

NATIONAL POLL REPORT

THE POLLING CENTER THE INSTITUTE OF GOVERNMENT JACKSON STATE UNIVERSITY



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1 INTRODUCTION

The Polling Center at the Institute of Government is pleased to present the results of a national poll of Americans.

The poll was designed to assess public views regarding the 2016 presidential election, constitutional amendment rights and protections, and terrorism and fear of terror.

The research study included survey responses from 1000 respondents nationally approximately proportional to state population contribution. The poll was conducted January 22 – 27, 2016.

The national poll included the following areas for investigation:

- First, second and third choices for Republican and Democratic nominees;
- Strength of support for presidential candidate preferences;
- Plans for voting in November, 2016;
- Support for constitutional amendments, liberties and protections;
- Degree of pride in American characteristics;
- Strength of religious convictions;
- Views on religion in everyday life and persecution of Christians;
- Awareness and perception of Sharia Law within the United States;
- Concern over safety related to acts of terror;
- Concerns over mass shootings/ attacks, terror and crime in respondent communities;
- Views on terrorism successes – creating a climate of fear;
- Perceptions of arming citizens to reduce damage from acts of terror;
- Support for closing public schools under threats of terror attacks;
- Terror fear among children and percentages of homes with Emergency Action Plans in place; and
- Demographics.

Section II of this report discusses the Methodology used in the study, while Section III includes Highlights derived from an analysis of the quantitative research. Section IV is a Summary of Findings from the online survey.

Section V is an Appendix to the report containing the composite aggregate data, cross tabulations and the survey instrument employed.

METHODOLOGY

Using a quantitative research design, the Center completed 1000 online surveys nationally.

Survey design input was provided by the membership of the Polling Center's Oversight Committee – a subcommittee of the Institute of Government at Jackson State University.

Survey design is a careful, deliberative process to ensure fair, objective and balanced surveys. Staff members, with years of survey design experience, edit out any bias. Further, all scales used by the Center (either numeric, such as one through ten, or wording such as strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree) are balanced evenly. Additionally, placement of questions is carefully accomplished so that order has minimal impact.

This survey was conducted January 22 – 27, 2016.

Respondents qualified for the survey if they were a resident of the United States and 18 years of age or older. Responses were approximately proportional to each state's population.

All facets of the study were completed by the Polling Center's senior staff and researchers. These aspects include: survey design, pre-test, computer programming, fielding, coding, editing, verification, validation and logic checks, computer analysis, analysis, and report writing.

Statistically, a sample of 1000 completed surveys has an associated margin for error of +/- 3.0% at a 95% confidence level.

Results throughout this report are presented for composite results – all 1000 cases. Many tables and graphs will hold results among respondents from the South (Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia). Additionally, on most political based questions, columns holding results among just “likely voters” are also included herein.

Readers of this report should note that any survey is analogous to a snapshot in time and results are only reflective of the time period in which the survey was undertaken. Should concerted public relations or information campaigns be undertaken during or shortly after the fielding of the survey, the results contained herein may be expected to change and should be, therefore, carefully interpreted and extrapolated.

Furthermore, it is important to note that all surveys contain some component of “sampling error”. Error that is attributable to systematic bias has been significantly reduced by utilizing strict random probability procedures. This sample was strictly random in that selection of each potential respondent was an independent event based on known probabilities.

Each qualified online panel member within the United States had an equal chance for participating in the study. Statistical random error, however, can never be eliminated but may be significantly reduced by increasing sample size.

HIGHLIGHTS

ON THE 2016 ELECTION...

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.

ON AMERICAN LIBERTIES / PROTECTIONS...

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%).

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.

ON A CLIMATE OF FEAR...

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.

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.

ON CROSS TABULATIONS...

Cross tabulations of data provide a view of the issues covered within the survey (core questions) by the various demographics collected such as age, race, ethnicity, education, rural/suburban/urban, gender, political philosophy and income. Readers are encouraged to review the crosstab tables held within the appendix to this report.

4 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

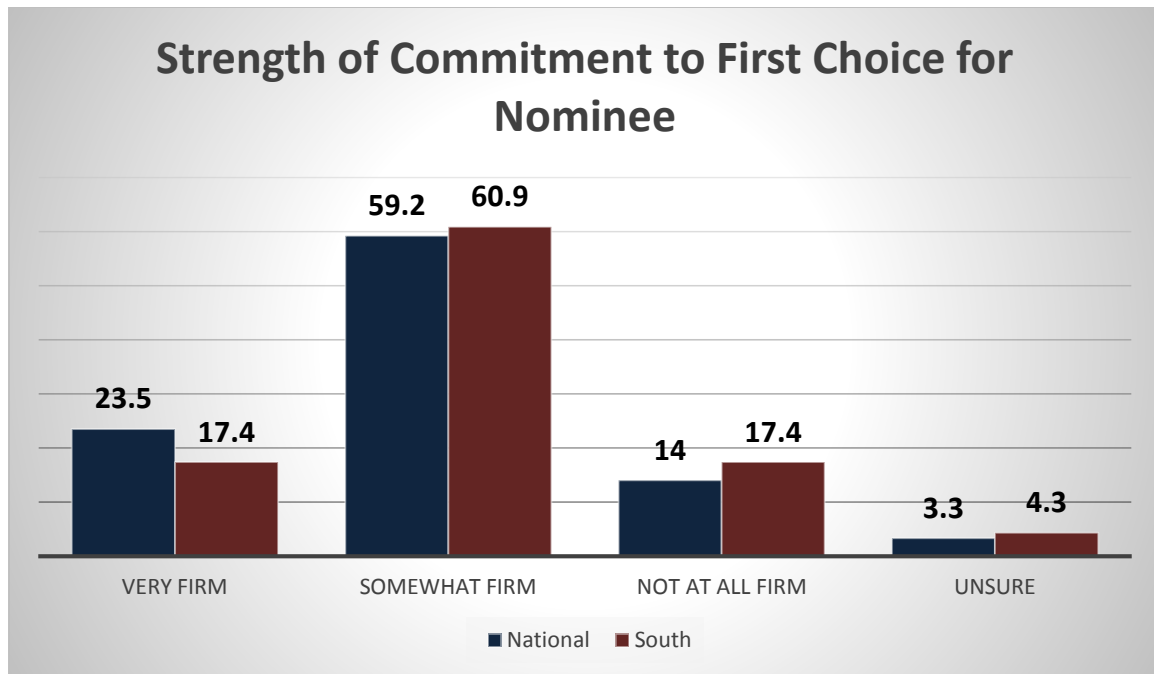
Readers are reminded that the narrative throughout this report refers to composite aggregate data – the 1000 completed surveys. Tables throughout present national results while many graphs also present results among southern state respondents from Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

ELECTION 2016

Republican poll respondents were asked to name their first, second and third choices for the presidential nomination in 2016. The following three tables present results on a national composite basis (all Republicans), by Republican likely voters, and southern state Republican respondents. Results in this table are in declining order by “first” choice.

Republican Candidates: (N=284)	Composite	FIRST October 2015	FIRST January 2016
Businessman Donald Trump		29.2	37.3
Texas Senator Ted Cruz		8.0	16.2
Florida Senator Marco Rubio		5.6	10.2
Dr. Ben Carson		19.6	9.2
Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush		9.6	7.0
Unsure / Don't Know		6.8	7.0
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie		2.8	3.9
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul		4.0	2.8
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee		2.8	2.8
Ohio Governor John Kasich		1.2	1.8
Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum		0.8	1.1
Former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina		2.8	0.7
Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal		3.2	---
Someone else		1.2	---
New York Congressman Peter King		0.8	---
South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham		0.8	---
Former Ambassador John Bolton		0.4	---
Indiana Governor Mike Pence		0.4	---
Former New York Governor George Pataki		0.0	---
Former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore		0.0	---

Likely Republican voter respondents were asked how firm – very firm, somewhat firm or not at all firm – their first choice for the Republican nominee is today. The following graph depicts the results as collected.



Results in the following table show first, second and third choice for likely Republican voters. The table is presented in declining order by first choice in the January 2016 poll.

Republican Candidates: Republican Likely Voters (N=272)	FIRST October 2015	FIRST January 2016	SECOND January 2016	THIRD January 2016
Businessman Donald Trump	29.7	37.5	11.8	7.4
Texas Senator Ted Cruz	9.1	16.9	22.4	11.4
Florida Senator Marco Rubio	5.3	10.7	14.7	13.8
Dr. Ben Carson	22.0	9.6	9.9	10.3
Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush	8.6	7.4	8.5	10.7
Unsure / Don't Know	4.8	5.9	7.7	15.4
Someone else	1.4	5.9	---	---
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	2.4	3.7	6.3	10.3
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul	3.8	2.9	7.7	5.1
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee	3.3	2.9	3.3	5.9
Ohio Governor John Kasich	1.0	1.5	3.3	2.2
Former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina	2.9	0.7	4.0	4.8
Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum	1.0	0.4	0.4	2.9
Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal	1.9	---	---	---
New York Congressman Peter King	1.0	---	---	---
South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham	1.0	---	---	---
Former Ambassador John Bolton	0.5	---	---	---
Indiana Governor Mike Pence	0.5	---	---	---
Former New York Governor George Pataki	0.0	---	---	---
Former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore	0.0	---	---	---

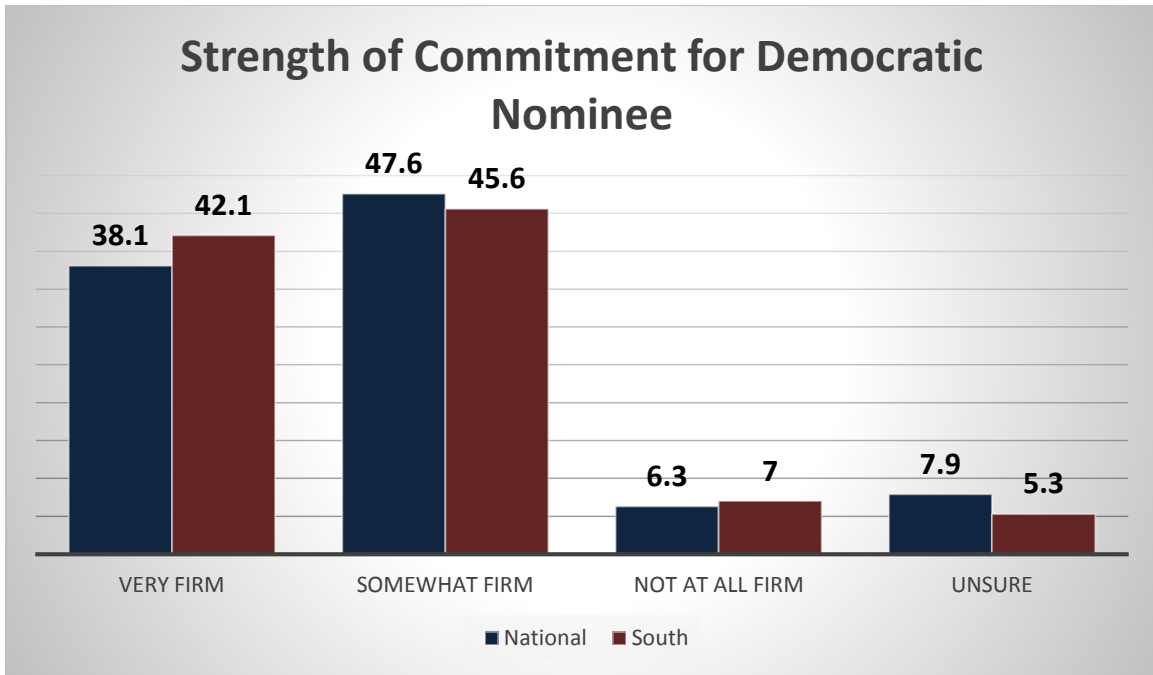
Southern Republican likely voters are depicted in the following table.

Republican Candidates: Southern States (N=132) Likely Voters	FIRST October 2015	FIRST January 2016	SECOND January 2016	THIRD January 2016
Businessman Donald Trump	30.6	29.0	14.5	5.8
Texas Senator Ted Cruz	6.9	17.4	18.8	14.5
Dr. Ben Carson	15.3	13.0	14.5	14.5
Former Florida Governor Jeb Bush	12.5	13.0	4.3	11.6
Unsure / Don't Know	6.9	7.2	10.1	15.9
Florida Senator Marco Rubio	5.6	7.2	15.9	5.8
Former Arkansas Governor Mike Huckabee	5.6	4.3	4.3	8.7
New Jersey Governor Chris Christie	1.4	4.3	2.9	10.1
Kentucky Senator Rand Paul	2.8	1.4	5.8	4.3
Ohio Governor John Kasich	1.4	1.4	0.0	1.4
Former Hewlett Packard CEO Carly Fiorina	1.4	1.4	8.7	4.3
Former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.9
Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal	5.6	---	---	---
South Carolina Senator Lindsey Graham	2.8	---	---	---
Former Ambassador John Bolton	1.4	---	---	---
New York Congressman Peter King	0.0	---	---	---
Indiana Governor Mike Pence	0.0	---	---	---
Former New York Governor George Pataki	0.0	---	---	---
Former Virginia Governor Jim Gilmore	0.0	---	---	---
Someone else	0.0	---	---	---

Democratic poll respondents were asked to think about and name their first, second and third choices for the presidential nomination in 2016. The following three tables present results on a composite basis (all Democratic respondents), by Democratic likely voters and southern state Democratic respondents. Results, in this table, are in declining order by “first” choice.

Democratic Candidates: Composite (N=318)	FIRST October 2015	FIRST January 2016
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	52.7	54.4
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	18.7	31.8
Unsure / don't know	7.3	9.4
Former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley	0.3	4.4
Vice President Joe Biden	13.3	---
Virginia Senator Mark Warner	2.0	---
Former Virginia Senator Jim Webb	1.7	---
Someone else	1.7	---
New York Governor Andrew Cuomo	1.3	---
Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren	0.7	---
Former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick	0.7	---
New Jersey Senator Corey Booker	0.7	---
Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar	0.3	---
Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper	0.3	---
New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	0.0	---
Former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee	0.0	---

Likely Democratic voter respondents were asked how firm – very firm, somewhat firm or not at all firm – their first choice for the Democratic nominee is today. The following graph depicts the results as collected.



Democratic likely voters are presented in the following table. The table is in declining order by January, 2016 “First Choice” results.

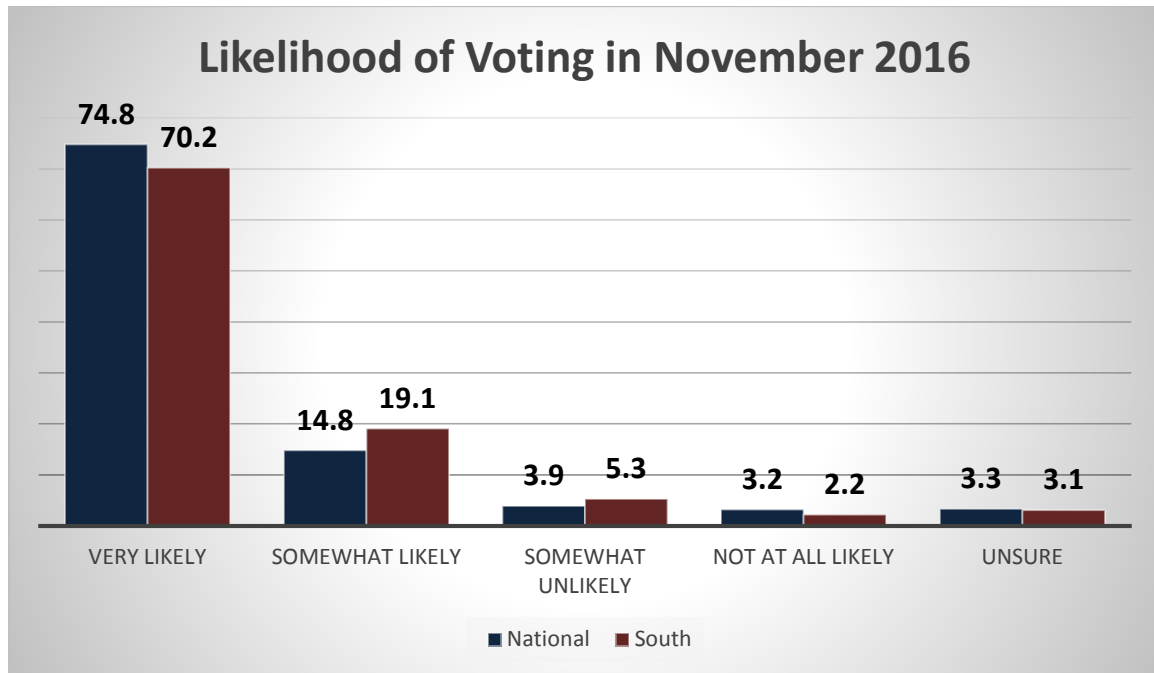
Democratic Candidates: Democratic Likely Voters (N=293)	FIRST October 2015	FIRST January 2016	SECOND January 2015	THIRD January 2015
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	52.9	55.6	37.9	20.5
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	18.8	33.1	30.4	12.3
Unsure / don’t know	6.7	7.5	18.1	37.9
Former Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley	0.4	7.5	13.7	29.4
Vice President Joe Biden	13.8	---	---	---
Virginia Senator Mark Warner	2.1	---	---	---
New York Governor Andrew Cuomo	1.7	---	---	---
Someone else	1.3	---	---	---
Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren	0.8	---	---	---
New Jersey Senator Corey Booker	0.8	---	---	---
Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar	0.4	---	---	---
Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper	0.4	---	---	---
Former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick	0.0	---	---	---
New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	0.0	---	---	---
Former Virginia Senator Jim Webb	0.0	---	---	---
Former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee	0.0	---	---	---

Southern Democrats who report being “likely” to vote are presented in the following table. The table is presented in declining order by “first” choice in January, 2016.

Democratic Candidates: Southern State Democrats Likely Voters (144)	FIRST October 2015	FIRST January 2016	SECOND January 2016	THIRD January 2016
Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton	50.8	47.4	31.6	19.3
Vermont Senator Bernie Sanders	8.5	38.6	28.1	21.1
Unsure / don’t know	10.2	8.8	17.5	29.8
Former Maryland Governor Martin O’Malley	1.7	5.3	22.8	29.8
Vice President Joe Biden	13.8	---	---	---
Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar	6.8	---	---	---
Virginia Senator Mark Warner	6.8	---	---	---
Massachusetts Senator Elizabeth Warren	3.4	---	---	---
Someone else	3.4	---	---	---
New York Governor Andrew Cuomo	1.7	---	---	---
Colorado Governor John Hickenlooper	1.7	---	---	---
Former Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick	0.0	---	---	---
New Jersey Senator Corey Booker	0.0	---	---	---
New York Senator Kirsten Gillibrand	0.0	---	---	---
Former Virginia Senator Jim Webb	0.0	---	---	---
Former Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee	0.0	---	---	---

Respondents were asked how likely they were to vote in the November, 2016 general election. A large majority, 89.3%, suggested being very or somewhat likely.

The following graph presents the results as collected.



Interestingly, 81.6% of Republican respondents reported being “very likely” to vote in November, 2016 compared to 76.7% for Democrats polled.

AMERICAN LIBERTIES / PROTECTIONS

Respondents were presented: “The following are a number of protections or liberties guaranteed to American citizens by amendments to the U.S. Constitution.” Each respondent was asked if each Constitutional right was very important, somewhat important, somewhat unimportant or not at all important to them personally.

The cumulative totals for very and somewhat important are presented in the following table. The table is shown in declining order of importance by national composite data (N=1000).

The final two columns hold results among those who believe in God, a creator or another spiritual being as well as those who indicated in this poll that they were very or somewhat religious.

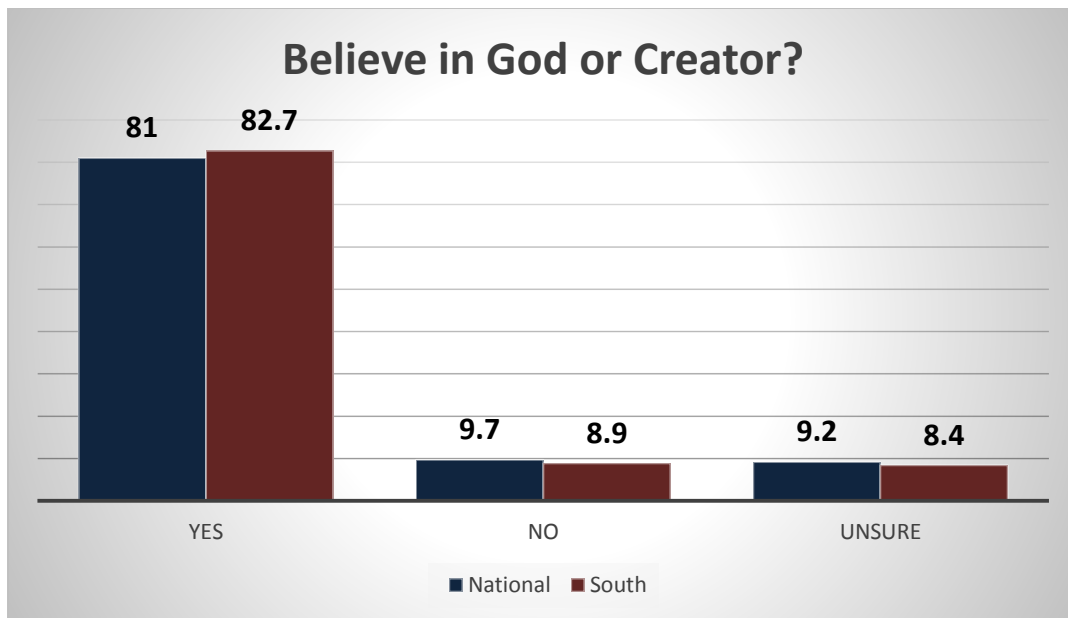
Liberty / Protection (N=1000)	National Composite	Southern Composite	Believe	Religious
Freedom of speech	97.5	98.7	98.3	98.2
Right to a jury trial and assistance of legal counsel	95.6	96.4	96.0	95.8
Freedom of assembly	93.3	94.2	93.8	93.5
Freedom of the press	92.6	92.4	93.0	93.2
Free exercise of religion	92.2	94.2	95.8	96.2
Searches and seizures by court warrant only	90.6	90.2	90.9	90.3
Allowing 18 year olds to vote	88.0	89.7	88.0	88.4
Right to keep and bear arms	81.3	82.1	84.1	84.3

Respondents were presented with the following statement: “Some people have pride in a number of characteristics of our nation, while others who don’t see success in these areas may have less pride. Please describe how proud you are of the following characteristics using a scale of one to ten where one means very proud and ten means not at all proud.”

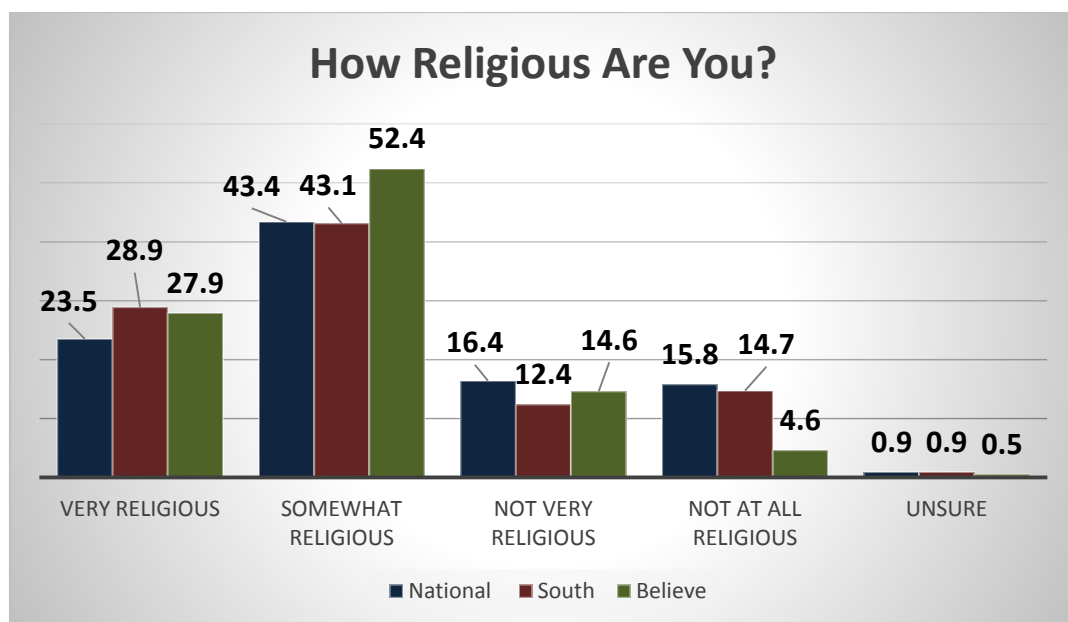
The following table presents the cumulative totals for ratings of one through four on the ten point pride scale (strong pride). The table is presented in declining order by national results. Here again, the table includes those who “believe” and those who reported being very religious.

American Characteristics	National Composite	Southern Composite	Believe	Religious
The Klan, after years of severe targeting of blacks as well as other minorities, Catholics and Jews, has all but disappeared	67.0	62.5	67.4	67.2
The nation’s racial diversity	64.3	60.7	65.6	65.4
The nation’s religious diversity	63.6	59.8	67.2	67.8
Despite any political differences, having our first African-American President	63.2	54.5	63.3	61.9
The nation’s accepting of, and respect for, various religions	61.4	58.0	65.0	66.1

All respondents were asked, regardless of their own religious faith or following, if they believed in God, a creator, or another spiritual being. A large majority, 81.0%, indicated they did. Results are depicted in the following graph.



Further, poll participants were asked how religious they considered themselves. Each was asked if they were very religious, somewhat religious, not very religious, or not at all religious. Results are shown in the following graph nationally, among just southern state respondents and those who “believe”. Two-thirds, 66.8%, suggest they are very or somewhat religious.



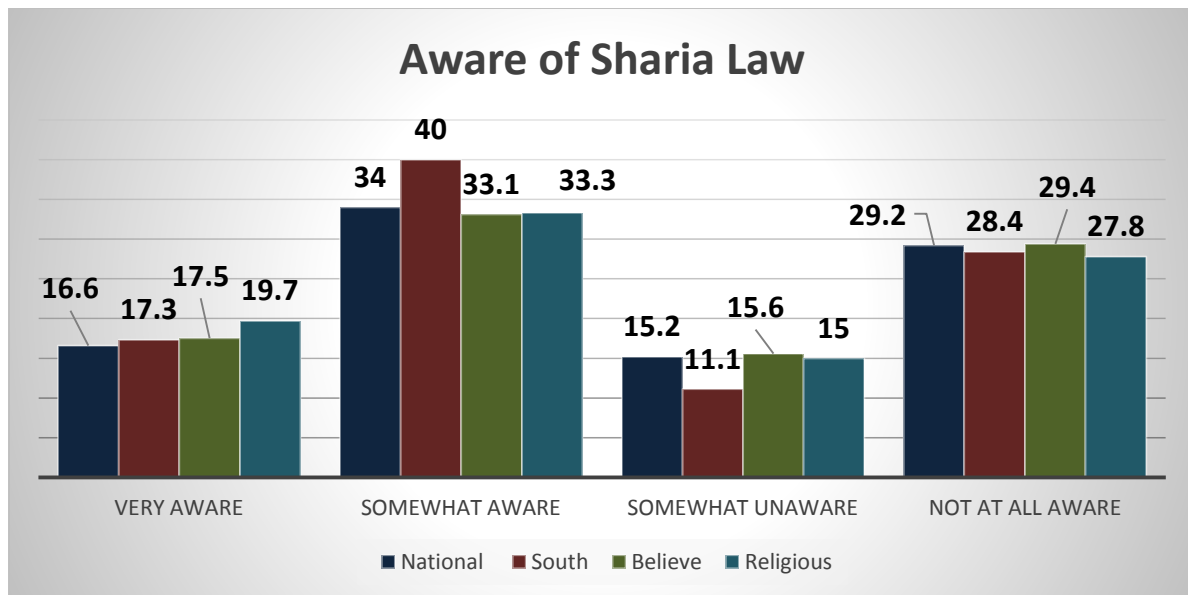
Respondents were presented with a number of statements about religion. For each, respondents indicated if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed. The following table holds the cumulative totals for those strongly or somewhat agreeing with each statement.

More than two-thirds, 69.9%, agreed (strongly or somewhat) that religion and the religious faithful are under attack by many in the media, government, politics and the courts. And, nearly two-thirds see persecution of Christians worldwide on the increase.

A strong number of respondents, 41.6%, agreed that their own religious faith guides them in political voting decisions.

Statement	National Composite	Southern Composite	Believe	Religious
Religion and religious faithful are under attack by many in the media, government, politics and courts	69.9	71.6	77.2	81.2
Persecution of Christians worldwide is on the increase	61.6	70.2	68.8	74.3
Based on all I know, I would consider myself part of the religious right or a believer in the conservative aspects of my own faith	57.5	61.3	67.5	74.6
I use my religious faith when making voting decisions	41.6	48.6	48.9	57.4

Over one-half, 50.6%, of all respondents reported being aware of Sharia Law within the Muslim/Islamic religion. The following graph presents the cumulative totals for very or somewhat aware.



Respondents were presented with the following: “Many Muslims favor making Sharia the official law in their respective countries. Which of the following reflects your personal view of Sharia Law within the United States?”

Just 9.8% of all Americans surveyed suggest that Muslims should enjoy freedom of religion including abiding by Sharia Law over American laws. One-quarter, 27.2%, believe Sharia Law has no place in the United States.

Statements on Sharia Law	National	South	Believe	Religious
Muslims should enjoy freedom of religion in the United States <u>including</u> abiding by Sharia Laws over American Laws;	9.8	8.0	10.5	11.1
Muslims should enjoy freedom of religion in the United States excluding Sharia Law and should abide by American Laws	40.5	44.4	39.7	39.5
Islam and Sharia Law, with restrictions on women and an intrusive and strict system of beliefs, <u>has no place in the United States</u>	27.2	25.8	27.6	27.2
Unsure	22.4	21.8	22.2	22.2

A CLIMATE OF FEAR

A final poll section focused on questions surrounding concerns over terror and terrorist attacks.

In the first question, respondents were asked how concerned they were about their own safety and that of their families. A majority, 64.7%, suggested they were significantly more concerned or somewhat more concerned than they were five years ago. After adding 12.9% who reported being “strongly concerned but the same as five years ago” – the percentage moves to 77.7%. Results are presented in the following table.

Importantly, just 3.2% of all respondents report being less or significantly less concerned than five years ago.

Concern Over Acts of Terror Over Five Years Ago	National	South
Significantly more concerned than five years ago	35.3	36.2
Somewhat more concerned than five years ago	29.5	29.0
Strongly concerned but the same as five years ago	12.9	12.5
Total: Significantly or somewhat more and strongly	77.7	77.7
Minimally concerned and the same as five years ago	15.9	17.0
Less concerned than five years ago	2.0	2.7
Significantly less concerned than five years ago	1.2	0.9
Total: Minimally concerned, less or significantly less	19.1	20.6
Unsure	3.2	1.8

Respondents were asked how concerned they were about a mass shooting attack, terrorism in the United States and crime in their own community. The following table holds the cumulative totals of ratings of one through four on a ten point scale (concerned).

Three-quarters, 74.7%, indicated concern for a mass shooting attack. A similar percentage, 76.4%, indicated concern over terrorism in the United States.

Characteristic	National Composite	Southern Composite
A mass shooting or attack	74.7	80.4
Terrorism in the U.S.	76.4	76.0
Crime in my own community or neighborhood	60.5	61.3

Respondents were presented with a number of statements related to guns, crime, terrorism and safety. Respondents were asked to indicate if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with each. The following table holds the cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat agreeing.

Results are shown in declining order by national composite data. A large majority, 78.1% suggest the terrorists are succeeding in creating a climate of fear in the United States.

Statement	National Composite	Southern Composite
Terrorists are succeeding in creating a climate of fear in the U.S.	78.1	76.4
The media hypes terror attacks way out of proportion and creates more fear than warranted	61.2	60.0
I'm aware more Muslims are killed by terrorism than any other religious faith	55.0	54.7
Mass shootings and the horrific damage they cause would be minimized with armed citizens	54.7	61.3
New open carry laws, allowing permitted citizens to carry firearms openly, is a good idea	52.5	57.3
Armed professors and students would help prevent on-campus attacks	49.6	52.4
The U.S. Government is well informed and on top of terror threats to our nation	49.0	45.3
Fear of terrorism is irrational compared to numbers killed by homicides or car accidents	45.4	49.3
Out of fear of profiling, I would hesitate to report suspicious behavior	27.7	26.2

Respondents were reminded that public schools were recently closed in Los Angeles based on an email threat. They were also reminded that New York City received a similar threat they did not consider credible and did not close schools.

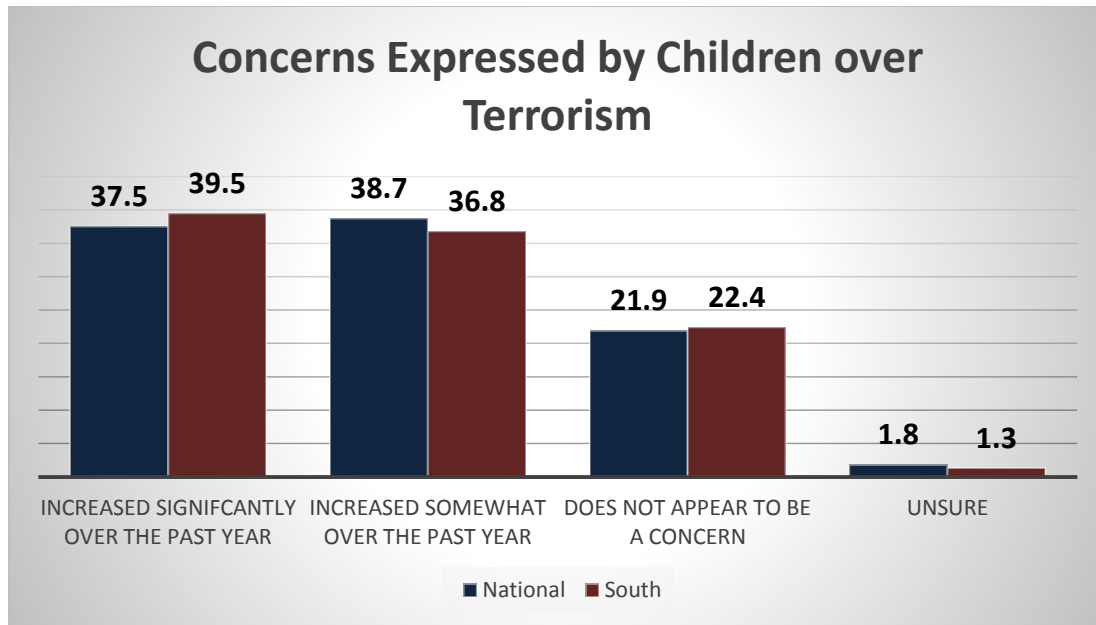
Respondents were asked which of two approaches to the closing of public schools they believed were best. Results are held in the following table.

A larger percentage of Americans polled believed schools should be closed “whenever” threatened over “only when a threat is deemed credible” by law enforcement – 47.6% to 38.8%, respectively.

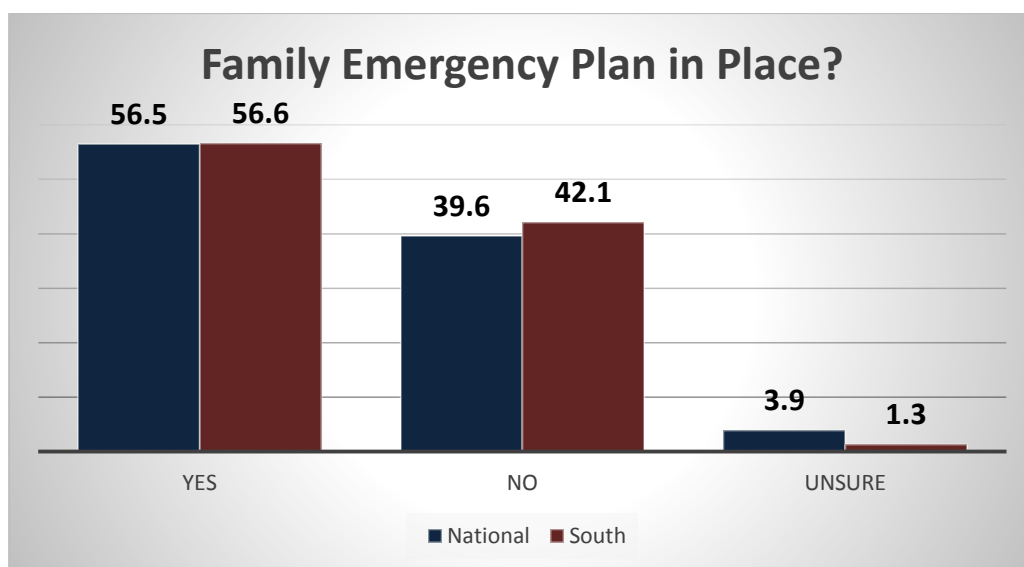
Statement	National Composite	Southern Composite
Public schools should be closed whenever threatened out of an abundance of caution	47.5	50.2
Public schools should remain open unless, and until, designated law enforcement professionals decide a threat is credible	38.5	37.3
Unsure	13.5	12.4

Three questions were presented to those respondents who had children living at home under 18 years of age (33.3%).

Those living with children under 18 years of age were asked to describe fears expressed to them by these children related to terrorism. Over three-quarters, 76.3%, indicated the fears over terrorism has increased either significantly or somewhat over the past year. Results are presented in the following graph.



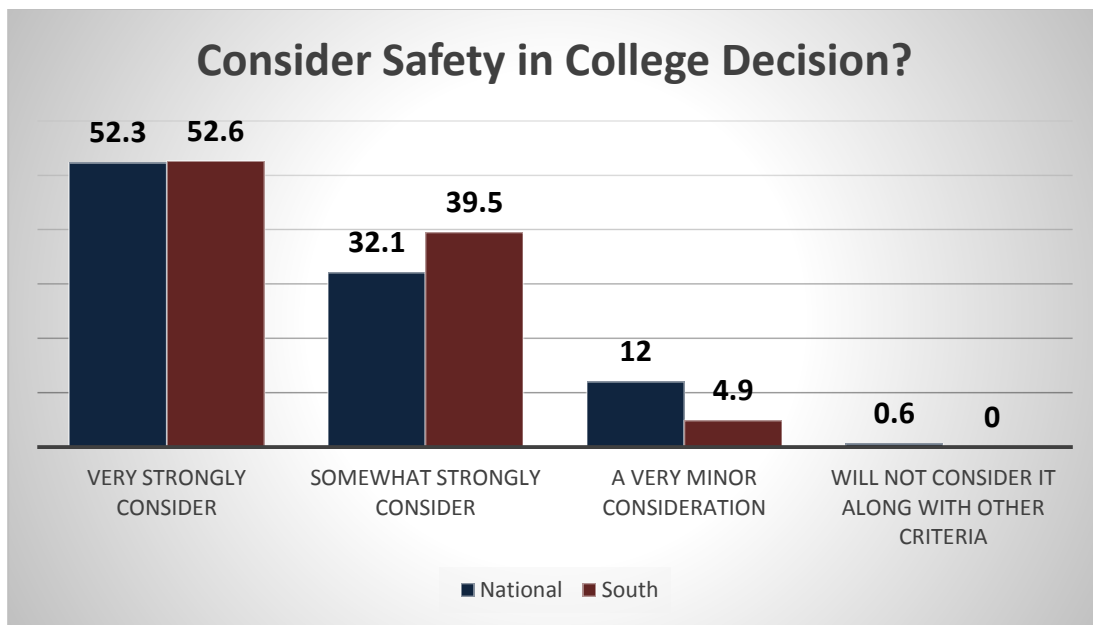
Respondents with children at home were asked if they had an Emergency Action Plan in place. Just over one-half, 56.5%, indicated they did have such a plan that the family is aware of in the event of an emergency of any kind. Results are displayed here.



Finally, respondents were presented with the following: “There are many criteria when selecting a college or university for your own children. For you, and any of your children headed to college, how strongly will you consider campus security in your selection process?”

Each was asked if campus security would be very strongly considered, somewhat strongly considered, a minor consideration or wouldn’t consider it at all. Results are presented in the following graph.

A large majority, 84.4%, indicated they would very or somewhat strongly consider campus safety when making college / university decisions. Among southern state respondents, the percent was higher at 92.1%.



DEMOGRAPHICS

Rural, Suburban or Urban?	October '15	January '16
Rural	28.4	26.2
Suburban	43.0	47.1
Urban	24.9	25.3

Age	October '15	January '16
18 to 44	55.1	51.9
45 to 64	29.8	37.3
65+	15.0	10.8

Income	October '15	January '16
Under \$10,000	8.4	6.4
\$10,000 to less than \$40,000	42.0	30.4
\$40,000 to less than \$75,000	29.3	30.2
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	7.8	14.1
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	4.8	10.1
\$150,000 to less than \$200,000	1.3	2.6
\$200,000 or more	0.3	2.4
Unsure	6.1	3.7

Party Affiliation	October '15	January '16
Republican	29.2	28.4
Democrat	31.9	32.0
Independent	32.6	33.5
Some other party	1.6	1.2
Unsure	4.8	4.8

Education	October '15	January '16
High School or less	11.9	10.9
High School / GED	15.5	16.8
Associates Degree	10.2	8.3
Some college / technical school	28.7	25.5
College / technical school graduate	24.6	27.6
Postgraduate or professional degree	8.1	10.8
Prefer not to disclose	0.0	0.1

Hispanic, Latin American, Puerto Rican, Cuban or Mexican	October '15	January '16
Yes	17.3	16.3
No	82.7	83.6

Ethnicity (Among Non-Hispanics)	October '15	January '16
White	63.2	66.3
Black, African-American	15.1	13.0
Asian, Pacific Islander	3.3	3.0
Aleutian, Eskimo or American Indian	1.2	0.2
Other	0.7	0.6
Native Hawaiian	0.2	0.3
Two or more races	---	---
Refused	---	---
Don't know/unsure	---	---

Religion	January '16
Catholic	20.9
Protestant	21.2
Christian (non-denominational)	25.3
Greek Orthodox	0.6
Jewish	3.0
Buddhist	0.9
Muslim	0.8
Latter Day Saint – Mormon	1.1
Other	5.0
No preference	19.6
Don't know / not sure	1.5

Gender	October '15	January '16
Male	49.9	48.4
Female	50.1	51.6

APPENDIX

INTERPRETATION OF AGGREGATE RESULTS

The computer processed data for this survey are presented in the following frequency distributions. It is important to note that the wordings of the variable labels and value labels in the computer-processed data are largely abbreviated descriptions of the Questionnaire items and available response categories.

The frequency distributions include the category or response for the question items. Responses deemed not appropriate for classification have been grouped together under the “Other” code.

The “NA” category label refers to “No Answer” or “Not Applicable.” This code is also used to classify ambiguous responses. In addition, the “DK/RF” category includes those respondents who did not know their answer to a question or declined to answer it. In many of the tables, a group of responses may be tagged as “Missing” – occasionally, certain individual’s responses may not be required to specific questions and thus are excluded. Although when this category of response is used, the computations of percentages are presented in two (2) ways in the frequency distributions: 1) with their inclusion (as a proportion of the total sample), and 2) their exclusion (as a proportion of a sample sub-group).

Each frequency distribution includes the absolute observed occurrence of each response (i.e. the total number of cases in each category). Immediately adjacent to the right of the column of absolute frequencies is the column of relative frequencies. These are the percentages of cases falling in each category response, including those cases designated as missing data. To the right of the relative frequency column is the adjusted frequency distribution column that contains the relative frequencies based on the legitimate (i.e. non-missing) cases. That is, the total base for the adjusted frequency distribution excludes the missing data. For many Questionnaire items, the relative frequencies and the adjusted frequencies will be nearly the same. However, some items that elicit a sizable number of missing data will produce quite substantial percentage differences between the two columns of frequencies. The careful analyst will cautiously consider both distributions.

The last column of data within the frequency distribution is the cumulative frequency distribution (Cum Freq.). This column is simply an adjusted frequency distribution of the sum of all previous categories of response and the current category of response. Its primary usefulness is to gauge some ordered or ranked meaning.