that person is -- very religious, somewhat religious, not too religious, or not at all religious. First, **(INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE)**.

	<u>Very religious</u>	<u>Somewhat religious</u>	<u>Not too religious</u>	<u>Not at all religious</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
a. George W. Bush	37	36	7	7	13=100
b. Rudy Giuliani	9	41	12	3	35=100
c. Mitt Romney	22	21	3	1	53=100
d. John McCain	11	40	7	2	40=100
e. Fred Thompson	5	23	5	2	65=100
f. Hillary Clinton	12	41	16	9	22=100
June, 1996	11	45	18	7	19=100
g. John Edwards	18	37	7	3	35=100
h. Barack Obama	15	36	6	3	40=100

⁸ In 2004, this question was asked only of registered voters, and was asked as part of a list. The question read, "Here are some statements about the candidates and political parties.