



**BECKET**  
*Religious Liberty for All*

**RELIGIOUS  
FREEDOM  
INDEX**

American  
Perspectives on the  
First Amendment  
*Fourth Edition*

The fourth edition of the Religious Freedom Index illuminates Americans' perspectives on core principles of religious freedom and provides timely insights into pressing social and cultural questions. In 2022, the Index score remained at 68—its highest score—and reveals that Americans are unified around a fundamental commitment to build a society that is inclusive of all people's religious identities.

### Survey Instrument

**21**

Index Questions –  
*Same questions every year*

**50+**

Additional Questions –  
*Change to ask about timely topics*

**n=1,004**

Sample Size –  
*Nationally representative of  
American adults*

### 2022 Key Findings

#### Americans embrace diversity of faith:

Support for the right to choose and practice the religion of your choice has never been higher.

#### Rediscovering human dignity and civil rights:

Broad unfamiliarity with Constitutional protections opens the door for civic education.

#### Finding consensus in protecting minorities:

Americans are most protective of religious minorities, with a unified majority expressing the need to make room for lesser-known religious groups.

### Index Results

The Index questions group six statistical dimensions of religious freedom scaled 0 to 100, where 0 indicates complete opposition to principles of religious freedom and 100 indicates robust support.

The average of these dimensions creates the composite Index score, which maintained its all-time high of 68 in 2022.

Index  
Composite  
Score

**68**

**+0**

*change  
from 2021*

**84**

**+4**

Religious  
Pluralism

**65**

**-3**

Religion  
& Policy

**72**

**+1**

Religious  
Sharing

**62**

**-3**

Religion  
in Society

**56**

**-2**

Church  
& State

**68**

**+1**

Religion  
in Action

## 2022 Key Findings

## Americans embrace diversity of faith:

Americans support pluralism.

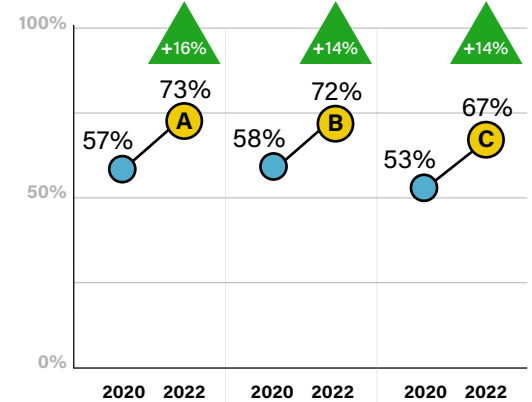
The percentage of Americans who completely support the freedom to choose a religion, to worship without fear of persecution and to practice a religion in daily life without facing discrimination **increased by over 10 points since 2020.**

**Over 90%** of survey respondents completely or mostly support these freedoms.

## Americans support for religious pluralism increased.

Percentage of Americans who completely Accept & Support:

- A** Freedom for people to choose a religion, if they want to
- B** Freedom to worship without facing fear of persecution
- C** Freedom to practice a religion in daily life without facing discrimination



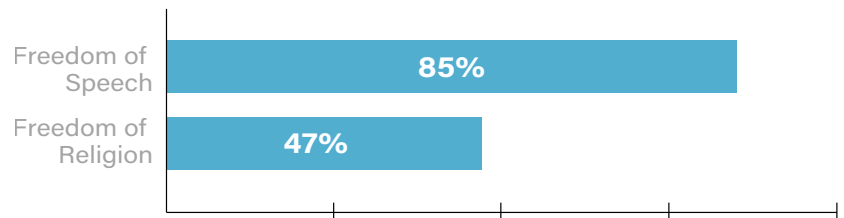
## Rediscovering human dignity and civil rights:

Americans' knowledge of their First Amendment rights shows room for improvement.

**85%** correctly identified freedom of speech as protected by the First Amendment.

**Only 47%** correctly identified freedom of religion as protected by the First Amendment.

## Percentage of Americans who can name the following freedoms as explicitly stated in the First Amendment:

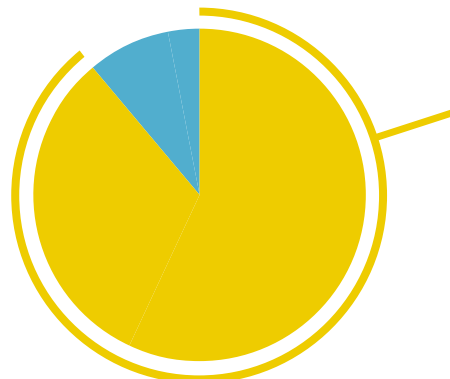


## Finding consensus in protecting minorities:

Americans are most protective of religious minorities, with a unified majority expressing the need to make room for lesser-known religious groups.

**89% support** protecting Native American sacred sites on federal land.

Strong support for these protections (57%) dwarfs strong opposition (3%) by a ratio of **nearly 20 to 1.**



**89% Agree:**

Native American sacred sites on federal land should be protected