

Pastors' Views on Political Endorsements

A SURVEY OF AMERICAN PROTESTANT PASTORS

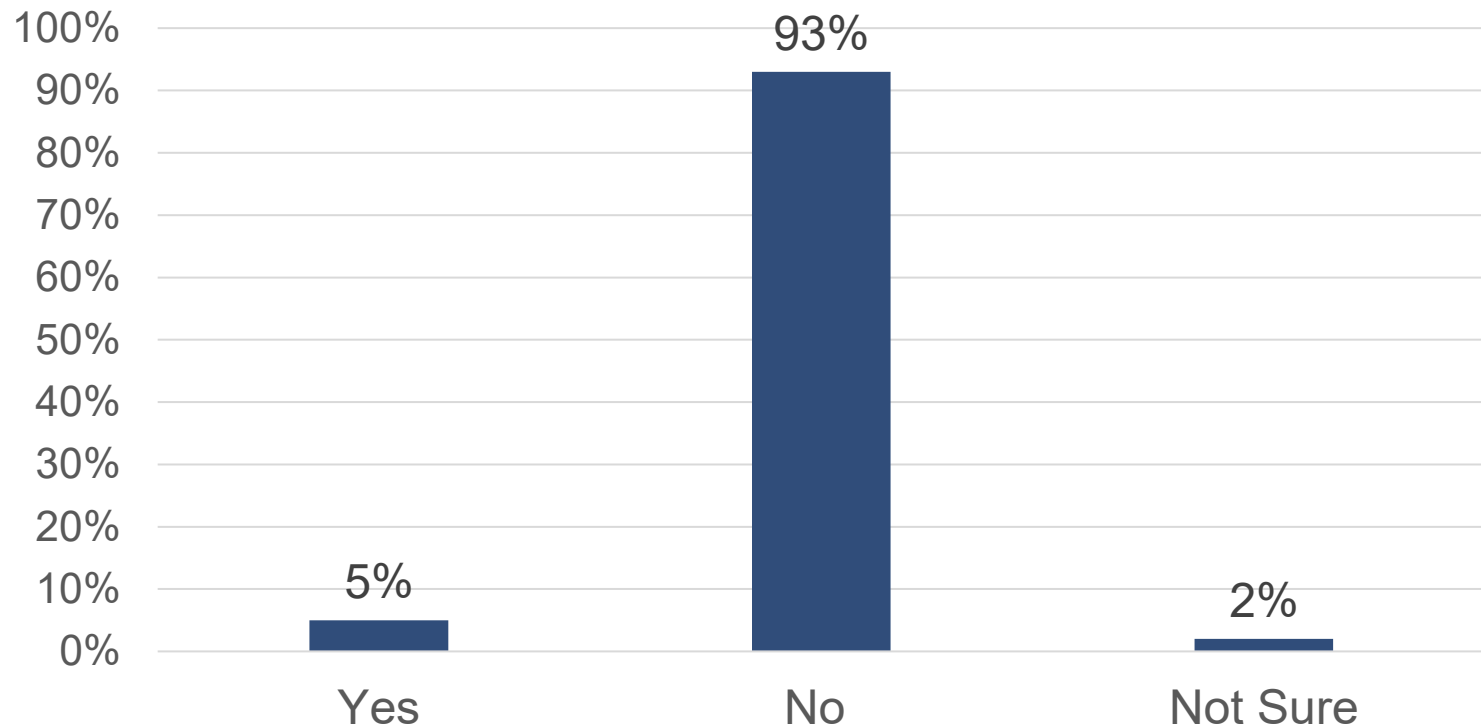
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Methodology

- The phone survey of 1,003 Protestant pastors was conducted September 2-24, 2025
- 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

93% do not plan to endorse candidates for public office during a worship service

Among Protestant Pastors



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Q: "Now that the IRS says it will allow churches to endorse political candidates to their own congregation without losing their tax-exempt status, do you plan to publicly endorse candidates for public office during a worship service at your current church in the future?" n=996

Significant Differences

Pastor

Ethnicity

Age

Gender

Education Level

Self-identified Evangelical/Mainline

Church

Region

Denomination

Average Attendance

Location

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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, attendance, and location.

REGION	DENOMINATION GROUP	ATTENDANCE	LOCATION
Northeast	Baptist	0-49	Urban
South	Lutheran	50-99	Suburban
Midwest	Methodist	100-249	Rural
West	Pentecostal	250+	
	Presbyterian/Reformed		
	Holiness		
	Non-Denominational		

Note: Region is defined by the US Census locations

Now that the IRS says it will allow churches to endorse political candidates to their own congregation without losing their tax-exempt status, do you plan to publicly endorse candidates for public office during a worship service at your current church in the future?

- Male pastors are more likely to select “Yes” than Female pastors (6% v. 2%)
- African American pastors (11%) and pastors of Other ethnicities (9%) are more likely to select “Yes” than White pastors (4%)
- White pastors are the most likely to select “No” (94%)
- Pastors in the South (7%) are more likely to select “Yes” than pastors in the Midwest (3%)
- Pastors with no college degree (8%) are more likely to select “Yes” than pastors with a Master’s Degree (3%)
- Pastors with a Master’s Degree are the most likely to select “No” (96%)
- Baptists (9%), Pentecostal (13%), Holiness (7%), and Non-denominational (7%) pastors are more likely to select “Yes” than Lutheran (1%) and Methodist pastors (1%)

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