

THE NEW EVANGELICALS:

HOW DONALD TRUMP REVEALED THE
CHANGING CHRISTIAN CONSERVATIVE BASE

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INTRODUCTION

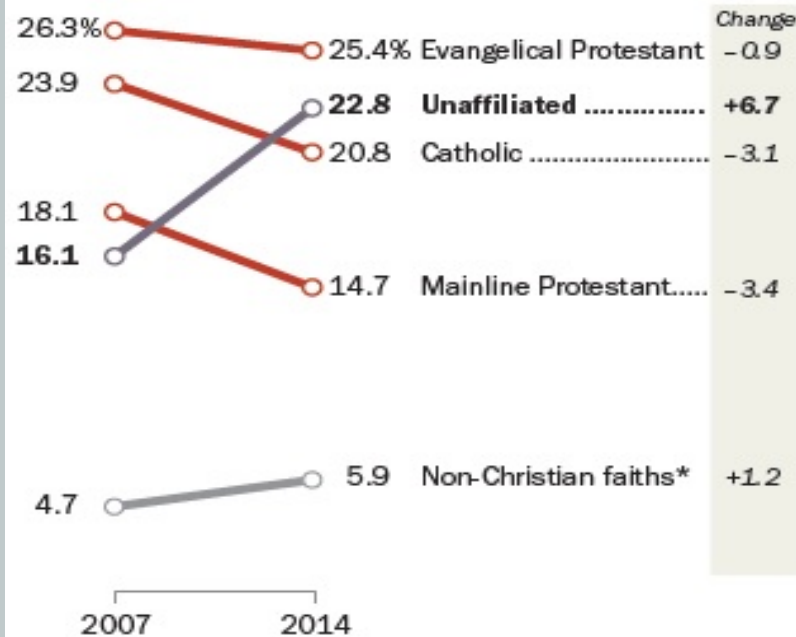
- 2016 presidential election was significant for various fields
- Religious affiliation on decline in the United States



RELIGIOUS DECLINE

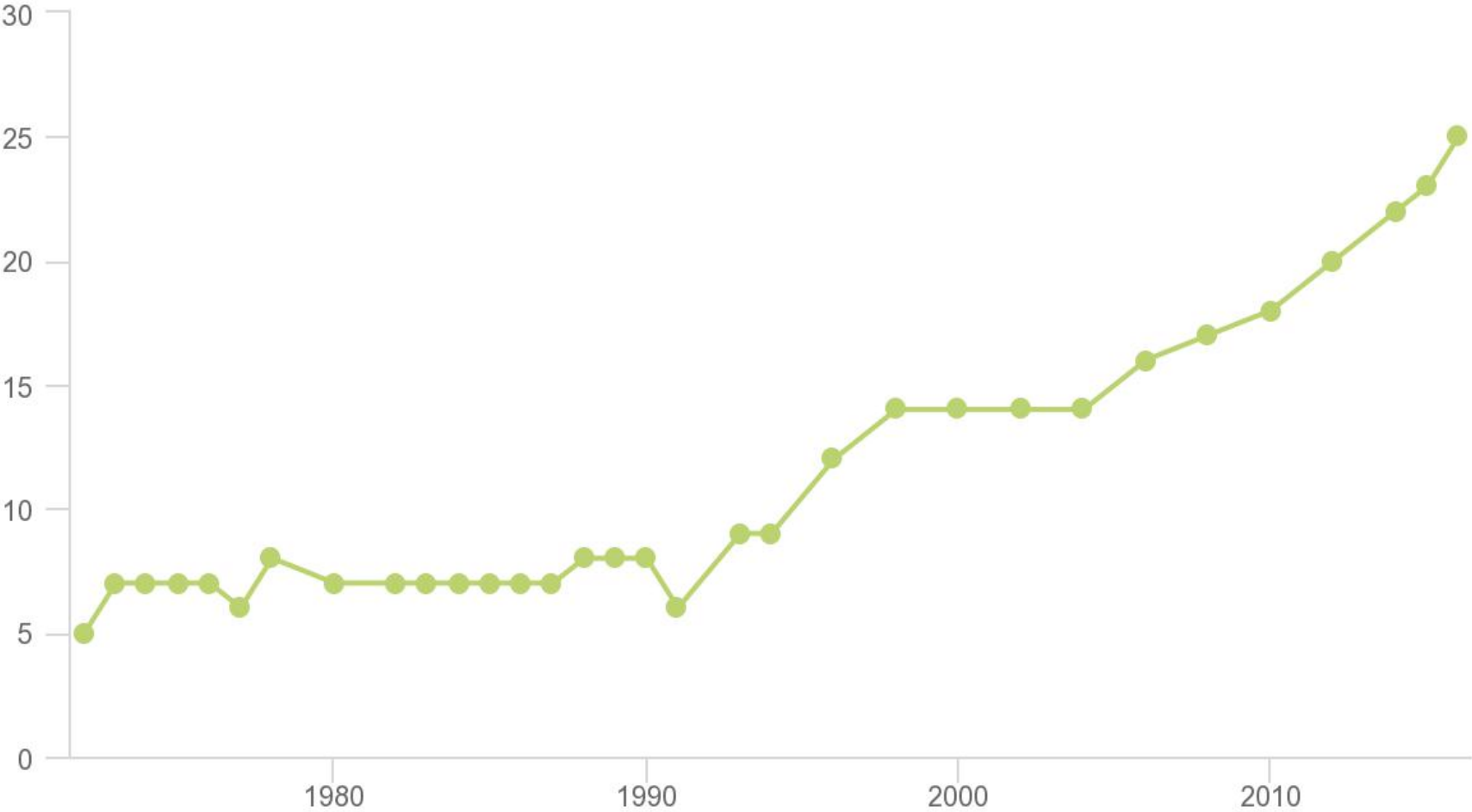
Changing U.S. Religious Landscape

Between 2007 and 2014, the Christian share of the population fell from 78.4% to 70.6%, driven mainly by declines among mainline Protestants and Catholics. The unaffiliated experienced the most growth, and the share of Americans who belong to non-Christian faiths also increased.



Growth of the Religiously Unaffiliated, 1972-2016

Percent of population

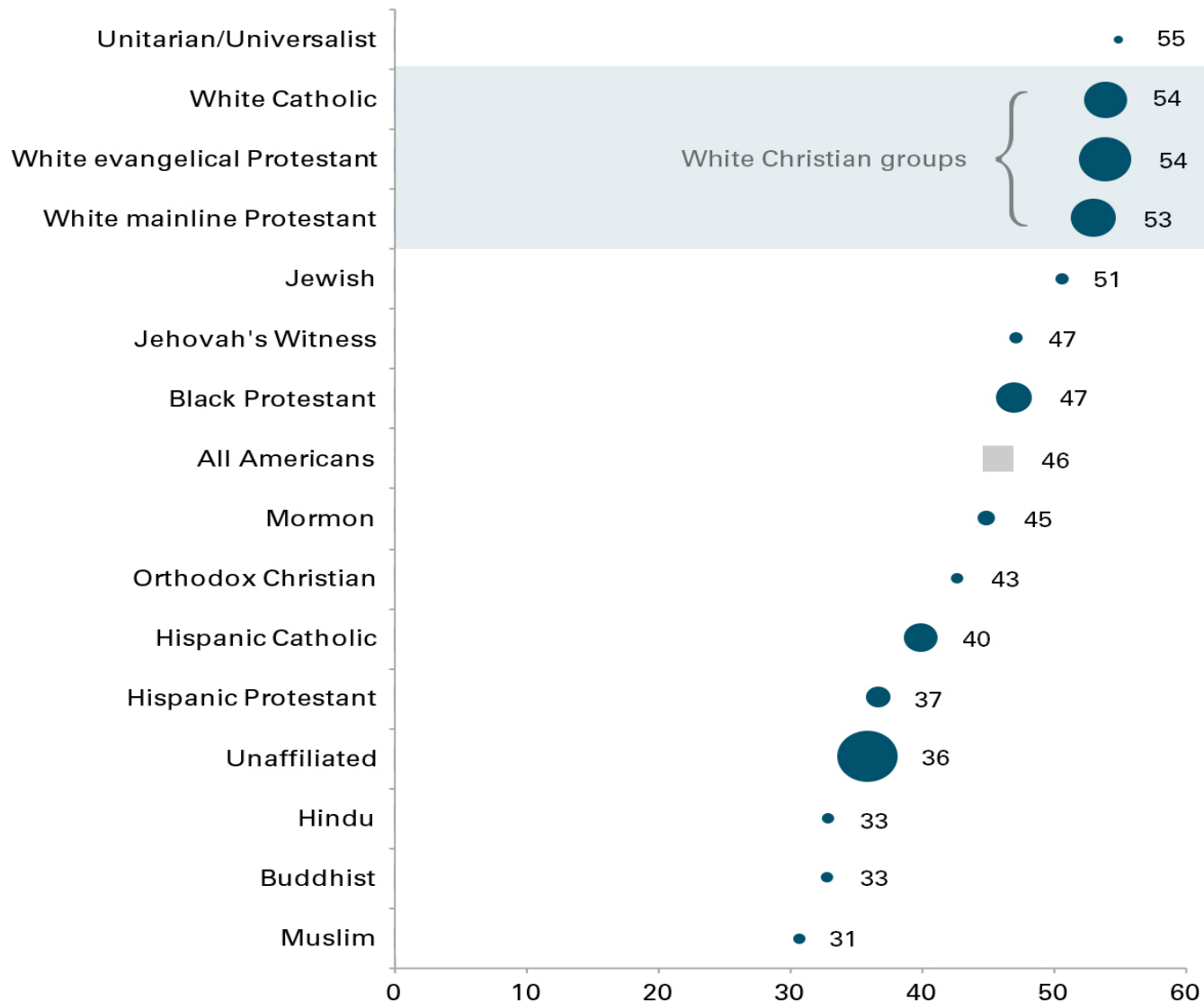


Sources: General Social Survey, 1972-2012; PRRI Surveys, 2014-2016.

The Aging of White Christian America

Median age of America's religious groups

Circle represents group's relative size in U.S.



Source: PRRI 2015 American Values Atlas.

2016 RELIGIOUS ELECTORATE

Religious makeup of the electorate

	2000	2004	2008	2012	2016	Net change '12-'16
	%	%	%	%	%	
Protestant/other Christian	54	54	54	53	52	-1
Catholic	26	27	27	25	23	-2
Jewish	4	3	2	2	3	+1
Other faiths	6	7	6	7	8	+1
Religiously unaffiliated	9	10	12	12	15	+3
White born-again/evangelical Christian	n/a	23	26	26	26	-
<i>Attend worship services...</i>						
Weekly or more	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	33	n/a
Monthly	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	16	n/a
Few times a year	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	29	n/a
Never	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	n/a

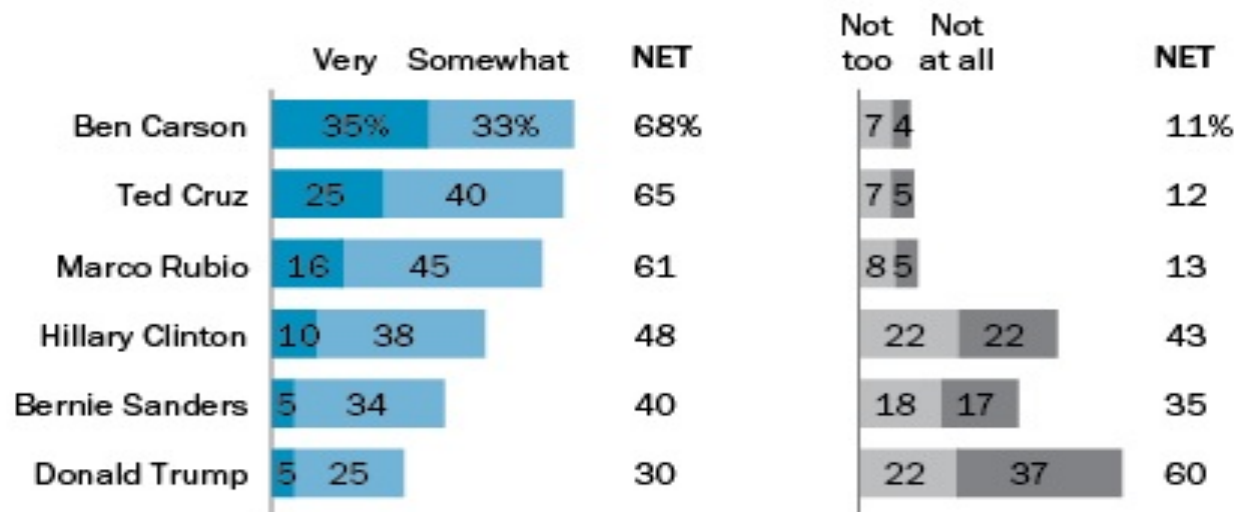
PEW RESEARCH SURVEY

- In January of 2016 Pew Research conducted “Religion and Politics Survey”
- Survey took place in the middle of the Republican presidential primary debates
- 12 Republican primary candidates remained at time of survey

PEW RESEARCH CONT.

Among presidential candidates, Trump seen as least religious

% of adults who view each candidate as _____ religious



Source: Survey conducted Jan. 7-14, 2016. Don't know/refused responses not shown.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

White evangelicals just elected a thrice-married blasphemer: What that means for the religious right

Steve McQuilkin, The (Fort Myers, Fla.) News-Press | Published 6:08 a.m. ET Nov 10, 2016 | Updated 4:23 p.m. ET Nov. 10, 2016

PEOPLE

Trump Elected President, Thanks to 4 in 5 White Evangelicals

Dramatic election ends with historic victory for Donald Trump.

Kate Shellnutt | POSTED 11/9/2016 01:39AM |

DONALD TRUMP

How Evangelicals Helped Donald Trump Win

Elizabeth Dias

Nov 09, 2016



POLITICS

Posted December 16, 2016 | Updated December 16, 2016

INCREASE FONT SIZE

White evangelicals lifted Trump to victory

A consistent 25 percent of the electorate, the group voted for Donald Trump by more than 60 points.

BY NATHAN L. GONZALES TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

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POLITICS | ELECTION 2016

Evangelicals Back Donald Trump in Record Numbers, Despite Earlier Doubts

More than 80% of white evangelical and born-again Christians voted for Mr. Trump, according to exit polls

By IAN LOVETT

Nov. 9, 2016 6:02 a.m. ET

Evangelicals Hand Victory To Donald Trump



Harry Farley | JOURNALIST | Published 09 November 2016

PREVIOUS RESEARCH

- Voters react in different ways to information that circulates during a campaign, depending on their own personal experience
Campbell, Green, and Monson (2012)
- Church attendance plays a role in individual voting preference, specifically in regards to the Republican presidential primary
Bradberry (2016)
- Individuals with a higher sense of religious affiliation are associated with lower survey response from 1984 – 2004
Sherkat (2007)
- As Evangelicals encounter secular society more, their support for Republican candidates increases
“now we see Evangelicals reacting to what they perceive as a hostile secular culture”
Campbell (2006)

PEW RESEARCH CENTER: JANUARY 2016 RELIGION AND POLITICS SURVEY

- N= 2,000 Respondents
- Conducted through phone calls to both cellular and land lines
- Calls took place from January 7th through the 14th of 2016
- Respondents were 18+ and living within the United States
- Questions covered variables associated with American politics and religion
- My focus dependent variable: (Q22)
 - “Regardless of who you currently support, I’d like to know what kind of president you think each of the following would be if elected in November 2016?”
- Range of (5) Great President – (1) Terrible President (After Recode)

MY HYPOTHESES

In a comparison of individuals, Donald Trump would garner more support from respondents who attended church frequently, wanted an Evangelical president, identified as Republican, and were older in age

Regression Analysis: Comparing Linear Regression on primary candidates Donald Trump, Ben Carson, and Ted Cruz using Candidate Greatness

Table 1

Independent Variables	Trump (Q22D)	Carson (Q22A)	Cruz (Q22I)
Respondent Wants Christian President	.022 (.733)	.182 (.001)**	.346 (.000)***
Believe that religion is losing influence in society?	-.030 (.727)	.019 (.801)	.100 (.170)
Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services?	.081 (.004)**	-.054 (.029)*	-.013 (.595)
What is your age?	.006 (.003)**	.001 (.730)	.000 (.937)
What is the highest level of school you have completed or the highest degree you have received?	-.055 (.024)*	-.064 (.002)**	-.011 (.608)
Last year, in 2015, what was your total family income from all sources, before taxes?	-.001 (.904)	-.015 (.345)	-.027 (.070)
Male	.228 (.003)**	-.069 (.302)	-.044 (.497)
Born again identity	.186 (.026)*	.225 (.002)**	-.037 (.598)
Republican identity	1.567 (.000)***	.817 (.000)***	.982 (.000)***
Constant	1.235	2.581	1.968
F	56.668	27.783	37.330
Adjusted R ²	.331	.208	.260

Note: Significance at < .05 *, Sig <.01 **, Sig <.001 ***

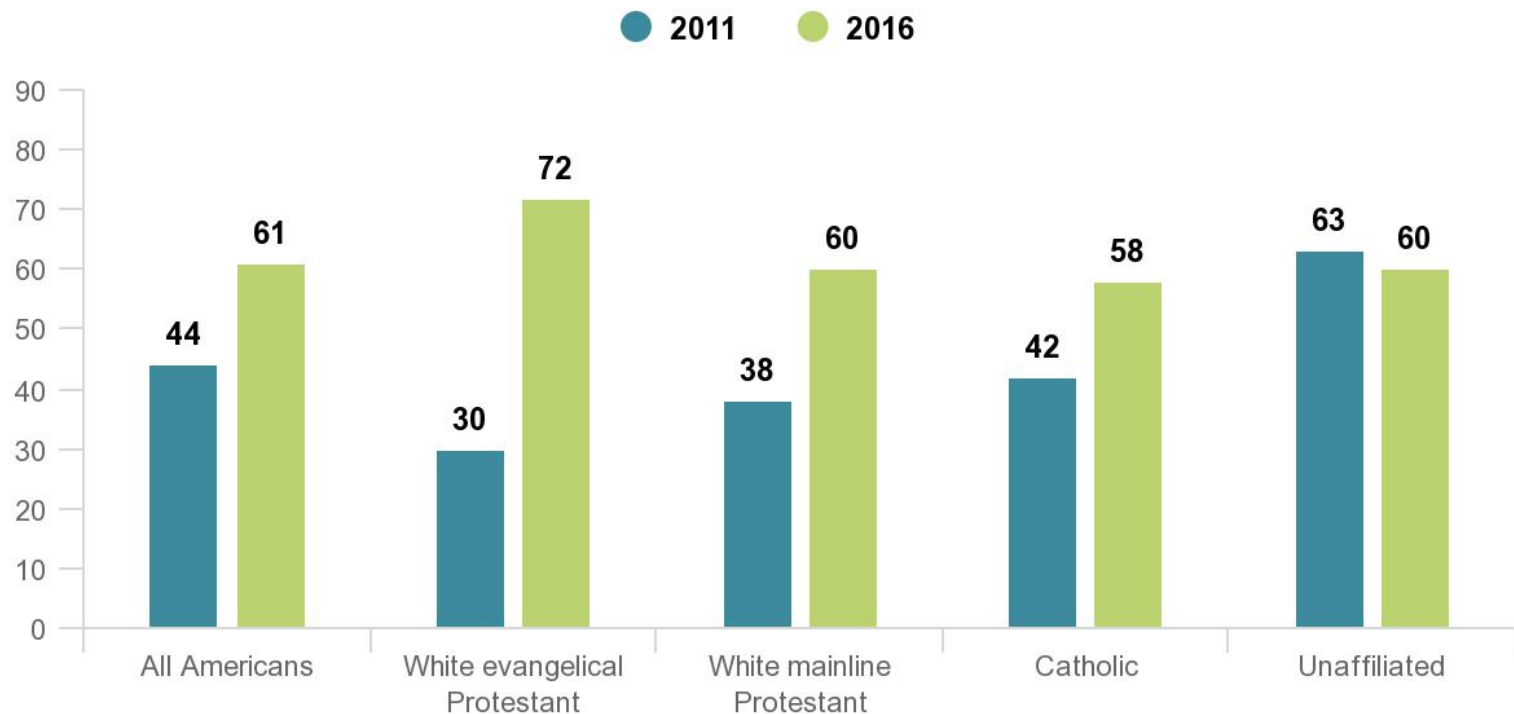
RESULT

Hypothesis: (Partially correct) While Trump showed opposite religious trends in variables with significance, age, sex, and party identity were strong determining factors in viewing Trump as potentially great

WHAT HAPPENED IN 2016?

White Evangelicals Grow More Accepting of Politicians' Personal Indiscretions

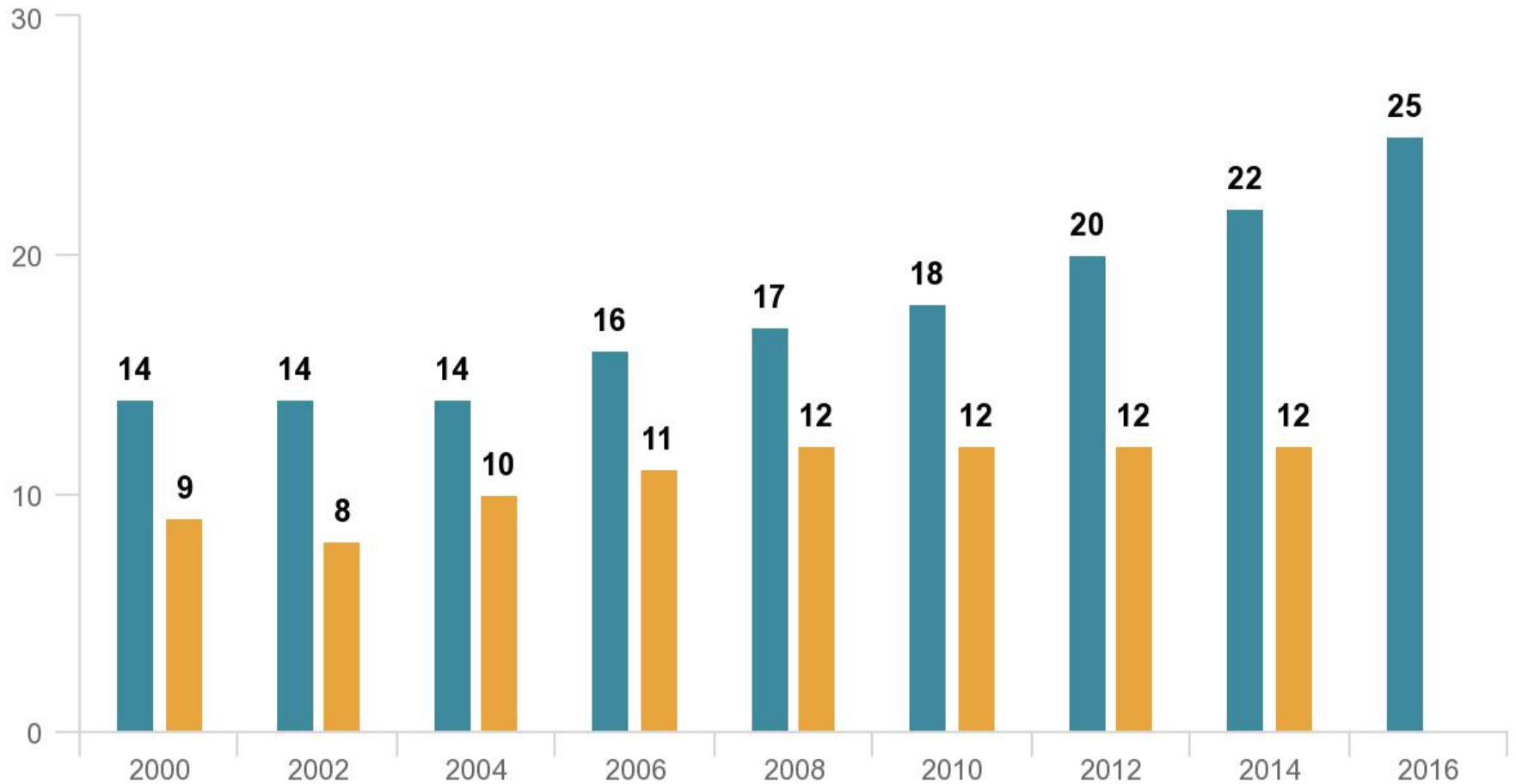
Percent who say an elected official who commits an immoral act in their personal life can still behave ethically and fulfill their duties in their public and professional life



Sources: PRRI/RNS June 2011 Survey; PRRI/Brookings October 2016 Survey.

Religiously Unaffiliated Americans: Growing but Not Voting

● Percent of adult population ● Percent of voting population



Sources: National Exit Polls, 2000-2014; General Social Survey 2000-2012; PRRI Surveys, 2014-2016.

CONCLUSION / FUTURE RESEARCH

It is my belief the Evangelical voters in the 2016 presidential election were not focused solely on the conflicted personal background of Donald Trump, but instead were reacting to an increasing pressure of past / pending secular legislation and the vacant SCOTUS seat.

- What role will Christian and Evangelical decline play in future electorates?
- Who are modern Evangelicals? Re-definition?
- What will the ANES 2016 data reveal?
- What will determine Evangelical support in future elections? Candidate Ideals? Pending Legislation? Supreme Court Vacancy?

Please feel free to ask any questions, and I will do my best to provide an answer

Thank you for attending!