

Pastors' Views on Political Endorsements

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

Lifeway research

Methodology

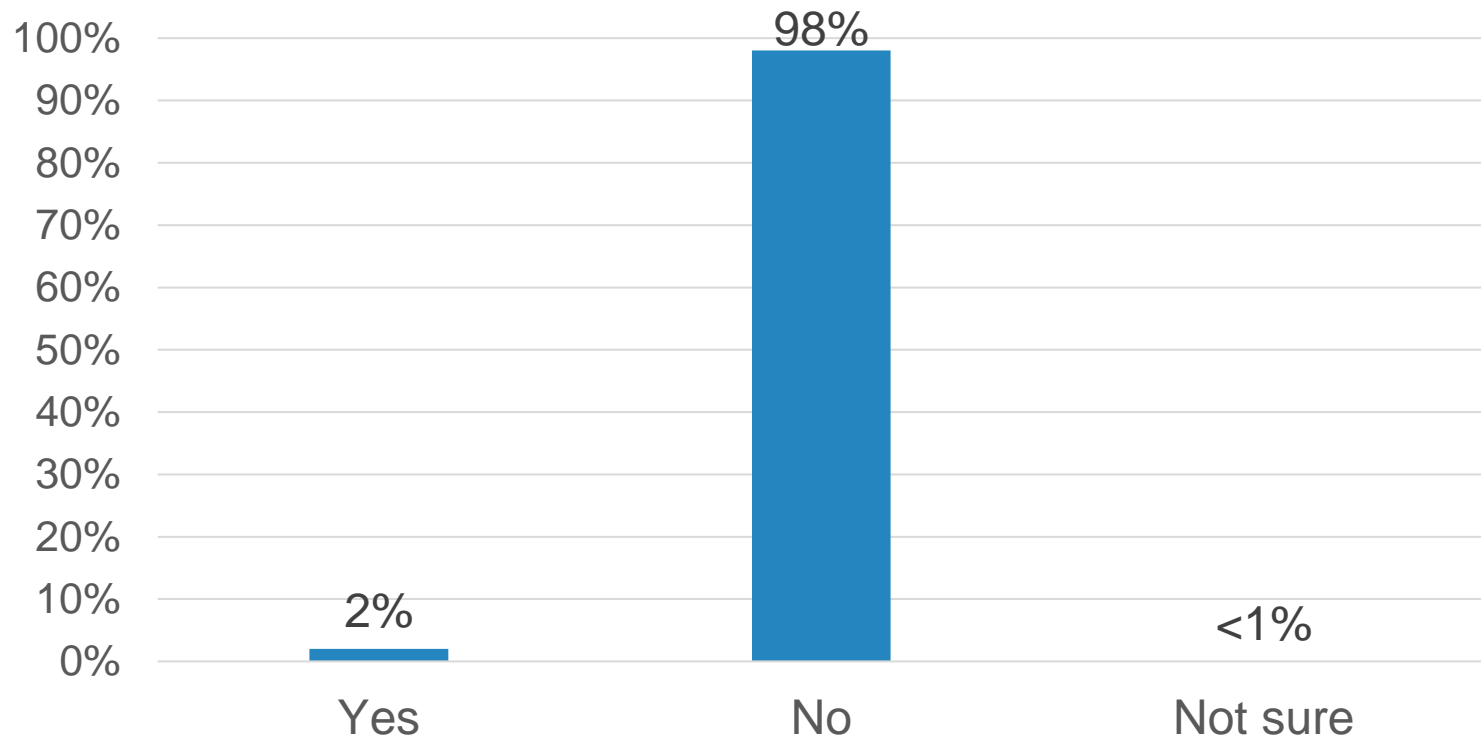
- The phone survey of 1,003 Protestant pastors was conducted August 8 – September 3, 2024
- The calling list was a stratified random sample, drawn from a list of all Protestant churches. Quotas were used for church size
- Each interview was conducted with the senior pastor, minister or priest at the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

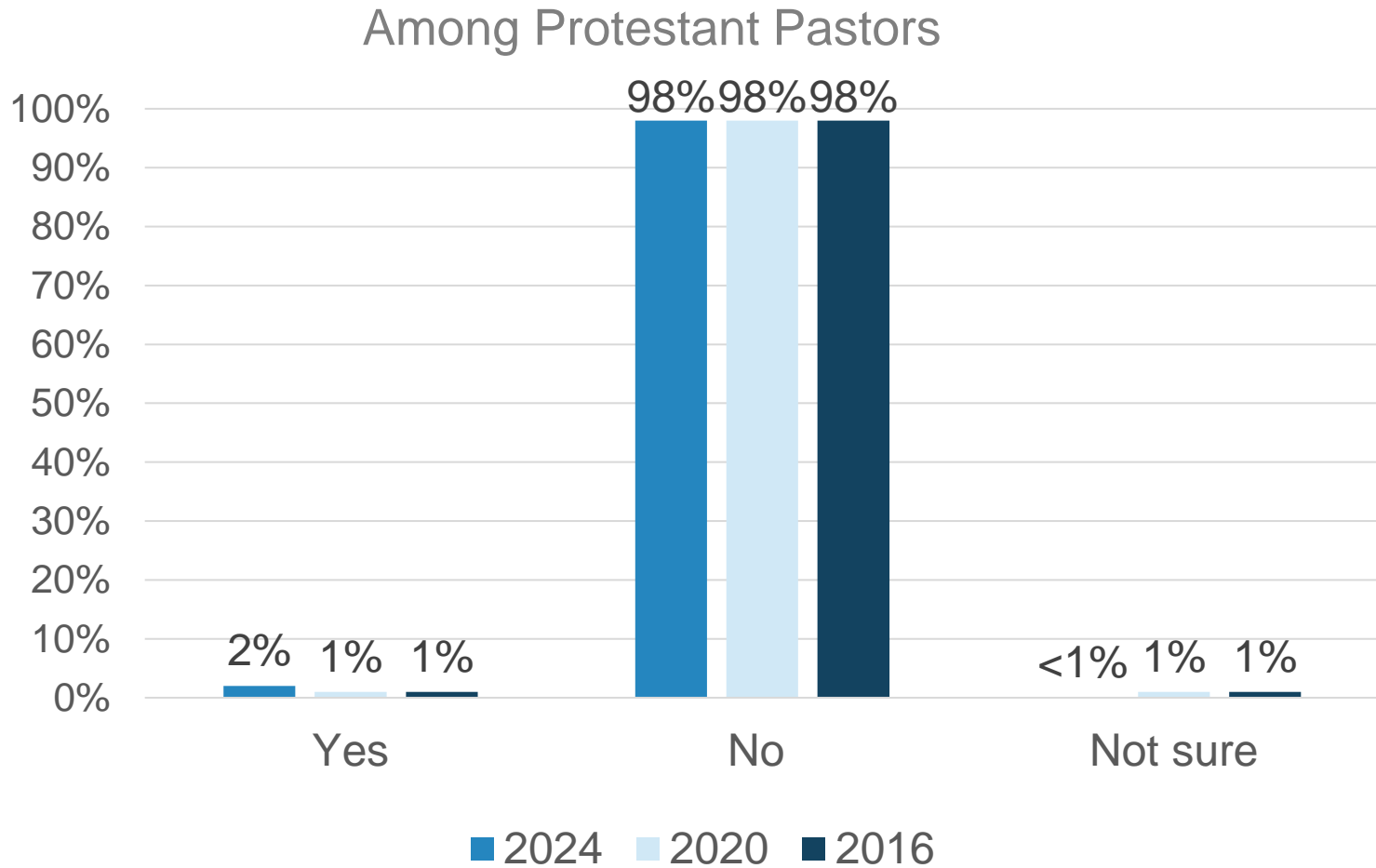
Among Protestant Pastors



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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

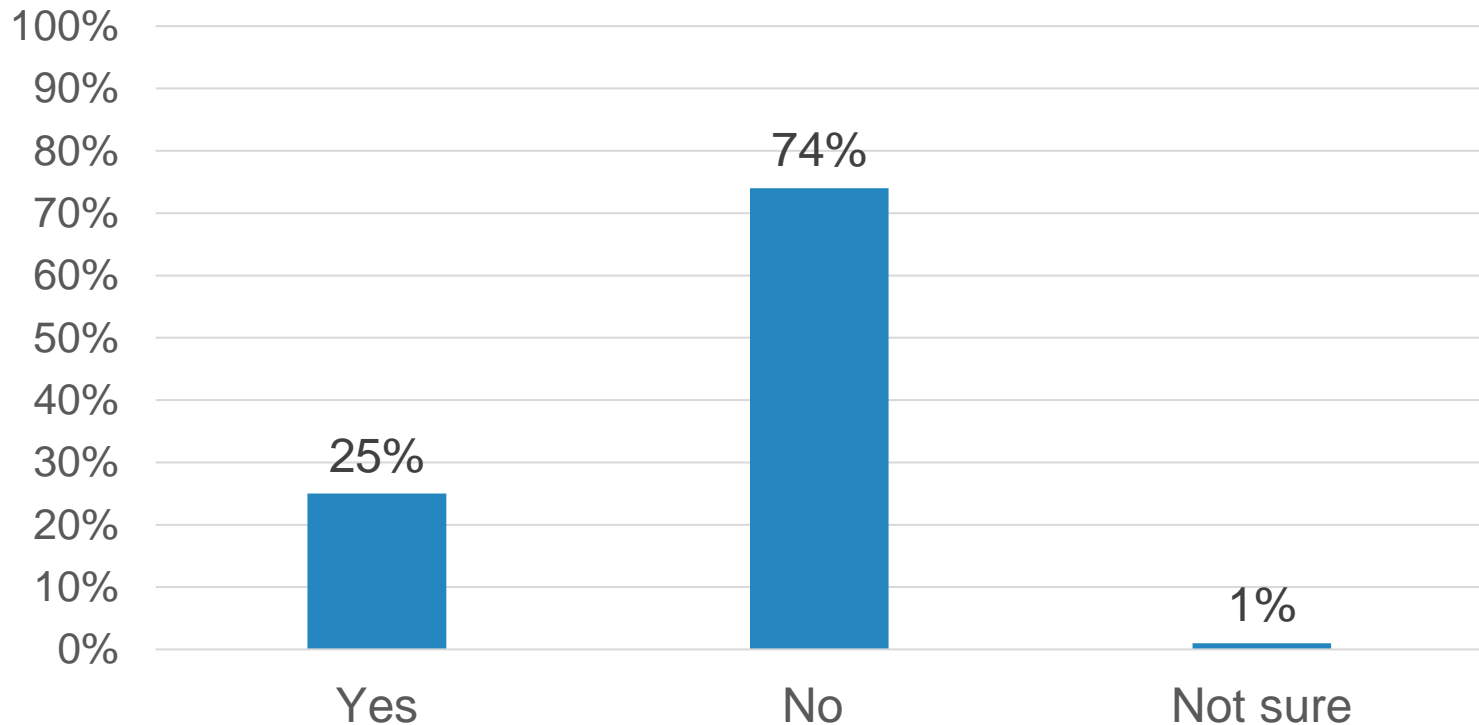


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Q: "Have you publicly endorsed candidates for public office during a church service this year?"

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

Among Protestant Pastors

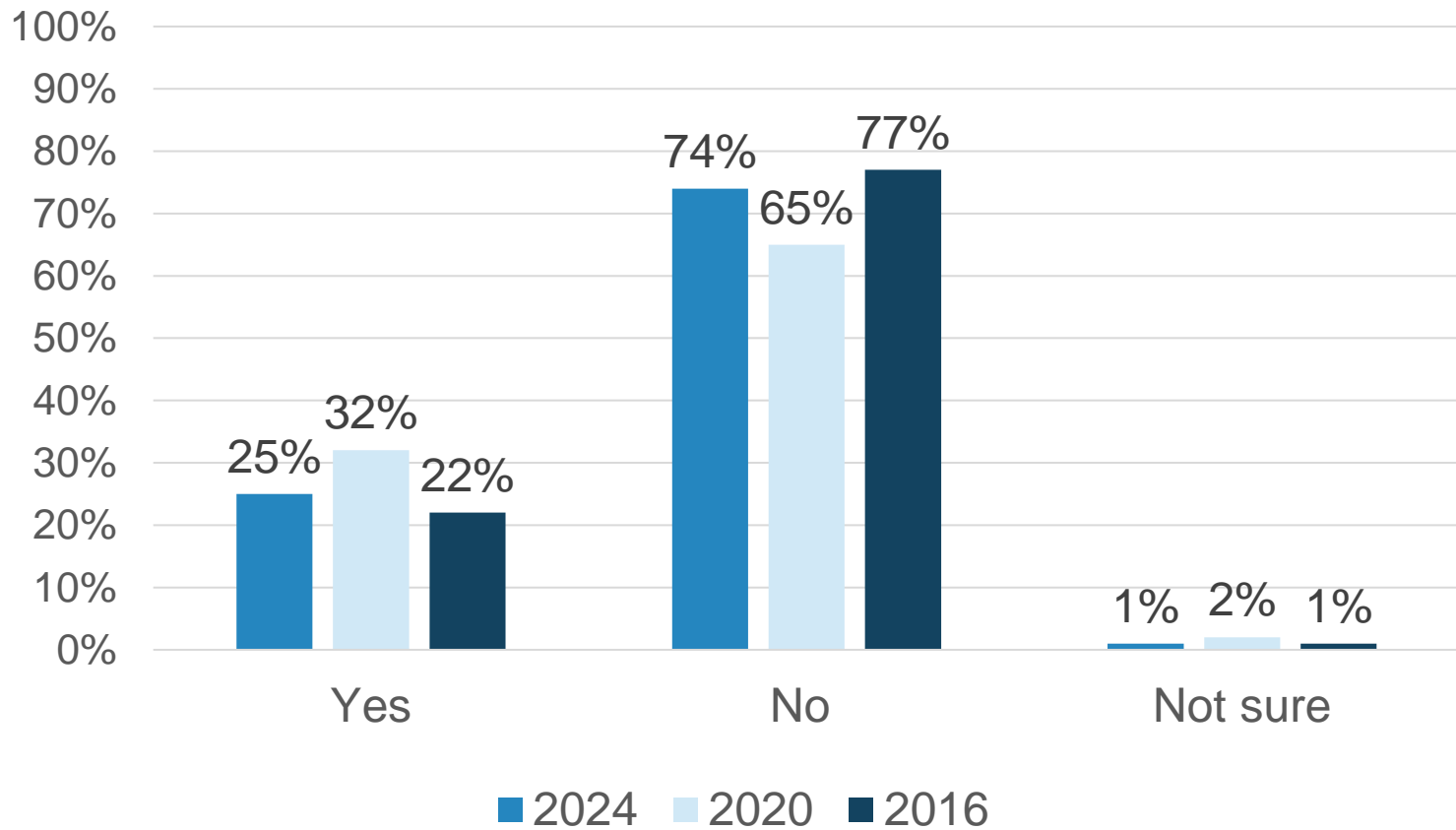


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Q: "Have you personally endorsed candidates for public office this year outside of your church role?" n=986

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		Hispanic	Graduate Degree	
65+		Other Ethnicities	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 Hispanic (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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