

TO: Interested Parties

FR: Dan Cox, Ph.D., Director of Research; Carolyn J. Davis, Ph.D., Director of Strategic Engagement

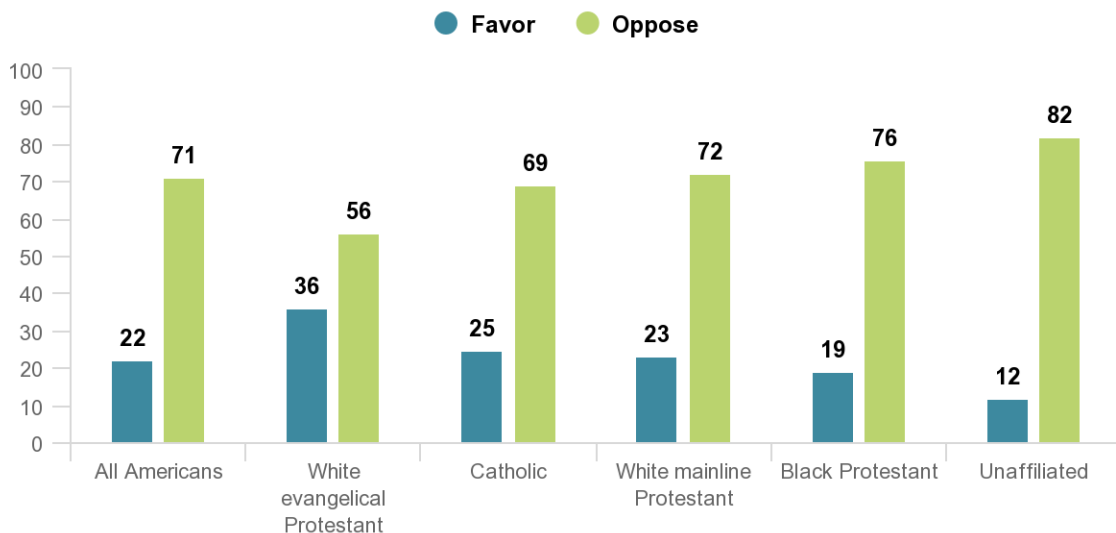
RE: Public Attitudes on the Johnson Amendment

Most Americans oppose churches being exempt from the Johnson Amendment.

More than seven in ten (71 percent) Americans oppose allowing churches and places of worship to endorse political candidates while retaining their tax-exempt status, compared to only 22 percent who favor such a policy. All major religious groups in the country oppose allowing churches to endorse candidates while retaining their tax-exempt status. Only about one-third (36 percent) of white evangelical Protestants favor allowing churches to endorse candidates, compared to a majority (56 percent) who oppose it. Even fewer white mainline Protestants (23 percent), Catholics (25 percent), black Protestants (19 percent), and religiously unaffiliated Americans (12 percent) support churches endorsing political candidates.

Majorities of All Major Religious Groups Oppose Repealing the Johnson Amendment

Do you favor or oppose allowing churches and places of worship to endorse political candidates while retaining their tax-exempt status?



Source: PRRI February 2017 Survey.

PRRI