

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS  
AND PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE  
2009 RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE SURVEY  
FINAL TOPLINE**

Survey A: August 11-17, 2009, N=2,010

Survey B: August 20-27, 2009, N=2,003

Combined N=4,013

**NOTE: QUESTION NUMBERING IS NOT CONTINUOUS BECAUSE SOME ITEMS HAVE BEEN PREVIOUSLY RELEASED OR HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**

**RANDOMIZE Q.145 a-c AS A BLOCK WITH Q.146a-b AND 147 AS A SEPARATE BLOCK**

**ASK ALL SURVEY A:**

Q.146 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose [READ IN ORDER]

And how about [INSERT NEXT ITEM]?

|  | -----FAVOR----- |                       |              | -----OPPOSE----- |                        |               | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|--|-----------------|-----------------------|--------------|------------------|------------------------|---------------|------------------|
|  | Total           | <i>Strongly Favor</i> | <i>Favor</i> | Total            | <i>Strongly Oppose</i> | <i>Oppose</i> |                  |
| a. Allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally |                 |                       |              |                  |                        |               |                  |
| August 11-17, 2009                                   | 39              | 14                    | 25           | 53               | 31                     | 22            | 8                |
| Mid-April 2009                                       | 35              | 14                    | 21           | 54               | 31                     | 23            | 11               |
| August, 2008   | 39              | 13                    | 26           | 52               | 30                     | 22            | 9                |
| June, 2008 <sup>1</sup>                              | 40              | 15                    | 25           | 52               | 31                     | 21            | 8                |
| Late May, 2008                                       | 38              | 15                    | 23           | 49               | 29                     | 20            | 13               |
| November, 2007                                       | 36              | 12                    | 24           | 54               | 29                     | 25            | 10               |
| August, 2007   | 36              | 13                    | 23           | 55               | 31                     | 24            | 9                |
| Early January, 2007                                  | 37              | 13                    | 24           | 55               | 33                     | 22            | 8                |
| Early November, 2006 (RVs)                           | 30              | 10                    | 20           | 57               | 31                     | 26            | 13               |
| July, 2006   | 35              | 12                    | 23           | 56               | 31                     | 25            | 9                |
| June, 2006   | 33              | 13                    | 20           | 55               | 32                     | 23            | 12               |
| March, 2006  | 39              | 10                    | 29           | 51               | 28                     | 23            | 10               |
| July, 2005   | 36              | 13                    | 23           | 53               | 31                     | 22            | 11               |
| December, 2004                                       | 32              | 14                    | 18           | 61               | 38                     | 23            | 7                |
| August, 2004   | 29              | 8                     | 21           | 60               | 35                     | 25            | 11               |
| July, 2004   | 32              | 10                    | 22           | 56               | 33                     | 23            | 12               |
| Mid-March, 2004                                      | 32              | 10                    | 22           | 59               | 35                     | 24            | 9                |
| Early February, 2004                                 | 30              | 9                     | 21           | 63               | 42                     | 21            | 7                |
| November, 2003                                       | 30              | 10                    | 20           | 62               | 41                     | 21            | 8                |
| October, 2003  | 30              | 9                     | 21           | 58               | 33                     | 25            | 12               |
| Mid-July, 2003                                       | 38              | 10                    | 28           | 53               | 30                     | 23            | 9                |
| March, 2001  | 35              | 8                     | 27           | 57               | 34                     | 23            | 8                |
| June, 1996   | 27              | 6                     | 21           | 65               | 41                     | 24            | 8                |

<sup>1</sup> In May and June 2008, November 2007, June and July 2006, mid-March through August 2004, and October 2003, the question was not part of a list of items. In August 2008 and surveys conducted prior to May 2008, question asked about "allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally."

**Q.146 CONTINUED...**

|  | ----FAVOR---- |                 |              | ----OPPOSE---- |                 |               | (VOL.)<br>DK/Ref |
|--|---------------|-----------------|--------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------|
|  | <u>Total</u>  | <i>Strongly</i> |              | <u>Total</u>   | <i>Strongly</i> |               |                  |
|  |               | <i>Favor</i>    | <i>Favor</i> |                | <i>Oppose</i>   | <i>Oppose</i> |                  |
| b. Allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples |               |                 |              |                |                 |               |                  |
| August 11-17, 2009   | 57            | 22              | 35           | 37             | 21              | 17            | 6                |
| Mid-April 2009   | 53            | 20              | 33           | 39             | 21              | 18            | 8                |
| August, 2008   | 54            | 18              | 36           | 40             | 21              | 19            | 6                |
| Late May, 2008   | 51            | 21              | 30           | 41             | 25              | 16            | 8                |
| July, 2006   | 54            | 19              | 35           | 42             | 24              | 18            | 4                |
| July, 2005   | 53            | 22              | 31           | 40             | 24              | 16            | 7                |
| August, 2004   | 48            | 15              | 33           | 45             | 24              | 21            | 7                |
| July, 2004   | 49            | 18              | 31           | 43             | 25              | 18            | 8                |
| Mid-March, 2004  | 49            | 16              | 33           | 44             | 26              | 18            | 7                |
| October, 2003  | 45            | 14              | 31           | 47             | 27              | 20            | 8                |

**ASK SURVEY A IF SUPPORT GAY MARRIAGE (1,2 IN Q.146a) [N=757]:**

Q.147 Which of these statements comes closer to your view... [READ AND RANDOMIZE]

|    |  | July<br>2006 |
|----|--|--------------|
| 42 | Supporters of gay marriage should not push too hard to make it legal right away, because doing so could create bad feelings against homosexuals<br>OR<br>Supporters of gay marriage should push hard to make it legal as soon as possible, despite the risk of creating bad feelings against homosexuals | 41           |
| 45 |  | 51           |
| 13 | Don't know/refused [VOL. DO NOT READ]  | 8            |

**ASK ALL SURVEY A:**

Moving on...

Q.170 Just your impression, in the United States today, is there a lot of discrimination against [INSERT; RANDOMIZE; OBSERVE FORM SPLITS], or not? And is there a lot of discrimination against [INSERT NEXT ITEM], or not?

|   | Yes, there is a<br><u>lot of discrimination</u> | No, there is not<br><u>a lot of discrimination</u> | (VOL.)<br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|---|---|--|-------------------------|
| a. Evangelical Christians                             | 27  | 56   | 17                      |
| b. Muslims  | 58  | 29   | 13                      |
| c. Jews   | 35  | 54   | 11                      |
| d. Atheists, that is, people who don't believe in God | 26  | 59   | 14                      |
| e. Mormons  | 24  | 56   | 20                      |

**ASK FORM 1 SURVEY A ONLY [N=1011]:**

|                      |    |    |   |
|----------------------|----|----|---|
| f. Blacks            | 49 | 46 | 5 |
| g. Gays and lesbians | 64 | 30 | 6 |

| <b>Q.170 CONTINUED...</b>                |           | Yes, there is a<br><u>lot of discrimination</u> | No, there is not<br><u>a lot of discrimination</u> | <b>(VOL.)</b><br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|--|-----------|---|--|--------------------------------|
| <b>ASK FORM 2 SURVEY A ONLY [N=999]:</b> |           |   |  |                                |
| h.                                       | Hispanics | 52  | 41   | 7                              |
| i.                                       | Women     | 37  | 59   | 4                              |

**ASK ALL SURVEY A:**

On another subject...

Q.180 Do you personally believe that **[INSERT ITEM AND RANDOMIZE]** is morally acceptable, morally wrong, or is it not a moral issue. **[IF NECESSARY]** And is **[INSERT ITEM]** morally acceptable, morally wrong, or is it not a moral issue?

|    |                     | <u>Morally</u><br><u>Acceptable</u> | <u>Morally</u><br><u>Wrong</u> | Not a<br><u>Moral</u><br><u>Issue</u> | <b>(VOL.)</b><br><u>Depends on</u><br><u>the Situation</u> | <b>(VOL.)</b><br><u>Don't know/</u><br><u>Refused</u> |
|----|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| a. | Having an abortion  |                                     |                                |                                       |  |   |
|    | August 11-17, 2009  | 10                                  | 52                             | 25                                    | 8  | 4   |
|    | February, 2006      | 12                                  | 52                             | 23                                    | 11   | 2   |
| b. | Homosexual behavior |                                     |                                |                                       |  |   |
|    | August 11-17, 2009  | 9                                   | 49                             | 35                                    | 2  | 6   |
|    | February, 2006      | 12                                  | 50                             | 33                                    | 1  | 4   |

**ASK FORM 1 SURVEY A ONLY**

**[N=1001]:**

|    |                    |    |    |    |   |   |
|----|--------------------|----|----|----|---|---|
| c. | Divorce            |    |    |    |   |   |
|    | August 11-17, 2009 | 20 | 29 | 40 | 6 | 4 |

**ASK FORM 2 SURVEY A ONLY**

**[N=999]:**

|    |                    |    |    |    |   |   |
|----|--------------------|----|----|----|---|---|
| d. | Drinking alcohol   |    |    |    |   |   |
|    | August 11-17, 2009 | 20 | 15 | 56 | 6 | 3 |

**ASK ALL:**

RELIG What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, something else, or nothing in particular?

[INTERVIEWER: IF R VOLUNTEERS “nothing in particular, none, no religion, etc.” BEFORE REACHING END OF LIST, PROMPT WITH: And would you say that’s atheist, agnostic, or just nothing in particular?]

**IF SOMETHING ELSE, NOTHING IN PARTICULAR OR DK/REF (RELIG=11, 12, 99) ASK:**

CHR Do you think of yourself as a Christian or not?

- 40 Protestant (Baptist, Methodist, Non-denominational, Lutheran, Presbyterian, Pentecostal, Episcopalian, Reformed, Church of Christ, Jehovah’s Witness, etc.)
- 23 Roman Catholic (Catholic)
- 2 Mormon (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints/LDS)
- \* Orthodox (Greek, Russian, or some other orthodox church)
- 2 Jewish (Judaism)
- \* Muslim (Islam)
- 1 Buddhist
- \* Hindu
- 2 Atheist (do not believe in God)
- 3 Agnostic (not sure if there is a God)
- 2 Something else (**SPECIFY**)
- 12 Nothing in particular
- 11 Christian (**VOL.**)
- \* Unitarian (Universalist) (**VOL.**)
- 2 Don’t Know/Refused (**VOL.**)

**IF CHRISTIAN (RELIG=1-4, 13 OR ((RELIG=11 OR RELIG=99) AND CHR=1)):**

BORN Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or evangelical Christian, or not?

**BASED ON TOTAL**

- 34 Yes, would
- 40 No, would not
- 4 Don't know/Refused (**VOL.**)
- 78% Christian

**ASK ALL:**

ATTEND Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services... more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

**NOTE: ATTEND FOR BOTH SURVEY A AND SURVEY B ARE PRESENTED HERE.**

|                    | More than<br><u>once a week</u> | Once<br><u>a week</u> | Once or twice<br><u>a month</u> | A few times<br><u>a year</u> | <u>Seldom</u> | <u>Never</u> | ( <b>VOL.</b> )<br><u>DK/Ref</u> |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------------------------|
| August 11-27, 2009 | 14                              | 23                    | 16                              | 18                           | 16            | 11           | 1                                |
| August, 2008       | 13                              | 26                    | 16                              | 19                           | 15            | 10           | 1                                |
| Aug, 2007          | 14                              | 26                    | 16                              | 18                           | 16            | 9            | 1                                |
| July, 2006         | 15                              | 25                    | 15                              | 18                           | 14            | 12           | 1                                |
| July, 2005         | 14                              | 27                    | 14                              | 19                           | 14            | 11           | 1                                |
| Aug, 2004          | 13                              | 25                    | 15                              | 20                           | 15            | 11           | 1                                |
| July, 2003         | 16                              | 27                    | 15                              | 18                           | 14            | 10           | *                                |

**ATTEND CONTINUED...**

|                           | <u>More than<br/>once a week</u> | <u>Once<br/>a week</u> | <u>Once or twice<br/>a month</u> | <u>A few times<br/>a year</u> | <u>Seldom</u> | <u>Never</u> | <b>(VOL.)<br/><u>DK/Ref</u></b> |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|---------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| March, 2003               | 15                               | 24                     | 15                               | 21                            | 15            | 9            | 1                               |
| March, 2002               | 15                               | 25                     | 17                               | 18                            | 15            | 9            | 1                               |
| Mid-Nov, 2001             | 16                               | 26                     | 14                               | 17                            | 16            | 10           | 1                               |
| March, 2001               | 17                               | 26                     | 17                               | 17                            | 15            | 7            | 1                               |
| Sept, 2000 ( <i>RVs</i> ) | 17                               | 28                     | 16                               | 17                            | 13            | 8            | 1                               |
| June, 1997                | 12                               | 26                     | 17                               | 20                            | 15            | 10           | *                               |
| June, 1996                | 14                               | 25                     | 17                               | 21                            | 13            | 9            | 1                               |