RELIGION AND THE TEA PARTY IN THE 2010 ELECTION
An Analysis of the Third Biennial American Values Survey
The Tea Party in Context

Confirming and Challenging Conventional Wisdom
Confirming Conventional Wisdom

Religion and the Tea Party in the 2010 Election

- Fox News, most trusted news source: Total 23, Tea party 57
- Favorable view of Sarah Palin: Total 40, Tea party 80
- Govt grown b/c doing things better left to individuals: Total 56, Tea party 83
**Conventional Wisdom:** The Tea Party movement represents a large portion of the U.S. population, rivaling the size of previous conservative movements like the Christian Right.
Overlap between the Tea Party and Christian Conservative Movements

*Conventional Wisdom:* The Tea Party movement is distinct from previous conservative movements like the Christian Right.
The Tea Party, Christian Conservatives, & Republican Identification

Conventional Wisdom: The Tea Party movement is an independent political force, whose members are not beholden to either political party.
The Tea Party Movement and Partisanship

Religion and the Tea Party in the 2010 Election

![Bar Chart: Party Affiliation](image)

- Total: Republican/Lean 41, Democrat/Lean 48, Independent/Other 11
- Tea Party: Republican/Lean 76, Democrat/Lean 18, Independent/Other 6

![Bar Chart: 2010 Vote](image)

- Total: Republican/Lean 44, Democrat/Lean 47, Undecided 9
- Tea Party: Republican/Lean 83, Democrat/Lean 10, Undecided 7

Legend:
- Republican/Lean
- Democrat/Lean
- Independent/Other

Religion and the Tea Party in the 2010 Election
Tea Party Views on Social Issues

Conventional Wisdom: The Tea Party movement is largely a political libertarian group that believes in maximum freedom for individuals.
A PROFILE OF THE TEA PARTY MOVEMENT

Religion & Political Values
Religious Affiliation of the Tea Party

Religious Affiliation of the Tea Party

- White Evangelical: 36
- White Mainline: 14
- White Catholic: 15
- White Other Christian: 4
- Ethnic Minority Christian: 4
- Latino Catholic: 4
- Black Protestant: 6
- Non-Christian: 4
- Unaffiliated: 4

Religion and the Tea Party in the 2010 Election
## Comparative Religious Profiles

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Political Values of the Tea Party

Political Values

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Not problem if some have more chances in life

Minorities get too much government attention

Immigrants are a burden on the country

Religion and the Tea Party in the 2010 Election
VOTE AND SELECTED ISSUES

The 2010 Electoral Context
The 2010 Vote Gap by Religion

Among registered voters

- **Total**
  - Democrat: 47
  - Republican: 44
  - Undecided: 9

- **White evangelical**
  - Democrat: 21
  - Republican: 71
  - Undecided: 8

- **White Mainline**
  - Democrat: 36
  - Republican: 55
  - Undecided: 9

- **White Catholic**
  - Democrat: 39
  - Republican: 50
  - Undecided: 11

- **Unaffiliated**
  - Democrat: 64
  - Republican: 25
  - Undecided: 11

- **Hispanic Catholic**
  - Democrat: 72
  - Republican: 21
  - Undecided: 7

- **Black Protestant**
  - Democrat: 89
  - Republican: 6
  - Undecided: 5
**Variation in Support for Same-sex Marriage by Religion**

### Views on Same-sex Marriage

- **Same-sex Marriage**: Dark blue
- **Civil unions**: Light blue
- **No legal recognition**: Light grey

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Shifting Views on Social Issues

Changes in Views on Gay & Lesbian Rights

- More supportive: 19
- More opposed: 6
- No Change: 73

Changes in Views on Abortion

- More supportive: 7
- More opposed: 7
- No Change: 85
- DK: 7
Increasing Support for Same-sex Marriage 2006-2010

Support for Immigration Reform, Environmental & Minimum Wage Policies

Religion and the Tea Party in the 2010 Election
Two Closing Notable Findings

• A majority (54%) of voters say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supported health care reform.

• Nearly 6-in-10 (58%) Americans favor a policy that provides a future path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who have been in the U.S. for several years. Three-quarters of Americans also say immigration reform policies should be decided at the national level.
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Dr. Robert P. Jones, CEO
Daniel Cox, Director of Research