

# Pastor Views on 2016 Presidential Election

Survey of Protestant Pastors

# Methodology

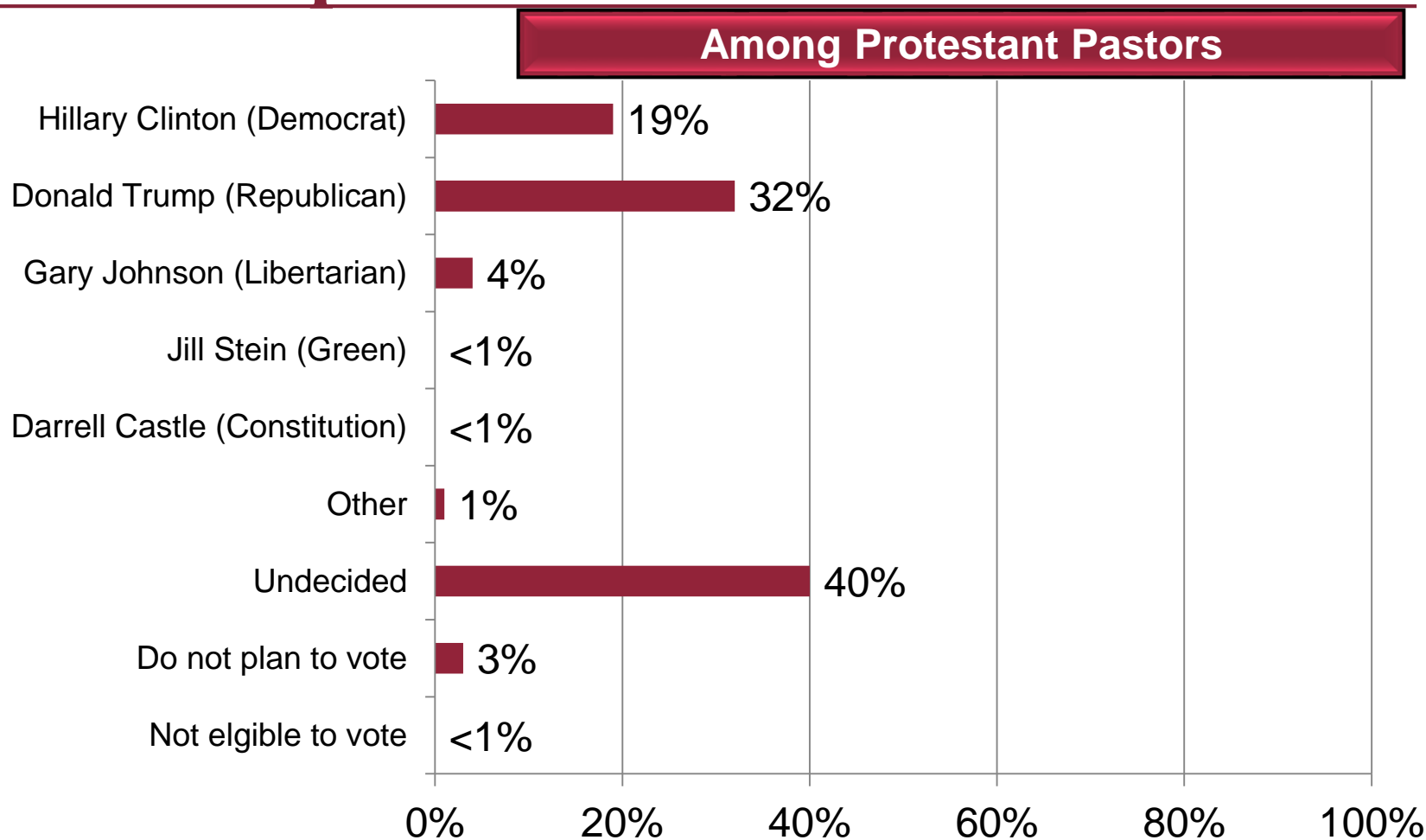
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- ❑ The phone survey of Protestant pastors was conducted August 22 – September 16, 2016
- ❑ The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- ❑ Each interview was conducted 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  $\pm 3.2\%$
- ❑ Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

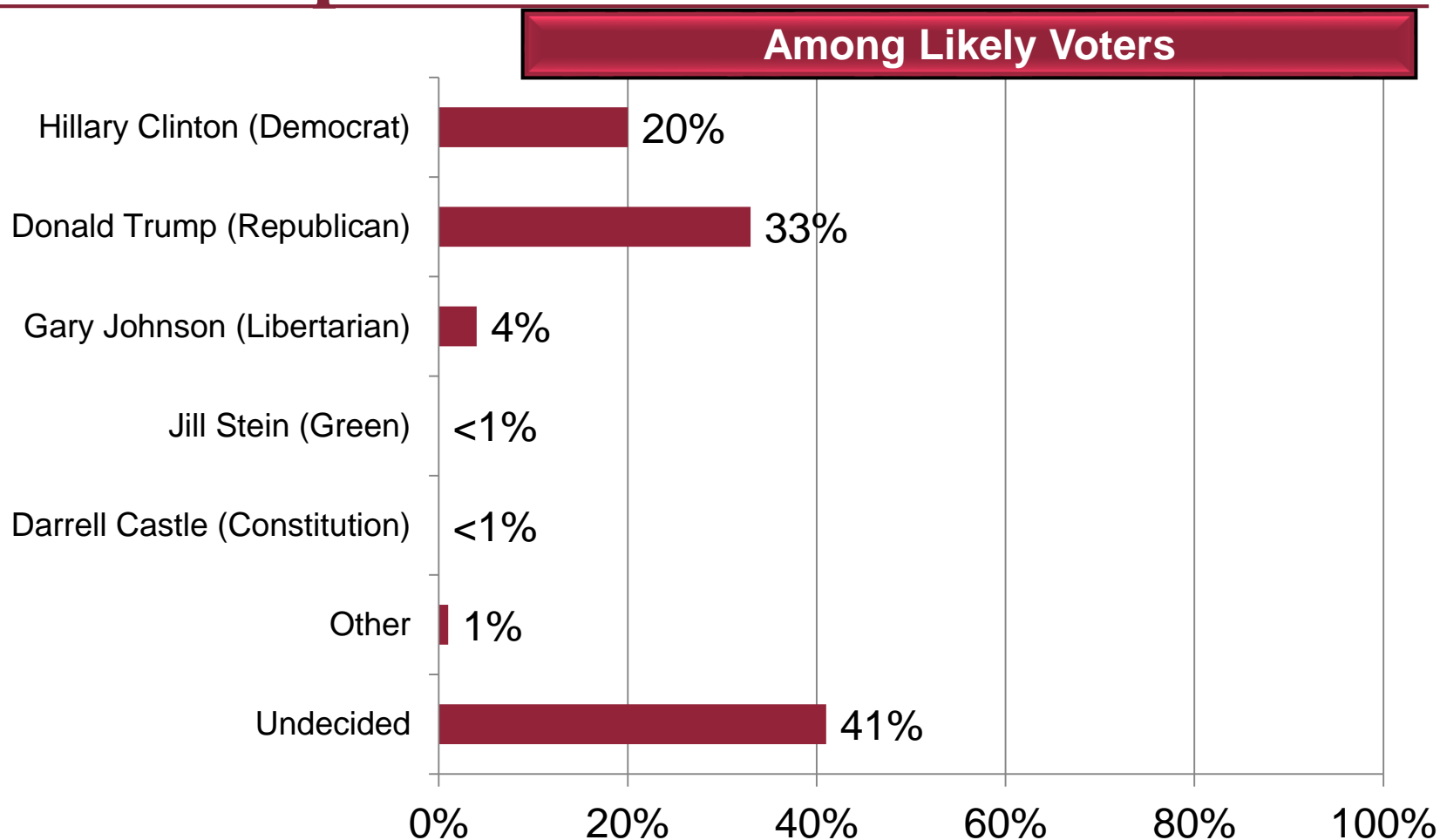
# Survey Responses

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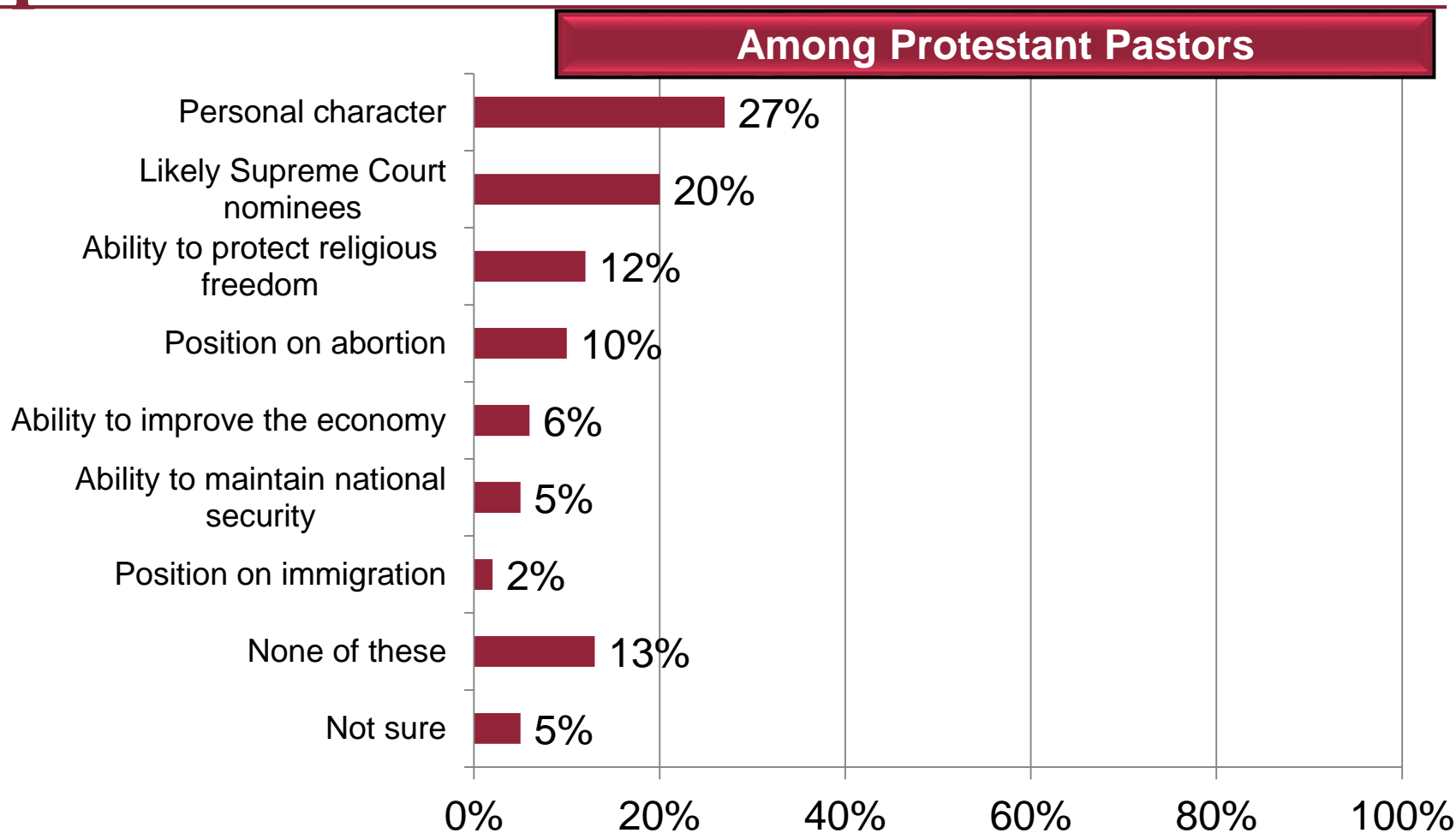
# 40% of pastors have not decided on a candidate; 32% plan to vote for Trump and 19% plan to vote for Clinton



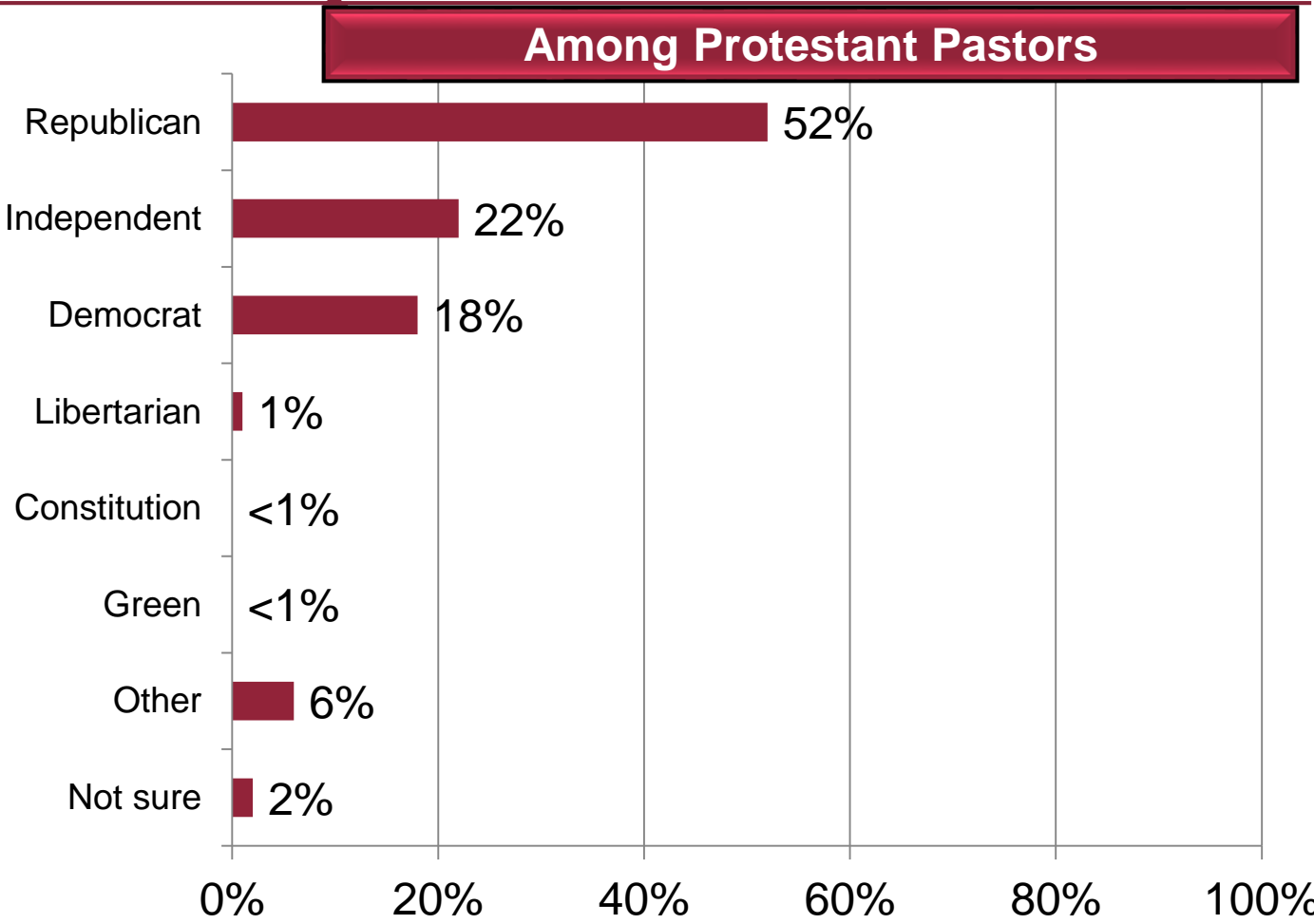
# Among likely voters: 41% are undecided, 33% plan to vote for Trump, and 20% plan to vote for Clinton



# 27% of pastors say personal character is the most important characteristic of a presidential candidate



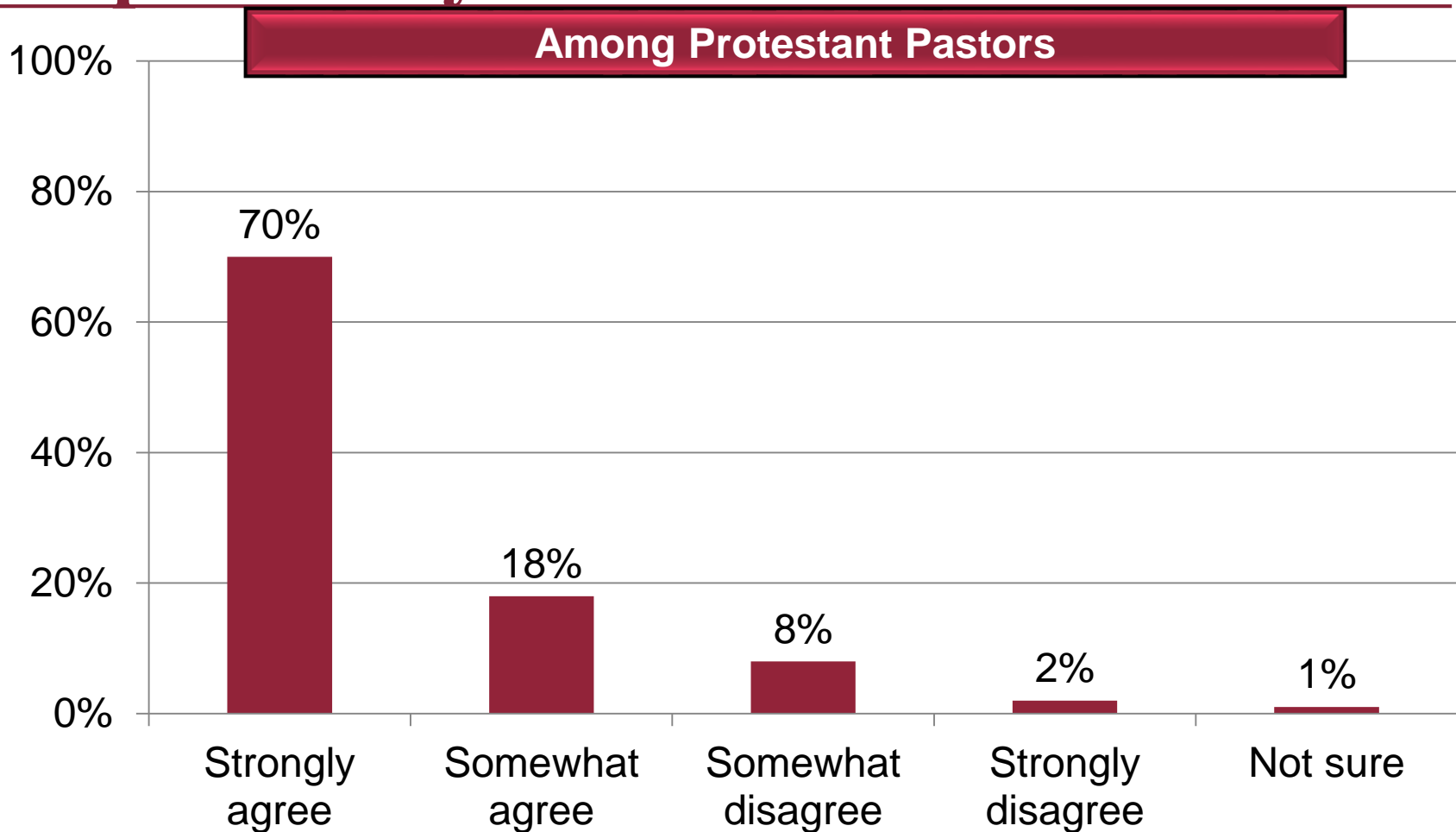
# Over half of pastors chose Republican as their political party; nearly a quarter identify as Independent



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



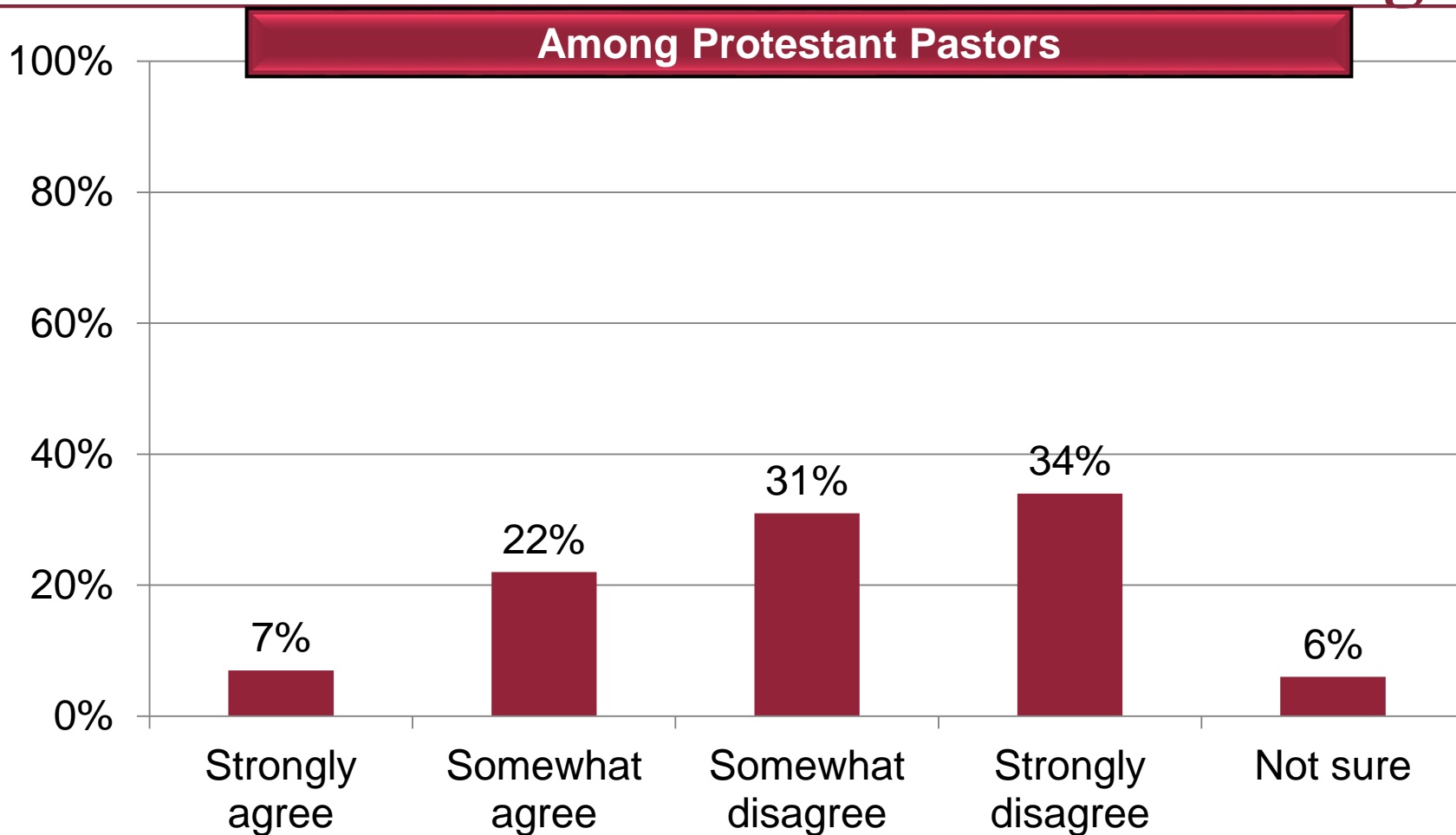
# Nearly 9 out of 10 pastors agree that American Christians have a biblical responsibility to vote



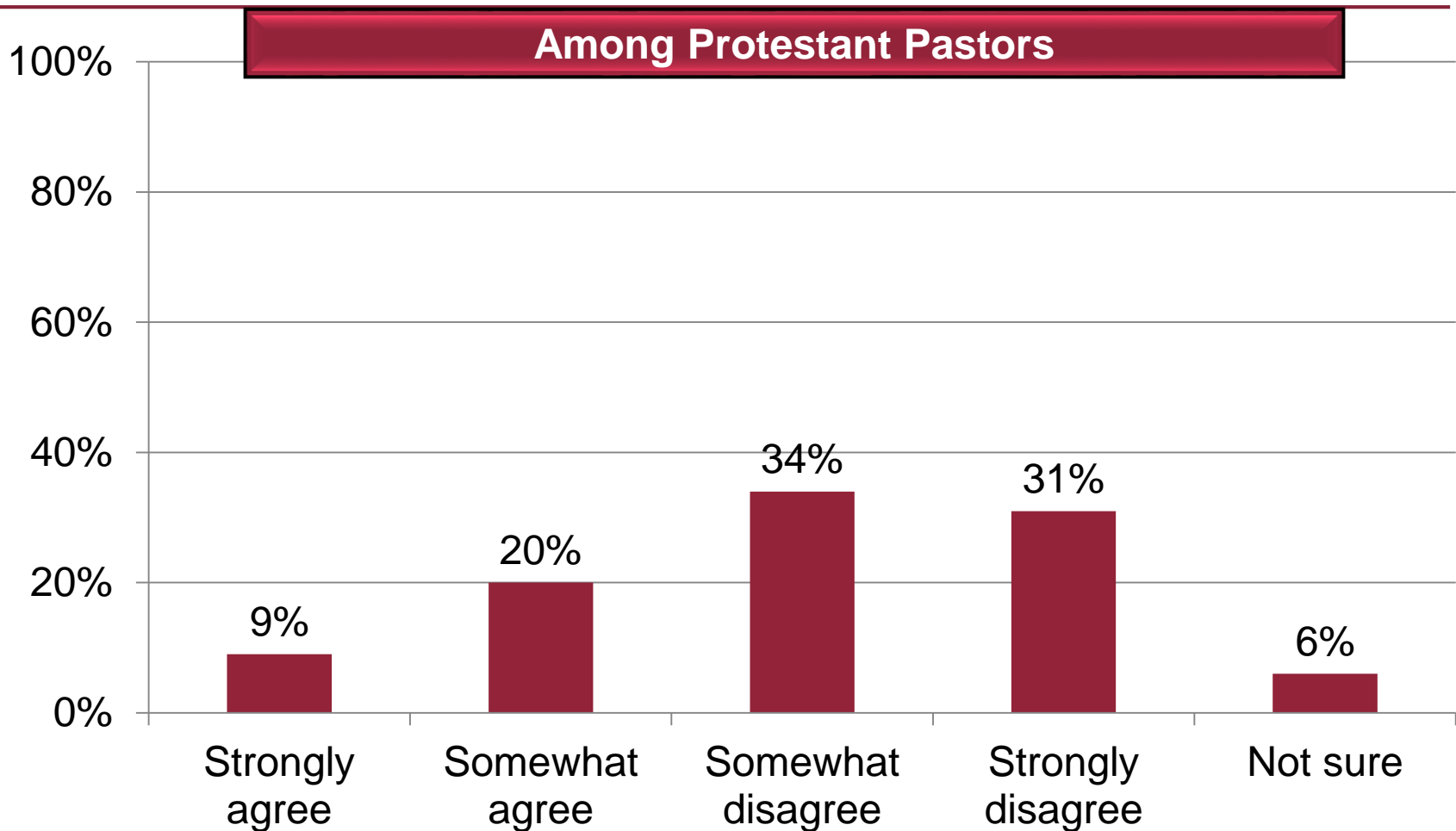
Q: "American Christians have a biblical responsibility to vote."



# 66% of pastors disagree that American Christians should vote for a candidate who has a reasonable chance of winning



# 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

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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.

| Attendance | Region    | Age   | Pastor's Ethnicity |
|------------|-----------|-------|--------------------|
| 0-49       | Northeast | 18-44 | White              |
| 50-99      | Midwest   | 45-54 | African American   |
| 100-249    | South     | 55-64 | Other Ethnicities  |
| 250+       | West      | 65+   |                    |

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.

| Self-Identify | Denomination               | Education Level   |
|---------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Evangelical   | Baptist                    | No College Degree |
| Mainline      | Christian/Church of Christ | Bachelor's Degree |
|               | Lutheran                   | Master's Degree   |
|               | Methodist                  | Doctoral Degree   |
|               | Pentecostal                |                   |
|               | Presbyterian/<br>Reformed  |                   |
|               | Holiness                   |                   |

# Significant Statistical Differences

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

| Candidate                  | Political Party |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Hillary Clinton (Democrat) | Democrat        |
| Donald Trump (Republican)  | Republican      |
| Gary Johnson (Libertarian) | Independent     |
| Undecided                  |                 |

# “In the 2016 presidential election, for whom do you plan to vote?” (Percentages are among likely voters)

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- 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)**

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- 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 “Hillary Clinton” (9% v 43%), more likely to select “Donald Trump” (39% v 15%), and more likely to select “Undecided” (45% v 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)**

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- 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?”

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- 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?”

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- 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?”

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- 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?”

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- 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?”

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- 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?”

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- 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?”**

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- 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?”**

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- 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.”**

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- 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.”

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- 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.”

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- 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%)

# Pastor Views on 2016 Presidential Election

Survey of Protestant Pastors