### Survey Questionnaire

**Religion and Public Life, 2000-2004**

This study is based on two national telephone surveys of randomly selected adults aged 18 and older. The tracking survey included 1,004 adults and was conducted between July 28 and August 2, 2004; it averaged 13 minutes in length. The baseline survey, which was published in a 2000 Public Agenda report entitled *For Goodness’ Sake: Why So Many Want Religion to Play a Greater Role in American Life*, included 1,507 adults and was conducted between November 4 and November 25, 2000; it averaged 30 minutes in length. The margin of error for both surveys is plus or minus three percentage points; it is higher when comparing percentages across subgroups.

Results of less than 0.5 are signified by an asterisk (*). Results of zero are signified by a dash (-). Responses may not always total 100% due to rounding. Combining answer categories may produce slight discrepancies between the numbers in these survey results and the numbers in the press release.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1 How important an influence is your religious faith in your life—is it the most important influence, a very important influence, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Most important</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very important</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat important</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too important</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not at all important</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2 When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to the DEATH PENALTY, do you think that:</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They should base their vote on their own religious views</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should be willing to compromise with other elected officials whose views are different</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Vol.] Depends on the elected officials’ religious views</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>3 When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to the DEATH PENALTY votes on their own religious views</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4 When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to POVERTY AND WELFARE, do you think that:</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They should base their vote on their own religious views</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should be willing to compromise with other elected officials whose views are different</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Vol.] Depends on the elected officials’ religious views</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>5 When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to ABORTION, do you think that:</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>They should base their vote on their own religious views</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should be willing to compromise with other elected officials whose views are different</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>51</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Vol.] Depends on the elected officials’ religious views</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>2004</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>-----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=1,507)</td>
<td>(n=1,004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>7</strong> [Base: Should base ABORTION votes on their own religious views]</td>
<td>(n=478)</td>
<td>(n=413)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you want them to base their vote on their religious views even if their religious views were totally different from yours?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>8</strong> When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to GAY RIGHTS, do you think that:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should base their vote on their own religious views</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should be willing to compromise with other elected officials whose views are different</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Vol.] Depends on the elected officials’ religious views</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>9</strong> [Base: Elected officials should base GAY RIGHTS votes on their own religious views]</td>
<td>(n=440)</td>
<td>(n=370)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you want them to base their vote on their religious views even if their religious views were totally different from yours?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10</strong> When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related TO GAY MARRIAGE IN PARTICULAR, do you think that:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should base their vote on their own religious views</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should be willing to compromise with other elected officials whose views are different</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>53</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Vol.] Depends on the elected officials’ religious views</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11</strong> [Base: Elected officials should base GAY MARRIAGE votes on their own religious views]</td>
<td>(n=374)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Would you want them to base their vote on their religious views even if their religious views were totally different from yours?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12</strong> If many more of our elected officials were deeply religious, do you think that the laws and policy decisions they make would probably be better, would probably be worse, or would be neither better nor worse?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probably better</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probably worse</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neither better nor worse</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>13</strong> How close does this statement come to your own view: Even elected officials who are deeply religious sometimes have to make compromises and set their convictions aside to get results while in government—is this very close, somewhat close, not too close, or not close at all to your own view?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very close</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat close</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too close</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not close at all</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>14</strong> How close does this statement come to your own view: When politicians talk about their religious faith during elections, they are just saying what they think people want to hear—is this very close, somewhat close, not too close, or not close at all to your own view?</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very close</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat close</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too close</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not close at all</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
15 Do you think that voters should seriously consider the religious affiliation of candidates when they decide whom to support, or is it wrong to do so?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 %</th>
<th>2004 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Should seriously consider religious affiliation</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It's wrong to do so</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

16 Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for political office who draws emotional comfort and strength from religion, or would this make no difference to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 %</th>
<th>2004 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More likely</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less likely</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17 Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for political office who always votes for legislation according to his or her religious convictions, or would this make no difference to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 %</th>
<th>2004 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More likely</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less likely</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18 Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for political office who keeps religious faith separate from actions while in government, or would this make no difference to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 %</th>
<th>2004 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More likely</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less likely</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

19 Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for political office who is open about NOT believing in God, or would this make no difference to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 %</th>
<th>2004 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More likely</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less likely</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

20 Would you be more likely or less likely to vote for a candidate for political office who relies on church leaders for advice on how to vote on specific legislation, or would this make no difference to you?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 %</th>
<th>2004 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More likely</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less likely</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

21 Can you tell me the specific religious affiliation of President George W. Bush?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 %</th>
<th>2004 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born Again</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorrect response</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>43</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

22 Can you tell me the specific religious affiliation of the Democratic nominee for President, John Kerry?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 %</th>
<th>2004 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catholic or Roman Catholic</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Incorrect response</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>56</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

23 Which statement comes closer to your own view?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 %</th>
<th>2004 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The nation needs more politicians with honesty and integrity—it does not need more politicians who are religious</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>If more politicians were religious, they would be more likely to be honest and have integrity</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

24 Would you like the news media to devote more attention to the religious backgrounds and beliefs of candidates running for elected office, less attention, or should things stay the same?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000 %</th>
<th>2004 %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More attention</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less attention</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay the same</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
[Now I’m going to ask you some questions about religious leaders and their role in politics. By “religious leaders” we mean people like ministers, priests, or rabbis, not elected officials who are religious.]

25 How close does this statement describe your own view about religious leaders who regularly speak out on political issues: These religious leaders have as much right as anyone else to participate in the political process—is that very close, somewhat close, not too close or not close at all to your own view?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very close</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat close</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too close</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not close at all</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

26 How close does this statement describe your own view about religious leaders who regularly speak out on political issues: When these religious leaders speak out, they are intruding into areas that are best left to politicians—is that very close, somewhat close, not too close or not close at all to your own view?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Very close</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somewhat close</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not too close</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not close at all</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

27 Do you think that our political system would be threatened if religious leaders and groups were to become a lot more involved in politics, or do you think our political system could easily handle this type of involvement?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political system would be threatened</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political system could easily handle this</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

28 [Base: Political system could easily handle this]

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Political system would be threatened</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political system could easily handle this</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

29 If more religious leaders were to take public positions on specific legislation and urge their congregations to adopt their point of view, would you see this as positive, negative, or would you be neutral?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly positive</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>47</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly negative</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30 And if more religious leaders were to urge their congregations to vote for the candidates they prefer, would you see this as positive, negative, or would you be neutral?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Strongly positive</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neutral</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly negative</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30A Suppose that a company has several deeply religious MUSLIM workers who need to take two or three breaks each day for religious observance. Do you think that the company should be required to give them the time they need, or is that not really the company’s responsibility?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Company should be required to give them the time</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not really the company’s responsibility</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
30B Suppose that a company has several deeply religious JEWISH workers who need to take two or three breaks each day for religious observance. Do you think that the company should be required to give them the time they need, or is that not really the company’s responsibility?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=1,507)</td>
<td>(n=1,004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company should be required to give them the time</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not really the company’s responsibility</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

30C Suppose that a company has several deeply religious CHRISTIAN workers who need to take two or three breaks each day for religious observance. Do you think that the company should be required to give them the time they need, or is that not really the company’s responsibility?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=490)</td>
<td>(n=329)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company should be required to give them the time</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not really the company’s responsibility</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

31 Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, or something else?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=360)</td>
<td>(n=265)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something else</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

32 [Base: Independent] (n=360) (n=265)

Do you lean toward the Republican or Democratic party, or do you not lean either way?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=360)</td>
<td>(n=265)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>23</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't lean either way</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

33 These days, many people are so busy they can’t find time to register to vote, or move around so often they don’t get a chance to re-register. Are you NOW registered to vote in your precinct or election district, or haven’t you been able to register so far?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=1,507)</td>
<td>(n=1,004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/Can’t Remember</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

34 Many people weren’t able to vote in the 2000 election for President between George Bush, Al Gore, and Ralph Nader. How about you? Were you able to vote, or for some reason were you unable to vote?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=490)</td>
<td>(n=329)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voted</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Did not vote</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Vol.] Ineligible/too young</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know/Can’t Remember</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

35 What are your chances of voting in the election for President this year: are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances 50-50, or don’t you think you will vote?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(n=360)</td>
<td>(n=265)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Almost certain</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Probably</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-50</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Will not vote</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## 36 What is your religious preference, if any?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Religious Preference</th>
<th>2000 (n=1,507)</th>
<th>2004 (n=1,004)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>No religion/secular</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agnostic</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atheist</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amish</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assemblies of God</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baha’i</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baptist</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Born-again Christian</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brethren</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buddhist</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charismatic</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Scientist</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of God</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Church of Christ</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Congregational</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disciples of Christ</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dutch Reformed/Reformed</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Episcopalian</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethical Culture</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical Christian</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friends</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greek Orthodox</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hindu</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holiness/Holy</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Humanist</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Islam</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jehovah’s Witness</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jewish</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jew for Jesus/Messianic Jew</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latter Day Saints</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lutheran</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mennonite</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Methodist</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mormon</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Muslim</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nazarene</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pentecostal</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presbyterian</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Protestant</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quaker</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reformed/Dutch Reformed</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Orthodox</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scientology</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 37 Would you describe yourself as an EVANGELICAL Christian, or not?

- Yes: 25% in 2000, 26% in 2004
- No: 75% in 2000, 74% in 2004

## 38 Would you describe yourself as a Born-Again Christian, or not?

- Yes: N/A in 2000, 37% in 2004
- No: N/A in 2000, 63% in 2004

## 39 Which of the following comes closest to your view about deeply religious people:

- They should spread the word of God whenever they can: 35% in 2000, 41% in 2004
- They should be very careful about doing this so that they do not offend people: 46% in 2000, 37% in 2004
- They should keep their faith a private matter altogether: 18% in 2000, 21% in 2004
- Don’t know: 1% in 2000, 2% in 2004

## 40 How often, if ever, do you attend religious services—never, a few times a year, about once a month, nearly every week, every week, or more than once a week?

- Never: 13% in 2000, 12% in 2004
- A few times a year: 24% in 2000, 25% in 2004
- About once a month: 11% in 2000, 13% in 2004
- Nearly every week: 14% in 2000, 14% in 2004
- Every week: 22% in 2000, 24% in 2004
- More than once a week: 15% in 2000, 12% in 2004
- Don’t know: * in 2000, * in 2004
41 What is the highest level of school you completed?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Less than High School</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High School graduate</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some College or Trade School, no degree</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associates or 2-year degree</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's or 4-year degree</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Graduate degree</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

42 What is your age?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-34</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-49*</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-64*</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>*</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Note: In 2000, age categories were 35-50 and 51-64, respectively.

43 Are you white, black or African American, Hispanic, Asian, or something else?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black/African American</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Something else</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>*</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

44 I’m going to read some ranges of annual household income. Please stop me when I read the one that best describes your total household income in [1999/2003].

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Range</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$15,000 or Under</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$15,001 to 25,000</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$25,001 to 35,000</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$35,001 to 50,000</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$50,001 to 75,000</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $75,000</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

45 Region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northeast</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Midwest</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Survey Results on “Compromise”

These findings are based on a select number of questions from two national telephone surveys of randomly selected adults aged 18 and older. The tracking survey included 1,004 adults and was conducted between July 28 and August 2, 2004; it averaged 13 minutes in length. The baseline survey, which was published in a 2000 Public Agenda report entitled For Goodness’ Sake: Why So Many Want Religion to Play a Greater Role in American Life, included 1,507 adults and was conducted between November 4 and November 25, 2000; it averaged 30 minutes in length. The margin of error for both surveys is plus or minus three percentage points; it is higher when comparing percentages across subgroups. Results of less than 0.5 are signified by an asterisk (*). Results of zero are signified by a dash (-). Responses may not always total 100% due to rounding. Combining answer categories may produce slight discrepancies between the numbers in these survey results and the numbers in the press release.

### Sample Sizes: 2000 (n = ) 2004 (n = )

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Public 1,507</th>
<th>1,004</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Religion</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Religious</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>359</td>
<td>225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical</td>
<td>368</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-evangelical Protestant</td>
<td>444</td>
<td>360</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Church Attendance</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greater than once a week</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Once a week</td>
<td>330</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never</td>
<td>194</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to the DEATH PENALTY, do you think that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Public ('00/'04)</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Church Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>Non-religious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should base their vote on their own religious views</td>
<td>31/36</td>
<td>24/37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should be willing to compromise with others whose views are different</td>
<td>60/55</td>
<td>69/54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Vol.] Depends on their religious views</td>
<td>5/3</td>
<td>3/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4/6</td>
<td>4/7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to POVERTY AND WELFARE, do you think that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Public ('00/'04)</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Church Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>Non-religious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should base their vote on their own religious views</td>
<td>24/27</td>
<td>16/28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should be willing to compromise with others whose views are different</td>
<td>68/66</td>
<td>78/68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>3/3</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to ABORTION, do you think that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>General Public ('00/'04)</th>
<th>Religion</th>
<th>Church Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>Non-religious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should base their vote on their own religious views</td>
<td>35/42</td>
<td>26/42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should be willing to compromise with others whose views are different</td>
<td>57/51</td>
<td>68/50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Vol.] Depends on their religious views</td>
<td>5/3</td>
<td>3/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>3/7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
8 When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to GAY RIGHTS, do you think that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Public ('00/'04)</th>
<th>Religion Non-</th>
<th>Nonevan Protest</th>
<th>Evangelical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>Religious</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should base their vote on their own religious views</td>
<td>31/38</td>
<td>19/37</td>
<td>13/21</td>
<td>30/37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should be willing to compromise with others whose views are different</td>
<td>60/54</td>
<td>75/56</td>
<td>79/73</td>
<td>61/55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Vol.] Depends on their religious views</td>
<td>4/4</td>
<td>3/2</td>
<td>2/5</td>
<td>4/3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>5/4</td>
<td>4/5</td>
<td>6/2</td>
<td>5/5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10 When elected officials who are deeply religious have to vote on issues related to GAY MARRIAGE IN PARTICULAR, do you think that:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>General Public ('00/'04)</th>
<th>Religion Non-</th>
<th>Nonevan Protest</th>
<th>Evangelical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>Religious</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should base their vote on their own religious views</td>
<td>--/38</td>
<td>--/37</td>
<td>--/17</td>
<td>--/42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They should be willing to compromise with others whose views are different</td>
<td>--/53</td>
<td>--/56</td>
<td>--/74</td>
<td>--/52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Vol.] Depends on their religious views</td>
<td>--/4</td>
<td>--/2</td>
<td>--/5</td>
<td>--/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>--/5</td>
<td>--/6</td>
<td>--/4</td>
<td>--/5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: This question was not asked in 2000.

13 How close does this statement come to your own view: Even elected officials who are deeply religious sometimes have to make compromises and set their convictions aside to get results while in government—is this very close, somewhat close, not too close, or not close at all to your own view?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>NET Close</th>
<th>Very close</th>
<th>Somewhat close</th>
<th>Not too close</th>
<th>Not close at all</th>
<th>Don't know</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Public ('00/'04)</td>
<td>84/74</td>
<td>85/78</td>
<td>85/82</td>
<td>85/73</td>
<td>79/63</td>
<td>75/55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic</td>
<td>46/38</td>
<td>45/41</td>
<td>56/43</td>
<td>47/38</td>
<td>38/28</td>
<td>35/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Religious</td>
<td>38/37</td>
<td>40/37</td>
<td>29/39</td>
<td>38/37</td>
<td>42/35</td>
<td>40/31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelical</td>
<td>8/14</td>
<td>7/12</td>
<td>8/11</td>
<td>6/13</td>
<td>11/21</td>
<td>15/25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political system would be threatened</td>
<td>31/33</td>
<td>29/32</td>
<td>56/47</td>
<td>32/30</td>
<td>20/24</td>
<td>20/24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political system could easily handle this type of involvement?</td>
<td>63/61</td>
<td>66/62</td>
<td>38/46</td>
<td>61/62</td>
<td>75/70</td>
<td>73/68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don't know</td>
<td>6/7</td>
<td>5/6</td>
<td>6/7</td>
<td>7/8</td>
<td>6/6</td>
<td>7/8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
New Survey Shows Religious Americans Less Likely to Support Compromise

Elected officials should base votes on abortion, death penalty and gay rights on their religious principles, say most who attend religious services weekly.

Notable shifts in outlook since 2000

New York City – As public officials continue to wrestle with hot-button issues ranging from abortion to gay rights to the death penalty, they may find thinner ranks of Americans supporting compromise, although slim majorities still do.

Those are some of the findings from a national survey by the nonprofit, nonpartisan research organization Public Agenda that compares how Americans’ views of religion in public life have changed between the years 2000 and 2004. The survey (conducted before the November election) found a smaller number of Americans who believe that deeply religious elected officials sometimes have to compromise in the political arena, with major decreases among those who attend religious services weekly.

For example, in 2000, 84% of Americans overall said “Even elected officials who are deeply religious sometimes have to make compromises and set their convictions aside to get results while in government.” In 2004, that number had dropped to 74%, with even sharper drops among weekly service attenders (82% in 2000 vs. 63% in 2004) and Evangelicals (79% in 2000 vs. 63% in 2004).

On abortion, gay rights and the death penalty, the majority of Americans who attend services weekly now say that deeply religious politicians should stick to their own religious beliefs rather than be willing to compromise (see table on page 2).

“Compromise has a long and important history in American politics,” said Ruth A. Wooden, President of Public Agenda. “But in 2004, there were more Americans who wanted elected officials to keep their religious principles in mind when they vote on issues like abortion and gay rights. We found double-digit decreases in support for compromise on these issues among those who attend services weekly and among Catholics. The changes are really quite dramatic.”

Analysis, complete survey questions and top line data for this research are available at: http://www.publicagenda.org/research/pdfs/religion_2005.pdf
THINNING SUPPORT FOR COMPROMISE

While a majority of Americans still want their elected officials to compromise, their ranks are dissipating – significantly among certain groups.

When asked if they agree with the statement, “Even elected officials who are deeply religious sometimes have to make compromises and set their convictions aside to get results while in government,” Americans said:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percent Agreeing</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Public</td>
<td>84%</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend services once a week</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>-19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Never go to services</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>82%</td>
<td>-3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholics</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>-7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Evangelical Protestants</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>-12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evangelicals</td>
<td>79%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>-16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABORTION, GAY RIGHTS AND THE DEATH PENALTY

Support for compromise on specific issues such as abortion, gay rights and the death penalty has dropped to fairly slim majorities. When asked if deeply religious elected officials should vote based on their own religious views or if they should be willing to compromise, Americans said:

**General Public:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Be Willing to Compromise</th>
<th>Base Vote on Religious View</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay rights</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Penalty</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty/welfare</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Those who attend services at least once a week or who identify themselves as Catholics showed dramatic shifts in outlook.

**Attend Religious Services Once a Week:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Be Willing to Compromise</th>
<th>Base Vote on Religious View</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>51%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay rights</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Penalty</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty/welfare</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Catholics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Be Willing to Compromise</th>
<th>Base Vote on Religious View</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gay rights</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Death Penalty</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty/welfare</td>
<td>78%</td>
<td>66%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TIME TO TALK ABOUT COMPROMISE

“For many, compromise is essential in a diverse society,” Ms. Wooden noted about the implications of the study. “But others see compromise as a retreat from core values and beliefs. What this research suggests is that this nation is still struggling with the challenges and benefits of compromising on difficult issues and working through the role of religion in public life.”

THE SYSTEM CAN HANDLE IT, BUT GROWING CONCERN AMONG THE NON-RELIGIOUS

Remaining unchanged since 2000 is Americans’ belief that the U.S. political system can handle greater interaction between religion and politics. Moving away from the topic of political leaders and looking at the role of religious leaders (such as ministers, rabbis and priests), the research asked Americans whether the system would be threatened if religious leaders and groups got a lot more involved in politics. 63% of Americans in 2000 and 61% in 2004 believed that the political system could “easily handle” this. A third of Americans, however (31% in 2000 and 33% in 2004) continue to believe the system would be threatened.

Not surprisingly, Americans who are non-religious and those who never attend services are far more likely to say the political system would be threatened by religious leaders and groups getting a lot more involved (56% of non-religious Americans in 2000 and 47% of them in 2004; 49% of those who never attend church services agreed in 2000 and 47% of them agreed in 2004). But from 2000 to 2004, there was a significant 6-point increase (22% to 28%) in the number of Americans who think it is a “negative” for religious leaders to take public positions on legislation and to encourage congregations to adopt certain points of view.

AVOIDING OFFENDING OTHERS VS. SPREADING THE WORD OF GOD

Elected officials and clergy aside, in 2000, 18% of Americans said that deeply religious people should keep their faith private and 46% said people should be very careful about “spreading the word of God” so as not to offend others – for a 64% majority. That combined number has dropped to 57%. Meanwhile, the percentage of people who said
that the deeply religious “should spread the word of God whenever they can” is up 6 points (from 35% to 41%).

**SUMMARY**

This research indicates that in the past four years there has been an across-the-board decline in support for political compromise on some controversial issues, with the decline especially strong among those who attend religious services weekly and those who are Catholic.

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**Methodology:** This analysis is based on two national telephone surveys of randomly selected adults aged 18 and older. The baseline survey, which was published in a 2000 Public Agenda report entitled *For Goodness’ Sake: Why So Many Want Religion to Play a Greater Role in American Life*, included 1,507 adults and was conducted between November 4 and November 25, 2000; it averaged 30 minutes in length. The tracking survey included 1,004 adults and included 359 Catholics, 208 individuals who identify themselves as non-religious, 444 non-Evangelical Protestants, and 368 Evangelicals. Of those surveyed, 230 attend religious services more than once per week, 333 attend once a week, and 194 never attend services. The survey was conducted between July 28 and August 2, 2004; it averaged 13 minutes in length. The margin of error for both surveys is plus or minus three percentage points; it is higher when comparing percentages across subgroups.

The sample was selected through a standard, random-digit-dialing technology whereby every household in the 48 contiguous states had an equal chance of being contacted, including those with unlisted numbers. The surveys were fielded by Robinson and Muenster Associates, Inc., and sample was provided by Survey Sampling, Inc.

The questionnaire was designed by Public Agenda, and Public Agenda is responsible for all interpretation of the data reflected in this analysis. As in all surveys, question order and other non-sampling sources of error can sometimes affect results. Steps were taken to minimize these, including pre-testing the survey instruments and randomizing the order in which some questions and answer categories were read.

The 2004 survey data were weighted by age to ensure that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the national population of adults. The weighting parameters were derived using Census 2000 data. For a comparison of the weighted and unweighted data, please refer to the Complete Survey Results – Religion and Public Life 2000-2004. Until January 23, the results of the survey can be found at http://www.publicagenda.org/research/pdfs/religion_2005.pdf. After January 23 they will be available for download at www.publicagenda.org.

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Public Agenda is a nonprofit organization dedicated to nonpartisan public policy research. Founded in 1975 by former U.S. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Daniel Yankelovich, the social scientist and author, Public Agenda is well respected for its influential public opinion surveys and balanced citizen education materials. Its mission is to inject the public’s voice into crucial policy debates. Public Agenda seeks to inform leaders about the public’s views and to engage citizens in discussing complex policy issues.

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