

The Polling Institute

Saint Leo University

2017-3 Poll – **FINAL**

The Polling Institute at Saint Leo University needs your help. We are conducting a survey of Americans on their opinions and views on national politics, Pope Francis, law enforcement, gun control and views on concussions in youth football. Thank you very much.

Screener

A. Are you currently a resident of the United States and 18 years of age and older?

- 01 Yes (**continue**)
- 02 No (**terminate**)
- 03 Don't know / Unsure (**terminate**)

B. What State do you live in?

[Enter state]

Politics, Campaigns and Elections

1. Please think about voting and elections. How often would you say you vote in most elections? Would you say...

- 01 Always
- 02 Most of the time
- 03 Sometimes
- 04 Seldom
- 05 Never
- 05 Unsure or not registered

How would you rate...

How would you rate...	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	Don't know / not sure
2.The job Donald Trump is doing as President	01	02	03	04	05
3.The job Mike Pence is doing as Vice President	01	02	03	04	05
4. The job Congressman Paul Ryan is doing as Speaker of the House	01	02	03	04	05`
5. The job Mitch McConnell is doing as U.S. Senate Majority Leader	01	02	03	04	05

6. What do you think is the **most important** issue facing the country today?

- 01 Jobs and the economy
- 02 Healthcare
- 03 Education
- 04 Government spending and the federal budget deficit
- 05 Homeland security and anti-terror policy
- 06 Immigration
- 07 Foreign affairs
- 08 Energy policy
- 09 Global climate change
- 10 Gun control / Second Amendment rights
- 11 Terrorism
- 12 Declining U.S. status worldwide
- 13 Crime
- 14 International trade imbalance
- 15 Gun violence
- 16 Internet / data security / identity theft
- 17 Some other issue
- 18 Don't know / not sure

7. In political terms, which one of the following best describes you? Do you consider yourself to be a...

- 01 Republican
- 02 Democrat
- 03 Unaffiliated or independent
- 04 Member of some other party
- 05 Don't know / not sure

Pope Francis

8. Changing topics for a moment, please tell us if your opinion of Pope Francis is...

- 01 Strongly favorable
- 02 Somewhat favorable
- 03 Somewhat unfavorable
- 04 Not at all favorable
- 05 Haven't heard of Pope Francis
- 06 Don't know / unsure

Now, please think about the issues the pope is addressing and give us your opinion regarding how he is doing...

How would you rate the job Pope Francis is doing on...	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	Don't know / not sure
9. Environmental issues	01	02	03	04	05
10. Advancing the cause of the poor	01	02	03	04	05
11. Human rights	01	02	03	04	05
12. Migration / Immigration	01	02	03	04	05
13. Marriage and family issues	01	02	03	04	05
14. Handling cases of sexual abuse among Catholic clergy	01	02	03	04	05

The New President

The new president, Donald Trump, is moving on a number of areas during his first months in office. Based on what you know or have heard, please rate the job he is doing with the following....

How would you rate the job Donald Trump is doing on...	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	Don't know / not sure
15. support for the troops and the military	01	02	03	04	05
16. revamping Obamacare / Affordable Care Act	01	02	03	04	05
17. protecting the United States from terrorism	01	02	03	04	05
18. the opioid crisis in the United States	01	02	03	04	05
19. immigration decisions	01	02	03	04	05
20. relations with other nations	01	02	03	04	05
21. jobs and the economy	01	02	03	04	05
22. keeping his campaign promises	01	02	03	04	05
23. handling of the media	01	02	03	04	05
24. addressing racial/ethnic divide in the nation	01	02	03	04	05
25. handling relations with Russia	01	02	03	04	05
26. his Twitter messages	01	02	03	04	05

The Divided Nation

Divisions

The following are several statements about the political divisions in the United States. For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

Statements	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't know / not sure
27. We are more divided as a nation than ever before	01	02	03	04	05
28. I see democracy slipping away in the United States	01	02	03	04	05
29. At times, physical violence during demonstrations is justified	01	02	03	04	05
30. At times, property damage during demonstrations is justified	01	02	03	04	05
31. I have strong trust in the mainstream news media (such as U.S. newspapers, broadcasters, and online media such as CBS, ABC, NBC, CNN, Associated Press, , Washington Post, New York Times) to accurately cover politics in this nation	01	02	03	04	05
32. I trust the statements, releases and tweets from the new White House administration	01	02	03	04	05
33. Not all free speech patterns should be protected	01	02	03	04	05
34. Despite the sense of divides, in my own community, I am very optimistic about reducing political discord	01	02	03	04	05
35. The new White House administration appears to be moving us toward authoritarianism	01	02	03	04	05
36. Confederate symbols such as statues, plaques, or memorabilia should be removed from public areas	01	02	03	04	05
37. Retaining Confederate history is important	01	02	03	04	05

Law Enforcement

Please rate the quality and professionalism of the following law enforcement organizations based on all you know or have heard. Please use a scale of one to ten where one is very good and ten is very poor.

Characteristic	Very Good									Very Poor	Unsure or N/A
38. My community police department	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
39. The police officers in my community	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11

Strategies

The following are a couple of policing strategies. Please indicate if you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose each policing strategy.

Characteristic	Strongly Support	Somewhat Support	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose	Unsure
40. “Stop and Frisk” – permitting officers to stop suspicious individuals in public areas to check for weapons without a warrant	01	02	03	04	05
41. The transfer of donated, used military hardware, ammunition, and equipment to community police departments	01	02	03	04	05

Trust and Confidence

Please think for a moment about your own trust and confidence in police officers, police departments, and the judicial system. Please rate each of the following based on your own trust and confidence that you would be **treated in a fair, impartial and objective manner if involved with law enforcement.** Please use a scale of one to ten where one means you have strong trust and confidence and ten means you have no trust and confidence.

Trust and Confidence in...	Very Strong Trust									No Trust at All	Unsure or N/A
42. Trust in police officers	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
43. Trust in police departments	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
44. Trust in the judicial system including courts, prosecutors, and judges	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
45. Trust in juries to do the right thing	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11

Issue Statements

The following are a number of statements about police and policing. For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

Statements	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure or N/A
46. Police officers should be required to wear body cameras to better assist in reviewing difficult incidents	01	02	03	04	05
47. The U.S. Department of Justice should continue to open investigations of community police departments following controversial incidents	01	02	03	04	05
48. We should focus on mental health supports instead of gun controls	01	02	03	04	05
49. The killing of police officers is inflaming racial tensions nationwide	01	02	03	04	05
50. I personally know a police officer in my community	01	02	03	04	05
51. I have had positive interactions or conversations with community police officers unrelated to law enforcement issues	01	02	03	04	05
52. Gun violence would decrease with more controls and restrictions	01	02	03	04	05
53. I have, or I know someone who has experienced abuse by police officers	01	02	03	04	05
54. I support the Black Lives Matter movement	01	02	03	04	05
55. Law enforcement officers treat everyone, regardless of race, fairly and evenly	01	02	03	04	05

56. Please indicate which of the following you currently own. **Please indicate all that apply.**

- 01 Hand gun(s)
- 02 Rifle(s)
- 03 Assault weapon(s)
- 04 Shotgun(s)
- 05 None
- 06 Unsure

Support / Oppose Gun Controls

57. Please think for a moment about your own position and beliefs about gun control. Which one of the following best reflects your own, personal position on gun control?

- 01 There should be no regulations or controls on any firearms
- 02 There should be some limited licensing, permitting or some restrictions on certain arms such as assault weapons
- 03 Firearms should not be owned privately
- 04 Unsure

58. Which of the following, given the number of mass shootings nationwide, best reflects your own personal position toward gun ownership and gun regulation?

- 01 I continue to support gun ownership rights under the 2nd amendment without exception and believe these mass shootings would be less frequent/horrific if more citizens were armed
- 02 I continue to support gun ownership rights under the 2nd amendment without exception but don't believe in an effort to arm more citizens
- 03 I support gun ownership rights but am open to more exceptions, regulations and restrictions
- 04 I continue to oppose private ownership of firearms
- 05 Unsure

59. Government, on the state and federal levels, can increase funding and support for mental health treatment. How helpful would increased funding and emphasis on mental health treatment be toward reducing the number and frequency of mass shootings? Would you say...

- 01 Very helpful
- 02 Somewhat helpful
- 03 Not very helpful
- 04 Not at all helpful
- 05 Unsure

60. On the issue of gun control, how much would you say President Trump has weighed in or voiced his views...

- 01 Just enough;
- 02 Too much; or
- 03 Too little.
- 04 Unsure

How safe would you feel in the following situations? For each situation, please use a scale of one to ten where one is very safe and ten is not at all safe.

Firearm Situations	Very Safe									Not at all Safe	Unsure
61. If you had a firearm with you in public	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
62. If police were not armed	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
63. If others, around you in a public place, were armed (either open or concealed)	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11

64. (2014-1) When you attend large public events in the United States, how concerned are you about terrorism?

- 01 Very concerned
- 02 Somewhat concerned
- 03 Somewhat unconcerned
- 04 Not at all concerned
- 05 Don't know / not sure

65. Some believe students in schools and colleges would be safer if select/trained teachers or professors carried firearms while others disagree. How strongly would you agree or disagree that these students would be safer?

- 01 Strongly agree
- 02 Somewhat agree
- 03 Somewhat disagree
- 04 Strongly disagree
- 05 Unsure

Youth Football and Concussions

The following are a few questions about concussions experienced by youth playing football.

Recent studies have suggested that youth, at elementary or middle school age, playing or practicing football are suffering from increased numbers of spine and neck injuries, concussions and even elevated risk for heart attacks in otherwise healthy young people. One recent study showed seven years olds are receiving “adult sized impacts” when playing or practicing football.

66. In general, would you say you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the elimination of youth contact football prior to entering high school?

- 01 Strongly support;
- 02 Somewhat support;
- 03 Somewhat oppose;
- 04 Strongly oppose.
- 05 Don't know / Unsure

67. Would you say you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the elimination of youth contact football prior to entering middle school?

- 01 Strongly support;
- 02 Somewhat support;
- 03 Somewhat oppose;
- 04 Strongly oppose.
- 05 Don't know / Unsure

68. And, how likely would you be to encourage your own child or another child to wait until they reach high school before playing contact football if you had the opportunity? Would you say...

- 01 Very likely;
- 02 Somewhat likely;
- 03 Somewhat unlikely;
- 04 Not at all likely;
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

69. And, how likely would you be to encourage your own child or another child to avoid, altogether, playing contact football if you had the opportunity? Would you say...

- 01 Very likely;
- 02 Somewhat likely;
- 03 Somewhat unlikely;
- 04 Not at all likely;
- 05 Unsure / Don't know

Demographics

The following questions are used for statistical purposes only.

70. Are you male or female?

- 01 Male
- 02 Female

71. How old are you?

- 01 18-25
- 02 26-35
- 03 36-45
- 04 46-55
- 05 56-65
- 06 65 or older

72. Would you describe your political views as very conservative, conservative, moderate, liberal, or very liberal?

- 01 Very conservative
- 02 Somewhat conservative
- 03 Moderate
- 04 Somewhat liberal
- 05 Very liberal
- 06 Don't know / not sure

73. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

- 01** Yes (**Go to Q75**)
- 02 No
- 03 Don't know / not sure

74. Which one of these groups would you say best represents your race?

- 01 White
- 02 Black or African-American
- 03 Asian
- 04 Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
- 05 American Indian or Alaska Native
- 06 Other

75. Please tell me which religion you belong to or follow?

- 01 Catholic
- 02 Protestant (Baptist, Lutheran, Congregational, Presbyterian)
- 03 Christian (non-denominational)
- 04 Greek Orthodox
- 05 Jewish
- 01 Buddhist
- 02 Muslim
- 03 Latter Day Saint / Mormon
- 04 Other
- 05 No preference / no religious affiliation
- 06 Don't know / not sure

76. What is your highest grade of school completed?

- 01 Did not graduate from high school
- 02 High school graduate or GED
- 03 Associates degree
- 04 Some college
- 05 College graduate
- 06 Post-graduate or professional degree

77. Which of the following categories best describes your total family income before taxes?

- 01 Under \$20,000
- 02 \$20,000 to less than \$30,000
- 03 \$30,000 to less than \$40,000
- 04 \$40,000 to less than \$50,000
- 05 \$50,000 to less than \$60,000
- 06 \$60,000 to less than \$75,000
- 07 \$75,000 to less than \$100,00
- 08 \$100,000 to less than \$200,000
- 09 \$200,000 or more
- 10 Don't know / not sure

Florida Sample

(Q78 & 79 for Republicans / Code 01 in Question 7 ONLY)

78. Please think for a moment about the potential candidates running for the Republican nomination to run for U.S. Senate from Florida in 2018. If the Republican primary for U.S. Senate was held today, which of the following would you support for the Republican nomination?

Code	Republican Candidates
01	Tom Rooney
02	Augustus Sol Invictus
03	Marcia Roberta Thorne
04	Rick Scott
06	Someone else
07	Unsure / Don't Know

79. Please think for a moment about the potential candidates running for the Republican nomination to run for Florida governor in 2018. If the Republican primary for governor was held today, which of the following would you support for the Republican nomination?

Code	Republican Candidates
01	Jack Latvala
02	Adam Putnam
03	Richard Corcoran
04	Ron DeSantis
05	Jackie Siegel
06	Ron Bergeron
07	Usha Jain
08	Bob White
09	Bruce Nathan
10	Angel Luis Rivera
11	Daniel Zutler
12	Someone else
13	Unsure / Don't Know

(Q80 for Democrats / Code 02 in Question 7 ONLY)

80 Please think for a moment about the list of candidates and potential candidates running for the Democratic nomination to run for Florida governor in 2018. If the Democratic primary for U.S. Senate was held today, which of the following would you support for the Democratic nomination?

Code	Democratic Candidates
01	Andrew Gillum
02	Gwen Graham
03	Chris King
04	Kathy Castor
05	Katherine Fernandez Rundle
06	Jeff Greene
07	Grant Hill
08	John Morgan
09	Phil Levine
10	Patrick Murphy
11	Someone else
12	Unsure / don't know

81. If the 2018 election for Florida United States Senator was held today and the candidates were Bill Nelson and Rick Scott, which would you support?

- 01 Bill Nelson
- 02 Rick Scott
- 03 Someone else
- 04 Unsure/Undecided

82. If the 2018 election for Florida Governor was held today and the candidates were Adam Putnam and John Morgan, which would you support?

- 01 Adam Putnam
- 02 John Morgan
- 03 Someone else
- 04 Unsure/Undecided

83. Would you say your opinion of the job Florida Governor Rick Scott is doing is...

- 01 Very favorable
- 02 Somewhat favorable
- 03 Somewhat unfavorable
- 04 Not at all favorable
- 05 Unsure

Thank you very much for your participation in this important survey.