Pastor Views on 2016 Presidential Election

Survey of Protestant Pastors
Methodology

- The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted August 22 – September 16, 2016
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest of the church called
- Responses were weighted by region to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,000 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed ±3.2%
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
Survey Responses
40% of pastors have not decided on a candidate; 32% plan to vote for Trump and 19% plan to vote for Clinton

Among Protestant Pastors

- Hillary Clinton (Democrat): 19%
- Donald Trump (Republican): 32%
- Gary Johnson (Libertarian): 4%
- Jill Stein (Green): <1%
- Darrell Castle (Constitution): <1%
- Other: 1%
- Undecided: 40%
- Do not plan to vote: 3%
- Not eligible to vote: <1%

Q: "In the 2016 presidential election, for whom do you plan to vote?"
Among likely voters: 41% are undecided, 33% plan to vote for Trump, and 20% plan to vote for Clinton.
27% of pastors say personal character is the most important characteristic of a presidential candidate

Among Protestant Pastors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Personal character</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Likely Supreme Court nominees</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to protect religious freedom</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position on abortion</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to improve the economy</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ability to maintain national security</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Position on immigration</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>None of these</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not sure</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q: "In this presidential election, which characteristic of the candidates is most important to you in deciding how to cast your vote? (Select One)"
Over half of pastors chose Republican as their political party; nearly a quarter identify as Independent

Q: “In which party are you registered to vote or do you consider yourself to be a member?”

Among Protestant Pastors

- Republican: 52%
- Independent: 22%
- Democrat: 18%
- Libertarian: 1%
- Constitution: <1%
- Green: <1%
- Other: 6%
- Not sure: 2%
Nearly 9 out of 10 pastors agree that American Christians have a biblical responsibility to vote

Q: “American Christians have a biblical responsibility to vote.”
66% of pastors disagree that American Christians should vote for a candidate who has a reasonable chance of winning.

Q: “American Christians should vote for a candidate who has a reasonable chance of winning.”
3 out of 10 pastors agree that Christians who vote their conscience will vote for the same candidate

Q: "Christians who truly vote their conscience will vote for the same candidate."
Significant Differences

Pastor
Ethnicity
Age
Education Level
Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline
Political Party
Presidential Candidate

Church
Region
Denomination
Average Attendance
Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church’s attendance and region, the pastor’s age and ethnicity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Attendance</th>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Pastor’s Ethnicity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-49</td>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>18-44</td>
<td>White</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-99</td>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>African American</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-249</td>
<td>South</td>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>Other Ethnicities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>250+</td>
<td>West</td>
<td>65+</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Region is defined by US Census regions
Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the self-identified Evangelical or Mainline, denomination, and education level.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Self-Identify</th>
<th>Denomination</th>
<th>Education Level</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical</td>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>No College Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mainline</td>
<td>Christian/Church of Christ</td>
<td>Bachelor’s Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>Master’s Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>Doctoral Degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Presbyterian/Reformed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Holiness</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Significant Statistical Differences

- Comparisons were also made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among presidential candidate and political party.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Candidate</th>
<th>Political Party</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hillary Clinton (Democrat)</td>
<td>Democrat</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald Trump (Republican)</td>
<td>Republican</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gary Johnson (Libertarian)</td>
<td>Independent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
“In the 2016 presidential election, for whom do you plan to vote?” (Percentages are among likely voters)

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (25%) and 50-99 (25%) are more likely to select “Hillary Clinton” than those with attendance of 100-249 (15%) and 250+ (11%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (40%) are more likely to select “Donald Trump” than those with attendance of 50-99 (30%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (28%) are more likely to select “Hillary Clinton” than Pastors in the South (17%)
- Pastors in the South (37%) and West (36%) are more likely to select “Donald Trump” than Pastors in the Northeast (20%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (23%) and 65+ (25%) are more likely to select “Hillary Clinton” than those 18-44 (16%) and 45-54 (13%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the least likely to select “Donald Trump” (23%) and most likely to select “Undecided” (52%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (8%) are more likely to select “Gary Johnson” than those 55-64 (3%) and 65+ (1%)
“In the 2016 presidential election, for whom do you plan to vote?” (continued)

- African-American pastors (37%) are more likely to select “Hillary Clinton” than White pastors (18%)
- White pastors are the most likely to select “Donald Trump” (35%)
- Compared to Mainline pastors, Evangelical pastors are less likely to select “Hilary Clinton” (9% vs 43%), more likely to select “Donald Trump” (39% vs 15%), and more likely to select “Undecided” (45% vs 35%)
- Methodists (44%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (50%) are more likely to select “Hillary Clinton” than Baptists (6%), Lutherans (24%), Pentecostals (<1%), Church of Christ (6%), and Holiness (5%)
- Baptists (46%), Pentecostals (61%), and Church of Christ (50%) are more likely to select “Donald Trump” than Lutherans (20%), Methodists (14%), Presbyterian/Reformed (9%), and Holiness (30%)
- Holiness (9%) are more likely to select “Gary Johnson” than Baptists (2%) and Pentecostals (<1%)
“In the 2016 presidential election, for whom do you plan to vote?” (continued)

• Those with a Master’s degree (24%) or a Doctoral degree (28%) are more likely to select “Hillary Clinton” than those with no college degree (3%) or a Bachelor’s (5%)
• Those with no college degree (55%) or a Bachelor’s (42%) are more likely to select “Donald Trump” than those with a Master’s degree (27%) or a Doctoral degree (30%)
• Democrats (78%) are more likely to select “Hillary Clinton” than Republicans (3%) and Independents (18%)
• Republicans (53%) are more likely to select “Donald Trump” than Democrats (3%) and Independents (23%)
• Republicans (4%) and Independents (6%) are more likely to select “Gary Johnson” than Democrats (1%)
• Independents (52%) are more likely to select “Undecided” than Democrats (19%) and Republicans (38%)
“In this presidential election, which characteristic of the candidates is most important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (13%) are more likely to select “Position on abortion” than those with attendance of 50-99 (8%) and 250+ (6%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (23%) are more likely to select “Likely Supreme Court nominees” than those with attendance of 50-99 (17%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (10%) are more likely to select “Ability to improve the economy” than Pastors in the South (5%) and West (4%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (8%) are more likely to select “Ability to improve the economy” than those 18-44 (3%)
- Pastors age 45-54 (25%) and 65+ (23%) are more likely to select “Likely Supreme Court nominees” than those 18-44 (15%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (30%) are more likely to select “Personal character” than those 65+ (21%)
“In this presidential election, which characteristic of the candidates is most important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

- African-American pastors (23%) and pastor of Other Ethnicities (20%) are more likely to select “Ability to protect religious freedom” than White pastors (12%)
- White pastors are the most likely to select “Likely Supreme Court nominees” (22%)
- Evangelical pastors (12%) are more likely to select “Position on abortion” than Mainline pastors (4%)
- Mainline pastors (5%) are more likely to select “Position on immigration” than Evangelical pastors (1%)
- Evangelical pastors (15%) are more likely to select “Ability to protect religious freedom” than Mainline pastors (6%)
- Evangelical pastors (23%) are more likely to select “Likely Supreme Court nominees” than Mainline pastors (13%)
“In this presidential election, which characteristic of the candidates is most important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

- Baptists (15%) and Pentecostals (18%) are more likely to select “Position on abortion” than Lutherans (8%), Methodists (4%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (3%)
- Lutherans (6%), Methodists (4%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (6%) are more likely to select “Position on immigration” than Baptists (<1%)
- Pentecostals are the most likely to select “Ability to protect religious freedom” (30%)
- Baptists (16%), Lutherans (10%), Church of Christ (11%), and Holiness (13%) are more likely to select “Ability to protect religious freedom” than Presbyterian/Reformed (2%)
- Methodists (11%), Presbyterian/Reformed (8%), and Holiness (10%) are more likely to select “Ability to improve the economy” than Pentecostals (1%)
- Lutherans (9%) and Pentecostals (9%) are more likely to select “Ability to maintain national security” than Church of Christ (<1%)
“In this presidential election, which characteristic of the candidates is most important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

- Baptists (28%) are more likely to select “Likely Supreme Court nominees” than Lutherans (18%), Methodists (8%), Pentecostals (14%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (14%)
- Methodists (34%), Presbyterian/Reformed (36%), and Holiness (34%) are more likely to select “Personal character” than Baptists (20%) and Pentecostals (14%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s degree (14%) are more likely to select “Position on abortion” than those with a Master’s degree (8%)
- Those with a Master’s degree (4%) are more likely to select “Position on immigration” than those with no college degree (<1%)
- Those with no college degree (27%) are more likely to select “Ability to protect religious freedom” than those with a Master’s (8%) or a Doctoral degree (10%)
- Those with no college degree are the least likely to select “Personal character” (14%)
“In this presidential election, which characteristic of the candidates is most important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

- Pastors voting for Donald Trump are the most likely to select “Position on abortion” (17%)  
- Pastors voting for Hillary Clinton (7%) are more likely to select “Position on immigration” than those voting for Donald Trump (1%) or those who are Undecided (2%)  
- Pastors voting for Hillary Clinton are the least likely to select “Ability to protect religious freedom” (4%)  
- Pastors voting for Hillary Clinton (10%) are more likely to select “Ability to improve the economy” than those Undecided (5%)  
- Pastors voting for Hillary Clinton (9%) or Donald Trump (7%) are more likely to select “Ability to maintain national security” than those Undecided (2%)  
- Pastors voting for Donald Trump are the most likely to select “Likely Supreme Court nominees” (36%)  
- Pastors voting for Donald Trump are the least likely to select “Personal character” (10%)
“In this presidential election, which characteristic of the candidates is most important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

- Democrats are the least likely to select “Position on abortion” (<1%)
- Democrats are the most likely to select “Position on immigration” (7%)
- Republicans are the most likely to select “Ability to protect religious freedom” (17%)
- Democrats (12%) are more likely to select “Ability to improve the economy” than Republicans (4%)
- Republicans are the most likely to select “Likely Supreme Court nominees” (26%)
- Independents (34%) are more likely to select “Personal character” than Republicans (24%)
“In which party are you registered to vote or do you consider yourself to be a member?”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (23%) are more likely to select “Democrat” than those with attendance of 100-249 (15%) and 250+ (12%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (61%) are more likely to select “Republican” than those with attendance of 50-99 (48%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (25%) are more likely to select “Democrat” than Pastors in the South (17%) and Midwest (15%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (25%) are more likely to Select “Independent” than Pastors in the West (16%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (23%) and 65+ (21%) are more likely to select “Democrat” than those 18-44 (13%) and 45-54 (12%)
- African-American pastors are the most likely to select “Democrat” (56%) and least likely to select “Republican” (6%)
- Compared to Evangelical pastors, Mainline pastors are more likely to select “Democrat (35% v 9%) and less likely to select “Republican” (29% v 63%)
“In which party are you registered to vote or do you consider yourself to be a member?”

- Methodists (41%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (36%) are more likely to select “Democrat” than Baptists (7%), Lutherans (21%), Pentecostals (1%), Church of Christ (9%), and Holiness (5%)
- Baptists (67%) and Pentecostals (76%) are more likely to select “Republican” than Lutherans (43%), Methodists (25%), Presbyterian/Reformed (29%), and Church of Christ (51%)
- Church of Christ (31%) are more likely to select “Independent” than Baptists (19%), Pentecostals (12%), and Holiness (14%)
- Those with a Master’s (22%) or a Doctoral degree (22%) are more likely to select “Democrat” than those with no college degree (7%) or a Bachelor’s (6%)
- Those with no college degree (64%) or a Bachelor’s (65%) are more likely to select “Republican” than those with a Master’s (48%) or a Doctoral degree (43%)
“American Christians have a biblical responsibility to vote.”

- Pastors in the South (89%) and Midwest (90%) are more likely to Agree than Pastors in the West (84%)
- Evangelical pastors (94%) are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (85%)
- Baptists (95%) and Pentecostals (98%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (90%), Methodists (87%), Presbyterian/Reformed (81%), Church of Christ (79%), and Holiness (86%)
- Pastors voting for Donald Trump (97%) or who are Undecided (90%) are more likely to Agree than those voting for Hillary Clinton (78%) or Gary Johnson (77%)
- Republicans are the most likely to Agree (94%)
“American Christians should vote for a candidate who has a reasonable chance of winning.”

- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (35%) are more likely to Agree than those with attendance of 50-99 (25%)
- Pastors in the Midwest (71%) are more likely to Disagree than Pastors in the West (62%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (71%) are more likely to Disagree than those 65+ (59%)
- Evangelical pastors (33%) are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (22%)
- Baptists (35%) and Pentecostals (39%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (21%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (17%)
- Pastors voting for Donald Trump are the most likely to Agree (43%)
- Republicans are the most likely to Agree (37%)
“Christians who truly vote their conscience will vote for the same candidate.”

- Pastors in the South (33%) are more likely to Agree than Pastors in the Northeast (22%) and West (25%)
- Pastors age 65+ (37%) are more likely to Agree than those 18-44 (25%) and 55-64 (27%)
- Evangelical pastors (36%) are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (16%)
- Baptists (43%) and Pentecostals (42%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (16%), Methodists (17%), Presbyterian/Reformed (10%), and Church of Christ (22%)
- Those with no college degree are the most likely to Agree (50%)
- Pastors voting for Donald Trump are the most likely to Agree (47%)
- Republicans are the most likely to Agree (39%)
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