

Pastors' Views on Political Endorsements

Survey of American Protestant Pastors

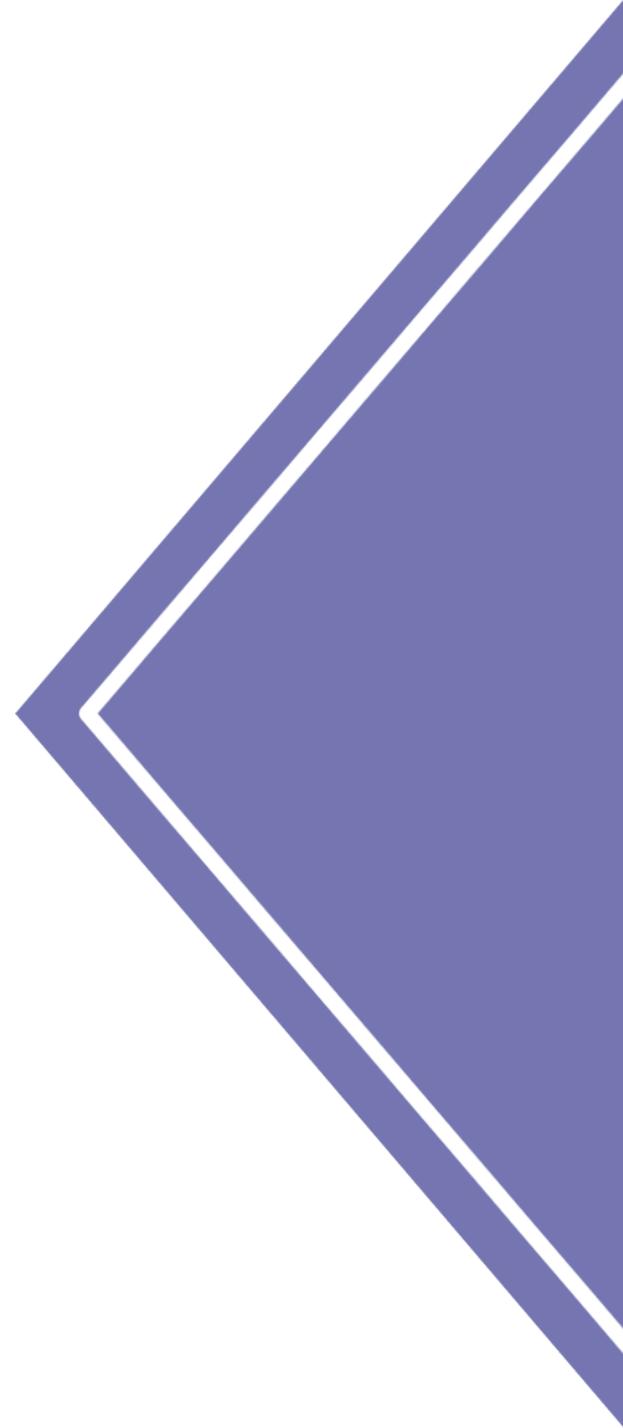
Methodology

- The mixed mode survey of 1,007 Protestant pastors was conducted September 2–October 1, 2020 using both phone and online interviews
- Phone: The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Online: Invitations were emailed to the LifeWay Research Pastor Panel followed by three reminders. This probability sample of Protestant churches was created by phone recruiting by LifeWay Research using random samples selected from all Protestant churches. Pastors who agree to be contacted by email for future surveys make up this LifeWay Research Pastor Panel.
- Each survey was completed by the senior or sole pastor or a minister at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population

Methodology

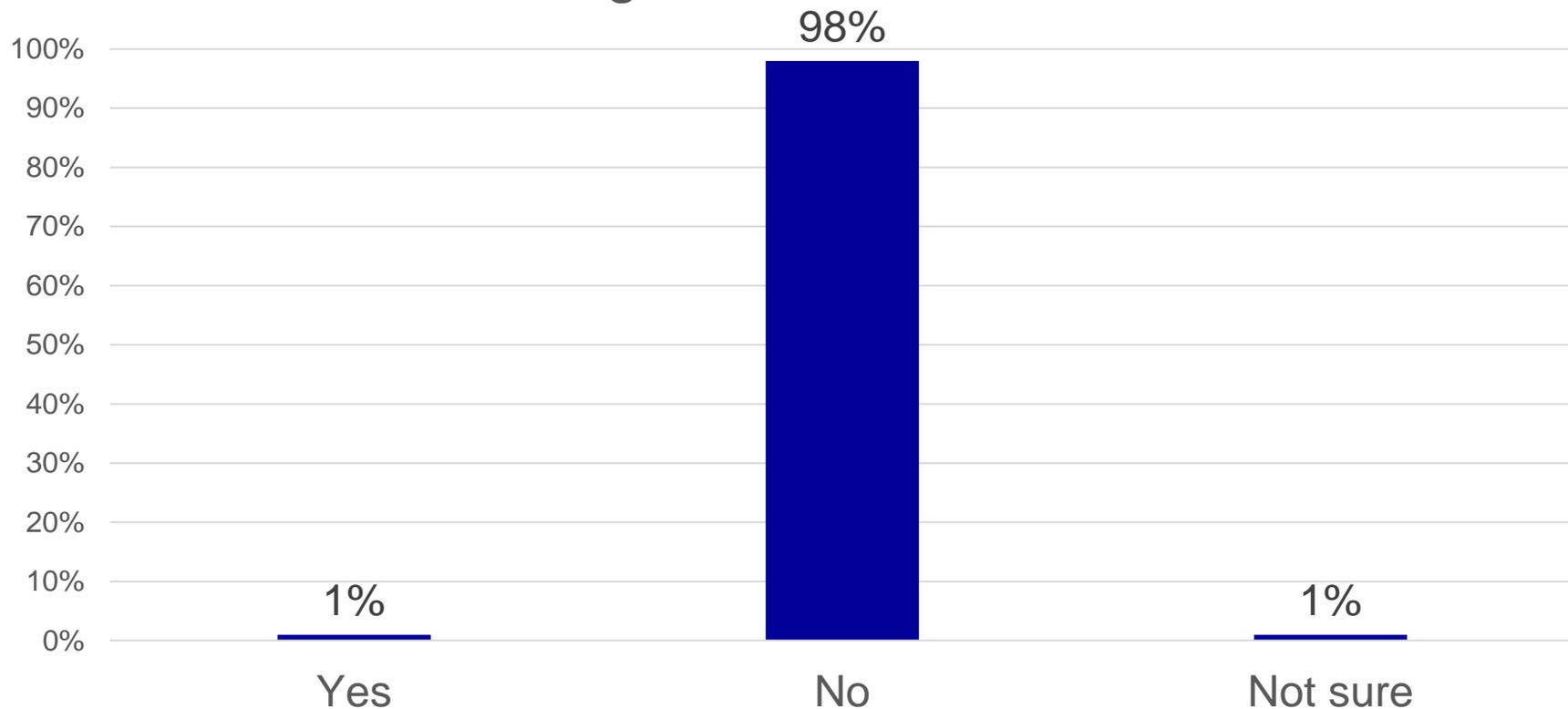
- The completed sample is 1,007 surveys (502 by phone, 505 online)
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.4\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups
- Comparisons are made to a phone survey of 1,000 pastors conducted by LifeWay Research August 22 – September 16, 2016
- The 2016 survey used the same methodology as the phone portion of the 2020 survey

Survey Responses



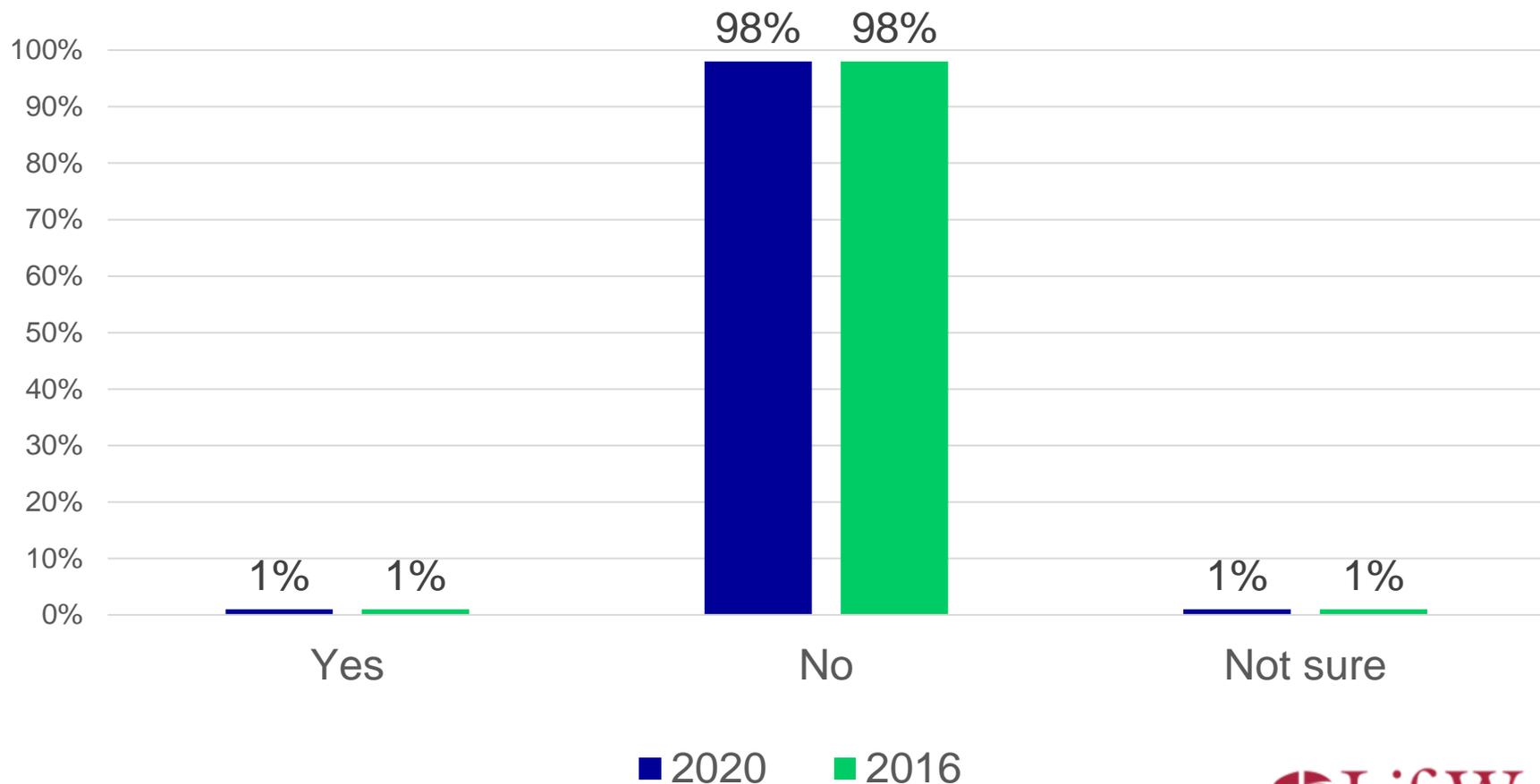
98% say they have not publicly endorsed candidates for public office during a church service this year

Among Protestant Pastors



The 1% of pastors endorsing candidates during a church service is unchanged from 2016

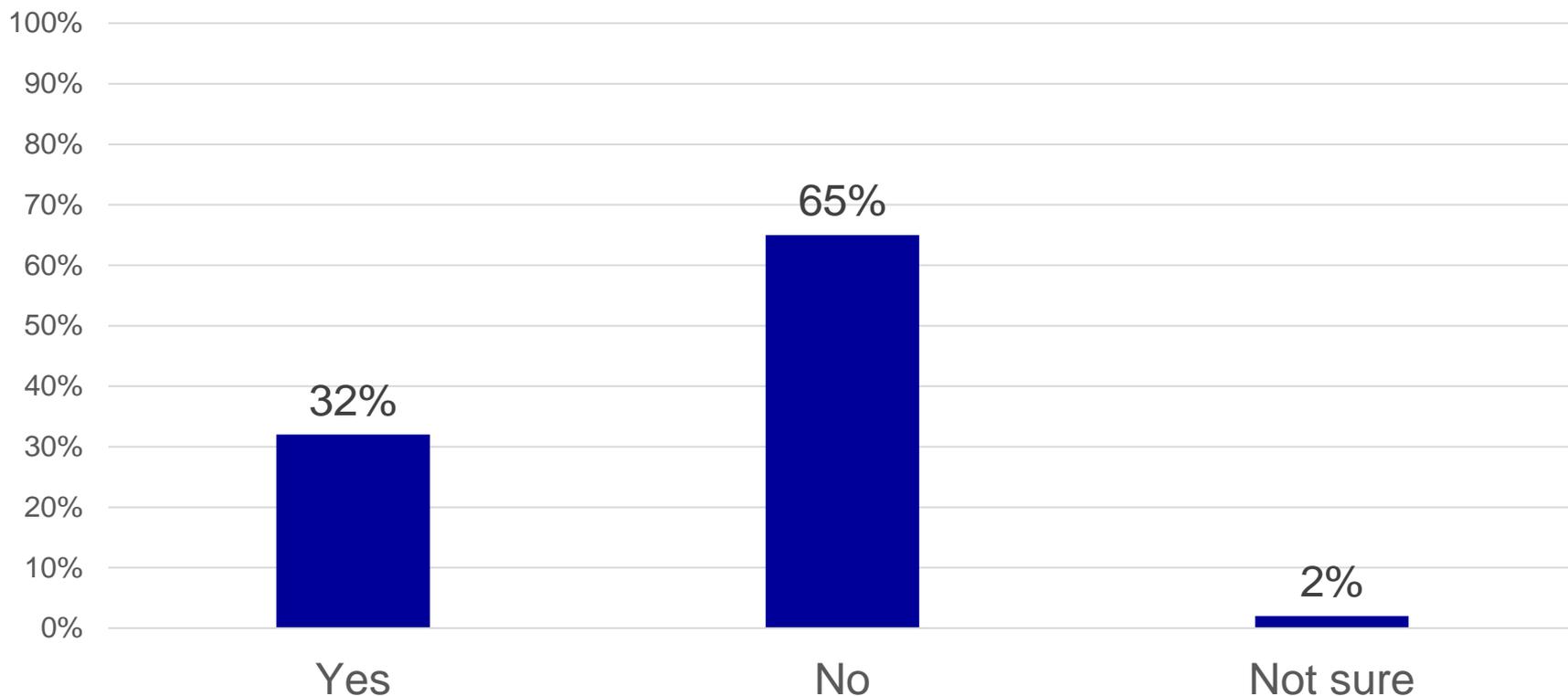
Among Protestant Pastors



Q: "Have you publicly endorsed candidates for public office during a church service this year?"

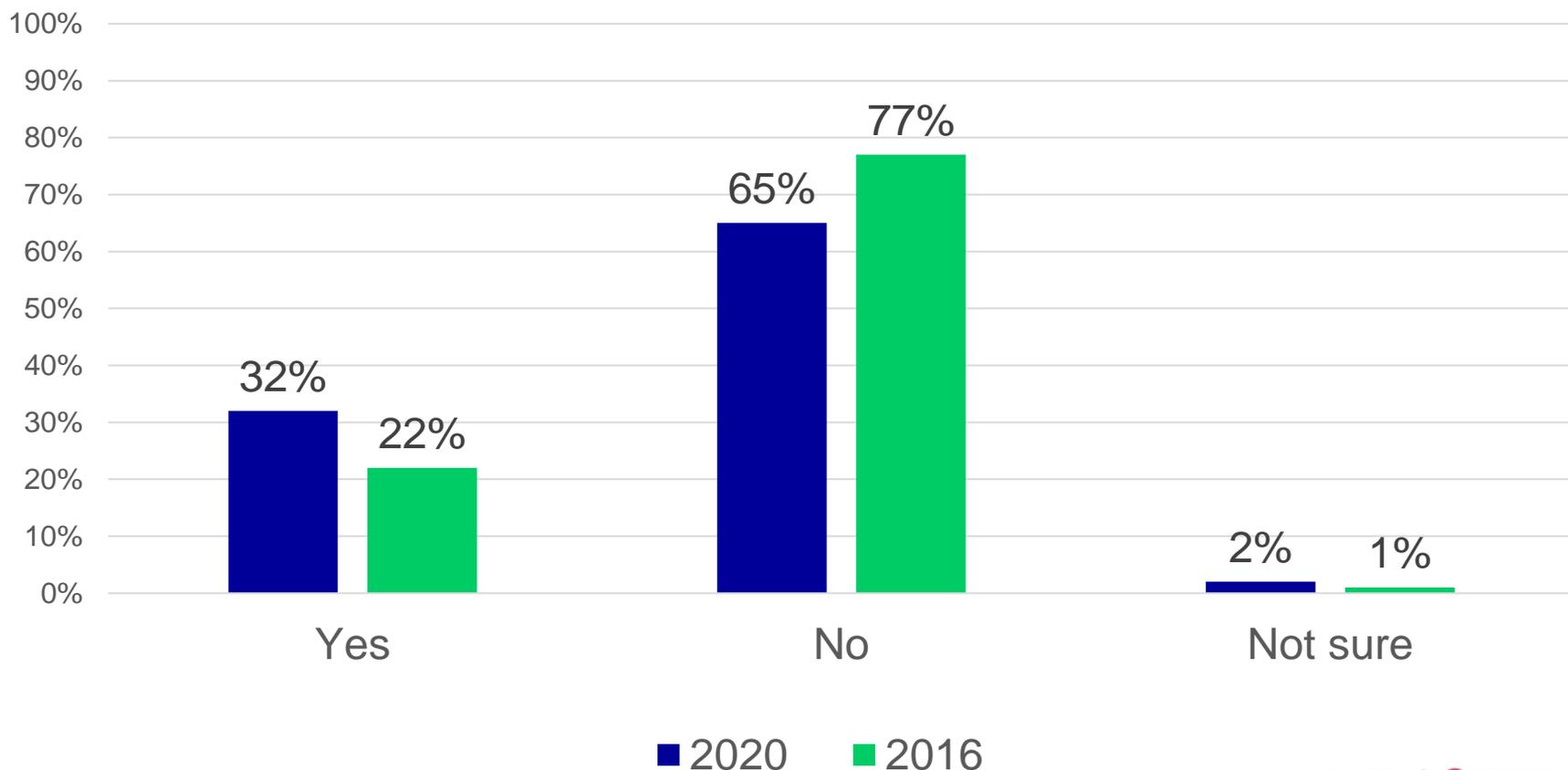
32% say they have endorsed candidates outside of their church role this year

Among Protestant Pastors



More pastors say they have endorsed candidates outside of their church role this year than in 2016

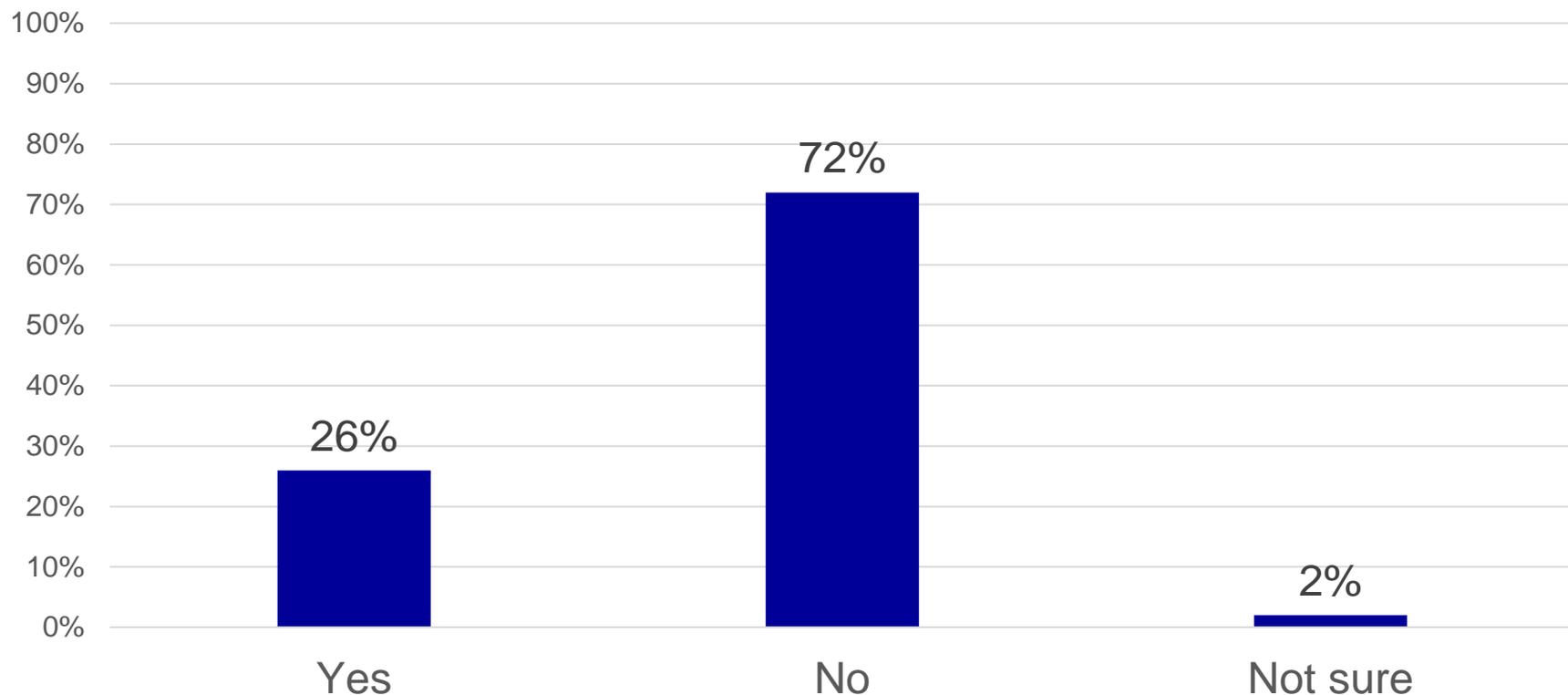
Among Protestant Pastors



Q: "Have you personally endorsed candidates for public office this year **outside** of your church role?"

26% say their church has worked to get people registered to vote in this year's election

Among Protestant Pastors



Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

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 pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

Ethnicity	Age	Gender	Education	Self-Identified
White	18-44	Male	No College Degree	Evangelical
African American	45-54	Female	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	Denominational Groups	Attendance
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
South	Lutheran	50-99
Midwest	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Christian/ Church of Christ	

Significant Statistical Differences

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

Candidate	Political Party
Joe Biden (Democrat)	Democratic
Donald Trump (Republican)	Republican
Other	Independent
Undecided	Other

“Have you publicly endorsed candidates for public office during a church service this year?”

- White pastors (99%) are more likely to select “No” than Pastors of Other Ethnicities (93%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (99%) are more likely to select “No” than pastors age 65+ (96%)
- Pastors in the South (98%) and Midwest (99%) are more likely to select “No” than those in the West (95%)
- Lutherans (100%) are more likely to select “No” than Pentecostals (96%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (100%) are more likely to select “No” than those with attendance of 50-99 (97%) and 100-249 (98%)

“Have you personally endorsed candidates for public office this year outside of your church role?”

- Pastors age 65+ are the most likely to select “Yes” (47%) and pastors age 18-44 are most likely to select “No” (77%)
- Pastors with no college degree (47%) or a Bachelor’s degree (44%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with a Master’s degree (26%) or a Doctoral degree (32%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (41%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those in the South (31%)
- Pentecostals (39%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Lutherans (26%) and Methodists (23%)
- Democrats (39%) and Republicans (40%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Independents (20%) and Others (23%)
- Pastors voting for Donald Trump are more likely to select “Yes” (45%) than those voting for Joe Biden (34%) and those who are Undecided (10%)

“Has your church worked to get people to register and vote in this election?”

- African American pastors are the most likely to select “Yes” (82%)
- Pastors age 18-44 are the most likely to select “No” (84%)
- Pastors with no college degree (33%) are more likely “Yes” to select than those with a Bachelor’s degree (22%) or a Master’s degree (23%)
- Pentecostals (43%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Baptists (27%), Lutherans (13%), Presbyterian/Reformed (21%), and Christian/Church of Christ (20%)
- Pastors of churches with attendance of 250+ (32%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with attendance of 50-99 (23%)
- Democrats are the most likely to select “Yes” (39%)
- Pastors voting for Joe Biden (34%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those voting for Donald Trump (22%)