

In its third year, the Index's focus on core religious liberty principles, contextualized with questions on some of the most pressing societal issues, provides a yearly cross section of public sentiment on the intersection of law, religion, and culture.

In 2021, we see Americans bouncing back from an especially divisive year with newfound confidence in their support for a wide spectrum of religious freedom principles.

Survey Instrument

21

Index Questions –
Same questions every year

50+

Additional Questions –
Change to ask about timely topics

n=1,000

Sample Size –
*Nationally representative of
American adults*

2021 Findings

1 Americans want a level playing field for faith-based organizations:

Americans value faith-based organizations and want the government to partner with them on fair and equal terms.

2 Americans value religious voices in national conversation:

Even in heated national debates, Americans want faith-based opinions and worldviews to be heard.

3 Agreeing on the essentials, Americans prioritize houses of worship in a pandemic

Americans continue to value religion during the pandemic, with most saying houses of worship provide essential services.

Index Results

The Index questions statistically group into six 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 reached a new high of **68** in 2021.

Index
Composite
Score

68

+2
change
from 2020

80
+3

Religious
Pluralism

68
+2

Religion
& Policy

71
+2

Religious
Sharing

65
+3

Religion
in Society

58
+2

Church
& State

67
+2

Religion
in Action

Americans want a fair shake for faith-based organizations:

Americans prefer equal treatment in funding and partnerships between religious organizations and government.

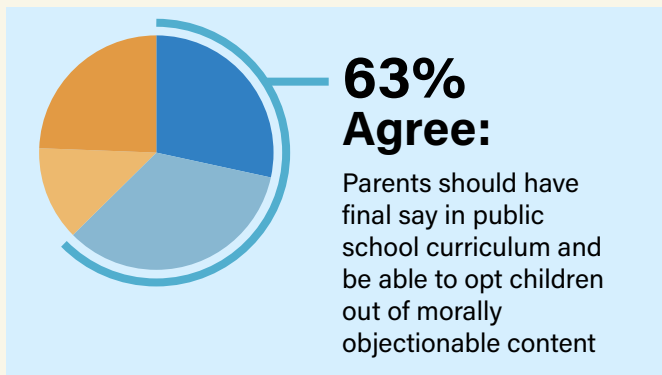
71% said religious organizations should be just as eligible as non-religious organizations to receive government funding, a **six point increase** since last year.

63% said government partnerships with religious organizations should be decided on results, not beliefs.

Preference for equal government funding opportunities for religious organizations:



Americans value religious voices in national conversation:



On principle and in a variety of contexts, respondents supported religious voices in controversial discussions.

62% agreed that people with religiously based opinions on controversial topics should be free to voice them in public.

63% said that parents should have the final say in public school curriculum and be able to opt their children out of content they find morally objectionable.

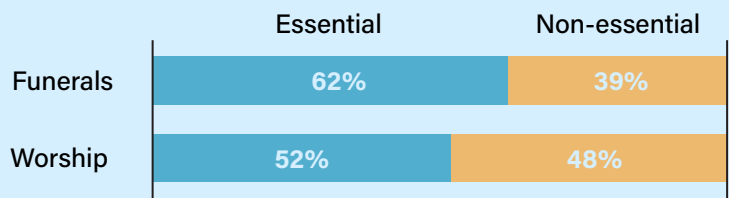
Agreeing on the essentials, Americans prioritize houses of worship in a pandemic:

As the coronavirus pandemic continues to unfold and dominate the news cycle, the areas where government restrictions and religious belief conflict also evolve.

Majorities of respondents said that worship and funerals at houses of worship should be considered essential activities in a pandemic.

More respondents supported religious exemptions to vaccine mandates in the workplace than opposed them, with respondents who had religious coworkers indicating more support for religious exemptions.

Activities at houses of worship considered essential:



Religious exemptions to government enforced vaccine mandates should be allowed if other exemptions exist:

