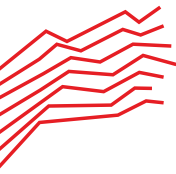




THE FIRST AMENDMENT

WHERE AMERICA STANDS

FREEDOM FORUM



A DIVIDED AMERICA STILL VALUES THE FIRST AMENDMENT

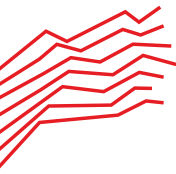
Americans' views of the First Amendment are as diverse and divided as the country itself, but it remains valued and vital for nearly all Americans, according to a recent Freedom Forum survey.

The First Amendment: Where America Stands surveyed more than 3,000 Americans across geographic, demographic and ideological lines in July and August 2020. Their answers to more than 200 questions provide a deep and detailed picture of how people agree and differ on the relevance today of the freedoms of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition guaranteed by the First Amendment. The landmark survey expands upon polls done by the Freedom Forum, an organization devoted to fostering First Amendment freedoms for all, since 1997. The research asked Americans not only about their knowledge of the First Amendment, but also about how their values inform their attitudes toward it.

Today's increasingly divided and digitally connected world tests the boundaries of the First Amendment and Americans' values in more urgent and complex ways than ever.

THE FIRST AMENDMENT

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.



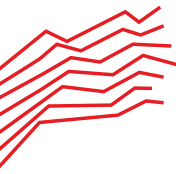
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At a time when vast numbers of people are using their First Amendment freedoms to express themselves and advocate for their vision of a “[more perfect union](#),” the survey found that basic awareness of the First Amendment has grown. But many Americans are conflicted about what those freedoms mean in practice.

94% OF AMERICANS CONSIDER THE FIRST AMENDMENT VITAL

Across generations, Americans overwhelmingly value the First Amendment as vital (94%). Most (54%) say it should never be changed and 63% would ratify it today — with millennials and baby boomers nearly matched in their support. Fifteen percent say its freedoms of protecting religion, speech, press, assembly and petition from government interference go too far.





TOP SURVEY FINDINGS



Religious Freedom

People are evenly divided over whether business owners should fulfill all customer requests, even those that violate their religious beliefs.



Free Speech

The best-known of the First Amendment freedoms is increasingly tested. More than a third (36%) of Americans say preventing hate speech is more important than preserving free speech.



A Free Press

58% of Americans say the news media should act as a watchdog on government, but this sentiment is eroding and only 14% trust journalists.



Peaceably Assemble

Even in a year when protests swept the nation and awareness of the freedom of assembly improved, most people (69%) have never participated in a protest, rally or march.

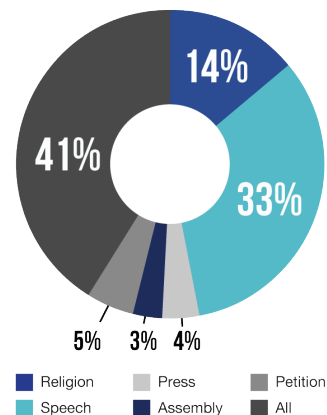


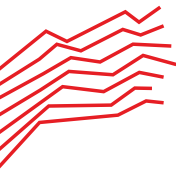
Right to Petition

Americans use their right to petition more than they might realize. Only 14% can name it as a First Amendment freedom, but 73% say they have signed a petition.

AMERICANS PRIORITIZE THE FIVE

All five First Amendment freedoms are equally essential, 41% of respondents said, but 59% named one as most vital. Speech is most essential to the largest proportion (33%), followed by religion (14%), petition (5%), press (4%) and assembly (3%).





SPEECH

Support for free speech – the best-known of the five First Amendment freedoms – faces increasingly complex and urgent tests. Many revolve around hostile or hateful expression and if or how it should be moderated.

More than three-quarters (78%) of Americans can name speech as a First Amendment freedom unprompted. Almost all (93%) can identify it from a list. When asked which of the five freedoms of the First Amendment they consider most essential, 33% named freedom of speech. All five are equally essential, said 41%.

HATE SPEECH: PREVENT OR PRESERVE?

Most Americans (57%) know that the First Amendment protects hate speech, but they are divided on whether it should.

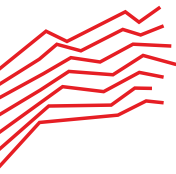
- More than a third (36%) say preventing hate speech is more important than preserving free speech; 35% would prioritize free speech, and 28% were neutral.
- When asked about hate speech, 39% of respondents said people should be able to say what they really think while 24% say hate speech should be outlawed. Thirty-seven percent didn't lean strongly either way.

SIGN OF THE DIVISIVE TIMES?

More than four in 10 people (45%) say they have, at least once, not expressed an opinion for fear of punishment. Nearly half (49%) have never shared a political opinion on social media. Younger Americans are more likely to say they have self-censored. As for political correctness, 58% of people believe it goes too far in hampering free speech.

CAMPUS CONTROVERSY

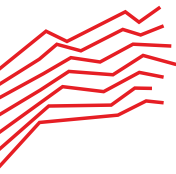
Most people (59%) think college campuses should foster a free expression of ideas, even if those ideas are offensive to some. But 36% of people think colleges and universities represent a threat to the First Amendment, perhaps a reflection of efforts by students, administrators and even lawmakers to curtail speech that represents controversial perspectives.



YOU DON'T SAY...

The First Amendment protects not only verbal speech, but many other types of expression.

- Just over half (53%) of Americans know the First Amendment protects flag burning. Even more (69%) say to do so is wrong.
- Nearly half (48%) say professional athletes should stand for the national anthem. Only 34% correctly said professional athletes can be fired based on their political activity, because they work for private, not government, employers.
- Just over a third (37%) say there's nothing wrong with celebrities or others with strong opinions getting boycotted or "cancelled" for making controversial comments online or in public. Nearly three in 10 weren't sure.
- Support for humor is broad, with 65% of people agreeing that even boundary-pushing comedy should be protected speech.



RELIGION

Freedom of religion is known and valued nearly as much as freedom of speech, with 49% able to name it offhand and 73% able to identify it from a list. It is the First Amendment freedom 14% considered most valued.

Americans are divided over the role of religion in the public sphere. We see this most clearly in issues like the intersection between public accommodation and religious freedom and religion in public schools. Similarly, while most (86%) know that a religious test cannot be required to hold public office, significantly fewer (33%) understand that public officials may express personal beliefs while on duty. Public officials may not, though, use their office to advance or denigrate any religion.

IS THE CUSTOMER ALWAYS RIGHT?

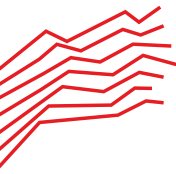
Americans are equally divided over whether business owners should fulfill all customer requests, even those that violate their religious beliefs: 37% say business owners should fulfill such requests; 37% say the owners should have discretion to choose. This divide converges with more than a decade of tensions between some people with deeply held religious beliefs and demands for equal treatment by LGBTQ+ advocates.

The Supreme Court and Congress also grapple with the balance between First Amendment rights and anti-discrimination law as seen in [Masterpiece Cakeshop](#) (public accommodation), [Fulton v. Philadelphia](#) (anti-discrimination), the Equality Act and the Fairness for All Act.

TEACHING RELIGION IN SCHOOLS

More than a third of Americans (39%) believe religion should be taught in public schools from an academic and constitutional perspective, but there may be different perspectives about what “academic” and “constitutional” teaching may look like in the classroom.

Under the First Amendment, public schools cannot favor one religion over another or belief over non-belief. [The Supreme Court has said](#) studying religion is an essential component of any public education. And, in an increasingly diverse democracy, educators and administrators have advocated for learning about various religions.

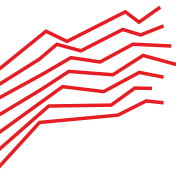


AMERICANS CONFLICTED OVER COVID RESTRICTIONS

Five months into the COVID-19 pandemic, most Americans (75%) did not believe that government mandates, such as social distancing, limiting meeting attendance or requiring face masks, were an infringement on First Amendment rights. Evangelical Christians were the most likely (38%) to consider such government restrictions an infringement on their First Amendment Rights while Jewish Americans were least likely (16%).

Since then, the Supreme Court has weakened governments' ability to enforce restrictions against houses of worship such as in religious freedom cases like [Tandon v. Newsom](#).

Despite deep disagreement about how religious freedom should look in practice today, it is clear religious freedom still plays a central role in Americans' conception of the First Amendment.

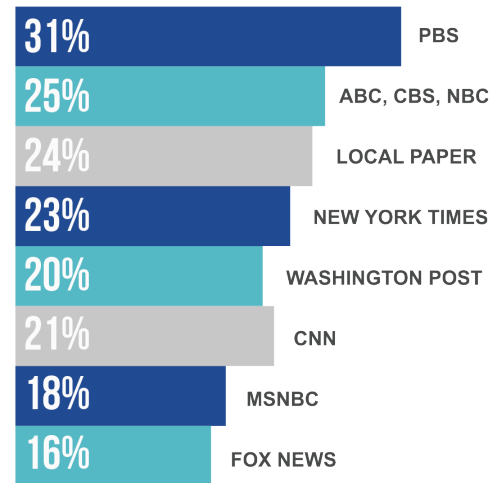


PRESS

More than half (58%) of Americans agree the news media should act as a watchdog on government. But Americans are [increasingly skeptical of journalism](#). Only 14% trust journalists and 41% say journalists are a threat to the First Amendment. Just 4% say press freedom is the First Amendment freedom they consider most essential.

MOST TRUSTED NEWS SOURCES

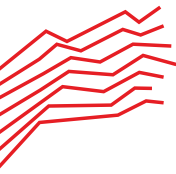
PBS ranked highest on the trust scale, with 31% of Americans identifying it as their most-trusted news source. ABC, CBS and NBC news followed with 25%, followed by local newspapers with 24%. National newspapers fared slightly worse than local newspapers, with The New York Times at 23% and The Washington Post at 20%. Trailing were the cable TV channels, with CNN at 21%, MSNBC at 18% and Fox News at 16%. Social media platforms ranked among the least trusted sources overall. Younger people, though, have greater trust in digital news sources, such as Reddit, BuzzFeed, Facebook and Instagram.



MEDIA BIAS AND THE POLITICAL DIVIDE

More Americans think media leans to the left (24%) rather than the right (10%), with Democrats more likely to say the press is neutral and Republicans more likely to assert bias toward one side or the other. Republicans have lower levels of trust in most media sources overall than Democrats do, though trust in digital and social media platforms is equally low. Overall, people think former President Barack Obama was treated more fairly by the press (45%) than former President Donald J. Trump (40%).

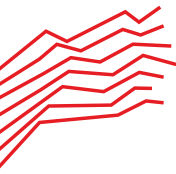
Thirty-eight percent seek out news with different perspectives than their own.



MISINFORMATION, DISINFORMATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Low levels of trust in media stem not only from perceptions of bias, but also from Americans' concerns about mis- and disinformation. Nearly three-quarters of Americans say they are troubled by potentially inaccurate or skewed media — and would limit press and speech to combat this.

- 74% think “fake news,” a broad term that has come to mean anything from disinformation to factual reporting perceived as flawed or biased, is a real problem.
- 72% would ban political ads with falsehoods.
- 69% think social media platforms should be responsible for content. Just 36% of Americans know that social media companies are not liable for content users post on their platforms.



ASSEMBLY

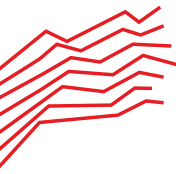
In a year when protests swept the nation, one First Amendment freedom was at the forefront of the national consciousness, but still lightly used by most Americans: the right to peaceably assemble.

Awareness of the right to assemble is [up significantly from past years](#), with 39% able to name it as a First Amendment right offhand and 65% to identify it from a list.

But even more Americans (69%) have never participated in a protest, rally or public march. Just 3% say it is the First Amendment freedom they value most.

The generation that self-identified as using their First Amendment freedom of assembly or protest the most? Millennials (38%) followed by Gen Z (31%). Nearly a quarter of Gen Zers (23%) and a fifth of millennials say they have protested within the last year.

One in four people felt that government restrictions on gatherings during the pandemic infringed on the First Amendment rights of assembly, speech and/or religion.



PETITION

Americans use their right to petition more than they might realize. Almost three-quarters (73%) have signed an online or in-person petition before, with members of Gen Z and Democrats most likely to have done so recently.

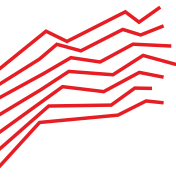
Many have also petitioned in other ways:

- 41% have volunteered with a local organization to move the needle on an issue of concern. Millennials are the most likely to have volunteered with a campaign or organization.
- 40% have contacted an elected official to change a law or policy position, with Gen Z least likely to have done so.
- 35% have spoken up at a government event such as a school board or town hall meeting.
- 24% have volunteered for a candidate's political campaign.

Voting is often considered the [ultimate expression of petition](#), and 17% of respondents mistakenly named the right to vote as a First Amendment freedom.

But only 14% could name petition, and just 5% of respondents say petition is the First Amendment freedom they value most.

More than four in 10 respondents overall could identify petition from a list—nearly as many have petitioned their elected officials.



FIRST AMENDMENT AWARENESS VS. APPLICATION

Americans' overall awareness of the First Amendment [has increased](#) over the last several years. But questions abound about its application and limits on the five freedoms it protects.

Americans have a good understanding of how the First Amendment protects from overt government interference but are less sure when it comes to questions of how the First Amendment can or cannot limit the actions of businesses, schools or individuals.

WHERE DOES THE FIRST AMENDMENT APPLY?

Public vs. Private Spheres

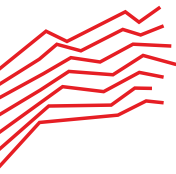
Most, but not all, Americans know that the First Amendment applies to federal, state and local government. Seven percent say it does not, with millennials and Gen Z most likely to answer incorrectly.

But there is less certainty about how the First Amendment does or does not apply in the private spheres where Americans spend most of their day-to-day lives: in non-government workplaces, at stores, in movie theaters and online.

Significantly, nearly three-quarters (74%) of respondents incorrectly said that private workplaces are held to the First Amendment. Private employers can limit employees' speech and protest; the First Amendment precludes government from doing so. What protections do exist come not from the First Amendment, but rather from contract provisions or federal or state labor law statutes.

This misconception may derive from recent high-profile examples in which athletes incorrectly raised First Amendment arguments when they were fired, disciplined or their contracts were not renewed based on their political activity. Only 34% correctly said professional athletes, who are private employees, could be fired.

What about outside the workplace? Nearly one-third (32%) of respondents incorrectly said talking loudly in a crowded movie theater is a form of free speech protected by the First Amendment. But consequences imposed by a theater for disrupting a movie do not violate the First Amendment because it is a private business – not the government – imposing the consequence for the disruption.



In one of today's most contentious arenas, the public is divided as to whether private businesses can refuse service to a customer if they disagree with the customer's speech or beliefs. About half (54%) say that businesses have the right to refuse service to customers with whose activities or beliefs they disagree. This is true at the federal level unless the refusal is based on the customer's race, color, religion, national origin or disability as protected by federal statutes and under various state or local laws, some of which expand the list of protected categories beyond federal laws. Businesses and corporations also have First Amendment rights, though the extent of those rights continues to be refined, particularly in the area of religious freedom.

A majority (83%) know businesses are free to decide whether they will recognize religious holidays.

WHEN AND WHERE CAN THE GOVERNMENT LIMIT FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS?

First Amendment rights are not unlimited in the public square.

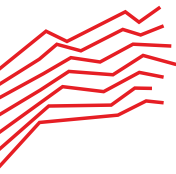
Public Schools

Public schools, as an arm of government, are held to the First Amendment, but courts have also said that students' First Amendment rights can be limited for education-related purposes.

Three in four respondents know, for example, that public schools may impose dress codes. But a slight majority (56%) incorrectly say students can be required to recite the pledge of allegiance at school. This is another question [courts have weighed in several cases](#), but the Supreme Court has upheld the fundamental principle that schools cannot force recitation of the pledge.

Nearly three-quarters of respondents stated that high school students have a right to protest on public school grounds. Courts have said students do not have an absolute right to protest. Administrators may not punish protests based on the content or viewpoints of the protesters, but may ban or punish protesters for disrupting the educational process or violating the rights of others.

Just over half (54%) answered correctly that public school administrators cannot cancel school-sponsored student events (such as a meeting of a student-run Bible club or discussion of the Quran) simply because they disagree with the group's views (or beliefs).



Universities

Americans have strong views on college students' right to protest speakers. More than eight in 10 say students can protest invited guest speakers with whom they disagree. But can students shout down or “de-platform” invited speakers altogether? Almost half (47%) said yes, with millennials most likely, at 52%, to say de-platforming is ok. Even First Amendment advocates are [divided on the issue](#); some say the students have a right to shout down speakers and others say speakers have a right to be heard.

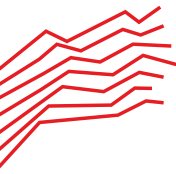
Public Service, Politics and Protest

A strong majority of Americans know religious belief cannot be a requirement to hold public office, but fewer are aware of the extent to which public officials can express personal belief.

More than eight in 10 Americans know that a religious test cannot be required to become a public office holder. The First Amendment's [establishment clause](#) means that government cannot favor one particular religion over any other belief or nonbelief. But what about public servants' right to freely exercise their beliefs? Two-thirds (67%) know that elected officials may reference their personal beliefs at work.

If government officials can express personal beliefs at work, what about communities of faith participating in politics? Just over three-quarters (76%) of respondents know that the First Amendment protects the rights of religious organizations to engage in political activity, with younger Americans most likely to know this. But religious organizations – along with other similar non-profit organizations – can lose certain tax deductions by endorsing or directly supporting a candidate.

Americans are unsure how far protest can go. While 69% of respondents say burning the American flag is wrong, fewer (53%) know that courts have ruled that flag burning is a protected form of speech. On the other hand, 74% know that government can limit protests that disrupt traffic for reasons of public safety.



Opinions, Offensive and Online Speech

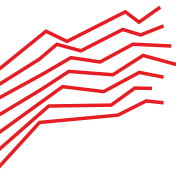
Seven in 10 Americans know that opinions can never be censored by the government. Slightly more, 74%, know that the government cannot ban offensive song lyrics. Just over half (57%) know hate speech is protected by the First Amendment. Just under half (42%) know the government cannot deny a group a permit to protest just because the group is engaged in hate speech (or for any other viewpoint).

People are increasingly distrustful of speech in the online world. From disinformation to extreme perspectives to hateful content, many perceive social media content as potentially disruptive or harmful. Americans are less aligned on where they believe legal responsibility falls.

More than seven in 10 (72%), including close to 80% of older generations, know the government cannot censor social media content to suppress protests.

Younger respondents were more likely to know that the government cannot restrict a person's right to express unpopular opinions using social media. Inflammatory online expression targeting certain groups cannot be censored by government, 61% overall understand.

But fewer than four in 10 (36%) respondents overall correctly identify that the First Amendment protects companies' moderation choices, with older generations more likely to know that social media platforms are not liable for the content users post on their platforms.



CONCLUSION

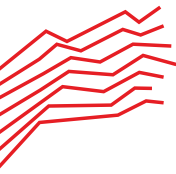
Overall awareness of the First Amendment and the five freedoms it protects is growing.

As First Amendment values are tested in today's politically polarized, social media-connected world, Americans are increasingly unsure of how they apply. But half of Americans are hopeful about the nation's future and three-quarters say we can all work together despite political differences.

Significant majorities of Americans across generations say the First Amendment is foundational to democracy:

- Ratified in 1791, the First Amendment set a standard for the world, and most Americans (78%) think all countries should enjoy similar freedoms.
- 68% say the First Amendment should never be changed, with 54% expressing this position strongly.
- 94% believe it is vital, both as codifying the principles on which our nation was founded and in offering a framework for Americans to express the full diversity of their views and opinions.

While Americans are fundamentally divided about what our First Amendment freedoms mean in today's world – to the extent that some people would limit them – it remains valued and vital.



METHODOLOGY

This report offers an overview of the publicly released Where America Stands survey results, which, along with proprietary results, will help guide the Freedom Forum's new and ongoing initiatives to help the public know, understand, value and defend our First Amendment freedoms.

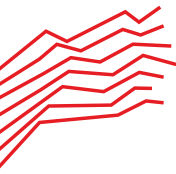
The Freedom Forum also conducted follow-up interviews with a select, representative group of survey respondents to further illustrate and amplify Americans' passionate and diverse First Amendment viewpoints.

The First Amendment: Where America Stands was designed and conducted for the Freedom Forum by McKee Wallwork + Co. (MWC), a marketing advisory firm, and Decision Analyst, a marketing research and analytical consulting firm. The study was developed using MWC's proprietary research methodology, IDEALS[®], which stands for "Interests, Desires, Emotions, Attitudes, and Lifestyles Segmentation."

The online survey was conducted between July 17 and August 6, 2020, collecting data and opinions from 3,006 respondents who were 16 or older and representative of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Potential respondents were randomly drawn from American Consumer Opinion[®], Decision Analyst's propriety panel of consumers, and from select partner panels. All respondents were able to complete the survey in either English or Spanish.

The overall margin of error for the survey sample is +/- 1.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Response percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.



FREEDOM FORUM

ABOUT THE FREEDOM FORUM

The Freedom Forum is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to fostering First Amendment freedoms for all. We raise awareness of First Amendment freedoms through education, advocacy and action, sharing the stories of people who have exercised their freedoms to ignite change.

ABOUT MCKEE WALLWORK + CO.

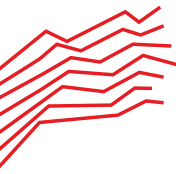
[McKee Wallwork + Co.](#) is a marketing advisory firm that specializes in generating new momentum for clients throughout North America. The company has twice been recognized by Advertising Age as Regional Small Agency of the Year and won the publication's 2015 National B2B Campaign of the Year award. Advertising Age has also twice recognized MWC as one of the nation's Best Places to Work.

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ABOUT DECISION ANALYST

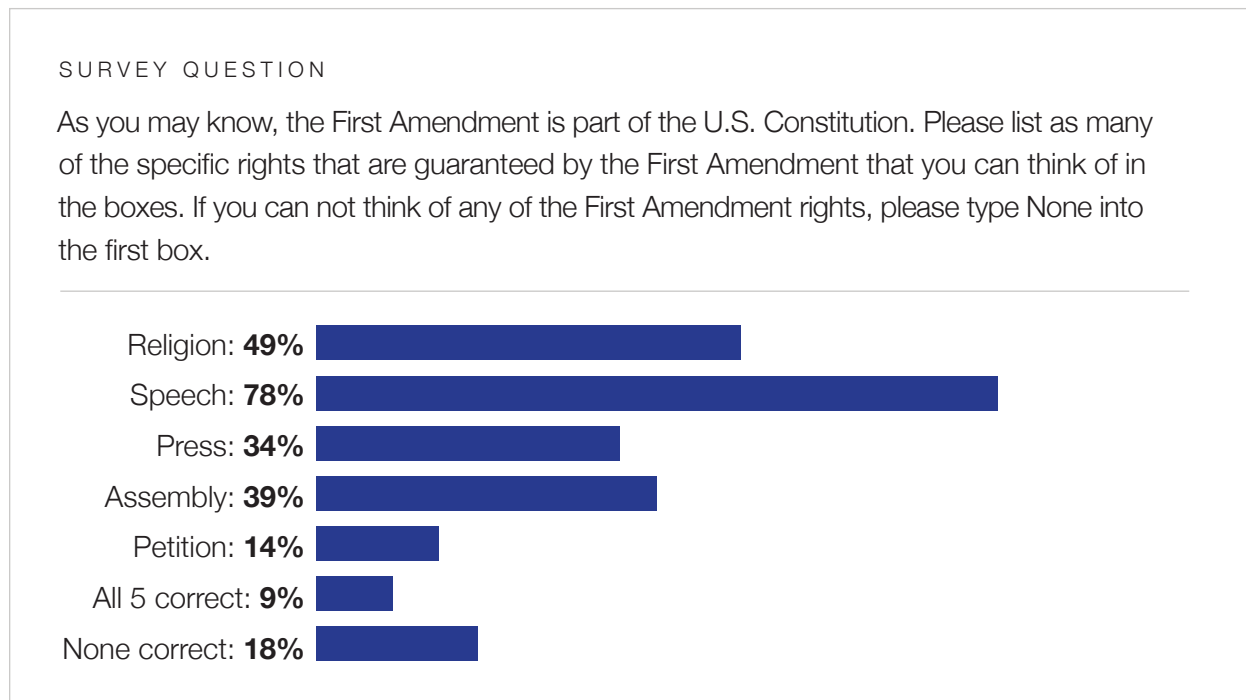
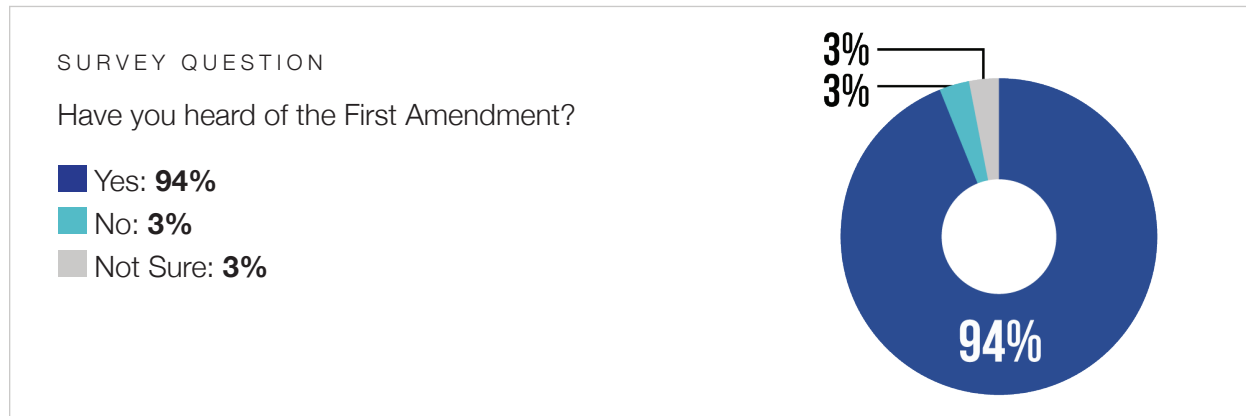
[Decision Analyst](#) is a global marketing research and analytical consulting firm specializing in strategy research, new product development, advertising testing, and advanced modeling for marketing decision optimization. For over 40 years, the firm has delivered competitive advantage to clients throughout the world in consumer-packaged goods, telecommunications, retail, technology, medical, and automotive industries.

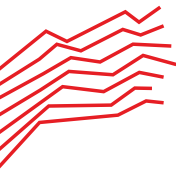


APPENDIX: SURVEY TOPLINE RESULTS

The following is a summary of topline results for select questions from the Where America Stands survey.

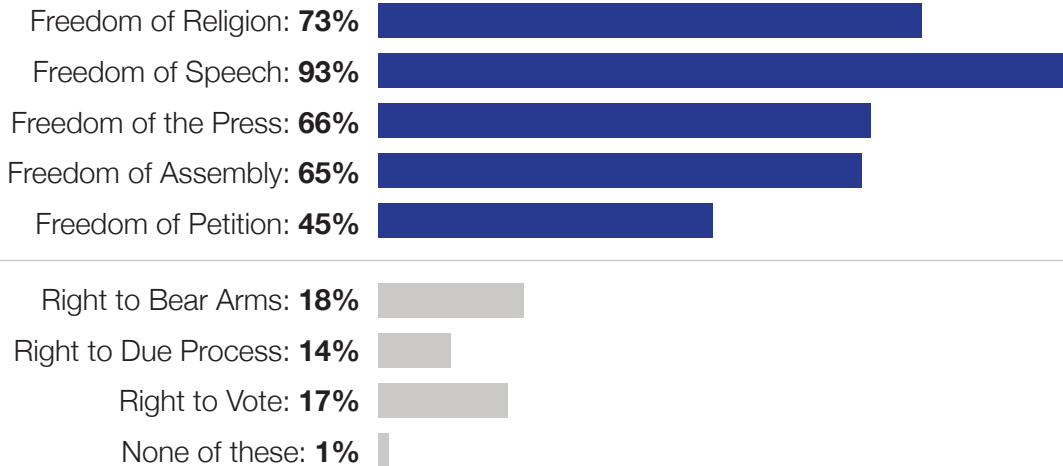
Response percentages may not total 100% due to rounding.





SURVEY QUESTION

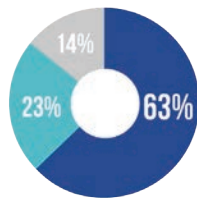
Which of the following rights are explicitly protected by the First Amendment?



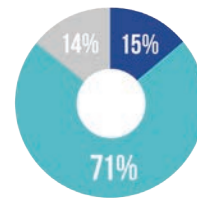
SURVEY QUESTION

The First Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution more than 225 years ago. This is what it says: “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements?



If it were up to me, I would vote to approve/ratify the First Amendment today



The First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees

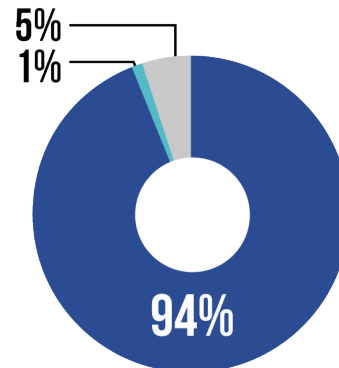




SURVEY QUESTION

How vital do you believe the First Amendment is to America?

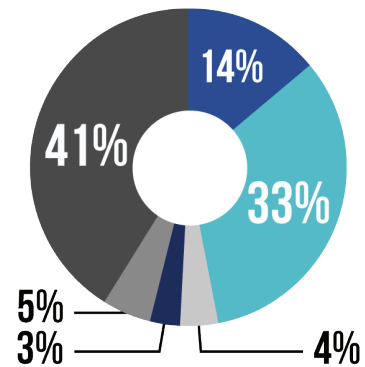
- Extremely vital or vital: **94%**
- Not very vital or not at all vital: **1%**
- Neither vital nor not vital: **5%**

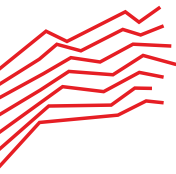


SURVEY QUESTION

Which of the five freedoms of the First Amendment do you consider most essential?

- Religion: **14%**
- Speech: **33%**
- Press: **4%**
- Assembly: **3%**
- Petition: **5%**
- All of the Above: **41%**

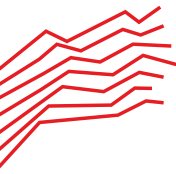




SURVEY QUESTION

Please indicate whether the following statements are true or false under the First Amendment

	TRUE	FALSE
The First Amendment does not apply to private workplaces	26%	74%
The First Amendment applies to all levels of government: Federal, state and local	93%	7%
Hate speech is protected by the First Amendment	57%	43%
College students have the right to protest invited guest speakers whose political message differs from their own personal views	82%	18%
People have the right to express unpopular opinions with inflammatory speech on Facebook, even if they target certain groups or types of people	61%	39%
Public schools have the right to impose a dress code on students	75%	25%
Businesses have the right to determine whether or not they will celebrate or publicly recognize religious holidays	83%	17%
Opinions can never be censored by the government	71%	29%
No religious test can be required as a qualification to hold office in the United States	86%	14%
Elected officials may reference religious ideals and their personal religious beliefs while operating in their official capacity	67%	33%
The First Amendment protects the rights of religious organizations to participate in political activities	76%	24%
The First Amendment protects the burning of the American flag	53%	47%
The government can ban offensive song lyrics	26%	74%
Students can be required to recite the pledge of allegiance in public schools	44%	56%
The government has the legal power to deny protest permits to groups promoting hate speech	58%	42%
The government has the legal power to censor or block content on social media to suppress protests	28%	72%
Businesses have the right to refuse service to customers with whose activities or beliefs they disagree	54%	46%
College students have the right to shout down or “de-platform” invited guest speakers whose political message differs from their own personal views	47%	53%
High school students have a right to protest on public school grounds, even if the administration disagrees with the cause	73%	27%
Public school administrators can cancel school-sponsored student events if they disagree with the group’s views	46%	54%
Protesters have the right to disrupt traffic during a demonstration	26%	74%
Professional sports team owners have the right to terminate employment of athletes based on their political activity	34%	66%
Talking loudly in a crowded movie theater is a form of free speech protected by the First Amendment	32%	68%
Companies such as Facebook and YouTube are liable for the content on their platforms	64%	36%



SURVEY QUESTION

How much of a threat to the First Amendment is each of the below?

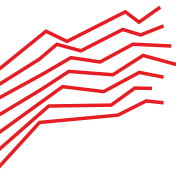
	A Significant Threat	Somewhat of a Threat	A Small Threat	No Threat at All	Don't know
Congress	22%	27%	18%	21%	11%
Big tech companies	23%	27%	20%	20%	10%
Law enforcement agencies	18%	24%	21%	26%	10%
The entertainment industry	18%	20%	20%	32%	10%
The President [Trump]	34%	16%	13%	27%	9%
Colleges and universities	17%	19%	21%	34%	10%
The Supreme Court	18%	22%	19%	30%	11%
Journalists	21%	21%	18%	32%	9%
Foreign countries or entities	23%	24%	17%	22%	13%

SURVEY QUESTION

Please indicate when was the last time, if ever, you have participated in each of the following activities:

	Never	At Some Point*
Joined a protest, public march or rally	69%	31%
Shared a political opinion on social media	49%	50%
Signed a petition online or in person	27%	73%
Volunteered for a candidate's political campaign	76%	24%
Contacted an elected official to change a law or policy position	60%	40%
Volunteered with a local organization to move the needle on an issue you care about	59%	41%
Wrote a letter or posted a comment in response to a news report or editorial	62%	38%
Shared your religious faith with someone	31%	69%
Spoken up at a school board meeting, town hall meeting or other government event	65%	35%

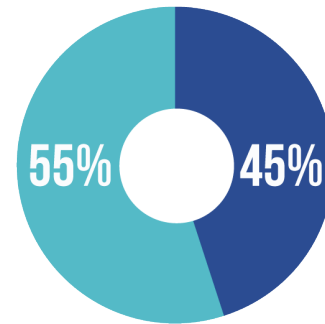
*Options: In the last 90 days, last year, 2-3 years ago, 4-5 years ago or longer than 5 years ago



SURVEY QUESTION

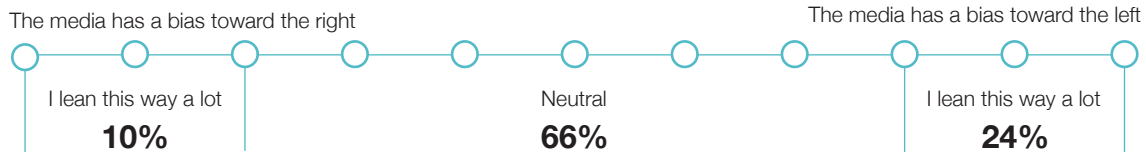
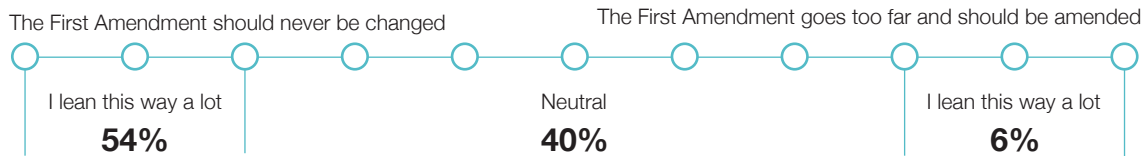
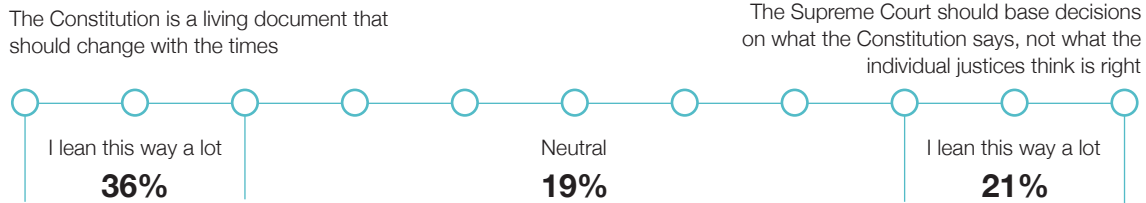
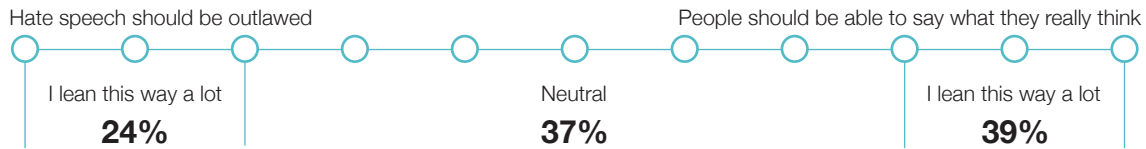
Have you ever not voiced an opinion because you feared in some way you would be punished or penalized for it?

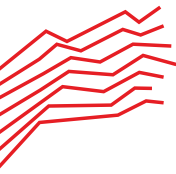
- Yes: **45%**
- No: **55%**



SURVEY QUESTION

For each pair below, please select the one which better describes you in terms of your beliefs and philosophy.

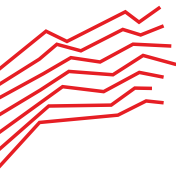




SURVEY QUESTION

How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements:

	Strongly Agree/ Agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Disagree/ Strongly Disagree
It's important for the news media to act as a watchdog on government	58%	25%	17%
President Obama was treated fairly by the news media	45%	30%	25%
President Trump has been treated fairly by the news media	40%	24%	36%
Professional athletes should stand for the national anthem	48%	31%	21%
Preventing hate speech is more important than preserving free speech	36%	28%	35%
Burning the American flag is wrong	69%	17%	14%
Religion should be taught in public schools from an academic and constitutional perspective	39%	29%	32%
Public schools should be required to ensure students are educated about the constitution	84%	13%	3%
College campuses should foster a free exchange of ideas, even if they are offensive to some	58%	27%	14%
Political ads that misrepresent the truth should be outlawed	72%	20%	8%
There's nothing wrong with celebrities or others with strong opinions getting boycotted, blacklisted or "cancelled" for making controversial comments online or in public	37%	29%	34%
Social media platforms should be held responsible for allowing false or misleading information to be posted	69%	18%	13%
Comedy should be protected as free speech, even if it pushes social boundaries	65%	24%	11%
Political correctness has gone too far in limiting the free flow of ideas and opinions	58%	26%	16%
Business owners should fulfill all customer requests, even those that violate their religious beliefs	37%	26%	37%
I intentionally seek out news on political and social issues from sources with views that differ from my own	38%	38%	24%
Fake news is a real problem	74%	13%	12%
People in every country should have the rights the First Amendment protects	78%	17%	5%
Government orders requiring social distancing, limiting meeting attendance or requiring face masks during a public health crisis are an infringement on First Amendment rights of assembly, speech and/or religion	25%	17%	58%

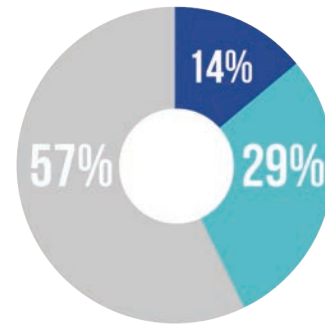


SURVEY QUESTION

How much do you trust each of the following occupations?

Journalists

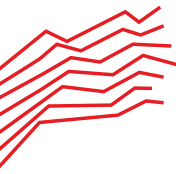
- Completely trust: **14%**
- Do not trust at all: **29%**
- Neutral: **57%**



SURVEY QUESTION

How much do you trust each of the following media sources?

	Do not trust at all (1-3)	Neutral (4-8)	Completely trust (9-11)	Don't know anything about them
PBS	16	48	31	5
Wall Street Journal	19	56	20	5
ABC/NBC/CBS	21	51	25	3
Local Newspaper	15	57	24	4
New York Times	25	47	23	5
CNN	29	46	21	4
NPR	23	46	21	10
Washington Post	25	49	20	6
MSNBC	29	48	18	5
Fox News	38	43	16	3
USA Today	21	59	15	5
Rush Limbaugh	46	37	10	7
Apple News	25	49	9	17
Twitter	42	44	8	6
Facebook	45	45	8	2
Buzzfeed	32	48	8	12
Instagram	37	46	8	9
Reddit	30	48	7	15
Vox	28	42	6	24



APPENDIX: RESOURCES

Speech

[Perspective: Students, Parents And Free Speech Win In Cheerleading Case](#)

[First Five Now: The Fight for Free Speech](#)

[First Five Express: Cancel Culture Can Chill Free Speech; It's Also Free Speech In Action](#)

[Is Your Speech Protected by The First Amendment?](#)

[A Roadmap to Free Speech](#)

[First Five Now: The Role of Free Speech in Bridging the Blue and Red Divide](#)

[‘More Speech, Not Enforced Silence’](#)

Religion

[Perspective: Supreme Court Case Goes Beyond LGBTQ+ Versus Catholic Rights](#)

[Faith And Belief Accommodation At Work: More Than The Right Thing To Do](#)

[Perspective: Tide May Be Turning Toward Religious Exemptions From Vaccine Mandates](#)

[First Five Express: Religious Freedom and LGBTQ Rights](#)

[Navigating Freedom in a Multi-Religious Democracy](#)

[Finding Common Ground: A First Amendment Guide to Religion and Public Schools](#)

Press

[Perspective: Celebrating World Press – And Our – Freedom Day](#)

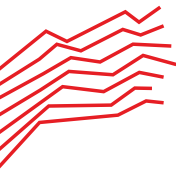
[You Can't Have Democracy Without A Free Press](#)

[Perspective: Assaults On Local Reporters Are A Slap In The Face Of Our Right To Know](#)

[5 Favorite Free-Press Passages](#)

[Perspective: Is the Supreme Court Still a Defender of Press Freedom?](#)

[First Five Now: What is Section 230 and Why Should I Care?](#)



APPENDIX: RESOURCES CONTINUED

Assembly

[Capitol Rioters Trampled On First Amendment Freedoms](#)

[Perspective: New State Anti-Protest Laws, If Upheld, Threaten To Mute Our First Amendment Freedoms](#)

[The First Amendment Right to Protest Has Limits](#)

Petition

[We Need To Get A Petition Going To Learn More About 'Petition'](#)

[Exploring the Freedoms of Assembly and Petition](#)

[You Have A Right To Speak, Assemble, Petition — So Now, Register To Vote](#)