

# Pastors' Views on Political Endorsements

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

Lifeway research

# Methodology

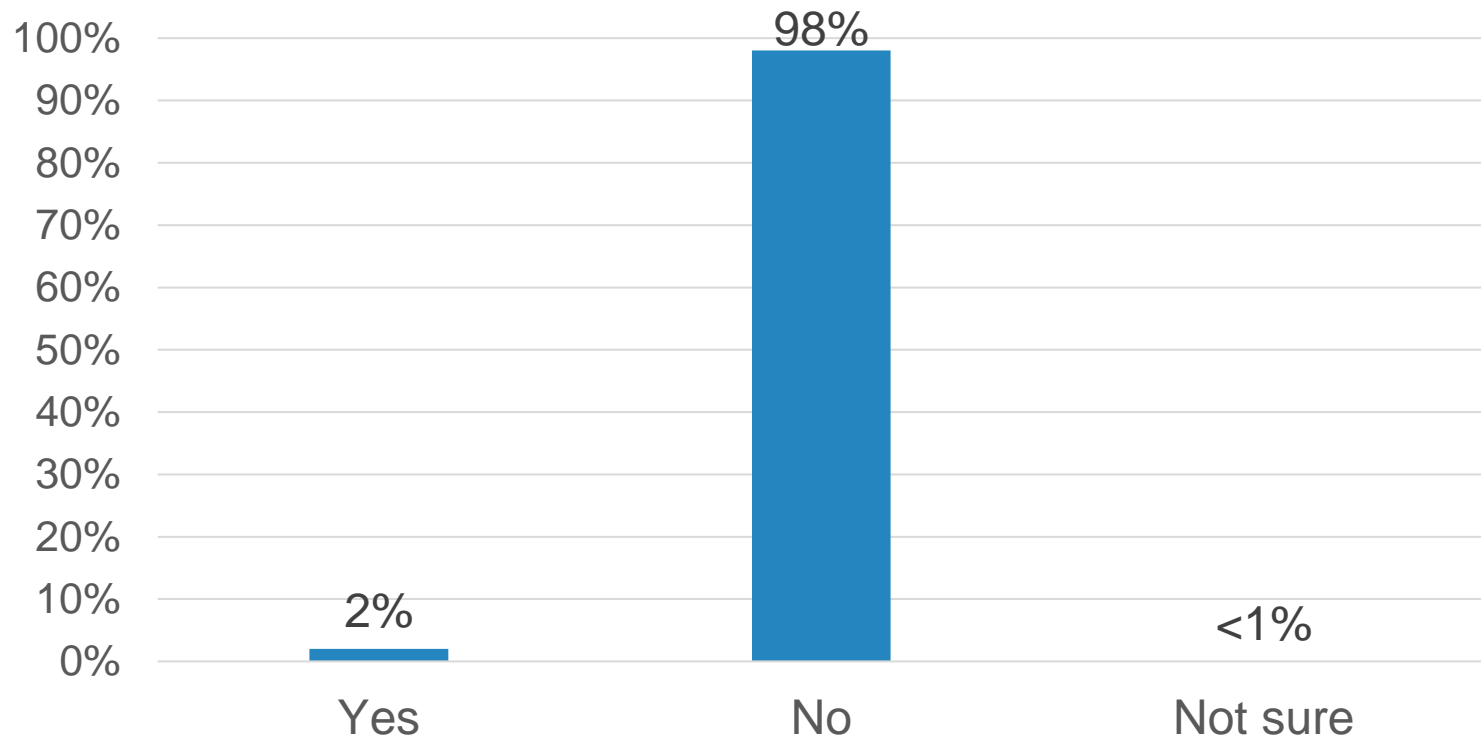
- The phone survey of 1,003 Protestant pastors was conducted August 8 – September 3, 2024
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest at the 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

# Methodology

- Comparisons are made to a mixed mode survey of 1,007 pastors conducted by Lifeway Research September 2 - October 1, 2020, and a phone survey of 1,000 pastors conducted by Lifeway Research August 22 - September 16, 2016
- The 2016 survey and the phone portion of the 2020 survey and the used this same methodology as the 2024 survey

# 98% have not endorsed candidates for public office during a church service this year

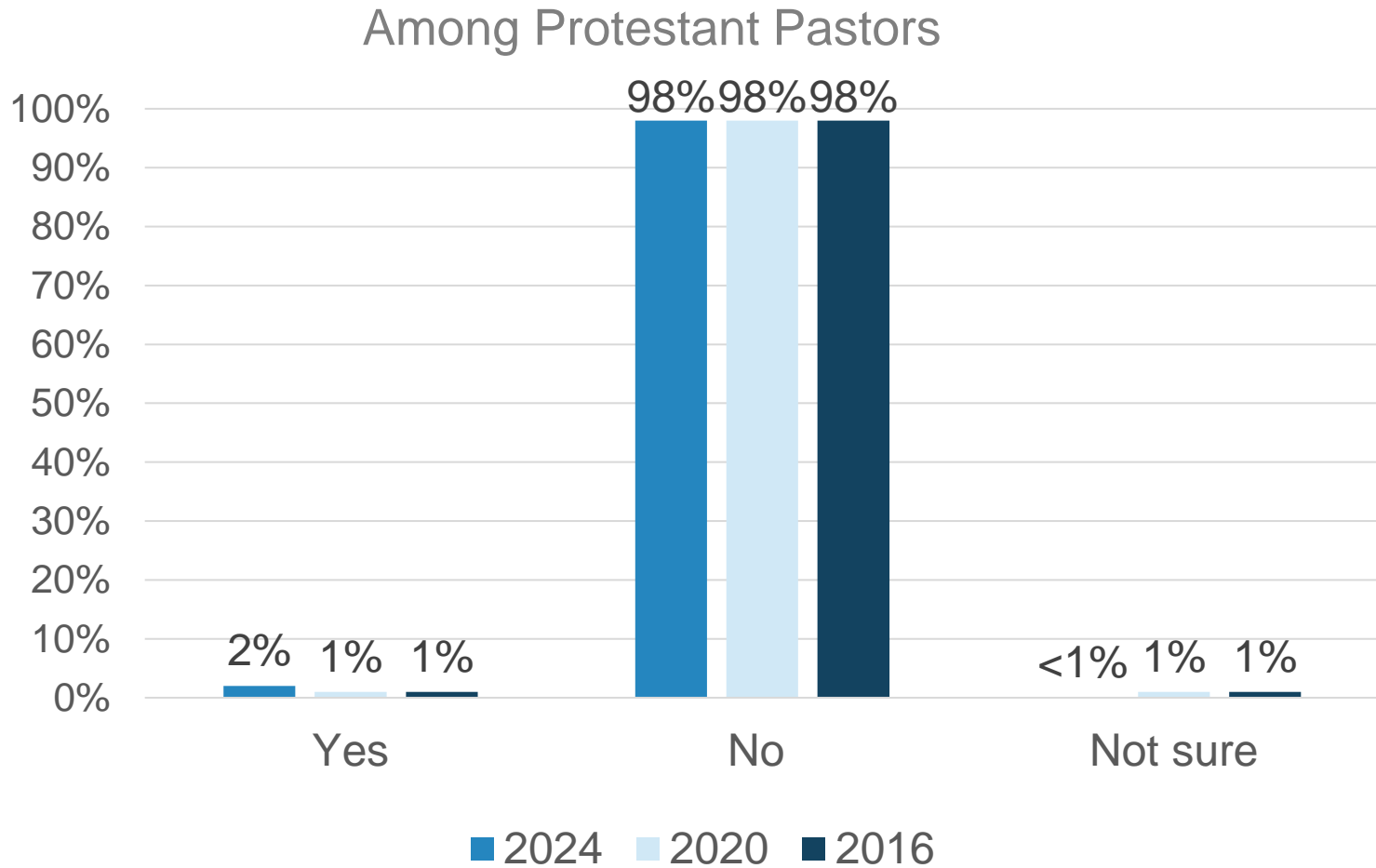
Among Protestant Pastors



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Q: "Have you publicly endorsed candidates for public office during a church service this year?" n=989

# The 2% of pastors endorsing candidates during a church service is similar to 2020 and 2016

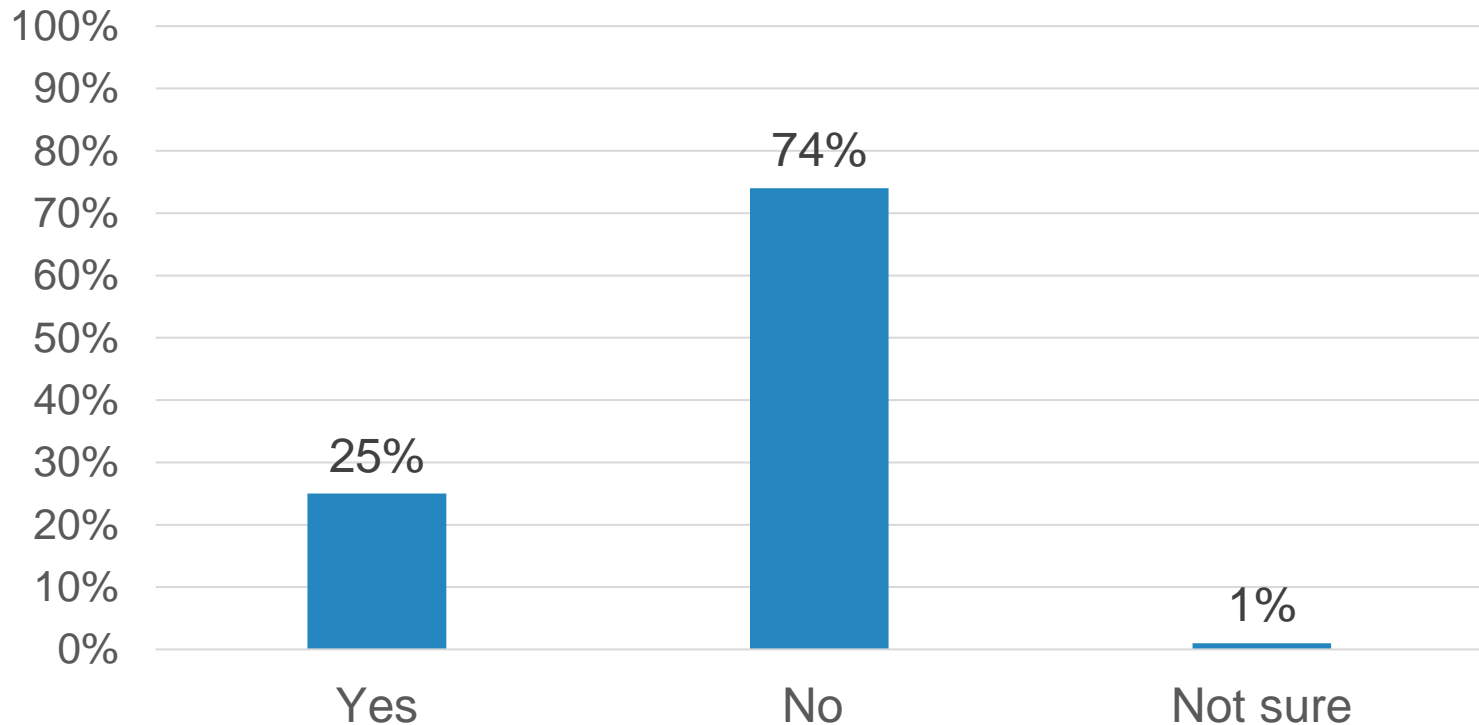


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Q: "Have you publicly endorsed candidates for public office during a church service this year?"

# 74% have not endorsed candidates for public office outside of their church role this year

Among Protestant Pastors

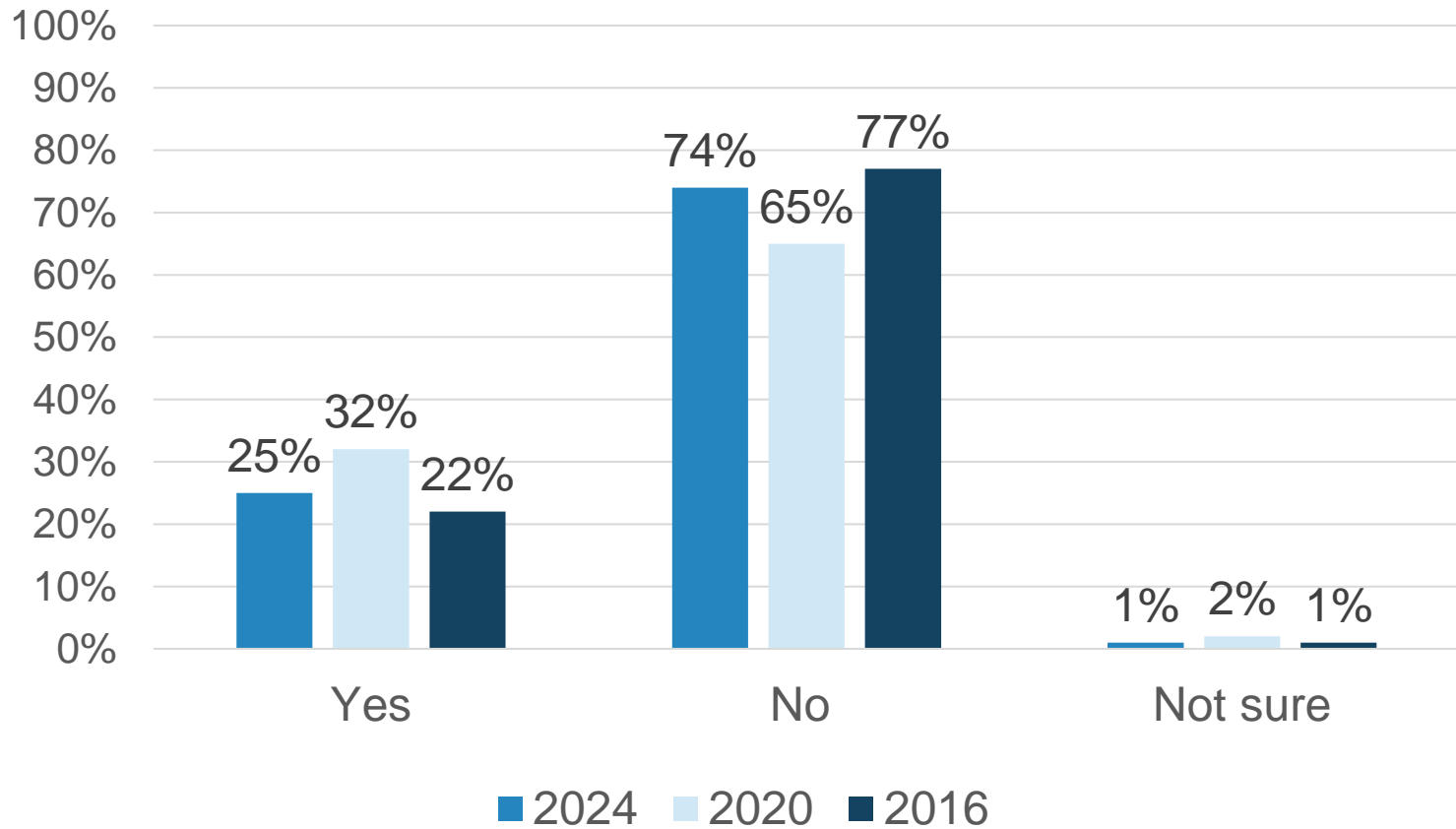


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Q: "Have you personally endorsed candidates for public office this year outside of your church role?" n=986

# Less pastors say they have endorsed candidates outside of their church role this year than in 2020 (25% v. 32%)

Among Protestant Pastors



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Q: "Have you personally endorsed candidates for public office this year outside of your church role?"

# Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Political Party

Presidential Candidate

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

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# 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	Undecided
Other	

## **“Have you publicly endorsed candidates for public office during a church service this year?”**

- Pastors age 18-44 (99%) are more likely to select “No” than pastors age 50-64 (97%) and 65+ (96%)
- Pastors in the Northeast (100%) are more likely to select “No” than those in the South (97%) and West (96%)
- Baptists (4%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Lutherans (<1%)
- Republicans (3%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Independents (1%)

## **“Have you personally endorsed candidates for public office this year outside of your church role?”**

- Pastors age 55-64 (32%) and 65+ (36%) are more likely to select “Yes” than pastors age 18-44 (11%) and 45-54 (18%)
- Female pastors are more likely to select “No” than males (81% v. 73%)
- African American pastors (40%) are more likely to select “Yes” than pastors who are White (24%) and Other ethnicities (20%)
- Pastors with no college degree (32%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those with a Master’s Degree (22%)
- Pastors in the South (30%) are more likely to select “Yes” than those in the Northeast (20%) and Midwest (22%)
- Baptists (33%), Methodists (25%), and Pentecostals (34%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Lutherans (15%)
- Pastors at churches with attendance 0-49 are the most likely to select “Yes” (32%)
- Democrats (28%) and Republicans (32%) are more likely to select “Yes” than Independents (16%)
- Pastors planning to vote for Kamala Harris (34%) or Donald Trump (38%) are more likely to select “Yes” and those who are undecided (8%)

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