Interviews with 487 adult Americans conducted by telephone at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky on September 24 – October 1, 2015. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is plus or minus 4.5 percentage points.

The sample includes interviews from both landline respondents (62% of all respondents) and cell phone respondents (38% of all respondents).

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Survey Methods

Results for this survey are based on telephone interviews conducted at Centre College in Danville, Kentucky on September 24 – October 1, 2015, with a random sample of 487 adults, aged 18 and older, living in the lower 48 U.S. states (not including Alaska and Hawaii).

This survey sampled both landline and cellphone respondents. 62% of total respondents were landline numbers while 38% of total respondents were cellphone numbers. Landline and cellphone numbers were selected using random-digit-dial methods.

For results based on the total sample of national adults, the margin of sampling error is ±4.5% percentage points at the 95% confidence level. All other margins of error as shown.

All respondents were asked questions concerning basic demographics, and the entire sample was weighted to reflect national Census figures for age and race.

In all, 34% of sample respondents identify as Democrats, 26.7% identify as Republican, 28% identify as Independents, with 6.2% identifying as no/other party. Also, 47% identify as Democrats or Independent-lean-Democrats and 38.2% identify as Republicans or Independent-lean Republicans.
Do you approve or disapprove of the way that Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

Approve 45.5%
Disapprove 48.9%
Don’t know 4.0%

[ASKED OF “DISAPPROVE” RESPONDENTS, SAMPLING ERROR: +/- 6.5%]

Do you disapprove because you think his policies and actions are too liberal or because you think they’re not liberal enough?

Too liberal 79.3%
Not liberal enough 8.6%
Other 12.1%

Democrats and Democratic leaners: 69.7% too liberal, 27.3% not liberal enough [MoE +/- 17.1%]
Independents: 57.7% too liberal, 7.7% not liberal enough [MoE +/- 19.2%]
Republicans and Republican leaners: 84.9% too liberal, 5.0% not liberal enough [MoE +/- 7.8%]

[ASKED OF REPUBLICANS AND INDEPENDENT-LEAN-REPUBLICANS, SAMPLING ERROR: +/- 7.7%]

Now thinking of the 2016 presidential primary election, who would be your preference at this time for the Republican Party’s nominee of the following choices: Donald Trump, Ted Cruz, Rand Paul, Rick Santorum, Jeb Bush, Marco Rubio, John Kasich, Bobby Jindal, Mike Huckabee, Chris Christie, Ben Carson, Carly Fiorina, Lindsey Graham, Jim Gilmore, George Pataki, or some other? [RANDOMIZE NAMES]

Jeb Bush 8.1%
Ben Carson 13.4%
Chris Christie 0.5%
Mike Huckabee 3.2%
Rand Paul 5.9%
Marco Rubio 11.3%
Donald Trump 23.1%
Ted Cruz 8.1%
Bobby Jindal 1.1%
Carly Fiorina 9.1%
John Kasich 1.6%
Rick Santorum 0.5%

Don’t know 12.9%
Lindsey Graham, Jim Gilmore, and George Pataki were selected by none of the respondents.

Regardless of your personal preferences, who do you THINK will win the Republican nomination for president?

- Jeb Bush: 6.4%
- Ben Carson: 8.1%
- Chris Christie: 4.3%
- Rand Paul: 1.1%
- Marco Rubio: 7.5%
- Donald Trump: 36.0%
- Ted Cruz: 1.1%
- Carly Fiorina: 4.8%
- John Kasich: 0.1%

Don’t know: 29%

All other candidates were selected by no one.

[ASKED OF DEMOCRATS AND INDEPENDENT-LEAN-DEMOCRATS, SAMPLING ERROR: +/- 6.5%]

Now thinking of the 2016 presidential primary election, who would be your preference at this time for the Democratic Party’s nominee of the following choices: Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, Martin O’Malley, Bernie Sanders, Lincoln Chaffee, Jim Webb, or some other? [RANDOMIZE NAMES]

- Joe Biden: 15.0%
- Hillary Clinton: 31.3%
- Martin O’Malley: 0.8%
- Bernie Sanders: 30.4%
- Lincoln Chaffee: 1.3%

Don’t know: 15.4%

Jim Webb was selected by none of the respondents.

Regardless of your personal preferences, who do you THINK will win the Democratic nomination for president?

Now thinking of the 2016 presidential primary election, who would be your preference at this time for the Democratic Party’s nominee of the following choices: Joe Biden, Hillary Clinton, Martin O’Malley, Bernie Sanders, Lincoln Chaffee, Jim Webb, or some other? [RANDOMIZE NAMES]

- Joe Biden: 12.2%
Hillary Clinton 45.9%
Bernie Sanders 12.2%
Lincoln Chaffee 0.4%
Jim Webb 0.8%
Don’t know 26.6%

*Martin O’Malley was selected by no one.*

[ASKED OF ALL RESPONDENTS]

In general, when there's a conflict between someone's religious beliefs and the need to treat everyone equally under the law, which do you think is more important?

Respecting religious beliefs 14.9%
Treat equally under the law 73.8%
Don’t know 9.4%

Among Democrats and leaners: 7.2% respect beliefs; 92.8% treat equally [MoE +/- 6.8%]
Among Independents: 14.0% respect beliefs; 86.0% treat equally [MoE +/- 13%]
Among Republicans and leaners: 31.2% respect beliefs; 68.8% treat equally [MoE +/- 7.8%]

Among Evangelical Protestants: 30% respect beliefs; 70% treat equally [MoE +/- 7.3%]
Among Mainline Protestants: 10.8% respect beliefs; 89.2% treat equally [MoE +/- 16.1%]
Among Catholics: 15.6% respect beliefs; 84.4% treat equally [MoE +/- 12.3%]

Among frequent church attenders (once a month or more): 31.5% respect beliefs; 68.5% treat equally [MoE +/- 7.2%]
Among infrequent church attenders (few times a year or less): 6.2% respect beliefs; 93.8% treat equally [MoE +/- 6.3%]

[ASKED OF ALL RESPONDENTS]

For the following statements, please indicate whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree:

Those who provide wedding services such as photographers and bakers should not be required to offer services to same-sex marriages ceremonies if doing so would conflict with sincerely held religious beliefs.
Strongly agree 29.4%
Somewhat agree 16.6%
Somewhat disagree 10.5%
Strongly disagree  34.2%

Don’t know  6.5%

Strongly/somewhat agree:  46.0%

Strongly/somewhat disagree:  44.7%

County clerks should not be required to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples if doing so would conflict with sincerely held religious beliefs.

Strongly agree  16.4%

Somewhat agree  10.2%

Somewhat disagree  12.0%

Strongly disagree  53.6%

Don’t know  4.7%

Strongly/somewhat agree:  26.6%

Strongly/somewhat disagree:  65.6%

Pastors and priests should not be required to offer marriage ceremonies for same-sex couples if doing so would conflict with sincerely held religious beliefs.

Strongly agree  45.1%

Somewhat agree  18.0%

Somewhat disagree  9.3%

Strongly disagree  19.6%

Don’t know  6.1%

Strongly/somewhat agree:  63.1%

Strongly/somewhat disagree:  28.9%

A pharmacist should not be required to fill customer prescriptions for contraceptive devices if doing so would conflict with sincerely held religious beliefs.

Strongly agree  16.2%

Somewhat agree  9.2%

Somewhat disagree  15.3%

Strongly disagree  50.2%

Don’t know  5.9%

Strongly/somewhat agree:  25.4%

Strongly/somewhat disagree:  65.5%

A restaurant server should not be required to serve alcohol to customers if doing so would conflict with sincerely held religious beliefs.

Strongly agree  18.2%

Somewhat agree  10.4%

Somewhat disagree  14.6%
Strongly disagree  49.8%
Don’t know  5.3%

Strongly/somewhat agree:  28.6%
Strongly/somewhat disagree:  64.4%

An employer should not be required to hire an otherwise qualified gay employee if doing so would conflict with sincerely held religious beliefs.
Strongly agree  16.9%
Somewhat agree  9.5%
Somewhat disagree  12.8%
Strongly disagree  53.4%
Don’t know  4.7%

Strongly/somewhat agree:  26.4%
Strongly/somewhat disagree:  66.2%

A landlord should not be required to offer apartment leases to same-sex couples if doing so would conflict with sincerely held religious beliefs.
Strongly agree  20.2%
Somewhat agree  8.1%
Somewhat disagree  12.1%
Strongly disagree  48.2%
Don’t know  7.6%

Strongly/somewhat agree:  28.3%
Strongly/somewhat disagree:  60.3%