



BATTLEGROUND OHIO

RELIGION AND THE 2016 PRESIDENTIAL VOTE

Your Vote Ohio Post-Election Poll¹

Below are tables showing the breakdown of Ohio voting in the presidential election, by religious affiliation. The work was done for the [Your Vote Ohio](#) project, a collaborative effort of Ohio news media.

The poll was devised by [John Green](#), Director of the Bliss Institute of Applied Politics at the University of Akron, and calls were made by the [Center for Marketing and Opinion Research](#), also in Akron.

Green provided the analysis. Numbers in **bold** are significant indicators.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

- As in recent presidential elections, religion was a factor in the 2016 vote in Ohio. Trump received strong support from white Christians, especially Evangelical Protestants, while Clinton received strong support from non-religious and minority faith voters.
- Most religious voters said they voted more on the basis of candidate issue positions than personal traits.

¹ The Your Vote Ohio Post-election Poll was the last of a set of four surveys of Ohioans conducted in 2016: an initial survey of 1,972 respondents completed in June, and then re-surveys of the respondents in August, September, and November. The post-election survey had 800 voters for a margin of error of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points. The surveys were conducted by the Bliss Institute at the University Akron and the Center for Marketing and Opinion Research.

- In terms of issues, economic problems were most important, with white Christians favoring Trump, and non-religious and minority faiths favoring Clinton. A similar pattern held for foreign policy and social issues, but with white Mainline Protestants and Roman Catholics evenly divided between the candidates.
- In terms of personal traits, “bringing change to the White House” was most important. White Evangelical Protestants favored Trump over Clinton in terms of respect, caring, and serving all Americans. All of the other religious categories favored Clinton on these matters.
- Overall, both Trump and Clinton were viewed unfavorably by all religious categories, except for white Evangelical Protestants (a somewhat *less unfavorable* view of Trump) and Black Protestants (a somewhat *less unfavorable* view of Clinton).
- A key reason for the unfavorable opinion was the candidates’ issues position, with an advantage to Trump. At the same time, all the religious categories had highly negative views of both candidates’ character.

The candidates, by religion

This is how each major religious group split the vote²

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	2016 VOTE			
	Trump	Clinton	Others	
Evangelical Protestant	78%	19%	3%	100%
Mainline Protestant	54%	42%	4%	100%
Roman Catholic	52%	41%	6%	100%
Black Protestant*	33%	64%	3%	100%
Other Faiths	34%	64%	2%	100%
Non-religious	31%	65%	5%	100%
ALL VOTERS	52%	44%	4%	100%

**Due to a small number of cases, the reported Black Protestant vote for Trump may well be overstated; In this survey, African-Americans as a whole voted better than 10-to-1 for Clinton.*

- Trump received a majority of white Evangelical and Mainline Protestant and Roman Catholic voters; Clinton received a majority of Black Protestant, Other Faiths, and non-religious voters.

² Religious traditions are defined as follows: Evangelical Protestants (white born-again Protestants or other Christians); Mainline Protestants (white not born again Protestants); Black Protestants (black Protestants or other Christians); Other Faiths (all other Christians, including non-white Catholics, and other religious, such as Jews and Muslims); non-religious (unaffiliated).

Another way to look at it

Of all votes cast for each candidate, where did they come from?

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	2016 VOTE			ALL VOTERS
	Trump	Clinton	Other	
Evangelical Protestant	36%	11%	18%	24%
Mainline Protestant	20%	19%	21%	20%
Roman Catholic	24%	22%	35%	24%
Black Protestant*	6%	13%	6%	9%
Other Faiths	5%	11%	3%	7%
Non-religious	9%	24%	18%	16%
Total	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Due to a small number of cases, the reported Black Protestant vote for Trump may well be overstated; In these results African-Americans as a whole made up more than one-quarter of the Clinton vote.*

- White Evangelical (36%) and Mainline Protestants (20%) made up more than one-half of all Trump’s voters; non-religious (24%) and minority faiths voters (Black Protestants 13%; Other Faiths 11%) made up about one-half of all Clinton’s voters.

Worship attendance and the vote

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE	2016 VOTE			Total
	Trump	Clinton	Other	
At least once a week	59%	38%	4%	100%
Less than once a week	52%	43%	5%	100%
Seldom, never	42%	54%	5%	100%
ALL VOTERS	52%	43%	4%	100%

- Trump received a majority of voters who reported attending worship at least once a week as well as those attending less often than once a week. Clinton received a majority of voters who reported attending worship seldom or never.

Reasons for the vote:

Candidate traits versus issue positions

RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS	PERSON TRAITS VS ISSUES TO 2016 VOTE					Total
	Personal traits were most important	Personal traits were a little more important	Personal traits and issues were equally important	Issues were a little more important	Issues were most important	
Evangelical Protestant	5%	6%	28%	8%	53%	100%
Mainline Protestant	8%	6%	32%	11%	42%	100%
Roman Catholic	8%	5%	30%	10%	47%	100%
Black Protestant	9%	6%	32%	7%	46%	100%
Other Faiths	12%	5%	34%	19%	31%	100%
Non-religious	18%	10%	37%	10%	25%	100%
ALL VOTERS	9%	6%	31%	10%	43%	100%

- A plurality of white Christians said that the candidates' issue positions were the "most important" to their vote compared to the candidate's personal traits. Non-religious and Other Faiths were more evenly divided

Candidate issue positions

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	MOST IMPORTANT ISSUE TO 2016 VOTE					Total
	Economic issues like jobs	Public policy problems like government spending	Foreign policy issues like terrorism	Social problems like drugs and crime	Political problems like poor candidates	
Evangelical Protestant	38%	16%	21%	12%	14%	100%
Mainline Protestant	44%	17%	18%	7%	15%	100%
Roman Catholic	42%	13%	17%	13%	14%	100%
Black Protestant	41%	15%	10%	25%	9%	100%
Other Faiths	36%	10%	14%	22%	17%	100%
Non-religious	33%	11%	14%	18%	24%	100%
ALL VOTERS	39%	14%	17%	14%	16%	100%

- A plurality of all religious categories said that economic problems were "most important" to their vote. For white Christians, foreign policy problems ranked second in importance; for Black Protestants and Other Faiths, social problems ranked second; and for the non-religious political problems ranked second.

Agreement with candidate issue positions³

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	ECONOMIC ISSUES			Total
	Clinton	Trump	Other, None	
Evangelical Protestant	20%	72%	8%	100.0%
Mainline Protestant	44%	52%	4%	100.0%
Roman Catholic	40%	52%	3%	100.0%
Black Protestant	64%	29%	7%	100.0%
Other Faiths	59%	34%	7%	100.0%
Non-religious	63%	29%	9%	100.0%
ALL VOTERS	43%	50%	7%	100.0%

- White Evangelical Protestants strongly preferred Trump to Clinton on economic issues; white Mainline Protestants and Roman Catholics favored Trump by a small margin. Non-religious and minority voters strongly preferred Clinton on economic issues.

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	FOREIGN POLICY			Total
	Clinton	Trump	Other, None	
Evangelical Protestant	19%	71%	11%	100%
Mainline Protestant	46%	47%	7%	100%
Roman Catholic	45%	47%	8%	100%
Black Protestant	69%	26%	4%	100%
Other Faiths	63%	32%	5%	100%
Non-religious	64%	24%	2%	100%
ALL VOTERS	45%	46%	9%	100%

- White Evangelical Protestants strongly preferred Trump on foreign policy; white Mainline Protestants and Roman Catholics were evenly divided. Non-religious and minority voters strongly preferred Clinton for foreign policy.

³ Question asked of voters in the September 2016 re-interview survey.

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	SOCIAL ISSUES			Total
	Clinton	Trump	Other, None	
Evangelical Protestant	21%	65%	14%	100%
Mainline Protestant	42%	48%	10%	100%
Roman Catholic	45%	45%	10%	100%
Black Protestant	69%	18%	13%	100%
Other Faiths	61%	29%	10%	100%
Non-religious	61%	22%	17%	100%
ALL VOTERS	45%	43%	12%	100%

- White Evangelical Protestants strongly favored Trump on social issues; white Mainline Protestants and Roman Catholics were evenly divided. Non-religious and minority religion voters strongly favored Clinton on social issues.

Candidate personal traits and the vote

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	MOST IMPORTANT TRAIT TO 2016 VOTE					Total
	Experience in public office	Background outside of politics	Honesty and integrity	Temperament and character	Bringing change to the White House	
Evangelical Protestant	7%	14%	31%	9%	40%	100%
Mainline Protestant	12%	11%	22%	23%	31%	100%
Roman Catholic	20%	9%	27%	14%	31%	100%
Black Protestant	25%	4%	31%	18%	21%	100%
Other Faiths	25%	5%	20%	27%	22%	100%
Non-religious	27%	6%	14%	29%	23%	100%
ALL VOTERS	17%	9%	25%	18%	30%	100%

- A plurality of white Christians said that “bringing change to the White House” was the most important candidate personal trait to their vote.⁴ A plurality Black Protestants said “honesty and integrity” was the most important trait, and a plurality of Other Faiths and non-religious voters said “temperament and character.”

⁴ It is worth noting that both Trump and Clinton would have brought change to the White House—Trump as a political outsider and Clinton as the first woman president.

Agreement with candidate trait statements⁵

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	TRUMP		<i>Total</i>	CLINTON		<i>Total</i>
	He is respectful of people who are different than him	He is disrespectful of people who are different than him		She is respectful of people who are different than her	She is disrespectful of people who are different than her	
Evangelical Protestant	39%	61%	100%	42%	58%	100%
Mainline Protestant	29%	71%	100%	66%	34%	100%
Roman Catholic	28%	72%	100%	60%	40%	100%
Black Protestant	21%	79%	100%	77%	23%	100%
Other Faiths	22%	78%	100%	74%	26%	100%
Non-religious	14%	86%	100%	76%	24%	100%
ALL VOTERS	27%	73%	100%	62%	38%	100%

- A majority of white Evangelical Protestants said both Trump and Clinton were “disrespectful to people who were different” from them. A majority of all other religious categories said Trump was disrespectful, but that Clinton was respectful.

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	TRUMP		<i>Total</i>	CLINTON		<i>Total</i>
	He cares about people like me	He doesn't care about people like me		She cares about people like me	She doesn't care about people like me	
Evangelical Protestant	64%	36%	100%	28%	72%	100%
Mainline Protestant	39%	61%	100%	49%	51%	100%
Roman Catholic	47%	53%	100%	45%	55%	100%
Black Protestant	21%	79%	100%	67%	33%	100%
Other Faiths	34%	66%	100%	57%	43%	100%
Non-religious	23%	77%	100%	56%	44%	100%
ALL VOTERS	43%	57%	100%	46%	54%	100%

- A majority of white Evangelical Protestants said Trump “cares about people like me” and that Clinton “doesn’t care about people like me.” White Mainline Protestants and Roman Catholics felt that both candidates do not “care about people like me.” A majority of non-religious and minority religion voters said that Trump “doesn’t care” and that Clinton “cares.”

⁵ Questions asked of voters in the September 2016 re-survey.

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	TRUMP		CLINTON			
	He is committed to serving all people, even those who don't vote for him	He is committed to serving only the people who vote for him	Total	She is committed to serving all people, even those who don't vote for her	She is committed to serving only the people who vote for her	Total
Evangelical Protestant	66%	34%	100%	33%	67%	100%
Mainline Protestant	48%	52%	100%	55%	45%	100%
Roman Catholic	48%	52%	100%	50%	50%	100%
Black Protestant	28%	72%	100%	73%	27%	100%
Other Faiths	38%	62%	100%	69%	31%	100%
Non-religious	28%	72%	100%	70%	30%	100%
ALL VOTERS	47%	53%	100%	54%	46%	100%

- A majority of white Evangelical Protestants said Trump was “committed to serving all people, even those who don’t for him,” but that Clinton was not. A majority of all the other religious categories said Trump was “not committed to serving all people,” but that Clinton was.

Overall favorability of Trump and Clinton⁶

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	OVERALL OPINION OF TRUMP					Total
	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Neither favorable nor unfavorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	
Evangelical Protestant	23%	31%	8%	15%	23%	100%
Mainline Protestant	12%	23%	5%	15%	45%	100%
Roman Catholic	10%	26%	7%	16%	41%	100%
Black Protestant	6%	15%	4%	15%	60%	100%
Other Faiths	10%	10%	7%	15%	58%	100%
Non-religious	10%	13%	4%	9%	64%	100%
ALL VOTERS	13%	22%	6%	14%	44%	100%

- A majority of non-religious and minority religious voters said they had a “very unfavorable” opinion of Trump. A plurality of white Mainline Protestants and Roman Catholics had a “very unfavorable” opinion of Trump. In contrast, less than a quarter of white Evangelical Protestants reported a “very unfavorable” opinion of Trump.

⁶ Question asked of voters in August; the same question was asked in September with almost identical results.

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	OVERALL OPINION OF CLINTON					Total
	Very favorable	Somewhat favorable	Neither favorable nor unfavorable	Somewhat unfavorable	Very unfavorable	
Evangelical Protestant	6%	10%	5%	9%	69%	100.0%
Mainline Protestant	10%	23%	10%	12%	46%	100.0%
Roman Catholic	10%	20%	9%	11%	49%	100.0%
Black Protestant	32%	24%	6%	10%	28%	100.0%
Other Faiths	17%	33%	8%	5%	37%	100.0%
Non-religious	16%	31%	6%	16%	32%	100.0%
ALL VOTERS	12%	21%	7%	11%	48%	100.0%

- A majority of white Evangelical Protestants said they had a “very unfavorable” opinion of Clinton. A plurality of white Mainline Protestants, and white Roman Catholics had a “very unfavorable” opinion of Clinton. Other Faiths and non-religious voters were more evenly divided in opinion on Clinton. In contrast, a little more than one-quarter Black Protestants had a “very unfavorable” opinion of Clinton.

Reasons for unfavorable opinion: Issues⁷

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	TRUMP ISSUES			CLINTON ISSUES		
	Yes	No	Total	Yes	No	Total
Evangelical Protestant	28%	72%	100%	59%	41%	100%
Mainline Protestant	50%	50%	100%	54%	46%	100%
Roman Catholic	48%	52%	100%	57%	43%	100%
Black Protestant	59%	41%	100%	65%	35%	100%
Other Faiths	62%	38%	100%	54%	46%	100%
Non-religious	66%	34%	100%	47%	53%	100%
ALL VOTERS	51%	49%	100%	56%	44%	100%

- A majority of white Christians and particularly Evangelical Protestants said that issues were not a reason for their unfavorable opinion of Trump, but a majority said that issue were a reason for their unfavorable opinion of Clinton. A majority of Black Protestants and Other Faiths said that issues were a reason for their unfavorable opinion of both Trump and Clinton. A majority of non-religious voters said that issues were a reason for their unfavorable opinion of Trump but not for Clinton.

⁷ Questions asked of voters in August 2016; reason asked of respondents with as “somewhat unfavorable” and “very unfavorable” view of the candidates.

Reasons for unfavorable opinion: Character

RELIGIOUS TRADITION	TRUMP CHARACTER		<i>Total</i>	CLINTON CHARACTER		<i>Total</i>
	Yes	No		Yes	No	
Evangelical Protestant	96%	4%	100%	93%	7%	100%
Mainline Protestant	94%	6%	100%	85%	15%	100%
Roman Catholic	90%	10%	100%	87%	13%	100%
Black Protestant	86%	14%	100%	92%	8%	100%
Other Faiths	93%	7%	100%	96%	4%	100%
Non-religious	98%	2%	100%	87%	13%	100%
ALL VOTERS	93%	7%	100%	89%	11%	100%

- Large majorities of all religious categories said character was a reason for an unfavorable opinion of Trump and Clinton.