

2009 Progressive Religious Activist Survey
Final Topline Results
N=1,886

1. In your judgment, how important was the 2008 election to the future of the country?

<i>Very Important</i>			<i>Somewhat Important</i>			<i>Not at all Important</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	--
84	12	2	1	*	1	*	*

2. Overall, what impact do you think the results of the 2008 election will have on American society?

<i>Very Positive</i>			<i>Mixed Results</i>			<i>Very Negative</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	--
43	31	16	7	1	*	1	1

3. Regarding expressions of religious faith and prayer by political leaders in 2008 was there:

39	Too much
52	About the right amount
5	Too little
4	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

4. In your opinion, how much influence did the following groups have on the 2008 election results?

	<i>Great Influence</i>		<i>Some Influence</i>		<i>Little Influence</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
	(5)	(4)	(3)	(2)	(1)	--
a. Gay rights groups	4	12	52	20	9	3
b. Religious conservative groups	8	22	39	22	7	2
c. Labor unions	9	35	42	10	2	2
d. Business groups	12	29	40	14	2	3
e. African American groups	28	35	27	7	1	2
f. Gun owner groups	4	14	31	33	15	3
g. Religious progressive groups	9	34	39	13	3	2

5. In your opinion, what is the *most* important thing progressive religious people should do to increase or maintain their influence in national politics?

33	Be visible and publicly influential
22	<i>Speak out, Act</i>
5	<i>Organize</i>
4	<i>Reclaim faith from the Right</i>
2	<i>Serve as an example</i>
15	Be politically active
13	Focus on civility/pluralism and common good
12	Advocate for social justice issues
10	Support separation of church and state
7	Other/Misc
<u>10</u>	Refused
100	Total

6. Some religious leaders have argued that religious people should withdraw from politics and rededicate themselves to non-political pursuits. What is your view on this matter?

<i>Should withdraw for non-political activities</i>			<i>Do some of both</i>			<i>Stay focused on political action</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>(6)</i>	<i>(7)</i>	
7	4	3	36	13	14	19	-- 4

7. Do you think religious people should focus more on domestic issues like poverty or on foreign policy issues like ending the Iraq war?

<i>Focus on domestic issues</i>			<i>Focus on both kinds of issues</i>			<i>Focus on foreign policy</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(5)</i>	<i>(6)</i>	<i>(7)</i>	
45	12	5	32	1	1	2	-- 2

8. What should be the *main* goal for religious people when they engage in politics?

16	To proclaim their distinctive values
36	To correct specific social problems
39	To transform the society overall
<u>2</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

9. Which of the following statements comes closest to your views?

65	Political action by religious people can help establish justice in American society
23	Political action by religious people is unlikely establish justice in American society but it could correct some injustice.
7	Political action by religious people will do little to establish justice in American society
5	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

10. Overall, what worries you more:

13	Public officials who don't pay enough attention to religion
81	Public officials who are too close to religious leaders
6	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

PRIORITIES AND ISSUES

11. How important is it for people of religious people to focus on the following issues?

	<i>The most Important</i> (1)	(2)	<i>Not Sure</i> (3)	(4)	<i>Not at all Important</i> (5)	<i>Ref.</i>
a. Poverty/Homelessness	74	22	1	*	*	3
b. Abortion	7	16	16	30	26	5
c. The Iraq War	45	37	9	4	1	4
d. The environment	56	35	4	1	1	3
e. Health care	67	26	3	1	*	3
f. Immigration	21	38	19	11	6	5
g. Same-sex marriage	8	19	17	20	31	5
h. Jobs/the economy	48	31	11	4	2	4

12. Which of these statements comes *closest* to your view of the proper legal status of marriage?

4	The law should define marriage as a union between one man and one woman
33	The law should define marriage as a union between one man and one woman, but recognize legal agreements between same-sex couples
59	The law should define marriage as a union between two people regardless of their gender
4	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

13. Which of the following statements *best* describes your view on abortion?

26	Legal in all cases
54	Legal in most cases
13	Illegal in most cases
2	Illegal in all cases
5	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

14 Which of the following statements comes *closest* to your view on the war in Iraq?

3	It was completely justified
2	It was probably justified
13	It was probably unjustified
80	It was completely unjustified
<u>2</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

15. Which of these statements comes *closest* to your view?

21	The U.S. should keep its troops in Iraq until the situation has stabilized
75	The U.S. should bring its troops home as soon as possible
<u>4</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

16. Do you think the use of torture against suspected terrorists in order to gain important information is:

1	Often justified
4	Sometimes justified
14	Rarely justified
79	Never justified
<u>2</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

17. Who do you think is *most* responsible for the current economic crisis?

42	Corporations that were greedy and made risky business decisions
47	Government that neglected its duty and allowed unethical business practices
6	Individuals who were careless and borrowed more money than they could afford
<u>5</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

18. Where do you stand on government spending and services?

<i>Provide fewer services and cut spending</i>				<i>Provide more services and increase spending</i>		<i>Ref.</i>
<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(5)</i>		
3	2	24	39	29		3

19. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

89	Tax cuts should be directed at lower income people to increase fairness
7	Tax cuts should be direct at upper income people to increase economic growth
<u>4</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

20. Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

16	Large tax cuts are good for the economy because they encourage necessary investment and create jobs
75	Large tax cuts are bad for the economy because they cause budget deficits and prevent necessary government spending
9	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.21 HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

22. What are your views on the following issues?

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
a. The federal government should spend more to reduce poverty and hunger in the U.S. even if it means raising taxes on the middle class	27	45	17	7	1	3
b. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
c. Homosexuals should have all the same rights and privileges as other Americans	73	18	4	2	1	2
d. The U.S. should support Israel over the Palestinians in the Middle East	4	8	18	36	31	3
e. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
f. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
g. More environmental protection is needed even if it raises prices or costs jobs	50	37	8	2	1	2
h. The government should ban all scientific research involving stem cells from human embryos	3	4	7	19	65	2
i. The U.S. should have comprehensive national health insurance even if it means fewer choices for patients	38	40	12	5	2	3
j. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
k. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
l. Given the threat of terrorism, the U.S. must be able to take preemptive military action against other countries	2	7	13	30	45	3

GENERAL POLITICAL VIEWS

23. Overall, how would you describe your views on political issues?

<i>Extremely Conservative</i>			<i>Moderate</i>			<i>Extremely Liberal</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	--
*	1	1	14	28	41	12	3

24. How would you describe your political partisanship?

<i>Strong Democrat</i>			<i>Pure Independent</i>			<i>Strong Republican</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	--
28	33	23	9	2	1	1	3

25. I tend to strongly support my party:

19	Under all circumstances
38	Only when it offers a candidate I believe in
33	Only when it pursues issues important to me
2	Only when the opposition is inferior
*	Only when it has a real chance of winning
<u>8</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

26. Who was your first choice for the 2008 Republican presidential nomination?

23	John McCain
5	Mitt Romney
4	Mike Huckabee
9	Other
26	None
<u>33</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

27. Who was your first choice for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination?

58	Barack Obama
22	Hillary Clinton
6	John Edwards
9	Other
1	None
<u>4</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

28. Who did you vote for in the 2008 presidential election?

93	Barack Obama
3	John McCain
1	Other
*	Did not vote
<u>3</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

29. Which of the following statements *best* describes the relationship of your religious faith to your voting decision in 2008?

20	My faith was more important to my voting decision than other factors
41	My faith was about as important to my voting decision as other factors
18	My faith was less important to my voting decision than other factors
19	My faith was not at all important to my voting decision
<u>2</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

30. Which of the following statements comes *closest* to your view?

17	America has always been and is currently a Christian nation
20	America was a Christian nation in the past, but it is not now
57	America has never been a Christian nation
<u>6</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

31. How involved were you in the following political campaigns in 2008?

	<i>Very Active (1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>Somewhat Active (3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>Not Active (5)</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
a. Presidential general election	15	20	30	15	17	3
b. Presidential primary campaign	11	16	29	19	22	3
c. Congressional campaigns	5	11	25	21	33	5
d. Statewide campaigns	4	11	22	20	38	5
e. Local campaigns	5	11	18	23	38	5
f. Ballot issues	5	11	18	20	41	5

32. Did you engage in any of these political activities in the 2008 or 2004 elections?

	<i>Yes, in 2008</i>	<i>Yes, in 2004</i>
a. Campaigned door-to-door	17	12
b. Made a campaign donation	74	48
c. Contacted public officials	54	36
d. Participated in a protest	22	22
e. Engaged in fundraising	21	10
f. Served as party official	3	2
g. Passed out voter guides	15	10
h. Joined a political group	23	13
i. Made campaign phone calls	24	15
j. Wrote letter to editor	20	15
k. Attended campaign rally	34	19
l. Ran for public office	1	1
m. Signed a petition	64	43
n. Participated in a boycott	8	7
o. Attended public meeting	40	24
p. Registered new voters	15	10
q. Canvassed churches	3	2
r. Organized campaign event	5	3

33. In 2008 campaign season, did you do any of the following things?

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. Emailed a candidate or campaign	61	39
b. Signed an online petition	72	28
c. Read a political blog	64	36
d. Participated in a live webchat	5	95
e. Listened to a campaign podcast	25	75
f. Emailed information to friends	65	35
g. Discussed politics on a social networking site	21	79
h. Signed up to receive political emails	68	32
i. Make a political donation online	54	46
j. Written about politics on a blog	10	90
k. Viewed a political video online	60	40
l. Participated in a meet-up	12	88
m. Downloaded voter guides	25	75

34. In what year did you first become actively involved in politics?

15	2000-2008
6	1990-1999
9	1980-1989
15	1970-1979
25	1960-1969
7	1950-1959
6	Before 1950
<u>16</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Q.35 HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

36. Do you consider yourself to be part of the progressive religious movement?

68	Yes
27	No
<u>5</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

37. Do you belong to or contribute to a progressive religious organization that focuses on issues such as social justice, peace, and the environment?

72	Yes
22	No
<u>6</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

38. **IF YES [Q37=1]**, how did you come to join this organization? [N=1,445]

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. I searched for a group to join	19	81
b. Literature at a political event	3	97
c. A friend from my religious community asked me to join	22	78
d. Someone else asked me	11	89
e. I saw an ad or notice for the group	24	76
f. Literature at a religious community event	16	84
g. A friend from outside of my religious community asked me to join	4	96
h. I received direct mail or email solicitation	38	62

39. **IF YES [Q37=1]**, do you *regularly* engage in the following activities? [N=1,445]

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. Attend local meetings of the group	27	73
b. Work with allied groups	23	77
c. Hold a leadership position	18	82
d. Participate in group activities or projects	32	68
e. Pay dues or donate money to the group	75	25
f. Receive a newsletter or other materials	86	14

40. **IF YES [Q37=1]**, does this group do any of the following kinds of activities? [N=1,445]

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. Contact public officials	74	26
b. Conduct voter registration drives	20	80
c. Educate citizens on issues	80	20
d. Draft legislation	17	83
e. Urge members to contact federal officials	71	29
f. Conduct get out the vote programs	25	75
g. Participate in election campaign	23	77
h. Conduct awareness campaigns	66	34

41. **IF YES [Q37=1]**, does this group receive support from any of these sources? [N=1,445]

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. Support from members	86	14
b. Support from a political party	2	98
c. Support from businesses	6	94
d. Support from churches or ministries groups	50	50
e. Support from foundations or charities	29	71
f. Support from allied groups	21	79

Q.42 HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS

43. How do you feel about the following statements?

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>	<i>Ref.</i>
a. The main cause of America's problems is moral decay.	5	21	19	35	14	6
b. We should tolerate diverse views on morality.	27	50	9	7	1	6
c. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS	12	40	19	16	7	6
d. The main cause of America's problems is poverty and discrimination	13	34	27	17	3	6
e. Social justice is at the heart of all authentic religious values	45	32	8	6	4	5
f. Clergy and congregations should stay out of politics.	14	16	12	35	18	5
g. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
h. We should encourage ethnic, racial, and religious diversity in society	64	28	3	1	1	3
i. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
j. HELD FOR FURTHER ANALYSIS						
k. We must maintain a strict separation of church and state.	51	30	8	5	2	4
l. Religious people should cooperate in politics even if they disagree on religious questions	26	47	14	5	2	6
m. It is necessary to believe in God in order to be a moral person.	3	3	6	31	54	3
<i>Please answer if you are a Christian... [N=1,341]</i>						
n. Because of Christ's commandments, Christians have a special obligation to solve social problems	48	39	4	4	1	4
o. If enough people were brought to Christ, social ills would take care of themselves	4	9	22	39	22	4

44. What is your opinion of the following groups and leaders?

	<i>Very Favorable</i>		<i>Not Sure</i>		<i>Very Unfavorable</i>	<i>Ref.</i>	<i>I am a Member or contributor</i>
Groups...	<i>(1)</i>	<i>(2)</i>	<i>(3)</i>	<i>(4)</i>	<i>(5)</i>	--	--
a. Interfaith Alliance	41	20	26	1	*	12	25
b. Prison Fellowship	12	23	39	5	2	19	1
c. Center for American Progress	5	8	59	1	1	26	1
d. Bread for the World	30	22	29	*	1	18	8
e. Religious Action Center for Reformed Judaism	6	8	60	1	1	24	2
f. Evangelicals for Social Action	6	15	44	5	6	24	1
g. ACLU	31	35	12	7	4	11	15
h. Focus on the Family	3	5	15	17	43	17	1
j. Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice	14	23	34	5	4	20	4
k. NAACP	19	44	15	4	2	16	5
l. Human Rights Campaign	26	25	29	1	1	18	5
m. Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good	7	9	56	2	1	25	2
n. Let Justice Roll Campaign	5	9	59	1	*	26	1
o. Jewish Funds for Justice	8	12	54	2	1	23	2
p. Tikkun/Network of Spiritual Progressives	14	14	48	2	1	21	3
q. Faith in Public Life	3	6	62	2	1	26	1
r. People for the American Way	16	16	39	6	4	19	8
s. Sojourners/Call for Renewal	32	17	28	2	1	20	12
Leaders...							
a. Barack Obama	81	13	1	1	1	3	--
b. Sarah Palin	1	2	5	18	71	3	--
c. Pat Robertson	*	2	4	17	74	3	--
d. Joe Biden	32	50	10	3	2	3	--
e. John McCain	2	25	23	34	11	5	--
f. Hillary Clinton	29	51	11	4	2	3	--
g. Jesse Jackson	6	34	33	18	5	4	--
h. Mike Huckabee	1	17	28	30	20	4	--

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

45. Religious affiliation

44	Mainline Protestant
10	Evangelical Protestant
17	Roman Catholic
1	Other Christians
12	Unitarian/Mixed Faith
6	Jewish
1	Other Faiths
8	Unaffiliated
<u>1</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

45a. My church or religious community should:

12	Strive to preserve its traditional beliefs and practices
65	Be willing to adjust traditions in light of new ideas
13	Strive to adopt modern beliefs and practices
<u>10</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

46. Do any of the following describe your religious views? *Please check all that apply.*

	<i>Yes</i>	<i>No</i>
a. Liberal	48	52
b. Progressive	70	30
c. Ecumenical	51	49
d. Interfaith	48	52
e. Mainline	25	75
f. born-again	12	88
g. Charismatic	4	96
h. Pentecostal	1	99
i. Evangelical	13	87
j. Traditional	14	86
k. Fundamentalist	1	99

47. How important is religion in your life?

43	Extremely important
31	Very important
10	Somewhat important
7	Not too important
6	Not at all important
<u>3</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

48. Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend worship services?

25	More than once a week
36	Once a week
13	Several times a month
11	A few times a year
13	Seldom/Never
<u>2</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

49. Which comes closest to your view of the Scriptures?

3	The actual Word of God, to be taken literally
19	The inspired Word of God, but not to be taken literally on all points
36	Contains the Word of God, but reflects the historical context in which it was written
21	One important source of wisdom about God and humankind
17	Ancient books of moral precepts, stories, and legends
<u>4</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

50. Gender:

46	Male
52	Female
<u>2</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

51. State of residence:

16	Northeast
20	Midwest
27	South
24	West
<u>13</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

52. Size of place:

16	Rural/small town
18	Small city
9	Suburbs of medium city
13	Medium city
16	Suburbs of major city
24	Major city
<u>4</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

53. Age:

4	Under 35
13	35-50
38	51-65
43	Over 65
<u>2</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

54. Marital Status:

55	Married
8	Remarried
9	Widowed
10	Divorced/separated
5	Partnered
11	Never Married
<u>2</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

55. Do you have school-aged children?

13	Yes
84	No
<u>3</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

56. If YES, do your children attend: **[BASED ON TOTAL]**

87	No children
11	Public school
1	Christian school
1	Parochial school
*	Home school
<u>0</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

57. Race:

92	White
2	African American
*	Hispanic
1	Asian
<u>5</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

58. Education:

*	Less than high school
1	High school graduate
7	Some college/technical training
17	College graduate
72	Post-graduate training or degree
<u>3</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

59. Occupation:

39	Current
41	Retired
<u>20</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

60. Approximate 2008 family income:

5	Under \$25,000
20	\$25,000-\$49,999
20	\$50,000-\$74,999
16	\$75,000-\$99,999
17	\$100,000-\$149,999
6	\$150,000-\$199,999
3	\$200,000-\$250,000
4	Over \$250,000
<u>9</u>	Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Thank you for your time and consideration!