



LAND CENTER
FOR CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

Views of Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations on Baptist Political Theology

A SURVEY OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST LAITY AND CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Lifeway research

Methodology

The study was originated and commissioned by the Land Center for Cultural Engagement at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

Laity Sample

- The online survey of 500 Southern Baptist lay people was conducted January 3-12, 2024, using a national pre-recruited panel
- Respondents were screened to include those who identified as Southern Baptist and are not a senior pastor
- Quotas and slight weights were used to balance gender, age, region, ethnicity, and education to more accurately reflect the population
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 5.6\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

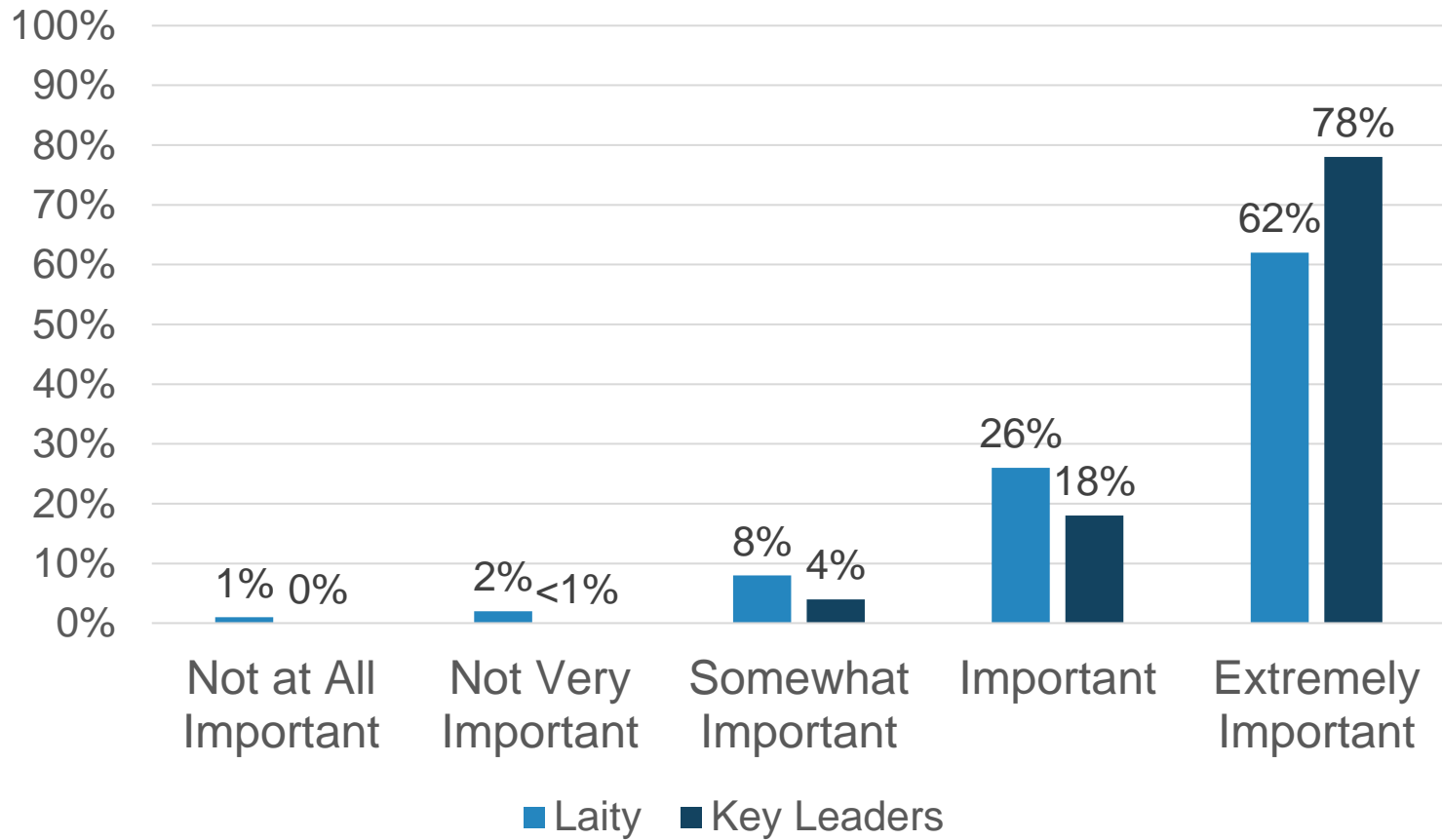
Methodology

Key Leader Sample

- The online survey of 507 Southern Baptist key leaders (other than senior pastor) was conducted January 9 to February 9, 2024, using a list of congregation leaders identified as part of the Annual Church Profile process
- Invitations were emailed to the following roles: Associate Pastor, Minister of Music, Minister of Education, Minister of Youth, Minister of Children, Minister of Preschool, Other Minister, Church Secretary, Sunday School Director, WMU Director, Women's Ministry Coordinator
- Respondents were screened to exclude senior pastors
- This sample of congregational leaders was not weighted

Importance of Religious Liberty

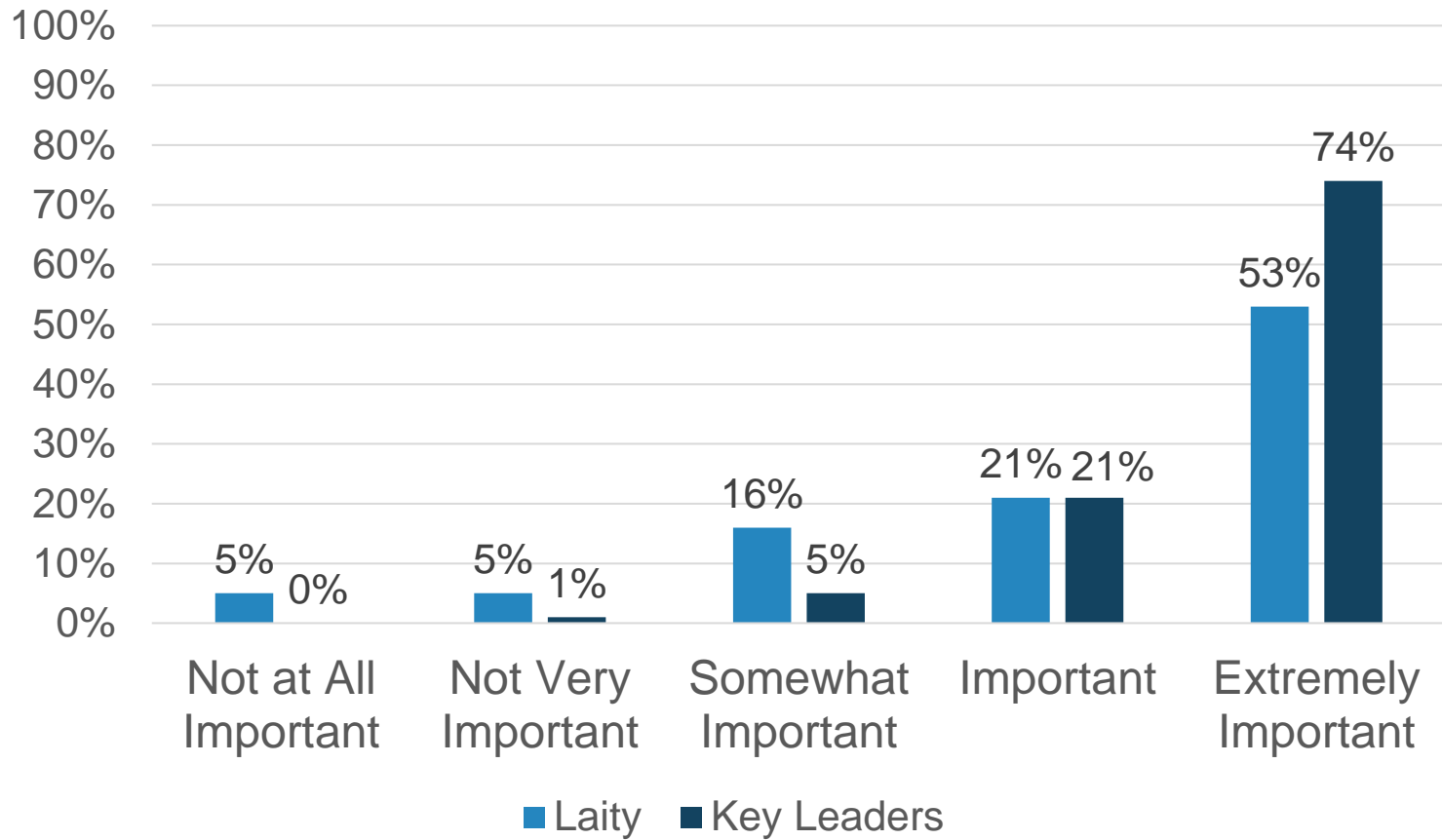
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

Importance of Abortion

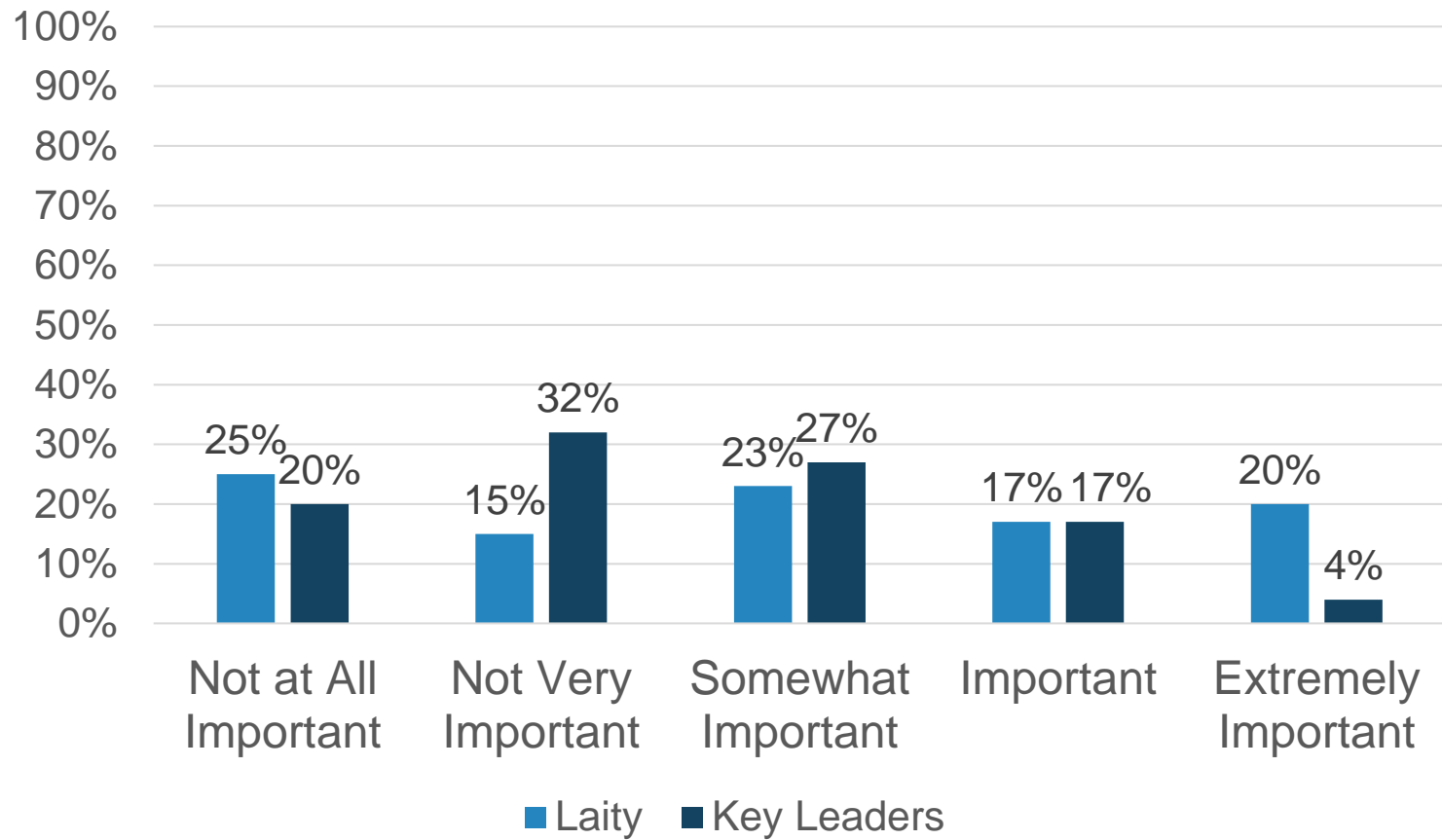
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

Importance of Climate Change

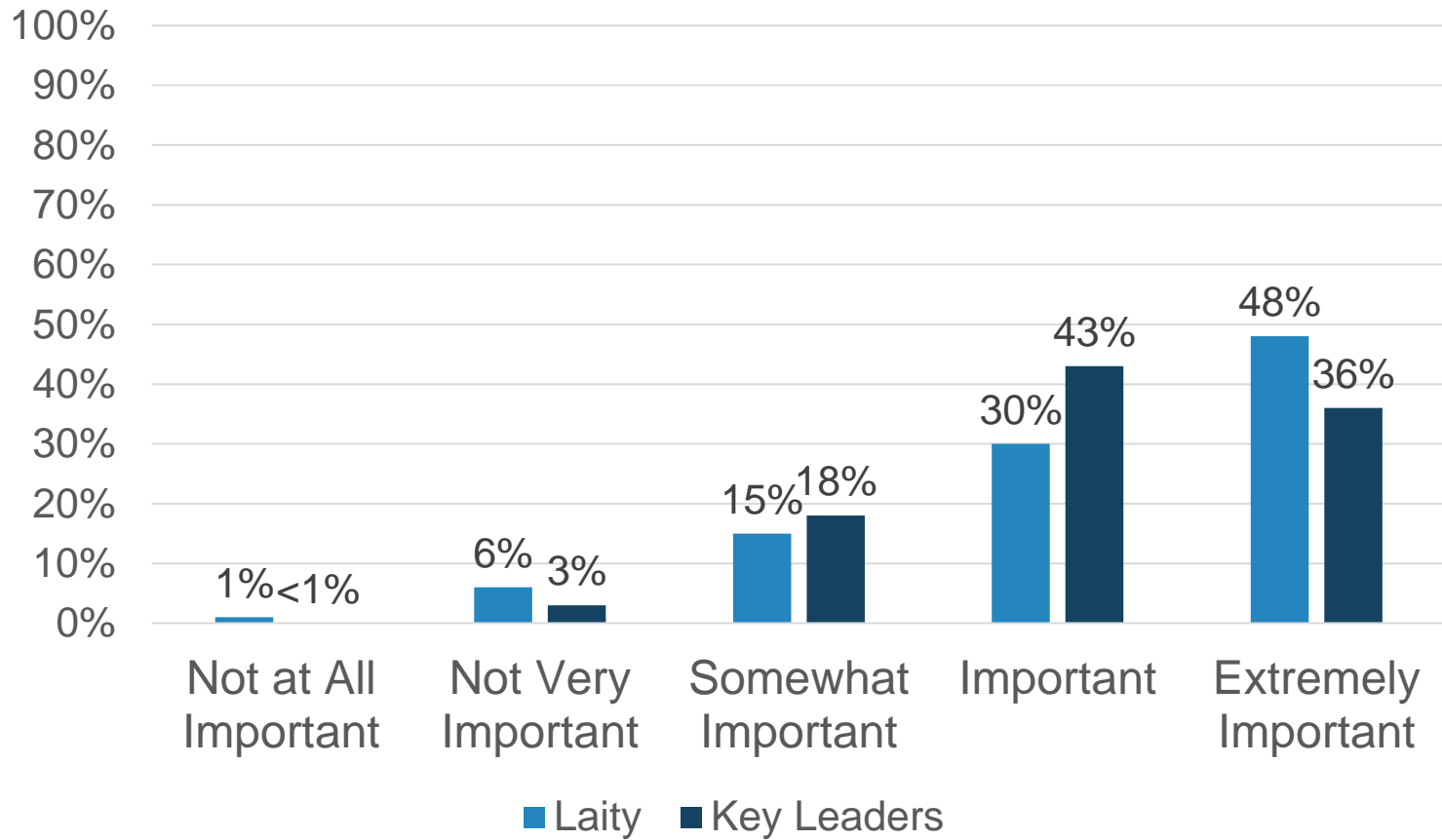
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

Importance of Immigration

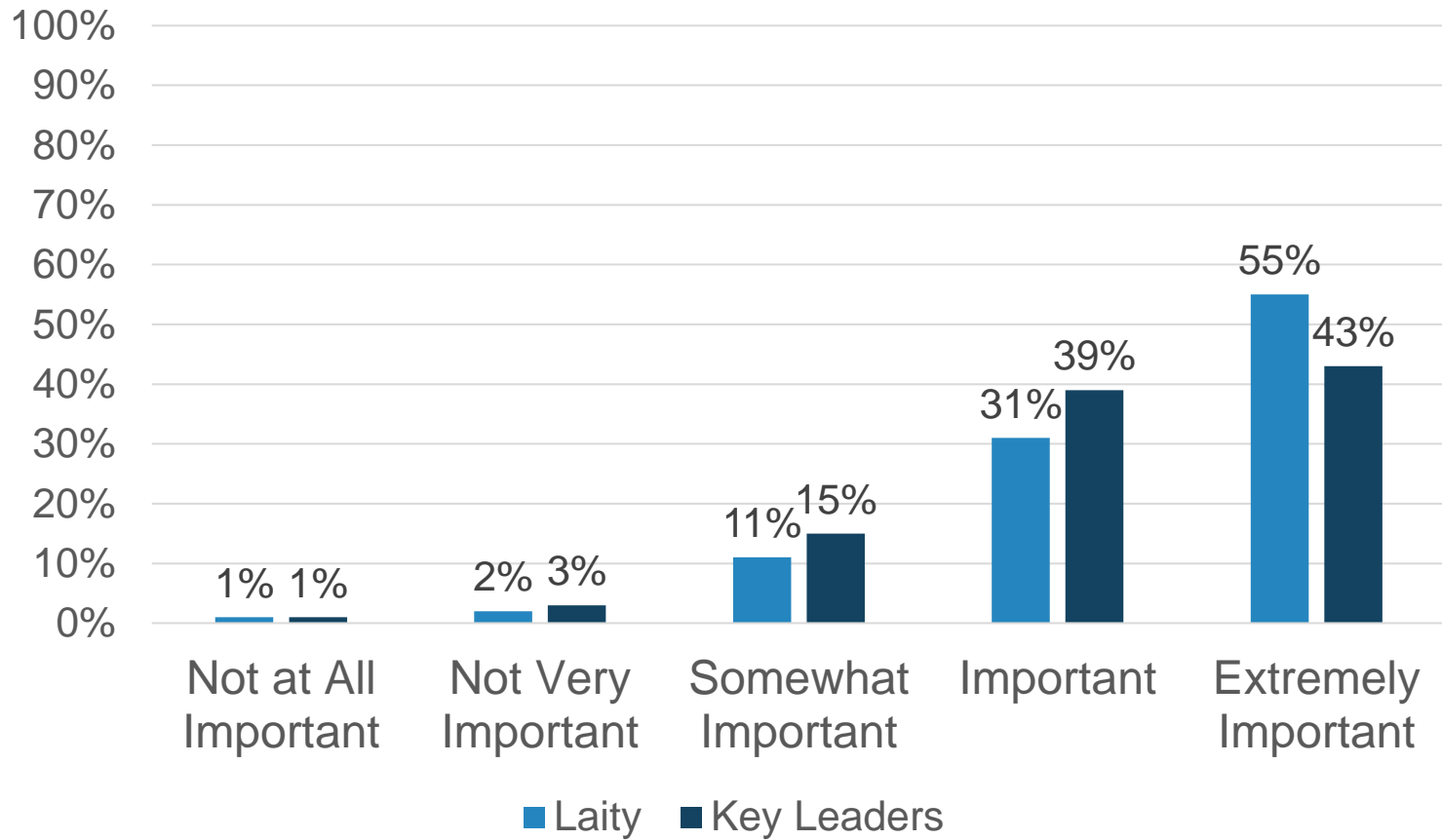
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

Importance of National defense

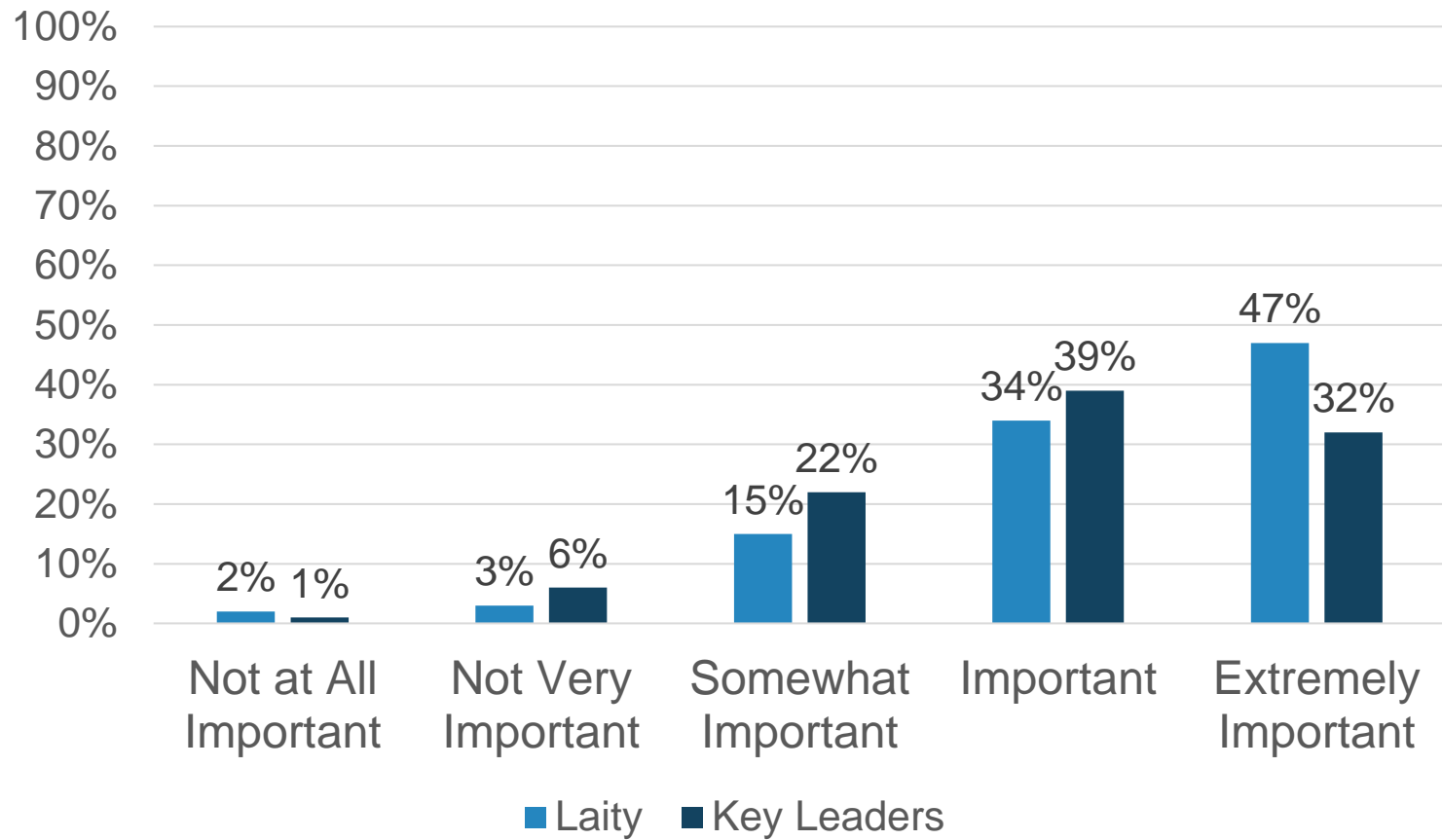
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

Importance of The national debt

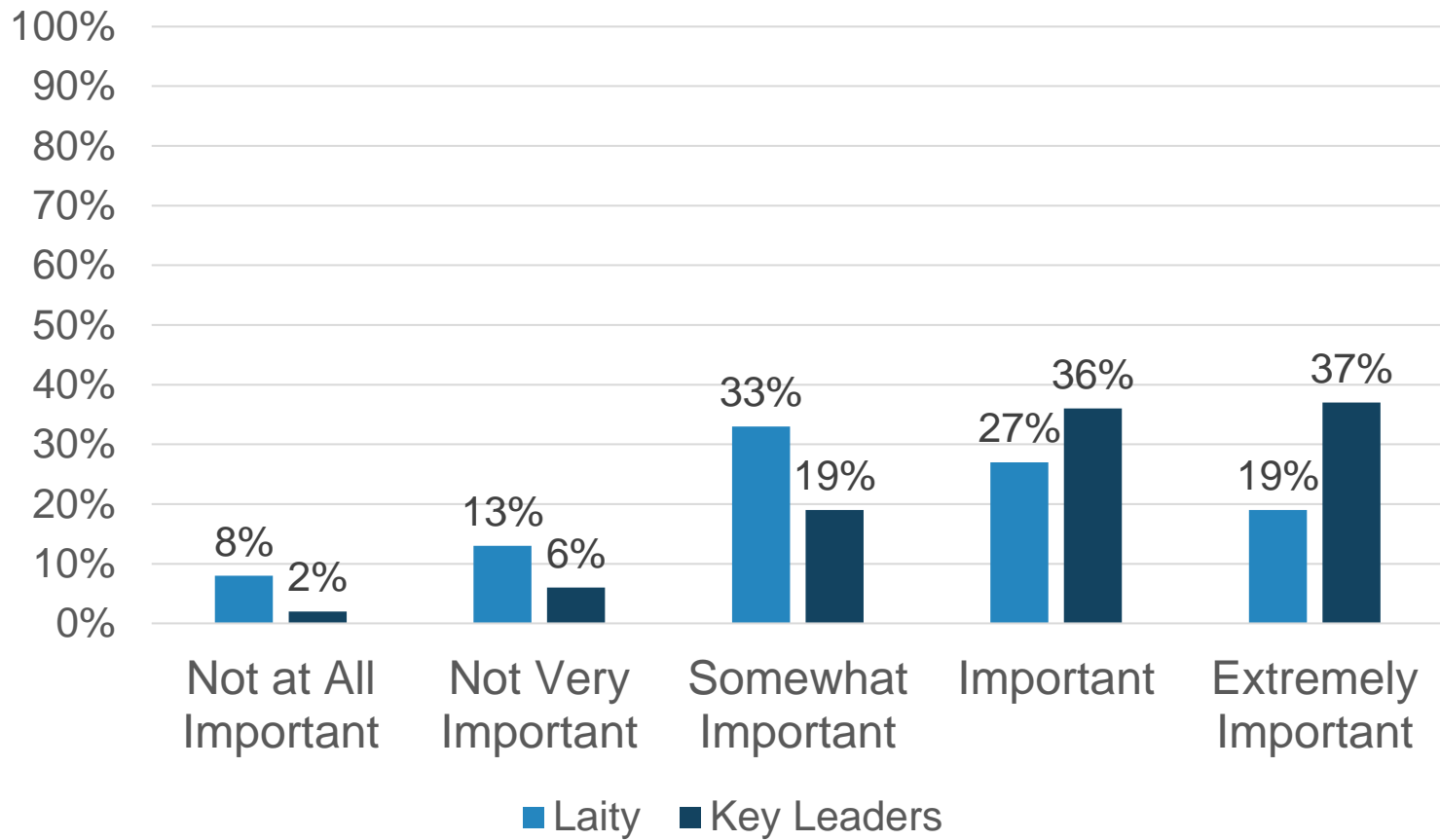
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

Importance of Secularization of society

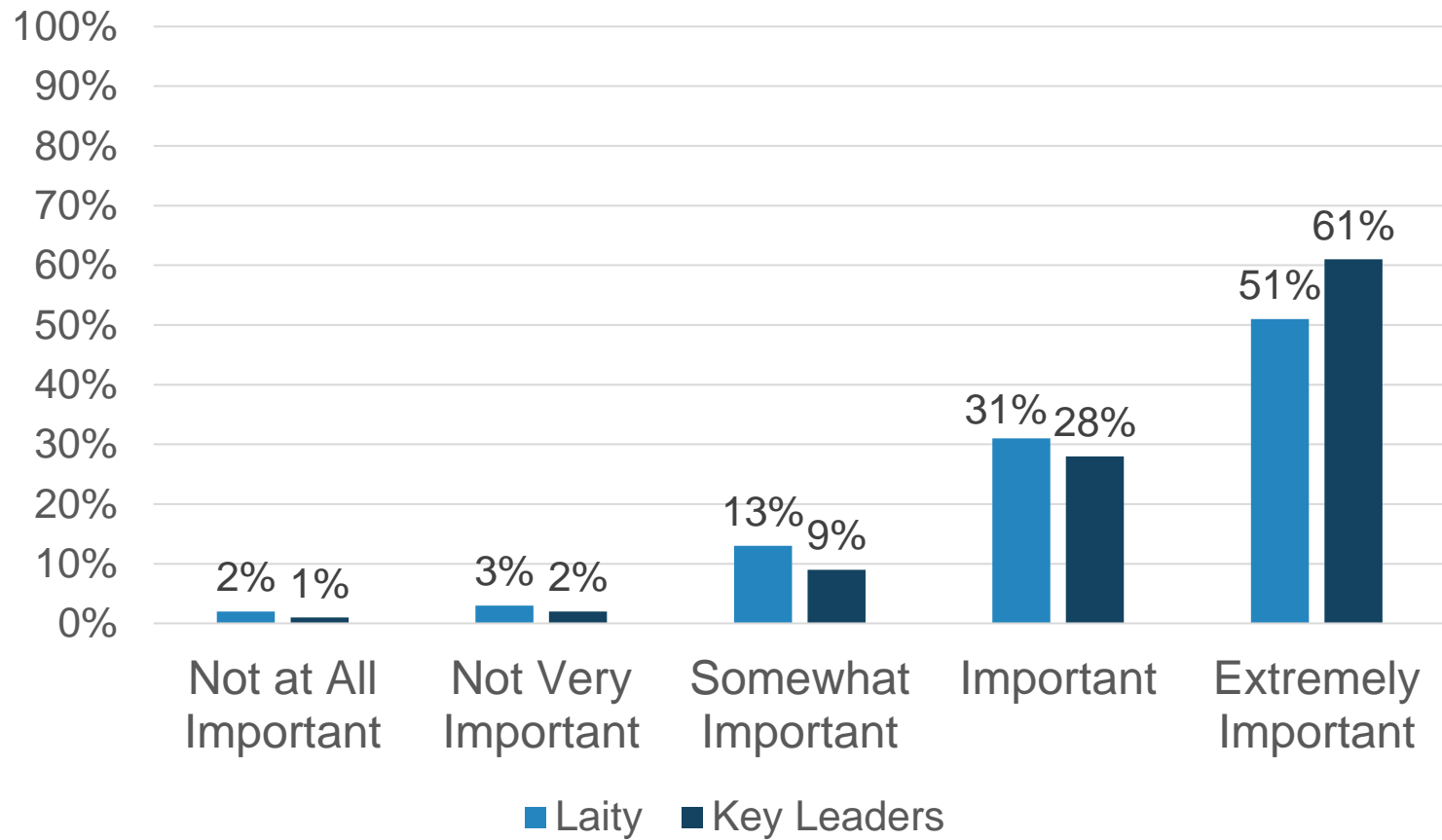
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

Importance of Parents' rights in education

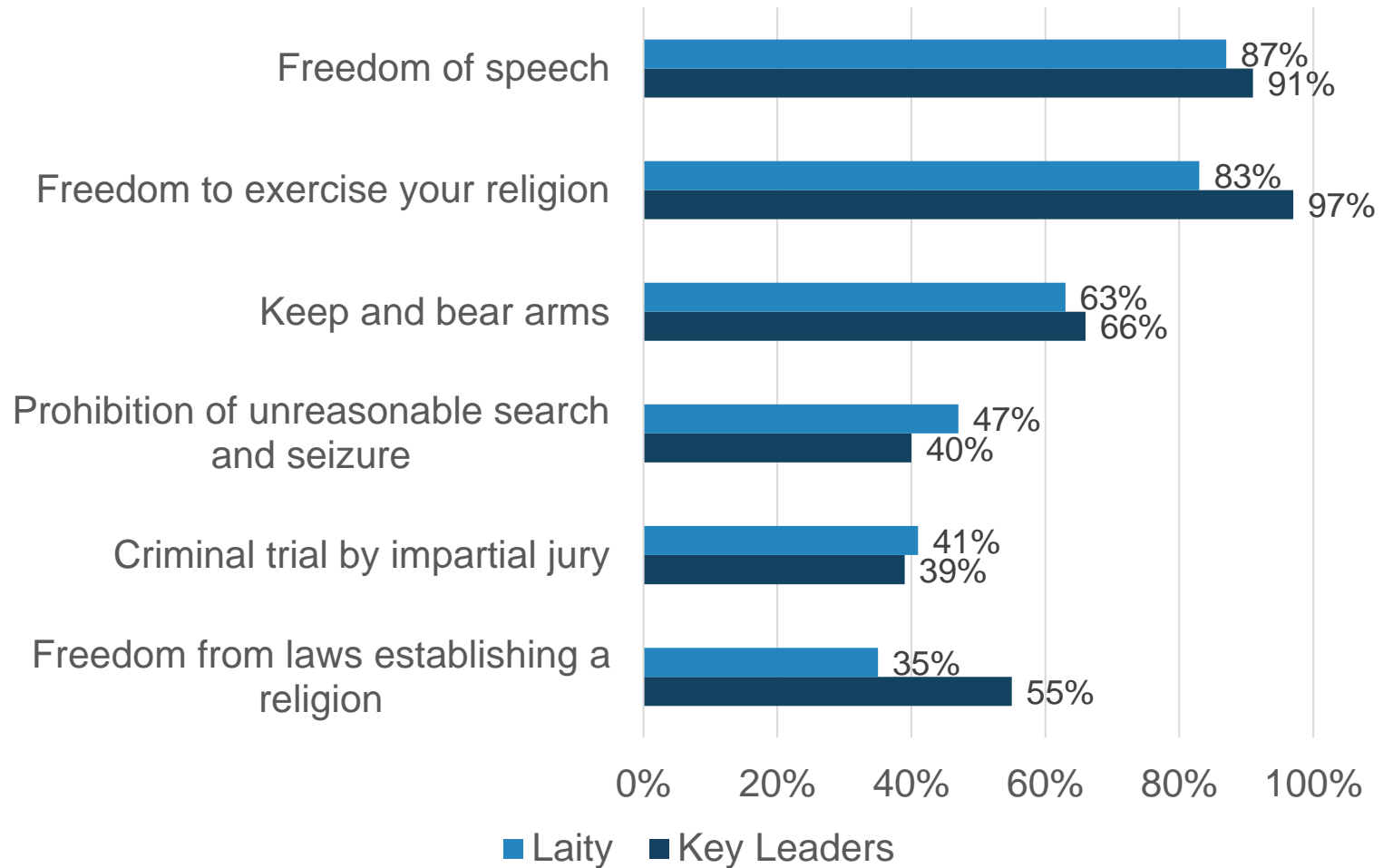
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)”

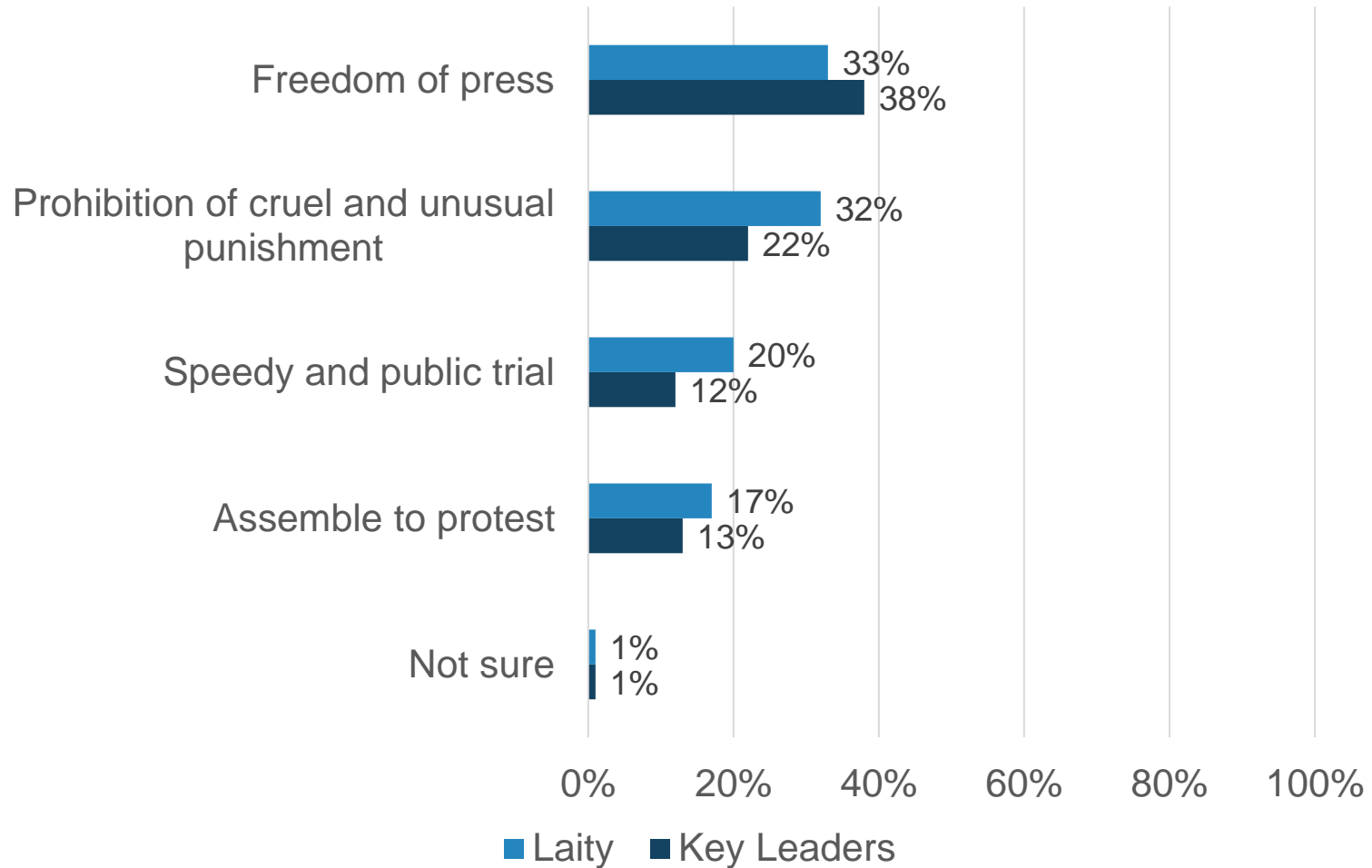
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)” *continued*

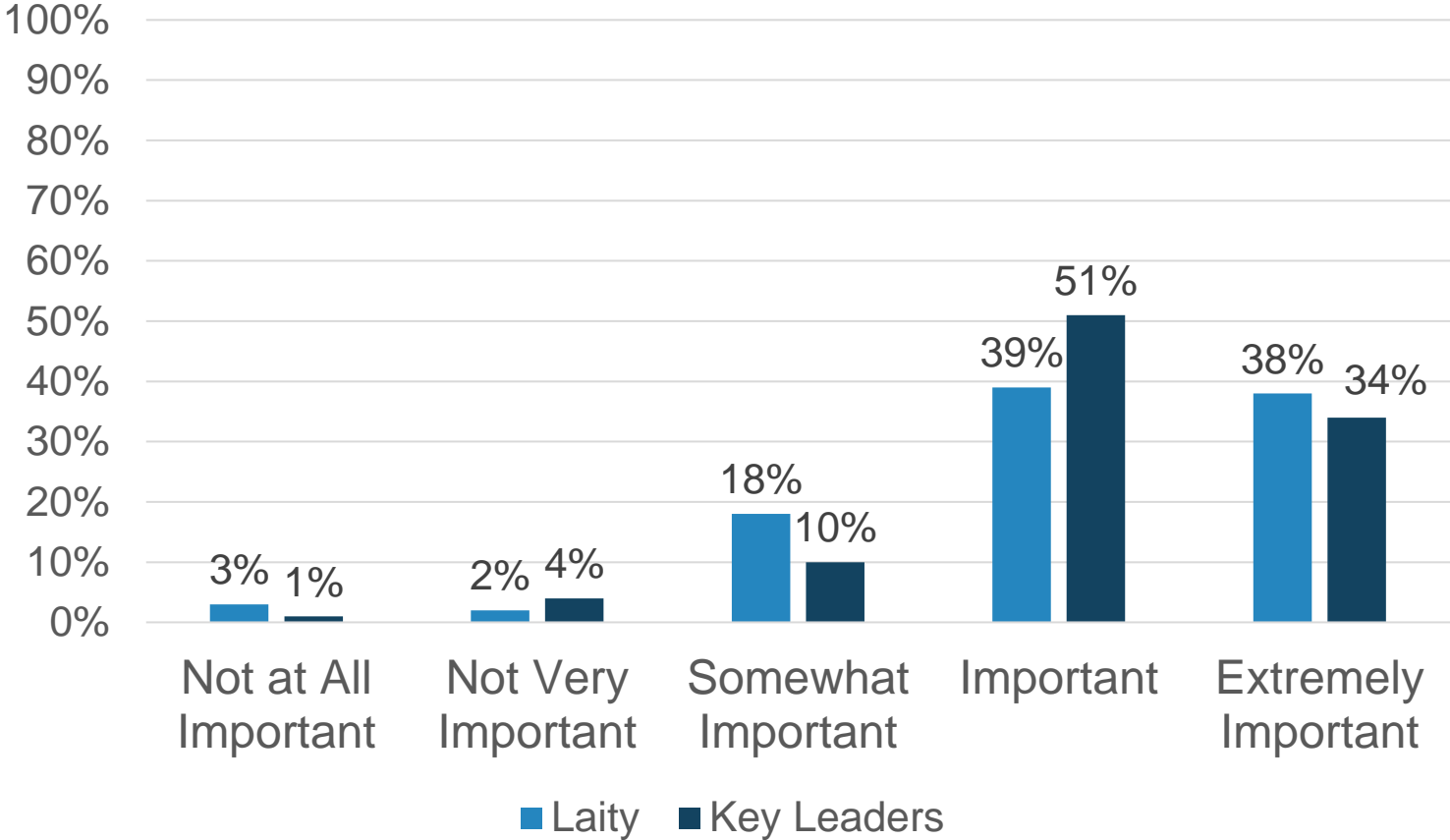
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

77% of laity and 85% of key leaders think it is important/extremely important that those they agree with politically are heard in society

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

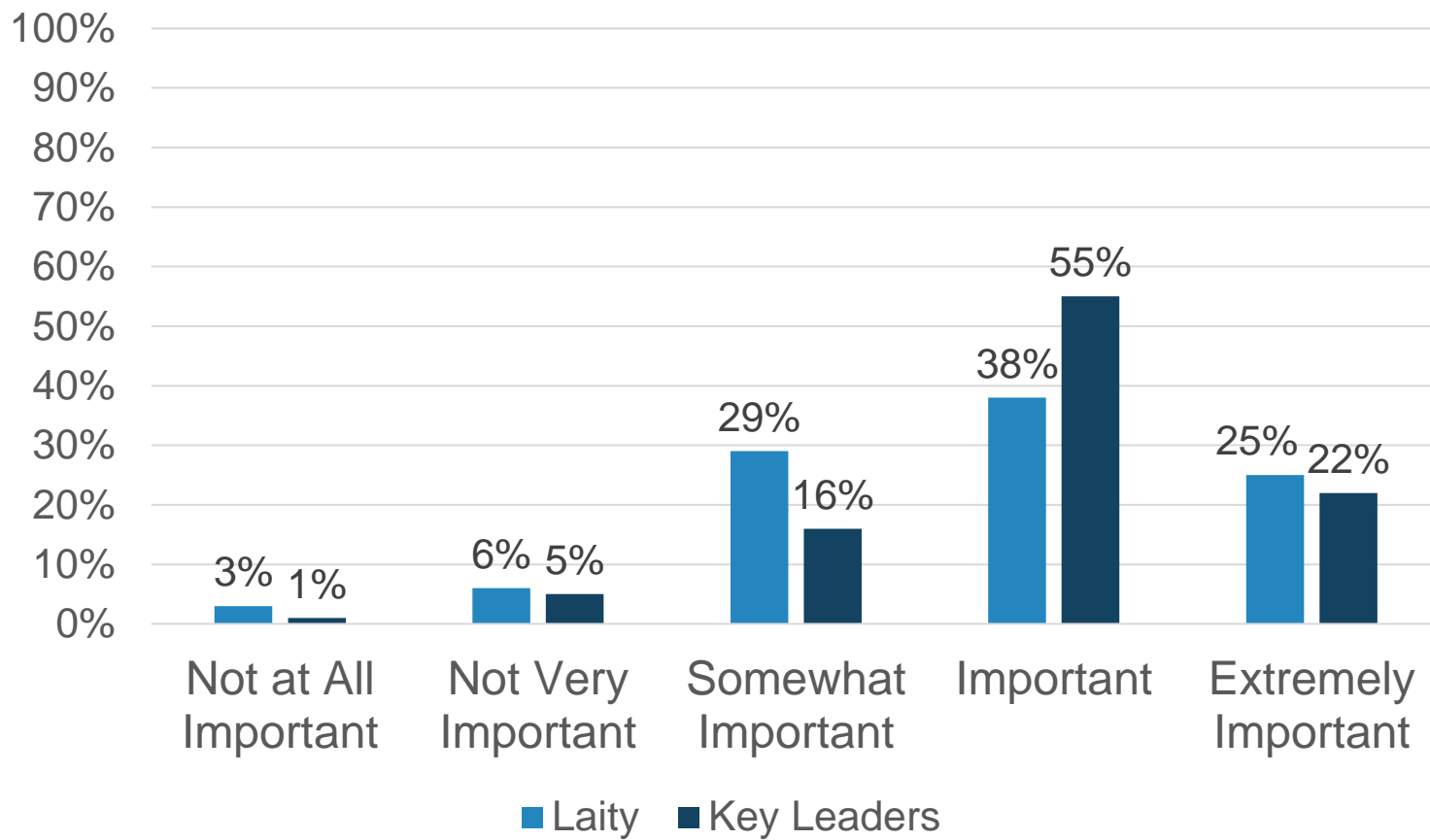


Lifeway research

Q13 "Those who agree with my political views are heard in our society." n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

63% of laity and 77% of key leaders think it is important/extremely important that those they disagree with politically are heard in society

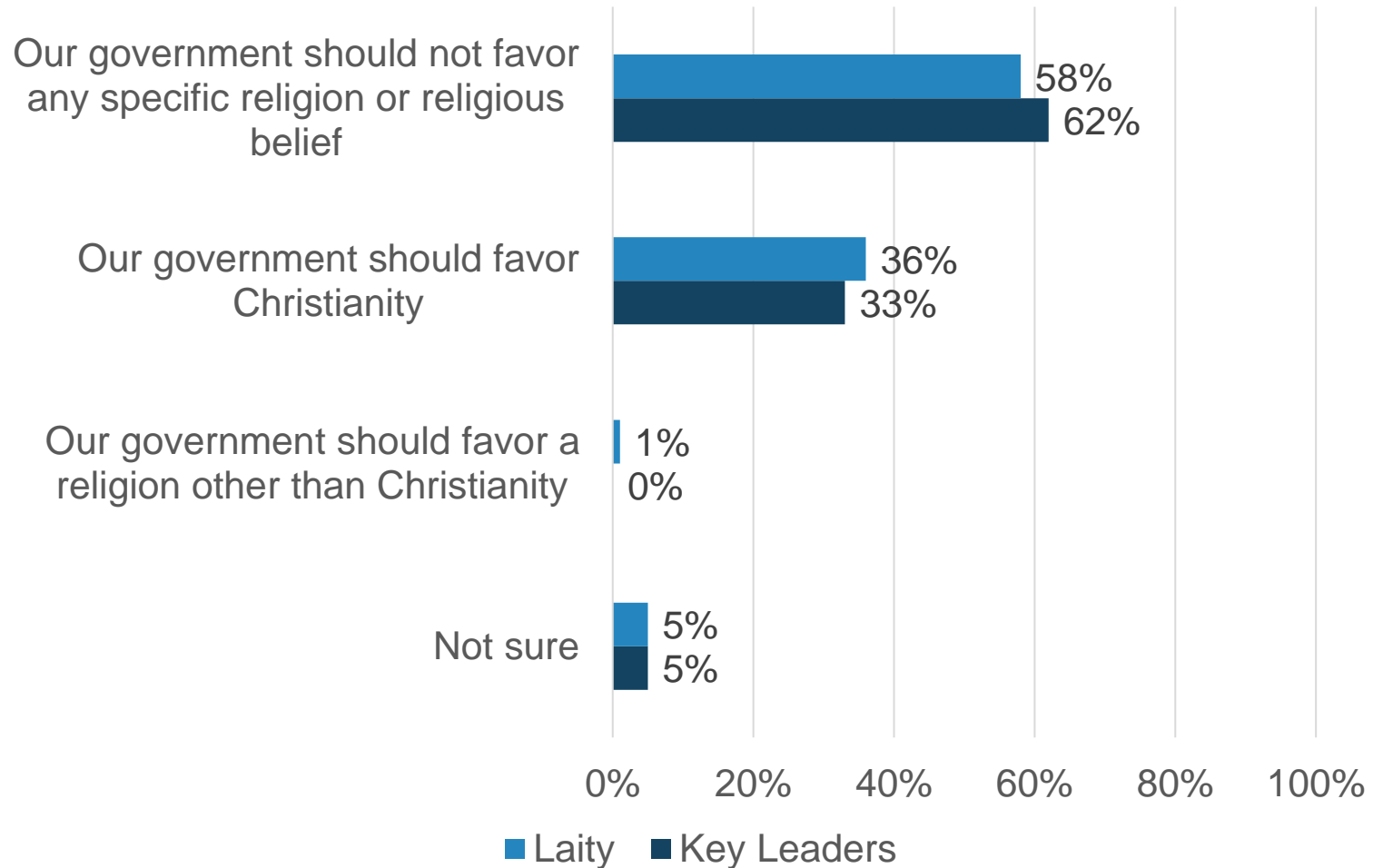
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

58% of laity and 62% of key leaders believe government should not favor any specific religion or religious beliefs

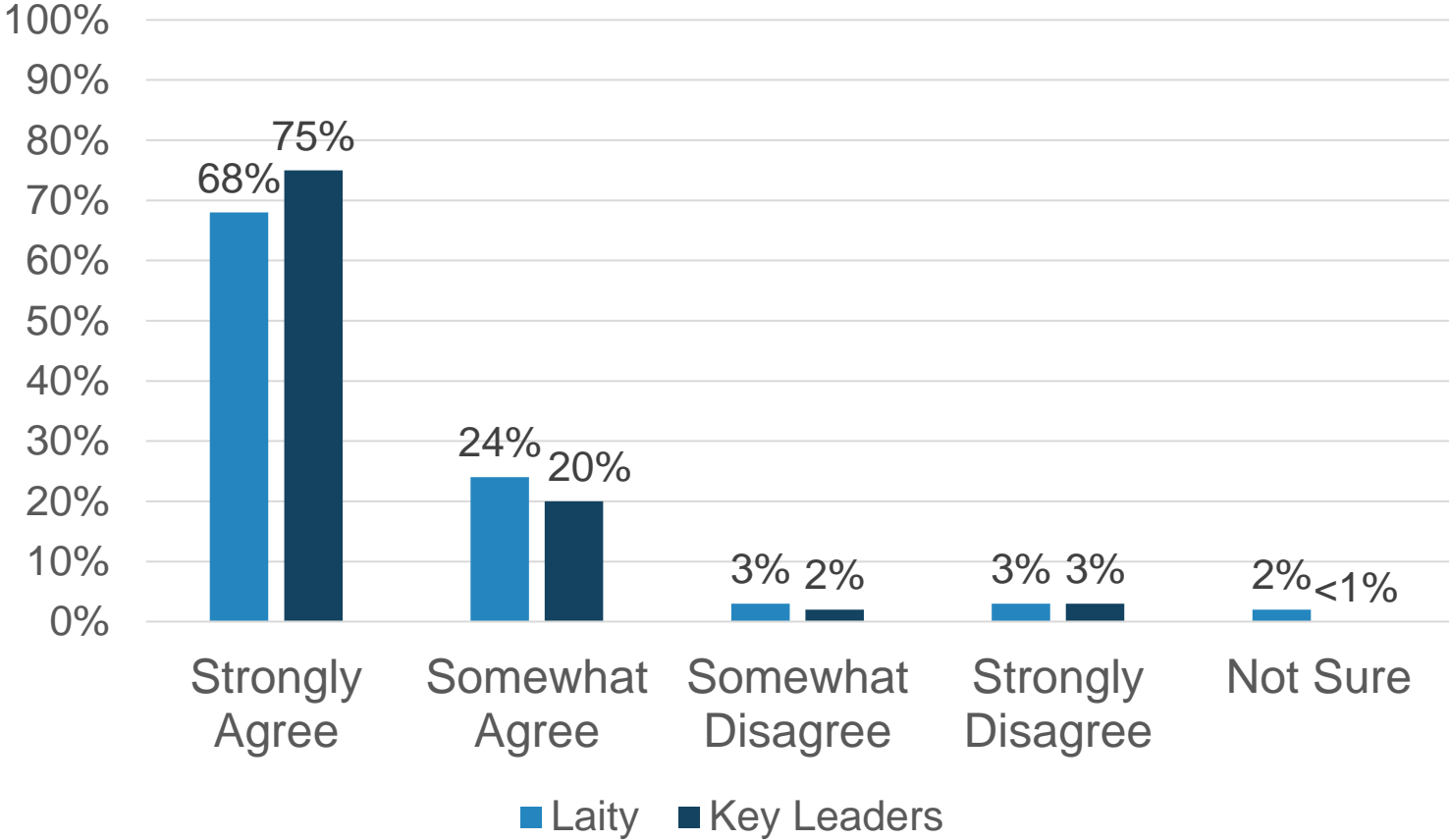
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

92% of laity and 95% of key leaders agree that religious liberty should apply to all persons and religions

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

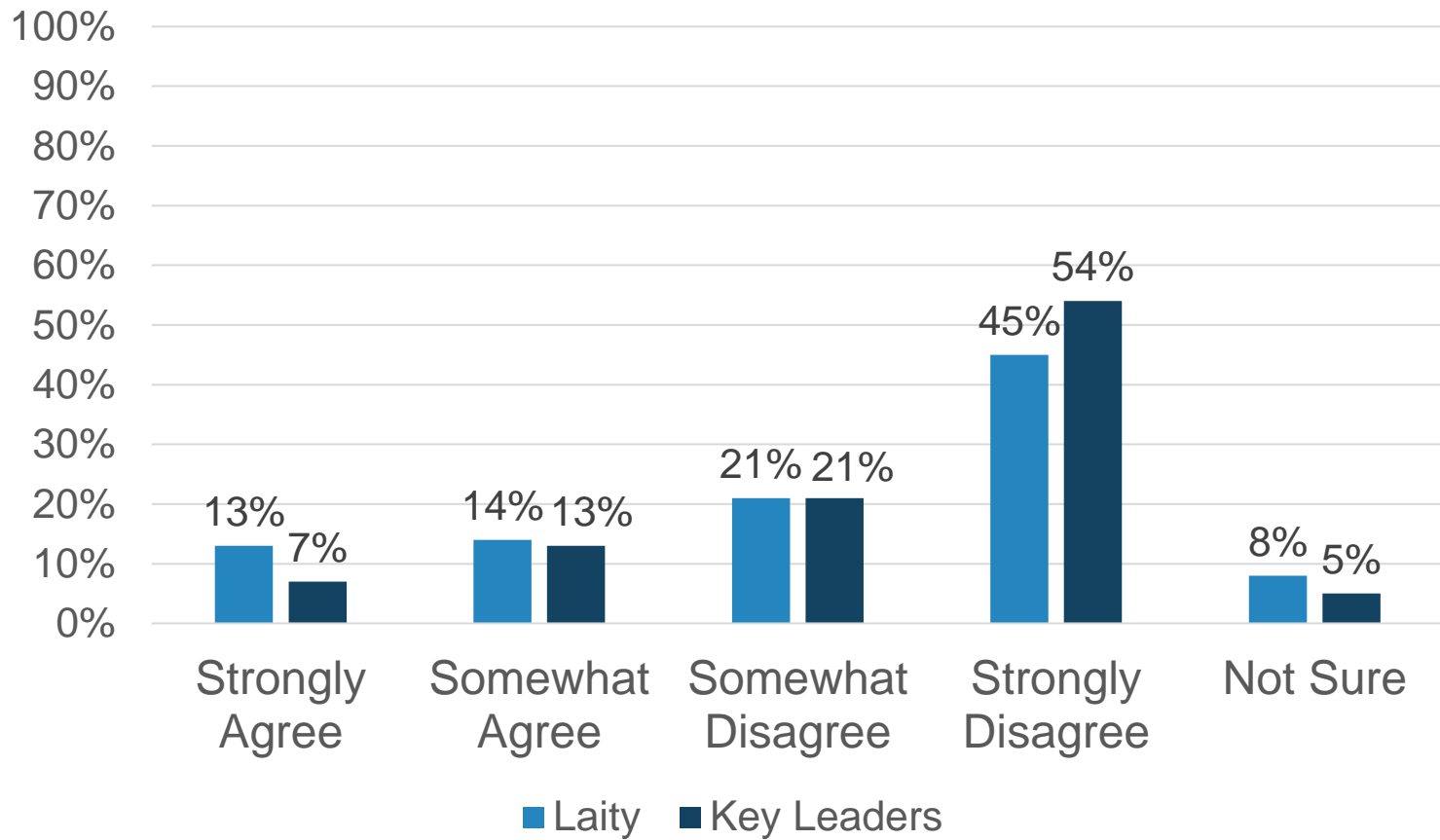


Lifeway research

Q16: "Religious liberty is a principle that should apply to all persons and religions." n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

66% of laity and 75% of key leaders do *not* believe that religious liberty should only advance Christianity

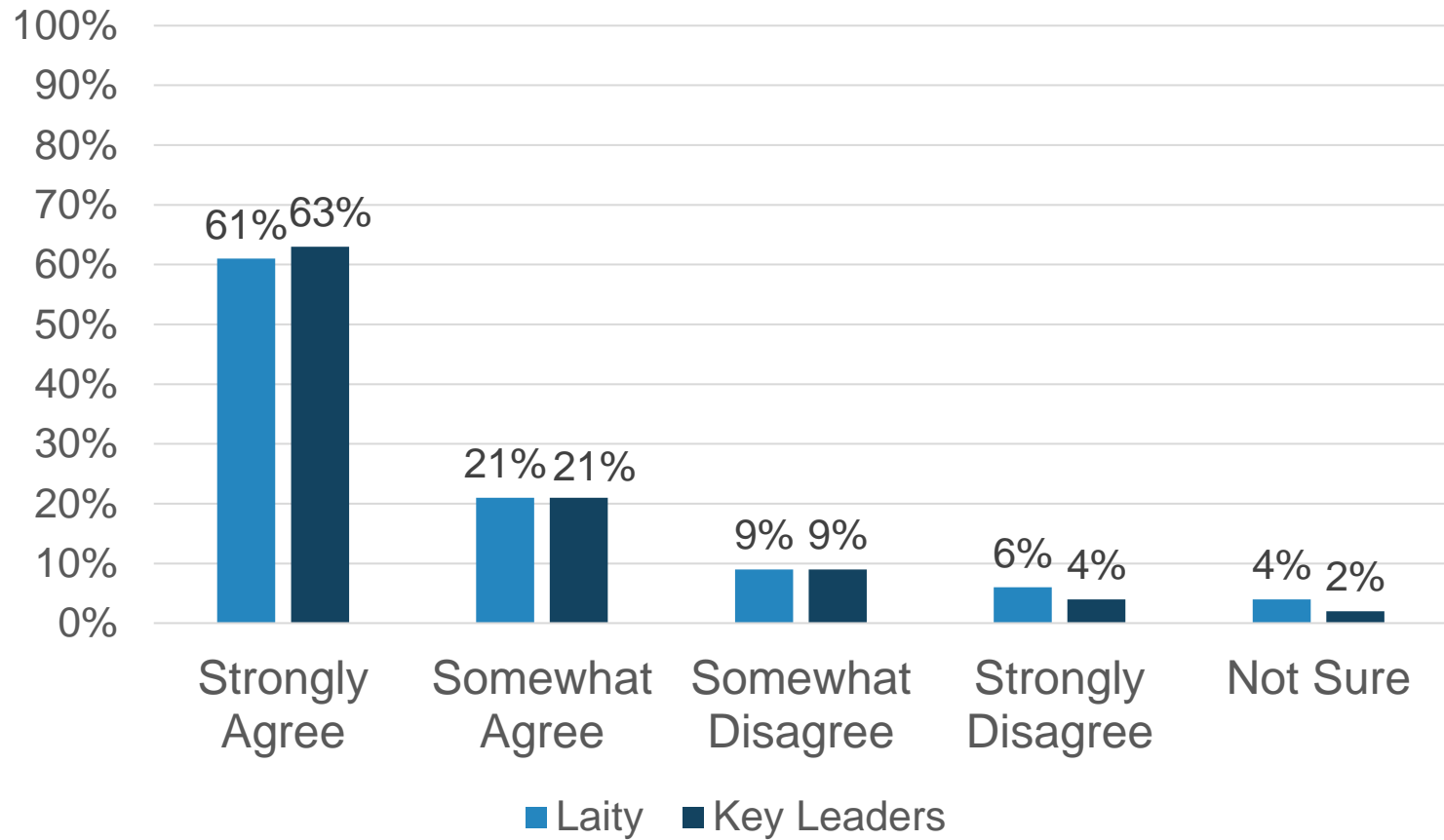
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

81% of laity and 85% of key leaders agree that government should not give one religion preference over another

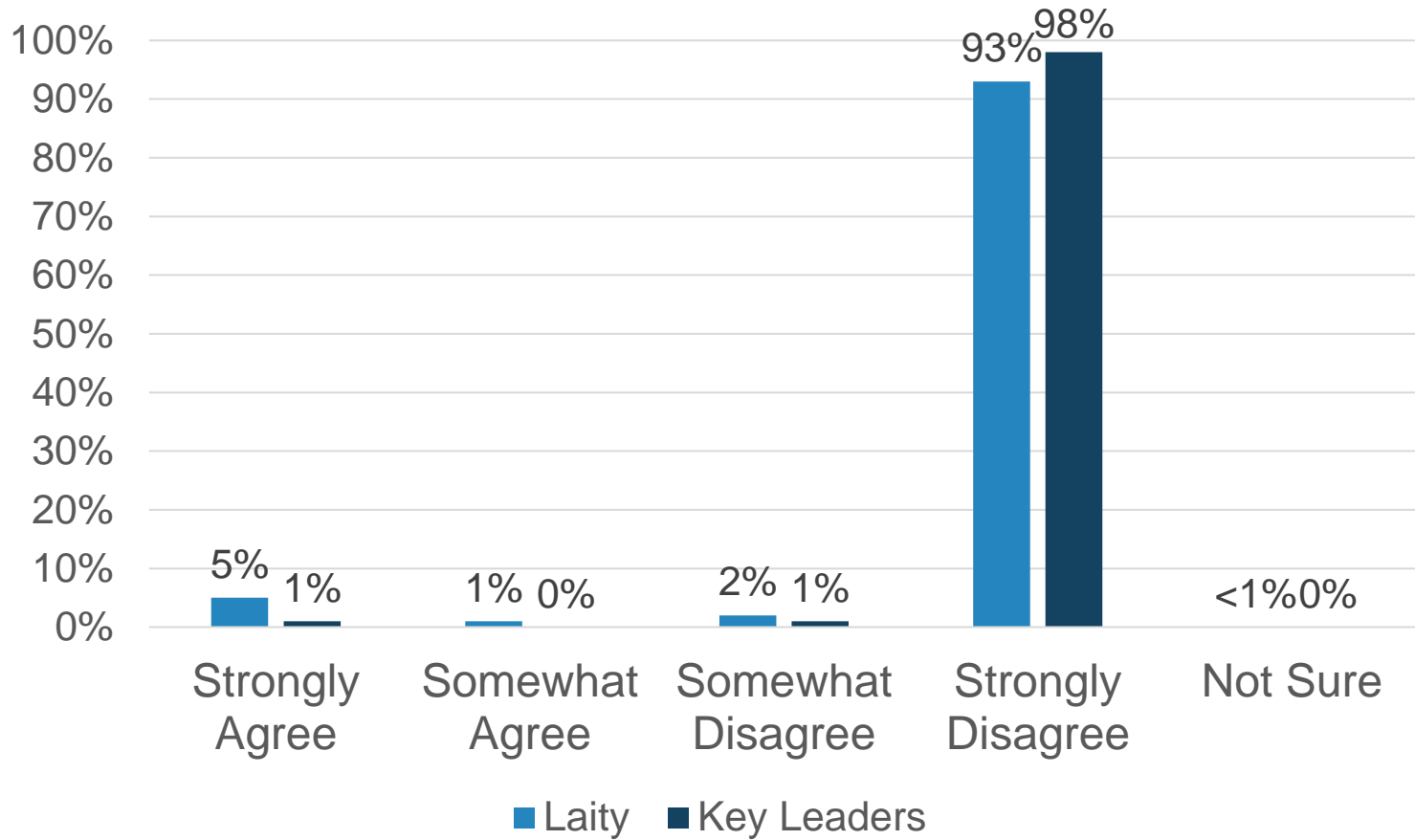
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

94% of laity and 99% of key leaders do *not* believe that the government should decide what type of church people attend

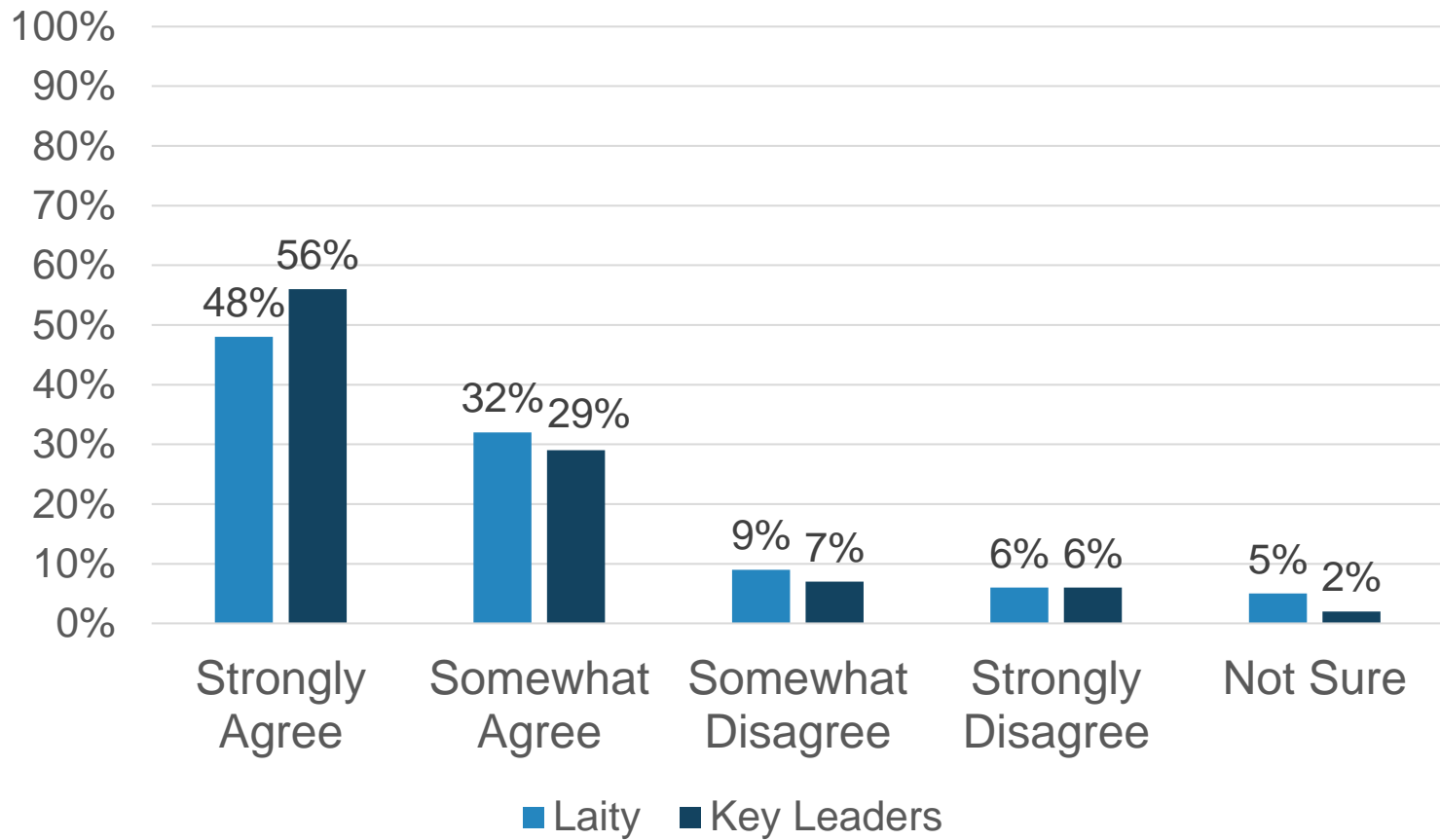
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

80% of laity and 86% of key leaders support government that ensures people can freely practice their religion, even false religions

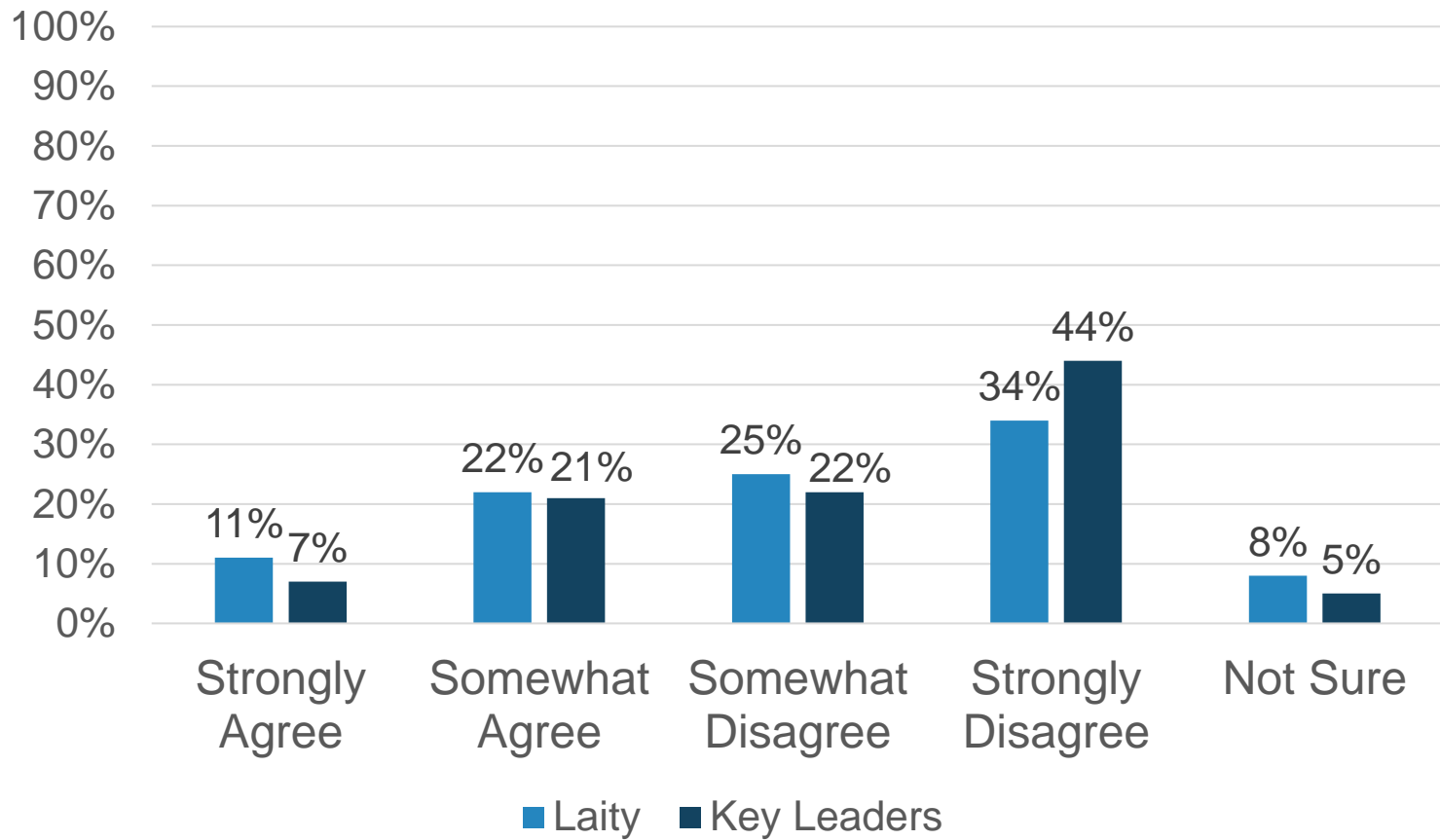
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

60% of laity and 66% of key leaders do *not* believe that competing religions pose a threat to the church and her mission

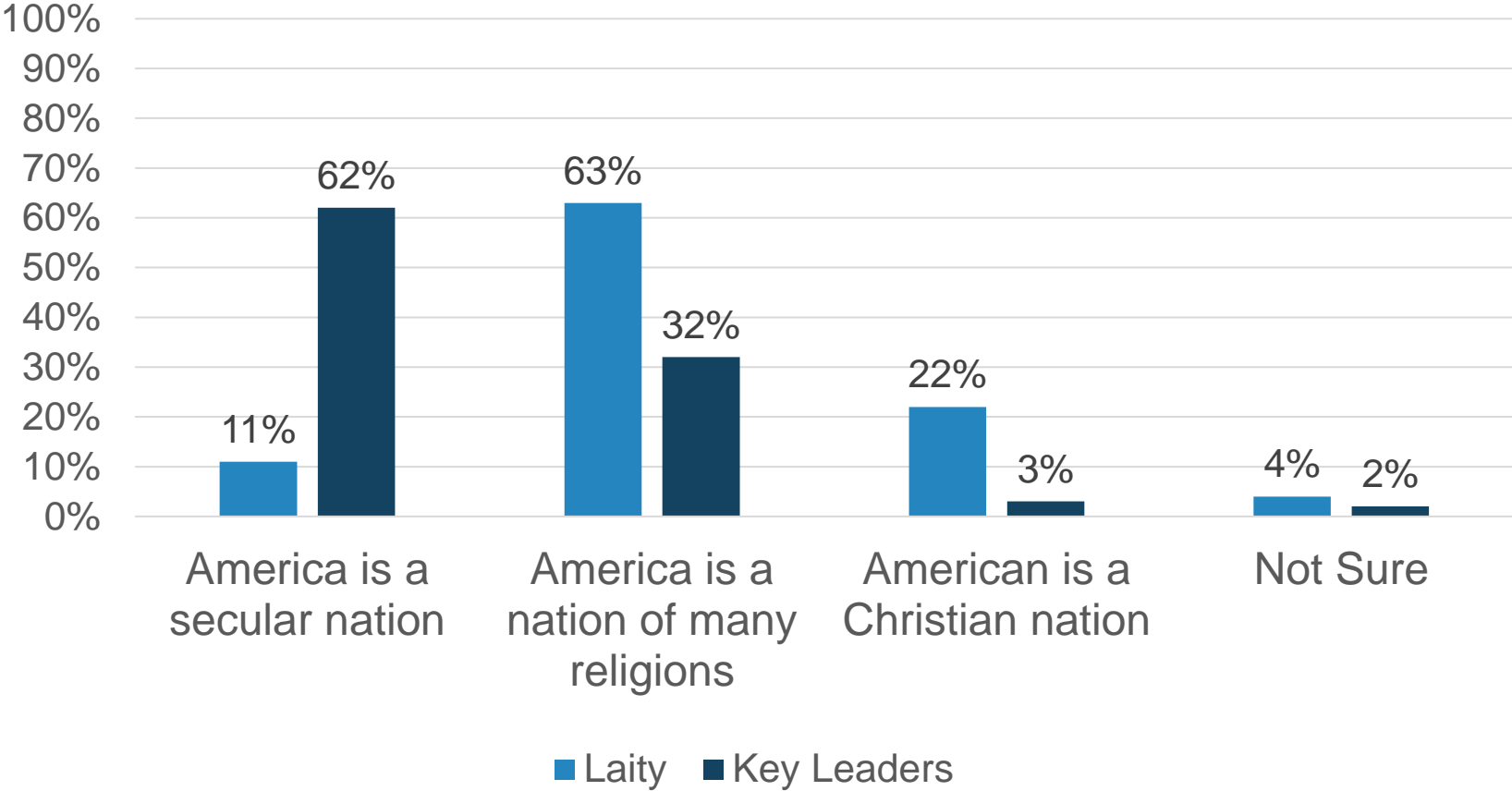
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

62% of key leaders say that America is a secular nation, compared to only 11% of laity

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

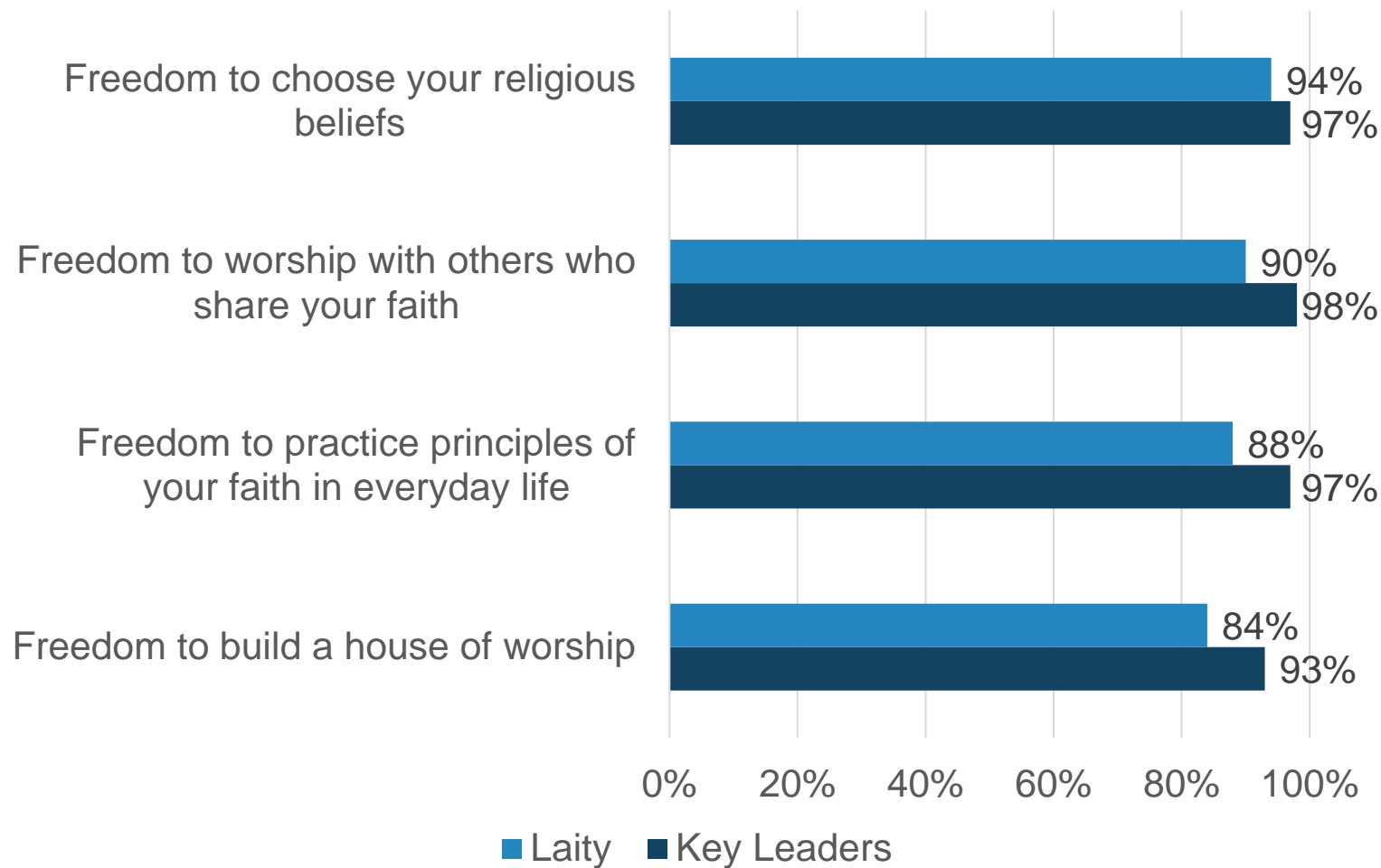


Lifeway research

Q22: "Which of the following three statements best describes America today?" n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

“Which, if any, of the following aspects of religious freedom do you believe should be an American’s right?”

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

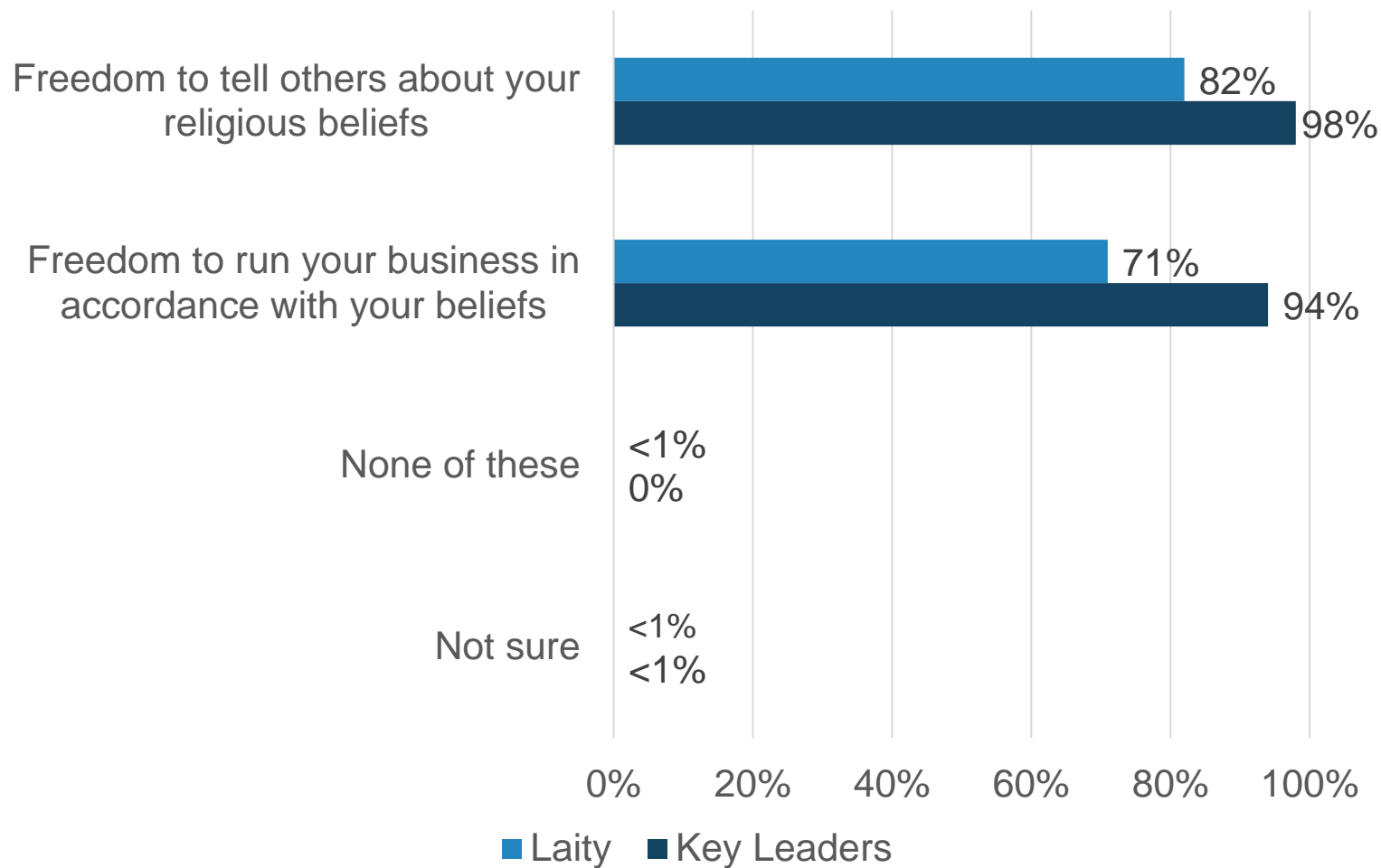


Lifeway research

Q23: “Which, if any, of the following aspects of religious freedom do you believe should be an American’s right? (Select all that apply)”
n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

“Which, if any, of the following aspects of religious freedom do you believe should be an American’s right?” *continued*

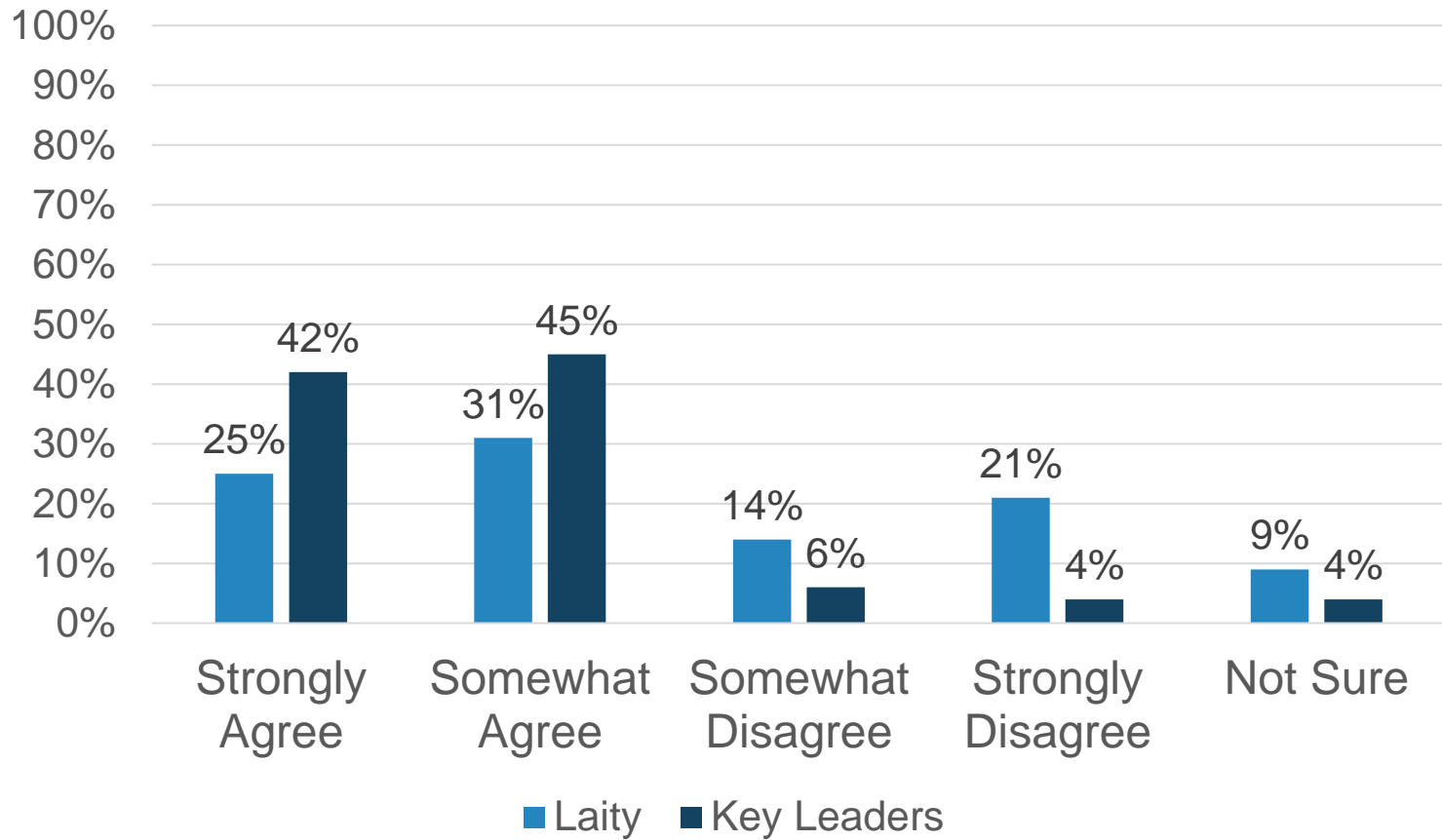
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifewayresearch

55% of laity and 87% of key leaders agree that God has given authority to government leaders that Christians should follow

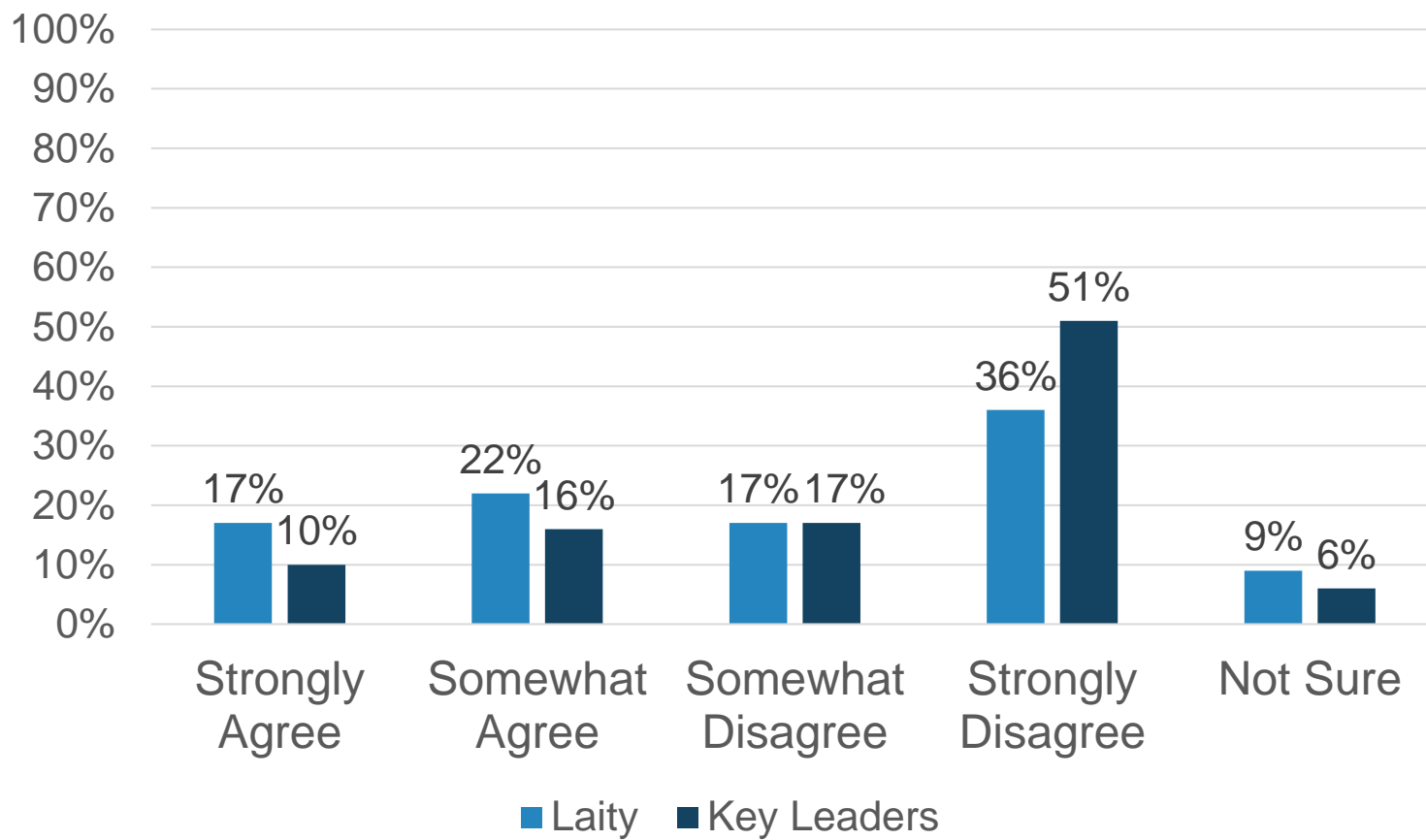
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

52% of laity and 68% of key leaders do *not* believe that God has given civil rulers the authority to guide people in matters of religion

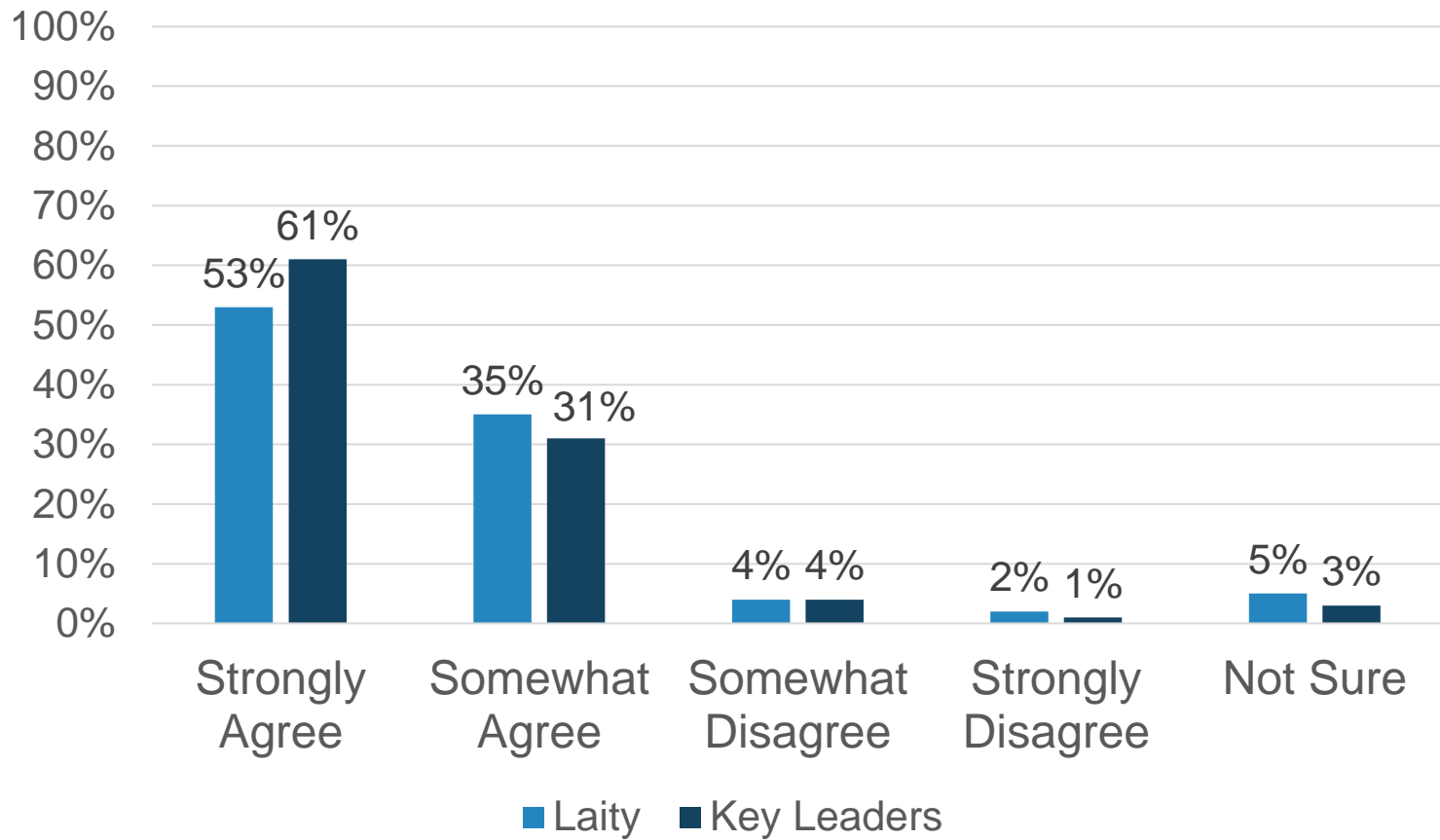
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

88% of laity and 92% of key leaders agree that Christians should pursue nonviolent resistance to unjust leaders, laws, and/or systems

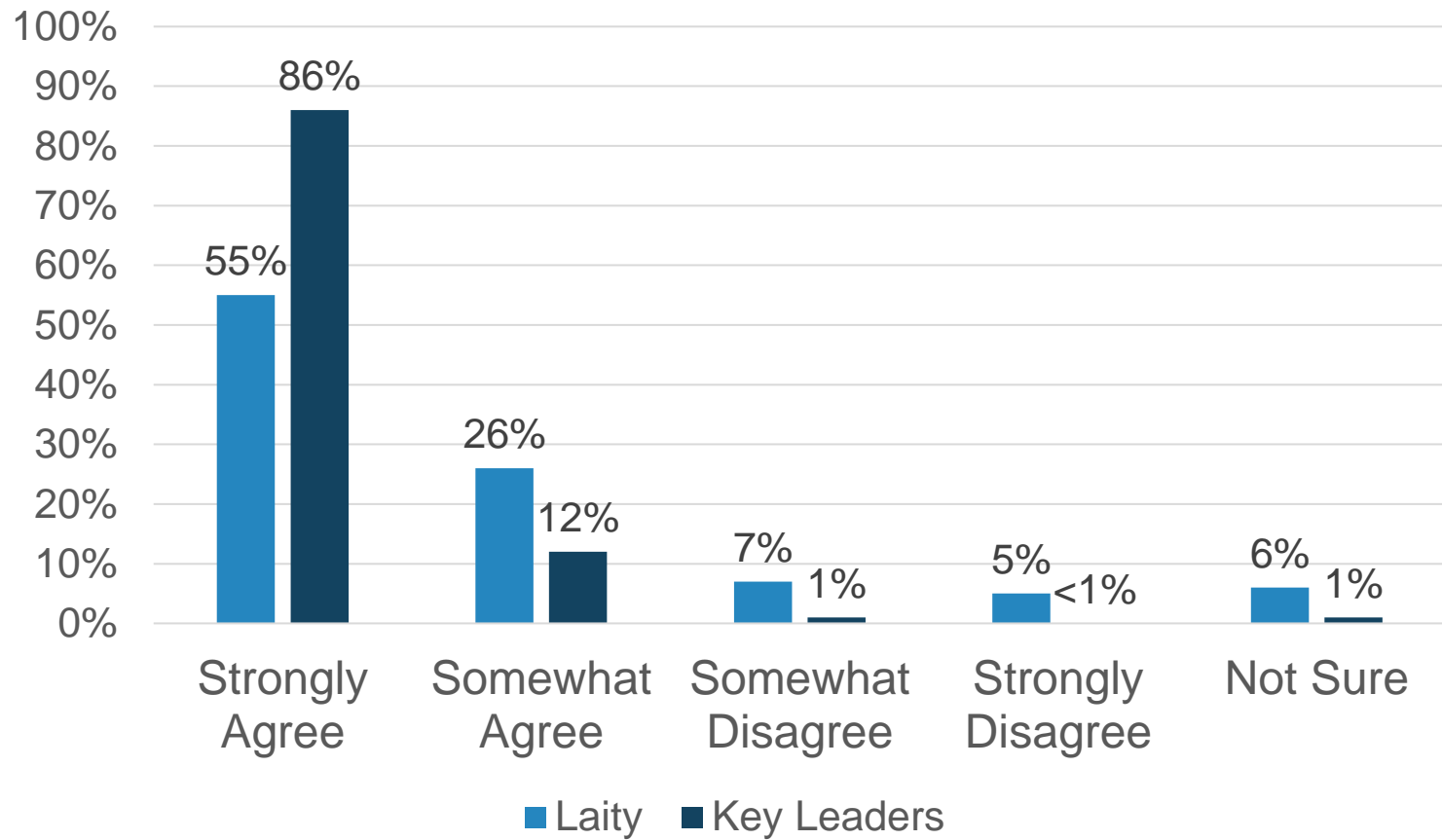
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

81% of laity and 97% of key leaders agree that Christians should obey all laws unless they directly conflict with commands in Scripture

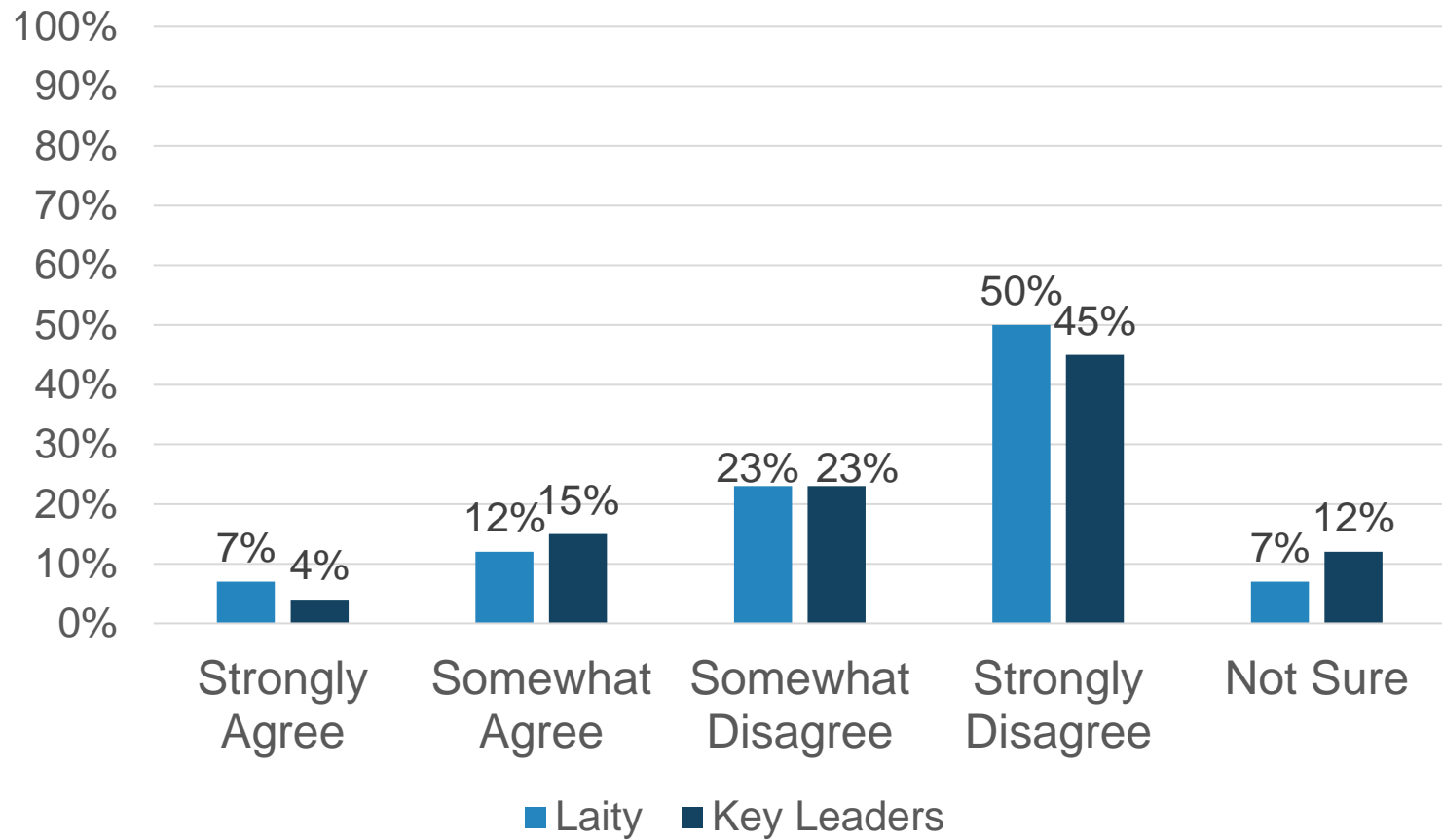
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

73% of laity and 68% of key leaders do *not* believe Christians should advocate violent resistance to severely unjust leaders, laws, and/or systems

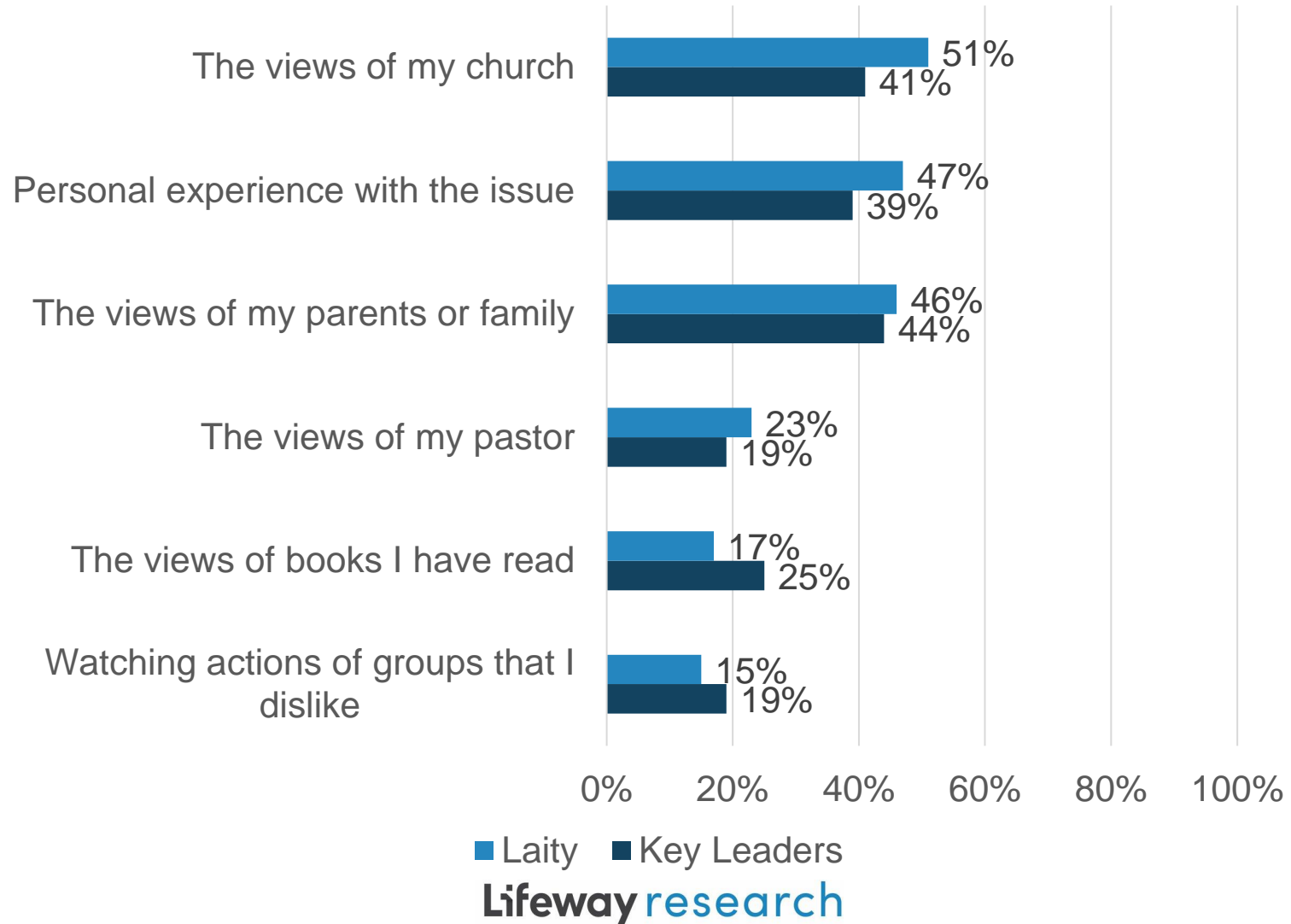
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

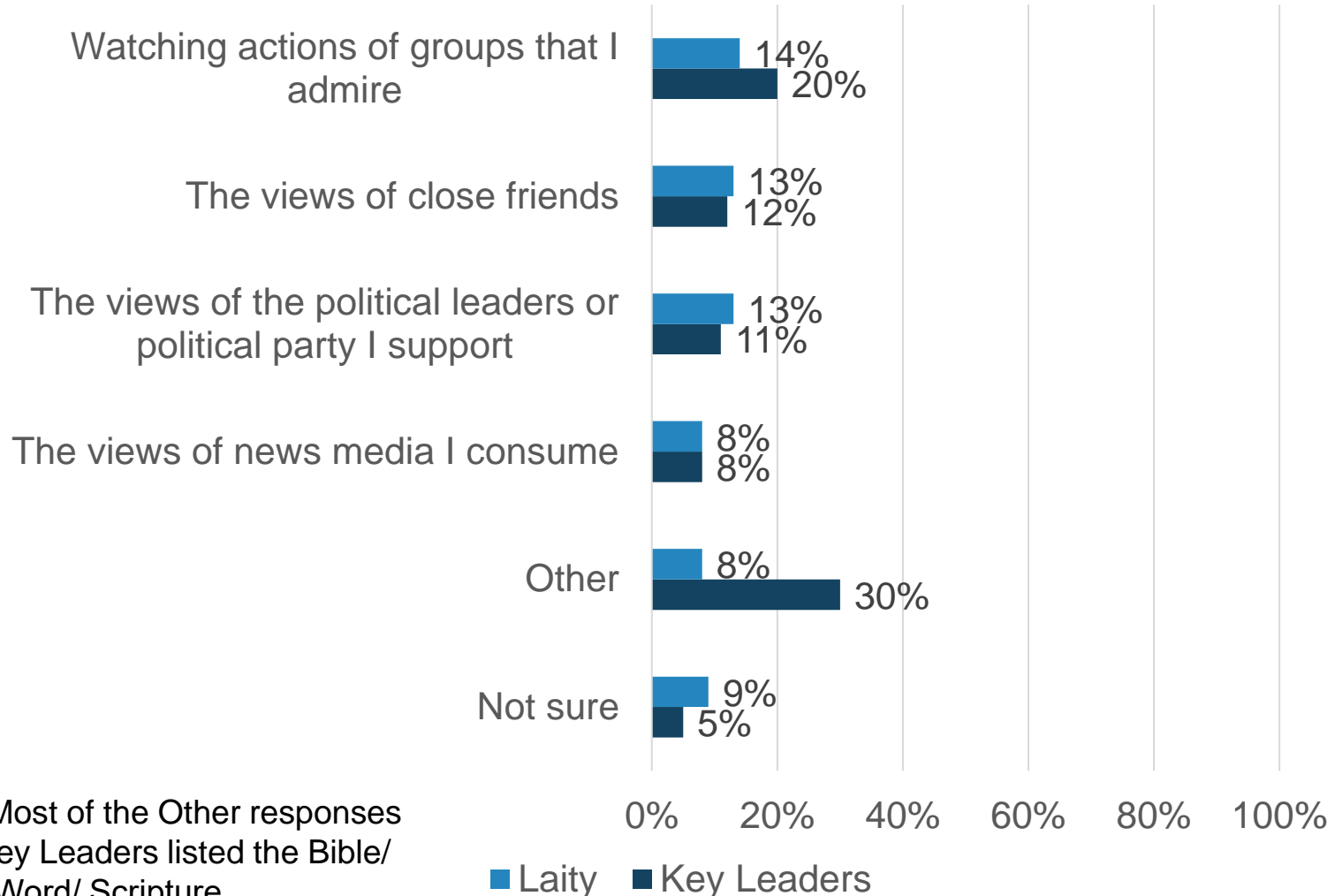
“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?”

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?” *continued*

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

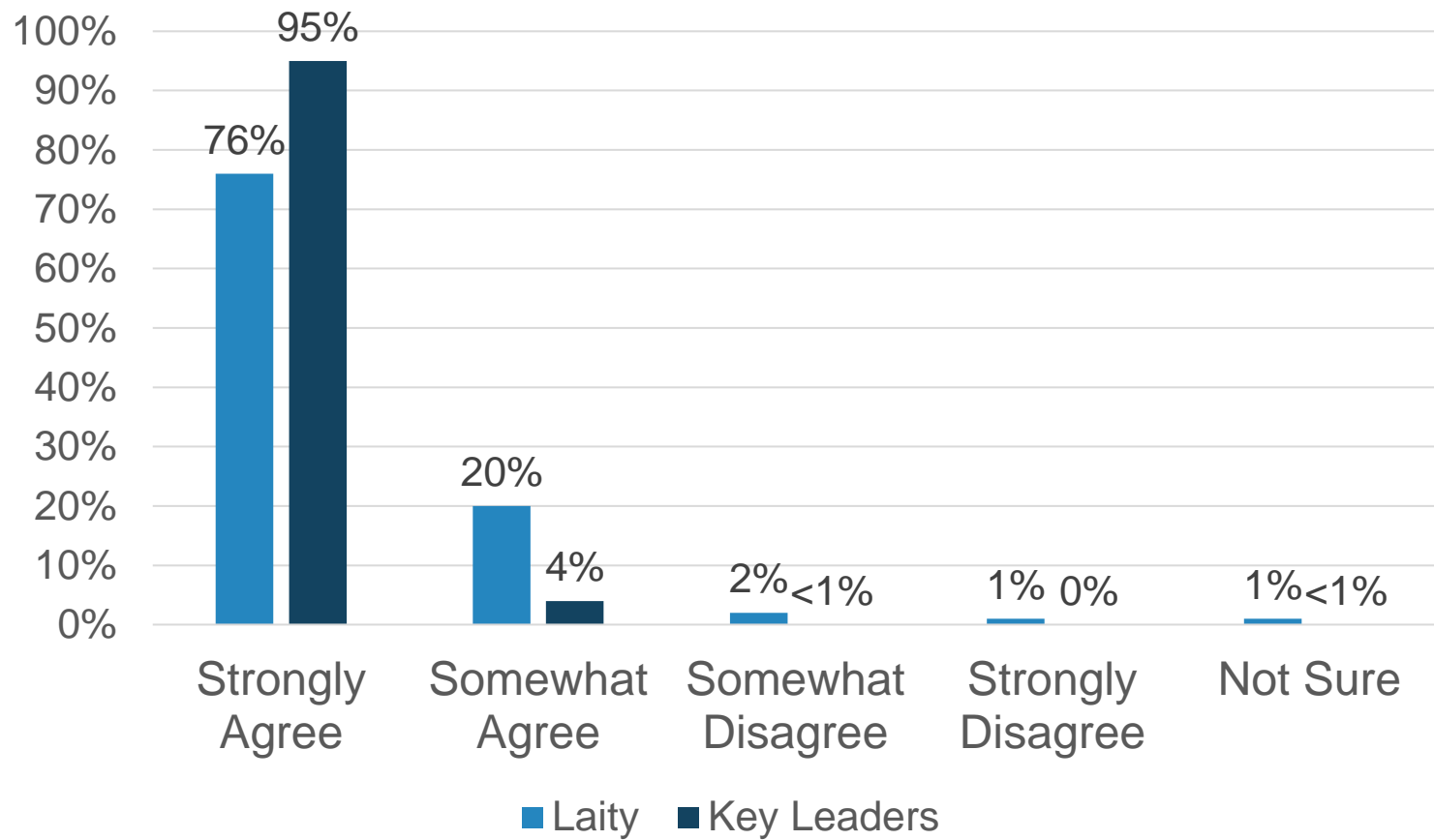


Note: Most of the Other responses from Key Leaders listed the Bible/ God’s Word/ Scripture

Lifeway research

96% of laity and 100% of key leaders agree that Christians should pray and advocate for those facing religious persecution in other countries

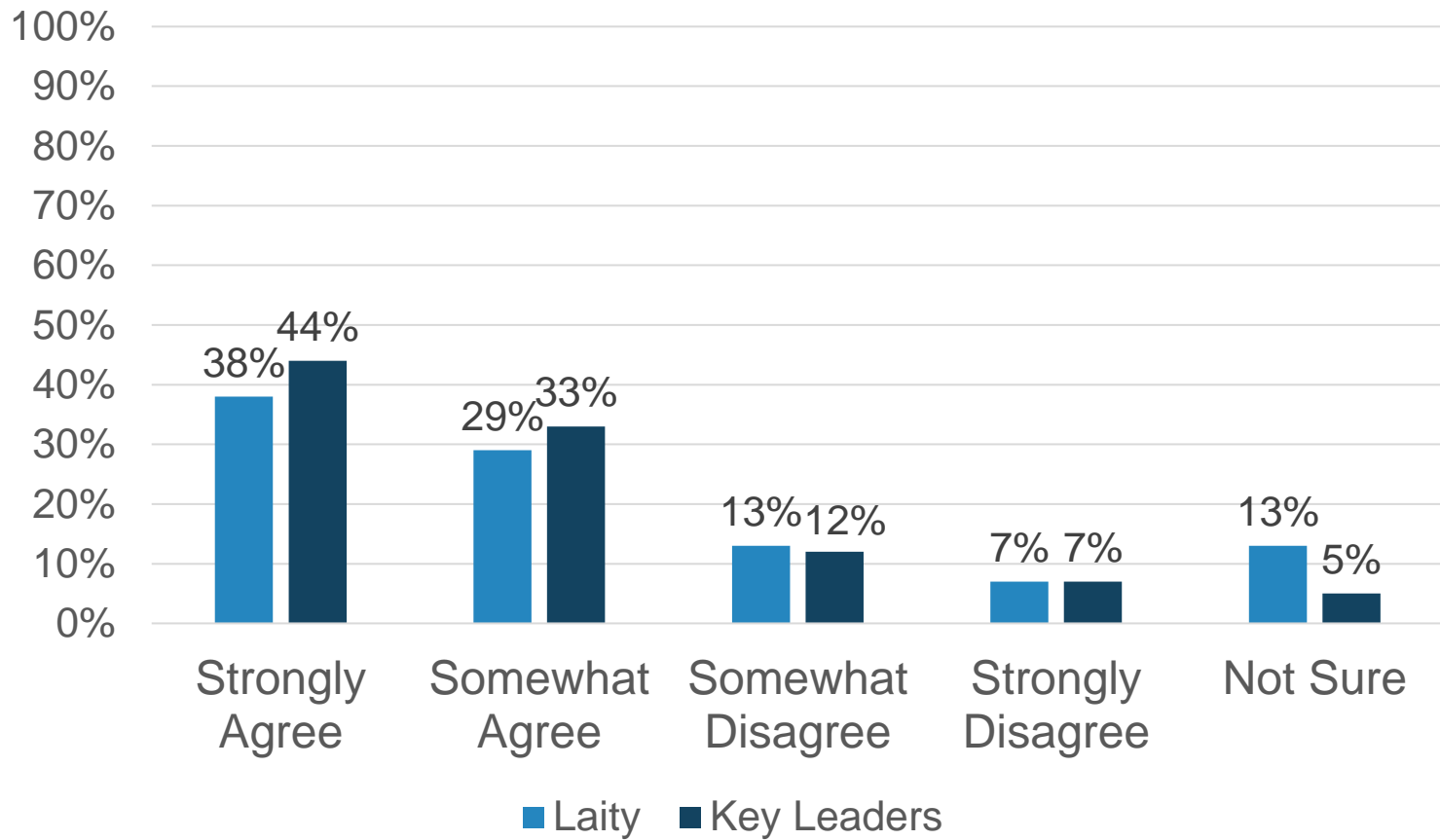
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

67% of laity and 77% of key leaders agree that Christians support legislation encourages Christian beliefs and practice

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

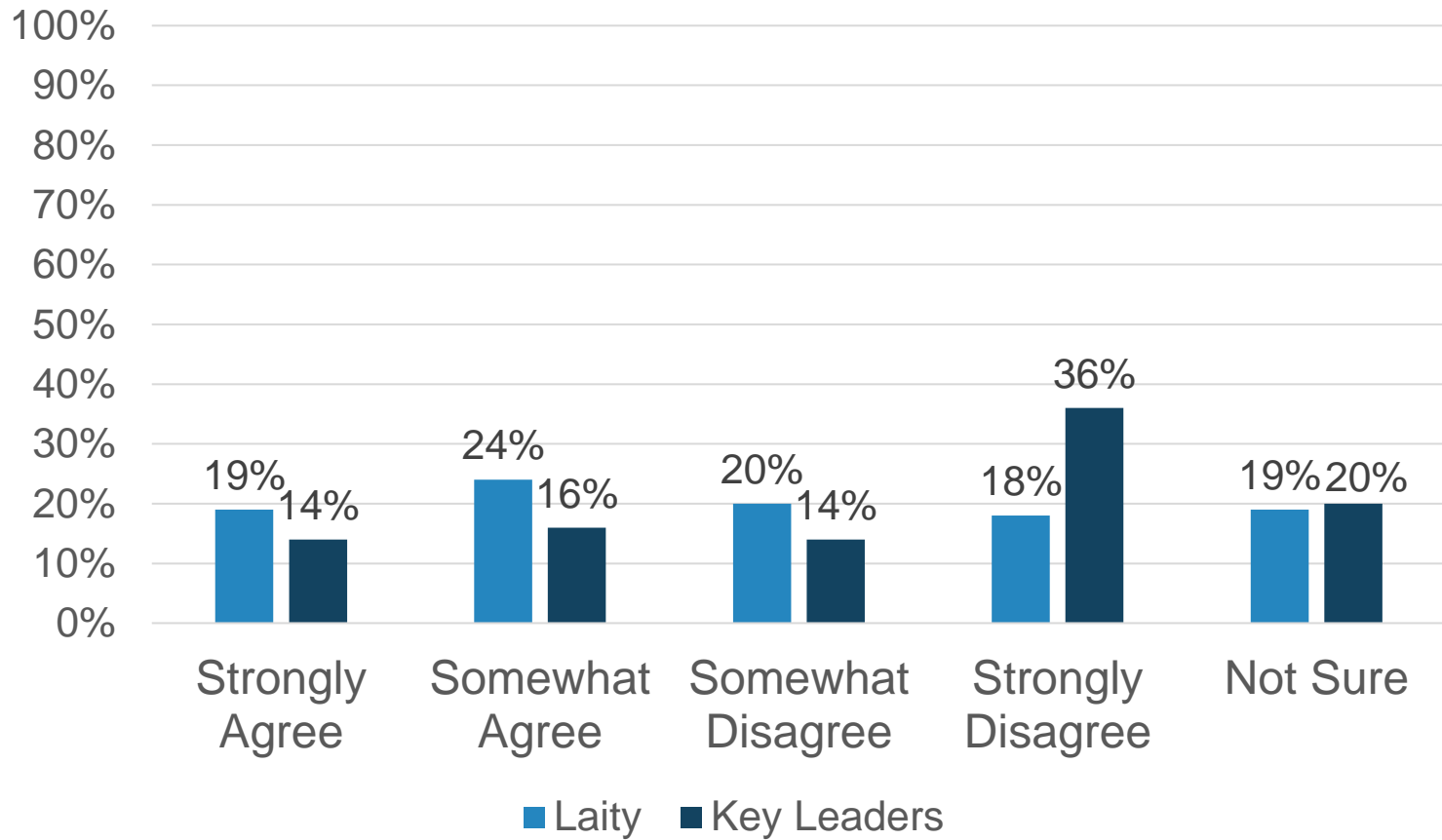


Lifeway research

Q31: "Christians should fight secularism by encouraging legislation that encourages Christian beliefs and practice."
n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

43% of laity and 29% of key leaders agree that loosening constitutional prohibitions on government involvement in religion can slow moral decline

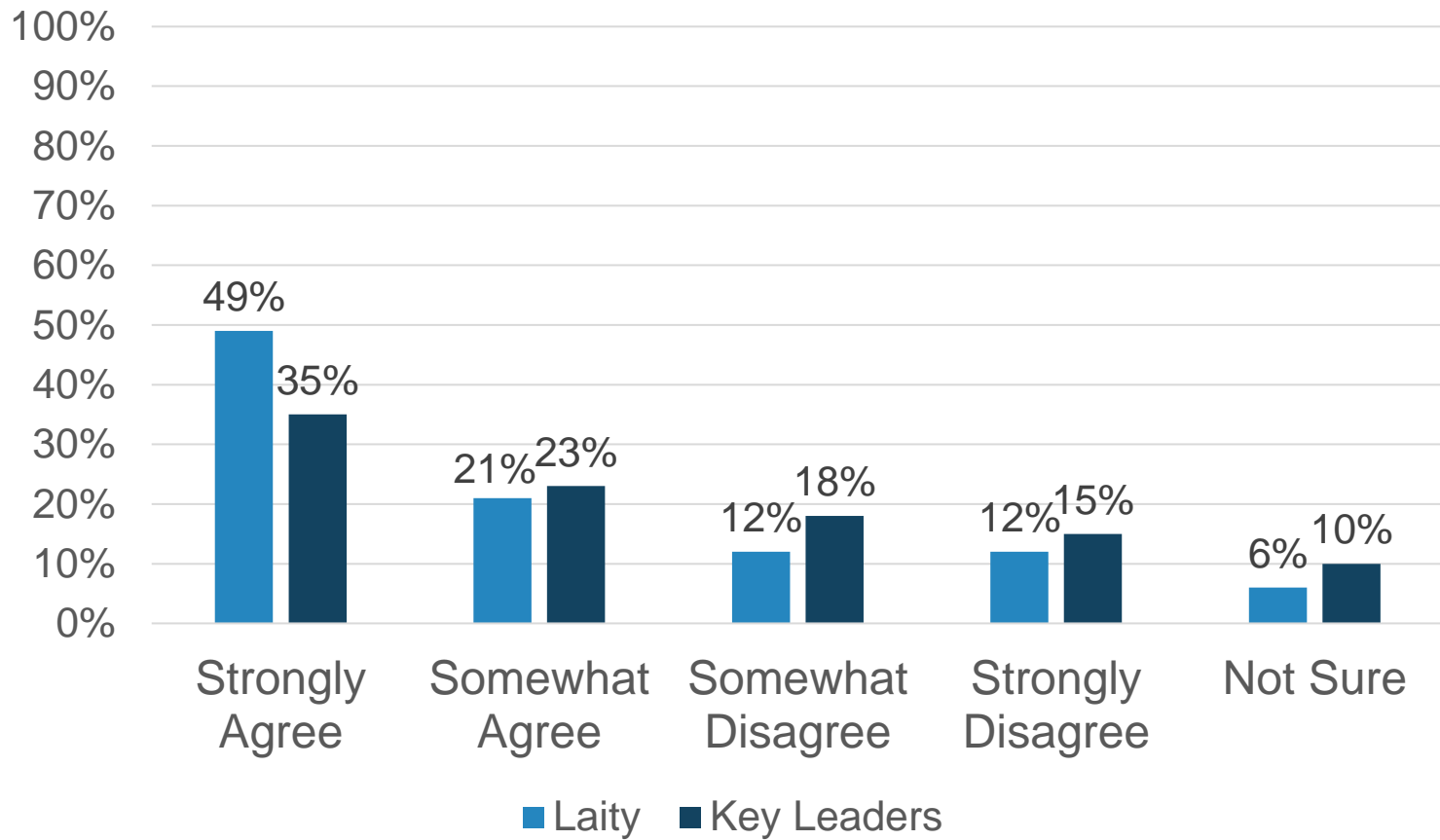
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

70% of laity and 57% of key leaders agree that every public school should post the Ten Commandments in their building

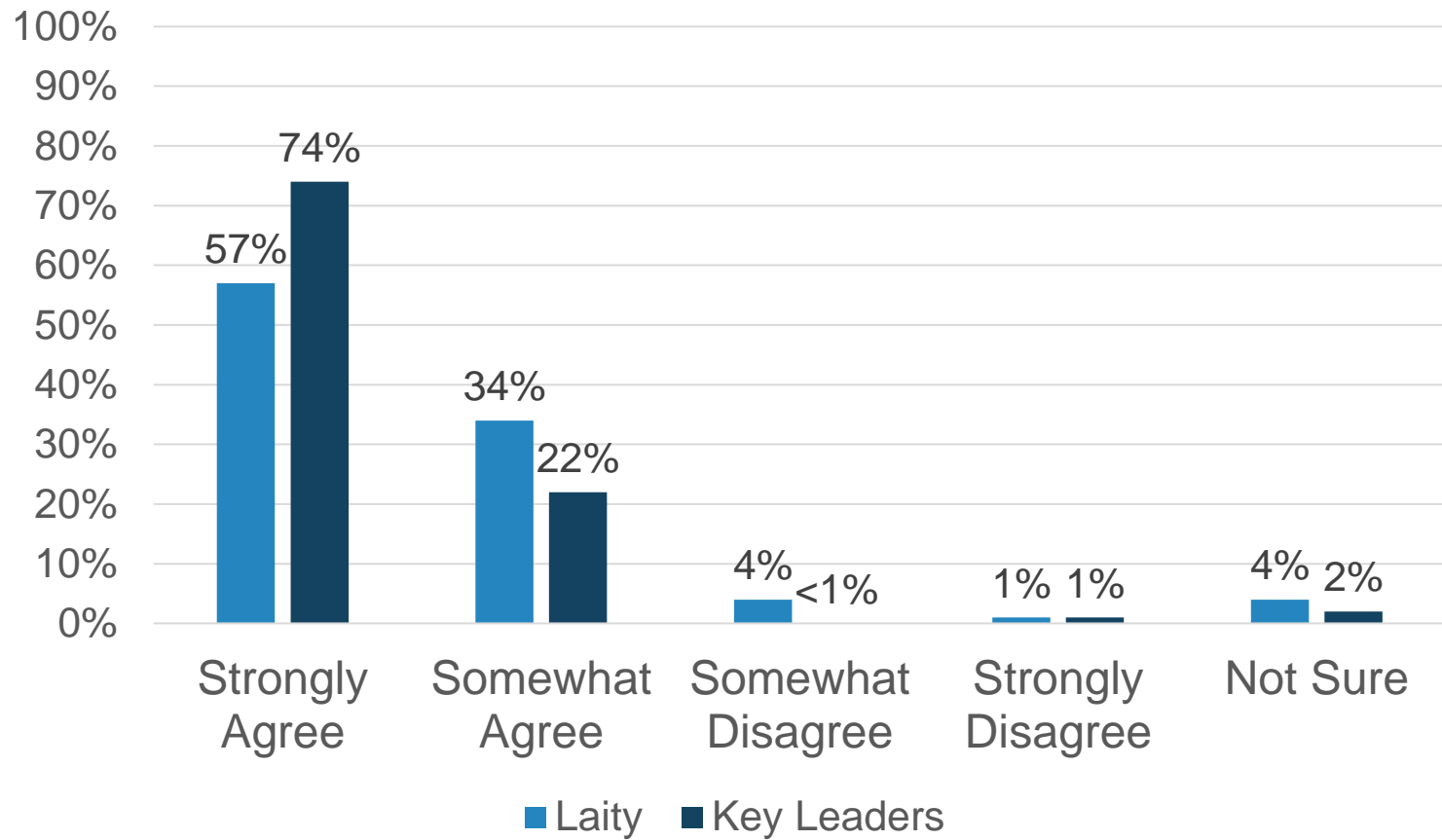
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

91% of laity and 97% of key leaders agree that Christians should stand with struggling and oppressed people with the goal of their salvation

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

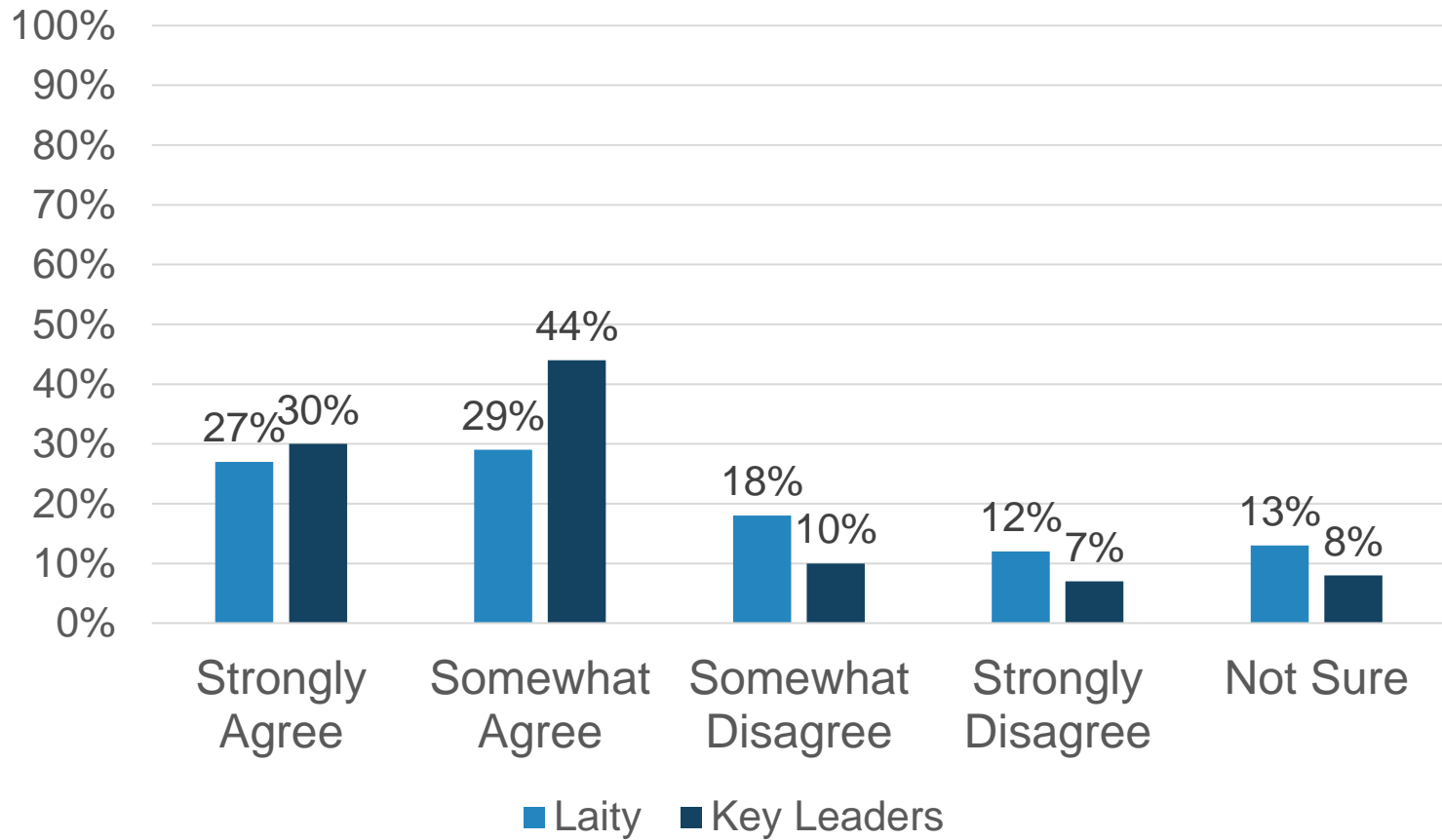


Lifeway research

Q34: "Christians must stand in solidarity with the struggling and oppressed people in the world with the goal of their salvation."
n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

56% of laity and 74% of key leaders agree that Christians can love their neighbor by being involved in politics

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

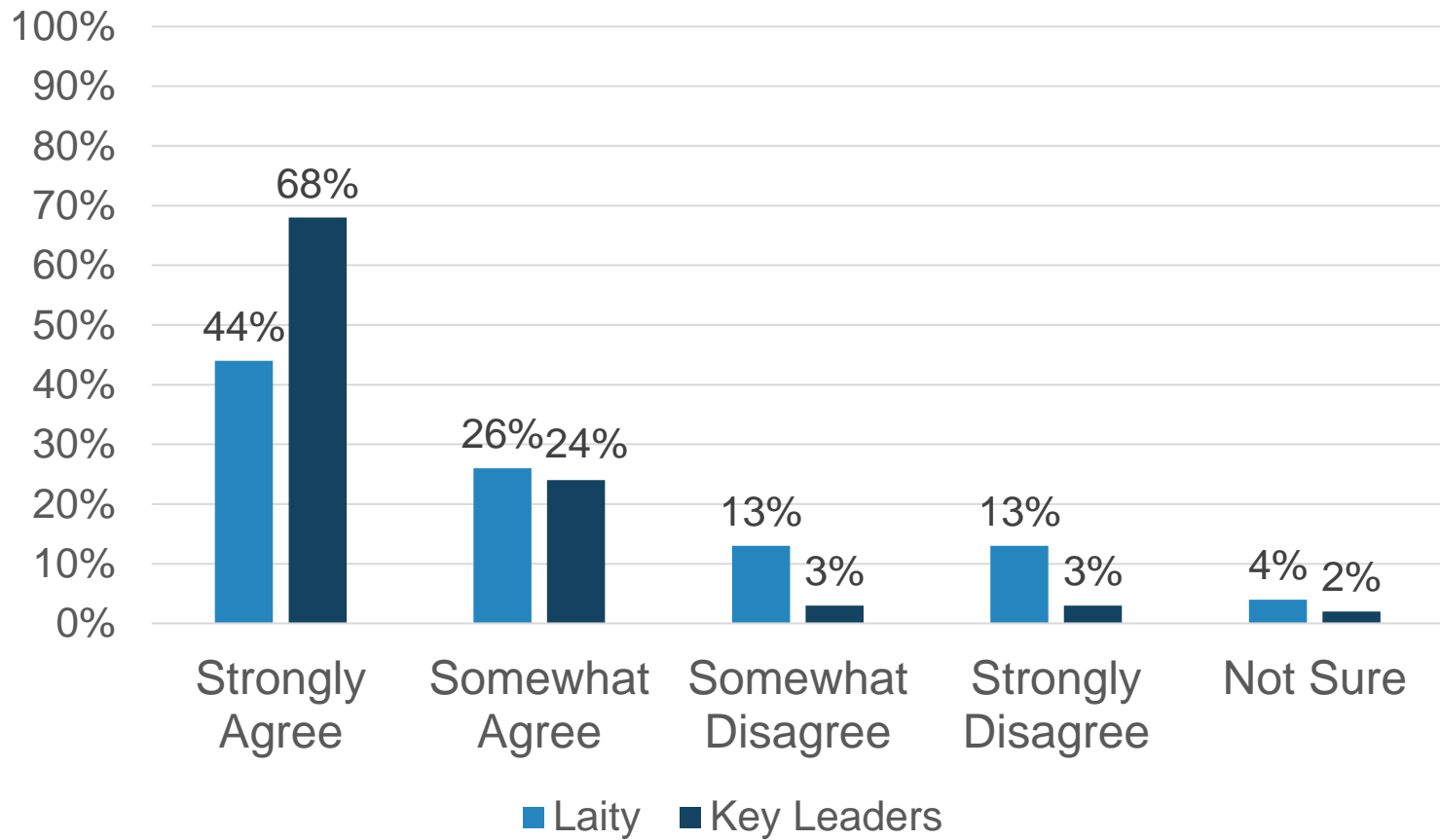


Lifeway research

Q35: "Involvement in politics is a way for Christians to love their neighbor." n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

70% of laity and 92% of key leaders agree Christians are obligated to participate in the election of leaders

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

Distinctive Baptist Beliefs

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Key Leaders</u>
Salvation (by faith, only through Christ)	15%	13%
Don't know/Not sure	15%	4%
Baptism	13%	18%
None/Nothing	11%	3%
View of Scripture (inerrant, literal, God inspired)	9%	17%
Eternal Security	7%	11%
The person and work of Jesus Christ	5%	4%
Love all people	5%	1%
Priesthood of the believer	-	4%
Morally conservative	3%	1%
Separation of church and state/Political involvement	3%	1%
Worship styles	3%	-
The Trinity	2%	1%
Religious liberty	2%	3%
Cooperative Program	-	2%
Belief in the one true God	1%	<1%
Autonomy of the local church	1%	6%

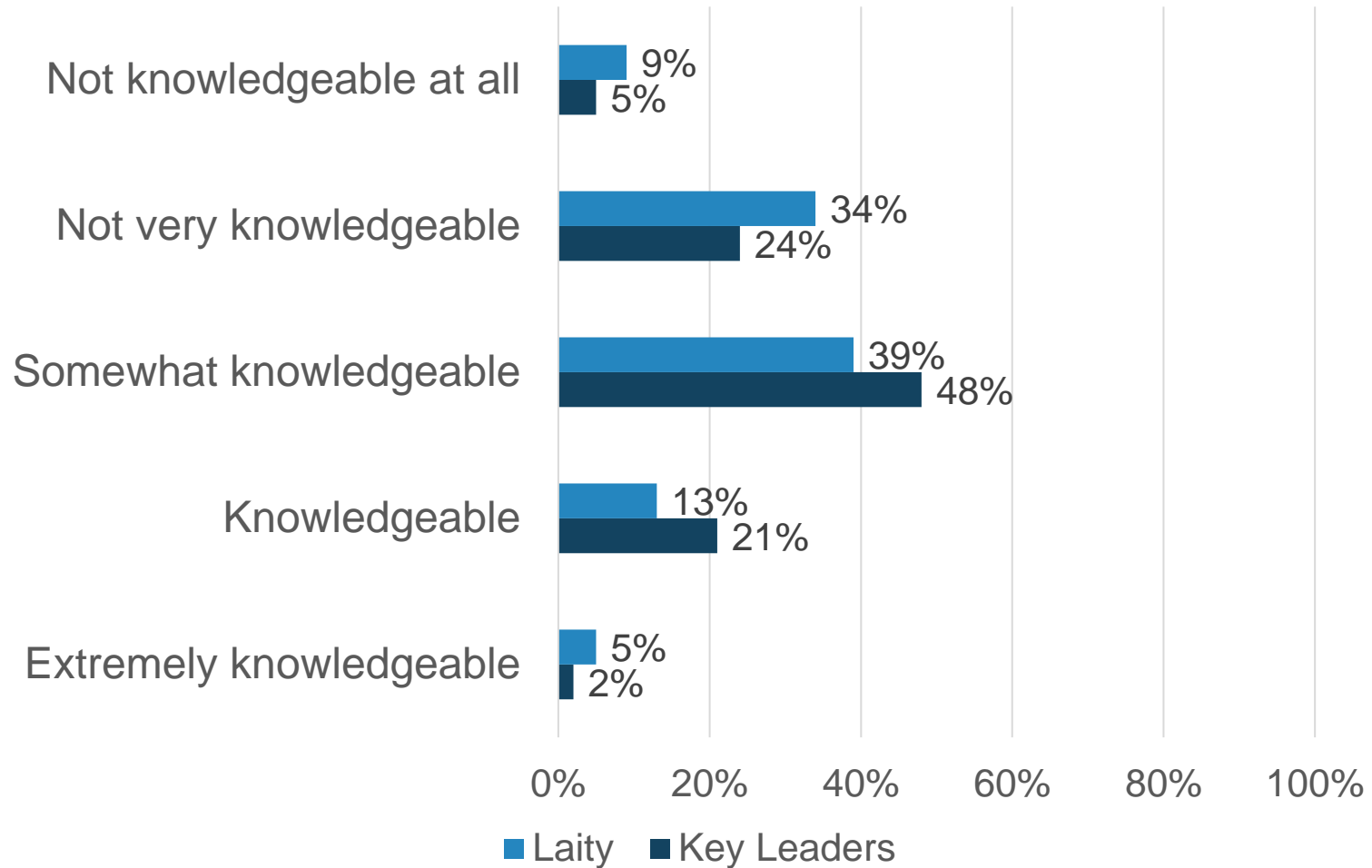
Distinctive Baptist Beliefs *continued*

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

	<u>Laity</u>	<u>Key Leaders</u>
Prayer	1%	<1%
Evangelical beliefs	1%	<1%
Evangelism/Missions	1%	5%
Baptist Faith and Message	-	1%
Role of men and women	<1%	1%
Stance on homosexuality	<1%	1%
Stance on abortion	<1%	<1%
The Ten Commandments	<1%	-

58% of laity and 71% of key leaders are at least somewhat knowledgeable about how Baptist theology influenced religion and politics when the U.S. was founded

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

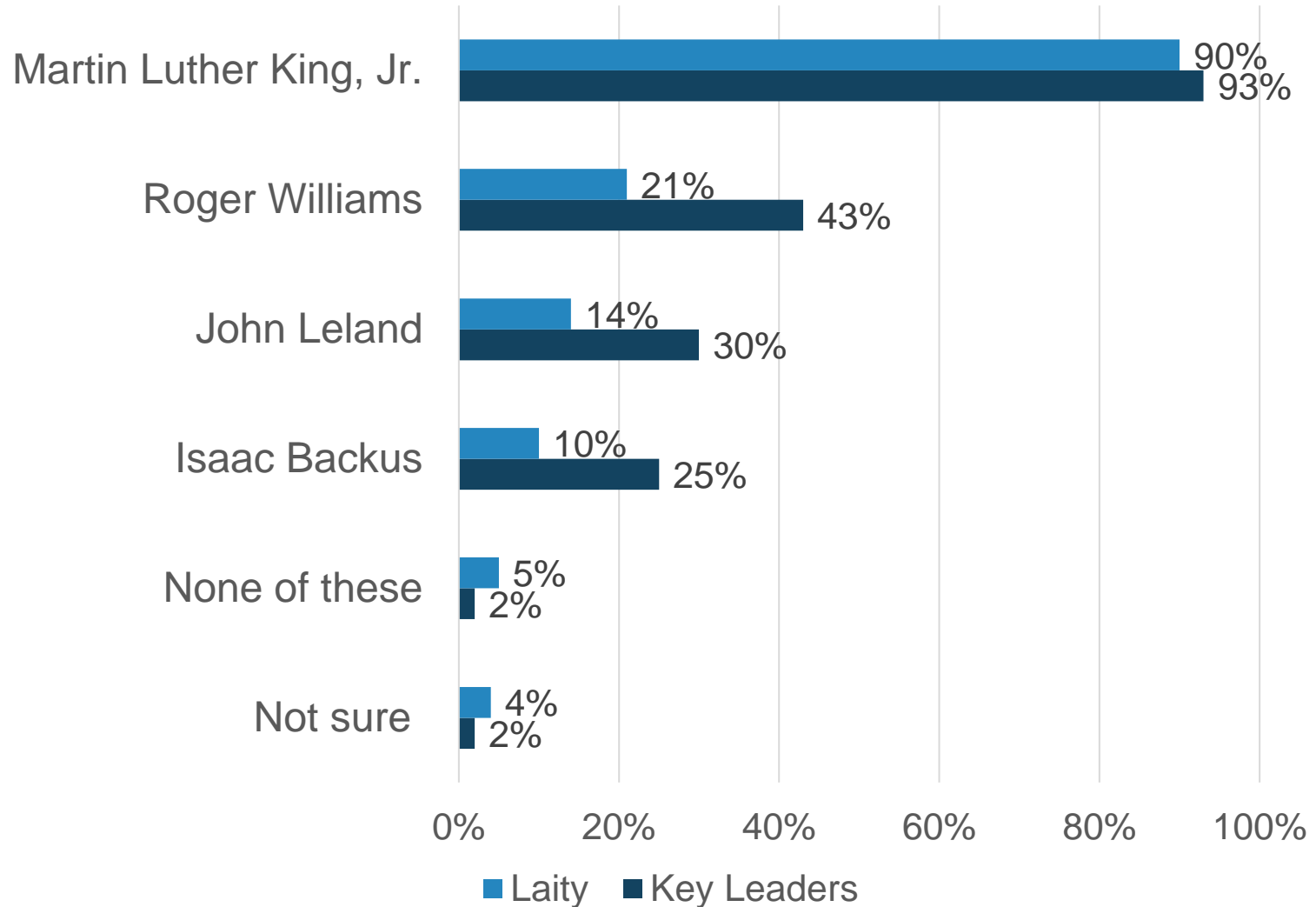


Lifeway research

Q38: "How knowledgeable are you about how Baptist theology influenced religion and politics at the time the United States was established?" n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

“Which of the following historical Baptist thought leaders have you heard of?”

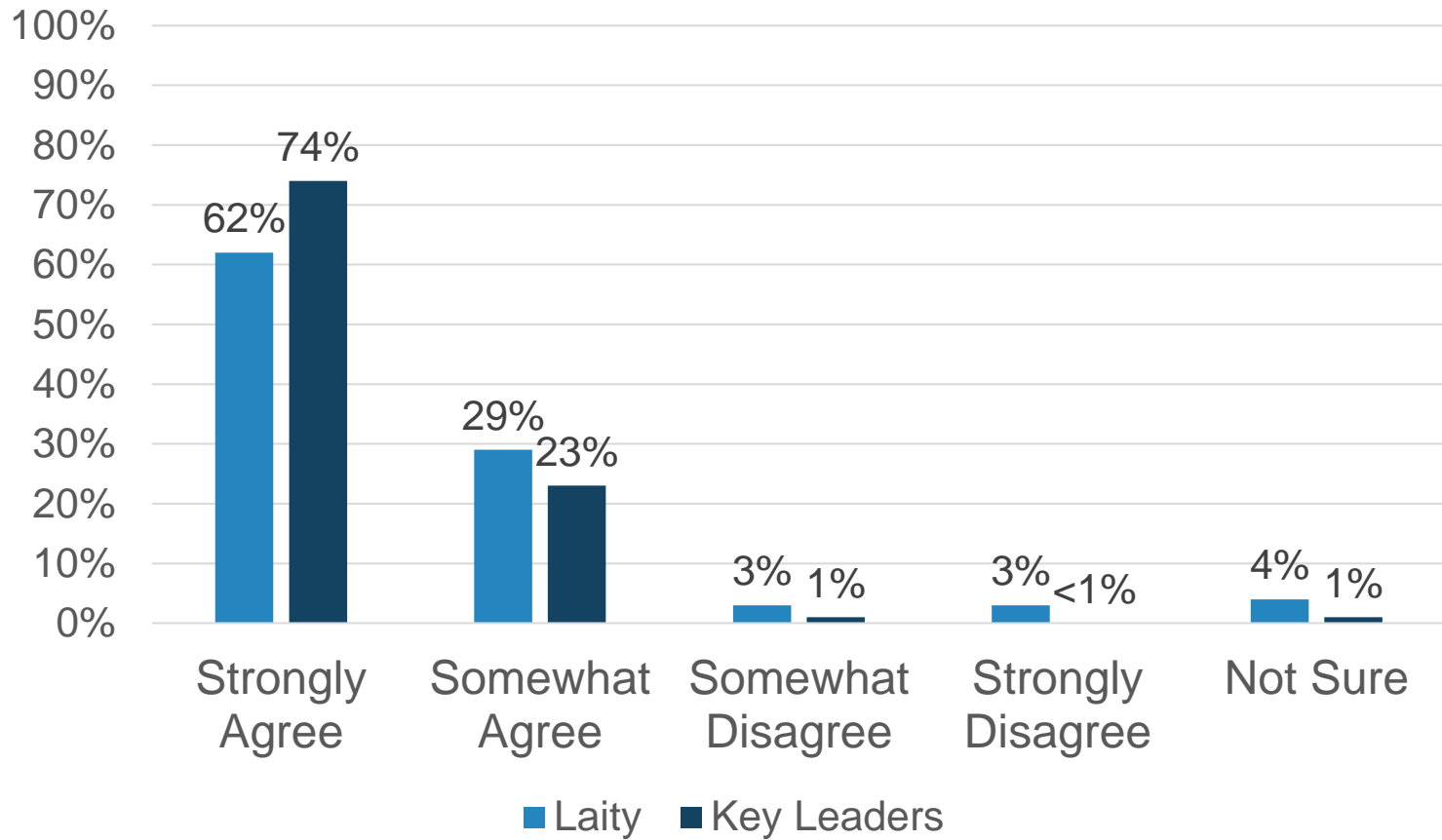
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

91% of laity and 97% of key leaders agree that Christianity influenced the founding of the United States

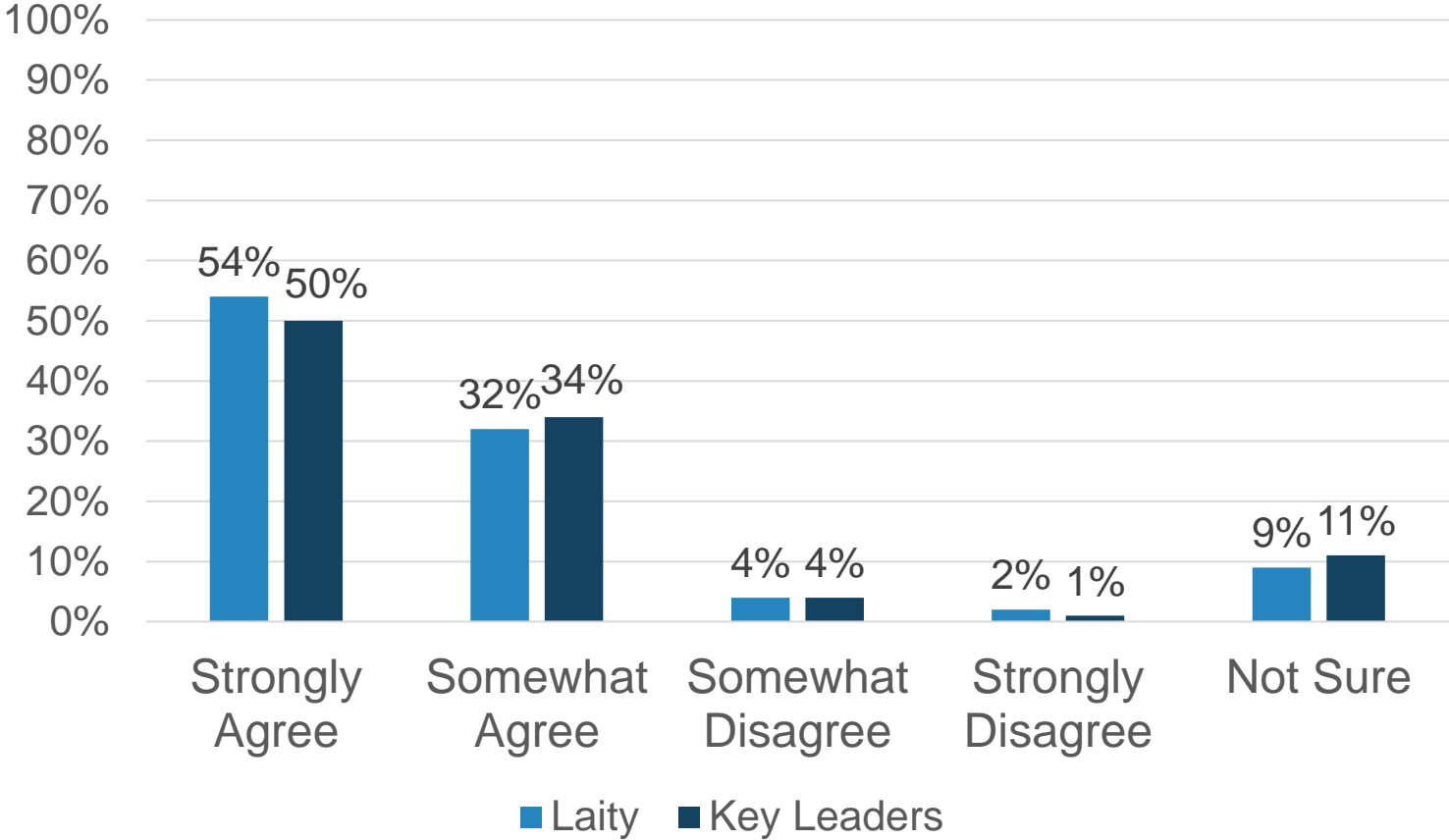
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

86% of laity and 83% of key leaders agree that Baptists have regularly advocated for the right to worship freely regardless of religion

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

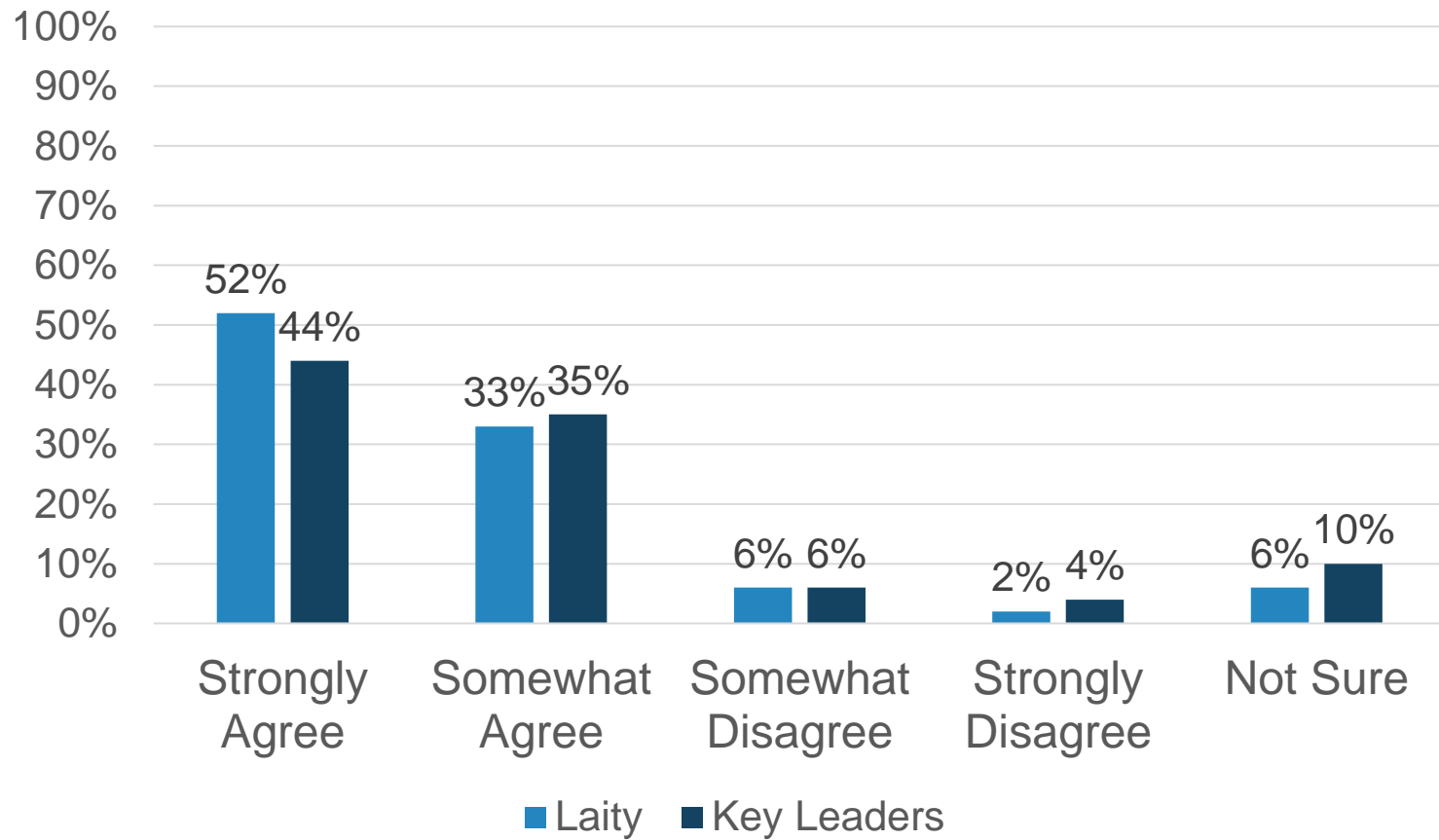


Lifeway research

Q41: "Baptists have regularly advocated for the right to worship freely regardless of religion." n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

85% of laity and 79% of key leaders agree that Baptists have stood up for the freedom to follow your conscience on religious beliefs

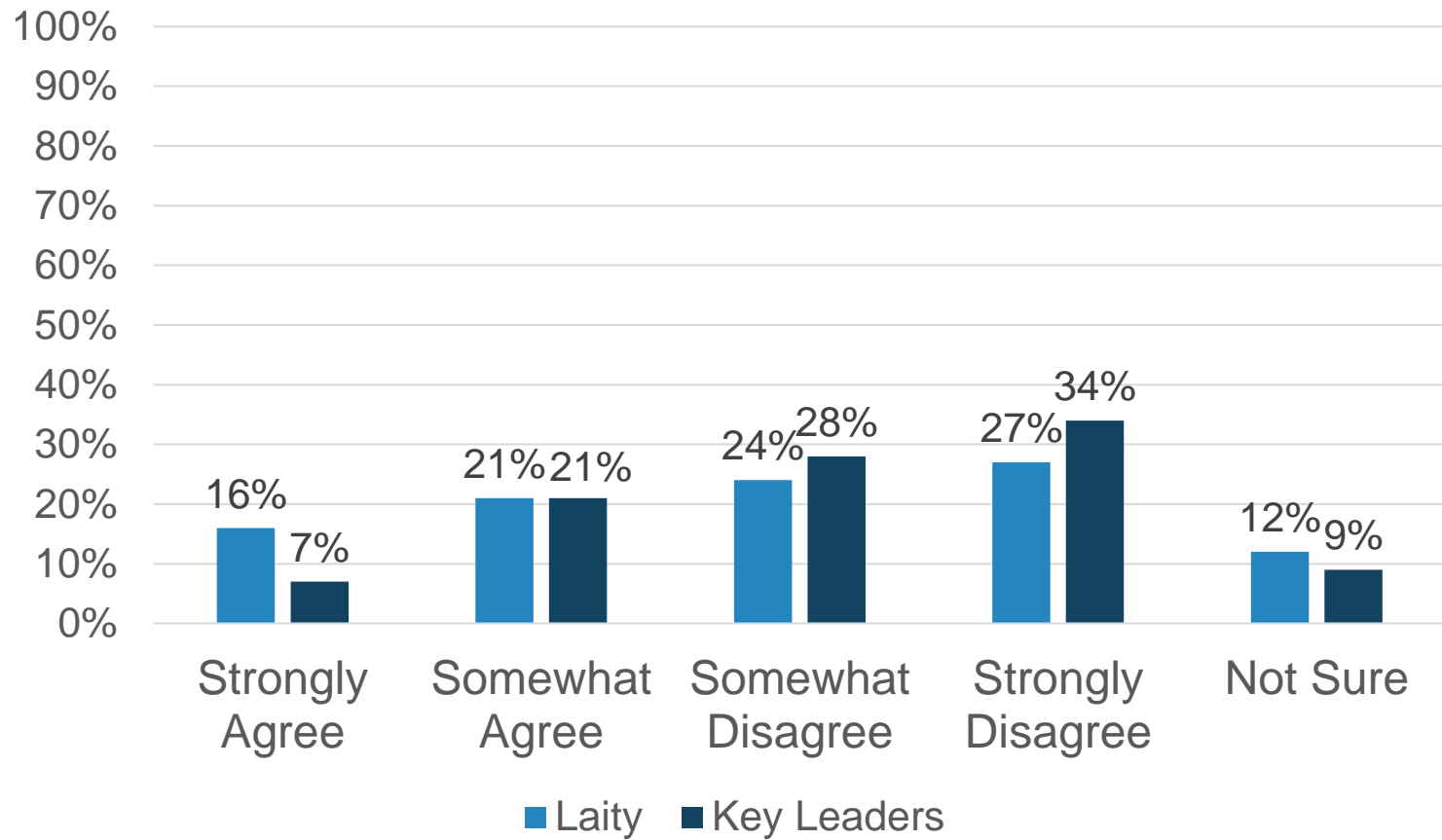
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

51% of laity and 62% of key leaders do *not* believe that Christianity deserves special privileges from the American government

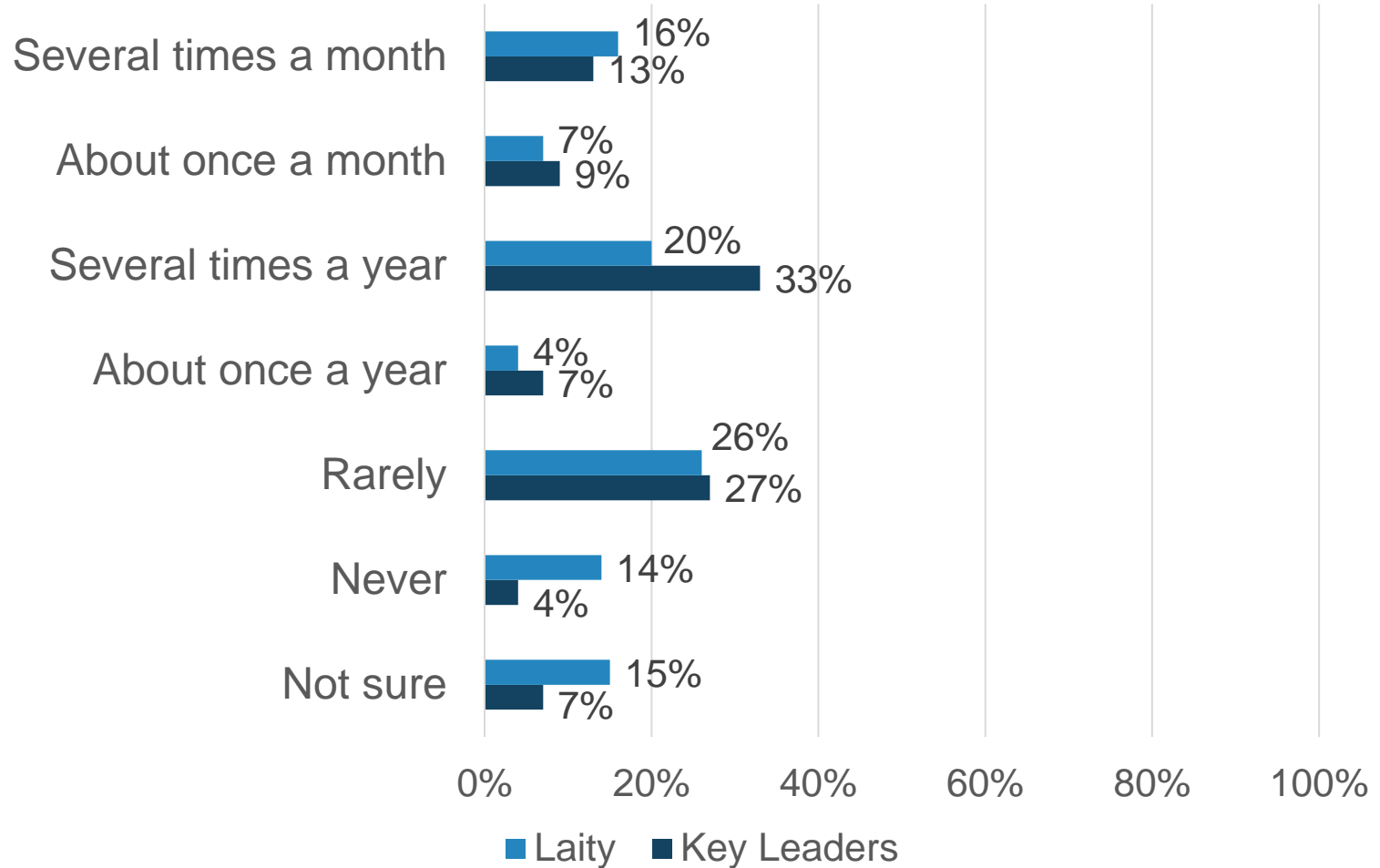
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

46% of laity and 62% of key leaders hear a sermon on Baptists distinctives at least once a year

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

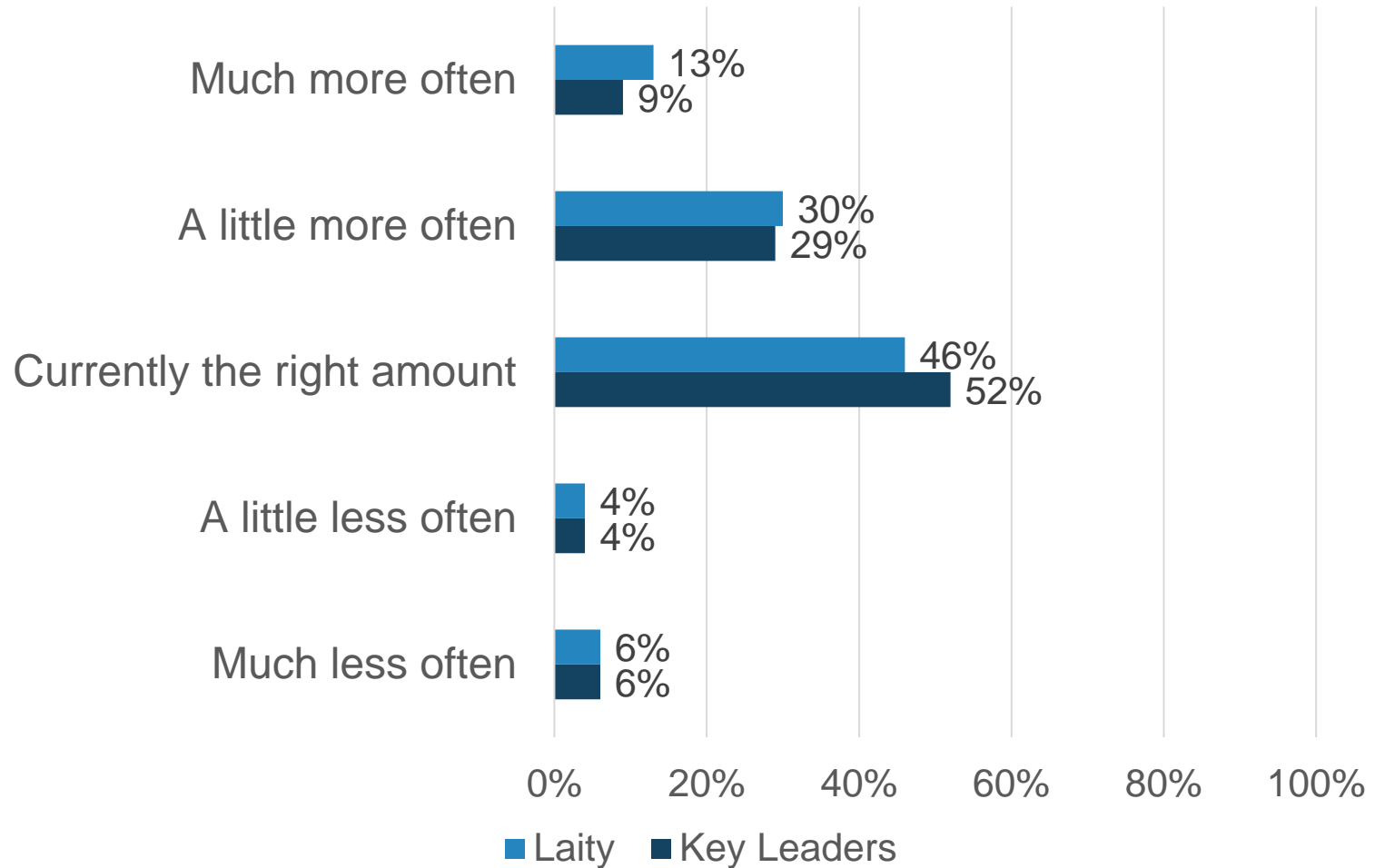


Lifeway research

Q44: "How often do you hear a sermon at your church that specifies the beliefs that make Baptists distinctive from other Christian groups?"
n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

43% of laity and 38% of key leaders would like to hear more about the relationship between church and state in worship services they attend

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations

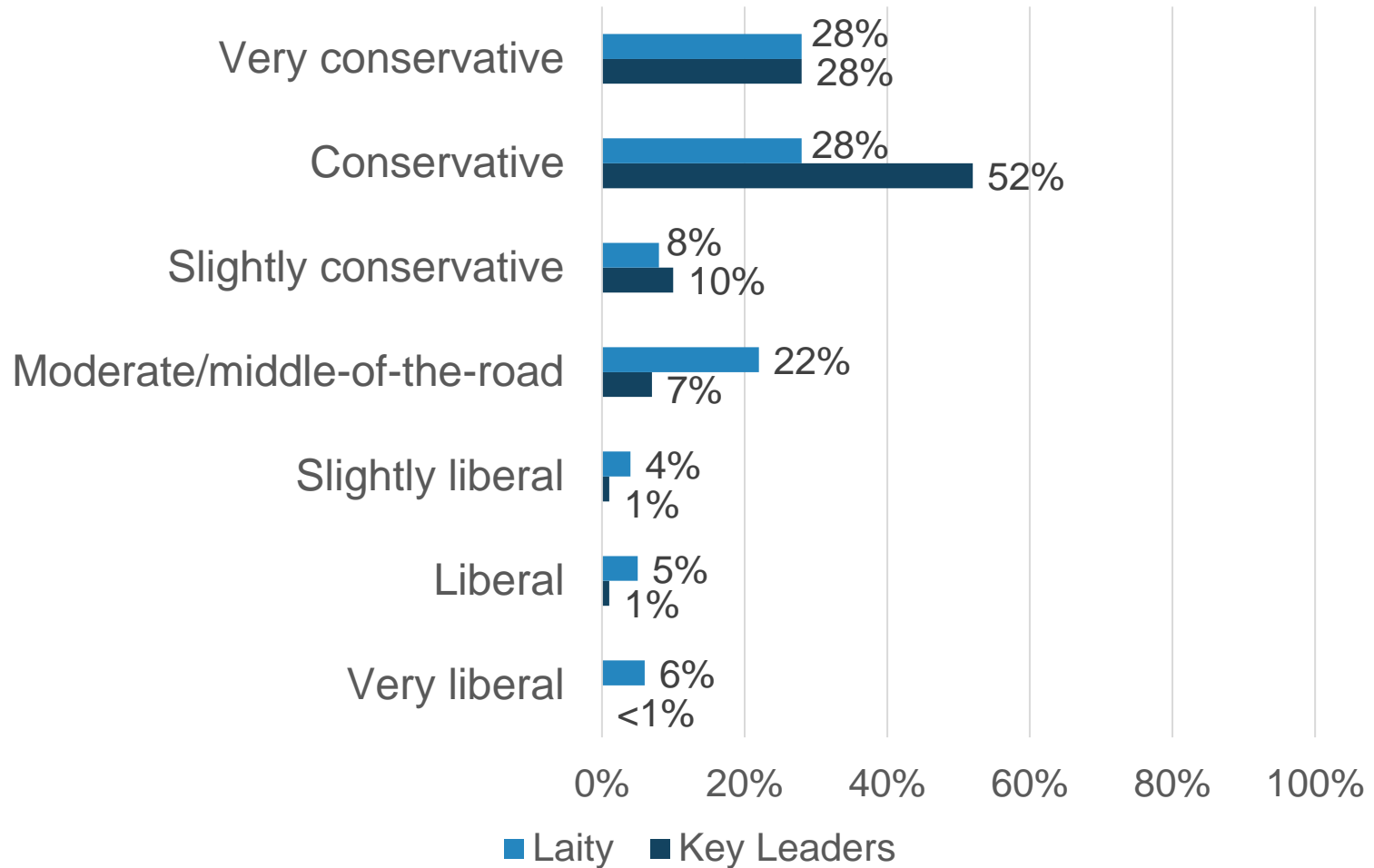


Lifeway research

Q45: "Do you wish the relationship between church and state would be spoken about by pastors or teachers in the religious worship services you attend?" n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

64% of laity and 90% of key leaders describe themselves as politically conservative

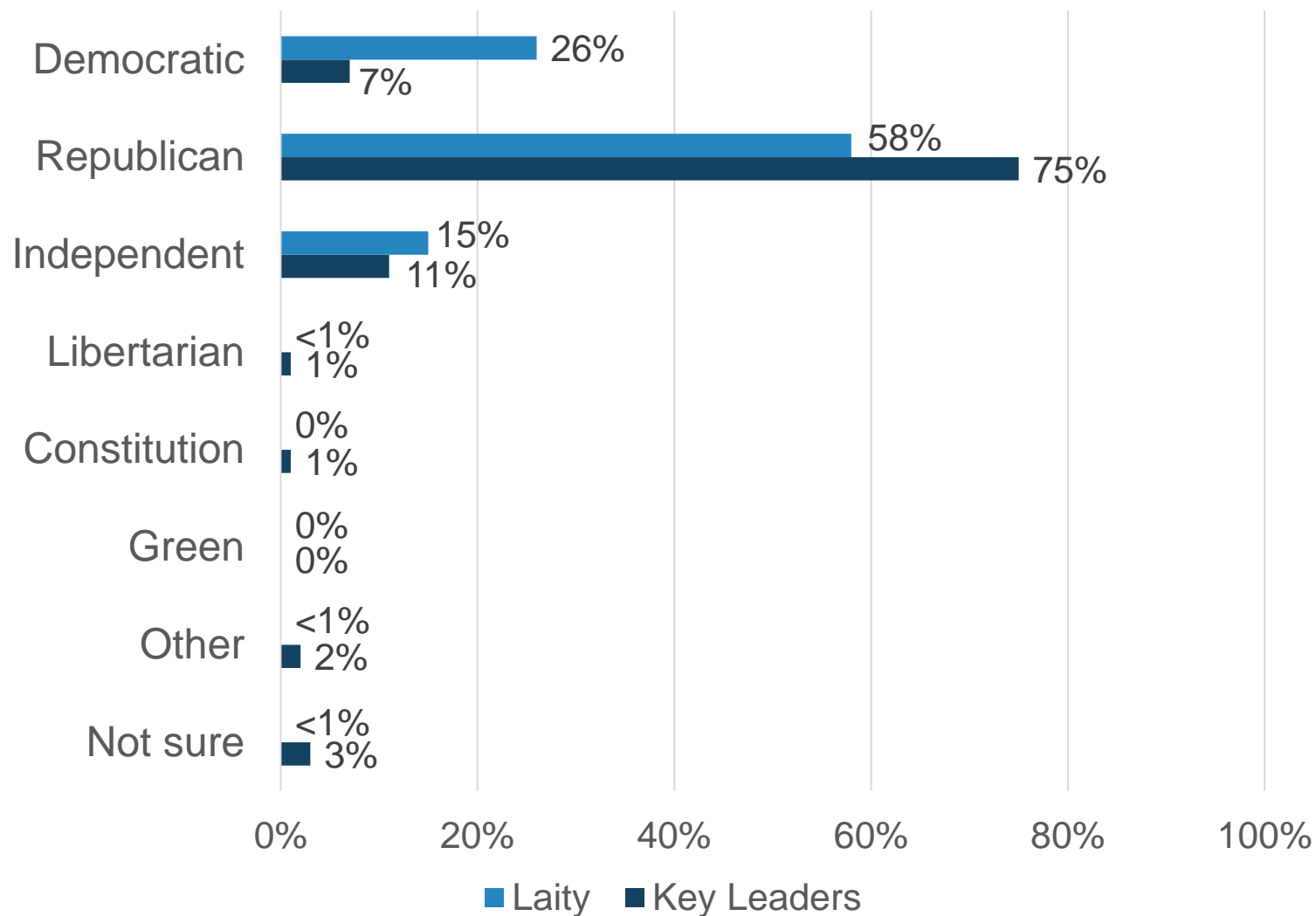
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

58% of laity and 75% of key leaders consider themselves to be members of the Republican party

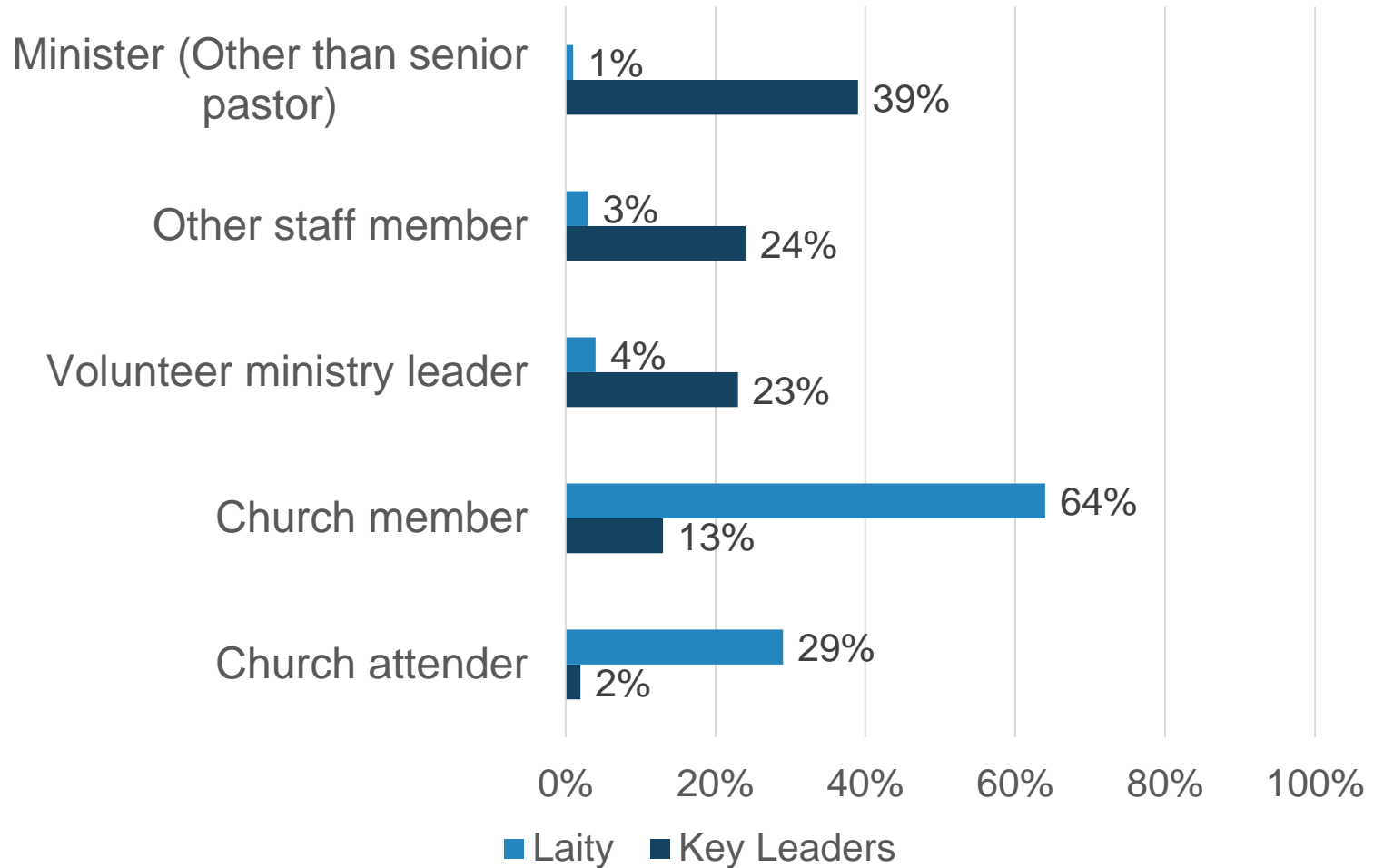
Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

96% of laity participants are *not* on staff at their church. 63% of key leader participants are on staff at their church

Among Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations



Lifeway research

Q9: "Which of the following best describes your title or role at your church?" n=500 (Laity), n=507 (Key Leaders)

Significant Differences - Laity

Gender

Age

Ethnicity

Region

Education Level

Political Views

Political Party

Worship Service Attendance

Significant Differences - Laity

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among gender, age, ethnicity, region, and education.

GENDER	AGE	ETHNICITY	REGION	EDUCATION
Male	18-34	White	Northeast <small>(Sample too small to report)</small>	High School graduate or less
Female	35-49	African American	Midwest	Some college
	50-64	Other Ethnicities <small>(Sample too small to report)</small>	South	Bachelor's Degree
	65+		West	Graduate Degree

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

Significant Statistical Differences - Laity

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among political views, political party, and worship service attendance.

POLITICAL VIEWS	POLITICAL PARTY	WORSHIP SERVICE ATTENDANCE
Conservative	Democratic	Once a month
Moderate/middle of the road	Republican	Twice a month
Liberal	Independent	Three times a month
		4 or more times a month

“How important to you personally is each of the following national issues?”

Religious liberty

- Whites (90%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than African Americans (80%)
- Those in the West (100%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those in the Midwest (86%) and South (87%)
- Those with conservative political views (94%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those with moderate political views (78%) and liberal political views (81%)
- Republicans (92%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than Democrats (81%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (94%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those who attend once a month (78%) or twice a month (76%)

“How important to you personally is each of the following national issues?”

Abortion

- Those in the South are the least likely to select “Important/Extremely important” (70%)
- Those with conservative political views (10%) and moderate political views (12%) are more likely to select “Not important at all/Not very important” than those with liberal political views (2%)
- Republicans (10%) and Independents (16%) are more likely to select “Not important at all/Not very important” than Democrats (4%)
- Those who attend a worship service twice a month (17%) are more likely to select “Not important at all/Not very important” than those who attend three times a month (5%) or 4 or more times a month (8%)

“How important to you personally is each of the following national issues?”

Climate change

- Those age 18-34 (66%) and 35-49 (52%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those 50-64 (29%) and 65+ (32%)
- Those age 65+ (48%) are more likely to select “Not important at all/Not very important” than those 18-34 (26%) and 35-49 (29%)
- Whites (48%) are more likely to select “Not important at all/Not very important” than African Americans (14%)
- Those with conservative political views (54%) are more likely to select “Not important at all/Not very important” than those with moderate political views (19%) and liberal political views (8%)
- Democrats are the most likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than (69%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month (46%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those who attend 4 or more times a month (32%)

“How important to you personally is each of the following national issues?”

Immigration

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those (88%)
- Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select “Not important at all/Not very important” (27%)
- Whites (82%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than African Americans (62%)
- Those with conservative political views (85%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those with moderate political views (67%) and liberal political views (62%)
- Republicans (85%) and Independents (85%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than Democrats (58%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (83%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those who attend twice a month (70%)

“How important to you personally is each of the following national issues?”

National defense

- Those age 65+ (91%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those 18-34 (77%) and 50-64 (84%)
- Whites (89%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than African Americans (70%)
- Those with conservative political views (91%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those with moderate political views (77%) and liberal political views (77%)
- Republicans (92%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than Democrats (74%) and Independents (81%)

“How important to you personally is each of the following national issues?”

The national debt

- Males are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than females (86% v. 76%)
- Whites (84%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than African Americans (60%)
- Those with conservative political views (86%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those with moderate political views (75%) and liberal political views (65%)
- Republicans (87%) and Independents (88%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than Democrats (63%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (85%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those who attend three times a month (73%)

“How important to you personally is each of the following national issues?”

Secularization of society

- Those age 18-34 (63%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those 50-64 (43%) and 65+ (45%)
- Those in the South (23%) and West (27%) are more likely to select “Not important at all/Not very important” than those in the Midwest (9%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (52%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those who attend once a month (34%)

“How important to you personally is each of the following national issues?”

Parents’ rights in education

- Those who are High School Graduates or less (85%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than with a Graduate Degree (72%)
- Those with conservative political views (89%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those with moderate political views (73%) and liberal political views (65%)
- Republicans (89%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than Democrats (73%) and Independents (69%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (87%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those who attend once a month (75%)

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)”

Freedom of speech

- Those in the South (89%) are more likely to select than those in the West (70%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (93%) or a Graduate Degree (93%) are more likely to select than with some college (80%)

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)”

Freedom of press

- Males are more likely to select than females (42% v. 25%)
- Those age 18-34 (45%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (29%)
- Those in the West (41%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (21%)
- Those with liberal political views (45%) are more likely to select than those with conservative political views (31%)
- Democrats (44%) are more likely to select than Republicans (28%)

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)”

Assemble to protest

- Males are more likely to select than females (23% v. 12%)
- Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select (44%)
- African Americans (32%) are more likely to select than Whites (13%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (25%) are more likely to select than with some college (12%)
- Those with moderate political views (24%) and liberal political views (27%) are more likely to select than those with conservative political views (12%)
- Republicans are the least likely to select (7%)

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)”

Keep and bear arms

- Those age 50-64 (64%) and 65+ (67%) are more likely to select than those 35-49 (51%)
- Whites (72%) are more likely to select than African Americans (22%)
- Those in the South (64%) are more likely to select than those in the West (46%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (67%) or with some college (67%) are more likely to select than with a Graduate Degree (47%)
- Those with conservative political views (77%) are more likely to select than those with moderate political views (49%) and liberal political views (18%)
- Republicans (80%) are more likely to select than Democrats (32%) and Independents (49%)

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)”

Prohibition of unreasonable search and seizure

- Those age 18-34 are the least likely to select (23%)
- Those with some college (52%) are more likely to select than with a Bachelor’s Degree (39%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month (59%) or three times a month (56%) are more likely to select than those who attend 4 or more times a month (41%)

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)”

Speedy and public trial

- African Americans (34%) are more likely to select than Whites (18%)
- Those with liberal political views (35%) are more likely to select than those with conservative political views (17%) and moderate political views (19%)
- Democrats (31%) are more likely to select than Republicans (16%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month (29%) are more likely to select than those who attend three times a month (11%)

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)”

Criminal trial by impartial jury

- Those age 50-64 (44%) and 65+ (49%) are more likely to select than those 18-34 (20%)
- Those with some college (49%) or a Graduate Degree (55%) are more likely to select than who are High School Graduates or less (35%)
- Those with liberal political views (53%) are more likely to select than those with conservative political views (38%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month (52%) or three times a month (53%) are more likely to select than those who attend 4 or more times a month (35%)

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)”

Prohibition of cruel and unusual punishment

- Those age 35-49 (44%) are more likely to select than those 65+ (25%)
- African Americans (59%) are more likely to select than Whites (28%)
- Those with some college (39%) are more likely to select than with a Graduate Degree (23%)
- Those with liberal political views (64%) are more likely to select than those with conservative political views (23%) and moderate political views (39%)
- Democrats (54%) are more likely to select than Republicans (25%) and Independents (23%)

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)”

Freedom from laws establishing a religion

- Whites (36%) are more likely to select than African Americans (25%)
- Those in the West (64%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (36%) and South (30%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the most likely to select (43%)
- Those with conservative political views (40%) are more likely to select than those with liberal political views (23%)
- Republicans (43%) are more likely to select than Democrats (20%) and Independents (30%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month are the least likely to select (19%)

“Among the following rights included in the United States’s Constitution, which are the five most important to you? (Select up to 5)”

Freedom to exercise your religion

- Whites (88%) are more likely to select than African Americans (61%)
- Those in the South (84%) are more likely to select than those in the West (70%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (94%) are more likely to select than with some college (78%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (78%)
- Those with conservative political views (89%) are more likely to select than those with moderate political views (79%) and liberal political views (61%)
- Republicans (89%) and Independents (85%) are more likely to select than Democrats (69%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month are the least likely to select (63%)

“Those who agree with my political views are heard in our society.”

- Those age 35-49 are the most likely to select “Not Important at all/Not very important” (12%)
- Whites (79%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than African Americans (68%)
- Those in the West (16%) are more likely to select “Not Important at all/Not very important” than those in the Midwest (0%) and South (4%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (86%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than with a Bachelor’s Degree (70%)
- Republicans (79%) and Independents (84%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than Democrats (70%)
- Those who attend a worship service twice a month are the least likely to select “Important/Extremely important” (62%)

“Those with political views I disagree with are heard in our society.”

- Those with a Graduate Degree (76%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than who are High School Graduates or less (59%)
- Those with moderate political views (71%) are more likely to select “Important/Extremely important” than those with conservative political views (59%)

“In general, how would you describe your views on the relationship between church and state?”

- Those age 65+ (65%) are more likely to select “Our government *should not* favor any specific religion or religious belief” than those 50-64 (54%)
- African Americans (72%) are more likely to select “Our government *should not* favor any specific religion or religious belief” than Whites (57%)
- Whites (37%) are more likely to select “Our government *should* favor Christianity” than African Americans (22%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (45%) are more likely to select “Our government *should* favor Christianity” more than those with a Bachelor’s Degree (26%)
- Those with conservative political views are the most likely to select “Our government *should* favor Christianity” (46%)
- Democrats (70%) and Independents (70%) are more likely to select “Our government *should not* favor any specific religion or religious belief” than Republicans (50%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month (70%) are more likely to select “Our government *should not* favor any specific religion or religious belief” than those who attend three times a month (51%)

“Religious liberty is a principle that should apply to all persons and religions.”

- Those age 65+ (95%) are more likely to Agree than those 35-49 (88%)
- Democrats (97%) are more likely to Agree than Independents (85%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month (97%) are more likely to Agree than those who attend twice a month (87%)

“Religious liberty is a principle that should advance only the Christian faith.”

- Males are more likely to Disagree than females (71% v. 61%)
- African Americans (83%) are more likely to Disagree than Whites (65%)
- Those in the Midwest (73%) are more likely to Disagree than those in the West (54%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (33%) are more likely to Agree than with a Bachelor’s Degree (20%) or a Graduate Degree (15%)
- Those with conservative political views (31%) are more likely to Agree than those with moderate political views (19%) and liberal political views (16%)
- Democrats (77%) or Independents (75%) are more likely to Disagree than Republicans (58%)
- Republicans (31%) are more likely to Agree than Democrats (19%)
- Those who attend a worship service three times a month (36%) are more likely to Agree than those who attend once a month (18%) or twice a month (19%)

“Government should not give one religion preference over another religion.”

- Those age 50-64 (20%) are more likely to Disagree than those 18-34 (5%)
- African Americans (95%) are more likely to Agree than Whites (79%)
- Those with conservative political views (20%) are more likely to Disagree than those with moderate political views (6%) and liberal political views (3%)
- Democrats (98%) are more likely to Agree than Republicans (73%) and Independents (83%)

“The government should decide what type of church people attend.”

- Those age 50-64 (95%) and 65+ (97%) are more likely to Disagree than those 18-34 (84%)
- Whites (97%) are more likely to Disagree than African Americans (86%)

“I support government that ensures people can freely practice their religion, even when this includes false religions.”

- Those age 18-34 (27%) are more likely to Disagree than those 50-64 (14%) and 65+ (14%)
- Those with some college (85%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (84%) are more likely to Agree than who are High School Graduates or less (74%)
- Those with conservative political views (17%) are more likely to Disagree than those with liberal political views (7%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (86%) are more likely to Agree than those who attend three times a month (70%)

“The presence of competing religions in a society poses a threat to the church and her mission.”

- Males are more likely to Disagree than females (67% v. 53%)
- Those age 65+ (67%) are more likely to Disagree than those 35-49 (47%)
- Those in the South (35%) are more likely to Agree than those in the West (20%)
- Those with some college (63%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (65%) are more likely to Disagree than who are High School Graduates or less (53%)
- Those with liberal political views (70%) are more likely to Agree than those with conservative views (56%)
- Independents (71%) are more likely to Disagree than Republicans (55%)

“Which of the following three statements best describes America today?”

- Those age 18-34 are the least likely to select “America is a Christian nation” (7%)
- African Americans (80%) are more likely to select “America is a nation of many religions” than Whites (63%)
- Those in the Midwest (77%) are more likely to select “America is a nation of many religions” than those in the South (63%) and West (49%)
- Those in the South (23%) and West (33%) are more likely to select “America is a Christian nation” than those in the Midwest (8%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (68%) are more likely to select “America is a nation of many religions” than with a Graduate Degree (51%)
- Those with moderate political views (87%) and liberal political views (79%) are more likely to select “America is a nation of many religions” than those with conservative political views (52%)
- Democrats are the most likely to select “America is a nation of many religions” (83%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (16%) are more likely to select “America is a secular nation” than those who attend once a month (6%) or twice a month (4%)

“Which, if any, of the following aspects of religious freedom do you believe should be an American’s right?”

Freedom to choose your religious beliefs

- Whites (96%) are more likely to select than African Americans (86%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month are the most likely to select (100%)

“Which, if any, of the following aspects of religious freedom do you believe should be an American’s right?”

Freedom to tell others about your religious beliefs

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select (91%)
- Whites (87%) are more likely to select than African Americans (66%)
- Those with conservative political views (87%) are more likely to select than those with moderate political views (74%) and liberal political views (71%)
- Republicans (89%) and Independents (85%) are more likely to select than Democrats (64%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month (83%) or 4 or more times a month (89%) are more likely to select than those who attend twice a month (68%)

“Which, if any, of the following aspects of religious freedom do you believe should be an American’s right?”

Freedom to worship with others who share your faith

- Those age 50-64 (92%) and 65+ (95%) are more likely to select than those 18-34 (77%) and 35-49 (82%)
- Whites (94%) are more likely to select than African Americans (79%)
- Republicans (96%) and Independents (96%) are more likely to select than Democrats (74%)
- Those who attend a worship service twice a month are the least likely to select (79%)

“Which, if any, of the following aspects of religious freedom do you believe should be an American’s right?”

Freedom to build a house of worship

- Those age 50-64 (86%) and 65+ (89%) are more likely to select than those 35-49 (73%)
- Whites (88%) are more likely to select than African Americans (74%)
- Those with conservative political views (88%) are more likely to select than those with moderate political views (79%) and liberal political views (77%)
- Republicans (88%) and Independents (91%) are more likely to select than Democrats (72%)

“Which, if any, of the following aspects of religious freedom do you believe should be an American’s right?”

Freedom to run your business in accordance with your beliefs

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select (82%)
- Whites (80%) are more likely to select than African Americans (38%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (83%) are more likely to select than with a Bachelor’s Degree (66%)
- Those with conservative political views (83%) are more likely to select than those with moderate political views (46%) and liberal political views (56%)
- Republicans (84%) are more likely to select than Democrats (44%) and Independents (69%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month (76%) or 4 or more times a month (78%) are more likely to select than those who attend twice a month (58%)

“Which, if any, of the following aspects of religious freedom do you believe should be an American’s right?”

Freedom to practice principles of your faith in everyday life

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to select (94%)
- Those in the West (97%) are more likely to select than those in the South (86%)
- Republicans (92%) and Independents (90%) are more likely to select than Democrats (77%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (93%) are more likely to select than those who attend twice a month (76%)

“God has given authority to government leaders that Christian citizens should follow.”

- Those age 65+ (65%) are more likely to Agree than those 18-34 (44%) and 50-64 (51%)
- African Americans (44%) are more likely to Disagree than Whites (34%)
- Those in the West are the most likely to Agree (85%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (63%) or a Graduate Degree (68%) are more likely to Agree than who are High School Graduates or less (50%)
- Those with conservative political views (62%) are more likely to Agree than those with moderate political views (45%) and liberal political views (42%)
- Republicans (59%) and Independents (66%) are more likely to Agree than Democrats (42%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (63%) are more likely to Agree than those who attend twice a month (47%)

“God establishes civil rulers and has given them authority to compel and guide people in matters of religion.”

- Those age 65+ are the most likely to Disagree (64%)
- Those in the Midwest (63%) are more likely to Disagree than those in the West (42%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (67%) are more likely to Disagree than who are High School Graduates or less (47%)

“Christians should pursue nonviolent resistance to unjust leaders, laws, and/or systems.”

- Males are more likely to Agree than females (94% v. 83%)
- Those who attend a worship service three times a month (97%) are more likely to Agree than those who attend once a month (82%) or twice a month (85%)

“Christians should obey all laws unless they directly conflict with following God’s commands in Scripture.”

- Males are more likely to Agree than females (86% v. 76%)
- Those age 65+ are the most likely to Agree (90%)
- African Americans (25%) are more likely to Disagree than Whites (10%)
- Those with conservative political views (89%) are more likely to Agree than those with moderate political views (75%) and liberal political views (57%)
- Republicans (88%) and Independents (89%) are more likely to Agree than Democrats (62%)
- Those who attend a worship service three times a month (90%) are more likely to Agree than those who attend twice a month (74%)

“When the injustice is severe, Christians should advocate violent resistance to unjust leaders, laws, and/or systems.”

- Those age 65+ (79%) are more likely to Disagree than those 35-49 (66%)
- Those with some college (24%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (24%) are more likely to Agree than who are High School Graduates or less (13%)
- Those with liberal political views (80%) are more likely to Disagree than those with moderate political views (65%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (76%) are more likely to Disagree than those who attend twice a month (64%)

“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?”

The views of books I have read

- Those with liberal political views (26%) are more likely to select than those with conservative political views (15%)
- Those who attend a worship service three times a month (30%) are more likely to select than those who twice a month (10%) or 4 or more times a month (14%)

“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?”

The views of news media I consume

- No meaningful significant differences

“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?”

The views of the political leaders or political party I support

- Those who attend a worship service three times a month are the most likely to select (22%)

“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?”

Personal experience with the issue

- Males are more likely to select than females (52% v. 41%)
- Those with some college (54%) are more likely to select than those who are High School Graduates or less (40%)

“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?”

The views of my parents or family

- Those with some college (54%) are more likely to select than with a Bachelor’s Degree (40%)

“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?”

The views of close friends

- No meaningful significant differences

“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?”

The views of my church

- Those age 50-64 (54%) and 65+ (56%) are more likely to select than those 35-49 (38%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (56%) are more likely to select than with a Graduate Degree (38%)
- Those with conservative political views (56%) are more likely to select than those with moderate political views (42%) and liberal political views (37%)
- Republicans (59%) are more likely to select than Democrats (35%) and Independents (46%)

“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?”

The views of my pastor

- Those who attend a worship service once a month are the least likely to select (12%)

“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?”

Watching actions of groups that I admire

- Those age 18-34 (25%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (10%) 65+ (17%)
- Those who attend a worship service three times a month (26%) are more likely to select than those who attend once a month (8%) or 4 or more times a month (12%)

“Which of the following would you say are the strongest factors in how your own views on the relationship between government and religion developed?”

Watching actions of groups that I dislike

- Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select (31%)
- Those who attend a worship service twice a month (20%) or three times a month (26%) are more likely to select than those who attend 4 or more times a month (8%)

“Christians should pray for and advocate for those facing religious persecution in other countries.”

- Those age 18-34 are the most likely to Disagree (17%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month (99%) or 4 or more times a month (99%) are more likely to Agree than those who attend three times a month (89%)

“Christians should fight secularism by encouraging legislation that encourages Christian beliefs and practice.”

- Males are more likely to Agree than females (73% v. 61%)
- Whites (69%) are more likely to Agree than African Americans (56%)
- Those in the Midwest (31%) are more likely to Disagree than those in the South (19%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to Disagree (43%)
- Those with conservative political views (78%) are more likely to Agree than those with moderate political views (49%) and liberal political views (47%)
- Republicans (75%) and Independents (67%) are more likely to Agree than Democrats (50%)
- Those who attend a worship service three times a month (76%) are more likely to Agree than those who attend once a month (57%)

“Loosening U.S. constitutional prohibitions on government involvement in religion can stem the tide of moral decline.”

- Males are more likely to Disagree than females (44% v. 32%)
- Those age 18-34 (48%) are more likely to Disagree than those 50-64 (32%)
- Whites (47%) are more likely to Agree than African Americans (32%)
- Those in the South (45%) are more likely to Agree than those in the West (22%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (57%) are more likely to Disagree than those who are High School graduates or less (32%) and with some college (37%)
- Republicans (49%) are more likely to Agree than Democrats (37%) and Independents (33%)

“Every public school should post the Ten Commandments in their building.”

- Those age 50-64 (71%) and 65+ (76%) are more likely to Agree than those 35-49 (59%)
- African Americans (43%) are more likely to Disagree than Whites (21%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree are the most likely to Disagree (43%)
- Those with conservative political views (82%) are more likely to Agree than those with moderate political views (50%) and liberal political views (47%)
- Republicans (80%) are more likely to Agree than Democrats (54%) and Independents (60%)
- Those who attend a worship service three times a month (80%) or 4 or more times a month (71%) are more likely to Agree than those who attend once a month (57%)

“Christians must stand in solidarity with the struggling and oppressed people in the world with the goal of their salvation.”

- Those with conservative political views (96%) are more likely to Agree than those with moderate political views (85%) and liberal political views (78%)
- Republicans (94%) are more likely to Agree than Democrats (87%) and Independents (84%)

“Involvement in politics is a way for Christians to love their neighbor.”

- African Americans (40%) are more likely to Disagree than Whites (28%)
- Those in the West (81%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Midwest (37%) and South (54%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree are the most likely to Agree (67%)
- Those with conservative political views (61%) are more likely to Agree than those with moderate political views (47%)
- Republicans (61%) are more likely to Agree than Democrats (49%)
- Those who attend a worship service three times a month are the most likely to Agree (71%)

“Christians are obligated to participate in the election of leaders.”

- Those age 65+ (78%) are more likely to Agree than those 18-34 (62%) and 35-49 (61%)
- Whites (75%) are more likely to Agree than African Americans (51%)
- Those with some college (76%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (75%) are more likely to Agree than who are High School Graduates or less (63%)
- Those with conservative political views (81%) are more likely to Agree than those with moderate political views (54%) and liberal political views (48%)
- Republicans (81%) are more likely to Agree than Democrats (48%) or Independents (65%)
- Those who attend a worship service twice a month are the most likely to Disagree (37%)

“How knowledgeable are you about how Baptist theology influenced religion and politics at the time the United States was established?”

- Those age 18-34 (59%) are more likely to select “Somewhat Knowledgeable” than those 50-64 (36%) and 65+ (35%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (23%) are more likely to select “Knowledgeable” than who are High School Graduates or less (10%) or with some college (10%)
- Those with liberal political views (17%) are more likely to select “Not knowledgeable at all” than those with conservative political views (7%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month (43%) or twice a month (40%) are more likely to select “Not very knowledgeable” than those who attend three times a month (20%)

“Which of the following historical Baptist thought leaders have you heard of?”

Roger Williams

- Those age 18-34 (30%) and 65+ (28%) are more likely to select than those 35-49 (13%) and 50-64 (17%)
- Those with a Bachelor’s Degree (36%) or a Graduate Degree (32%) are more likely to select than who are High School Graduates or less (14%) or with some college (15%)
- Those with conservative political views (24%) and moderate political views (20%) are more likely to select than those with liberal political views (9%)
- Independents (34%) are more likely to select than Democrats (10%) and Republicans (23%)

“Which of the following historical Baptist thought leaders have you heard of?”

John Leland

- Those in the West (24%) are more likely to select than those in the South (12%)
- Those with some college (17%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (21%) are more likely to select than who are High School Graduates or less (8%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month are the most likely to select (21%)

“Which of the following historical Baptist thought leaders have you heard of?”

Martin Luther King, Jr.

- Those age 35-49 are the most likely to select (99%)
- African Americans (100%) are more likely to select than Whites (91%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less are the least likely to select (85%)

“Which of the following historical Baptist thought leaders have you heard of?”

Isaac Backus

- Those age 18-34 (23%) are more likely to select than those 50-64 (6%) and 65+ (9%)
- Those in the Midwest (14%) and South (11%) are more likely to select than those in the West (0%)
- Democrats (13%) and Independents (18%) are more likely to select than Republicans (6%)

“Christianity influenced the founding of the United States.”

- No meaningful significant differences

“Baptists have regularly advocated for the right to worship freely regardless of religion.”

- Democrats (89%) and Republicans (87%) are more likely to Agree than Independents (73%)

“Baptists have consistently stood up for the freedom to follow your conscience on religious beliefs.”

- Democrats (91%) and Republicans (86%) are more likely to Agree than Independents (72%)

“Due to our history, Christianity deserves special privileges from the American government.”

- Whites (55%) are more likely to Disagree than African Americans (43%)
- Those in the West (61%) are more likely to Agree than those in the Midwest (21%) and South (37%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (40%) or with a Bachelor's Degree (41%) are more likely to Agree than with a Graduate Degree (24%)
- Those with conservative political views (42%) are more likely to Agree than those with moderate political views (27%)
- Republicans (41%) are more likely to Agree than Democrats (31%)
- Those who attend a worship service once a month (59%) are more likely to Disagree than those who attend twice a month (42%)

“How often do you hear a sermon at your church that specifies the beliefs that make Baptists distinctive from other Christian groups?”

- Those age 18-34 (38%) and 65+ (34%) are more likely to select “Rarely” than those 35-49 (19%) and 50-64 (19%)
- Those age 35-49 are the most likely to select “Several times a month” (31%)
- African Americans (27%) are more likely to select “Several times a month” than Whites (13%)
- Those in the West (35%) are more likely to select “Several times a year” than those in the Midwest (13%) and South (17%)
- Those with a Graduate Degree (38%) are more likely to select “Rarely” than with some college (22%)
- Those with liberal political views (30%) are more likely to select “Several times a month” than those with conservative political views (14%) and moderate political views (12%)
- Democrats (23%) are more likely to select “Several times a month” than Republicans (15%) and Independents (7%)
- Those who attend a worship service twice a month (21%) are more likely to select “Never” than those who attend 4 or more times a month (9%)

“Do you wish the relationship between church and state would be spoken about by pastors or teachers in the religious worship services you attend:”

- Females are more likely to select “Currently the right amount” than males (53% v. 40%)
- Those age 18-34 are the most likely to select “A little more often” (51%)
- Whites (31%) are more likely to select “A little more often” than African Americans (19%)
- Those who are High School Graduates or less (36%) are more likely to select “A little more often” than with some college (26%)
- Those with conservative political views (34%) and moderate political views (29%) are more likely to select “A little more often” than those with liberal political views (13%)
- Those who attend a worship service 4 or more times a month (55%) are more likely to select “Currently the right amount” than those who attend once a month (35%) or three times a month (36%)



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Views of Individuals in Southern Baptist Congregations on Baptist Political Theology

A SURVEY OF SOUTHERN BAPTIST LAITY AND CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS

Lifeway **research**