

PRRI/RNS August 2016 Survey
Total = 2,201(871 Landline, 1,330 Cell phone)
July 27 – August 9, 2016¹

Q.1 How closely are you following news about the 2016 presidential election?

<u>Aug.</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>Sept.</u> <u>2012²</u>	
43	39	Very closely
30	34	Fairly closely
16	17	Not too closely
10	9	Not at all closely
*	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

REGIST Are you registered to vote at your present address or not?

77	Yes
22	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF CURRENTLY REGISTERED TO VOTE (REGIST=1), ASK [N=1,803]:

Q.2 If the 2016 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]** and **[INSERT]**, for whom would you vote?

IF OTHER, DK/REFUSED (Q2=9), ASK [N=348]:

Q.3 As of today, do you lean more toward **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]** or **[INSERT]**?

48	Hillary Clinton, the Democrat
45	<i>Clinton</i>
3	<i>Leans Clinton</i>
36	Donald Trump, the Republican
34	<i>Trump</i>
2	<i>Leans Trump</i>
2	Gary Johnson (VOL.)
1	Jill Stein (VOL.)
5	Some other candidate (VOL.)
<u>8</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

¹ No interviewing was conducted on August 1 or 2, 2016.

² Question asked about the 2012 presidential election.

Q.4 Thinking about your vote for president, how important is it for a candidate to have strong religious beliefs?

<u>Aug.</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>Oct.</u> <u>2011</u>	
30	39	Very important
30	27	Somewhat important
16	14	Not too important
22	19	Not at all important
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

Now a few different questions...

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?]

30	Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah’s Witness, etc.)
21	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)
2	Muslim (Islam)
1	Buddhist
*	Hindu
3	Atheist (do not believe in God)
3	Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
1	Something else [SPECIFY]
18	Nothing in particular
15	Christian (VOL.)
*	Unitarian (Universalist) (VOL.)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

IF NOTHING IN PARTICULAR (RELIG=12), ASK [N=440]:

SECULAR In general would you describe yourself more as a religious person or as a secular person, that is someone who is NOT religious?

21	Religious
73	Secular, not religious
5	Spiritual, not religious (VOL.)
*	OTHER [SPECIFY—VOL.]
<u>1</u>	Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF PROTESTANT OR CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1,13), ASK [N=945]:

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

55	Yes
43	No
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

Q.5 To what extent do you consider yourself a spiritual person? Are you... **[READ IN ORDER]**

	<u>Very spiritual</u>	<u>Moderately spiritual</u>	<u>Slightly spiritual</u>	<u>Not spiritual at all</u>	<u>Don't know/Refused (VOL.)</u>
Aug. 2016	30	38	18	12	1=100
Oct. 2014 ³	28	37	24	11	1=100
Sept. 2012	29	36	22	11	2=100
Aug. 2010	28	39	22	11	1=100
Sept. 2008	26	41	22	10	1=100
Aug. 2006	28	41	21	9	1=100
June 1998	21	40	26	12	1=100

³ All trend data for Q5 comes from the General Social Survey.

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?

10	More than once a week
22	Once a week
14	Once or twice a month
19	A few times a year
16	Seldom
20	Never
*	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

Regardless of whether or not you regularly attend religious services...

Q.6 The last time you attended a religious service other than for a wedding or a funeral, would you say your experience was **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]** or was it **[INSERT]**?

84	Mostly positive
10	Mostly negative
1	Have never gone (VOL.)
2	Other [SPECIFY—VOL.]
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.7 Which of the following comes closest to how you think about the place of religion in your life? **[READ IN ORDER]**

26	Religion is the most important thing in my life
39	Religion is one among many important things in my life
15	Religion is not as important as other things in my life
19	Religion is not important in my life
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

Q.8 Which statement comes closest to your view of God: God is a person with whom people can have a relationship, God is an impersonal force, or I do not believe in God?

53	God is a person
30	God is an impersonal force
10	I do not believe in God
3	Both/Neither/Other (VOL.)
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

DUAL Do you follow the teachings or practices of more than one religion?

13	Yes
86	No
<u>1</u>	Don't Know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

RELIG2 Thinking about when you were a child, in what religion were you raised, if any? Were 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?]

41	Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah's Witness, etc.)
31	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)
2	Muslim (Islam)
1	Buddhist
*	Hindu
1	Atheist (do not believe in God)
*	Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
1	Something else [SPECIFY]
8	Nothing in particular
10	Christian (VOL.)
*	Unitarian (Universalist) (VOL.)
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

IF RAISED AS A PROTESTANT OR CHRISTIAN (RELIG2=1,13), ASK [N=1,131]:

BORN2 Would you describe the religion you were raised in as a "born-again" or evangelical Christian religion, or not?

54	Yes
41	No
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	Total

IF CURRENTLY UNAFFILIATED BUT RAISED RELIGIOUS (RELIG=9,10,12 & RELIG2=1-8,11,13,14), ASK [N=471]:

Q.9 Just thinking in general terms, how old were you when you no longer identified with your childhood religion? **[READ IN ORDER]**

62	Under age 18
28	Between 18 and 29
5	Between 30 and 49
2	Age 50 or older
<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF CURRENTLY UNAFFILIATED BUT RAISED RELIGIOUS (RELIG=9,10,12 & RELIG2=1-8,11,13,14), ASK [N=471]:

There are many reasons why people no longer identify with a particular religion....

Q.10 Would you say any of the following were important reasons why you no longer identify with your childhood religion. First... **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Was this an important reason you no longer identify with a particular religion, or not? And would you say **[INSERT NEXT]** was an important reason, or not?

a. Negative religious teachings about or treatment of gay and lesbian people

29	Yes, important
70	No, not important
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

b. Your family was never that religious growing up

32	Yes, important
66	No, not important
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

c. The clergy sexual-abuse scandal

19	Yes, important
79	No, not important
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

d. You stopped believing in the religion's teachings

60	Yes, important
38	No, not important
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. A traumatic event in your life

18	Yes, important
81	No, not important
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

f. Your church or congregation became too focused on politics

16	Yes, important
82	No, not important
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

PREL When you were a child, were your parents' religious backgrounds different from each other, or were they the same?

29	Yes, different
67	No, the same
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.11 What was the marital status of your parents during most of the time you were growing up? Were they...

78	Married
13	Divorced or separated
1	Widowed
7	Never married to each other
*	Other [SPECIFY—VOL.]
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

Q.12 Would you say you generally choose not to share your religious beliefs or views on religion with friends or family members because they would disapprove?

17	Yes
80	No
1	Other (VOL.—SPECIFY)
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF CURRENTLY UNAFFILIATED (RELIG=9,10,12), ASK [N=617]:

Q.13 Even if you don't identify as religious, would you say you still feel a connection to a religion as part of your ethnic background or cultural heritage?

47	Yes
52	No
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF CURRENTLY UNAFFILIATED (RELIG=9,10,12), ASK [N=617]:

Q.14 Earlier you mentioned that you don't currently belong to any religion in particular. Would you say you are looking for a religion that would be right for you, or are you not doing this?

7	Yes, looking for a religion
93	No, not doing this
<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

MARITAL Are you...

23	Single, that is never married
7	Single, living with a partner
52	Married
2	Separated
6	Widowed
9	Divorced
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF MARRIED OR PARTNERED (MARITAL=2,3), ASK [N=1,195]:

SPREL [IF MARRIED INSERT: "Is your current spouse's"; [IF HAVE PARTNER INSERT: "Is your current partner's"] religious background different from your own?

30	Yes, different
70	No, not different
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:

Q.15 Now, as I read a few statements please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree with each one. First... [INSERT; RANDOMIZE]. Next...

READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree?

a. Religion causes more problems in society than it solves

<u>Aug.</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>Oct.</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>Aug.</u> <u>2011</u>	
16	10	15	Completely agree
21	22	25	Mostly agree
27	37	30	Mostly disagree
34	24	28	Completely disagree
<u>3</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	Total

b. It is important for children to be brought up in a religion so they can learn good values

<u>Aug.</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>May</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>Oct.</u> <u>2013</u>	
41	35	30	Completely agree
29	35	37	Mostly agree
14	16	16	Mostly disagree
14	13	11	Completely disagree
<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	Total

c. It is necessary to believe in God in order to be moral and have good values

<u>Aug.</u> <u>2016</u>	<u>Oct.</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>June</u> <u>2013</u>	<u>Sept.</u> <u>2012</u>	
27	20	27	25	Completely agree
22	28	25	26	Mostly agree
20	22	20	21	Mostly disagree
30	24	27	25	Completely disagree
<u>1</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	100	Total

d. In my day-to-day life, I don't spend much time thinking about God or religion

20	Completely agree
25	Mostly agree
25	Mostly disagree
29	Completely disagree
<u>1</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

e. I sometimes doubt whether God exists

12	Completely agree
15	Mostly agree
18	Mostly disagree
52	Completely disagree
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute in partnership with Religion News Service. The survey was made possible by a generous grant from The Henry Luce Foundation with additional support from the Stiefel Freethought Foundation. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) RDD telephone interviews conducted between July 27, 2016, and August 9, 2016, by professional interviewers under the direction of SSRS. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 2,201 adults 18 years of age or older living in the United States (1,330 respondents were interviewed on a cell phone).⁴ The selection of respondents within households was accomplished by randomly requesting to speak with the youngest adult male or female currently living in the household. The survey included an oversample of unaffiliated respondents, who were prescreened for religious affiliation in SSRS's weekly RDD omnibus survey. A total of 186 unaffiliated respondents were identified as part of the oversample and included in the study.

Data collection is based on stratified, single-stage, random-digit-dialing (RDD) sample of landline telephone households and randomly generated cell phone numbers. The sample is designed to represent the total U.S. adult population and includes respondents from all 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska. The landline and cell phone samples are provided by Marketing Systems Group.

The weighting is accomplished in two separate stages. The first stage of weighting corrects for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns.⁵ In the second stage, sample demographics are balanced to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, region (U.S. Census definitions), population density and telephone usage. The population density parameter was derived from Census 2010 data. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of the July-December 2015 National Health Interview Survey. All other weighting parameters are derived from an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's May 2015 Current Population Survey.

The sample weighting is accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IFP) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target populations.

The margin of error for the survey is +/- 2.5 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.5. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

⁴ No interviewing was conducted on August 1 or 2, 2016.

⁵ Telephone usage refers to whether respondents have only a landline telephone, only a cell phone, or both types.

Appendix

Table 1. Demographic, Political, and Religious Subgroup Sample Sizes
(All figures are unweighted)

	<u>General Public</u>
Total Sample	2,201
Male	1,101
Female	1,100
Republican	562
Independent	801
Democrat	695
Registered voter	1,803
White, non-Hispanic	1,497
Black, non-Hispanic	231
Hispanic	280
Age 18-29	329
30-49	542
50-64	663
65+	665
White evangelical Protestant	342
White mainline Protestant	320
Black Protestant	149
Other non-white Protestant	131
Catholic	434
<i>White Catholic</i>	268
<i>Hispanic Catholic</i>	129
Non-Christian religion	102
Religiously unaffiliated	617
<i>Rejectionists</i>	362
<i>Apatheists</i>	129
<i>Unattached Believers</i>	106
Raised unaffiliated	200