

The Polling Institute

Saint Leo University

2018-3

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, President Trump, law enforcement, gun control, and the U.S. Supreme Court nominee. Thank you very much.

Screener

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

- 01 Yes (continues)
- 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
- 06 Unsure or not registered

2. 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

How would you rate...

How would you rate...	Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove	Don't know / not sure
3.The job Donald Trump is doing as President	01	02	03	04	05

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

- 01 Jobs and the economy
- 02 Health care
- 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

President Donald Trump

Based on what you know or have heard, please rate the job President Trump 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
5. support for the troops and the military	01	02	03	04	05
6. protecting the United States from terrorism	01	02	03	04	05
7. the opioid crisis in the United States	01	02	03	04	05
8. immigration decisions	01	02	03	04	05
9. relations with other nations	01	02	03	04	05
10. jobs and the economy	01	02	03	04	05
11. hiring or appointing personnel	01	02	03	04	05
12. handling of the media	01	02	03	04	05
13. addressing racial/ethnic divisions in the nation	01	02	03	04	05
14. handling relations with Russia	01	02	03	04	05
15. his Twitter messages	01	02	03	04	05
16. handling the budget process with Congress	01	02	03	04	05
17. handling North Korea	01	02	03	04	05
18. handling gun violence	01	02	03	04	05

Engagement in 2018

19. Thinking about the upcoming mid-term elections this November, how active do you expect to be on behalf of your preferred political party and candidates, such as staying informed or attending events, posting on social media, volunteering and donating? Would you say...

- 01 Very active
- 02 Somewhat active
- 03 Somewhat inactive
- 04 Not at all active
- 05 Unsure

Pope Francis

20. 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
21. Environmental issues	01	02	03	04	05
22. Advancing the cause of the poor	01	02	03	04	05
23. Human rights	01	02	03	04	05
24. Migration / Immigration	01	02	03	04	05
25. Marriage and family issues	01	02	03	04	05
26. Handling cases of sexual abuse involving Catholic clergy	01	02	03	04	05

27. Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, a Vatican diplomat and former archbishop of Washington, D. C., has recently resigned from the College of Cardinals over sexual abuse allegations. Father Desmond Rossi, a current priest in the Diocese of Albany suggests he, too, was a victim of Cardinal McCarrick and tried to get the attention of Church officials regarding the Cardinal. How aware were you of the accusations or resignation of Cardinal McCarrick? Would you say...

- 01 Very aware
- 02 Somewhat aware
- 03 Somewhat unaware
- 04 Not at all aware
- 05 Unsure

28. In your view, based on all you know or have heard and considering this resignation, please rate the Catholic Church efforts to weed out and deal effectively with abuse within the Church? Please use a scale of one to 10 where one is a very good job while 10 is a very poor job.

Rating Scale	Very Good									Very Poor	Unsure or N/A
On Church response	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11

29. In a recent statement, Pope Francis said that the value of human life is so great that the death penalty is never an appropriate response to even terrible crimes and that imprisonment is an effective punishment instead. How strongly would you say you agree or disagree with the pope's statement? Would you say...

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

30. Some suggest that Catholic Church teachings, based on the pope's statement, should move from a position where capital punishment (death penalty) is permissible under very specific circumstances to a new position where capital punishment is not permissible. How strongly would you agree or disagree with this suggestion? Would you say...

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

Law Enforcement

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 10 where one means you have strong trust and confidence and 10 means you have no trust and confidence.

Trust and Confidence in...	Very Strong Trust									No Trust at All	Unsure or N/A
31. Trust in police officers	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
32. Trust in police departments	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
33. Trust in the judicial system including courts, prosecutors, and judges	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
34. Trust in juries to do the right thing	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
35. Trust in the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	10	11
36. Trust in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)	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
37. Police officers should be required to wear body cameras to better assist in reviewing difficult incidents	01	02	03	04	05
38. The U.S. Department of Justice should continue to open investigations of community police departments following controversial incidents	01	02	03	04	05
39. We should focus on mental health supports instead of gun controls	01	02	03	04	05
40. I personally know a police officer in my community	01	02	03	04	05
41. I have had positive interactions or conversations with community police officers unrelated to law enforcement issues	01	02	03	04	05
42. Gun violence would decrease with more controls and restrictions	01	02	03	04	05
43. I have, or I know someone who has experienced abuse by police officers	01	02	03	04	05
44. Law enforcement officers treat everyone, regardless of race, fairly and evenly	01	02	03	04	05

Statements	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure or N/A
45. I am concerned that new fingerprint and facial recognition technologies will lead to loss of my own privacy	01	02	03	04	05
46. Most law enforcement officers racially profile when deciding to stop motorists	01	02	03	04	05
47. When individuals cross our borders without authorization and are not citizens they are committing a crime and should be detained, processed, and returned to their home nations	01	02	03	04	05
48. If handy, I would use a device to video tape my conversation with an officer during who has stopped me when driving	01	02	03	04	05

49. Lately, some have called for abolishing ICE, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement federal agency. How strongly would you say support or oppose abolishing ICE? Would you say...?

- 01 Strongly support abolishing ICE
- 02 Somewhat support abolishing ICE
- 03 Somewhat opposed to abolishing ICE
- 04 Strongly support abolishing ICE
- 05 Unsure/no opinion

50. Please think about a candidate in an election who supports abolishing ICE. Which of the following best reflects your support for that candidate?

- 01 More likely to support the candidate who supports abolishing ICE
- 02 Less likely to support the candidate who supports abolishing ICE
- 03 Would not make a difference in my vote
- 04 Unsure

The following are a number of statements about safety in colleges and public K-12 schools. For each, please indicate if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree.

School Safety Statements	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Unsure or N/A
51. Students in colleges and public K-12 schools would be safer if select/trained teachers or professors carried firearms	01	02	03	04	05
52. K-12 school and college campuses should have trained and armed officers on duty while students are present	01	02	03	04	05
53. Anti-bullying programs are an important part of K-12 school and campus violence prevention strategies	01	02	03	04	05
54. Police and school resource officers, responding to K-12 school and campus violence, should be required to complete training in mental health and child adolescent development	01	02	03	04	05

Support / Oppose Gun Controls

55. 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

56. 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

How safe would you feel in the following situations? For each situation, please use a scale of one to 10 where one is very safe and 10 is not at all safe.

Firearm Situations	Very Safe									Not at all Safe	Unsure
57. If you had a firearm with you in public	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. 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

60. 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

61. Regardless of whether you own one or not, how important is it, in your view, for Americans to own firearms? Would you say...

- 01 Very important
- 02 Somewhat important
- 03 Somewhat unimportant
- 04 Not at all important
- 05 Unsure

62. Please think about the National Rifle Association. How strongly do you support or oppose the association and its positions? Would you say...

- 01 Strongly support
- 02 Somewhat support
- 03 Somewhat oppose
- 04 Strongly oppose
- 05 Have no opinion either way
- 06 Unsure

U.S. Supreme Court

63. Brett Kavanaugh has been nominated to replace Justice Anthony Kennedy to the United States Supreme Court. Many expect the hearings and a vote to be concluded this fall. How closely would you say you are following the nomination and confirmation process in the U.S. Senate? Would you say...?

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

64. The following are a number of characteristics a new U.S. Supreme Court justice might have. Please indicate which are important to you. **Please indicate all that apply.**

- 01 Compassion
- 02 Humility
- 03 Knowledge of the law
- 04 Common sense
- 05 Collegiality or respect for colleagues on the bench
- 06 Highly intelligent
- 07 Impartial
- 08 Judicial restraint -- interpreting rather than making laws
- 09 Open-mindedness
- 10 Patience
- 11 Conservative
- 12 Politically moderate
- 13 Liberal
- 14 Support for abortion/Roe vs. Wade
- 15 Support for the 2nd Amendment/right to own firearms

65. Based on all you know or have heard; do you support the confirmation of Brett Kavanaugh to the United States Supreme Court by the United States Senate?

- 01 Yes
- 02 No
- 03 Unsure

Demographics

The following questions are used for statistical purposes only.

66. Are you male or female?

- 01 Male
- 02 Female

67. How old are you?

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

68. 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

69. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

- 01 Yes (Go to Q71)**
- 02 No
- 03 Don't know / not sure

70. 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

71. 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

72. 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

73. 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 \$200,00 or more
- 10 Unsure

74. How religious would you say you are today? Would you say...

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

Florida Sample

75. In March 2018, Florida Governor signed a \$400 million bill designed to increase school security, mental health access and gun control following the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School that killed 17 students. The bill was designed to harden schools such as better locking systems, bullet-resistant glass and other technologies designed to stop violence before it starts. Which one of the following best reflects you own view on this newly enacted legislation?

- 01 The legislation is only a good first step but more needs to be done
- 02 The legislation was not necessary
- 03 The legislation will ensure safe schools
- 04 Unsure

(Q76 and Q77 for Republicans / Code 01 in Question 2 ONLY)

76. 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	Adam Putnam (Go to Q78)
02	Ron DeSantis (Go to Q78)
03	Someone else (Go to Q78)
04	Undecided / Don't Know (Continue)

77. And, while you are currently undecided, please indicate how you are leaning.

- 01 Lean toward Adam Putnam
- 02 Lean toward Ron DeSantis

(Q78 and Q79 for Democrats / Code 02 in Question 2 ONLY)

78. 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 governor was held today, which of the following would you support for the Democratic nomination?

Code	Democratic Candidates
01	Andrew Gillum (Go to Q80)
02	Gwen Graham (Go to Q80)
03	Chris King (Go to Q80)
04	Philip Levine (Go to Q80)
05	Jeff Greene (Go to Q80)
05	Someone else (Go to Q80)
06	Unsure / don't know (Continue)

79. And, while you are currently undecided, please indicate how you are leaning.

- 01 Andrew Gillum
- 02 Gwen Graham
- 03 Chris King
- 04 Philip Levine
- 05 Jeff Greene

ALL Respondents:

80. 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

81. If the 2018 election for Florida Governor was held today and the candidates were Adam Putnam and Gwen Graham, which would you support?

- 01 Adam Putnam
- 02 Gwen Graham
- 03 Someone else
- 04 Unsure/Undecided

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

- 01 Adam Putnam
- 02 Philip Levine
- 03 Someone else
- 04 Unsure/Undecided

83. If the 2018 election for Florida Governor was held today and the candidates were Ron DeSantis and Gwen Graham, which would you support?

- 01 Ron DeSantis
- 02 Gwen Graham
- 03 Someone else
- 04 Unsure/Undecided

84. If the 2018 election for Florida Governor was held today and the candidates were Ron DeSantis and Phillip Levine, which would you support?

- 01 Ron DeSantis
- 02 Philip Levine
- 03 Someone else
- 04 Unsure/Undecided

84. 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.