The Polling Center  
The Institute of Government  
Jackson State University  

Spring 2016 – FINAL

The Polling Center at Jackson State University’s Institute of Government needs your help. We are conducting a survey of Americans on their opinions about religion in the United States, Religious Freedom Laws and college affordability. Your responses to this important online survey are strictly confidential. Thank you very much.

Screener

A. Are you currently a resident of the United States and 18 years of age and older?

   01 Yes (continues)
   02 No (terminate)
   03 Don’t know / Unsure (terminate)

B. What State do you live in?

   [Enter state]

Religion in the United States

Religious Freedom Laws

1. Nearly one-half of all fifty states have a version of a “Religious Freedom Law”. Most recently, Georgia, North Carolina and Mississippi laws have been in the news. These laws allow individuals and businesses to refuse service to members of the lesbian, gay, bi-sexual or transgendered population by stating a “sincerely held religious belief”.

Prior to receiving this survey invitation, how aware would you say you were of these laws? Would you say…

   01 Very aware
   02 Somewhat aware
   03 Somewhat unaware
   04 Not at all aware
   05 Unsure
2. How interested would you say you are in these laws or the issues held within these laws which allow individuals and businesses to refuse service to individuals based on religious beliefs? Would you say…

01  Very interested  
02  Somewhat interested  
03  Somewhat uninterested  
04  Not at all interested  
05  Unsure  

3. In general, how strongly would you say you support or oppose these Religious Freedom Laws? Would you say…

01  Strongly support  
02  Somewhat support  
03  Somewhat oppose  
04  Strongly oppose  
05  Unsure
The following are a number of statements related to Religious Freedom Laws. For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. These religious freedom laws are creeping in nature and will only get</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
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<td>04</td>
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<tr>
<td>more restrictive and discriminatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>5. Sponsors of these laws have the real hidden intent of discrimination</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. We do need some religious freedom laws to protect those with</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
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<tr>
<td>legitimate beliefs and faiths</td>
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<tr>
<td>7. I see these religious freedom laws as a way to “legislate morality”</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
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<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. I would support some level of religious freedom laws in my own state</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
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<td>05</td>
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<tr>
<td>9. I would support boycotts of states with religious freedom laws by</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
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<td>companies or sports figures</td>
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<tr>
<td>10. I can see myself boycotting or not vacationing in a state with</td>
<td>01</td>
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<td>05</td>
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<tr>
<td>religious freedom laws in place</td>
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<tr>
<td>11. Sometimes states do pass laws that are designed to discriminate</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. These laws are accurately and properly titled: “Religious Freedom</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laws”</td>
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<tr>
<td>13. A private parish pastor should have a right not to marry a lesbian /</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>gay couple</td>
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<tr>
<td>14. A public Justice of the Peace should have the right not to marry a</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>lesbian / gay couple</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Donald Trump

Some are concerned about a Donald Trump presidency while others are not. The following are a couple of statements related to religious freedom laws if Donald Trump becomes President. For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, strongly disagree.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15. If Donald Trump becomes President we will see more restrictive religious freedom laws</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
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<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. In a Trump presidency, we will likely see a move from a focus on the LGBT community members to include Muslims, immigrants and Mexicans</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Religious Liberty Laws / Bathroom Bills

17. Some religious liberty laws are known as “bathroom bills”. These are designed to keep transgendered people out of the bathroom that corresponds to their belief / preference. For example, the South Carolina Governor recently vetoed a bill that would have restricted access to public school restrooms and locker rooms based on a person’s biological sex.

Prior to receiving this survey invitation, how aware would you say you were of these so-called bathroom laws? Would you say…

06 Very aware
07 Somewhat aware
08 Somewhat unaware
09 Not at all aware
10 Unsure

18. How interested would you say you are in these laws or the issues held within these bathroom laws? Would you say…

06 Very interested
07 Somewhat interested
08 Somewhat uninterested
09 Not at all interested
10 Unsure
19. In general, how strongly would you say you support or oppose these bathroom laws that restrict access to biological sex only? Would you say…

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Strongly support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Somewhat support</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Somewhat oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Strongly oppose</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Unsure</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**The Religious Divide**

Some people worry that laws such as the religious freedom / liberty laws are dividing our nation. Others are more optimistic about compromise on many of these difficult issues.

The follow are a number of statements. Please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>20. It's possible to compromise on the issue of religious freedoms to make both sides somewhat comfortable</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21. We were founded as a nation on religious freedom and should strive to protect those rights</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22. We are moving more toward unity as Americans today than in our past</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23. I believe it is possible to bridge between civil liberties and constitutional protections.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**College Affordability**

24. Which of the following best describes your college experience?

<p>| | |</p>
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Yes, attended/attending but did not graduate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Yes, have an undergraduate degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Yes, have a graduate degree</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>No, did not attend college <strong>(Go to Q28)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Unsure <strong>(Go to Q28)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
25. During the process of attending college, how difficult was it for you to secure funding to pay for college? Would you say…

01 Very difficult
02 Somewhat difficult
03 Somewhat easy
04 Very easy
05 Unsure / Don’t recall

26. Did you ever delay or postpone due to the cost of college?

01 Yes
02 No
03 Unsure

27. Which of the following did you utilize to help pay for your college course? Please indicate all that apply.

01 Grants such as Pell (Go to Q29)
02 Scholarships
03 Your own personal funds
04 Parent financial support
05 Gifts
06 College savings/savings accounts
07 Other: ___________________________

Q28 ONLY for Respondents Codes 04 / 05 in Q24….

28. Please indicate the reasons you did not attend or graduate from college. Please indicate all that apply.

01 No desire / no interest / not for me
02 My preferred avocation did not require college
03 Lacked (lack) the financial resources
04 Couldn’t qualify for admission
05 I/family had too much money to qualify for financial assistance
06 Could not secure / find financial assistance
07 Was accepted at a college, but ultimately could not afford to go
08 Other: ___________________________
Statistics show that 79% of students coming from the top quartile of family income receive a BA Degree while just 11% of those students coming from the bottom quartile of family income receive the same BA Degree. These statistics and declines in the number of Pell Grants and other financial assistance awards make it increasingly difficult for college bound students.

The following are a number of statements related to financial assistance for college attendance. Please read the statements and indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with each.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Statements</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Somewhat Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Strongly Agree</th>
<th>Unsure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29. Historically Black Universities and Colleges (HBUCs), which strive to support minority students should receive federal funding to grow their efforts</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30. I would be willing to pay reasonably more in taxes to increase financial assistance programs for lower income students trying to attend college</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31. Public colleges and universities should be free of charge for everyone</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32. Public colleges and universities should be free of charge for students from lower income families</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33. Based on all I know or have heard, it appears there are fewer financial assistance opportunities for lower income students in the U.S.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34. Based on all I know or have heard, it appears there are fewer financial assistance opportunities for minority students in the U.S.</td>
<td>01</td>
<td>02</td>
<td>03</td>
<td>04</td>
<td>05</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Demographics

35. What is your age?

01 18-44  
02 45-64  
03 65+

36. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

01 Yes (Go to Q38)  
02 No (Continue)  
03 Don’t know / unsure (Continue)

37. Which one of these groups would you say best represents your race?

01 White  
02 Black or African-American  
03 Asian  
04 Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander  
05 American Indian or Alaska Native  
06 Other

38. What is your highest grade of school completed?

01 Eighth grade or less  
02 Some high school  
03 High school graduate or GED  
04 Some technical school  
05 Technical school graduate  
06 Some college  
07 College graduate  
08 Post-graduate or professional degree

39. Would you describe where you live most of the year as…

01 Rural  
02 Suburban  
03 Urban  
04 Unsure
40. Please indicate your gender.
   01   Male
   02   Female

41. In political terms, which one of the following best describes how you typically vote?
   01   All Republican
   02   Mostly Republican
   03   Mostly Democratic
   04   All Democratic
   05   Independent – split vote between parties
   06   Support some other party
   07   Don’t know / not sure

42. Please tell me which religion you belong to or follow?
   01   Catholic
   02   Protestant (Baptist, Lutheran, Congregational, Presbyterian)
   03   Christian (non-denominational)
   04   Greek Orthodox
   05   Jewish
   01   Buddhist
   02   Muslim
   03   Latter Day Saint / Mormon
   04   Other
   05   No preference / no religious affiliation
   06   Don’t know / not sure

43. Which of the following best describes your own political philosophy?
   01   Very conservative
   02   Somewhat conservative
   03   Moderate
   04   Somewhat liberal
   05   Very liberal
   06   Unsure
44. Which of the following categories best describes your total family income before taxes?

01  Under $10,000
02  $10,000 to less than $40,000
03  $40,000 to less than $75,000
04  $75,000 to less than $100,000
05  $100,000 to less than $150,000
06  $150,000 to less than $200,000
07  $200,000 or more
08  Don’t know / unsure

Thank you very much for your participation in this important survey.