

PRRI/RNS June 2011 Survey
June 16-19, 2011
N=1,006

Q.1 Thinking about elected officials, that is people elected to public office....
 As I read a list of personal behaviors please tell me how serious a moral problem you believe it is when an elected official does any of the following. First...
[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]. Is this an extremely serious moral problem, very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious or not at all serious?

a. Does not report all their income on their taxes

34	Extremely serious problem
47	Very serious problem
13	Somewhat serious problem
3	Not too serious problem
2	Not at all serious problem
<u>1</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Takes a bribe

49	Extremely serious problem
42	Very serious problem
6	Somewhat serious problem
1	Not too serious problem
1	Not at all serious problem
<u>1</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	Total

c. Uses their office to enrich their family or friends

34	Extremely serious problem
42	Very serious problem
14	Somewhat serious problem
4	Not too serious problem
3	Not at all serious problem
<u>3</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	Total

d. Sends sexually explicit messages to someone who is not their spouse

32	Extremely serious problem
35	Very serious problem
18	Somewhat serious problem
8	Not too serious problem
5	Not at all serious problem
<u>2</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	Total

e. Has sex with a prostitute

33	Extremely serious problem
33	Very serious problem
16	Somewhat serious problem
9	Not too serious problem
6	Not at all serious problem
<u>2</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	Total

f. Lies to cover up an immoral sexual act

39	Extremely serious problem
38	Very serious problem
12	Somewhat serious problem
5	Not too serious problem
3	Not at all serious problem
<u>2</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=505]:

gf1. Commits adultery, that is cheats on her husband

30	Extremely serious problem
39	Very serious problem
18	Somewhat serious problem
7	Not too serious problem
4	Not at all serious problem
<u>1</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=501]:

hf2. Commits adultery, that is cheats on his wife

34	Extremely serious problem
38	Very serious problem
14	Somewhat serious problem
7	Not too serious problem
4	Not at all serious problem
<u>3</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.2 And do you think an elected official who **[INSERT ITEM; RANDOMIZE]** should resign from office or not? What about an elected official who **[INSERT]**?

{Note: Questions 2a-h only asked of those who said it was an 'extremely' or 'very' serious moral problem. Questions 2a-h were repercentaged to include all respondents.}

a. Does not report all their income on their taxes

69	Yes, should resign
9	No, should not resign
2	Depends (VOL.)
1	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>19</u>	Somewhat/Not too/Not at all serious problem
100	Total

b. Takes a bribe

87	Yes, should resign
3	No, should not resign
1	Depends (VOL.)
1	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>9</u>	Somewhat/Not too/Not at all serious problem
100	Total

c. Uses their office to enrich their family or friends

69	Yes, should resign
5	No, should not resign
2	Depends (VOL.)
0	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>24</u>	Somewhat/Not too/Not at all serious problem
100	Total

d. Sends sexually explicit messages to someone who is not their spouse

56	Yes, should resign
7	No, should not resign
3	Depends (VOL.)
*	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>33</u>	Somewhat/Not too/Not at all serious problem
100	Total

e. Has sex with a prostitute

55	Yes, should resign
8	No, should not resign
3	Depends (VOL.)
1	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>34</u>	Somewhat/Not too/Not at all serious problem
100	Total

f. Lies to cover up an immoral sexual act

68	Yes, should resign
5	No, should not resign
3	Depends (VOL.)
1	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>23</u>	Somewhat/Not too/Not at all serious problem
100	Total

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=505]:

gf1. Commits adultery, that is cheats on her husband

54	Yes, should resign
12	No, should not resign
2	Depends (VOL.)
1	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>31</u>	Somewhat/Not too/Not at all serious problem
100	Total

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=501]:

hf2. Commits adultery, that is cheats on his wife

57	Yes, should resign
13	No, should not resign
2	Depends (VOL.)
0	Don't know (VOL.)
<u>28</u>	Somewhat/Not too/Not at all serious problem
100	Total

Q.3 Do you think an elected official who commits an immoral act in their personal life can still behave ethically and fulfill their duties in their public and professional life?

44	Yes
44	No
10	Depends (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.4 Should elected officials be held to higher moral standards than people in other professions?

61	Yes
35	No
2	Depends (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.5 Thinking generally about the moral behavior of elected officials, do you think they behave better than they did in the past, worse than they did in the past or about the same as in the past?

6	Behave better
28	Behave worse
65	Behave about the same
0	Depends (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know (VOL.)
100	Total

Note: Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding

Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute. Results of the survey were based on RDD telephone interviews conducted between June 16, 2011 and June 19, 2011 by professional interviewers under the direction of Opinion Research Corporation. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 1,006 adults 18 years of age or older living in private households in the continental United States.

The final sample was weighted to five different parameters—age, sex, geographic region, education and race—to ensure reliable and accurate representation of the total adult population.

The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.0 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.