



The Index score climbed once more in 2025, reaching an all-time high of **71**. This year, our polling reveals American sentiment towards recent Supreme Court cases, the different attitudes held by Gen-Z men and women, and what news sources Americans trust in today's increasingly fractured media landscape. In a year with several important Supreme Court cases that touch on religious freedom, the Index finds strong support for rulings that protect religious liberty and parental rights. Our findings also show strong support for bedrock religious freedom, a notable rise in support for expression of religion in the public square, and continued opposition to government restrictions on religious freedom.

21

Index Questions –
Same questions every year

Survey Instrument

15+

Additional Questions –
Change to ask about timely topics

n=1,002

Sample Size –
*Nationally representative of
American adults*

2025 Key Findings

1 Faith in the public square is on the rise

Americans are expressing rising support for the freedom to bring one's faith into the public square, including at work and online.

High support for public faith

2020 **52**

2025 **57**

+5

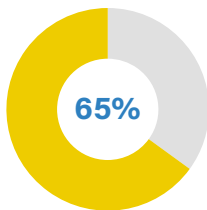
57% of Americans agree that religious freedom is inherently public, and that Americans should be free to share their faith in public spaces, such as at school, work, or on social media — a five-point rise since 2020.

2 Religious freedom unifies Americans

Americans support the Supreme Court's decisions in this year's biggest religious freedom cases.

Catholic Charities v. Wisconsin

Americans support the Supreme Court's ruling that Catholic Charities should have the same tax exemption that other religious charities are granted.



3 Americans support religious parents' right to faithfully educate their children

Post-Covid, support for opt-outs if parents believe school material is inappropriate has risen steadily.

Support for curriculum opt-outs

2021 **63**

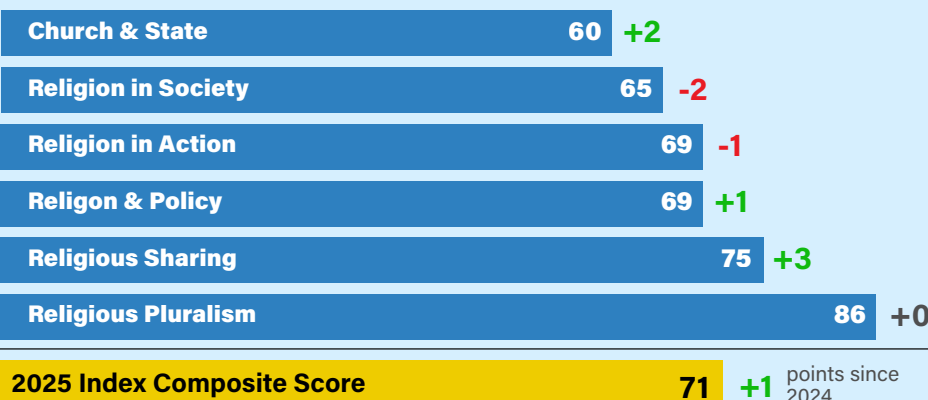
2025 **73**

+10

73% of Americans support parents being able to opt out of public school curriculum — up 10 points since 2021.

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 new composite Index score, which reached a new all-time high of 71 in 2025, up 1 from last year and up 5 from 2020.



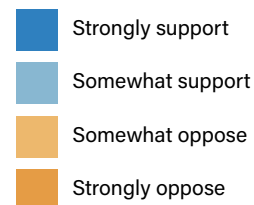
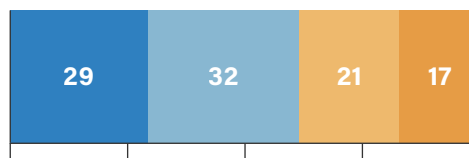
Americans supported the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*

A solid majority of Americans (62%) supported the Supreme Court's decision in *Mahmoud v. Taylor*. In *Mahmoud*, the Supreme Court acknowledged the vital right of parents to oversee the religious upbringing of their children – a right they ruled did not end at the classroom doors. The Supreme Court held that Montgomery County had to provide curriculum opt-outs for students. This year's Index results show that Americans agree with the court's common-sense decision.

Q.1115B To what extent do you support or oppose each of these recent Supreme Court decisions?

Mahmoud v. Taylor

Americans support the Supreme Court's ruling requiring parental opt-outs in public schools.



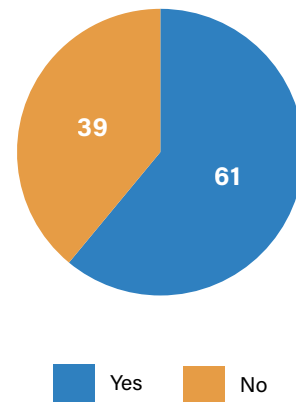
The confessional should remain sacred, most Americans agree

For centuries, the Catholic Church has taught that confession is sacred and must remain completely secret. But in 2025, Washington state passed a law that would have required priests to report instances of abuse or neglect that they hear in confession. After Becket defended the Washington Catholic bishops and priests in court, a federal judge struck the law down. This year's Index polling shows that Americans favor that outcome.

Etienne v. Ferguson

Q1117A. It is Catholic doctrine that whatever an individual shares with a priest during the sacrament of Confession must remain secret. If that secrecy is broken, the priest is automatically excommunicated from the Catholic Church.

If a state passed a law forcing Catholic priests to break secrecy and call the police on anyone who confessed something indicating child abuse or neglect, should the First Amendment's guarantee of the free exercise of religion protect the priests in that instance?



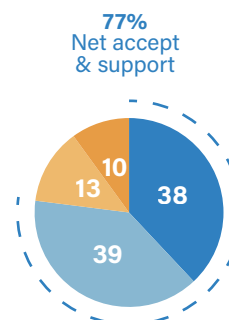
Americans continue to support public funding for school choice

Becket defends religious parents in cases such as *St. Mary's Catholic Parish v. Roy*, where the government of Colorado barred families from receiving state funding to send their children to Catholic schools. The Index found that three in four Americans support allowing public funding to flow to parents who choose religious schools for their children.

School Choice for Religious Schools

Q642A. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement?

Public funding for education should be available to all families, including those who choose religious schools.



Accept and Support:



Challenge and Oppose:

