Pastors' Views on Immigration

Survey of American Protestant Pastors



Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,000 Protestant pastors was conducted January 14-30, 2019
- 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 <u>+</u>3.2%
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

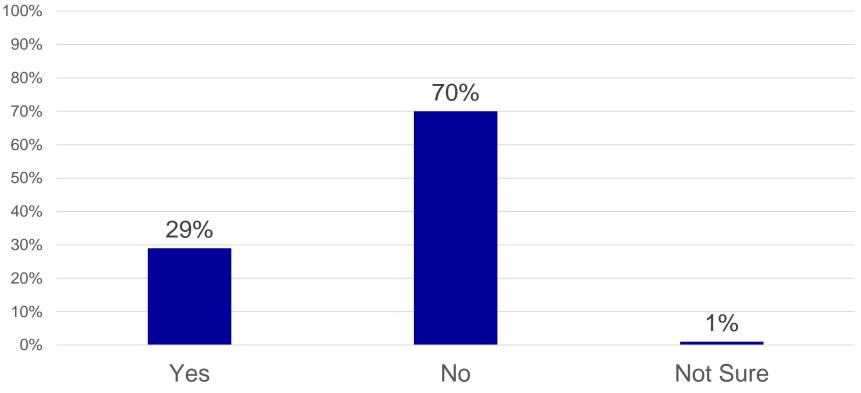


Survey Responses



29% of Protestant churches are involved locally in assisting immigrants

Among Protestant Pastors

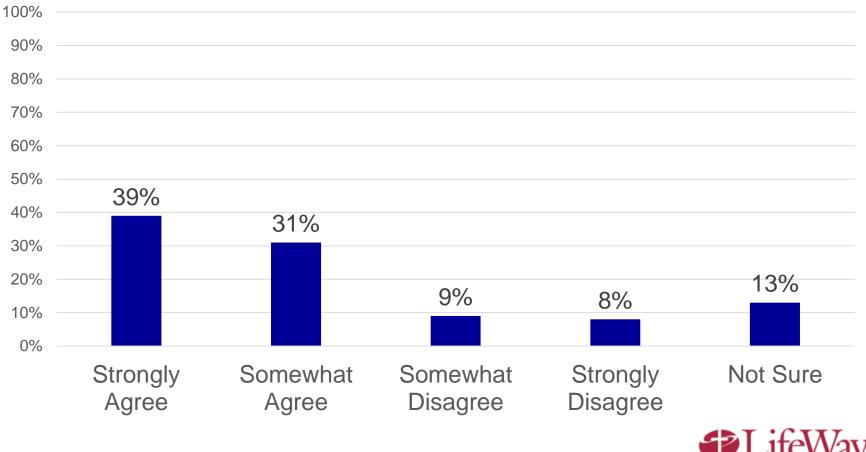




Q21: "Currently, our church is personally involved at the local level in assisting immigrants."

70% are in favor of immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship

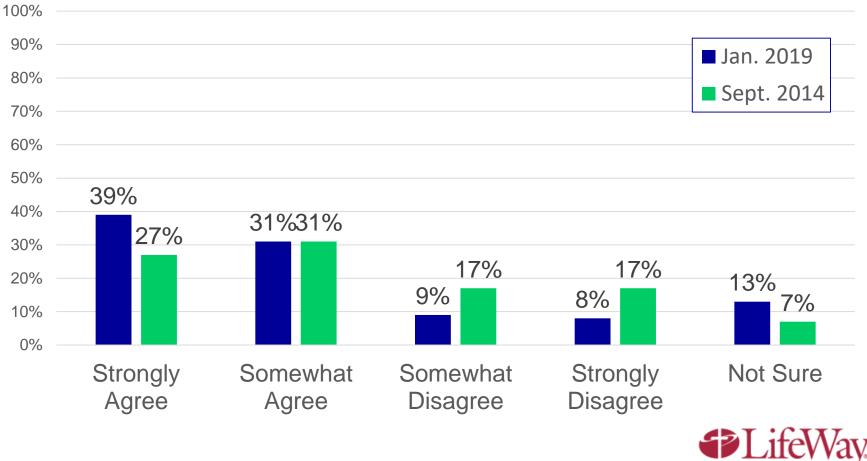
Among Protestant Pastors



Q22: "I am in favor of immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship for those who are currently in the country illegally."

Pastors favoring immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship have grown 12 percentage points since 2014 (70% v. 58%)

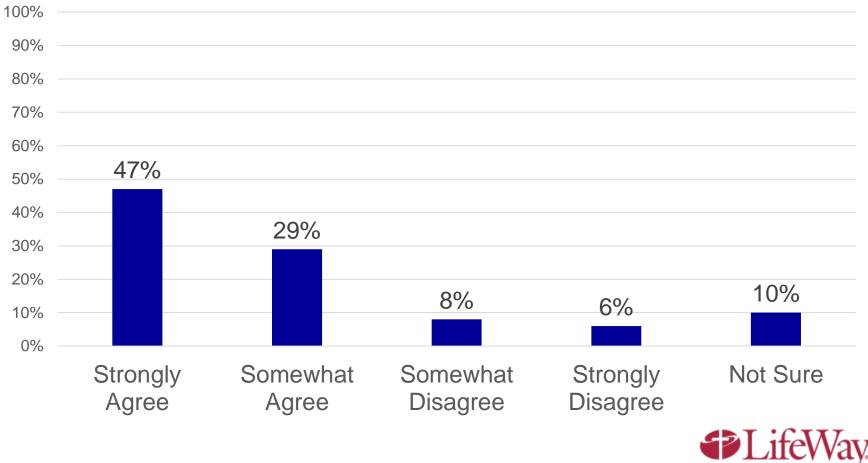
Among Protestant Pastors



Q22: "I am in favor of immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship for those who are currently in the country illegally."

76% agree that Christians have a responsibility to assist immigrants even if they are in the country illegally

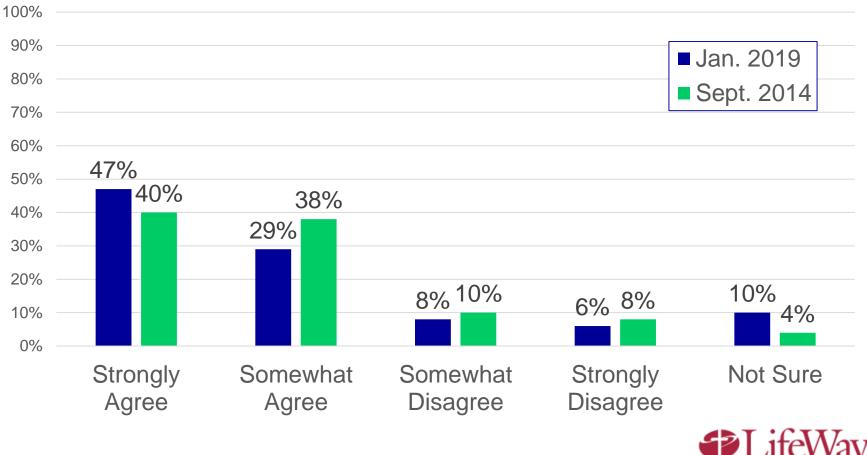
Among Protestant Pastors



Q23: "Christians have a responsibility to assist immigrants even if they are in the country illegally."

A similar percentage (76% v 79%) agree Christians have a responsibility to assist immigrants even those here illegally

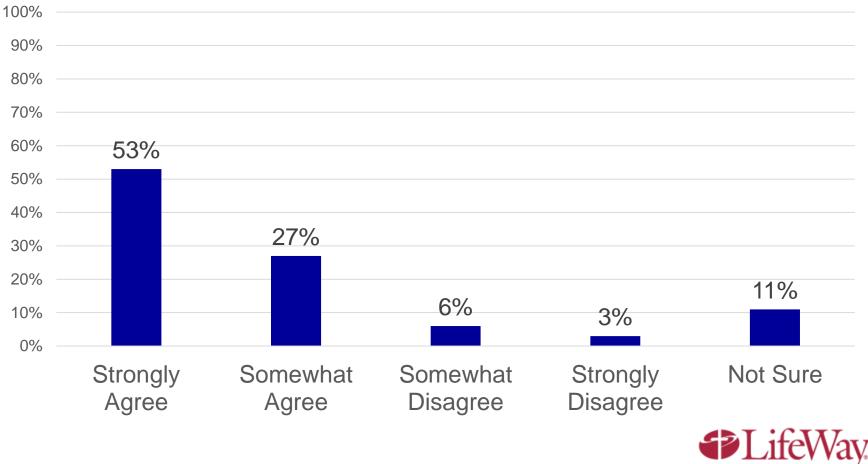
Among Protestant Pastors



Q23: "Christians have a responsibility to assist immigrants even if they are in the country illegally."

8 out of 10 agree that the U.S. government has the responsibility to stop illegal immigration

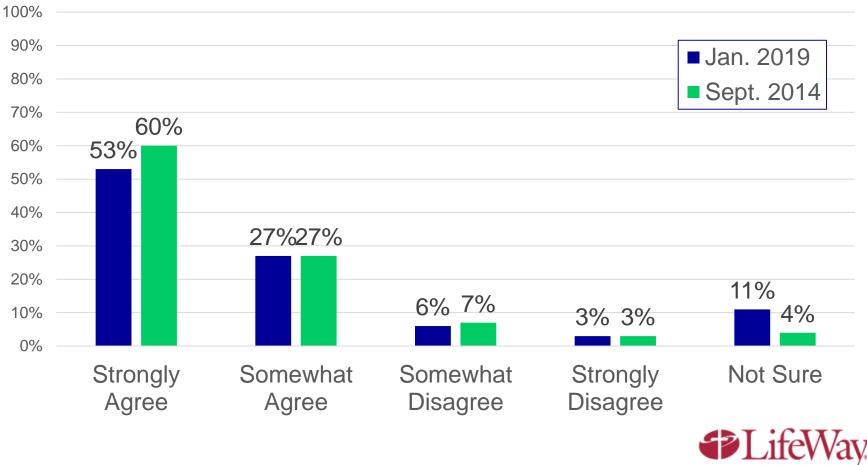
Among Protestant Pastors



Q24: "The U.S. government has the responsibility to stop illegal immigration."

Fewer pastors agree that the government has the responsibility to stop illegal immigration than in 2014 (80% v. 87%)

Among Protestant Pastors



Q24: "The U.S. government has the responsibility to stop illegal immigration."

Significant Differences

<u>Pastor</u>

Ethnicity

Age

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

<u>Church</u>

Region Denomination Average Attendance



Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's ethnicity, age, and education, and self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

Ethnicity	Age	Education	Self-Identified
White	18-44	No College Degree	Evangelical
African- American	45-54	Bachelor's Degree	Mainline
Other Ethnicity	55-64	Master's Degree	
	65+	Doctoral Degree	



Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's region, denomination, and attendance.

Region	Denomination	Attendance
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
South	Lutheran	50-99
Midwest	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Holiness	
	Christian/ Church of Christ	



Note: Region is defined by US Census locations

"Currently, our church is personally involved at the local level in assisting immigrants."

- Pastors with a Master's degree (31%) and Doctoral degree (36%) are more likely to select "Yes" than those with no college degree (15%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select "Yes" than Evangelical pastors (33% v. 26%)
- Lutherans (40%), Methodists (33%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (35%) are more likely to select "Yes" than Baptists (23%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (37%) are more likely to select "Yes" than those with attendance of 0-49 (23%)



"I am in favor of immigration reform that includes a path to citizenship for those who are currently in the country illegally."

- African-American pastors are the most likely to Agree (91%)
- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to Agree (62%)
- Pastors with a Master's degree (72%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Bachelor's degree (64%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to Agree than Evangelical pastors (80% v. 66%)
- Methodists (86%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (80%) are more likely to Agree than Baptists (60%), Pentecostals (59%), and Christian/Church of Christ (65%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 0-49 (22%) are more likely to Disagree than those with attendance of 50-99 (15%)



"Christians have a responsibility to assist immigrants even if they are in the country illegally."

- Pastors age 65+ are the least likely to Agree (67%)
- Pastors with a Master's degree (80%) are more likely to Agree than those with no college degree (67%) or a Bachelor's degree (72%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to Disagree than Mainline pastors (16% v. 10%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (85%) are more likely to Agree than those in the South (74%) and Midwest (74%)
- Presbyterian/Reformed (87%) and Holiness (88%) are more likely to Agree than Baptists (70%), Lutherans (74%), Pentecostals (66%), and Christian/Church of Christ (73%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 100-249 (79%) are more likely to Agree than those with attendance of 0-49 (70%)



"The U.S. government has the responsibility to stop illegal immigration."

- African-American pastors (21%) are more likely to Disagree than White pastors (8%)
- Pastors age 65+ (85%) are more likely to Agree than pastors age 18-44 (75%)
- Pastors with no college degree (87%) or a Bachelor's degree (87%) are more likely to Agree than those with a Master's degree (78%) or a Doctoral degree (74%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to Agree than Mainline pastors (87% v. 74%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (15%) and Midwest (12%) are more likely to Disagree than those in the South (5%)
- Baptists (89%) and Pentecostals (94%) are more likely to Agree than Lutherans (74%), Methodists (68%), Presbyterian/Reformed (74%), and Christian/Church of Christ (79%)



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