

2014 National House Vote by Religion

% of each religious group who reported voting Democratic or Republican in the race for the U.S. House of Representatives in their district

	2006		2010		2014	
	Dem	Rep	Dem	Rep	Dem	Rep
Protestant/other Christian	44	54	38	59	37	61
White Prot/other Christian	37	61	28	69	26	72
Catholic	55	44	44	54	45	54
	50	49	39	59	38	60
Jewish	87	12	n/a	n/a	66	33
Something else	71	25	74	24	67	31
None	74	22	68	30	69	29
	28	70	19	77	20	78
All others	60	38	55	42	55	43

Note: Throughout this report, "Protestant" refers to people who described themselves as "Protestant," "Mormon" or "other Christian" in exit polls; this categorization most closely approximates the exit poll data reported immediately after the elections by media sources. In this report, some estimates for previous years might differ slightly from previous Pew Research Center analyses due to differences in data coding. Data on Jewish voters in 2010 are not included due to insufficient sample size.

In the 2014 midterm elections, the Republicans dominated in many of the religious categories.

Source: National Election Pool national exit polls. 2014 data from NBC News.

they could not have occurred because of evolution but must be the work of an intelligent designer. Proponents argue that intelligent design should be taught in schools alongside other scientific theories. Public leaders such as former president George W. Bush and former Senate majority leader Bill Frist have endorsed the idea. Opponents and the lower courts, however, have failed to see any differences from the earlier attempts to ban evolutionary theory from the schools.

Religious Use of Public School Facilities and Funds

As a matter of fairness and constitutional protection, do religious groups have the same right to use public school buildings as other groups? The Supreme Court answered the question "yes" with respect to public universities and later also ruled that religious groups should have access to secondary schools.³¹ The Court also ruled that the establishment clause does not require schools to refuse religious groups the same right to free expression as secular groups. In the case of *Rosenberger v. University of Virginia* (1995), the Court struck down the University of Virginia's refusal to allow student religious groups access to funds collected by a mandatory fee of \$14 from all full-time students. The university had established a student activities fund to which only nonreligious student organizations could apply for money to pay for the costs associated with the printing of their publications. The Court held that the establishment clause did not mandate discrimination against religious expression.

"... a union of government and religion tends to destroy government and degrade religion."

Religion and Public Schools

Since the Supreme Court ruled government-sponsored school prayer unconstitutional in the early 1960s, the nation's schools have been a leading battleground in the issue of establishment. Battles frequently have erupted over state laws that attempt to force the curriculum of secular subjects to reflect particular religious beliefs. Such laws often target subjects that discuss the origins of human life. In 1968, the Court struck down a 1928 Arkansas law that made it a crime for any university or public school instructor to "teach the theory or doctrine that mankind ascended or descended from a lower order of animals" or to "adopt or use . . . a textbook that teaches" evolutionary theory.²⁹ It has also invalidated a Louisiana law that prohibited public schools from teaching evolutionary principles unless theories of "creation science" were also taught.³⁰

Today, opponents of evolution are advancing the same argument under the term *intelligent design*. This theory claims that some biological structures such as DNA codes are so complex that