

Generational Replacement Helping Drive Growth of Unaffiliated, Decline of Mainline Protestantism and Catholicism

	Silent generation (born 1928-1945) %	Baby Boomers (born 1946-1964) %	Generation X (born 1965-1980) %	Older Millennials (born 1981-1989) %	Younger Millennials (born 1990-1996) %
Christian	85	78	70	57	56
Protestant	57	52	45	38	36
Evangelical	30	28	25	22	19
Mainline	22	17	13	10	11
Historically black	5	7	7	6	6
Catholic	24	23	21	16	16
Other Christian groups	3	3	4	3	3
Other faiths	4	5	6	8	8
Unaffiliated	11	17	23	34	36
Don't know/refused	*	1	1	1	1
	100	100	100	100	100

Millennials' choices are responsible for the rise of unaffiliated religious groups and the decline of mainline Protestantism and Catholicism.

2014 Religious Landscape Study, conducted June 4-Sept. 30, 2014.

The "other Christian groups" category includes Mormons, Orthodox Christians, Jehovah's Witnesses and a number of smaller Christian groups.

Political Party Affiliation, by Religiousness: June 2014

	Republicans/ Leaners %	Independents/ No leaners %	Democrats/ Leaners %	Difference: Democrats minus Republicans %
Very religious Americans	49	11	36	-13
Moderately religious Americans	38	14	44	+6
Nonreligious Americans	29	15	52	+23

Gallup Daily tracking data. Figures may not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

According to this study, Republicans are more likely to be very religious when compared to Democrats and Independents. This may have an impact on how representatives view the separation of church and state and the establishment clause.

Source: Gallup Poll, July 28, 2014, in Frank Newport, "Religion Remains a Strong Marker of Political Identity in U.S.," Gallup.

religiously affiliated schools, and official endorsement of religious displays such as a nativity scene or the Ten Commandments. Some observers see these disputes as examples of conservative Christians imposing their religious views on others. However, many of the nearly 70 percent of Americans who consider themselves to be Christians see them as a reaction to perceived government hostility toward religion, reflected in attempts to remove prayer from schools or religious displays from public buildings.