



POLLING

Americans Broadly Support The Johnson Amendment

2017 INDEPENDENT SECTOR POLL¹

72% of Americans support the Johnson Amendment, including 66% of Trump voters, 78% of Clinton voters, and 77% of independent voters.

2017 PRRI POLL²

71% of Americans oppose allowing churches and places of worship to endorse political candidates while retaining their tax-exempt status.

62% of Republicans and 56% of white evangelical Christians also oppose allowing churches and places of worship to endorse political candidates while retaining their tax-exempt status.

2017 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF EVANGELICALS POLL³

“Nearly 90 percent of evangelical leaders do not think pastors should endorse politicians from the pulpit.”

2017 PEW RESEARCH CENTER POLL⁴

“Even among the religious groups that are most in favor of church endorsements of candidates – black Protestants and white evangelicals – just 45% of the former and 37% of the latter say it’s OK for churches to endorse political candidates. And support is lower still among Catholics (28%), the religiously unaffiliated (26%) and white mainline Protestants (21%).”

2016 LIFEWAY RESEARCH POLL⁵

“Eight in 10 (79 percent) say it is inappropriate for pastors to endorse a candidate in church. Three-quarters say churches should steer clear of endorsements.”

2012 PEW RESEARCH CENTER POLL⁶

“Pew Research Center surveys conducted over the past decade show a steady consensus that churches and other houses of worship should not come out in favor of one candidate over another during elections. Currently, about two-thirds of Americans take this view (66%), while 27% say churches should endorse one candidate over another.”

2008 PEW RESEARCH CENTER POLL⁷

“Two-thirds of the public (66%) say that churches and other houses of worship should not endorse one candidate over another, which is unchanged since 2004 (65%).”

2008 LIFEWAY RESEARCH POLL⁸

“When asked to respond to the statement, ‘I believe it is appropriate for churches to use their resources to campaign for candidates for public office,’ 85 percent disagree including 73 percent who disagree strongly.”

52% agree “that churches who publicly endorse candidates for public office should lose their tax exemption.”

1 <http://independentsector.org/resource/poll-americans-support-keeping-amendment/>

2 <https://www.prii.org/research/lgbt-transgender-bathroom-discrimination-religious-liberty/>

3 <https://www.nae.net/pastors-shouldnt-endorse-politicians/>

4 <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/02/03/most-americans-oppose-churches-choosing-sides-in-elections/>

5 <http://blog.lifeway.com/newsroom/2016/09/08/skip-the-endorsements-in-church-say-most-americans/>

6 <http://www.pewforum.org/2012/07/26/section-2-religion-and-politics/>

7 <http://www.people-press.org/2008/08/21/more-americans-question-religions-role-in-politics/>

8 <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/LifeWay-Research-finds-Americans-wary-of-political-endorsements-from-pastors-and-churches>

