 PRRI 2020 American Values Survey

**Total = 2,538 (2,496 Online, 42 Telephone)**

**September 9 – September 22, 2020**

Q.4 Please indicate if your overall opinion of the following people is favorable or unfavorable. **[RANDOMIZE LIST]**

Q.4a Donald Trump

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Very favorable | Mostly favorable | Mostly unfavorable | Very unfavorable | Have not heard of | Skipped/ Refused |
| Sept. 2020 | 15 | 21 | 13 | 49 | 1 | \*=100 |
| Aug. 2020 | 16 | 22 | 18 | 41 | \* | 3=100 |
| July 2020 | 18 | 20 | 21 | 38 | \* | 3=100 |
| July 2020 | 15 | 20 | 19 | 42 | \* | 3=100 |
| May 2020 | 18 | 23 | 19 | 36 | 0 | 3=100 |
| Apr. 2020 | 17 | 26 | 20 | 34 | \* | 2=100 |
| Mar. 2020 | 24 | 25 | 17 | 29 | \* | 4=100 |
| Feb. 2020 | 20 | 20 | 17 | 39 | \* | 4=100 |
| Dec. 2019 | 20 | 20 | 18 | 37 | \* | 3=100 |
| Nov. 2019 | 19 | 21 | 16 | 39 | \* | 5=100 |
| Oct. 2019 | 18 | 21 | 16 | 39 | \* | 6=100 |
| Sept. 2019 | 15 | 20 | 16 | 48 | - | 1=100 |
| Apr. 2019 | 21 | 23 | 18 | 34 | 1 | 3=100 |
| Dec. 2018 | 14 | 22 | 16 | 44 | - | 4=100 |
| Oct. 2018 | 14 | 21 | 13 | 47 | 2 | 2=100 |
| Sept. 2018 | 20 | 22 | 15 | 37 | 1 | 5=100 |
| July 2018 | 16 | 25 | 17 | 36 | \* | 5=100 |
| June 2018 | 14 | 23 | 19 | 41 | - | 2=100 |
| Mar. 2018 | 13 | 29 | 18 | 36 | \* | 3=100 |
| Jan. 2018 | 14 | 23 | 17 | 42 | \* | 5=100 |
| Oct. 2017 | 15 | 26 | 18 | 37 | \* | 3=100 |
| Aug. 2017 | 18 | 20 | 15 | 41 | 1 | 5=100 |
| Feb. 2017 | 16 | 27 | 16 | 34 | \* | 6=100 |
| Jan. 2017 | 17 | 26 | 17 | 35 | 1 | 5=100 |
| Sept. 2016 | 10 | 23 | 15 | 50 | 2 | 1=100 |
| May 2016 | 10 | 18 | 16 | 53 | 1 | 1=100 |
| Apr. 2016 | 8 | 16 | 18 | 52 | \* | 6=100 |
| Jan. 2016 | 12 | 19 | 22 | 42 | \* | 5=100 |
| Nov. 2015 | 11 | 16 | 21 | 44 | 2 | 6=100 |
| Oct. 2015 | 9 | 21 | 21 | 45 | 3 | 1=100 |

Q.25h God always rewards those who have faith with good health and will protect them from being infected by the coronavirus

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 8 | Completely agree |
| 15 | Mostly agree |
| 20 | Mostly disagree |
| 56 | Completely disagree |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.26 How important are the following issues to you personally? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Q.26a Growing gap between rich and poor

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Critical issue | One among many important issues | Not that important an issue | Skipped/Refused |
| Sept. 2020 | 42 | 42 | 15 | 1=100 |
| Sept. 2019 | 38 | 46 | 16 | \*=100 |
| Sept. 2018 | 38 | 38 | 21 | 2=100 |
| Sept. 2016 | 52 | 36 | 12 | \*=100 |
| May 2016 | 43 | 41 | 15 | 1=100 |
| Oct. 2015 | 48 | 38 | 13 | 1=100 |

Q.26b Racial inequality[[1]](#footnote-1)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Critical issue | One among many important issues | Not that important an issue | Skipped/Refused |
| Sept. 2020 | 43 | 41 | 16 | \*=100 |
| Sept. 2019 | 44 | 44 | 11 | 1=100 |
| Apr. 2017 | 37 | 44 | 18 | 1=100 |
| Sept. 2016 | 47 | 40 | 12 | 1=100 |
| May 2016 | 36 | 45 | 19 | \*=100 |
| Oct. 2015 | 39 | 42 | 19 | 1=100 |

Q.26c Jobs and unemployment

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Critical issue | One among many important issues | Not that important an issue | Skipped/Refused |
| Sept. 2020 | 52 | 42 | 5 | \*=100 |
| Sept. 2019 | 45 | 48 | 7 | \*=100 |
| Sept. 2016 | 61 | 36 | 3 | \*=100 |
| May 2016 | 55 | 41 | 3 | \*=100 |
| Oct. 2015 | 60 | 35 | 4 | 1=100 |
| Dec. 2013 | 62 | 29 | 8 | 2=100 |

Q.26d Immigration

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Critical issue | One among many important issues | Not that important an issue | Skipped/Refused |
| Sept. 2020 | 33 | 52 | 14 | \*=100 |
| Sept. 2019 | 49 | 42 | 9 | 1=100 |
| Sept. 2016 | 44 | 43 | 12 | 1=100 |
| May 2016 | 43 | 44 | 12 | \*=100 |
| Oct. 2015 | 46 | 40 | 13 | 1=100 |
| Dec. 2013 | 34 | 39 | 24 | 2=100 |

Q.26e Health care

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Critical issue | One among many important issues | Not that important an issue | Skipped/Refused |
| Sept. 2020 | 56 | 38 | 5 | \*=100 |
| Sept. 2019 | 65 | 32 | 3 | \*=100 |
| April 2017 | 65 | 31 | 4 | \*=100 |
| Oct. 2015 | 63 | 32 | 4 | 1=100 |
| Dec. 2013 | 57 | 31 | 10 | 2=100 |

Q.26f Terrorism

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Critical issue | One among many important issues | Not that important an issue | Skipped/Refused |
| Sept. 2020 | 45 | 43 | 11 | 1=100 |
| Sept. 2019 | 54 | 37 | 8 | \*=100 |
| Sept. 2016 | 70 | 24 | 5 | \*=100 |
| May 2016 | 69 | 27 | 4 | \*=100 |
| Oct. 2015 | 62 | 29 | 8 | 1=100 |

Q.26g Climate change

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sept. 2020 | Sept. 2019 | Oct. 2015 |
| 43 | 49 | 34 | Critical issue |
| 35 | 32 | 39 | One among many important issues |
| 22 | 18 | 27 | Not that important an issue |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | Total |

Q.26h The coronavirus pandemic

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 60 | Critical issue |
| 29 | One among many important issues |
| 10 | Not that important an issue |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.26i Crime

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Critical issue | One among many important issues | Not that important an issue | Skipped/ Refused |
| Sept. 2020 | 46 | 46 | 7 | 1=100 |
| Sept. 2019 | 45 | 48 | 7 | \*=100 |
| Apr. 2017 | 54 | 39 | 7 | 1=100 |
| Sept. 2016 | 54 | 39 | 7 | \*=100 |
| May 2016 | 48 | 45 | 7 | \*=100 |
| Oct. 2015 | 53 | 39 | 8 | 1=100 |

Q.26j Fairness of presidential elections

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sept. 2020 | Sept. 2019 | Sept. 2016 |
| 57 | 48 | 41 | Critical issue |
| 34 | 39 | 42 | One among many important issues |
| 8 | 12 | 16 | Not that important an issue |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | Total |

Q.26k Foreign interference in presidential elections

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sept. 2020 | Sept. 2019 |
| 49 | 46 | Critical issue |
| 35 | 39 | One among many important issues |
| 15 | 15 | Not that important an issue |
| \* | \* | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | 100 | Total |

Q.26l **[FORM 1 ONLY]** The federal deficit **[N=1,216]**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sept. 2020 | Sept. 2019 | Sept. 2016 |
| 36 | 40 | 49 | Critical issue |
| 52 | 51 | 40 | One among many important issues |
| 11 | 8 | 9 | Not that important an issue |
| 1 | 1 | 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | Total |

Q.26m **[FORM 1 ONLY]** Trade agreements with other countries **[N=1,216]**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sept. 2020 | Sept. 2019 | Sept. 2016 | May 2016 |  |
| 23 | 35 | 33 | 26 | Critical issue |
| 65 | 58 | 56 | 59 | One among many important issues |
| 11 | 6 | 10 | 15 | Not that important an issue |
| 1 | \* | 1 | 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | Total |

Q.26n **[FORM 2 ONLY]** Abortion **[N=1,322]**

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Sept. 2020 | Sept. 2018 | Sept. 2016 | May 2016 |  |
| 36 | 29 | 34 | 31 | Critical issue |
| 38 | 40 | 38 | 35 | One among many important issues |
| 25 | 28 | 27 | 30 | Not that important an issue |
| \* | 2 | 1 | 4 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | 100 | 100 | 100 | Total |

Q.26o **[FORM 2 ONLY]** Appointment of U.S. Supreme Court judges **[N=1,322]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 40 | Critical issue |
| 45 | One among many important issues |
| 14 | Not that important an issue |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.35 What kind of shape would you say your current financial situation is in?

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Excellent shape | Good shape | Only  fair shape | Poor shape | Skipped/ Refused |
| Sept. 2020 | 9 | 42 | 36 | 12 | \*=100 |
| Sept. 2019 | 9 | 40 | 35 | 16 | \*=100 |
| Oct. 2016 | 8 | 35 | 36 | 19 | 1=100 |
| April 2016 | 8 | 36 | 37 | 17 | 2=100 |
| Aug. 2014 | 7 | 34 | 37 | 20 | 2=100 |
| Aug. 2012 | 6 | 36 | 36 | 20 | 1=100 |
| March 2010 | 9 | 41 | 33 | 13 | 3=100 |

Q.37 Which of the following have you or someone in your household experienced in 2020? **[Check all that apply]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 22 | Lost a job due to the coronavirus pandemic |
| 38 | Had hours or pay cut due to the coronavirus pandemic |
| 6 | Tested positive for COVID-19 |
| 10 | Gotten sick with COVID-19 symptoms |
| 2 | Been hospitalized for COVID-19 |
| 34 | Known someone who has been hospitalized for COVID-19 |
| 22 | Known someone who died from COVID-19 |
| 27 | None of these/Skipped/Refused |

Q.38 How much trust do you have in each of the following to provide accurate information and advice regarding the ongoing coronavirus pandemic? **[RANDOMIZE]**

Q.38a Donald Trump

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 14 | A lot |
| 24 | A little |
| 61 | Not at all |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.38b Joe Biden

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 28 | A lot |
| 32 | A little |
| 39 | Not at all |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.38c Dr. Anthony Fauci

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 49 | A lot |
| 33 | A little |
| 17 | Not at all |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.38d University research centers

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 51 | A lot |
| 40 | A little |
| 8 | Not at all |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.38e **[FORM 1 ONLY]** Centers for Disease Control (CDC) **[N=1,200]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 48 | A lot |
| 42 | A little |
| 9 | Not at all |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.38f **[FORM 1 ONLY]** World Health Organization (WHO) **[N=1,200]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 42 | A lot |
| 38 | A little |
| 20 | Not at all |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.38g **[FORM 2 ONLY]** State and local government **[N=1,338]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 24 | A lot |
| 59 | A little |
| 16 | Not at all |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.38h **[FORM 2 ONLY]** State and local health organizations **[N=1,338]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 40 | A lot |
| 48 | A little |
| 12 | Not at all |
| \* | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.39a **[FORM 1 ONLY]** Do you think shutdowns, mask mandates, and other steps taken by state and local governments since the coronavirus pandemic began are unreasonable attempts to control people, or reasonable measures to protect people? **[N=1,253]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 23 | Unreasonable attempts to control people |
| 76 | Reasonable attempts to protect people |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.40 **[ASK ALL]** When you are in public places, how often do you personally wear a mask to protect against COVID-19 transmission?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 78 | Always |
| 19 | Sometimes |
| 3 | Never |
| \* | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

Q.41 Do you think the spread of COVID-19, the illness caused by the coronavirus, in the

United States could have been controlled better, or was an outbreak of this size inevitable?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 69 | Could have been controlled better |
| 30 | Outbreak of this size was inevitable |
| 1 | Skipped/Refused |
| 100 | Total |

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?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 8 | More than once a week |
| 19 | Once a week |
| 7 | Once or twice a month |
| 14 | A few times a year |
| 25 | Seldom |
| 27 | Never |
| \* | Don’t know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

**[IF ATTEND = 1-4]**

Q52 Since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, would you say that you feel more connected, less connected, or about the same level of connectedness to your church or religious congregation? **[N=1,186]**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 21 | More connected |
| 47 | Less connected |
| 32 | About the same |
| \* | Don’t know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | Total |

**[IF ATTEND = 1-4]**

Q53 To the best of your knowledge, is the place at which you primarily attend religious

services currently holding **in-person** indoor services? **[N=1,186]**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sept.  2020 | April  2020[[2]](#footnote-2) |  |
| 56 | 8 | Yes |
| 43 | 86 | No |
| - | 2 | I do not regularly attend religious services (VOL.) |
| 1 | 3 | Don’t know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | 100 | Total |

**[ASK ALL]**

Q54 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing churches and other religious organizations to continue to hold in-person services, even when the government has issued orders that limit social gatherings because of the virus?

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Sept.  2020 | April  2020[[3]](#footnote-3) |  |
| 19 | 7 | Strongly favor |
| 25 | 14 | Favor |
| 30 | 37 | Oppose |
| 24 | 40 | Strongly oppose |
| 1 | 3 | Don’t know/Refused (VOL.) |
| 100 | 100 | Total |

**Survey Methodology**

The survey was designed and conducted by PRRI. The survey was made possible through the generous support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, with additional support from the Ford Foundation, the Wilbur and Hilda Glenn Family Foundation, the Henry Luce Foundation, and the Unitarian Universalist Veatch Program at Shelter Rock. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 2,538 adults (age 18 and up) living in the United States including all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Interviews were conducted both online using a self-administered design and by telephone using live interviewers. All interviews were conducted among participants in AmeriSpeak, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the national U.S. adult population run by NORC at the University of Chicago. Panel participants without Internet access, which included 42 respondents, were interviewed via telephone by professional interviewers under the direction of NORC. Interviewing was conducted in both Spanish and English between September 9 and September 22, 2020.

NORC’s AmeriSpeak Panel provides a representative panel of civilian, non-institutional adults (age 18 and over) living in the United States. The sample frame was developed using a two-stage probability sample design to create a representative sample of households in the United States. The first stage uses National Frame Areas (NFAs), geographic areas that have a population of at least 10,000 people. The National Sample Frame contains almost 3 million households and includes 80,000 rural households. Additionally, NORC oversampled housing units in segments (Census tracts or block groups) that include hard-to-reach populations, including young adults, Hispanics and African Americans. Panel recruitment proceeded in two stages. First, a mail solicitation is sent to a randomly selected household along with follow-up telephone calls and email solicitations if necessary. In the second stage, households that have not responded to the initial inquiry or follow-ups receive an enhanced incentive offer and a personal visit from NORC field interviewers. Members typically participate in panel surveys two or three times a month. For more information about AmeriSpeak, please visit: [http://amerispeak.norc.org](http://amerispeak.norc.org/)

The weighting is accomplished in two separate stages. First, panel base weights are calculated for every household based on the probability of selection from the NORC National Frame, the sampling frame that is used to sample housing units for AmeriSpeak. Household level weights are then assigned to each eligible adult in every recruited household. In the second stage, sample demographics are balanced to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, and division (U.S. Census definitions), housing type, and telephone usage. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of the National Health Interview Survey. All other weighting parameters are derived from an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau’s 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 +/- 2.6 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence, which includes the design effect for the survey of 1.83. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

1. In September 2019 and earlier, this issue was phrased as “Race relations” [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This survey relied on a slightly different question wording. The April 2020 question asked: “To the best of your knowledge, is the place at which you primarily attend religious services currently holding in-person gatherings for Easter or other religious occasions in the coming days or weeks?” [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. This survey relied on a slightly different question wording. The April 2020 question asked: “Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing churches and other religious organizations to continue to hold in-person services, even when the government has issued “stay at home” orders that limit social gatherings because of the virus?” [↑](#footnote-ref-3)