

2015

Charitable Giving, Church & State Issues, and Drones (Release 2 of 2)



A National Poll of Americans
Saint Leo University Polling Institute
December 2015-Part II

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Moreover, no information regarding these findings will be released without the written consent of an authorized representative of the Saint Leo University Polling Institute.

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1 INTRODUCTION

The Saint Leo University Polling Institute is pleased to present the results of a national poll of Americans.

The poll was designed to assess public views regarding the 2016 presidential election, issues of concern, impressions of Pope Francis, views and opinions on terrorism, awareness of and views or interest in unmanned aerial mechanisms (drones).

The research study included survey responses from 1007 respondents nationally and 531 within Florida approximately proportional to state population contribution. The poll was conducted November 29 – December 3, 2015. A pre-test occurred on November 28, 2015.

The national poll included the following areas for investigation:

- Job approval rating for President Obama (in Release 1);
- Current issues of importance to Americans (in Release 1);
- Favorable ratings of presidential candidates (In Release 1);
- Presidential preferences for 2016 (in Release 1);
- Views / opinions on terrorism (in Release 1);
- Awareness of unmanned aerial mechanisms (drones);
- Concerns about, and interest, in owning drones;
- Charitable giving;
- Spending level for pets on holiday gifts;
- Impact of Pope Francis on giving;
- Degree religion influences everyday decision making; and,
- Demographics.

Section II of this report discusses the Methodology used in the study, while Section III includes Highlights derived from an analysis of the quantitative research. Section IV is a Summary of Findings from the online survey.

Section V is an Appendix to the report containing the composite aggregate data, cross tabulations and the survey instrument employed.

METHODOLOGY

Using a quantitative research design, the Saint Leo University Polling Institute completed 1007 online surveys nationally and 531 among Florida residents.

Survey design input was provided by the membership of the Polling Institute Committee.

Survey design is a careful, deliberative process to ensure fair, objective and balanced surveys. Staff members, with years of survey design experience, edit out any bias. Further, all scales used by the Institute (either numeric, such as one through ten, or wording such as strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree) are balanced evenly. Additionally, placement of questions is carefully accomplished so that order has minimal impact.

This survey was conducted November 29 – December 3, 2015.

Respondents qualified for the survey if they were a resident of the United States and 18 years of age or older. Responses were approximately proportional to each state's population.

All facets of the study were completed by the Polling Institute's senior staff and researchers. These aspects include: survey design, pre-test, computer programming, fielding, coding, editing, verification, validation and logic checks, computer analysis, analysis, and report writing.

Statistically, a sample of 1007 completed surveys has an associated margin for error of +/- 3.0% at a 95% confidence level. A sample of 531 Florida respondents has an associated margin for error of 4.5% at a 95% confidence level.

Results throughout this report are presented for composite results – all 1007 cases. Throughout, composite results are presented side-by-side with Florida specific results. On political candidate preferences and on current issues, columns of data also hold results of just likely voters – those indicating they vote either all the time or most of the time in elections.

Readers of this report should note that any survey is analogous to a snapshot in time and results are only reflective of the time period in which the survey was undertaken. Should concerted public relations or information campaigns be undertaken during or shortly after the fielding of the survey, the results contained herein may be expected to change and should be, therefore, carefully interpreted and extrapolated.

Furthermore, it is important to note that all surveys contain some component of “sampling error”. Error that is attributable to systematic bias has been significantly reduced by utilizing strict random probability procedures. This sample was strictly random in that selection of each potential respondent was an independent event based on known probabilities.

Each qualified online panel member within the United States had an equal chance for participating in the study. Statistical random error, however, can never be eliminated but may be significantly reduced by increasing sample size.

3 HIGHLIGHTS

ON POPE FRANCIS...

The favorable opinion of Pope Francis moved to 70.0% in the December, 2015 poll – up somewhat from 66.4% recorded in October, 2015.

ON TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION...

Over three-quarters of Americans, 78.4%, surveyed are aware of unmanned aerial mechanisms or drones.

A similar percentage, 73.1%, suggest they are very or somewhat concerned about drones in U.S. airspace.

The concern centers mostly on personal privacy issues (64.4%), potential dangerous interference with airplanes (57.8%), weaponized domestic drones (56.4%), spying by the government on citizens (50.7%), and that the devices are susceptible to hacking (50.3%).

Impressively, over one-third, of all Americans surveyed (35.1%) indicated an interest in owning a drone someday.

The leading reason for a desire to own a drone, among those expressing an interest, was “a fun hobby – more advanced than a model airplane” (73.2%). This was followed by “seeing own property from heights” (32.7%), “safety/security interests (28.3%), and “to observe my neighbors” (11.7%).

There exists very strong agreement on a number of statements regarding drones...

- Corporations should be licensed and regulated if they own drones – 82.5%
- Drones should be banned from photographing my backyard, house, and family – 81.9%
- I'm concerned about my personal safety as drones become numerous – 66.7%
- Private citizens should be banned from owning drones – 47.5%

ON CHURCH & STATE / CHARITABLE GIVING...

Impressively, 61.0% of all Americans surveyed suggest they will donate more to charities in 2015 (22.2%) than they did in 2014, or they plan to give the same amount (38.8%). Some, 15.9%, suggested they will give less in 2015 than in 2014, and another 14.1% said they don't give to charity.

On average, Americans will spend \$98.97 on their pet(s) this holiday season.

A good number of Americans, when extrapolated on the total population, indicated they were motivated to give or give more to specific causes by Pope Francis' messages during his historic September, 2015 visit to the United States.

- To environmental groups – 13.0% will give/give more
- To own place of worship – 12.8% will give / give more
- To charities – 14.9% will give / give more
- To refugee / immigrant causes – 9.9% will give / give more
- To “Right to Life” organizations – 12.2% will give / give more
- To Human Rights Groups – 13.1% will give / give more

Among Catholics, those prompted to give or give more to each of the specific causes is even greater...

- To environmental groups – 21.4% will give/give more
- To own place of worship – 19.4% will give / give more
- To charities – 23.3% will give / give more
- To refugee / immigrant causes – 15.0% will give / give more
- To “Right to Life” organizations – 17.5% will give / give more
- To Human Rights Groups – 22.3% will give / give more

Respondents were presented with a number of statements including several on how religion may be used in everyday decision making. Majority agreement (strongly and somewhat) was found in a number of areas...

- I use my religion beliefs in my everyday decisions – 64.9%
- The Pope was right to call for an end to arms trade and sale of weapons to other nations – 62.5%
- The United States is a secular nation that has been historically Judeo-Christian – 51.1%

Other statements had significant, but less than majority agreement...

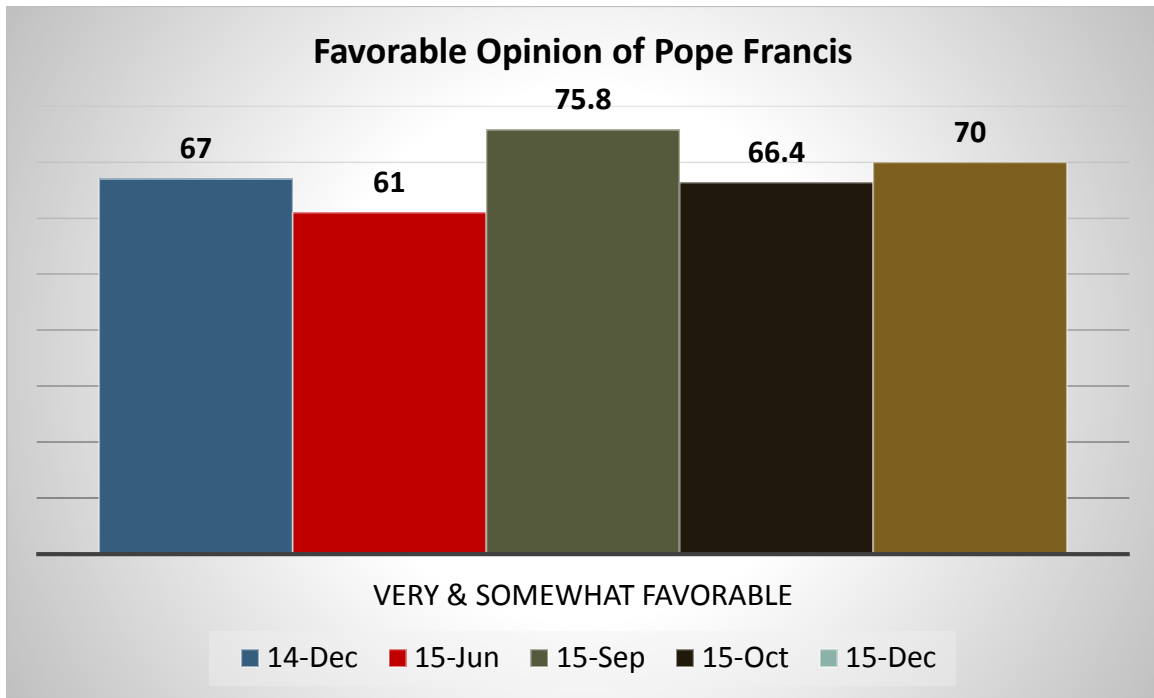
- Presidential candidate, Dr. Ben Carson was right to suggest a Muslim Presidential candidate should be asked to choose between the U.S. Constitution and the Koran – 46.8%
- I use my religious beliefs as I make voting decisions – 43.4%
- The United States is a Judeo-Christian nation with secular activities – 37.6%

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SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Readers are reminded that the narrative throughout this report refers to composite aggregate data – the 1007 completed surveys as well as the supplemental sample of 531 Florida respondents. Text throughout this report presents national composite results while many graphs and tables also present results among Florida respondents. On political questions such as candidate preferences or current issues of importance, the data for likely voters is also presented. The counts for composite data (national and Florida) and for likely voters (national and Florida) are presented in the following table.

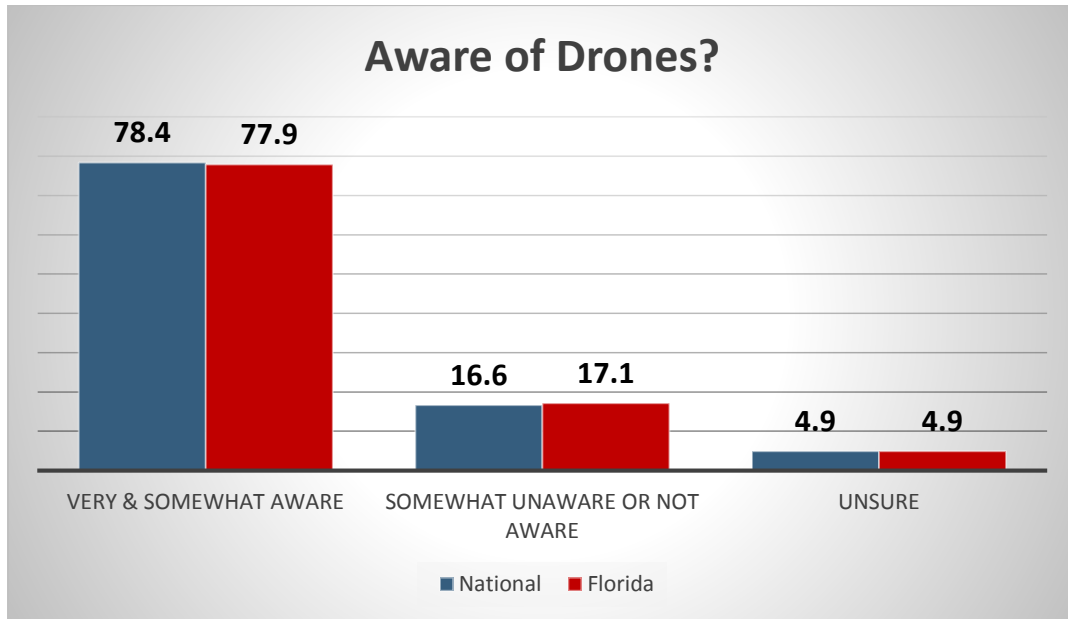
National Composite	National Likely Voters (LV)	Florida Composite	Florida Likely Voters (LV)
1007	746	531	404



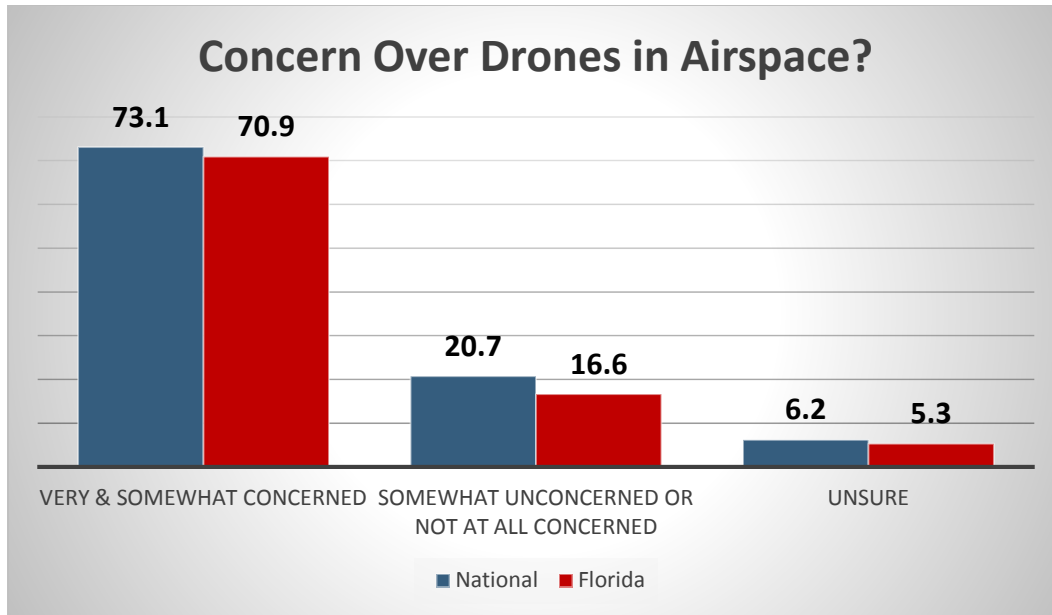
TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

In a new series of questions, resident poll respondents, nationwide, were asked about unmanned aerial mechanisms known commonly as drones.

Over three-quarters of all respondents, 78.4% reported being very (38.7%) or somewhat aware (39.7%) of drones. Results are displayed in the following graph.



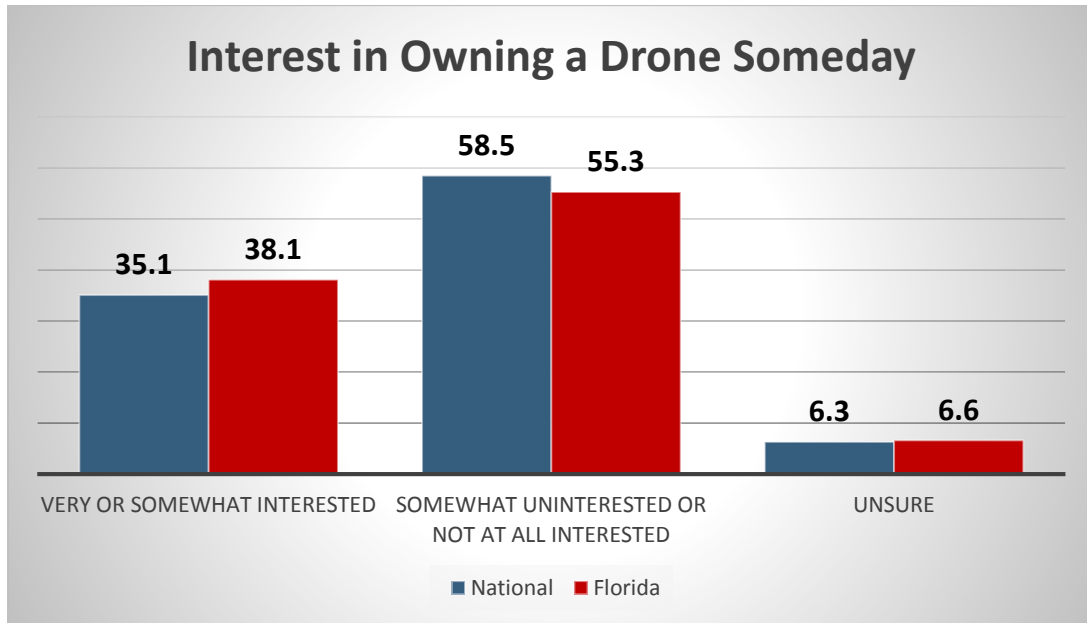
Importantly, large majorities in the December, 2015 poll expressed concern over the increased numbers of drones in airspace. Just under three-quarters, 73.1%, suggested they were very (31.8%) or somewhat concerned (41.9%). Results are depicted in the following graph.



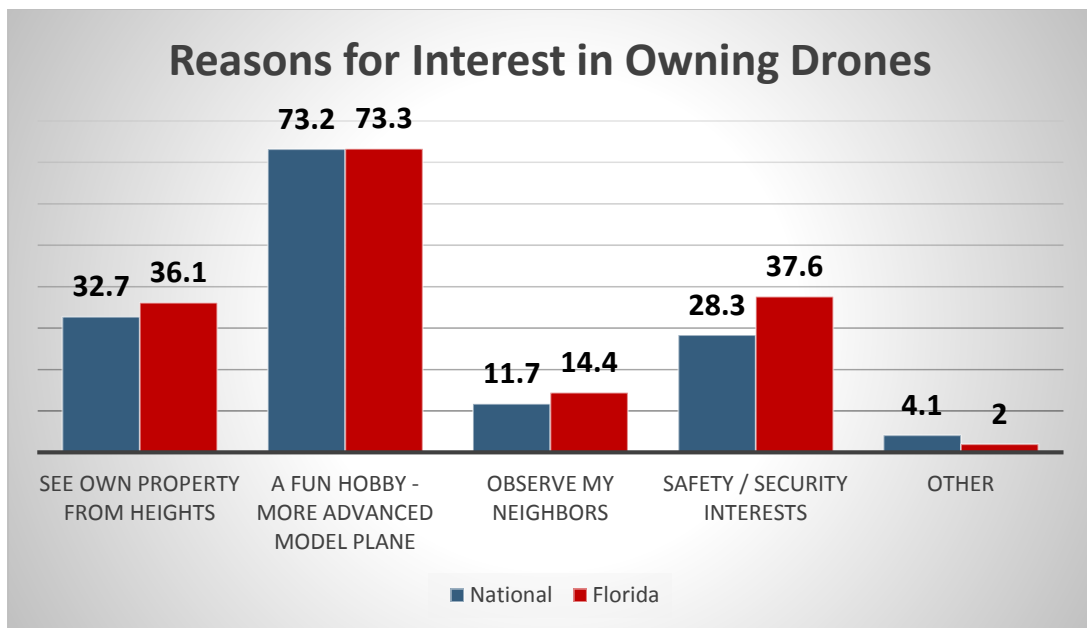
Respondents expressing concern (73.1%) were asked to report the reasons. The following table holds the responses collected. Multiple responses were accepted. Results are displayed in declining order by frequency of mention on the national level.

Statements	National Composite	Florida Composite
Personal privacy issues	64.4	62.0
Potential dangerous interference with airplanes	57.8	52.7
Weaponized domestic drones	56.4	60.9
Spying by government agencies on citizens	50.7	51.6
The devices can be hacked and controlled by non-owners	50.3	48.9
Eavesdropping on conversations	40.1	40.2
Damage to property from drone crash landings	33.6	33.2
Private citizens may soon start purchasing drones	30.7	27.4
Facial recognition software implications	27.6	20.5
Others	3.2	2.7

Despite concerns raised, just over one-third (35.1%) of all respondents indicated they would be very (12.8%) or somewhat interested (22.3%) in someday owning a drone. Results are displayed in the following graph.



Respondents who expressed interest in owning a drone someday (very or somewhat interested) were asked to report the reasons for their interest. Results are shown here. Multiple responses were accepted.



Respondents were asked how aware they were of several current regulations in place for domestic/private use drones. The following table holds the cumulative totals for those reporting very or somewhat aware.

Current Regulations on Drones	National	Florida
Can't fly above 400 foot ceiling	40.4	39.2
Prohibited in certain areas	67.0	67.9
No video/photos without license	34.4	35.3

The following are a few statements regarding drones. Respondents were asked to indicate if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed with each. The following table holds the cumulative totals for those strongly and somewhat agreeing with each statement. Results are presented in declining order by agreement based on national results.

Statements on Drones	National	Florida
Corporations should be licensed and regulated if they own drones	82.5	81.5
Drones should be banned from photographing my backyard, house, family	81.9	78.1
I'm concerned about my personal safety as drones become more numerous	66.7	66.7
Private citizens should be banned from owning drones	47.5	43.4

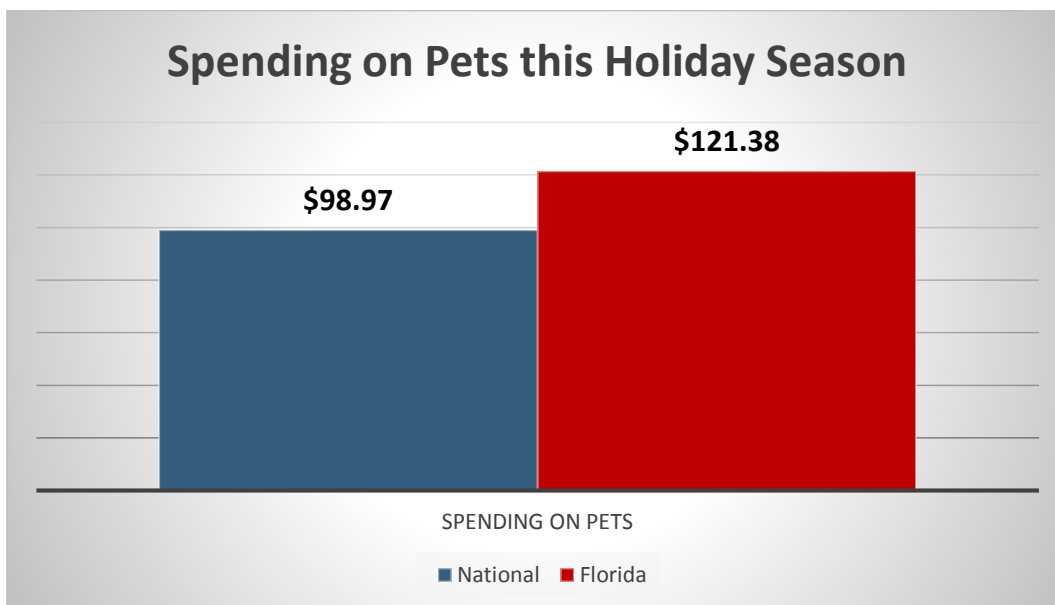
CHURCH & STATE / CHARITABLE GIVING

Respondents were asked to think about their charitable giving throughout 2015 and report how that giving compared to 2014.

Interestingly, while 14.1% suggested they don't donate to charities, and 15.9% indicated they will give less in 2015 than in 2014 – 61.0% noted they will give more in 2015 or the same as they did in 2014. Results are shown here. A fourth column holds results among just Catholics surveyed.

Charitable Giving	National	Florida	Catholics
Giving more to charity in 2015 than last year	22.2	21.7	24.3
Giving about the same to charity in 2015 as last year	38.8	41.5	46.6
Giving less to charity in 2015 compared to last year	15.9	11.9	15.0
Have not / will not be giving to charity in 2015	14.1	13.0	9.2
Unsure	9.0	11.9	4.9

Respondents with pets were asked to indicate the amount they expect to spend or have already spent on holiday gifts for their pets this season. Nationally, on average, respondents will spend \$98.97. Results are presented here.



Respondents were presented with the following statement: “Pope Francis left behind many messages from his visit to the United States in September. He encouraged Americans to do more for the environment, refugees, immigrants, charities and those in need. For each of the following, please indicate if the pope’s messages prompted you to donate money or donate more money, you already give to the cause but not motivated by the pope, you don’t give to the cause and not motivated by the pope.”

The following three tables present results collected nationally, within Florida and among Catholics.

National Respondents	Give/Give More and WAS Prompted by Pope	Already Give / WAS NOT Prompted to by Pope	Don’t Give to this Cause/Not Motivated to do so by Pope	Unsure/Not Applicable
To environmental groups/causes	13.0	24.0	41.5	21.6
To your own church, synagogue, mosque, or religious organization	12.8	37.7	29.8	19.7
To charities	14.9	48.5	21.0	15.7
To refugee / immigrant causes or supportive groups	9.9	17.7	50.6	21.7
To “Right to Life” organization(s)	12.2	16.2	48.2	23.5
To Human Rights Groups	13.1	21.1	44.4	21.4

Florida Respondents	Give/Give More and WAS Prompted by Pope	Already Give / WAS NOT Prompted to by Pope	Don’t Give to this Cause/Not Motivated to do so by Pope	Unsure/Not Applicable
To environmental groups/causes	15.5	21.3	39.2	24.0
To your own church, synagogue, mosque, or religious organization	14.0	34.2	30.2	21.7
To charities	16.4	44.0	21.3	18.3
To refugee / immigrant causes or supportive groups	10.4	14.0	51.1	24.5
To “Right to Life” organization(s)	12.3	14.3	47.0	26.4
To Human Rights Groups	14.7	18.5	41.5	25.3

Catholics	Give/Give More and WAS Prompted by Pope	Already Give / WAS NOT Prompted to by Pope	Don't Give to this Cause/Not Motivated to do so by Pope	Unsure/Not Applicable
To environmental groups/causes	21.4	29.6	31.6	17.6
To your own church, synagogue, mosque, or religious organization	19.4	46.1	20.4	14.1
To charities	23.3	48.1	16.5	12.1
To refugee / immigrant causes or supportive groups	15.0	24.3	42.2	18.4
To "Right to Life" organization(s)	17.5	23.3	38.3	20.9
To Human Rights Groups	22.3	24.8	35.0	18.0

The following are a number of statements that include how respondents may use religion in decision making on some current events that are related to religion. For each statement, respondents indicated if they strongly agreed, somewhat agreed, somewhat disagreed or strongly disagreed. The following table holds the cumulative totals for strongly and somewhat agreed. Results are presented in declining order based on national results.

Statements	National Composite	Florida Composite	Catholics
I use my religious beliefs in my everyday decisions	64.9	58.7	71.4
The Pope was right to call for an end to the arms trade and sale of weapons to other nations	62.5	60.6	71.4
The United States is a secular nation that has been historically Judeo-Christian	51.1	48.5	54.9
Presidential candidate Ben Carson was right to suggest a Muslim Presidential Candidate should be asked to choose between the U.S. Constitution and the Koran which conflicts with the U.S. Constitution	46.8	43.0	50.5
I use my religious beliefs as I make voting decisions	43.4	39.8	47.1
The United States is a Judeo-Christian nation with secular activities	37.6	40.0	39.3

NATIONAL SURVEY DEMOGRAPHICS

Conservative/Moderate/Liberal	October 2015	December 2015
Very conservative	13.9	14.5
Somewhat conservative	22.1	22.1
Moderate	33.0	31.0
Somewhat liberal	14.3	12.0
Very liberal	8.7	10.3
Unsure	8.0	10.0

Age	October 2015	December 2015
18-25	13.7	18.3
26-35	26.2	25.2
36-45	14.4	16.7
46-55	16.7	12.7
56-65	15.6	15.8
65+	13.2	11.3

Income	October 2015	December 2015
Under \$10,000	7.0	5.8
\$10,000 to less than \$40,000	28.9	35.8
\$40,000 to less than \$75,000	29.8	27.6
\$75,000 to less than \$100,000	13.1	13.5
\$100,000 to less than \$150,000	11.0	8.3
\$150,000 to less than \$200,000	3.4	2.8
\$200,000 or more	2.0	1.9
Prefer not to disclose	4.9	4.3

Political Party Affiliation	October 2015	December 2015
Republican	25.0	25.9
Democratic	30.4	31.4
Unaffiliated/Independent/Undeclared	35.0	33.1
Some other party	1.4	1.5
Unsure	8.2	8.2

Gender	October 2015	December 2015
Male	48.1	49.4
Female	51.9	50.6

Education	October 2015	December 2015
Less than HS	8.7	11.7
High School / GED	14.2	16.5
Associate Degree	7.6	7.7
Some college / technical school	26.4	25.4
College / technical school graduate	29.9	26.7
Postgraduate or professional degree	12.8	11.0
Prefer not to disclose	---	0.9

Hispanic, Latin American, Puerto Rican, Cuban or Mexican	October 2015	December 2015
Yes	17.0	16.2

Ethnicity (Among Non-Hispanics)	October 2015	December 2015
White	62.3	65.2
Black, African-American	14.5	12.4
Asian, Pacific Islander	3.6	4.0
Aleutian, Eskimo or American Indian	0.9	1.0
Other	1.4	0.6
Native Hawaiian	0.3	---
Two or more races	---	---
Refused	---	---
Don't know/unsure	---	---

Religion Followed	October 2015	December 2015
Catholic	21.9	21.2
Protestant (Baptist, Lutheran, Congregational, Presbyterian)	17.9	19.3
Christian (non-denominational)	26.2	29.4
Greek Orthodox	1.1	0.3
Jewish	2.2	2.7
Buddhist	1.5	0.9
Muslim	0.7	0.2
Latter Day Saints / Mormon	1.7	0.9
Other	3.3	5.2
No preference	21.6	17.4
Don't know / unsure	2.2	2.4

APPENDIX

5

INTERPRETATION OF AGGREGATE RESULTS

The computer processed data for this survey are presented in the following frequency distributions. It is important to note that the wordings of the variable labels and value labels in the computer-processed data are largely abbreviated descriptions of the Questionnaire items and available response categories.

The frequency distributions include the category or response for the question items. Responses deemed not appropriate for classification have been grouped together under the “Other” code.

The “NA” category label refers to “No Answer” or “Not Applicable.” This code is also used to classify ambiguous responses. In addition, the “DK/RF” category includes those respondents who did not know their answer to a question or declined to answer it. In many of the tables, a group of responses may be tagged as “Missing” – occasionally, certain individual’s responses may not be required to specific questions and thus are excluded. Although when this category of response is used, the computations of percentages are presented in two (2) ways in the frequency distributions: 1) with their inclusion (as a proportion of the total sample), and 2) their exclusion (as a proportion of a sample sub-group).

Each frequency distribution includes the absolute observed occurrence of each response (i.e. the total number of cases in each category). Immediately adjacent to the right of the column of absolute frequencies is the column of relative frequencies. These are the percentages of cases falling in each category response, including those cases designated as missing data. To the right of the relative frequency column is the adjusted frequency distribution column that contains the relative frequencies based on the legitimate (i.e. non-missing) cases. That is, the total base for the adjusted frequency distribution excludes the missing data. For many Questionnaire items, the relative frequencies and the adjusted frequencies will be nearly the same. However, some items that elicit a sizable number of missing data will produce quite substantial percentage differences between the two columns of frequencies. The careful analyst will cautiously consider both distributions.

The last column of data within the frequency distribution is the cumulative frequency distribution (Cum Freq.). This column is simply an adjusted frequency distribution of the sum of all previous categories of response and the current category of response. Its primary usefulness is to gauge some ordered or ranked meaning.