

Survey Results on “Compromise”

These findings are based on a select number of questions from two national telephone surveys of randomly selected adults aged 18 and older. The tracking survey included 1,004 adults and was conducted between July 28 and August 2, 2004; it averaged 13 minutes in length. The baseline survey, which was published in a 2000 Public Agenda report entitled *For Goodness’ Sake: Why So Many Want Religion to Play a Greater Role in American Life*, included 1,507 adults and was conducted between November 4 and November 25, 2000; it averaged 30 minutes in length. The margin of error for both surveys is plus or minus three percentage points; it is higher when comparing percentages across subgroups. Results of less than 0.5 are signified by an asterisk (*). Results of zero are signified by a dash (-). Responses may not always total 100% due to rounding. Combining answer categories may produce slight discrepancies between the numbers in these survey results and the numbers in the press release.

Sample Sizes:	2000 (n =)	2004 (n =)
General Public	1,507	1,004
Religion		
• Non-Religious	208	180
• Catholic	359	225
• Evangelical	368	228
• Non-evangelical Protestant	444	360
Church Attendance		
• Greater than once a week	230	124
• Once a week	330	237
• Never	194	122

	General Public ('00/'04)	Religion			Church Attendance			
		Catholic	Non-religious	Nonevan Protest	Evangelical	> Once a week	Once a week	Never
2 When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to the DEATH PENALTY, do you think that:								
They should base their vote on their own religious views	31/36	24/37	13/18	30/35	46/54	50/60	39/51	15/12
They should be willing to compromise with others whose views are different	60/55	69/54	79/70	61/58	42/37	37/26	52/42	78/80
[Vol.] Depends on their religious views	5/3	3/3	2/6	4/2	7/3	7/5	5/3	3/3
Don't know	4/6	4/7	6/6	5/6	5/6	6/9	4/5	4/5
4 When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to POVERTY AND WELFARE, do you think that:								
They should base their vote on their own religious views	24/27	16/28	10/14	22/26	38/39	40/50	28/38	13/11
They should be willing to compromise with others whose views are different	68/66	78/66	84/78	70/67	52/55	47/42	65/54	81/85
[Vol.] Depends on their religious views	5/4	3/2	1/6	4/4	6/2	7/4	5/4	4/2
Don't know	3/3	3/4	5/3	4/2	4/4	6/4	3/5	2/2
6 When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to ABORTION, do you think that:								
They should base their vote on their own religious views	35/42	26/42	14/19	33/42	55/61	60/69	41/60	19/17
They should be willing to compromise with others whose views are different	57/51	68/50	81/73	58/52	34/31	25/23	51/32	75/78
[Vol.] Depends on their religious views	5/3	3/2	1/5	5/2	8/3	9/4	5/2	4/4
Don't know	4/4	3/7	5/4	5/4	3/4	6/4	3/6	2/2

	General Public ('00/'04)	Religion			Church Attendance			
		Catholic	Non-religious	Nonevan Protest	Evangelical	> Once a week	Once a week	Never
8 When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to GAY RIGHTS, do you think that:								
They should base their vote on their own religious views	31/38	19/37	13/21	30/37	50/53	55/60	36/52	16/14
They should be willing to compromise with others whose views are different	60/54	75/56	79/73	61/55	36/36	30/29	57/39	77/81
[Vol.] Depends on their religious views	4/4	3/2	2/5	4/3	7/6	10/6	4/4	3/2
Don't know	5/4	4/5	6/2	5/5	7/5	6/6	4/5	5/2
10 When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to GAY MARRIAGE IN PARTICULAR, do you think that:								
They should base their vote on their own religious views	-/38	-/37	-/17	-/42	-/54	-/59	-/56	-/12
They should be willing to compromise with others whose views are different	-/53	-/56	-/74	-/52	-/32	-/25	-/35	-/82
[Vol.] Depends on their religious views	-/4	-/2	-/5	-/2	-/7	-/8	-/4	-/2
Don't know	-/5	-/6	-/4	-/5	-/7	-/8	-/5	-/5
<i>Note: This question was not asked in 2000.</i>								
13 How close does this statement come to your own view: Even elected officials who are deeply religious sometimes have to make compromises and set their convictions aside to get results while in government—is this very close, somewhat close, not too close, or not close at all to your own view?								
NET Close	84/74	85/78	85/82	85/73	79/63	75/55	82/63	85/82
Very close	46/38	45/41	56/43	47/38	38/28	35/24	37/29	56/44
Somewhat close	38/37	40/37	29/39	38/37	42/35	40/31	45/34	30/38
Not too close	7/10	6/10	4/4	7/11	9/14	8/17	9/15	3/6
Not close at all	8/14	7/12	8/11	6/13	11/21	15/25	8/20	10/9
Don't know	2/2	2*	3/3	1/3	1/2	2/3	1/2	2/3
27 Do you think that our political system would be threatened if religious leaders and groups were to become a lot more involved in politics, or do you think our political system could easily handle this type of involvement?								
Political system would be threatened	31/33	29/32	56/47	32/30	20/24	20/24	24/25	49/47
Political system could easily handle this	63/61	66/62	38/46	61/62	75/70	73/68	72/69	44/47
Don't know	6/7	5/6	6/7	7/8	6/6	7/8	4/6	8/6