A GENERATION IN TRANSITION: RELIGION, VALUES AND POLITICS AMONG COLLEGE-AGE MILLENNIALS

Findings from the 2012 Millennial Values Survey
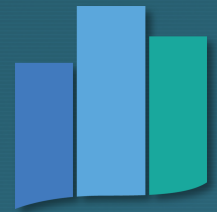
Public Religion Research Institute

Analysis by

Dr. Robert P. Jones, CEO
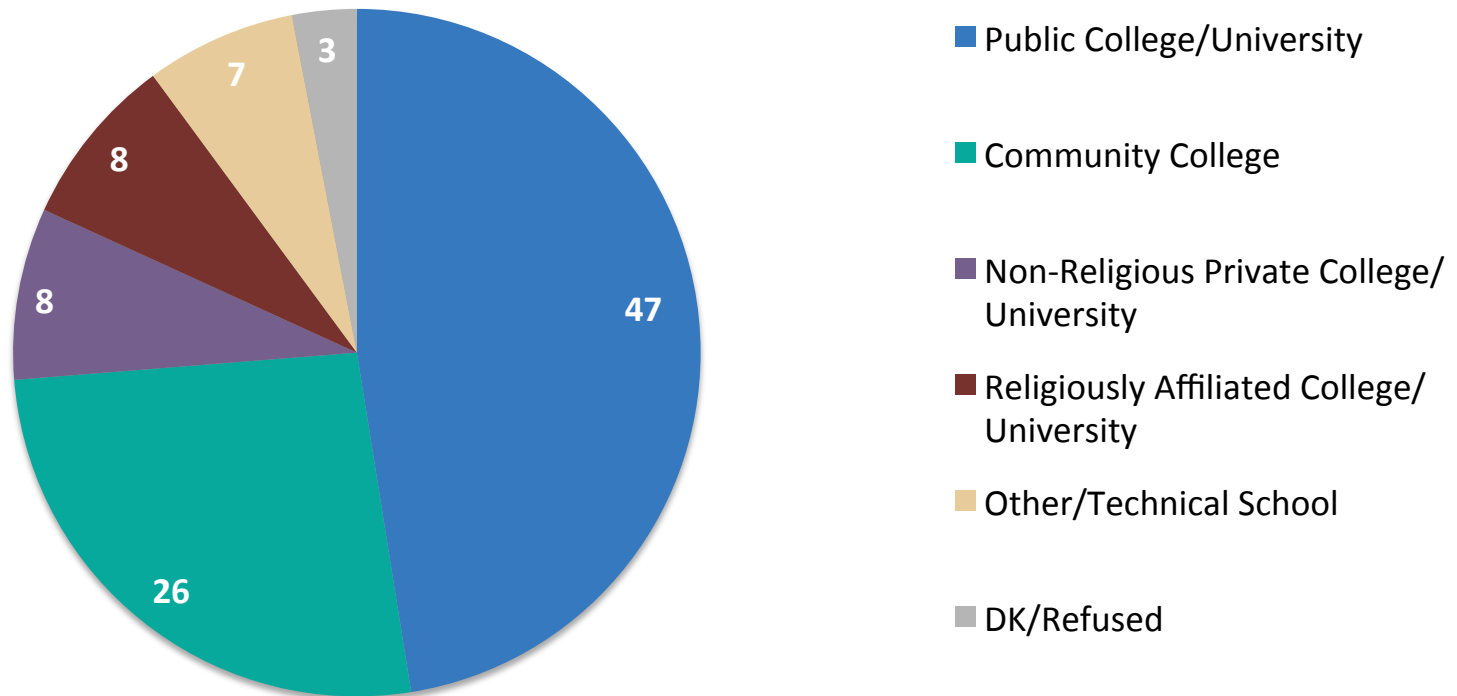
Daniel Cox, Director of Research

BERKLEY CENTER

for **Religion, Peace & World Affairs**

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

A GENERATION IN TRANSITION
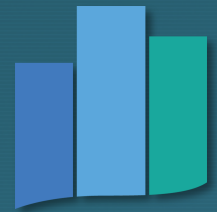
Type of College Attended or Attending

Type of College Attended or Attending
Among those who have attended at least some college

- Public College/University — 47
- Community College — 26
- Non-Religious Private College/University — 8
- Religiously Affiliated College/University — 8
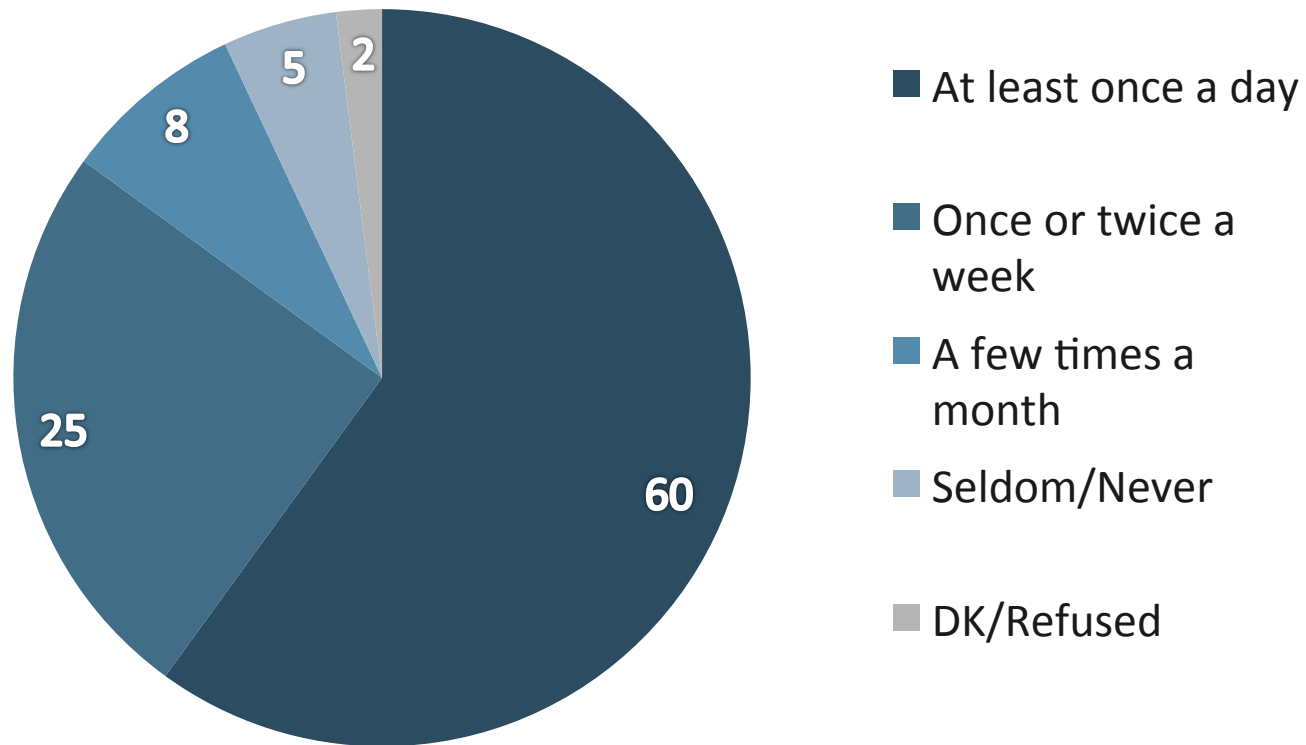- Other/Technical School — 7
- DK/Refused — 3

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Relationship with Parents

Frequency of Talking With Parents
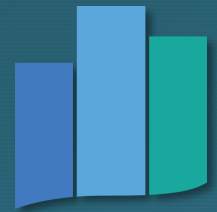

Legend:
- At least once a day (60)
- Once or twice a week (25)
- A few times a month (8)
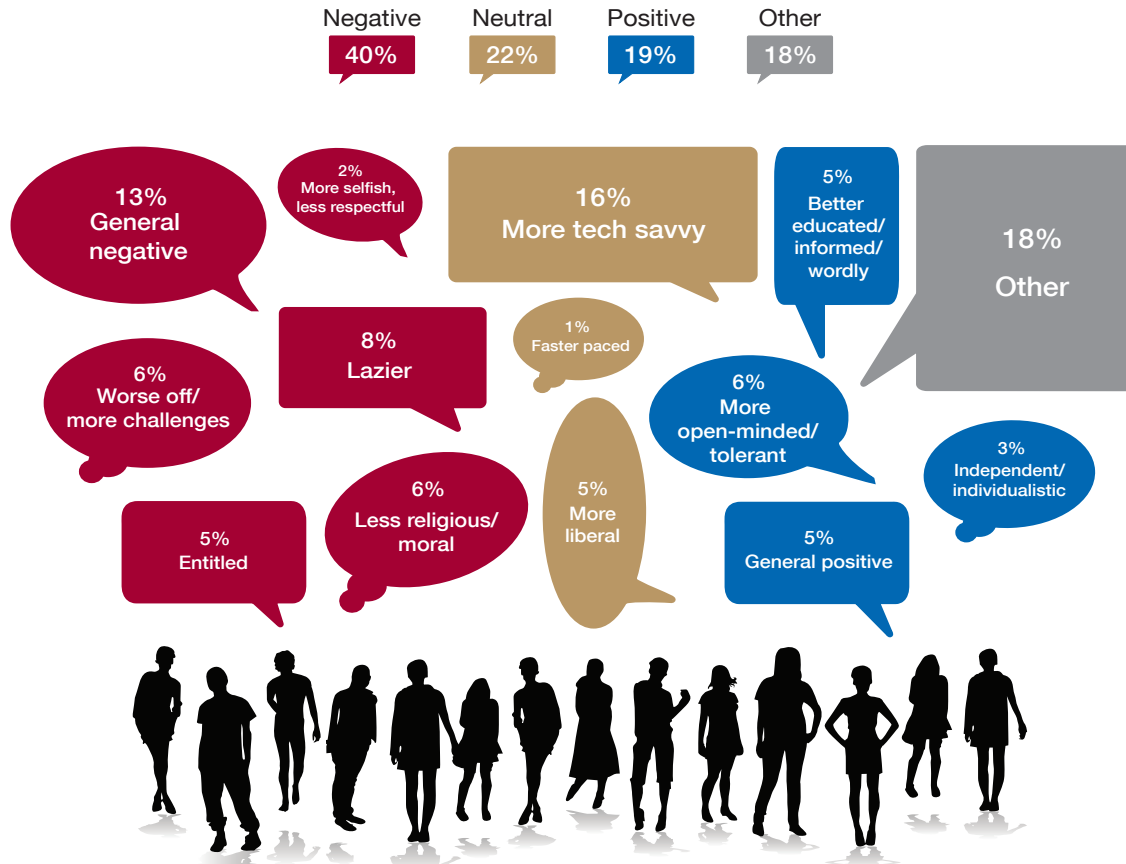- Seldom/Never (5)
- DK/Refused (2)

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)
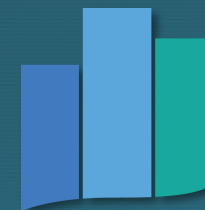
Comparisons to Parents' Generation

"In Their Own Words":
Millennials Compare their Generation to their Parents

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2013)

Religious Switching
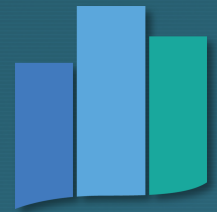
Religious Change Among Millennials

	Childhood Religion	Entering Group	Exiting Group	Current Religion	Net Gain/Loss
Unaffiliated	11.1	16.1	2.5	24.7	13.6
Catholic	27.9	0.5	8.4	20	-7.9
-*White Catholic*	14.1	0.3	5.1	9.3	-4.8
-*Latino Catholic*	11.4	0.2	2.6	9.0	-2.4
-*Other Catholic*	2.4	0	0.6	1.8	-0.6
White Mainline Protestant	17.6	2.3	7.3	12.6	-5.0
White Evangelical Protestant	13.1	1.4	2.2	12.3	-0.8
Black Protestant	10.8	0.4	1.5	9.7	-1.1
Other Christian	10.8	1.7	2.9	9.6	-1.2
Non-Christian Religions	4.5	2.3	1.2	5.6	1.1
DK/Other	4.3	1.8	0.6	5.5	1.2
	100			100	

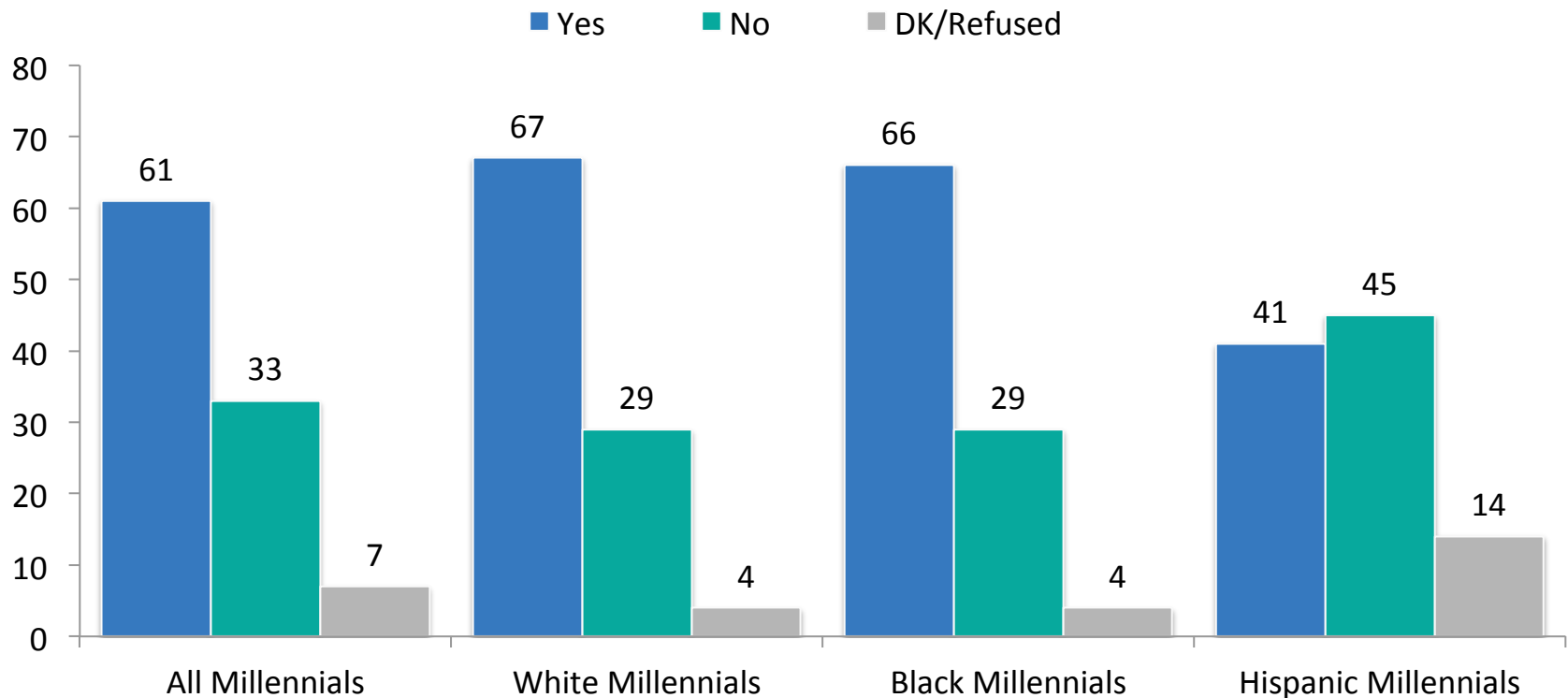Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

THE 2012 ELECTION

Likelihood of Voting in 2012

Voter Preference & Excitement
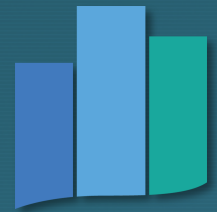
Registered to Vote by Race

Are You Registered to Vote?
By Race/Ethnicity

Legend: ■ Yes ■ No ■ DK/Refused

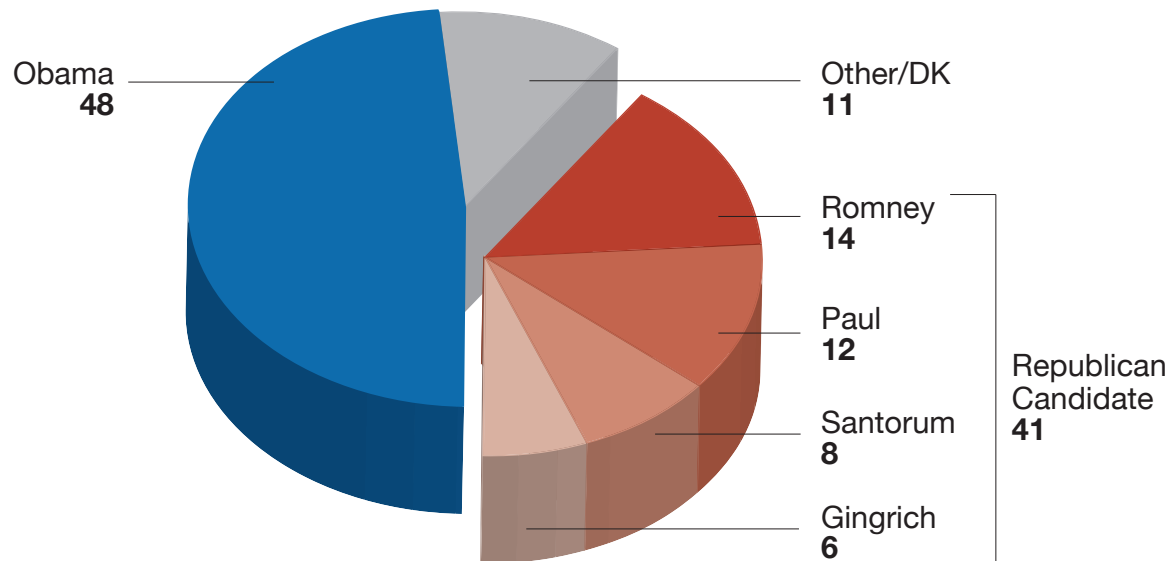| Race/Ethnicity	Yes	No	DK/Refused
All Millennials	61	33	7
White Millennials	67	29	4
Black Millennials	66	29	4
Hispanic Millennials	41	45	14

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

The 2012 Vote

Barack Obama vs. Republican Candidate Among Millennial Voters

Obama **48**

Other/DK **11**

Romney **14**

Paul **12**

Santorum **8**

Gingrich **6**

Republican Candidate **41**

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Obama vs. Generic Republican Candidate

Barack Obama vs. Republican Candidate by Race

■ Barack Obama   ■ Republican Candidate   ■ Other/DK

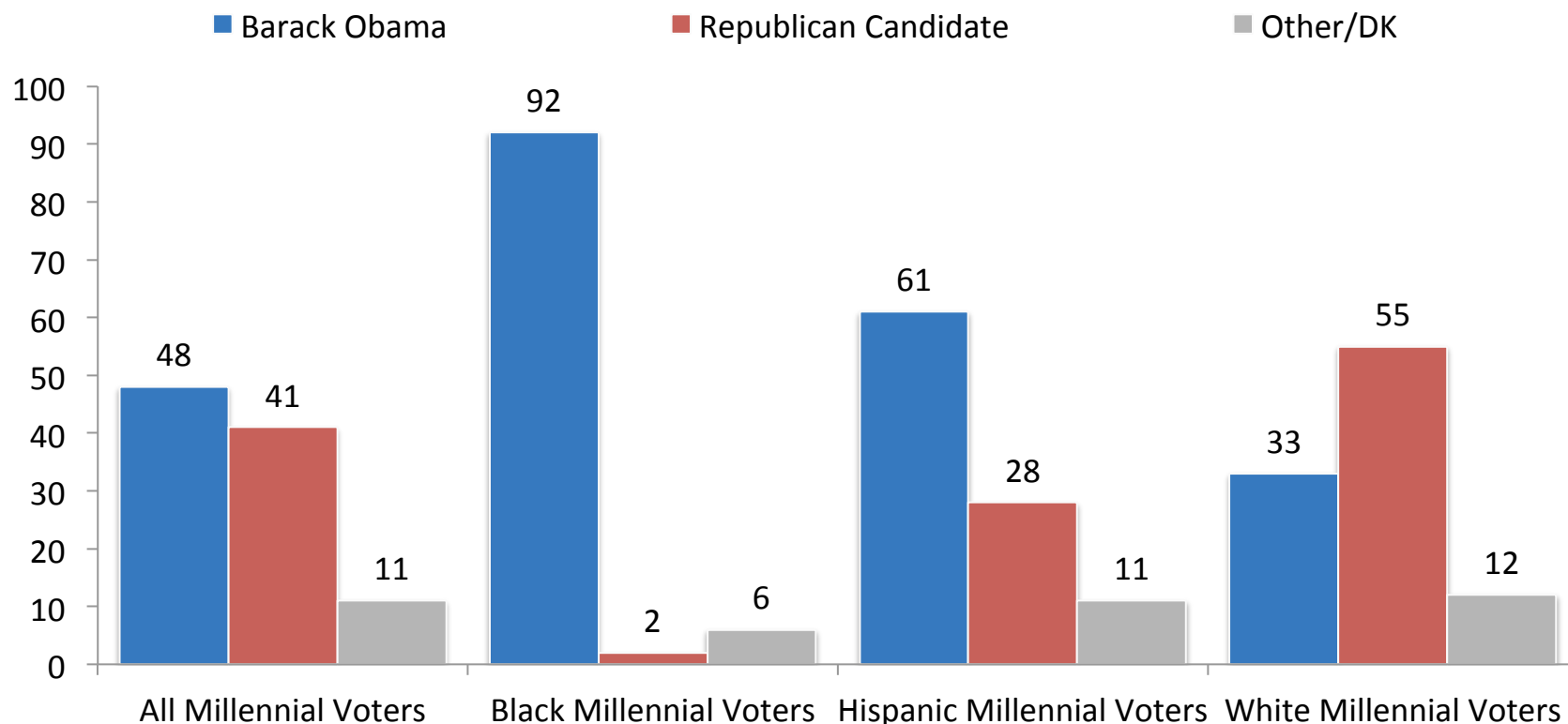| Group	Barack Obama	Republican Candidate	Other/DK
All Millennial Voters	48	41	11
Black Millennial Voters	92	2	6
Hispanic Millennial Voters	61	28	11
White Millennial Voters	33	55	12

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Obama vs. Generic Republican Candidate

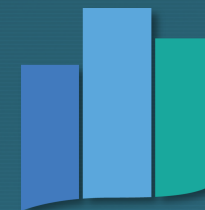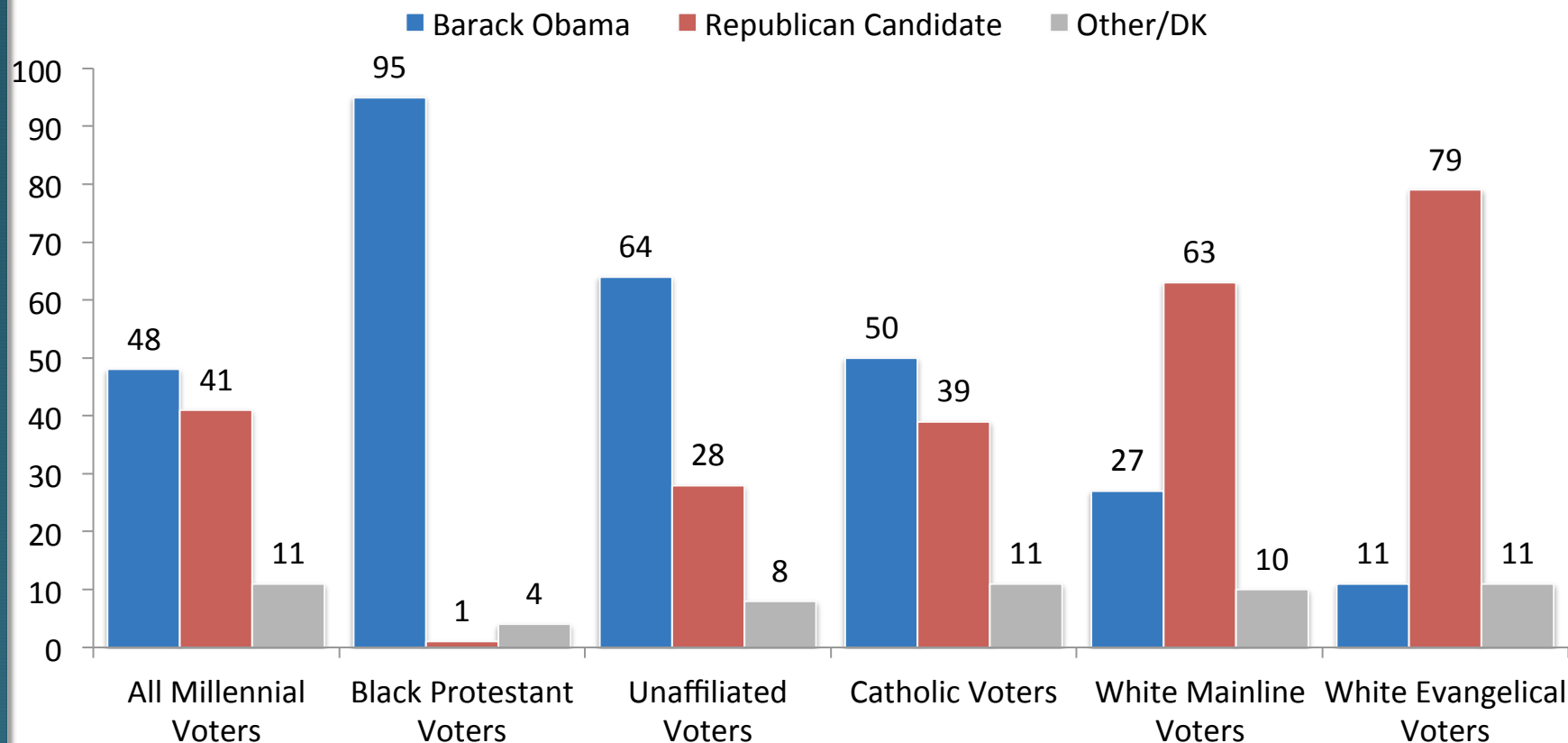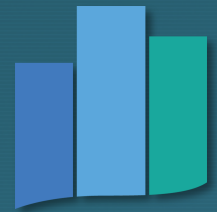**Barack Obama vs. Republican Candidate by Religion**

Legend: ■ Barack Obama ■ Republican Candidate ■ Other/DK

| Religion	Barack Obama	Republican Candidate	Other/DK
All Millennial Voters	48	41	11
Black Protestant Voters	95	1	4
Unaffiliated Voters	64	28	8
Catholic Voters	50	39	11
White Mainline Voters	27	63	10
White Evangelical Voters	11	79	11

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Voter Excitement: Obama vs. Romney
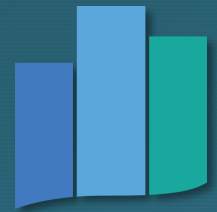

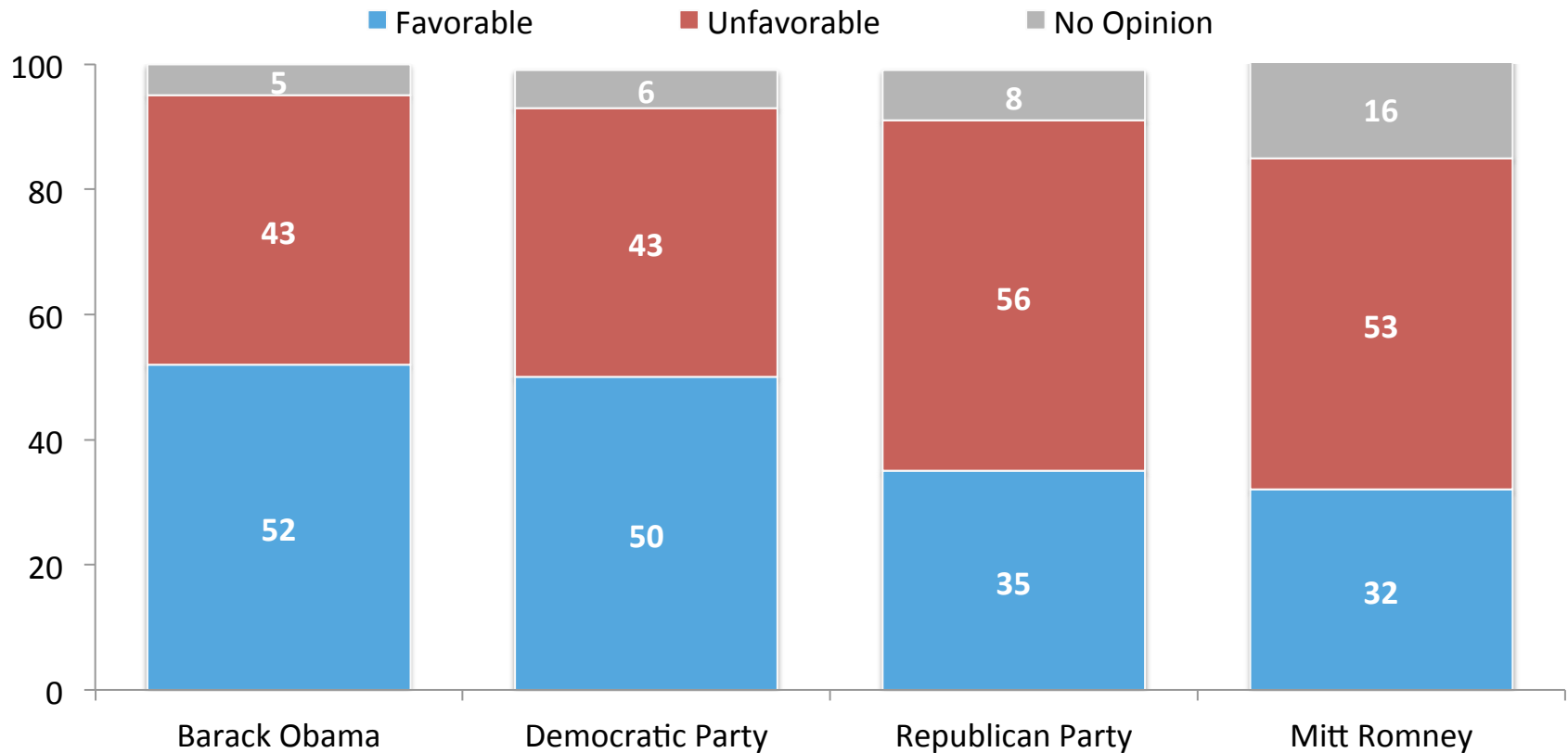Percent Excited to Vote for Obama & Romney
Among Candidate Supporters
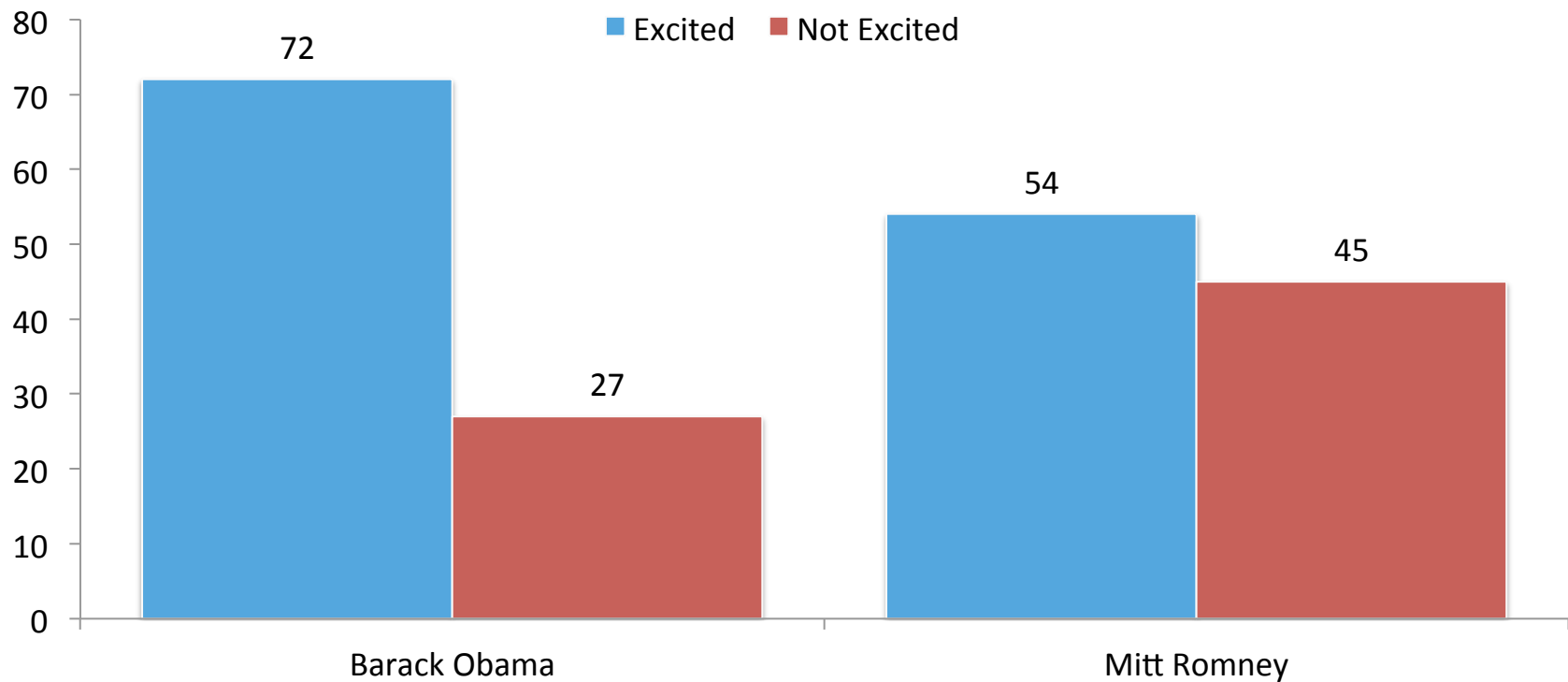
Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Favorability: Obama vs. Romney

View of Political Leaders and Parties Among Millennial Voters

Legend: ■ Favorable ■ Unfavorable ■ No Opinion

	Barack Obama	Democratic Party	Republican Party	Mitt Romney
No Opinion	5	6	8	16
Unfavorable	43	43	56	53
Favorable	52	50	35	32

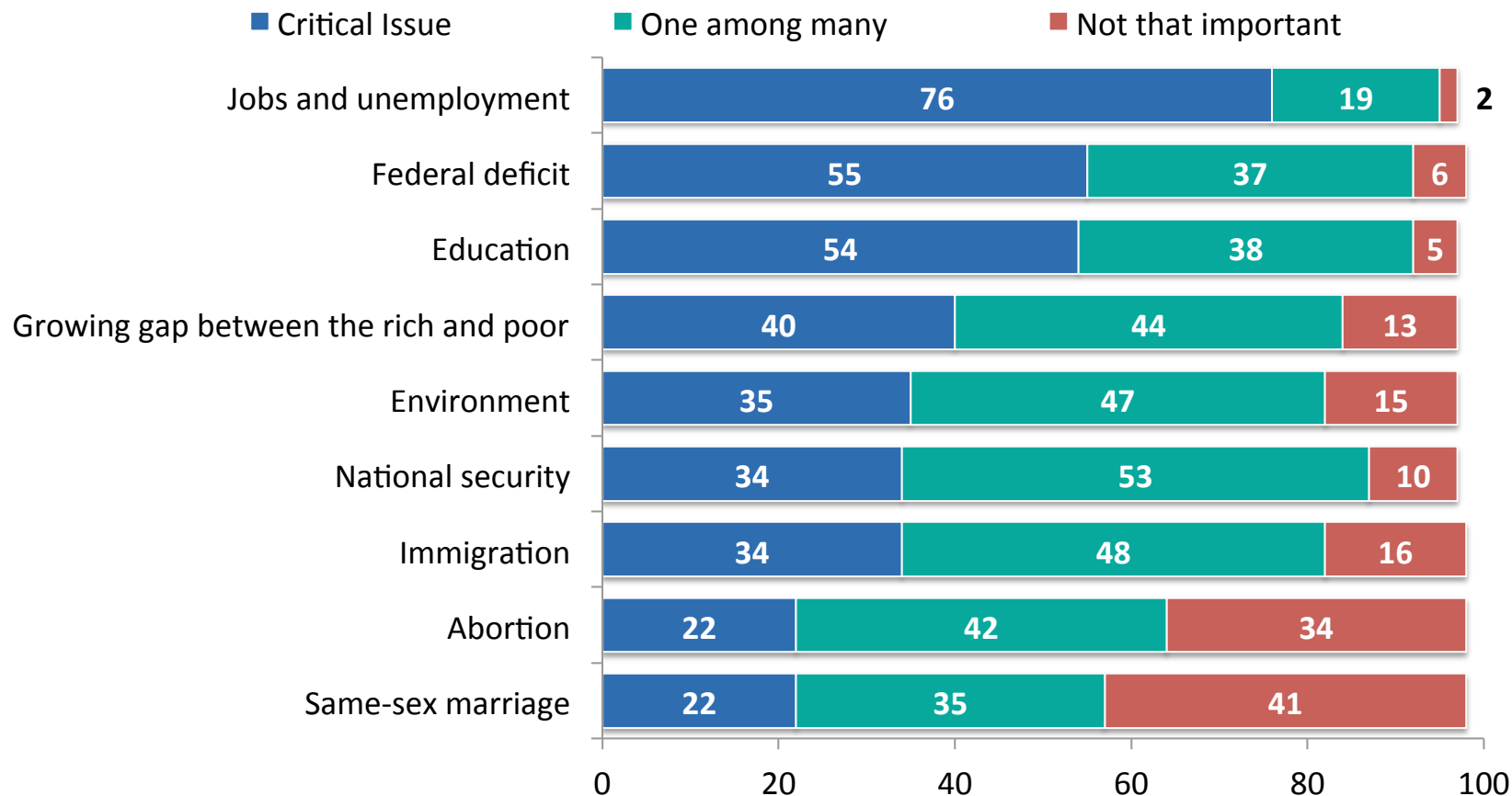Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)
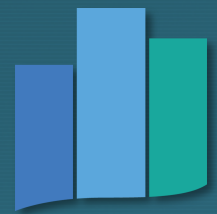
ISSUES AND POLICIES

Issue Priorities

Critical Issues Facing the Country

■ Critical Issue   ■ One among many   ■ Not that important

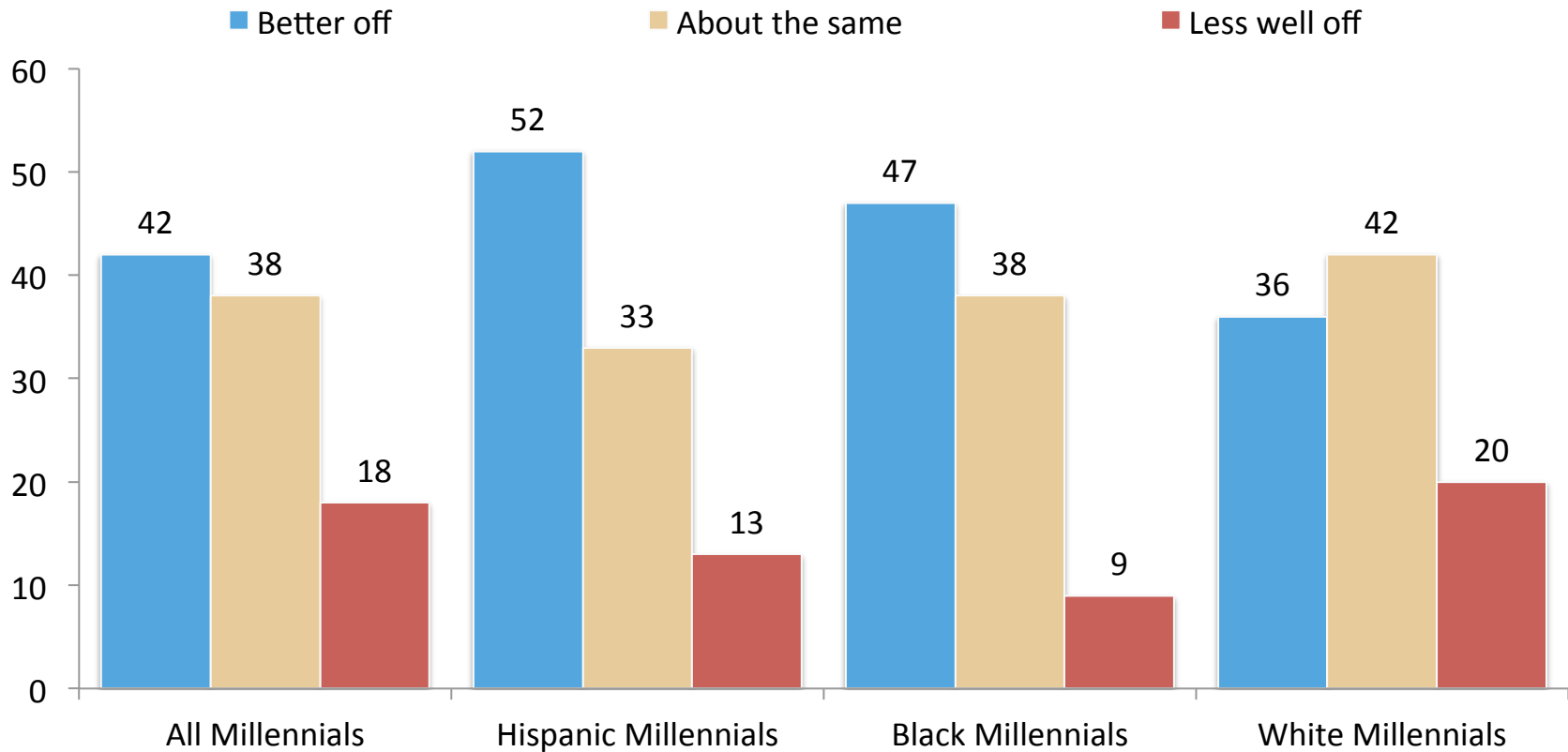| Issue	Critical Issue	One among many	Not that important
Jobs and unemployment	76	19	2
Federal deficit	55	37	6
Education	54	38	5
Growing gap between the rich and poor	40	44	13
Environment	35	47	15
National security	34	53	10
Immigration	34	48	16
Abortion	22	42	34
Same-sex marriage	22	35	41

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Optimism About Economic Outlook

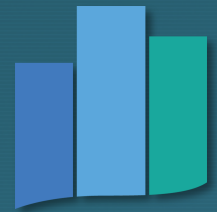## Better Off Than Parents Financially by Race/Ethnicity

- Better off
- About the same
- Less well off

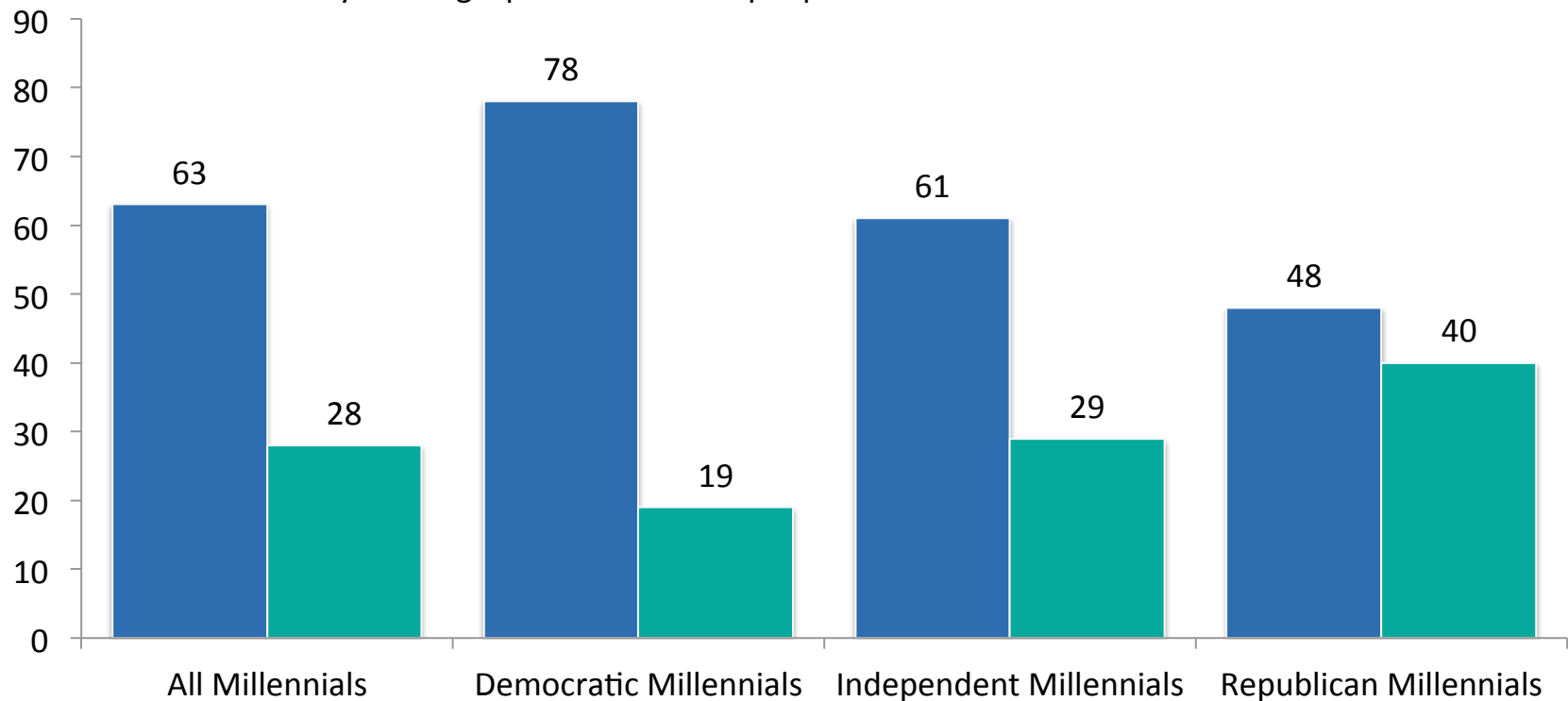|	Better off	About the same	Less well off
All Millennials	42	38	18
Hispanic Millennials	52	33	13
Black Millennials	47	38	9
White Millennials	36	42	20

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)
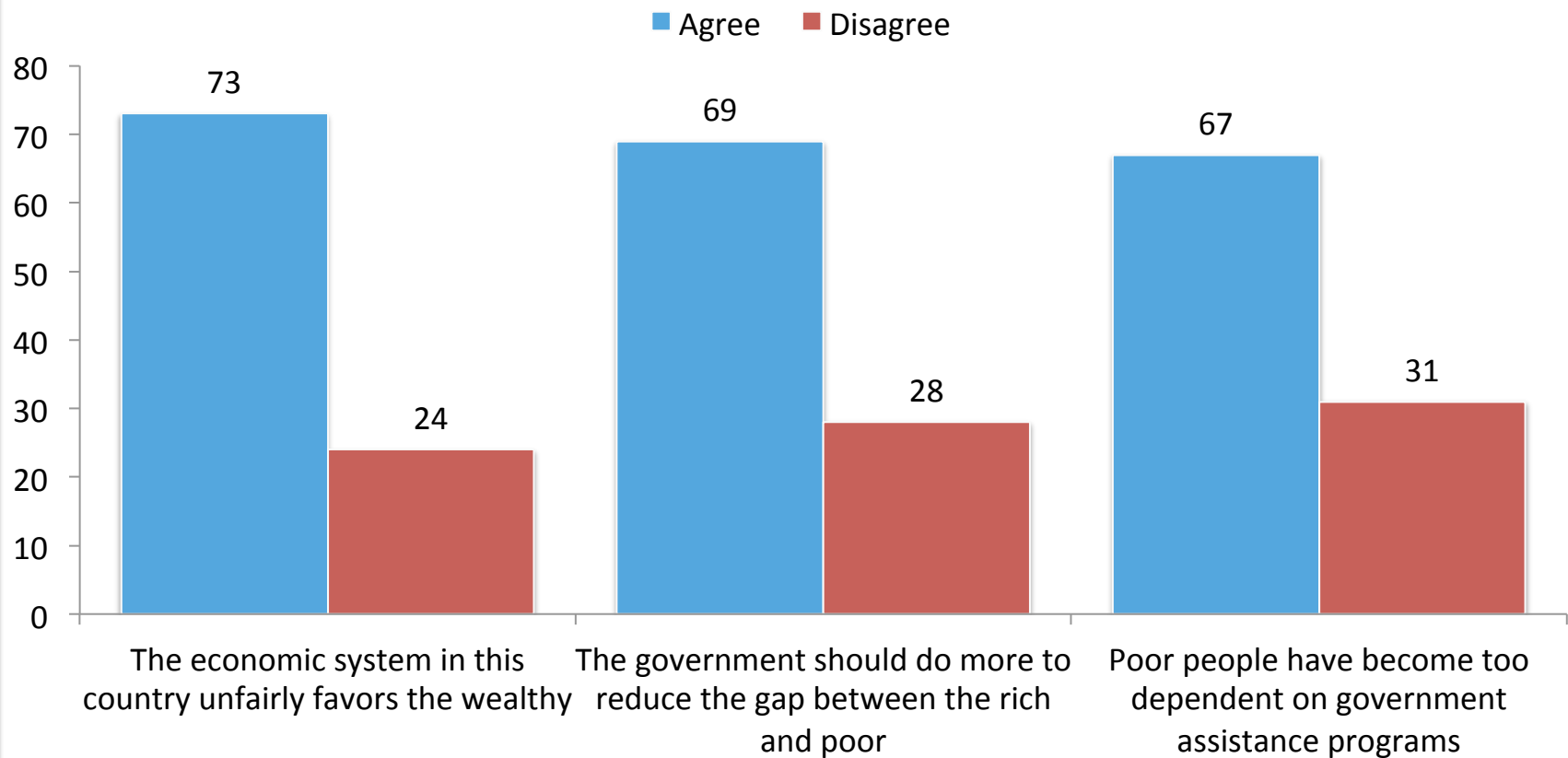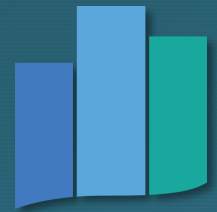
Equal Opportunity in Society

Equal Opportunity by Political Affiliation

■ One of the big problems in this country is that we don't give everyone an equal chance in life
■ It is not really that big a problem if some people have more of a chance in life than others

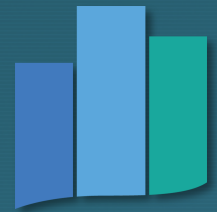|	All Millennials	Democratic Millennials	Independent Millennials	Republican Millennials
One of the big problems	63	78	61	48
Not really that big a problem	28	19	29	40

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Economic Inequality

Legend: ■ Agree ■ Disagree

- The economic system in this country unfairly favors the wealthy — Agree: 73, Disagree: 24
- The government should do more to reduce the gap between the rich and poor — Agree: 69, Disagree: 28
- Poor people have become too dependent on government assistance programs — Agree: 67, Disagree: 31
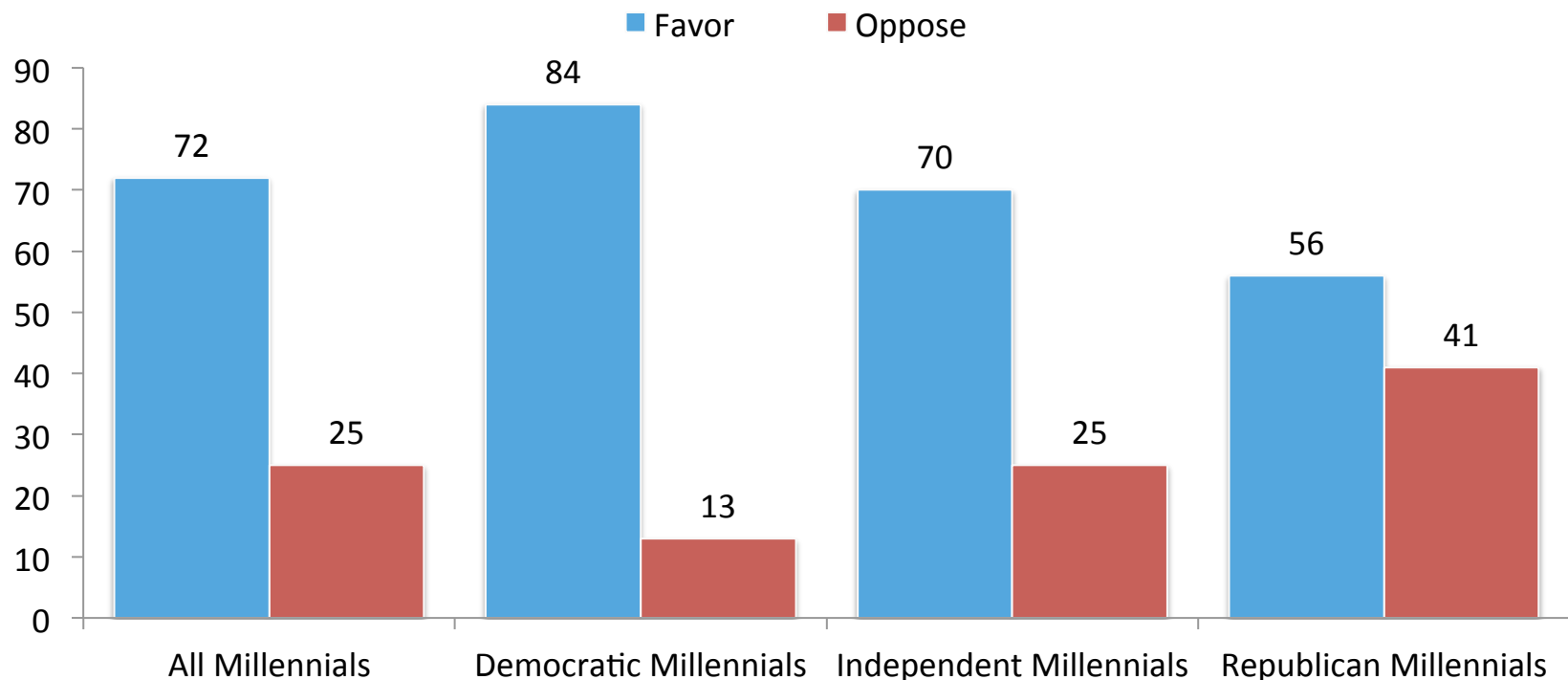
Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Support for the "Buffett Rule"

## The "Buffett Rule" by Party Affiliation
Increasing the tax rate on Americans earning more than $1 million a year

Legend: ■ Favor ■ Oppose

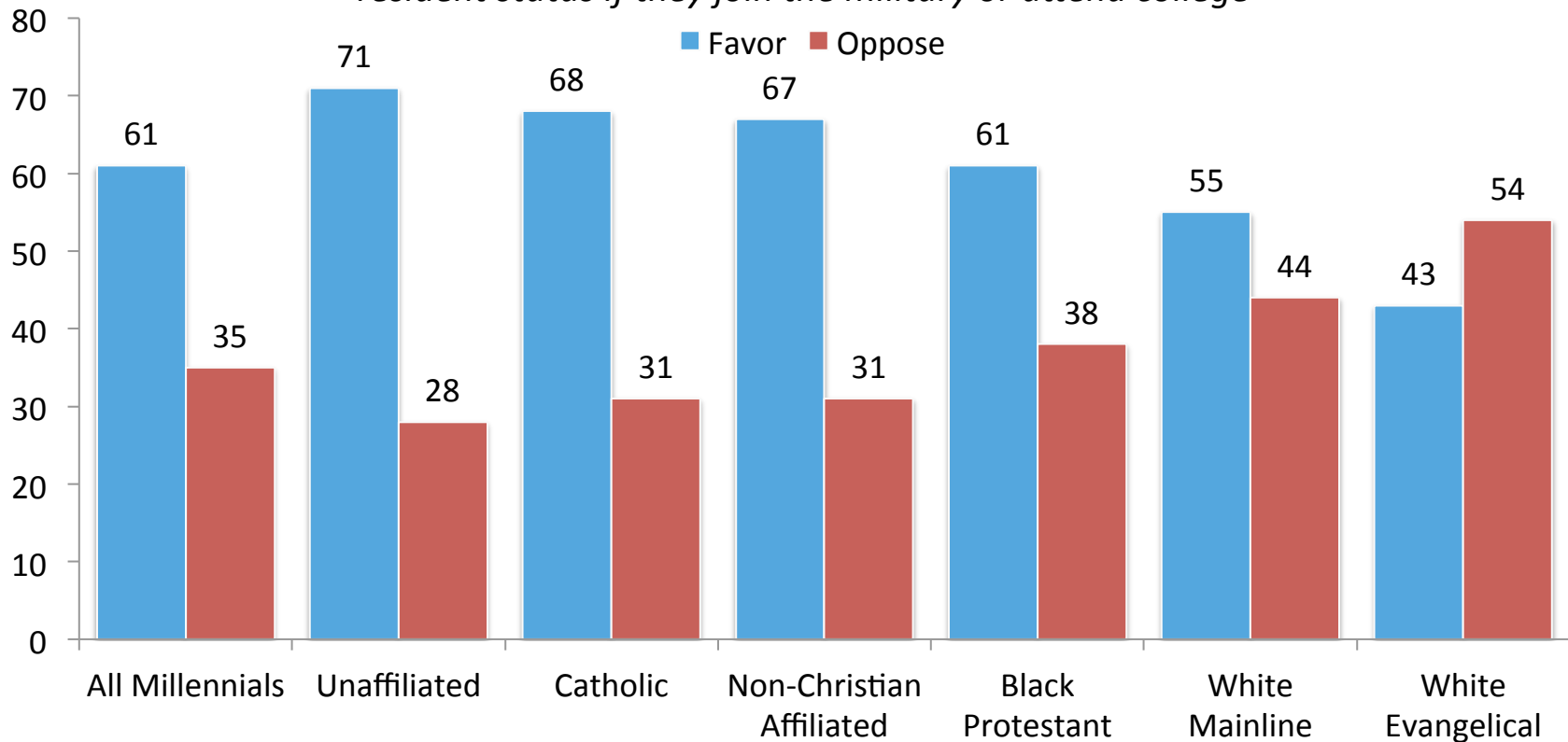| Group	Favor	Oppose
All Millennials	72	25
Democratic Millennials	84	13
Independent Millennials	70	25
Republican Millennials	56	41

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Support for the DREAM Act
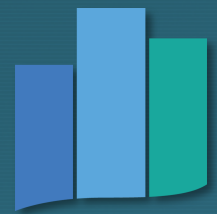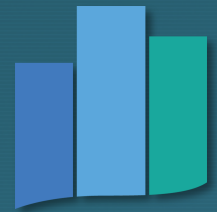
The DREAM Act by Religious Affiliation
Allowing illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or attend college

Legend: ■ Favor ■ Oppose

Group	Favor	Oppose
All Millennials	61	35
Unaffiliated	71	28
Catholic	68	31
Non-Christian Affiliated	67	31
Black Protestant	61	38
White Mainline	55	44
White Evangelical	43	54

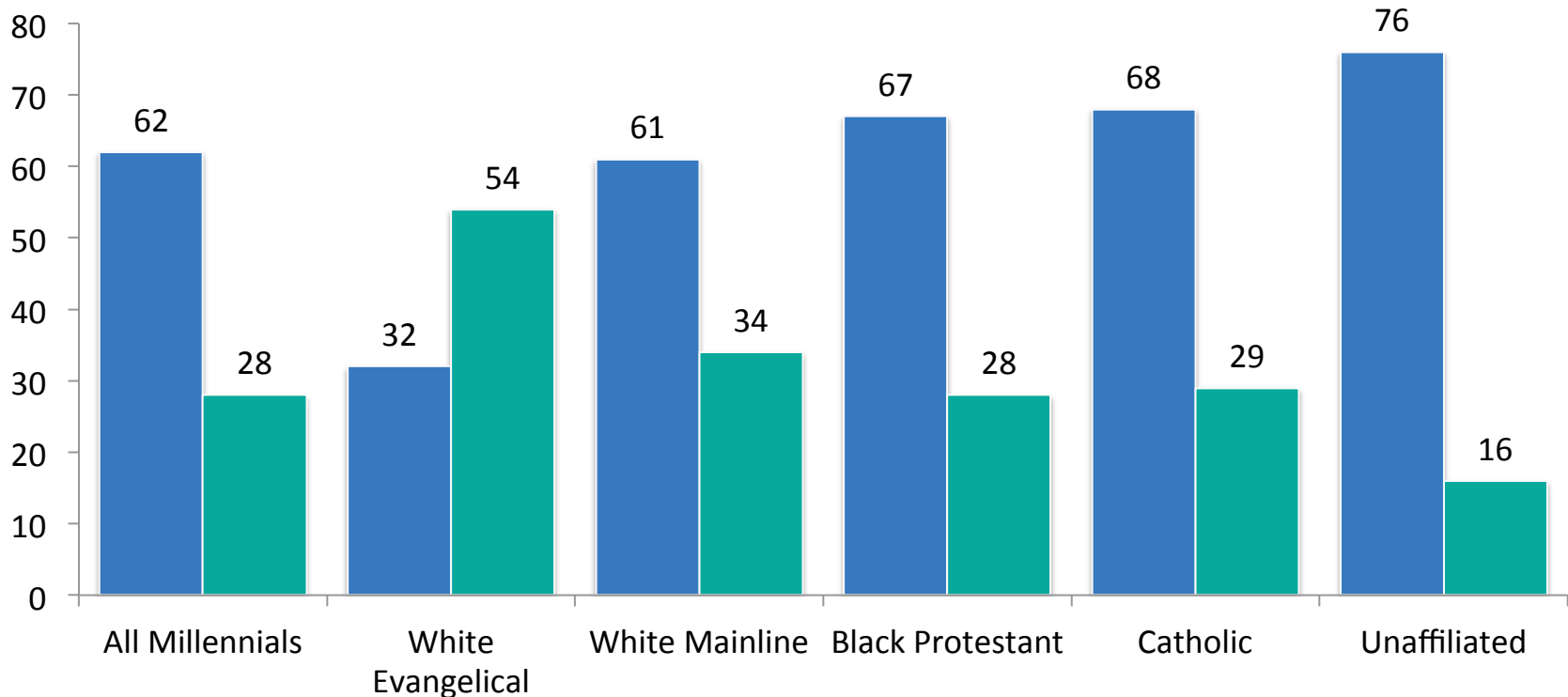Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Traditionalism, Social Issues and Personal Morality
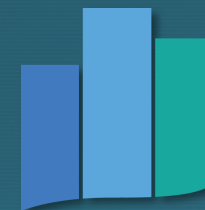
Traditionalism vs. Change

What Makes America Great?

- It is open to change and new ways of doing things
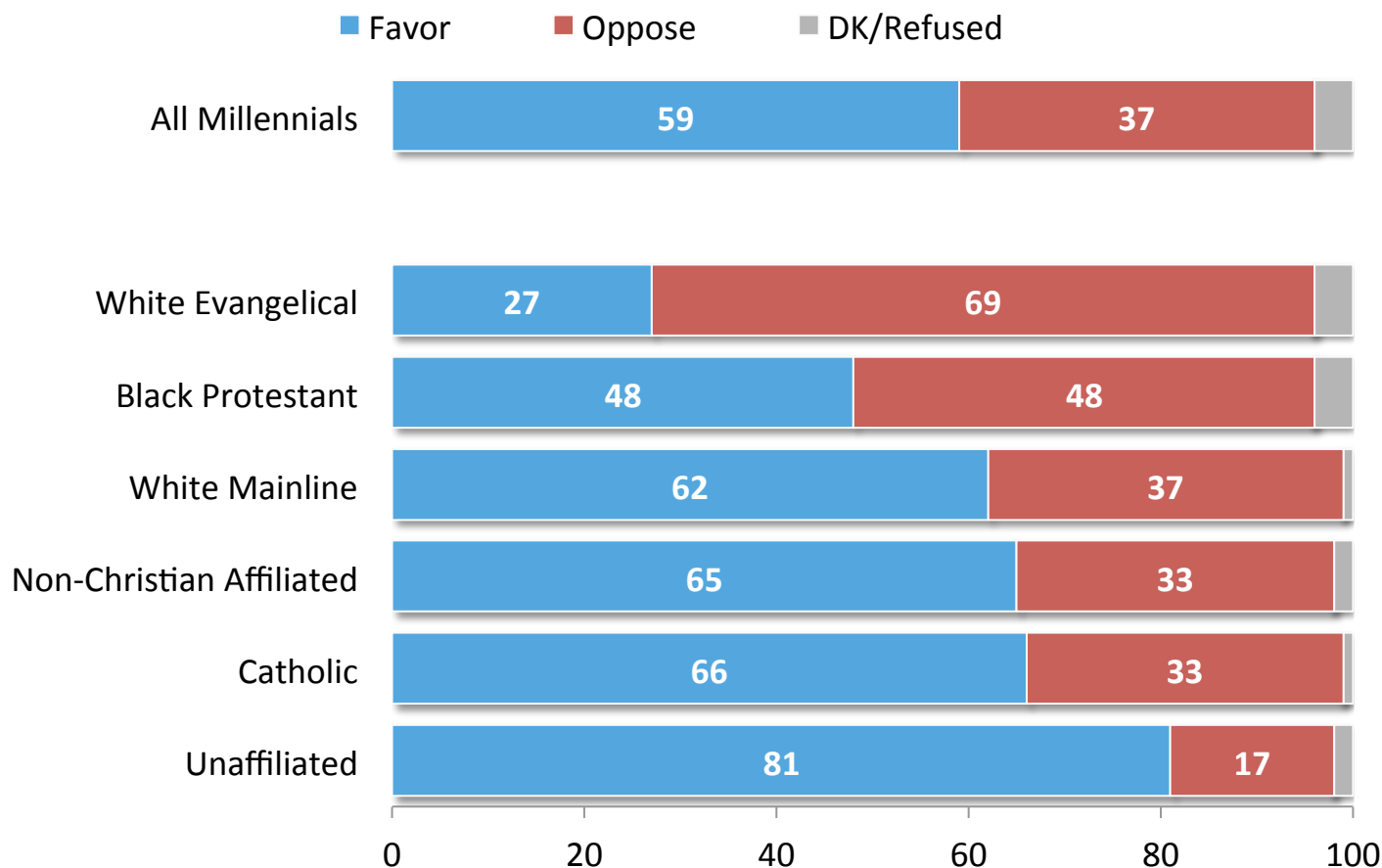- It protects traditional values and ways of doing things

Group	Open to change	Protects traditional values
All Millennials	62	28
White Evangelical	32	54
White Mainline	61	34
Black Protestant	67	28
Catholic	68	29
Unaffiliated	76	16

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Same-Sex Marriage

Allowing Gay and Lesbian People to Marry

Legend: ■ Favor ■ Oppose ■ DK/Refused

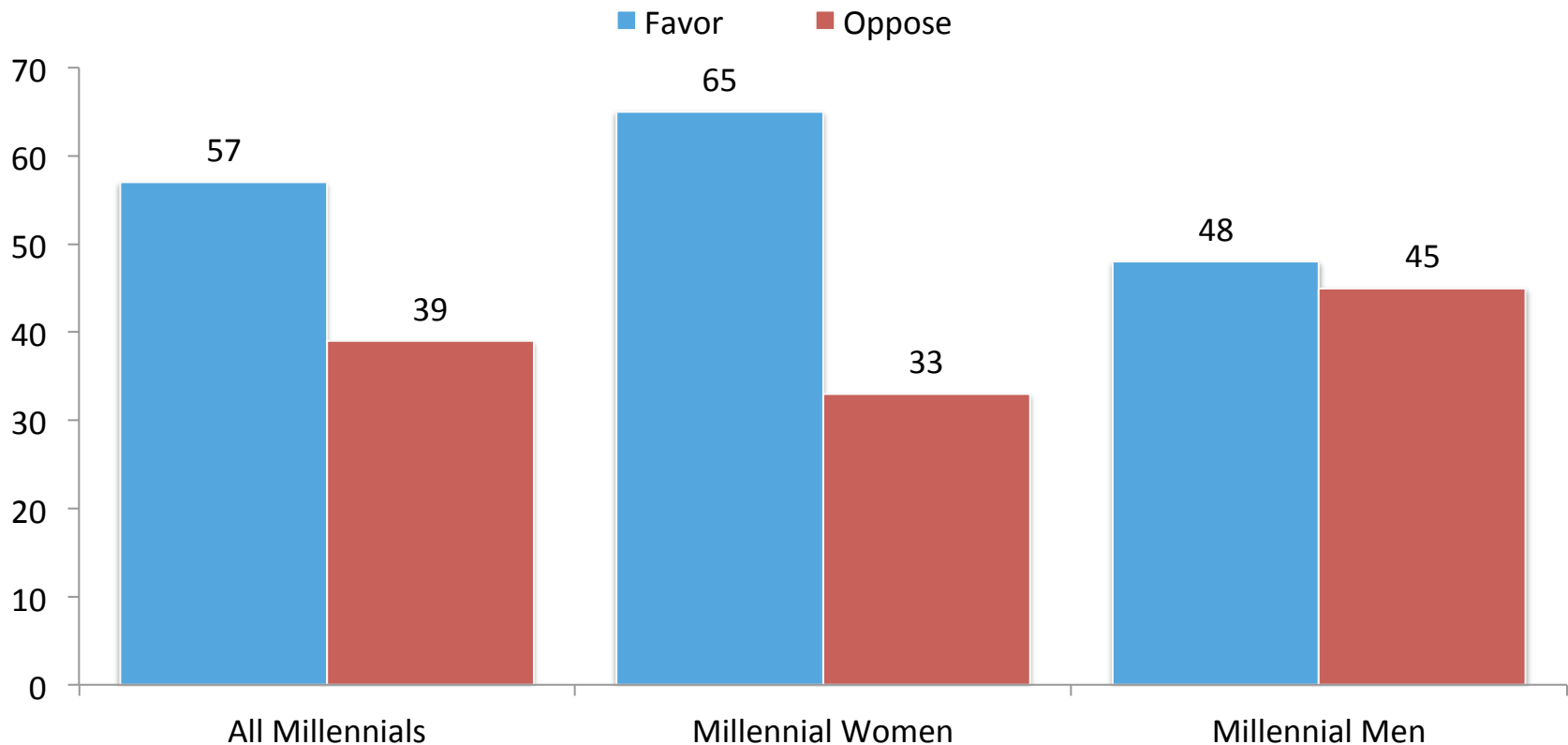| Group	Favor	Oppose
All Millennials	59	37
White Evangelical	27	69
Black Protestant	48	48
White Mainline	62	37
Non-Christian Affiliated	65	33
Catholic	66	33
Unaffiliated	81	17

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)
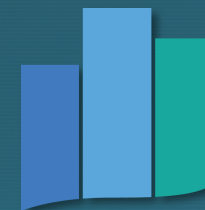
Pornography

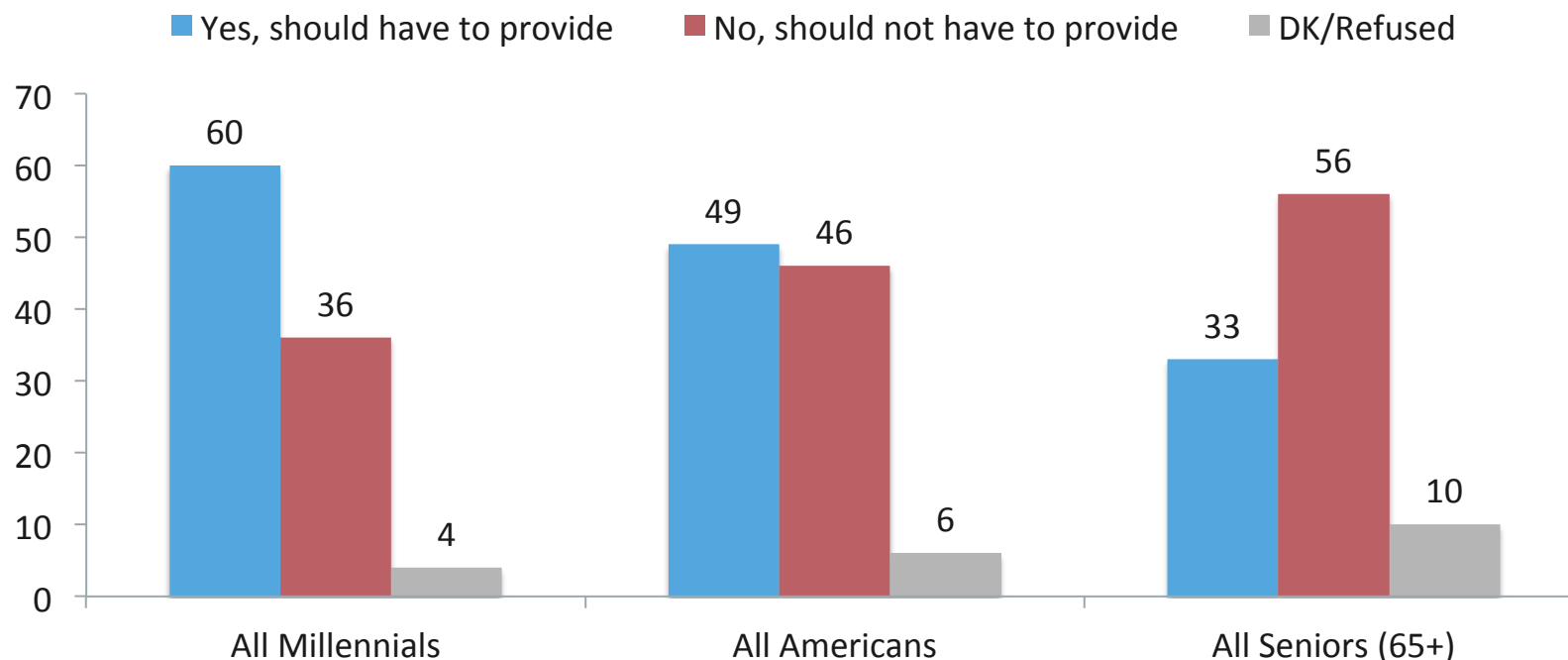**Making it More Difficult to Access Pornography on the Internet**

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)
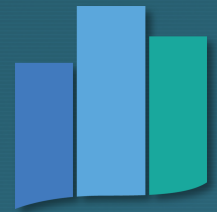
Covering Contraception Costs

Should religiously affiliated colleges and hospitals be required to provide employees with health care plans that cover contraception at no cost?

- Yes, should have to provide
- No, should not have to provide
- DK/Refused

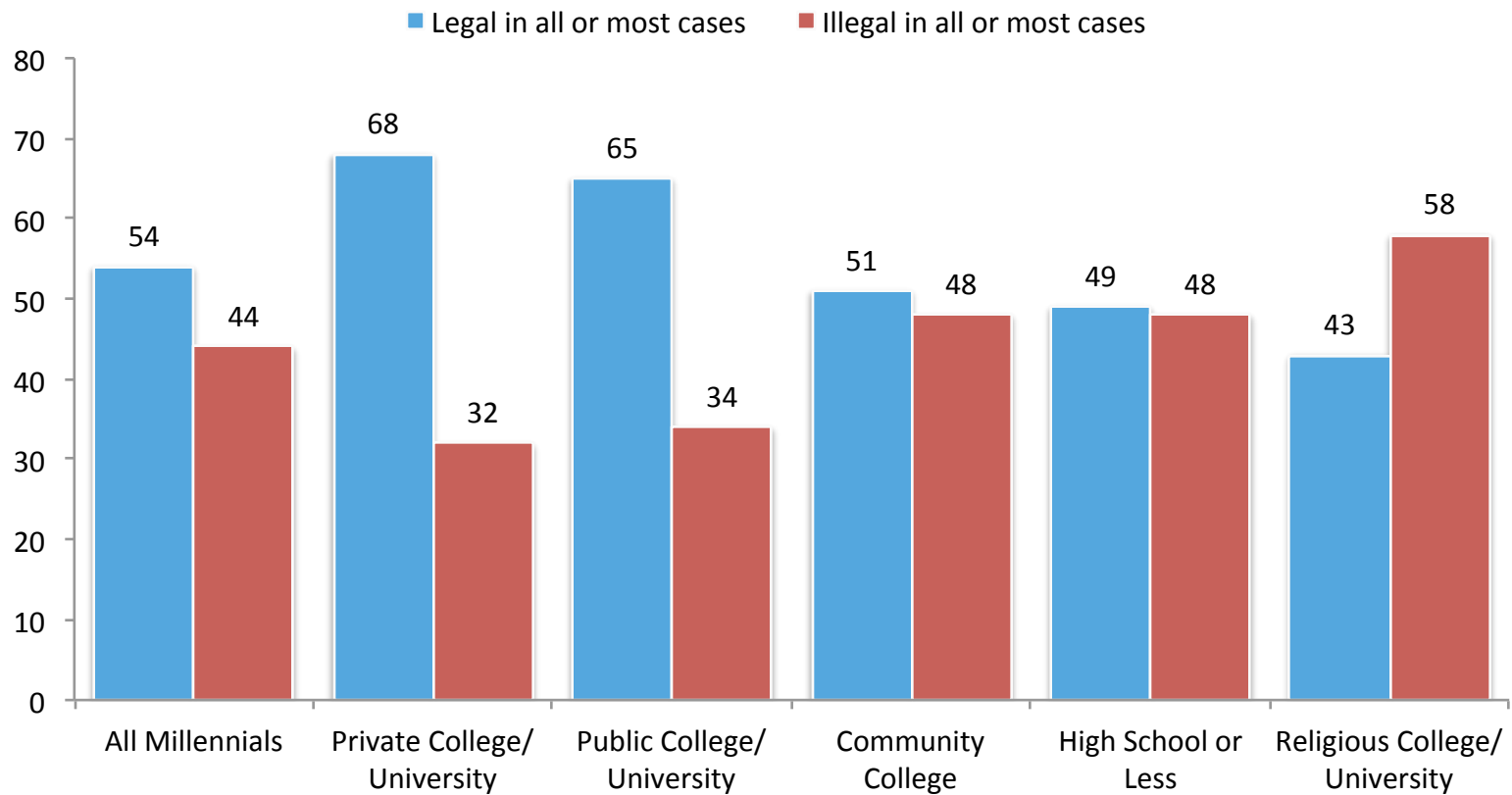|	All Millennials	All Americans	All Seniors (65+)
Yes, should have to provide	60	49	33
No, should not have to provide	36	46	56
DK/Refused	4	6	10

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013); Public Religion Research Institute, Religion & Politics Tracking Survey, Feb. 2012 (N=1,009)
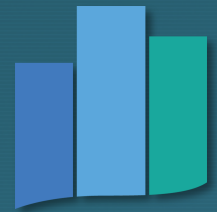
Abortion

Legality of Abortion by Education

■ Legal in all or most cases   ■ Illegal in all or most cases

Category	Legal in all or most cases	Illegal in all or most cases
All Millennials	54	44
Private College/University	68	32
Public College/University	65	34
Community College	51	48
High School or Less	49	48
Religious College/University	43	58

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)
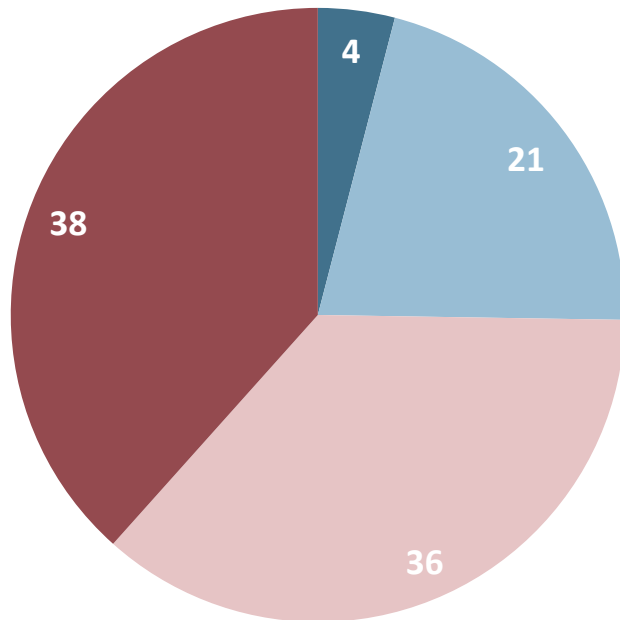
Morality vs. Legality

Same-sex Marriage
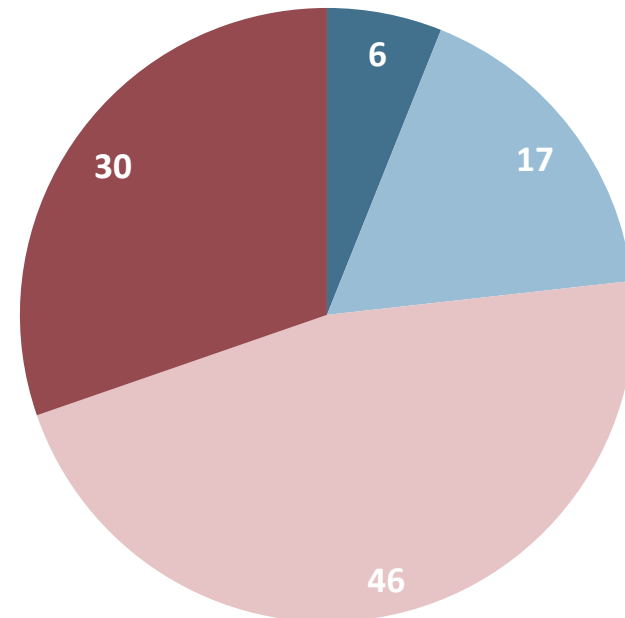*Among those who say sex btw two people of the same gender is wrong*

- Strongly favor
- Favor
- Oppose
- Strongly oppose

- 4
- 21
- 36
- 38

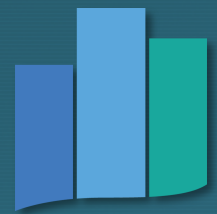**Abortion should be…**
Among those who say abortion is wrong

- Legal in all cases
- Legal in most cases
- Illegal in most cases
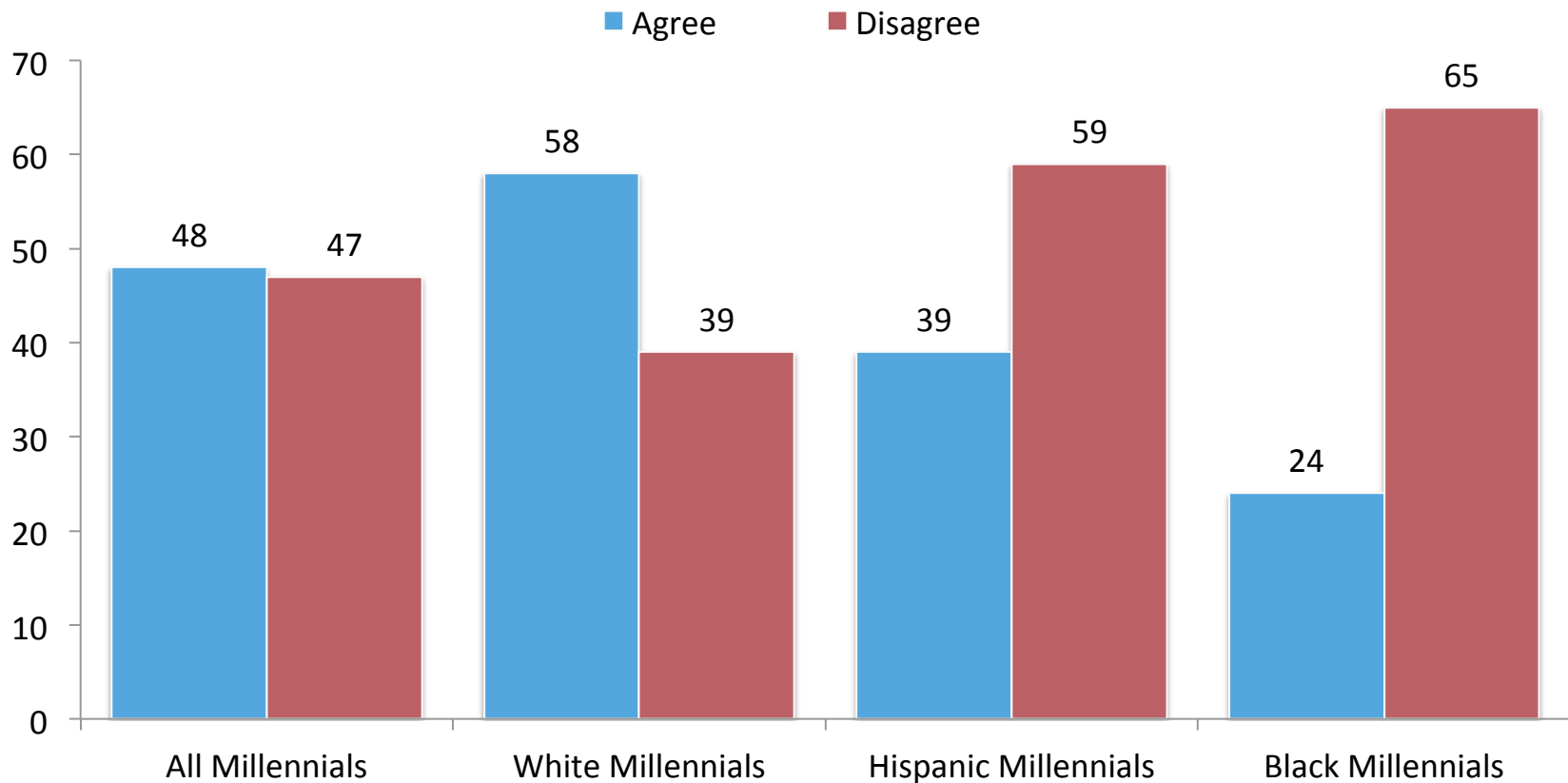- Illegal in all cases

- 6
- 17
- 46
- 30

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS DIVIDES

Reverse Discrimination

Discrimination Against Whites Has Become as Big a Problem as Discrimination Against Blacks and Other Minorities

Legend: ■ Agree ■ Disagree

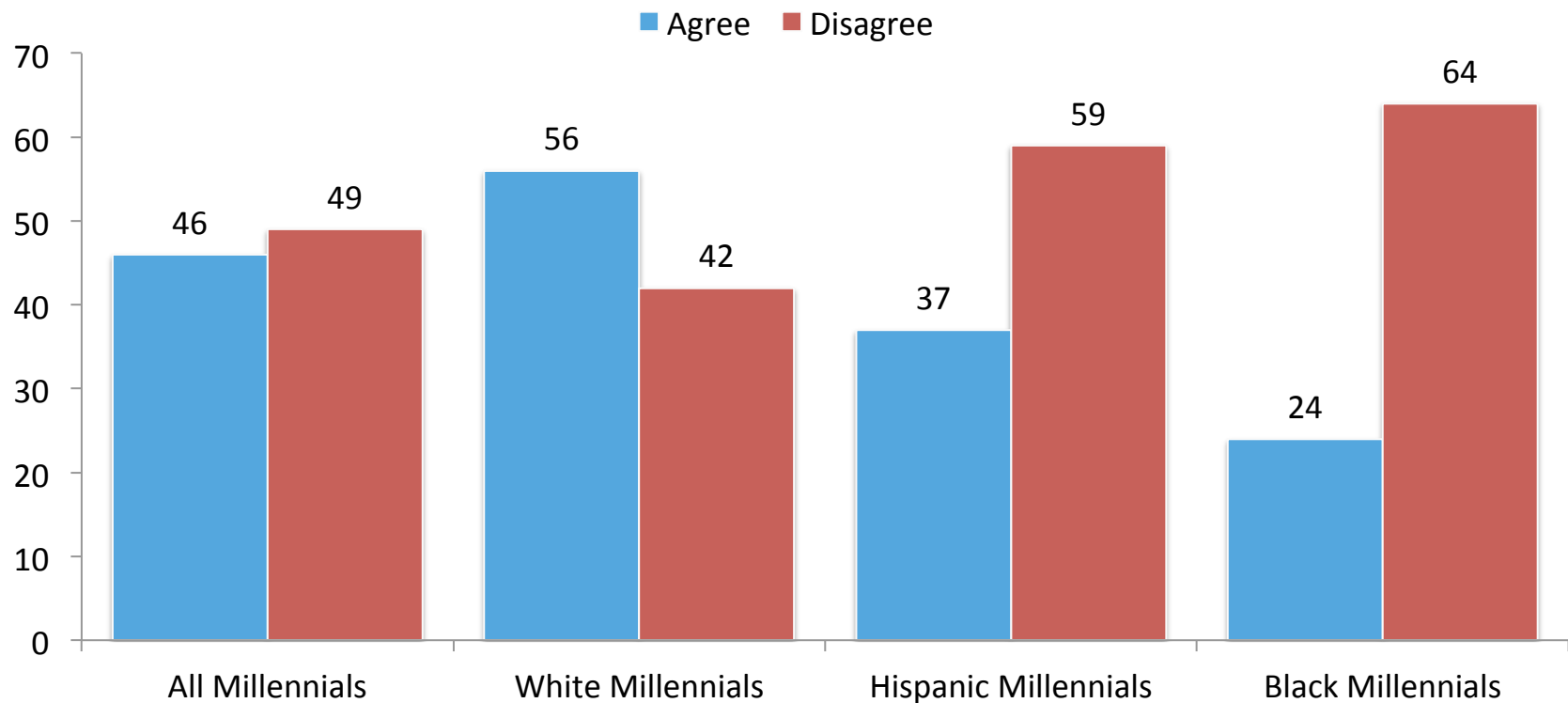|	Agree	Disagree
All Millennials	48	47
White Millennials	58	39
Hispanic Millennials	39	59
Black Millennials	24	65

Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

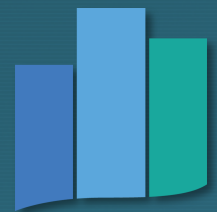# Government Support for Minorities
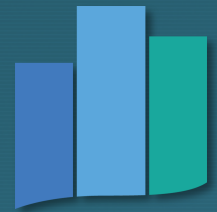
The Government Has Paid Too Much Attention to the Problems of Blacks and Other Minorities
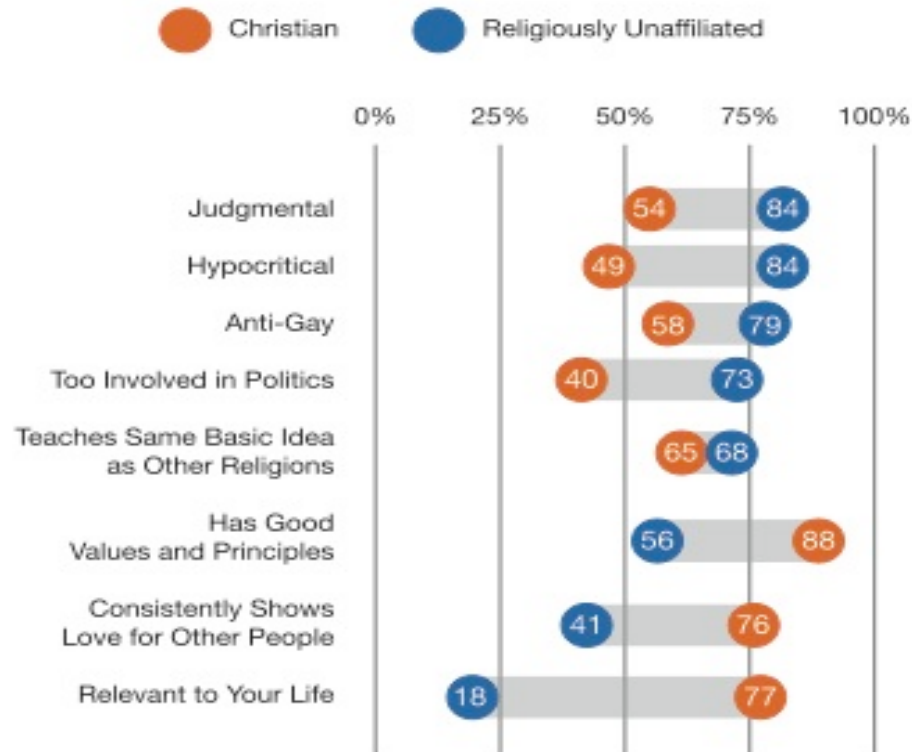
Source: Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2,013)

Ambivalence About Present-Day Christianity

College-age (18-24) Millennials' Views
of Present-Day Christianity

Percent saying term describes present-day Christianity somewhat or very well

Christian ● (orange)   Religiously Unaffiliated ● (blue)

	Christian	Religiously Unaffiliated
Judgmental	54	84
Hypocritical	49	84
Anti-Gay	58	79
Too Involved in Politics	40	73
Teaches Same Basic Idea as Other Religions	65	68
Has Good Values and Principles	88	56
Consistently Shows Love for Other People	76	41
Relevant to Your Life	77	18

Public Religion Research Institute, Millennial Values Survey, March 2012 (N=2013)

A Generation in Transition: Religion, Values and Politics among College-Age Millennials

Findings from the 2012 Millennial Values Survey

Follow us Online:

➤ www.facebook.com/publicreligion

➤ www.twitter.com/publicreligion

➤ www.publicreligion.org

Public Religion Research Institute

Analysis by
Dr. Robert P. Jones, CEO
Daniel Cox, Director of Research

BERKLEY CENTER
for Religion, Peace & World Affairs
GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY