



Institute *for* Social Policy *and* Understanding

American Muslim Poll: Politics, Priorities and Prejudice in 2016





**ISPU Twitter Handle and
Hashtag:
@TheISPU / #ISPUpoll**



American Muslim Poll Report Online: www.ispu.org/poll

Overview



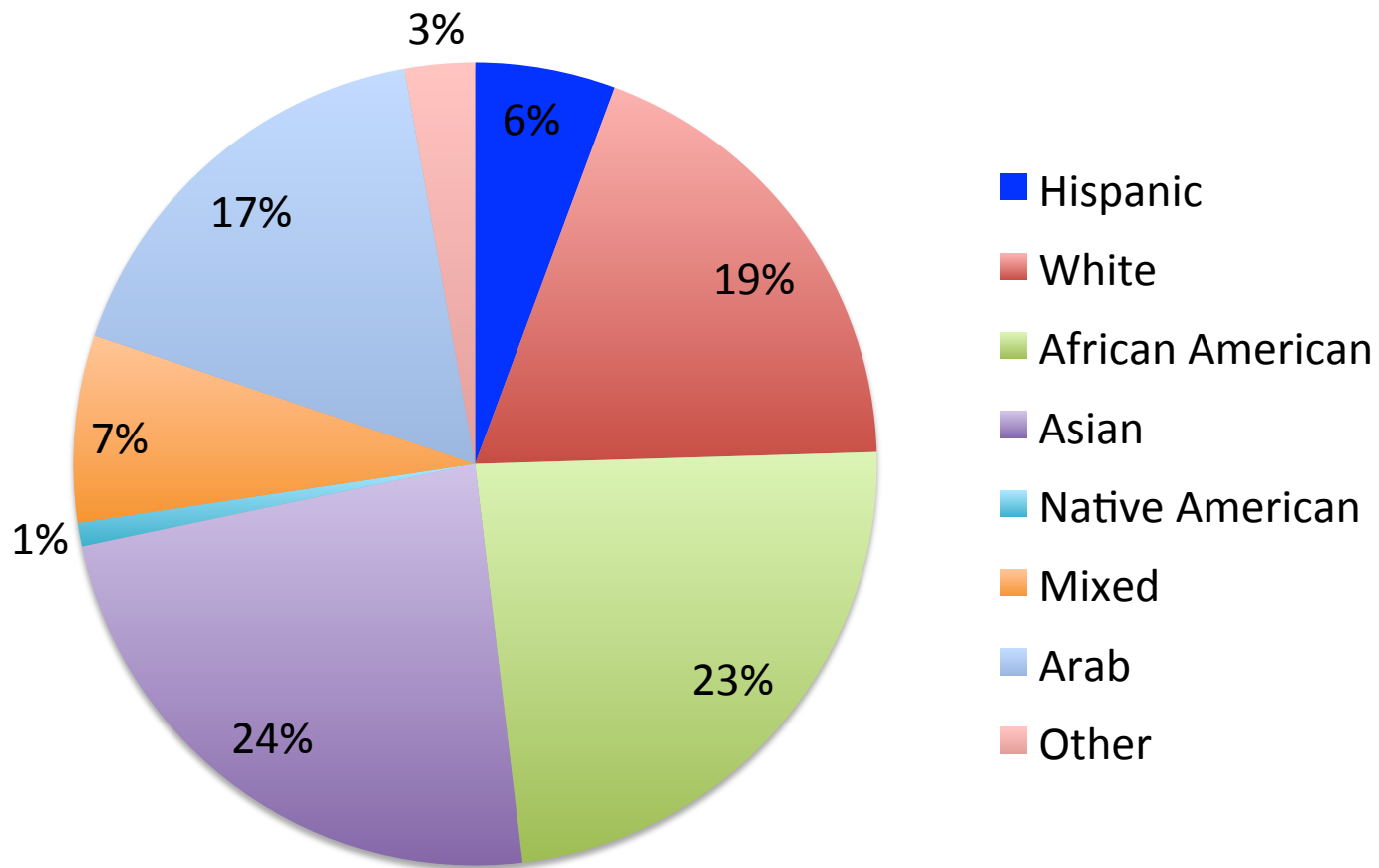
- Methodology
- Politics
- Religion
- Identity
- Violence

Methodology

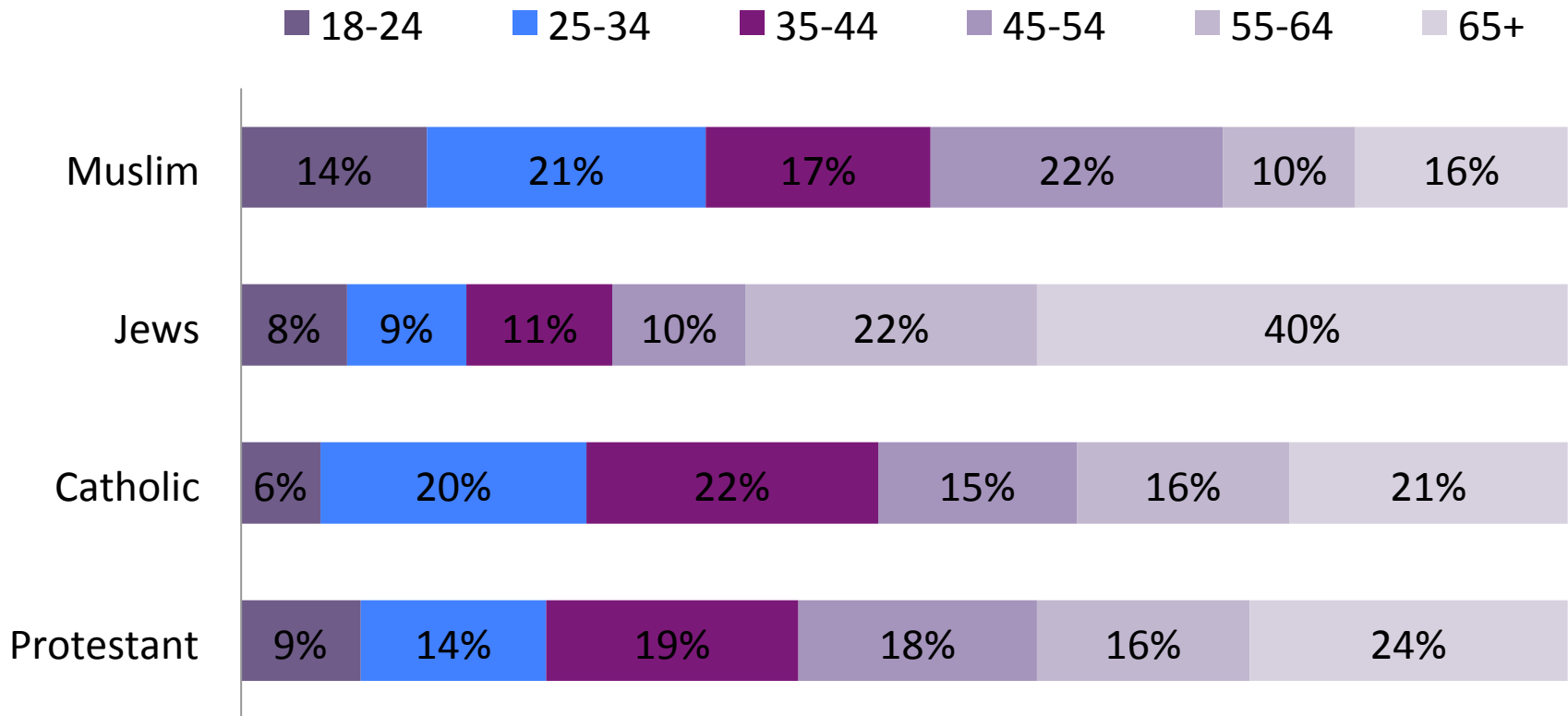


- David Dutwin, Chief Methodologist
- Nationally representative sample of
 - Muslims (550)
 - Jews (312)
 - Protestants (from general public sample of 1021)
 - Catholics (from general public sample of 1021)
- All given identical surveys
- Survey fielded January 18–30, 2016
- Detailed discussion of methodology available:
www.ispu.org/poll

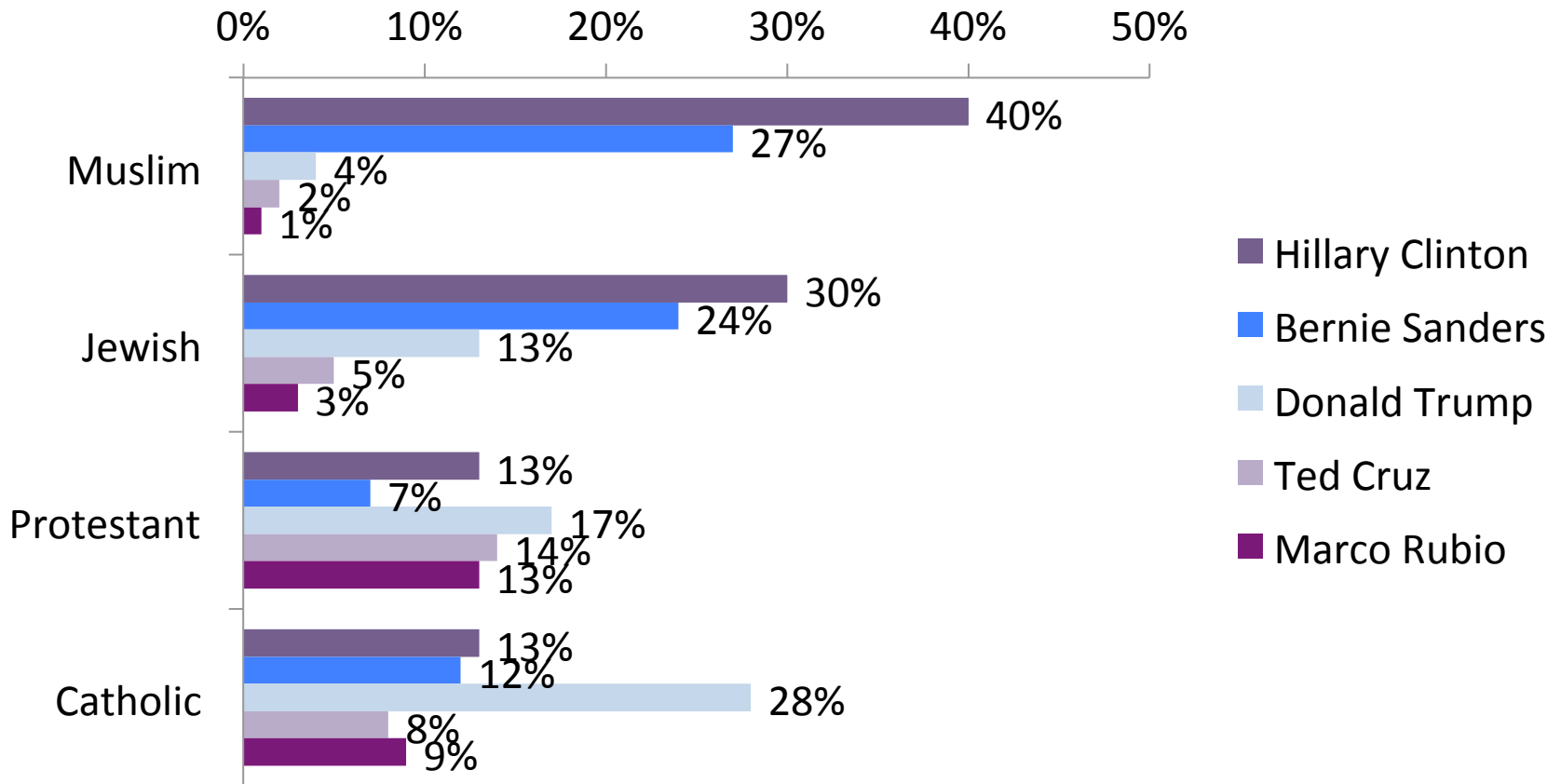
Muslims Are Most Ethnically Diverse Faith Community in America



Muslims Are the Youngest Faith Group

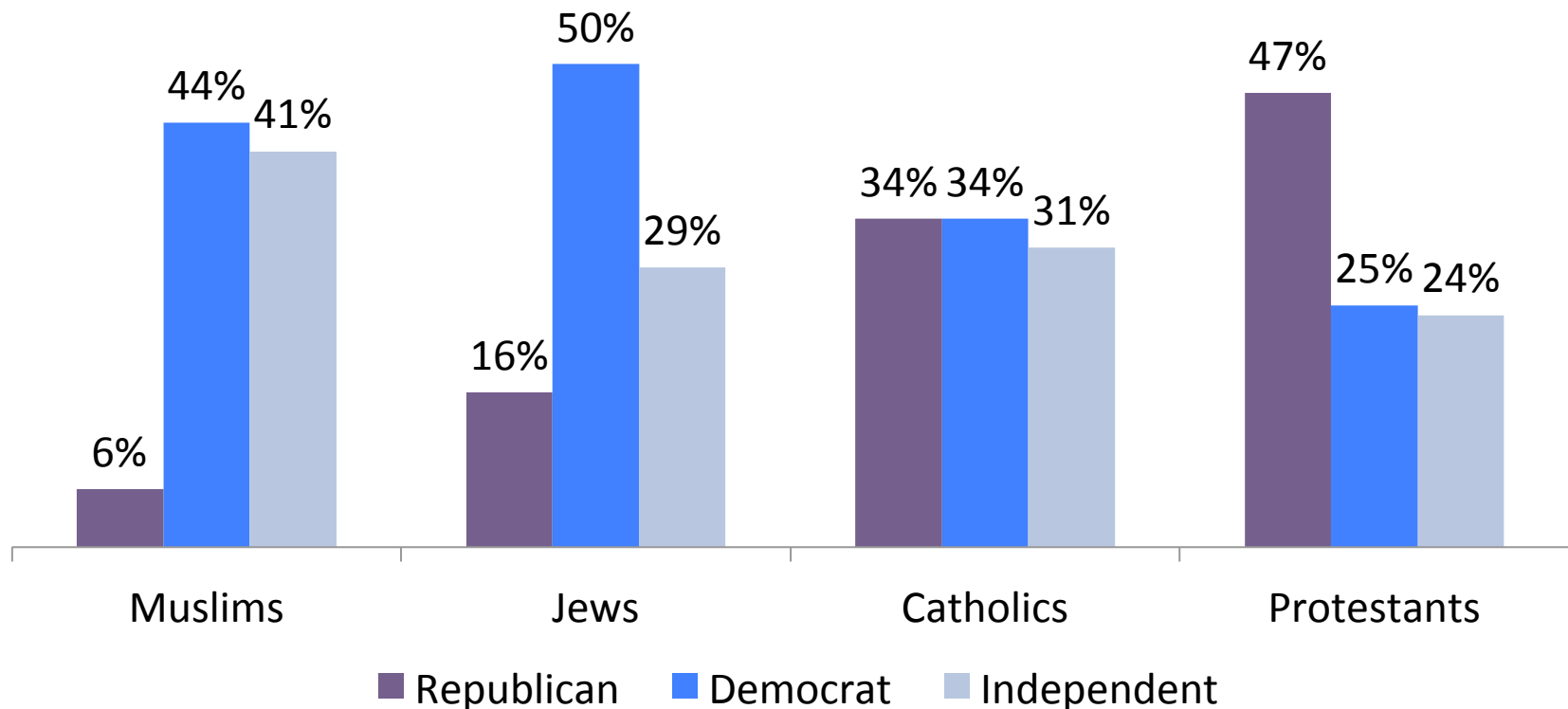
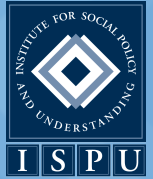


Muslims Favor Democrats



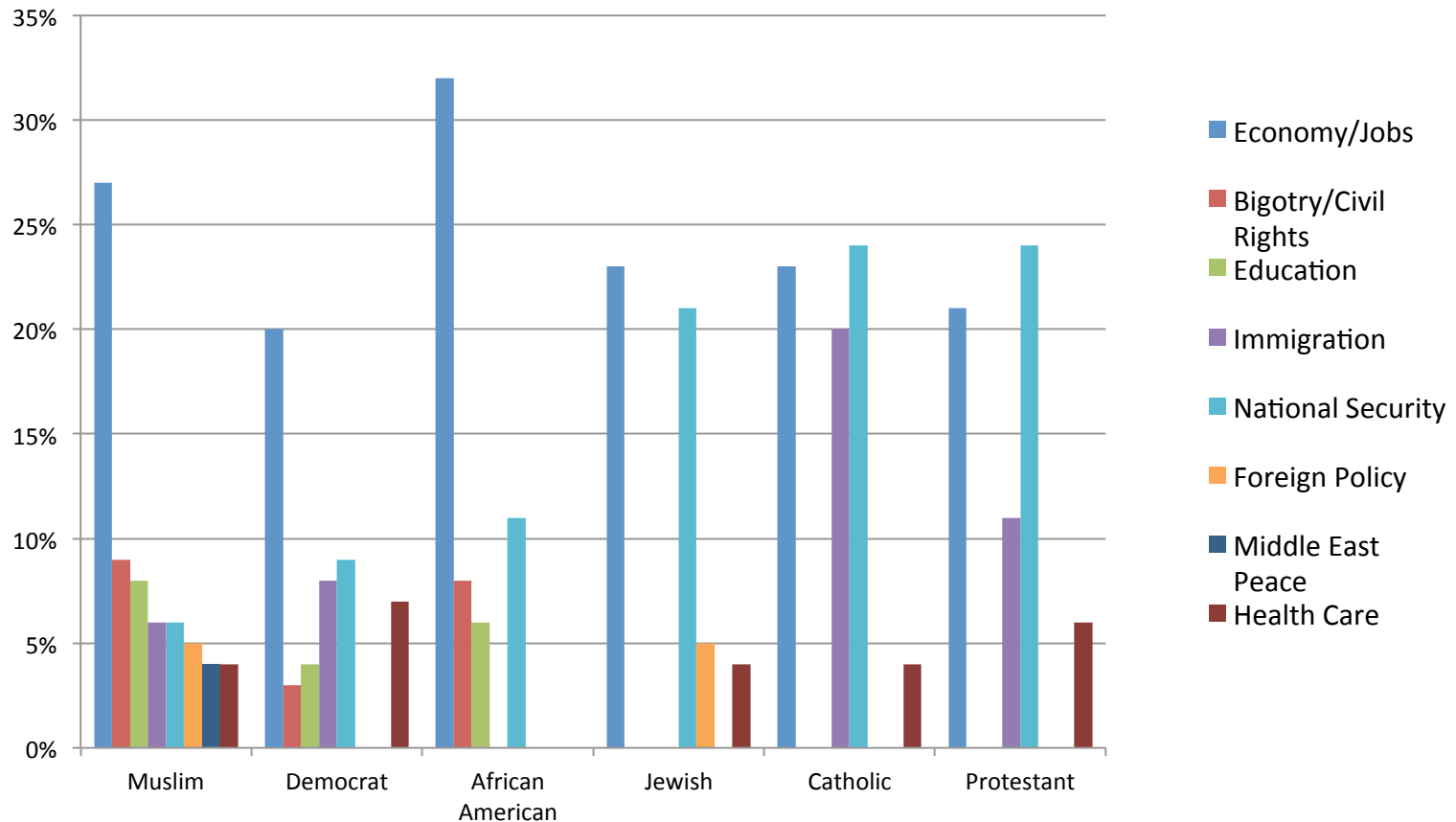
If the presidential election were held today, who would you want to win?

Muslims, Jews Most Likely to Identify as Democrat



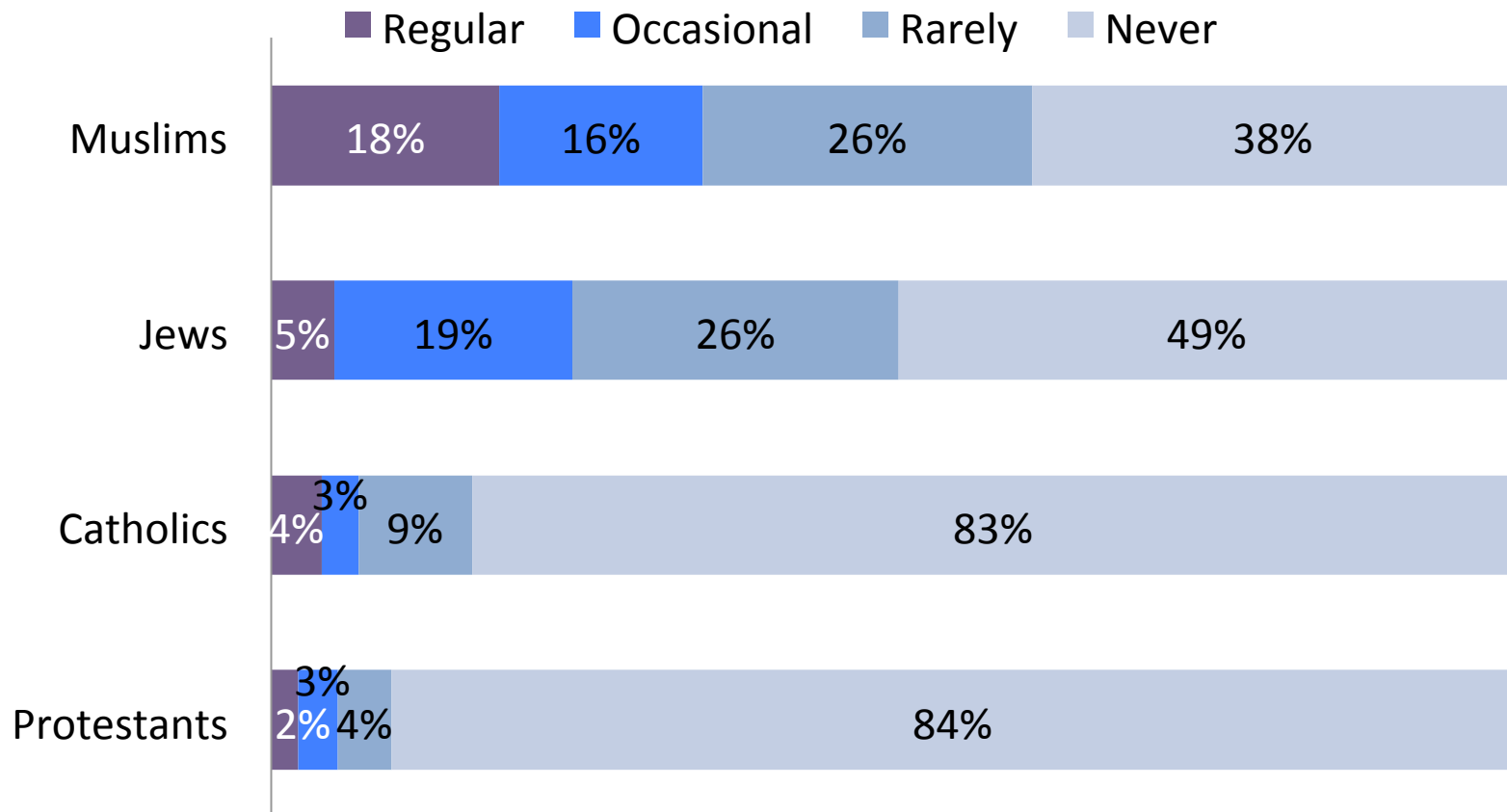
Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

Muslims Top Priorities Are Economy, Civil Rights, Education



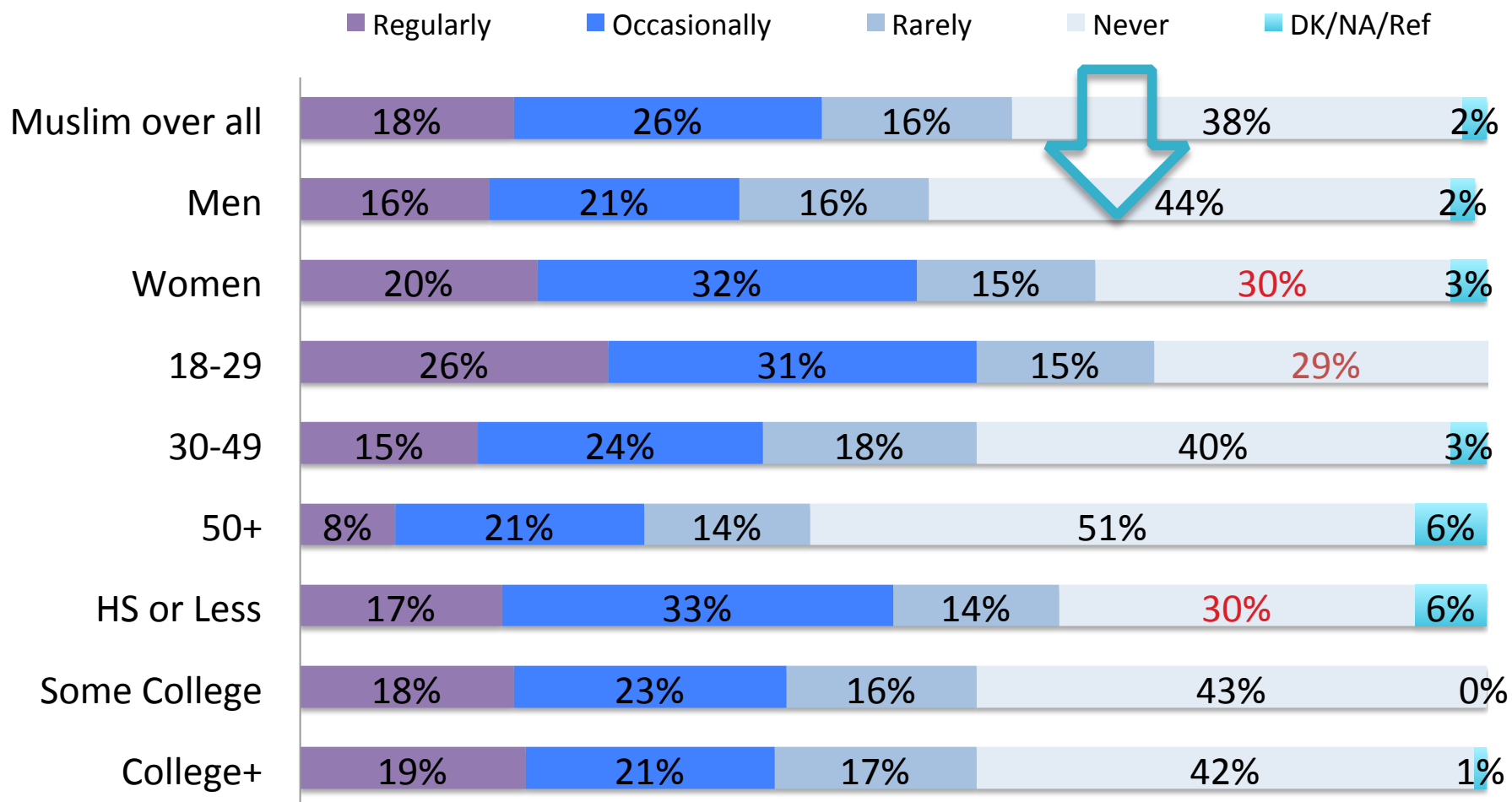
Whoever the next president is, what do you think is the most important issue he or she must address? (Open Ended, First response shown)

Muslims Report the Most Religious Discrimination

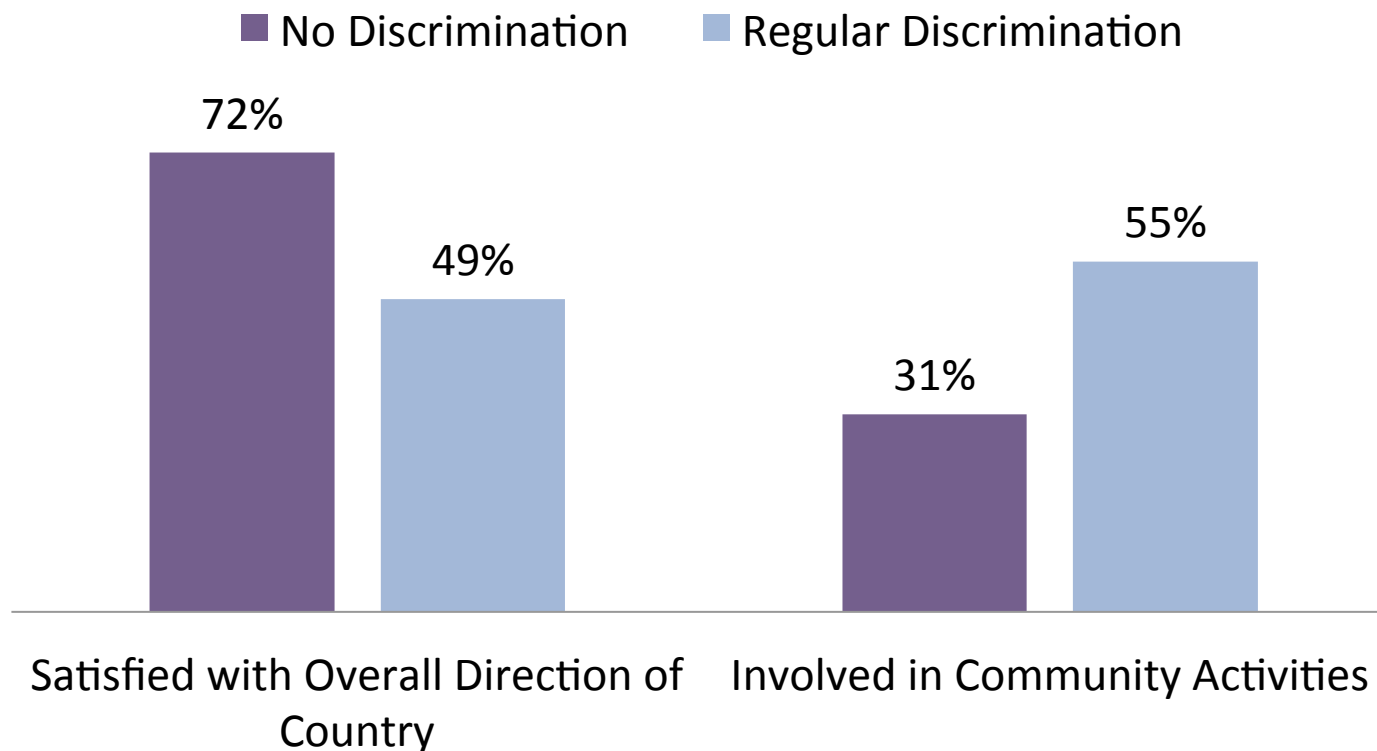


How often, if at all, have you experienced discrimination in the past year because of your religion?

Among Muslims: Women, Young People, Less Educated Report Most Discrimination

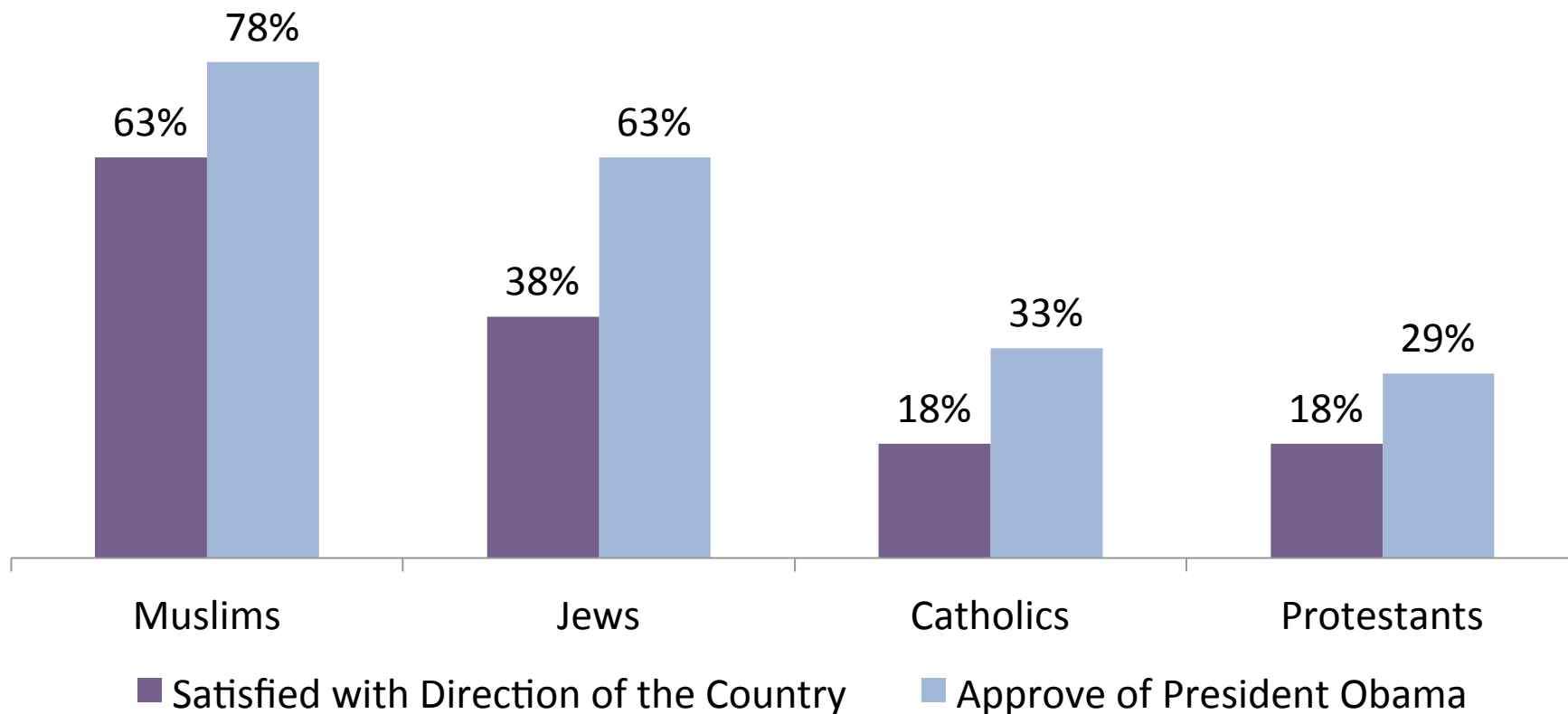


Muslims Reporting Religious Discrimination Less Optimistic, More Engaged in Community



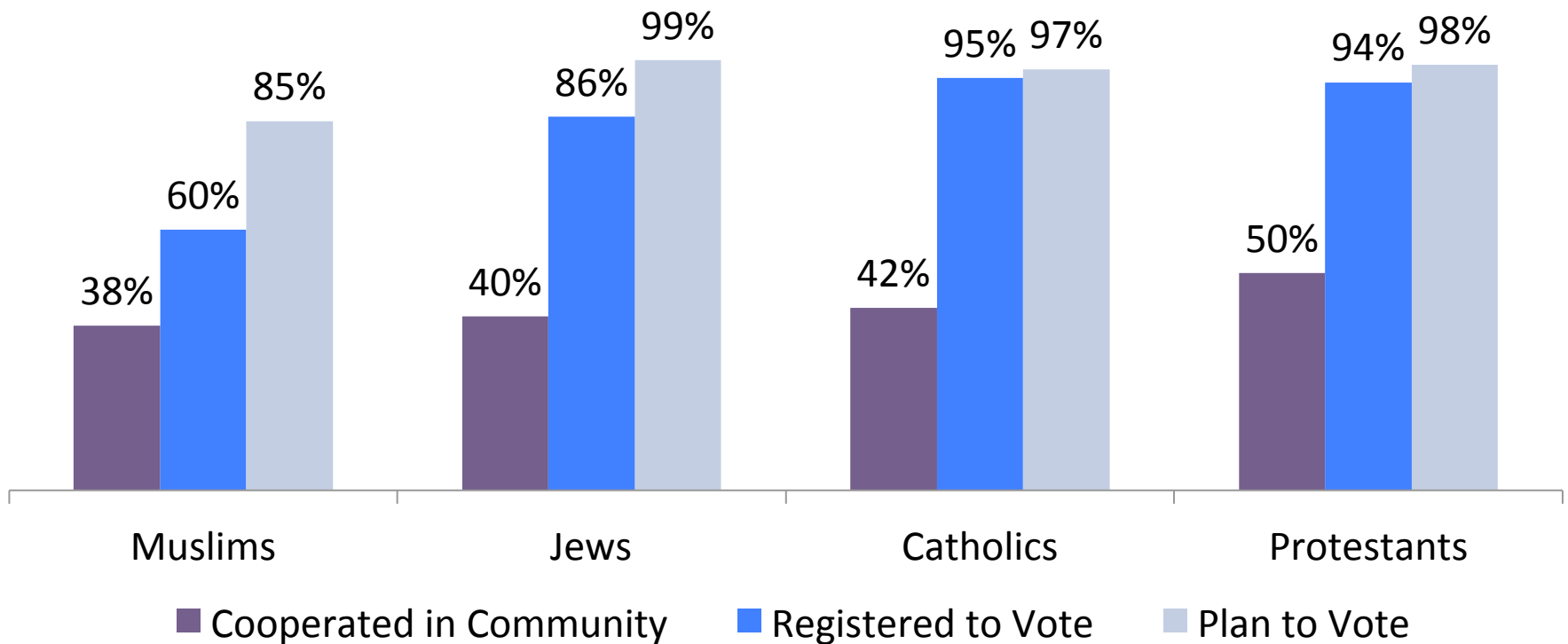
How often, if at all, have you experienced discrimination in the past year because of your religion? Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today? (% Satisfied shown) In the past 12 months, have you worked with other people from your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community or elsewhere? (% Yes shown)

Muslims Most Satisfied with Direction of Country, President Obama



Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president? (% Approve shown), Overall, are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in this country today? (% Satisfied shown)

Muslims Equally Engaged in Community, Less Politically



In the past 12 months, have you worked with other people from your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community or elsewhere? (% Yes shown)
[Asked only of those legally able to vote]: Are you registered to vote at your present address or not? (% Yes shown), Do you plan to vote in the 2016 presidential election? (% Yes shown)

Why Muslims Vote



The top reasons Muslims mention for voting are:

- “Civic duty” (27 percent)
- “I want to make a difference” (22 percent)
- “I want to make sure a specific candidate is not elected (8 percent)
- “It is my right to vote/important right or freedom” (8 percent)

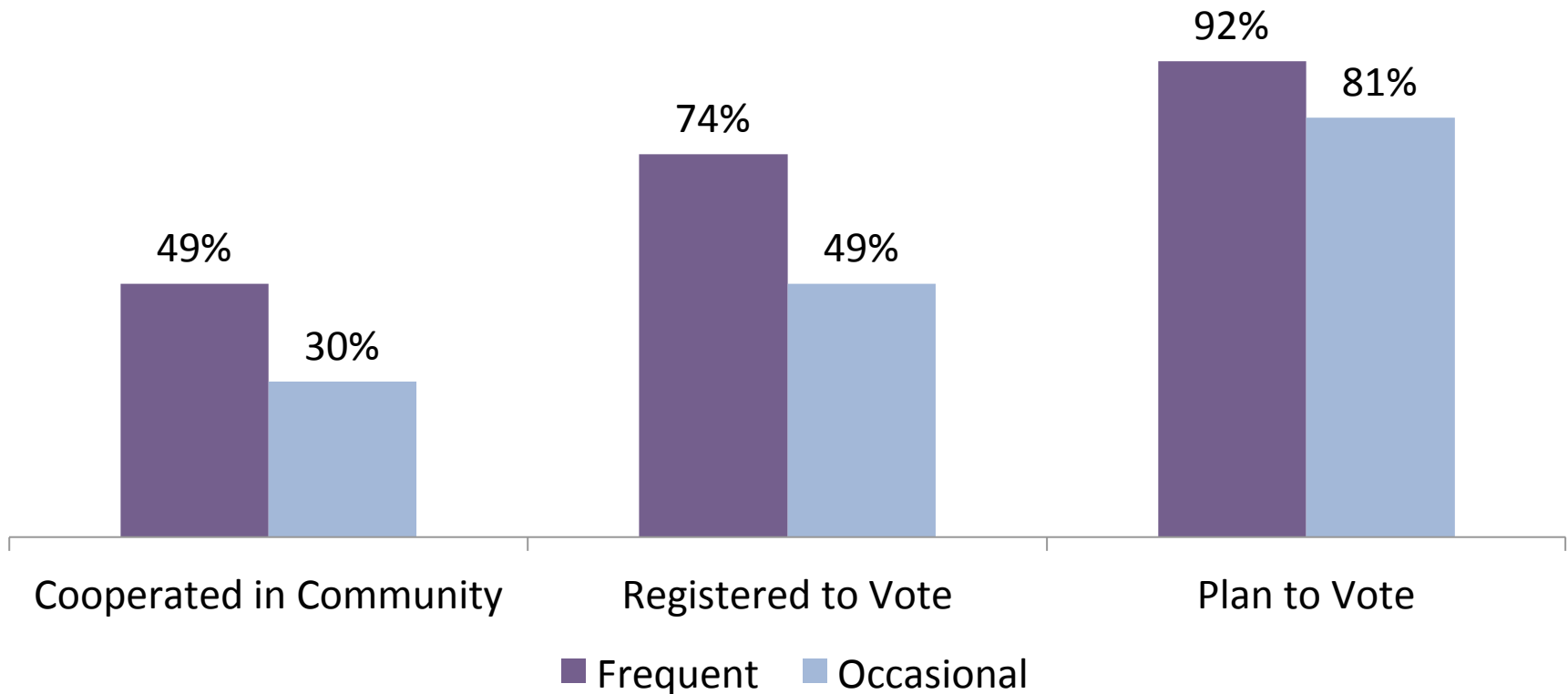
Why Muslims Don't Vote



The top reasons Muslims mention for *not* voting are:

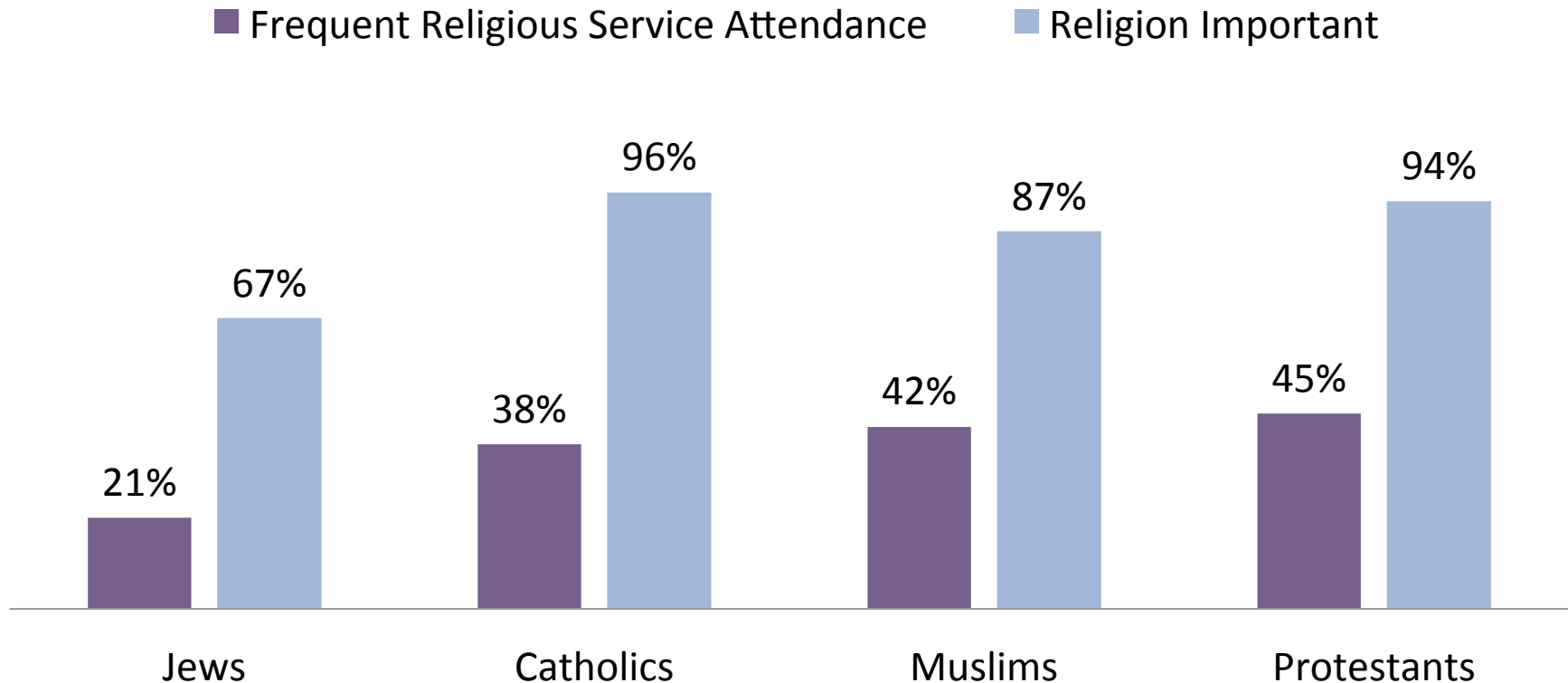
- “My vote doesn’t matter/count/won’t make a difference” (19 percent)
- “I don’t like any of the people running” (17 percent)
- “The issues I care about are not represented by any candidate” (10 percent)

Muslim Frequent Mosque Attendance Linked to Greater Civic Engagement



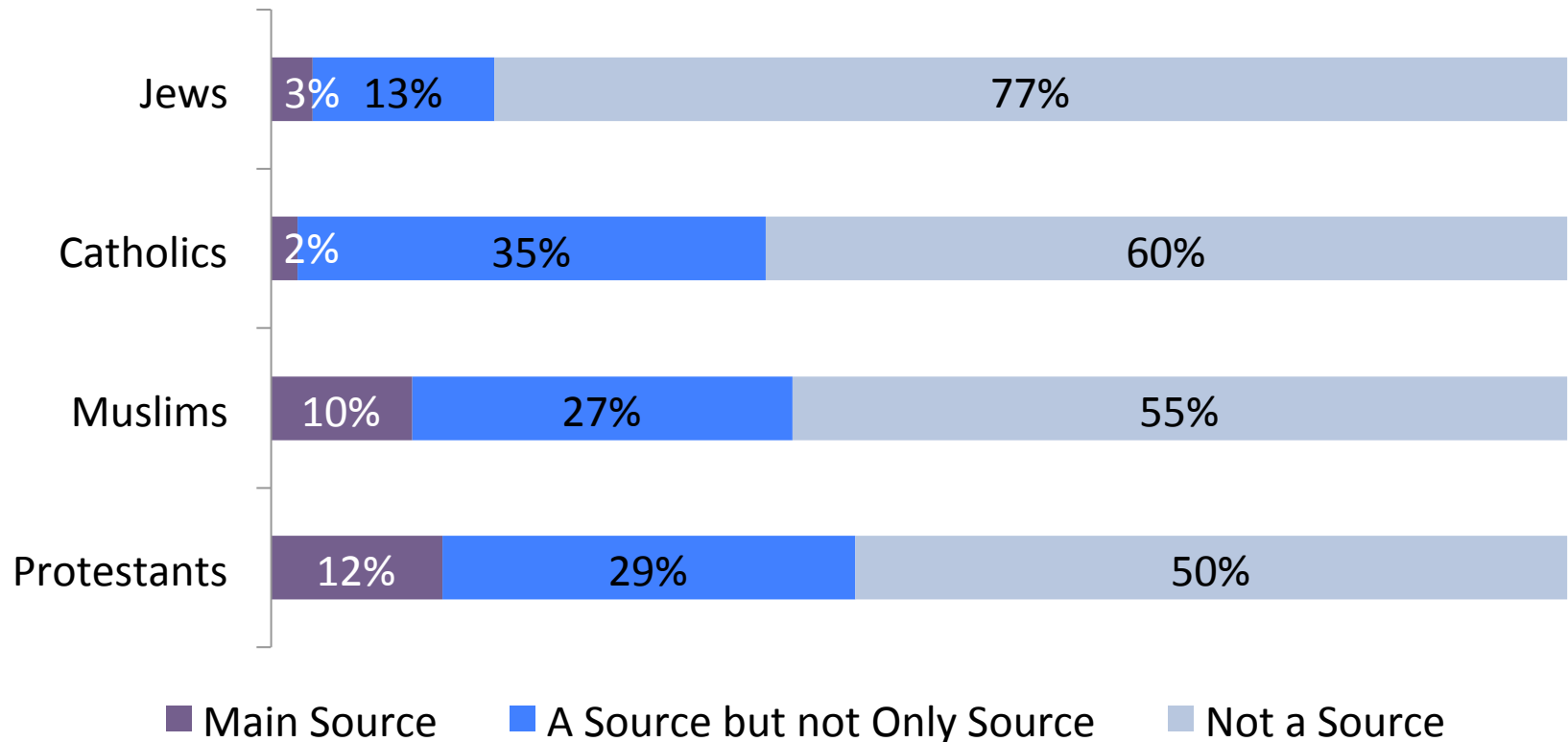
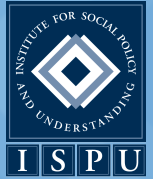
In the past 12 months, have you worked with other people from your neighborhood to fix a problem or improve a condition in your community or elsewhere? (% Yes shown) Are you registered to vote at your present address or not? (% Yes shown), Do you plan to vote in the 2016 presidential election? (% Yes shown)

Muslims Similar to Protestants in Religious Patterns



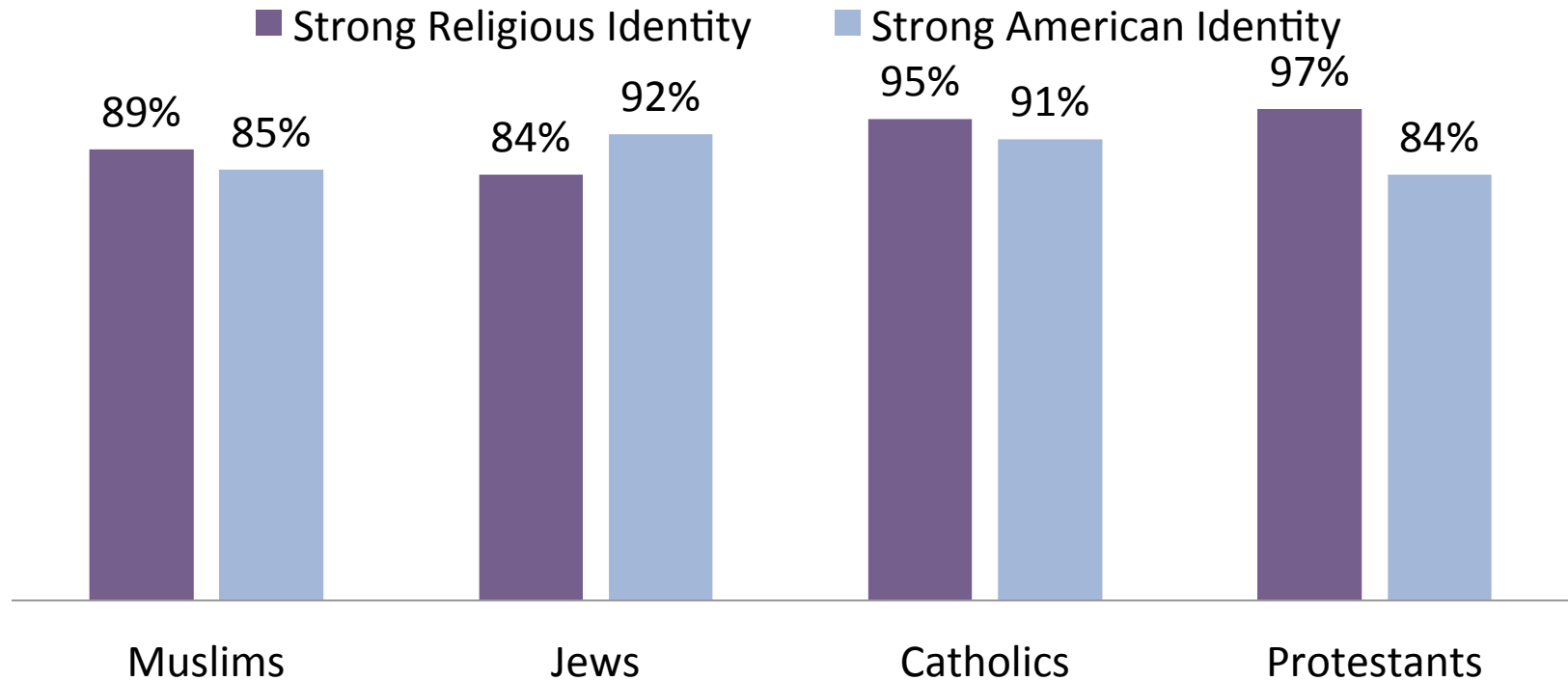
Aside from weddings and funerals how often do you attend religious services, more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never? (Total % of “more than once a week” and “once a week” shown) How important is religion to your daily life? (Total % of “Extremely Important” and “Somewhat Important” shown)

Protestants, Muslims Most Likely to Favor Role for Their Religion in Law



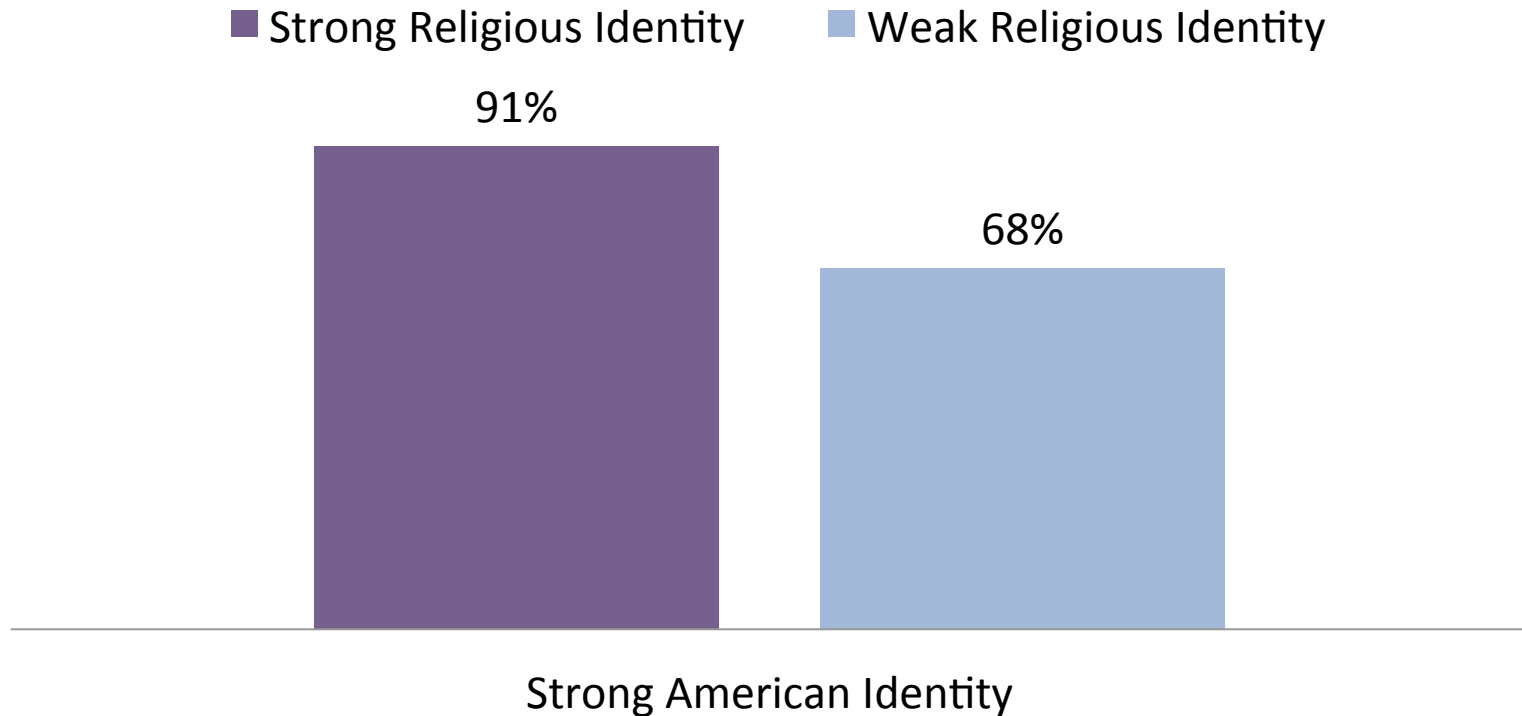
Which comes closest to your point of view, your religion should be the main source of American law, your religion should be a source of American law but not the only source, your religion should NOT be a source of American law

American Faith Groups Share Strong Religious and American Identities



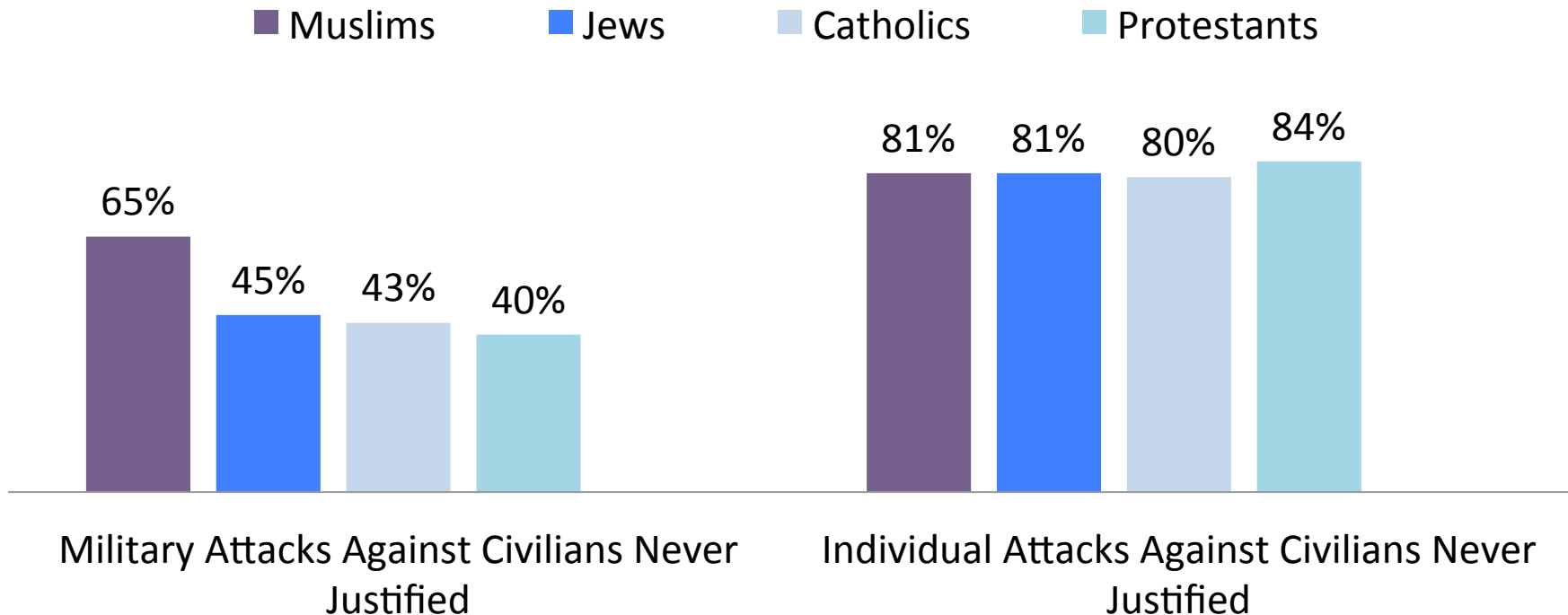
*How important is **being an American** to the way you think of yourself, is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all? (Total % of “Very important” and “Somewhat important” shown) How important is **your religion** to the way you think of yourself, is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all? (Total % of “Very important” and “Somewhat important” shown)*

Muslims with Strong Religious Identities Are More Likely to Have Strong American Identities



*How important is **being an American** to the way you think of yourself, is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all? (Total % of “Very” and “Somewhat important” vs. “Not Too” and “Not Important” shown) How important is **your religion** to the way you think of yourself, is it very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all? (Total % of “Very” and “Somewhat important” vs. “Not Too” and “Not Important” shown)*

Muslims Most Likely Faith Group to Reject Military Attacks on Civilians



Some people think that for the military to target and kill civilians is sometimes justified, while others think that this kind of violence is never justified. Which is your opinion? (never, sometimes, depends, don't know/refused).

Some people think that for an individual or a small group of people to target and kill civilians is sometimes justified, while others think that this kind of violence is never justified. Which is your opinion? (never, sometimes, depends, don't know/refused).

Key Findings



- Muslims lean Democratic
- Muslims engaged in community, less politically
- Muslims are pious and patriotic
- Muslims reject attacks on civilians
- Mosque attendance linked to civic engagement not radicalization
- Muslims weary of discrimination but optimistic

Companion Report & Resource

www.ispu.org/ame2016

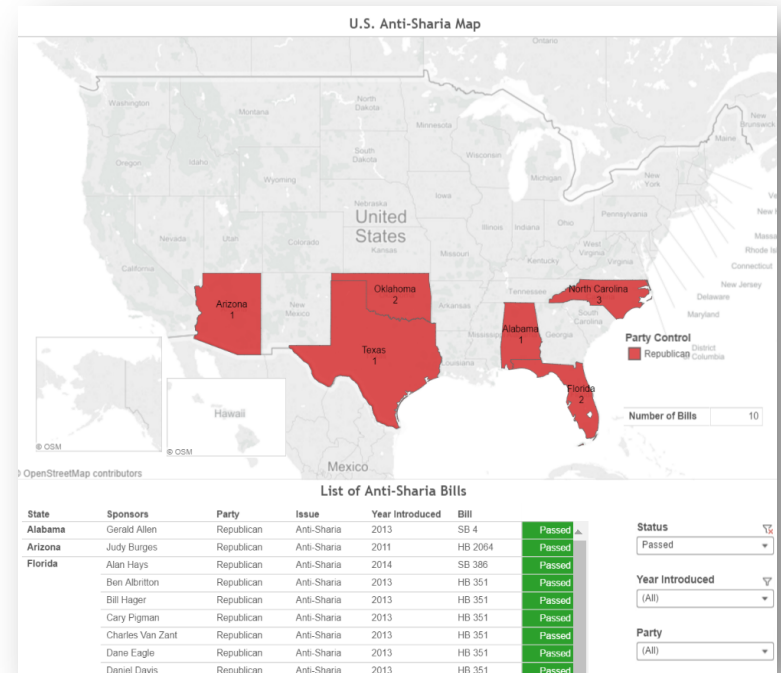
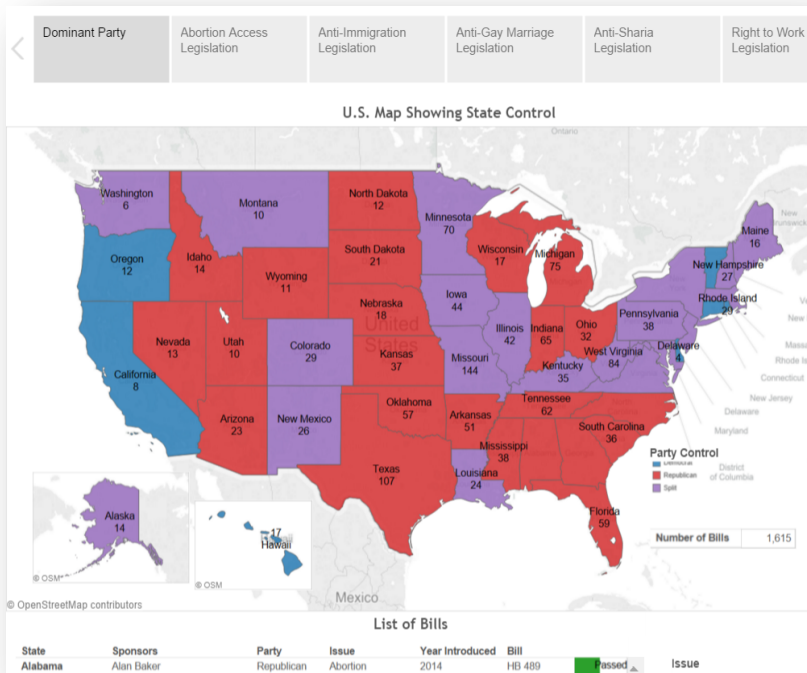


American Muslims in the 2016 Election and Beyond: *Principals and Strategies for Greater Political Engagement*



In the midst of a polarized and heated election season in 2016 in which Muslims are frequent subjects of national debate, the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU) set out to discover what American Muslims wanted for themselves.

Islamophobia 2050: Restrictive Measures Map



www.ispu.org/visualization



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Questions & Answers



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Take out your cellphones to join us on poll everywhere.

Text MJ16 to 22333 once to join.

Question #1



On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is Do Not Agree at all and 5 is Strongly Agree, please indicate how much you agree with the following statements:

1. The research presented is of high quality:

Do Not Agree at all				Strongly Agree:
1	2	3	4	5

- Text 1 to 22333 for Do not agree at all
- Text 2 to 22333
- Text 3 to 22333
- Text 4 to 22333
- Text 5 to 22333 for Strongly Agree

Question #2



On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is Do Not Agree at all and 5 is Strongly Agree, please indicate how much you agree with the following statements:

2. The research presented is relevant:

Do Not Agree at all				Strongly Agree:
1	2	3	4	5

- Text 1 to 22333 for Do not agree at all
- Text 2 to 22333
- Text 3 to 22333
- Text 4 to 22333
- Text 5 to 22333 for Strongly Agree