



Fact Sheet | Alignment of Evangelical and Tea Party Values

What You Need to Know

I. "VALUES VOTERS" AND THE TEA PARTY

- **Overlapping Identities:** Nearly half (47 percent) of Americans who identify with the Tea Party movement also identify as a part of the religious right or Christian conservative movement. [Source: PRRI, *American Values Survey, November 2010*]. Fully three-quarters (75 percent) of those who identify with the Tea Party movement describe themselves as "a Christian conservative." [Source: PRRI, *Pluralism, Immigration and Civic Integration Survey, August 2011*]
- **Libertarianism:** Despite conventional wisdom, only about a quarter (27 percent) of Americans who identify with the Tea Party consider themselves libertarians. [Source: PRRI, *Pluralism, Immigration and Civic Integration Survey, August 2011*]

II. ABORTION

- **Support for Legal Abortion:** Less than one-third of white evangelicals (32 percent) and Americans who identify with the Tea Party movement (29 percent) say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases, compared to a majority (53 percent) of the general public. [Source: PRRI, *American Values Survey, September 2011*]
- **Abortion and Voting:** Roughly 6-in-10 white evangelicals (63 percent) and Americans who identify with the Tea Party (58 percent) say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported legalized abortion. Among Americans overall, 36 percent say they would be less likely to vote for such a candidate. [Source: PRRI, *Millennials, Religion & Gay and Lesbian Issues Survey, July 2011*]

III. SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

- **Support for Same-sex Marriage:** Only 25 percent of Americans who identify with the Tea Party and 19 percent of white evangelical Protestants favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, compared to nearly half (47 percent) of the general public. [Source: PRRI, *Millennials, Religion & Gay and Lesbian Issues Survey, July 2011*]
- **Same-sex Marriage and Voting:** Roughly 6-in-10 white evangelicals (62 percent) and Americans who identify with the Tea Party (58 percent) say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate who supported same-sex marriage. Among Americans overall, 33 percent say they would be less likely to vote for such a candidate [Source: PRRI, *Millennials, Religion & Gay and Lesbian Issues Survey, July 2011*]

IV. THE ROLE AND SIZE OF GOVERNMENT

- **Role of Government:** Less than half (47 percent) of white evangelicals and Americans who identify with the Tea Party movement (40 percent) agree that it is the responsibility of the government to take care of people who can't take care of themselves. Among Americans overall 60 percent agree that it is the government's responsibility. *[Source: PRRI, Pluralism, Immigration and Civic Integration Survey, August 2011]*
- **Size of Government:** Eight-in-ten (80 percent) Americans who identify with the Tea Party movement and two-thirds (64 percent) of white Evangelicals would rather have a smaller government that providing fewer services, compared to only half (50 percent) of the general public. *[Source: PRRI, Millennials, Abortion and Religion Survey, June 2011]*

V. ECONOMIC INEQUALITY

On some issues such as increasing the minimum wage, white evangelical Protestants hold different values than those in the Tea Party movement.

- **Minimum Wage:** Less than half (41 percent) of Americans who identify with the Tea Party movement favor increasing the minimum wage from \$7.25 an hour to \$10.00 an hour; however, a majority of white evangelicals (61 percent) and two-thirds of the general public (67 percent) favor increasing the minimum wage. These numbers remain virtually unchanged since 2010. *[Source: PRRI, American Values Survey, September 2011]*
- **The "Buffett Rule":** Seven-in-ten of the general public and nearly two-third (65 percent) of white evangelicals support increasing the tax rate on Americans earning more than \$1 million a year, compared to only four-in-ten of Americans who identify with the Tea Party movement. *[Source: PRRI, American Values Survey, September 2011]*

VI. THE MILLENNIAL GENERATION, THE TEA PARTY, AND SOCIAL ISSUES

- **Age Gap:** The Millennial generation (18-29 year olds) is significantly underrepresented among white evangelical Protestants and among Americans who identify with the Tea Party. Only 13 percent of both evangelicals and Americans who identify with the Tea Party are 18-29 years old. Among all Americans, 21 percent are 18-29 years old. *[Source: PRRI, Pluralism, Immigration and Civic Integration Survey, August 2011]*
- **Young Republicans and Same-Sex Marriage:** Nearly half (45 percent) of Republican Millennials (18-29 years old) favor allowing gay and lesbian people to marry, compared to only 17 percent of Republican seniors (65 and older) and only 28 percent of all Republicans. *[Source: PRRI, Combined datasets: Millennials, Religion, and Gay & Lesbian Issues Survey, July 2011; and Pluralism, Immigration and Civic Integration Survey, August 2011]*
- **Young Evangelicals and Same-Sex Marriage:** Four-in-ten white evangelical Millennials (18-29 years old) favor allowing gay and lesbian people to marry, compared to only 11 percent of evangelicals seniors (65 and older) and 20 percent of evangelicals overall. *[Source: PRRI, Combined datasets: Millennials, Religion, and Gay & Lesbian Issues Survey, July 2011; and Pluralism, Immigration and Civic Integration Survey, August 2011]*

Public Religion Research Institute is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan research and education organization specializing in work at the intersection of religion, values, and public life.