

State of the First Amendment: 2013

Q.1 What would you say is the single most important freedom that Americans enjoy?

	Freedom of Speech	Freedom of Religion	Freedom of Choice	Right to Vote	Right to Bear Arms	Right to Life, Liberty and Pursuit of Happiness	Freedom of the Press
2013	47%	10%	7%	5%	5%	3%	1%

Q.2 As you may know, the First Amendment is part of the U.S. Constitution. Can you name any of the specific rights that are guaranteed by the First Amendment? (PROBE: Are there any other rights in the First Amendment? CONTINUE TO PROBE FOR ALL RIGHTS RESPONDENT CAN NAME)

	Freedom of the Press	Freedom of Speech	Freedom of Religion	Right to Petition	Right of Assembly	Can't Name Any
1997	11%	49%	2%	2%	10%	
1999	12%	44%	13%	2%	8%	
2000	12%	60%	16%	2%	9%	37%
2001	14%	59%	16%	1%	10%	36%
2002	14%	58%	18%	2%	10%	35%
2003	16%	63%	22%	2%	11%	37%
2004	15%	58%	17%	2%	10%	35%
2005	16%	63%	20%	3%	14%	29%
2006	13%	56%	17%	3%	11%	36%
2007	16%	63%	19%	3%	17%	29%
2008	15%	56%	15%	3%	14%	40%
2009	16%	55%	18%	4%	14%	39%
2010	18%	61%	23%	6%	14%	33%
2011	17%	62%	19%	3%	14%	30%
2012	13%	65%	28%	4%	13%	27%
2013	14%	59%	24%	4%	11%	36%

Q.3 The First Amendment became part of the U.S. Constitution more than 200 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.”

Based on your own feelings about the First Amendment, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statement: The First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees. (PROBE: Do you strongly or mildly agree/disagree?)

	Agree	Disagree
1999	28%	67%
2000	22%	74%
2001	39%	58%
2002	49%	47%
2003	34%	60%
2004	30%	65%
2005	23%	72%
2006	18%	76%
2007	25%	70%
2008	20%	74%
2009	19%	73%
2010	17%	79%
2011	18%	79%
2012	13%	81%
2013	34%	64%

Q.4-Q.10: Now please tell me whether you agree or disagree with the following statements: (FOR EACH, PROBE: Do you strongly or mildly agree/disagree?)

Q.4 Musicians should be allowed to sing songs with lyrics that others might find offensive.

	Agree	Disagree
1997	51%	47%
1999	54%	41%
2000	59%	40%
2001	61%	37%
2002	57%	41%
2003	61%	36%
2004	59%	38%
2005	56%	38%
2006	63%	34%
2007	55%	42%
2008	65%	33%
2009	61%	31%

2010	68%	27%
2011	67%	30%
2012	69%	27%
2013	73%	25%

Q.5 Overall, the news media try to report the news without bias.

	Agree	Disagree
2004	39%	58%
2005	33%	64%
2007	37%	60%
2008	32%	64%
2011	33%	76%
2012	33%	62%
2013	46%	52%

Q.6 It is important for our democracy that the news media act as a watchdog on government.

	Agree	Disagree
2004	77%	21%
2005	74%	22%
2008	76%	19%
2009	71%	22%
2011	76%	21%
2012	75%	20%
2013	80%	18%

Q.7 High school students should have the same freedom to exercise their First Amendment rights as do adults.

	Strongly Agree	Mildly Agree	Mildly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DK/Ref.
2013	40%	35%	17%	6%	2%

Q.8 The U.S. Constitution establishes a Christian nation.

	Strongly Agree	Mildly Agree	Strongly Disagree	DK/Ref.
2007	38%	17%	26%	4%
2008	36%	19%	24%	7%
2010	38%	15%	26%	6%
2013	23%	28%	25%	4%

Q.9 If a religiously affiliated group receives government funding, the government should be able to require that group to provide health-care benefits to same-sex partners of employees, even if the religious group opposes same-sex marriages or partnerships.

	Strongly Agree	Mildly Agree	Mildly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DK/Ref.
2013	34%	28%	13%	21%	4%

Q.10 A business providing wedding services to the public should be required to serve same-sex couples, even if the business owner objects to same-sex marriage on religious grounds.

	Strongly Agree	Mildly Agree	Mildly Disagree	Strongly Disagree	DK/Ref.
2013	28%	24%	17%	28%	3%

Q.11 Are you more likely or less likely to get most of your news from news media whose views you agree with?

	More Likely	Less Likely	Refused to Answer
2013	74%	19%	7%

Q.12 Some people argue that requiring journalists to reveal their confidential news sources will help make America safer, while others say it will not. Do you favor or oppose court orders that require journalists to reveal their sources? (PROBE: Do you strongly or mildly favor/oppose this?)

	Favor Strongly	Favor Mildly	Oppose Mildly	Oppose Strongly	DK/Ref.
2008	18%	19%	24%	31%	9%
2013	17%	27%	29%	22%	5%

Q.13 Do you feel that the freedom to worship as one chooses applies to all religious groups regardless of how extreme or on-the-fringe their views are, or was it never meant to apply to religious groups that most people would consider extreme or fringe?

	Applies to All Groups	Never Applied to Extreme/Fringe Groups	Don't Know
1997	69%	24%	7%
2000	72%	19%	9%
2007	56%	27%	16%
2008	54%	29%	16%
2010	61%	28%	11%
2011	67%	22%	10%
2013	65%	31%	5%

DEMOGRAPHICS:

Q.14 In what year were you born?

Age	
18-30	21%
31-45	28%
46-60	30%
60+	22%

Q.15: Are you white, black, Hispanic or something else?

Race	
White	79%
Black	10%
Asian	5%
Something Else	4%
Refused to Answer	3%

Hispanic Identity	
Yes	11%
No	87%
Refused to Answer	2%

Q.16: Do you consider yourself liberal, conservative or “middle of the road”?

Political Affiliation	
Very Conservative	14%
Somewhat Conservative	21%
Middle	41%
Somewhat Liberal	14%
Very Liberal	9%
Refused to Answer	3%

