

Pastors' Views on 2024 Presidential Election

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

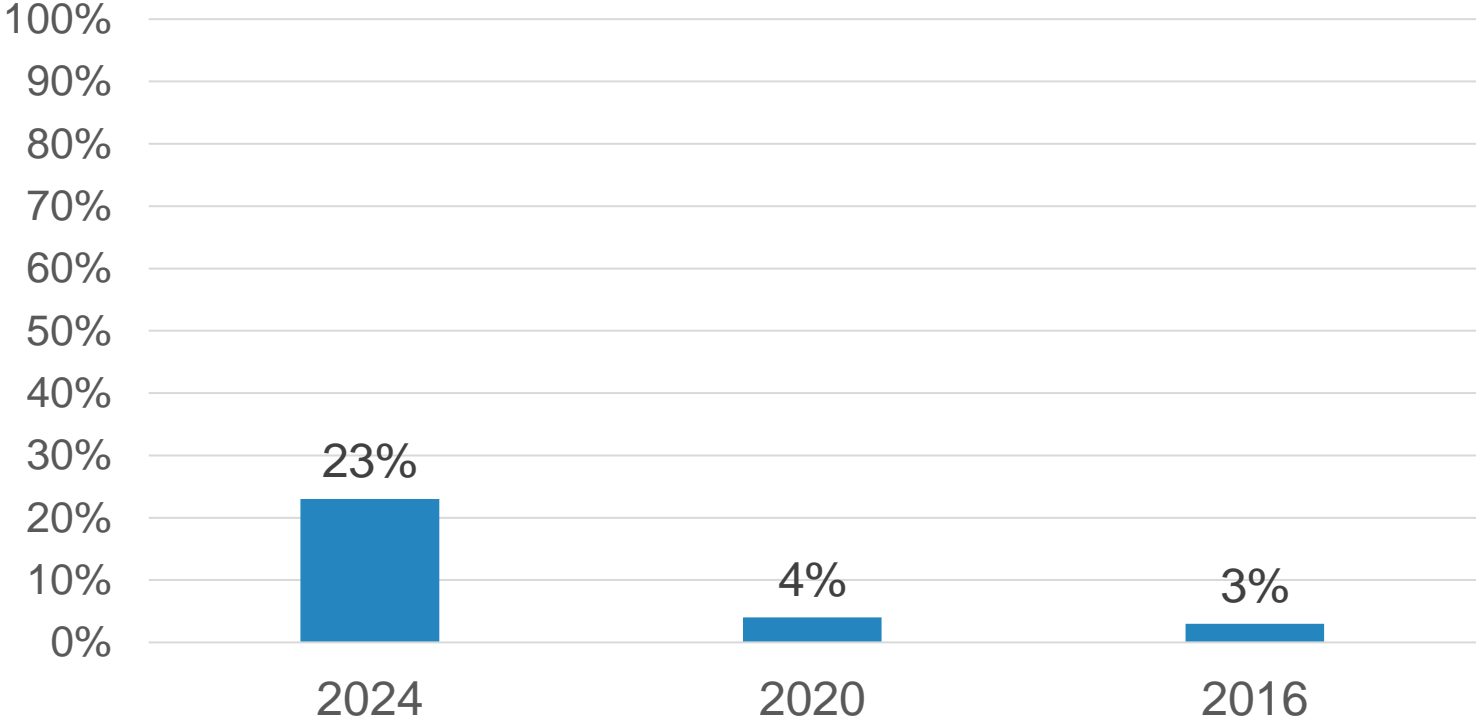
Lifeway research

Methodology

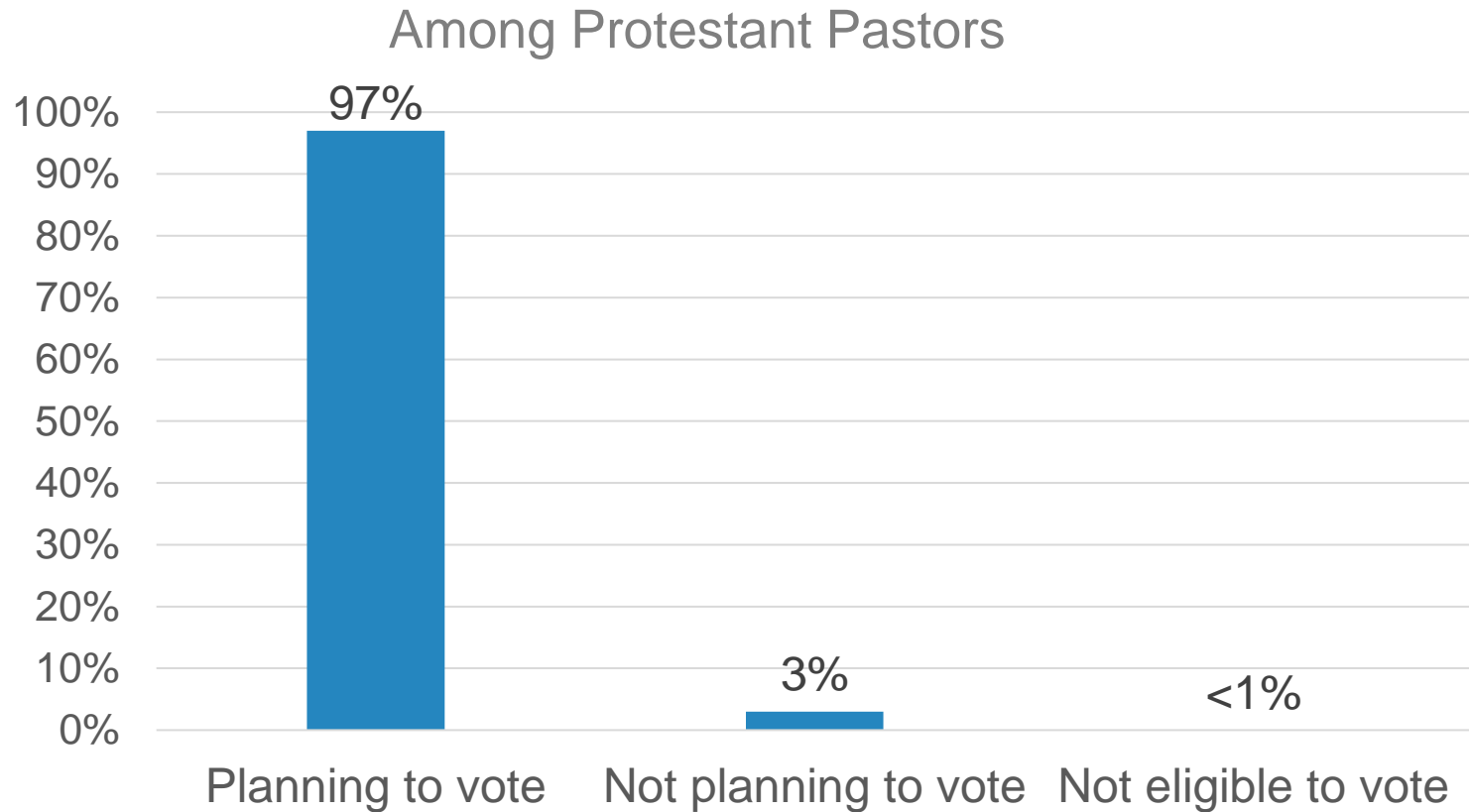
- The phone survey of 1,003 Protestant pastors was conducted August 8 – September 3, 2024
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest at the church
- Responses were weighted by region and church size to more accurately reflect the population
- The completed sample is 1,003 surveys
- The sample provides 95% confidence that the sampling error does not exceed $\pm 3.3\%$ This margin of error accounts for the effect of weighting
- Margins of error are higher in sub-groups

Pastors are much less willing to answer questions about who they plan to vote for president than in previous elections

Protestant Pastors Refusing to Answer Voting Plans



97% are planning to vote in the 2024 presidential election

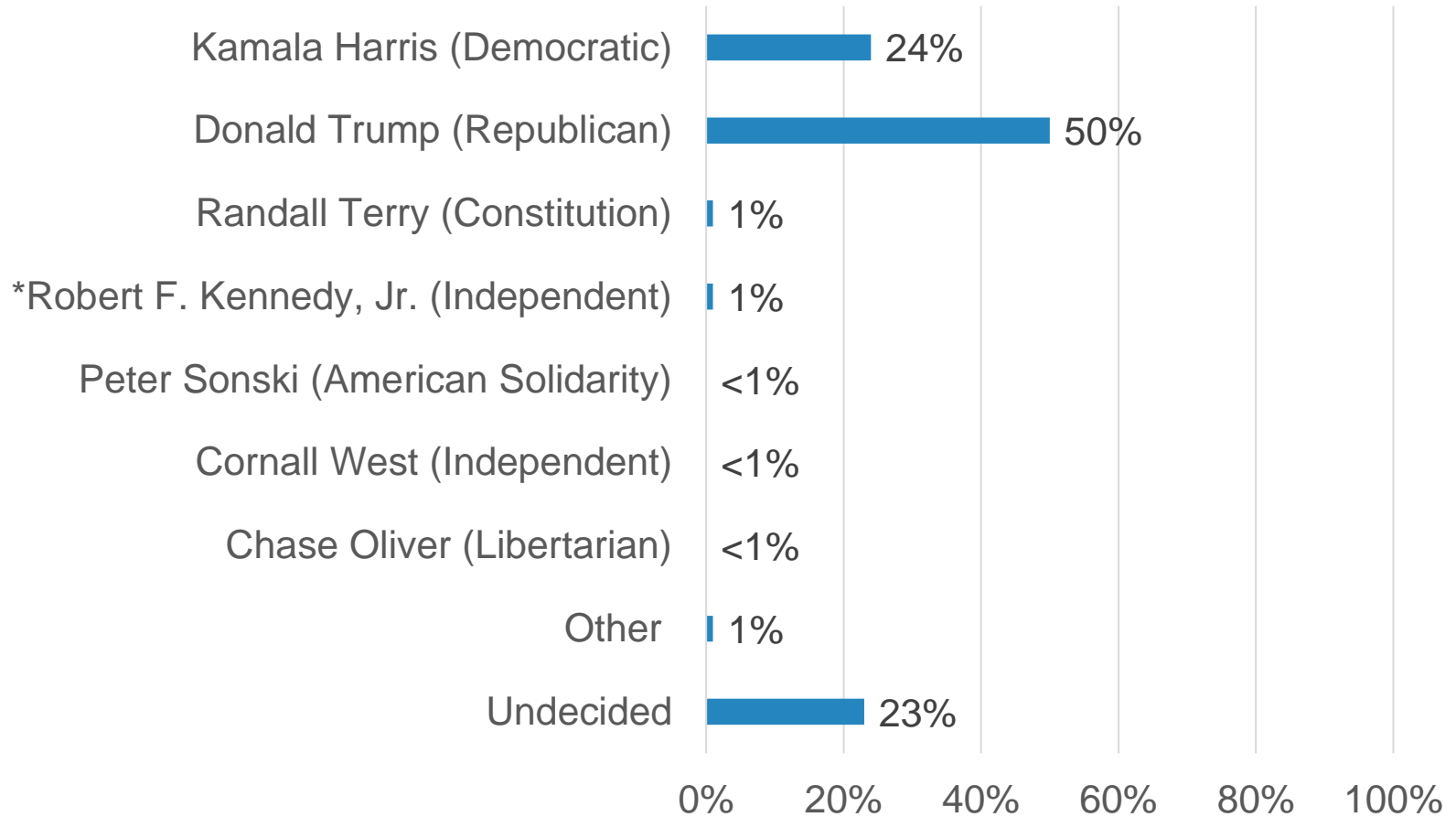


Lifewayresearch

Q: "In the 2024 presidential election, for whom do you plan to vote?" n=775

50% of pastors plan to vote for Trump, 24% for Harris, and 23% are undecided

Among Protestant Pastors Likely to Vote



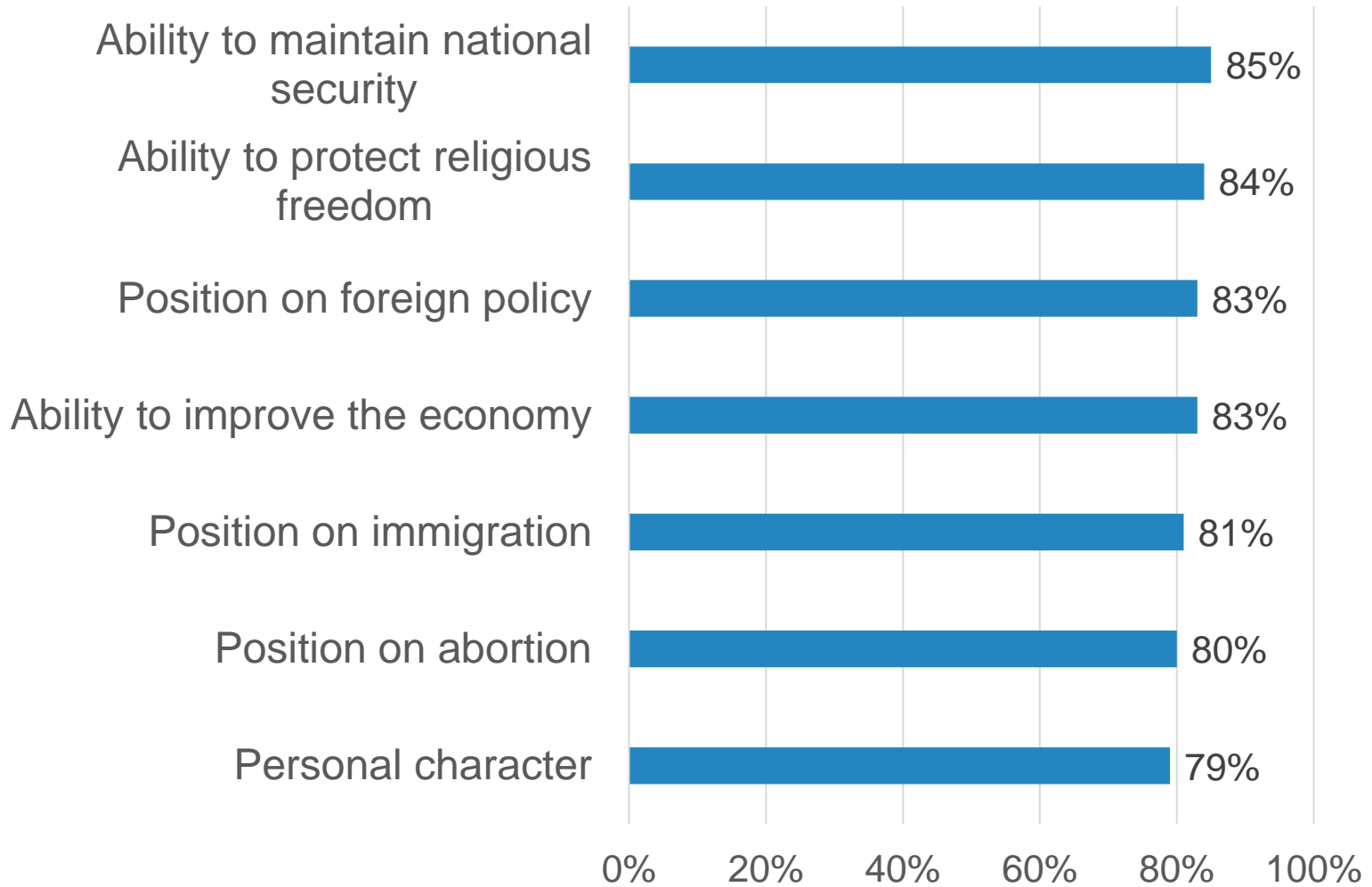
*Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. suspended his campaign Aug. 23, 2024 during the fielding of this survey.

Lifewayresearch

Q: "In the 2024 presidential election, for whom do you plan to vote?" n=748

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Among Protestant Pastors

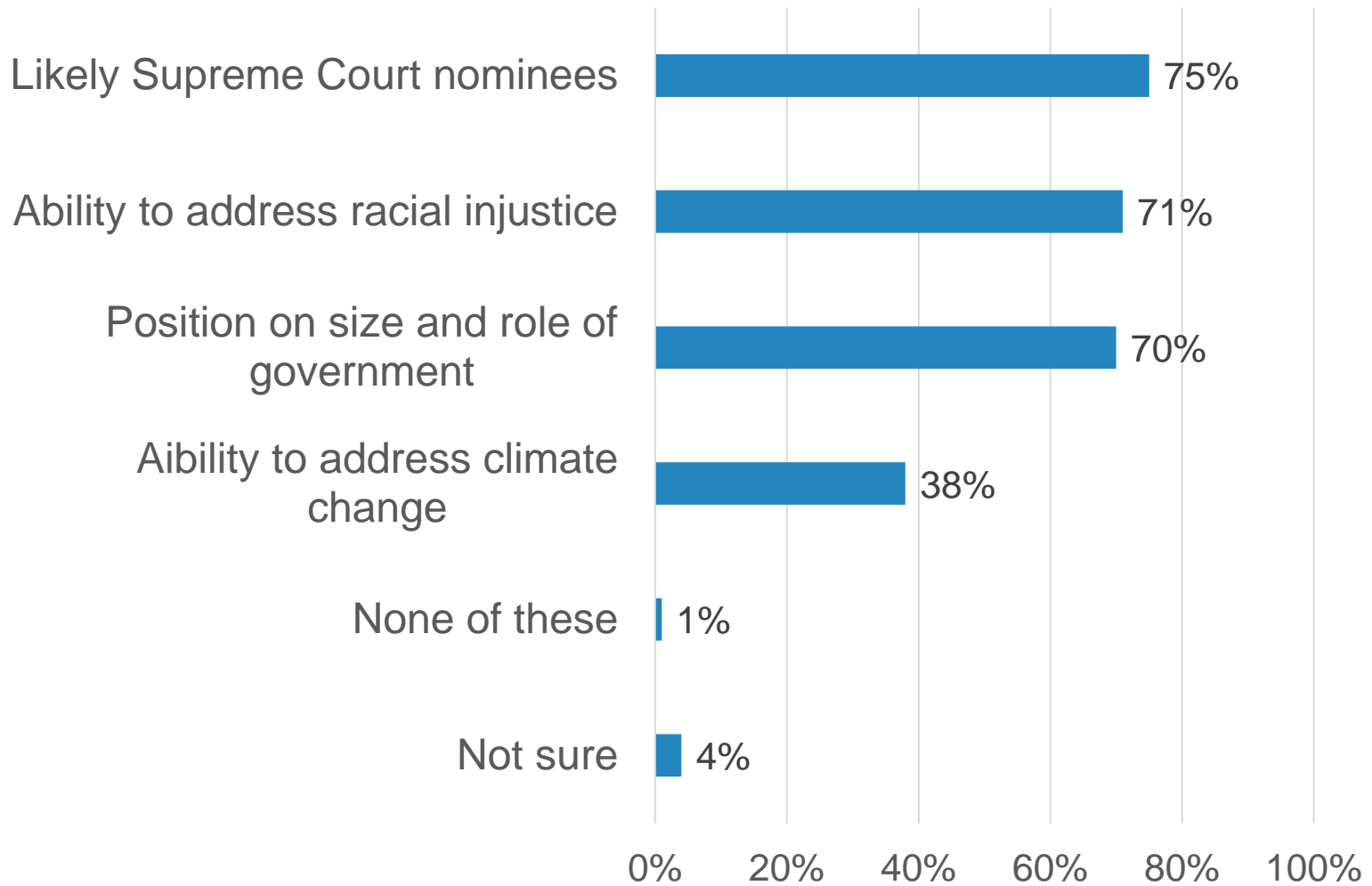


Lifeway research

Q: “In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”
(Select all that apply)” n=1,003

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Among Protestant Pastors

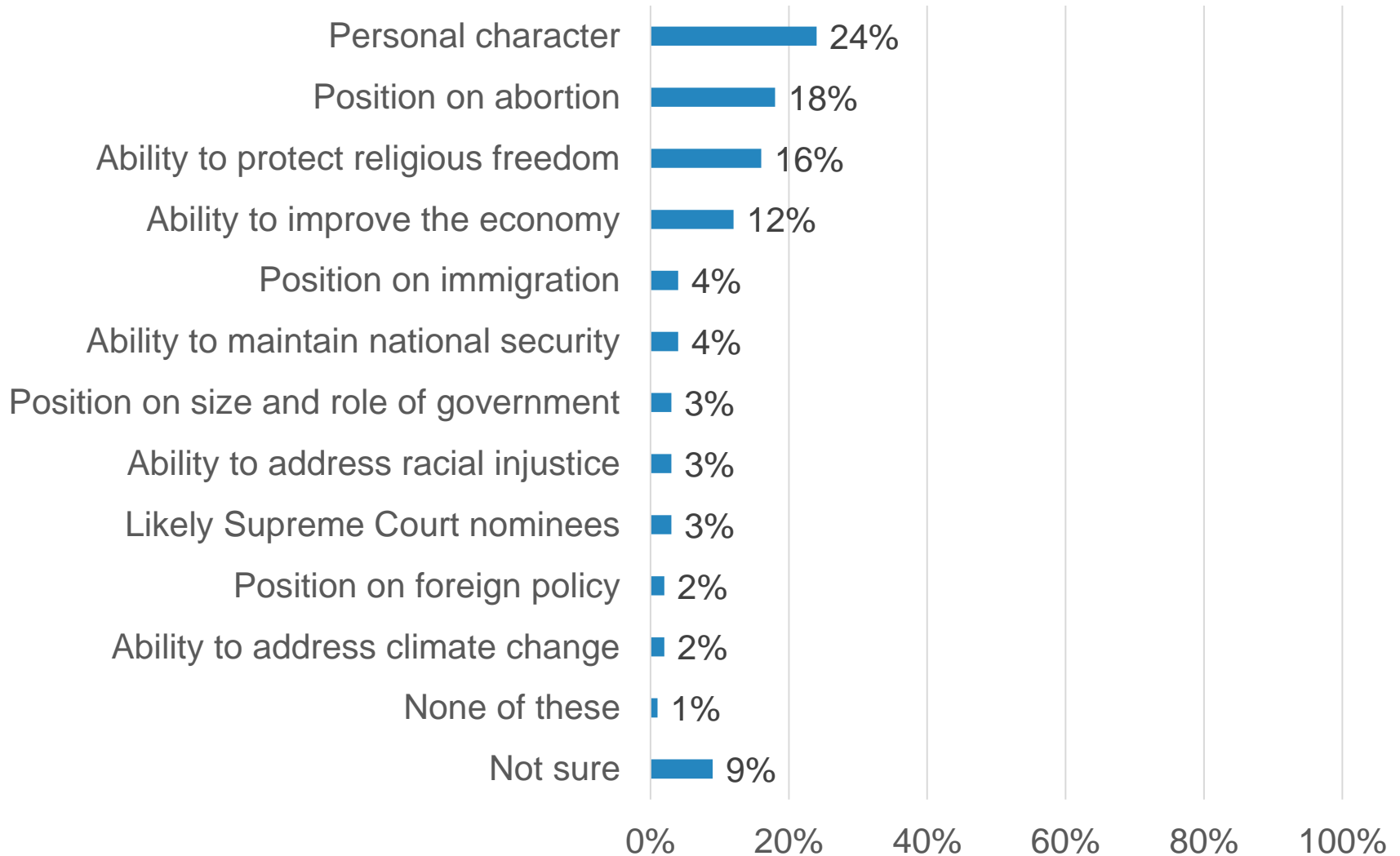


Lifeway research

Q: “In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?
(Select all that apply)” n=1,003

Position on personal character and abortion are the most important characteristics of a candidate

Among Protestant Pastors

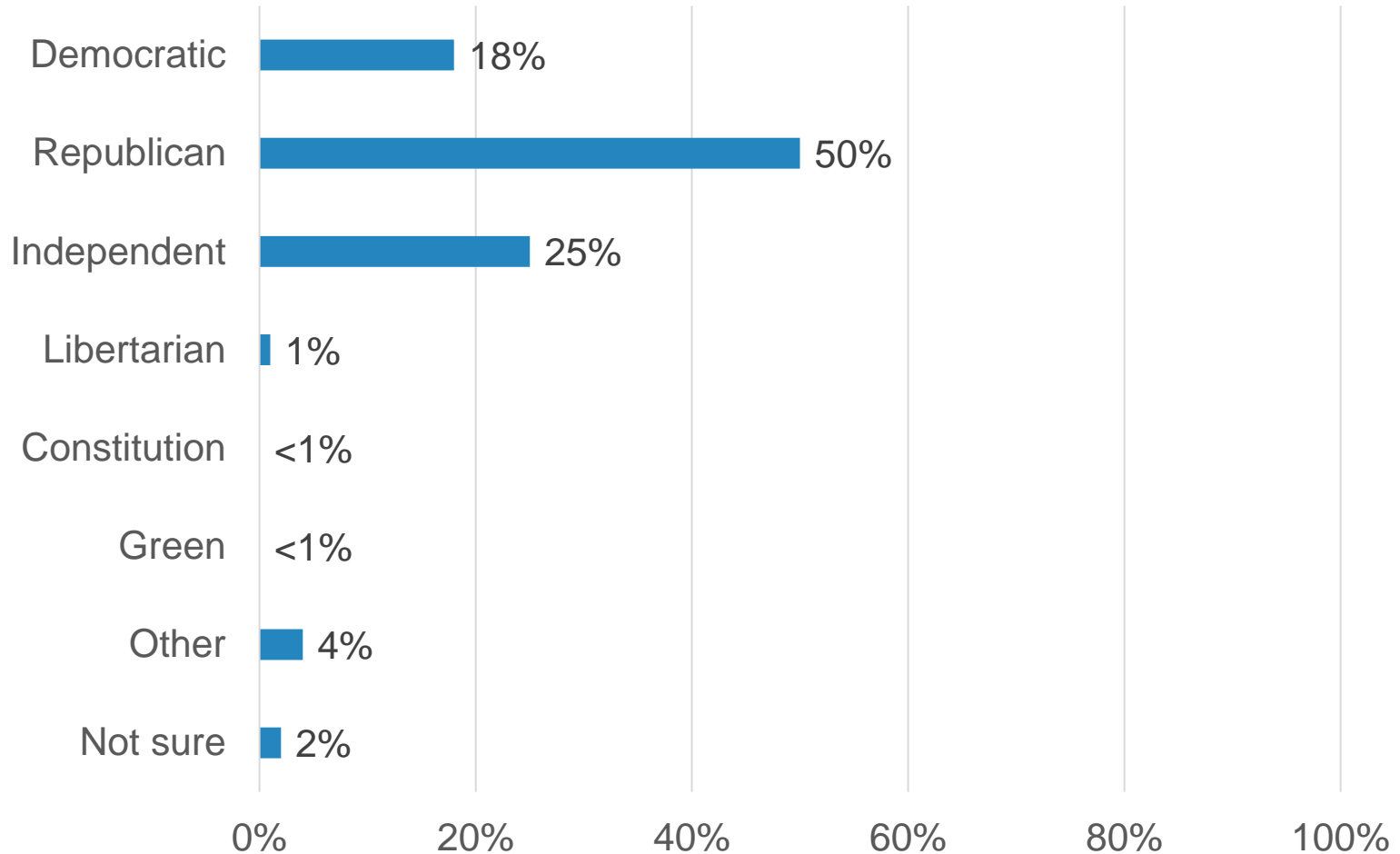


Lifeway research

Q: "In this presidential election, which one characteristic of the candidates is most important to you in deciding how to cast your vote? (Select One)" n=1,001

50% consider themselves Republicans while 25% are Independent

Among Protestant Pastors



Lifeway research

Q: "In which party are you registered to vote or do you consider yourself to be a member? (Select One)" n=884

Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Political Party

Presidential Candidate

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Lifewayresearch

Significant Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the pastor's ethnicity, age, gender, education, self-identified Evangelical or Mainline.

AGE	GENDER	ETHNICITY	EDUCATION	Self-Identified
18-44	Male	White	No College Degree	Evangelical
45-54	Female	African American	Bachelor's Degree	Mainline
55-64		Other Ethnicities	Graduate Degree	
65+			Doctoral Degree	

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among the church's region, denomination, and attendance.

REGION	DENOMINATION GROUP	ATTENDANCE
Northeast	Baptist	0-49
South	Lutheran	50-99
Midwest	Methodist	100-249
West	Pentecostal	250+
	Presbyterian/Reformed	
	Christian/Church of Christ	
	Non-Denominational	

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

Significant Statistical Differences

Comparisons were made to determine if there are any significant statistical differences among political party and presidential candidate .

POLITICAL PARTY	CANDIDATE
Democratic	Kamala Harris (Democratic)
Republican	Donald Trump (Republican)
Independent	Other
Other	Undecided

“In the 2024 presidential election, for whom do you plan to vote?”

- Pastors age 55-64 (54%) and 65+ (53%) are more likely to select “Donald Trump” than pastors age 18-44 (41%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select than “Kamala Harris” than males (51% v. 18%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select than “Donald Trump” than females (54% v. 26%)
- African American pastors (71%) are more likely to select “Kamala Harris” than pastors who are White (21%) and Other ethnicities (13%)
- African American pastors (5%) are less likely to select “Donald Trump” than pastors who are White (53%) and Other ethnicities (49%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (31%) or a Doctoral Degree (38%) are more likely to select “Kamala Harris” than those with no college degree (10%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (9%)
- Pastors with no college degree (64%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (63%) are more likely to select “Donald Trump” than those with a Master’s Degree (41%) or a Doctoral Degree (39%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “Kamala Harris” than Evangelical pastors (50% v. 10%)

“In the 2024 presidential election, for whom do you plan to vote?” *continued*

- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “Donald Trump” than Mainline pastors (61% v. 30%)
- Pastors in the Northeast are the least likely to select “Donald Trump” (36%)
- Methodists (52%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (44%) are more likely to select “Kamala Harris” than Baptists (12%), Lutherans (30%), Pentecostals (9%), Christian/Church of Christ (16%), and Non-denominational (6%)
- Baptists (64%), Lutherans (48%), Pentecostals (65%), Christian/Church of Christ (55%), and Non-denominational (64%) are more likely to select “Donald Trump” than Methodists (26%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (24%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the most likely to select “Kamala Harris” (31%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 50-99 (53%) and 250+ (65%) are more likely to select “Donald Trump” than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (42%)
- Democrats are the most likely to select “Kamala Harris” (85%)
- Republicans are the most likely to select “Donald Trump” (78%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Position on abortion

- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (82% v. 75%)
- White pastors (83%) are more likely to select than African American pastors (67%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (85% v. 75%)
- Baptists (86%), Lutherans (81%), Pentecostals (86%), and Non-denominational (89%) are more likely to select than Methodists (69%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (86%) and 250+ (87%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (76%) and 50-99 (78%)
- Republicans are the most likely to select (92%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Donald Trump (93%) are more likely to select than those voting for Kamala Harris (81%) and those who are undecided (77%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Position on immigration

- White pastors (82%) are more likely to select than African American pastors (69%)
- Pastors in the South (85%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (79%)
- Baptists (86%), Pentecostals (87%), and Non-denominational (86%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (75%) and Methodists (75%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (85%) and 250+ (87%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (78%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Donald Trump (92%) are more likely to select than those voting for Kamala Harris (85%) and those who are undecided (78%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Position on size and role of government

- Male pastors are more likely to select than females (72% v. 64%)
- White pastors (72%) are more likely to select than African American pastors (53%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (77% v. 63%)
- Baptists (78%), Pentecostals (80%), Christian/Church of Christ (78%), and Non-denominational (85%) are more likely to select than Methodists (56%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (56%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ (83%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (67%) and 50-99 (67%)
- Republicans are the most likely to select (84%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Donald Trump are the most likely to select (89%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Position on foreign policy

- Pastors age 65+ (88%) are more likely to select than pastors age 45-54 (80%)
- Baptists (86%) and Non-denominational (90%) are more likely to select than Christian/Church of Christ (75%)
- Pastors at churches with of attendance 50-99 (85%) and 250+ (89%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (78%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Kamala Harris (94%) or Donald Trump (92%) are more likely to select than those who are undecided (78%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Ability to protect religious freedom

- Pastors with a Bachelor’s Degree (88%) are more likely to select than those with a Master’s Degree (82%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (89% v. 77%)
- Baptists (92%), Pentecostals (91%), and Non-denominational (92%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (81%), Methodists (72%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (74%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (88%) and 250+ (90%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (80%)
- Republicans are the most likely to select (94%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Donald Trump (96%) are more likely to select than those voting for Kamala Harris (77%) and those who are undecided (85%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Ability to improve the economy

- Pastors age 65+ (87%) are more likely to select than pastors age 18-44 (81%)
- Pastors with a Bachelor’s Degree (87%) are more likely to select than those with a Doctoral Degree (78%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (88% v. 78%)
- Baptists (87%) and Pentecostals (90%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (76%), Methodists (79%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (76%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 100-249 (87%) and 250+ (90%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (78%)
- Republicans (91%) are more likely to select than Democrats (81%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Donald Trump are the most likely to select (94%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Ability to maintain national security

- White pastors (86%) are more likely to select than pastors who are Other ethnicities (78%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select than Mainline pastors (90% v. 81%)
- Baptists (91%) and Non-denominational (93%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (77%), Methodists (81%), Presbyterian/Reformed (81%), and Christian/Church of Christ (82%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 100-249 (89%) and 250+ (92%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (82%) and 50-99 (82%)
- Republicans are the most likely to select (94%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Donald Trump (95%) are more likely to select than those voting for Kamala Harris (86%) and those who are undecided (84%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Ability to address racial injustice

- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (80% v. 69%)
- African American pastors (83%) are more likely to select than white pastors (71%)
- Methodists (79%) are more likely to select than Baptists (67%) and Lutherans (60%)
- Democrats are the most likely to select (93%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Kamala Harris (92%) are more likely to select than those voting for Donald Trump (66%) and those who are undecided (68%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Ability to address climate change

- Pastors age 18-44 (45%) and 65+ (44%) are more likely to select than pastors age 45-54 (31%) and 55-64 (31%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select than males (66% v. 33%)
- African American pastors (65%) are more likely to select than pastors who are White (37%) and Other ethnicities (43%)
- Pastors with a Masters Degree (42%) or a Doctoral Degree (49%) are more likely to select than those with a Bachelor’s degree (28%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select than Evangelical pastors (56% v. 29%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (46%) are more likely to select than those in the Midwest (36%)
- Methodists (58%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (58%) are more likely to select than Baptists (28%), Lutherans (38%), Pentecostals (29%), Christian/Church of Christ (33%), and Non-denominational (29%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Ability to address climate change *continued*

- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (42%) are more likely to select than those at churches with attendance of 250+ (30%)
- Democrats are the most likely to select (90%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Kamala Harris are the most likely to select (91%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Likely Supreme Court nominees

- White pastors (77%) are more likely to select than pastors who are Other ethnicities (65%)
- Baptists (80%) are more likely to select than Lutherans (69%) and Methodists (71%)
- Democrats (83%) and Republicans (84%) are more likely to select than Independents (71%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Kamala Harris (84%) or Donald Trump (89%) are more likely to select than those who are undecided (61%)

“In this presidential election, which characteristics of the candidates are important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

Personal character

- Pentecostals (85%) and Non-denominational (83%) are more likely to select than Christian/Church of Christ (70%)
- Democrats (94%) and Independents (86%) are more likely to select than Republicans (79%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Kamala Harris (96%) are more likely to select than those voting for Donald Trump (76%) or those who are undecided (77%)

“In this presidential election, which one characteristic of the candidates is most important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?”

- Pastors age 55-64 (22%) are more likely to select “Position on abortion” than pastors age 18-44 (14%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Position on abortion” than female pastors (20% v. 8%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select “Personal character” than males (36% v. 21%)
- African American pastors (42%) are more likely to select “Personal character” than pastors who are White (23%) and Other ethnicities (22%)
- White (19%) and Other ethnicities (16%) are more likely to select “Position on abortion” than pastors who are African American (4%)
- Pastors with no college degree (24%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (21%) are more likely to select “Position on abortion” than those with a Master’s Degree (15%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree (29%) or a Doctoral Degree (37%) are more likely to select “Personal character” than those with no college degree (14%) or a Bachelor’s Degree (12%)

“In this presidential election, which one characteristic of the candidates is most important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?” *Continued*

- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “Position on abortion” than Mainline pastors (22% v. 12%)
- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “Personal character” than Evangelical pastors (35% v.17 %)
- Methodists (42%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (36%) are more likely to select “Personal character” than Baptists (13%), Pentecostals (11%), Christian/Church of Christ (21%), and Non-denominational (16%)
- Baptists (25%) and Non-denominational (27%) are more likely to select “Position on abortion” than Lutherans (16%), Methodists (9%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (11%)
- Baptists (20%), Lutherans (18%), Pentecostals (23%), Christian/Church of Christ (20%), and Non-denominational (18%) are more likely to select “Ability to protect religious freedom” than Lutherans (16%), Methodists (9%) and Presbyterian/Reformed (11%)

“In this presidential election, which one characteristic of the candidates is most important to you in deciding how to cast your vote?” *Continued*

- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (27%) and 100-249 (26%) are more likely to select “Personal character” than those at churches with attendance of 250+ (16%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance of 250+ (18%) are more likely to select “Ability to improve the economy” than those at churches with attendance of 0-49 (10%)
- Democrats are the most likely to select “Personal character” (53%)
- Republicans are the most likely to select “Position on abortion” (30%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Kamala Harris are the most likely to select “Personal character” (58%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Donald Trump are the most likely to select “Ability to protect religious freedom” (25%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Donald Trump (29%) are more likely to select “Position on abortion” than those voting for Kamala Harris (4%) or those who are undecided (13%)

“In which party are you registered to vote or do you consider yourself to be a member?”

- Pastors age 65+ (23%) are more likely to select “Democratic” than pastors age 18-44 (15%) and 45-54 (15%)
- Pastors age 55-64 (57%) are more likely to select “Republican” than pastors age 18-44 (45%) and 65+ (46%)
- Pastors age 18-44 (31%) are more likely to select “Independent” than pastors age 55-64 (21%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select “Democratic” than males (41% v. 13%)
- Male pastors are more likely to select “Republican” than females (53% v. 32%)
- African American pastors (62%) are more likely to select “Democratic” than pastors who are White (16%) and Other ethnicities (12%)
- Pastors who are White (53%) and Other ethnicities (51%) are more likely to select “Republican” than African American pastors (5%)
- Pastors with a Doctoral Degree are the most likely to select “Democratic” (34%)
- Pastors with no college degree are the most likely to select “Republican” (72%)

“In which party are you registered to vote or do you consider yourself to be a member?” *Continued*

- Mainline pastors are more likely to select “Democratic” than Evangelical pastors (35% v. 8%)
- Evangelical pastors are more likely to select “Republican” than Mainline pastors (64% v. 30%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (30%) are more likely to select “Democratic” than those in the South (15%) and Midwest (16%)
- Pastors in the Midwest are the most likely to select “Independent” (31%)
- Lutherans (25%), Methodists (36%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (36%) are more likely to select “Democratic” than Baptists (10%), Pentecostals (6%), Christian/Church of Christ (7%), and Non-denominational (7%)
- Baptists (67%), Pentecostals (67%), Christian/Church of Christ (57%), and Non-denominational (67%) are more likely to select “Republican” than Lutherans (42%), Methodists (27%), and Presbyterian/Reformed (27%)

“In which party are you registered to vote or do you consider yourself to be a member?” *Continued*

- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 (21%) and 50-99 (20%) are more likely to select “Democratic” than those at churches with attendance of 250+ (10%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 250+ are the most likely to select “Republican” (68%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Kamala Harris are the most likely to select “Democratic” (68%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Donald Trump are the most likely to select “Republican” (81%)

Pastors' Views on 2024 Presidential Election

A SURVEY OF AMERICANS PROTESTANT PASTORS

Lifeway research