Churchgoers Views – Politics

Representative Survey of 1,010
American Churchgoers

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Methodology

LifeWay Research conducted the study August 22 – 30, 2017. The survey was conducted using the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers and residential addresses. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone or by mail to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanel®. For those who agree to participate, but do not already have Internet access, GfK provides at no cost a laptop and ISP connection.

Methodology

For this survey, a nationally representative sample of U.S. Protestant and non-denominational adults (18 and older) which attends religious services once a month or more often was selected from the KnowledgePanel®.

Sample stratification and base weights were used for gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, metro/non-metro, home ownership, education, and income to reflect the most recent US Census data. Study specific weights included for gender by age, race/ethnicity, region, and education to reflect GSS 2016 data. The completed sample is 1,010 surveys. The sample provides 95 percent confidence that the sampling error does not exceed plus or minus 3.1 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

Survey Responses

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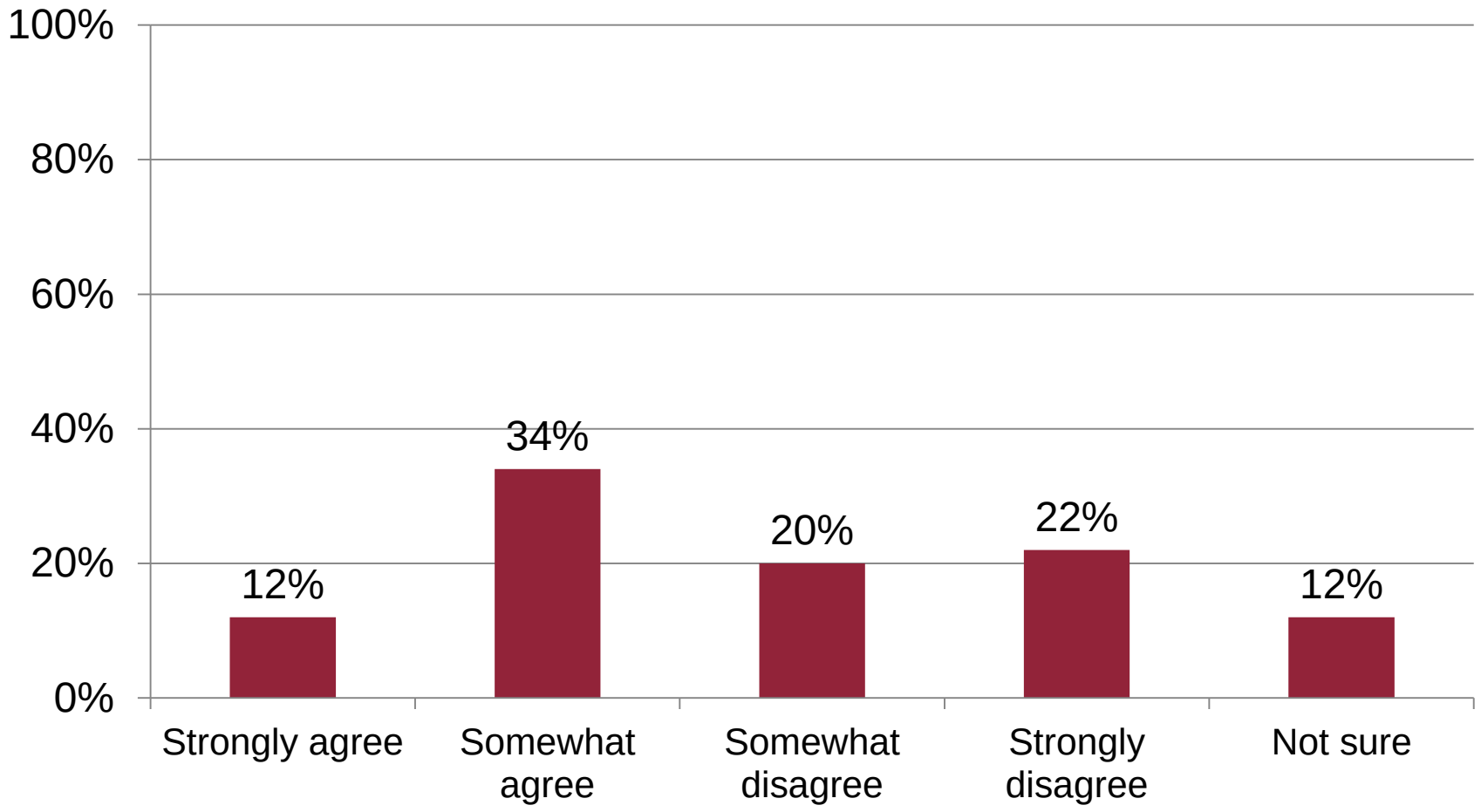
46% prefer to attend a church where people share their political views



Q34: "I prefer to attend a church where people share my political views." n=998

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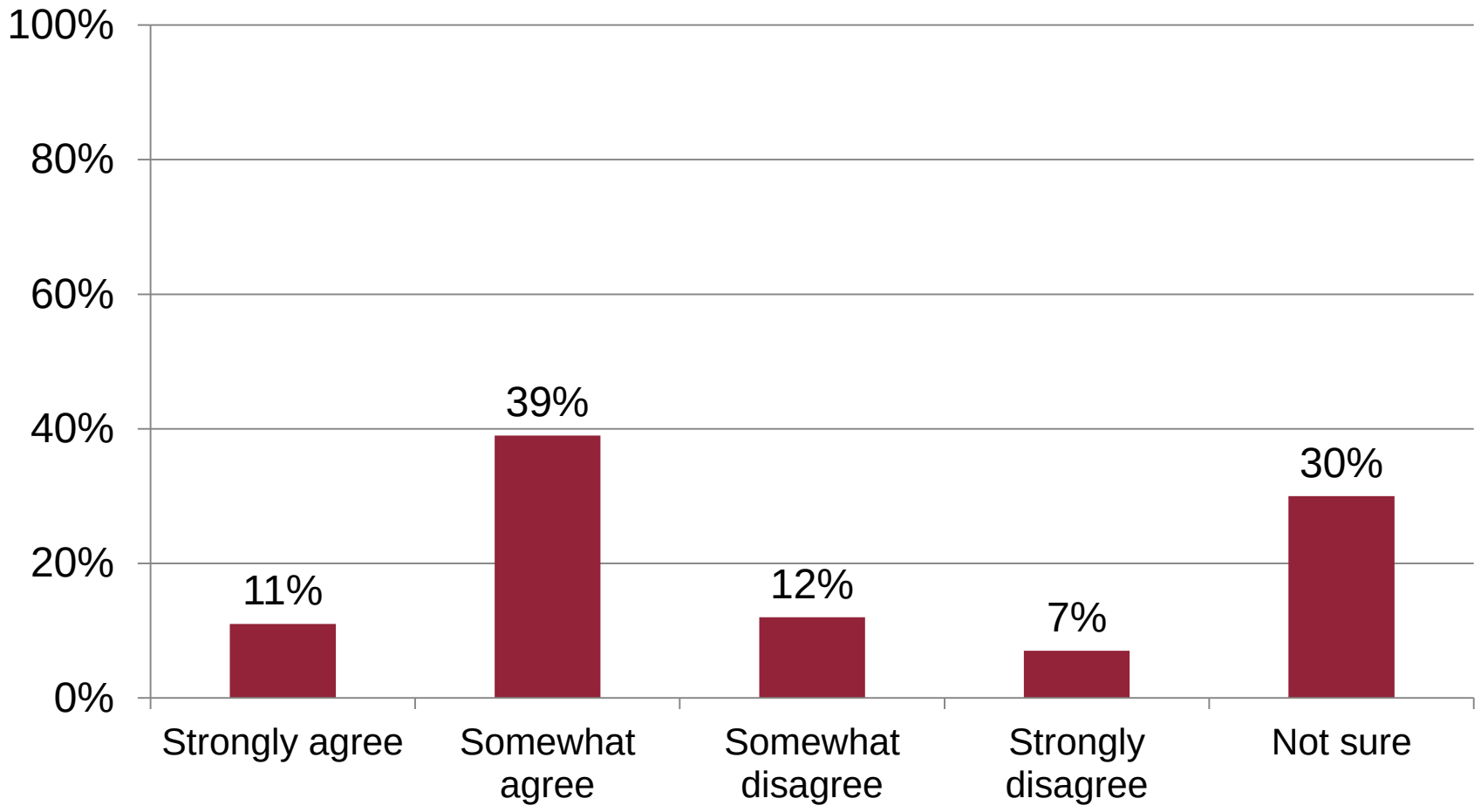
51% say that their political views match those of most people at their church



Q35: "My political views match those of most people at my church." n=999

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Significant Differences

Gender
Region
Age
Ethnicity
Education Level
Church Service Attendance
Evangelical Beliefs
Church Size (Attendance)
Denomination

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Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among churchgoers' gender, region, age, ethnicity, and education.

Gender	Region	Age	Ethnicity	Education
Male	Northeast	18-34	White, Non-Hispanic	High School graduate or less
Female	Midwest	35-49	Black, Non-Hispanic	Some college
	South	50-64	Hispanic	Bachelor's Degree
	West	65+	Other Ethnicities	Graduate Degree

Note: Region is defined by US Census locations

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Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among churchgoers' service attendance, Evangelical Beliefs, church size (by attendance), and denomination.

Church Service Attendance	Evangelical Beliefs	Church Size (Attendance)	Denomination
At least once a week	Yes	Less than 50	Baptist
Once or twice a month	No	50-99	Lutheran
		100-249	Methodist
		250-499	Non-denominational
		500-999	Assemblies of God/Pentecostal
		1000 or more	

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Evangelical Beliefs

- Evangelical Beliefs are defined using the NAE LifeWay Research Evangelical Beliefs Research Definition based on respondent beliefs
- Respondents are asked their level of agreement with four separate statements using a four-point, forced choice scale (strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree). Those who strongly agree with all four statements are categorized as having Evangelical Beliefs
  - The Bible is the highest authority for what I believe
  - It is very important for me personally to encourage non-Christians to trust Jesus Christ as their Savior
  - Jesus Christ's death on the cross is the only sacrifice that could remove the penalty of my sin
  - Only those who trust in Jesus Christ alone as their Savior receive God's free gift of eternal salvation

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"I prefer to attend a church where people share my political views."

- Males (51%) are more likely to Agree than females (43%)
- Those age 18-34 (57%) and 35-49 (57%) are more likely to Agree than those 50-64 (39%) and 65+ (33%)
- White, Non-Hispanics are the most likely ethnic group to Agree (51%)
- Those who are high school graduates or less are them least likely education level to Agree (37%)
- Those attending a church with attendance of 250-499 (54%) are more likely to Agree than those attending a church with attendance of 50-99 (44%) and 1000 or more (42%)
- Baptists (49%), Methodists (57%), and Non-denominational (51%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (33%)

"My political views match those of most people at my church."

- Males (58%) are more likely to Agree than females (46%)
- Those in the Northeast (27%) are more likely to Disagree than those in the Midwest (16%) and West (15%)
- Those age 35-49 (61%) are more likely to Agree than those 50-64 (47%) and 65+ (44%)
- Hispanics (27%) and Other Ethnicities (32%) are more likely to Disagree than White, Non-Hispanics (16%)
- Those attending church services at least once a week are more likely to Agree than those attending once or twice a month (52% v. 43%)
- Those with Evangelical Beliefs are more likely to Agree than those without Evangelical Beliefs (57% v. 44%)
- Baptists (58%), Non-denominational (54%), and Assemblies of God/Pentecostals (53%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (31%)

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