For Immediate Release
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**National JSU Poll: Republicans Carson, Paul, Huckabee, Fiorina, and Santorum Lose Ground to Trump, Cruz and Rubio**

- Democrat Bernie Sanders Benefits from Vice-President Biden Decision;
- Democrats Lead Republicans in Firm Commitment to Presidential Nomination Choice;
- Republicans Lead Democrats in Voter Intensity

Jackson – The Polling Center at Jackson State University’s Institute of Government has released a national survey of 1000 adults. The Poll on the nation’s 2016 election was conducted January 22-27, 2016.

The latest national poll by Jackson State University’s Institute of Government Polling Center covered first, second and third choices for Republican and Democratic presidential nominees, strength of commitment to first choice for presidential nominees and plans to vote in November 2016.

In three short months, Republican likely voters have made significant changes in their presidential nominee preferences. The current leaders are Donald Trump (37.5%), Ted Cruz (16.9%), Marco Rubio (10.7%), Dr. Ben Carson (9.6%), and Jeb Bush (7.4%).

Since October, 2015, support increased for Donald Trump (up 7.8%), Ted Cruz (up 7.8%), Marco Rubio (up 5.4%) and Chris Christie (up 1.3%)

Support declined for Dr. Ben Carson (down 12.4%), Rand Paul (down 0.9%), Mike Huckabee (down 0.4%), Carly Fiorina (down 2.2%) and Rick Santorum (down 0.6%).

A number of candidates have also since dropped out of the contest including: Bobby Jindal, Lindsey Graham, and George Pataki.
Interestingly, just 23.5% of Republican likely voters reported that their support for their first choice nominee is “very firm”. Another 59.2% suggested “somewhat firm” and 14.0% indicated “not at all firm” – leaving plenty of opportunity for candidates over the months ahead.

The current leaders for the nomination among likely Democratic voters included: Hillary Clinton (54.4% -- up slightly from 52.7% in October, 2015), Bernie Sanders (31.8% -- up significantly from 18.7% in October, 2015) and Martin O’Malley (4.4% -- up from 0.3% in October, 2015).

Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders clearly benefited when Vice-President Biden decided against a run for President.

Strength of commitment for their first choice was significantly stronger among Democratic likely voters than Republicans. Two-fifths, 38.1%, suggested their support is “very firm”. Another 47.6% indicated their support was “somewhat firm” and 6.3% suggested their support for their first choice was “not at all firm”.

Voter intensity is measured by likelihood of voting in November, 2016. Republicans, here, hold the edge with 81.6% indicating they are very likely to vote in November while 76.7% of Democrats suggested the same. Voter intensity often impacts voter turnout.

ABOUT THE POLL: The Poll was conducted by The Polling Center at Jackson State University’s Institute of Government. Polling by the Center is conducted on a regular basis and may also include spontaneous polling on occurring events. Add link to full Poll Report here.

METHODOLOGY: The Poll sampled opinions of 1000 approximately proportional to state population contribution nationwide. The survey was conducted January 22-27, 2016. All surveys were conducted using an online survey instrument. The poll has a +/- 3.0 percent margin of error at a 95 percent confidence level on a composite basis.

ABOUT JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY:
National JSU Poll: Disappointing Percentages of Americans take Pride in Nation’s Religious and Racial Diversity

- Only 67.0% Proud of the Klan’s Demise;
- Only 63.2%, Despite Political Differences, Take Pride in Election of First African-American President;
- Large Majority, 81.0%, Believe in God or Creator;
- Very Strong Support for Eight Constitutional Amendments Found in Poll

Jackson, MS – The Polling Center at Jackson State University’s Institute of Government has released a national survey of 1000 adults. The poll was conducted January 22-27, 2016.

The latest national poll conducted by the Polling Center collected views on U.S. Constitutional protections, rights and liberties, degree of pride in American characteristics, strength of religious convictions, views on religion in everyday life, views on persecution of Christians and awareness of and perceptions about Sharia Law.

There exists strong support for many of the protections, liberties and rights held within amendments to the U.S. Constitution among Americans polled.

Strong support (very or somewhat) is found for:

- Freedom of speech – 97.5%
- Right to a jury trial and assistance of legal counsel – 95.6%
- Freedom of assembly – 93.3%
- Freedom of the press – 92.6%
- Free exercise of religion – 92.2%
- Requiring court warrants for search and seizure – 90.6%
- Allowing 18 year olds to vote – 88.0%
- Right to keep and bear arms – 81.3%
While gun rights and gun controls are frequently debated in the nation, 81.3% suggest they support the protective constitutional amendment. However, many likely can see some restrictions such as background checks, permitting and withholding arms for those convicted of crimes or those with mental health issues.

While approximately two-thirds of all Americans surveyed take pride in a number of national characteristics, the results also suggest we have a ways to go as a nation.

The percentages of those having strong pride in a number of national characteristics…

✓ The nation’s acceptance and respect for various religions – 61.4%
✓ Despite political differences, pride in having our first African-American President – 63.2%
✓ The nation’s religious diversity – 63.6%
✓ The nation’s racial diversity – 64.3%
✓ The demise of the Klan in the U.S. – 67.0%

A large percentage of Americans surveyed, 81.0%, indicated they believe in God, a creator or spiritual being. Belief among southern state respondents was 82.7%.

Two-thirds, 66.8%, suggested they were very (23.5%) or somewhat (43.4%) religious. Another 32.2% noted they were not very religious (16.4%) or not at all religious (15.8%).

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ABOUT JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY:
National JSU Poll: Two-Thirds of Americans See No Place for Sharia Law in the United States

- Large majority see religion and religious faithful under attack by media, government, politics and the courts
- Three-fifths see persecution of Christians increasing worldwide
- Over one-half (57.5%) see themselves as part of the “religious right”

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The latest national poll conducted by the Polling Center collected views on U.S. Constitutional protections, rights and liberties, degree of pride in American characteristics, strength of religious convictions, views on religion in everyday life, views on persecution of Christians and awareness of and perceptions about Sharia Law.

While 92.2% support free exercise of religion in America:

- A large majority of Americans, 69.9% agreed (strongly or somewhat) that “Religion and religious faithful are under attack by many in the media, government, politics and the courts”.

- Similarly, 61.6%, of those surveyed agreed that “Persecution of Christians worldwide is on the increase.”

Further:

- Over one-half, 57.5%, would consider themselves a part of the “religious right or a believer in the conservative aspects of their own faith”.

- And, two-fifths, 41.6%, “use their own religious faith when making voting decisions.”

Over one-half, 50.6%, suggested they were very (16.6%) or somewhat aware (34.0%) of Sharia Law within the Muslim/Islamic religion.

Of this aware group, just 9.8% suggested “Muslims should enjoy freedom of religion in the United States including abiding by Sharia Law over American laws”. The largest group, 40.5%, noted that “Muslims should enjoy freedom of religion excluding Sharia Law and should abide by American laws”. Over one-quarter, 27.2%, suggested that “Islam and Sharia
Law, with restrictions on women and an intrusive and strict system of beliefs, has no place in the United States”. Some, 22.4%, were unsure.

Taken together (“excluding” and “having no place”), 67.7% of all respondents believed that Sharia Law does not have place in the United States.

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ABOUT JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY:
Fear of Terrorism Increasing Among Children in the United States According to New JSU Poll

➢ Most support closing public schools whenever threatened out of an abundance of caution
➢ Large majority of parents/caregivers will consider campus security in college/university selection decisions

Jackson, MS – The Polling Center at Jackson State University’s Institute of Government has released a national survey of 1000 adults. The Poll covered concerns over terrorism and attacks, concern about mass shootings, views on terror succeeding in creating a climate of fear, views on arming citizens to reduce damage from acts of terror and terror fears among children. The Poll was conducted January 22-17, 2016.

Respondents, reminded of recent public school closings in Los Angeles due to an email terror threat, were asked which of two approaches to closing schools they would select. Nearly one-half, 47.5%, indicated public schools should be closed whenever threatened out of an abundance of caution while 38.5% suggested public schools should remain open unless, and until, designated law enforcement professionals decide a threat is credible.

According to parents or caregivers, concern over terrorism is on the increase among children. More than three-quarters, 76.3%, suggested that expressions of concern has increased significantly (37.5%) or somewhat (38.7%) over the past year.

Just over one-half of all respondents with children in their care, 56.5%, reported they have an Emergency Action Plan in place.

These same parents or caregivers noted that campus security would be strongly considered when making college/university selection decisions. A large majority, 84.4%, noted that they would very strongly (52.3%) or somewhat strongly (32.1%) consider safety in college decisions for their respective children entering college.

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Terrorists Succeeding in Creating a Climate of Fear in the United States According to New JSU Poll

- Fear of profiling keeps many Americans from reporting suspicious behavior
- Three-fifths see media hyping attacks and creating more fear than warranted
- Over one-half polled say mass shootings would be minimized with armed citizens
- Fewer than one-half believe U.S. government is on top of terror threats

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The Poll covered concerns over terrorism and attacks, concern about mass shootings, views on terror succeeding in creating a climate of fear, views on arming citizens to reduce damage from acts of terror and terror fears among children.

Concern over acts of terror is increasing. A significant percentage of Americans polled, 77.7%, suggested that concern for their own safety and their families’ safety has either increased or remained a strong concern compared to five years ago.

- 35.3% are significantly more concerned compared to five years ago;
- 29.5% are somewhat more concerned compared to five years ago;
- 12.9% are strongly concerned and just as concerned as they were five years ago.

Further,

- Few poll respondents, 15.9%, are minimally concerned compared to five years ago;
- Only 1.2%, suggested they were significantly less concerned than five years ago.

Three-quarters of those polled are concerned over a mass shooting attack and terrorism in the United States – 74.7% and 76.4%, respectively. A large but smaller percentage, 60.5%, are concerned about crime in their own communities.
Alarmingly, 78.1%, agreed (strongly or somewhat) that terrorists are succeeding in creating a climate of fear in the United States. And, unfortunately, 27.7%, agreed that, out of fear of profiling, they would hesitate to report suspicious behavior.

Other findings included:

✓ The media hypes terror attacks way out of proportion and creates more fear than warranted – 61.2% agree;
✓ “I'm aware more Muslims are killed by terrorism than any other religious faith” – 55.0% agree;
✓ Mass shootings and the horrific damage they cause would be minimized with armed citizens – 54.7% agree;
✓ New open carry laws, allowing permitted citizens to carry firearms openly is a good idea – 52.5% agree;
✓ Armed professors and students would help prevent on-campus attacks – 49.6% agree;
✓ The U.S. government is well informed and on top of terror threats to our nation – 49.0% agree;
✓ Fear of terrorism is irrational compared to numbers killed by homicides or car accidents; -- 45.4% agree.

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