

The Polling Institute

Saint Leo University

2016 September

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, firearms and immigration. 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 and Current Issues

Politics

1. How likely are you to vote in the 2016 November election? Would you say...

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

2. How would you rate the job Barack Obama has been doing as President?

- 01 Strongly approve
- 02 Somewhat approve
- 03 Somewhat disapprove
- 04 Strongly disapprove
- 05 Don't know / not sure

3. 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

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

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

The following are a number of presidential and vice presidential candidates. Please indicate, for each, if your opinion is very favorable, somewhat favorable, somewhat unfavorable or not at all favorable.

Characteristic	Very Favorable	Somewhat Favorable	Somewhat Unfavorable	Not at all Favorable	Unsure or Don't Know Enough
5. Donald Trump	01	02	03	04	05
6. Hillary Clinton	01	02	03	04	05
7. Gary Johnson	01	02	03	04	05
8. Jill Stein	01	02	03	04	05
9. Mike Pence	01	02	03	04	05
10. Tim Kaine	01	02	03	04	05

11. If the November presidential election was held today between Hillary Clinton, Donald Trump, Gary Johnson and Jill Stein, which candidate would you support?

Q#					
13	01 Hillary Clinton	02 Donald Trump	03 Gary Johnson	04 Jill Stein	05 Unsure

12. While you are undecided, please indicate which candidate you are leaning toward.

Q#				
14	01 Hillary Clinton	02 Donald Trump	03 Gary Johnson	04 Jill Stein

13. Thinking about this November’s national election for U.S. Congress and president, which of the following issues will be most important to you as you select candidates to support? Please indicate all that apply.

	Issues
01	Foreign Policy
02	Jobs and Economy
03	Immigration
04	Filling U.S. Supreme Court vacancies
05	Social issues such as abortion
06	Education
07	Health Care
08	Terrorism
09	Climate Change
10	Other

14. My loyalty, in my vote decision-making, is first and foremost to...

	My loyalty is first and foremost to...
01	My chosen political party
02	The nation
03	My own political philosophy
04	My chosen candidate(s)
05	My family’s well-being
06	Our continued freedom
07	Other

Q15-16 for Republicans and Democrats ONLY: Screen Q4 – 01 & 02

15. How satisfied are you with your political party's final, selected presidential nominee?
Would you say...

- 01 Very satisfied
- 02 Somewhat satisfied
- 03 Somewhat dissatisfied
- 04 Not at all satisfied
- 05 Unsure

16. I expect to cast my vote for my preferred presidential candidate...

- 01 Proudly
- 02 Only somewhat proudly
- 03 Somewhat reluctantly
- 04 Very reluctantly
- 05 Unsure

Political Process, System and Candidate Issues

17. In this presidential election cycle, and since the political parties have finished their conventions, have you changed your mind on your choice for president?

- 01 Yes, from Clinton to Trump
- 02 Yes, from Trump to Clinton
- 03 Yes, from Clinton to a third-party candidate
- 04 Yes, from Trump to a third-party candidate
- 05 Yes, from a third party candidate to Trump
- 06 Yes, from a third party candidate to Clinton
- 07 No, have not changed my mind
- 08 Still undecided
- 09 Not registered to vote

The following are a number of statements about the 2016 November election including the process, the system and some issues the candidates have raised. 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
18. I plan to split my votes in November between political parties	01	02	03	04	05
19. I will likely split my November votes between political parties to ensure one party does not control the House, Senate and White House	01	02	03	04	05
20. Third-party candidate, Libertarian Gary Johnson and his running mate, William Weld, should be allowed to participate in upcoming presidential debates	01	02	03	04	05
21. Third-party candidate, Green Party, Jill Stein and her running mate, Ajamu Baraka, should be allowed to participate in the upcoming presidential debates	01	02	03	04	05
22. I have confidence those sponsoring the upcoming presidential debates will do their job independently, objectively and fairly	01	02	03	04	05
23. Voter fraud and manipulation of November results is a real concern and likely to occur	01	02	03	04	05
24. Voter suppression and efforts to keep eligible voters from the polls is a real concern and likely to occur	01	02	03	04	05
25. I would support making voting in the U.S. mandatory	01	02	03	04	05
26. I would support fines for those eligible who do not vote in elections in the U.S.	01	02	03	04	05
27. This election, more than any I've experienced, has me frustrated and wondering if I'll even vote at all	01	02	03	04	05
28. I have faith in Americans to make the right decisions in this November's election	01	02	03	04	05

Q29 ONLY for those responding 03 or 04 (Strongly/Somewhat Disagree) in Q28

29. Which of the following, would you say, are the reasons Americans make poor electoral decisions when they do? Please indicate all that apply.

- 01 Poor or lack of education
- 02 Media bias
- 03 Polarization
- 04 Don't attempt to see other points of view
- 05 Candidates lie about their records and people believe them
- 06 Many don't pay attention to the issues/candidate stands
- 07 Other/unsure

30. How well would you say you understand the Electoral College – the institution that elects the President and Vice President of the United States each four years? Would you say...

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

31. There are 538 electors, equal to the number of members of Congress (plus three from Washington, D.C). These electors are pledged to the presidential candidate who wins the most votes in their respective states. The presidential candidate winning the majority of electors (270) wins. On four occasions because of the Electoral College, a candidate who did not win the most popular votes in the nation was elected. Going forward, do you prefer to maintain the current Electoral College system or move to presidential elections by popular vote only?

- 01 Maintain the Electoral College
- 02 Move to presidential elections by popular vote only
- 03 Unsure

32. Where do you fit in on the “establishment” vs. “outsider” debate?

- 01 I plan to support only establishment candidates;
- 02 I plan to support mostly establishment candidates;
- 03 I plan to support mostly outsider candidates;
- 04 I plan to support only outsider candidates; or
- 05 I plan to support an even number of establishment and outsiders.
- 06 Unsure

Pope Francis

33. 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

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
34. My community police department	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
35. 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
36. "Stop and Frisk" – permitting officers to stop suspicious individuals in public areas to check for weapons without a warrant	01	02	03	04	05
37. 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
38. Trust in police officers	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
39. Trust in police departments	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
40. Trust in the judicial system including courts, prosecutors, and judges	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
41. 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
42. Police officers should be required to wear body cameras to better assist in reviewing difficult incidents	01	02	03	04	05
43. The U.S. Department of Justice should continue to open investigations of community police departments following controversial incidents	01	02	03	04	05
44. We should focus on mental health supports instead of gun controls	01	02	03	04	05
45. The killing of police officers is inflaming racial tensions nationwide	01	02	03	04	05
46. I personally know a police officer in my community	01	02	03	04	05
47. I have had positive interactions or conversations with community police officers unrelated to law enforcement issues	01	02	03	04	05
48. Gun violence would decrease with more controls and restrictions	01	02	03	04	05
49. I have, or I know someone who has experienced abuse by police officers	01	02	03	04	05
50. I support the Black Lives Matter movement	01	02	03	04	05

51. 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

52. 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

53. 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 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

54. 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

55. On the issue of gun control, would you say President Obama 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
56. If you had a firearm with you in public	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
57. If police were not armed	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
58. 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

59. (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

Immigration

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

Immigration Statements	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DK
60. Our nation has an obligation to accommodate refugees when possible	01	02	03	04	05
61. The U.S. should assign preferences or priorities in admitting persecuted refugee groups such as Christians, children, and women	01	02	03	04	05
62. Children born on U.S. soil should have a birthright to U.S. citizenship	01	02	03	04	05
63. Immigrants who came to the U.S. illegally and have obeyed laws should be allowed a path to citizenship	01	02	03	04	05

National Anthem

64. Recently, sports figures such as football player Colin Kaepernick, and soccer player Megan Rapinoe, sat or kneeled during the pre-game/match national anthem. In these instances, Colin Kaepernick and Megan Rapinoe were protesting the treatment of black Americans by police. From time-to-time, athletes express their views and protest in this manner. How strongly do you support or oppose such an action during the national anthem? Would you say...

- 01 Strongly support
- 02 Somewhat support
- 03 Somewhat oppose
- 04 Strongly oppose
- 05 Unsure

Demographics

The following questions are used for statistical purposes only.

65. Are you male or female?

- 01 Male
- 02 Female

66. How old are you?

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

67. 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

68. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

- 01 Yes (Go to 70)**
- 02 No
- 03 Don't know / not sure

69. 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

70. 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

71. 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

72. 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

73. In political terms, which one of the following best describes how you typically vote?

- 06 All Republican
- 07 Mostly Republican
- 08 Mostly Democratic
- 09 All Democratic
- 10 Independent – split vote between parties
- 11 Support some other party
- 12 Don't know / not sure

Florida Sample

74. If the November election for Florida United States Senate was held today between Marco Rubio and Patrick Murphy, which candidate would you support?

Q#			
74	01 Marco Rubio	02 Patrick Murphy	03 Unsure

75. In April, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) announced the Zika virus, spread to people through the bite of an infected Aedes species of mosquito, has now been found in 30 states. How concerned would you say you are about this virus? Would you say...

- 01 Very concerned,
- 02 Somewhat concerned;
- 03 Somewhat unconcerned;
- 04 Not at all concerned;
- 05 Unsure/Don't know enough

The following measures were approved for the Florida August 30 and November 8 ballots. Please review the measures and indicate if your support or oppose each.

Florida Ballot Measures	Support	Oppose	Unsure
76. Grants Florida residents the right to own or lease equipment that produces solar energy for personal use – Amendment 1	01	02	03
77. Grants the right to use marijuana for the treatment of certain ailments when recommended by a physician – Amendment 2	01	02	03
78. Provides property tax exemptions for first responders disabled in the line of duty – Amendment 3	01	02	03
79. Locks home values in place for senior citizens eligible for property tax breaks – Amendment 5	01	02	03

80. Finally, which of the following Florida counties do you currently live in?

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