

Texas Public Opinion Research

METHODOLOGY

- Change Research conducted an online poll of 1,193 Texas voters statewide, September 16-22, 2025
 - Respondents were recruited via dynamic online sampling and SMS text messaging to obtain a sample reflective of the population
 - Results were weighted for age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, region, and 2024 presidential vote. Weighting parameters were based on voter file data
 - The modeled margin of error is 3.2 percentage points
 - The survey was translated in Spanish and respondents were given an option to take the survey in Spanish or English

AGENDA

Our respondents were asked a variety of questions about church-state separation and religious freedom generally, and then were asked questions about current and specific policy debates in Texas. Today we will go over:

- Initial views on church-state separation
- Views on hot policy topics in Texas
- Views on current public education debates
 - Daily prayer period in schools
 - Bluebonnet curriculum



INITIAL VIEWS ON CHURCH-STATE ISSUES

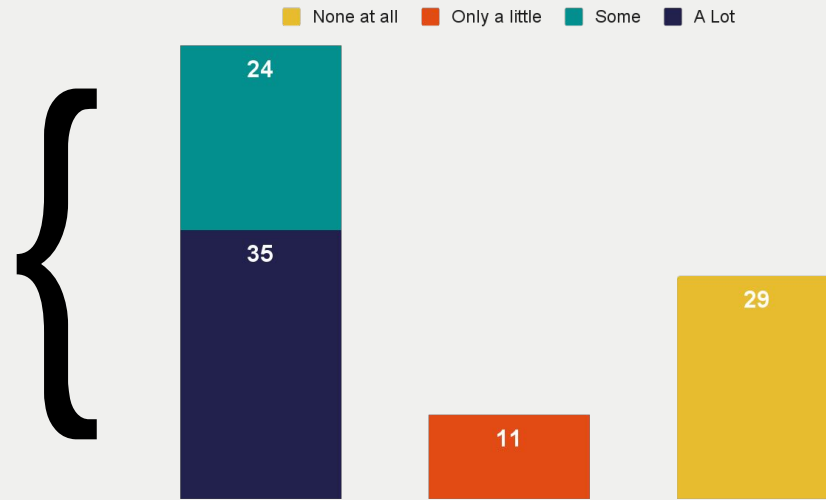


INITIAL VIEWS ON CHURCH-STATE ISSUES

A STRONG MAJORITY FEELS THAT RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IS UNDER THREAT

To what extent do you feel that in Texas today your freedom of religion is being threatened?

Almost 6 out of 10 (59%) respondents feel their religious freedom is threatened some (24%) or a lot (35%)



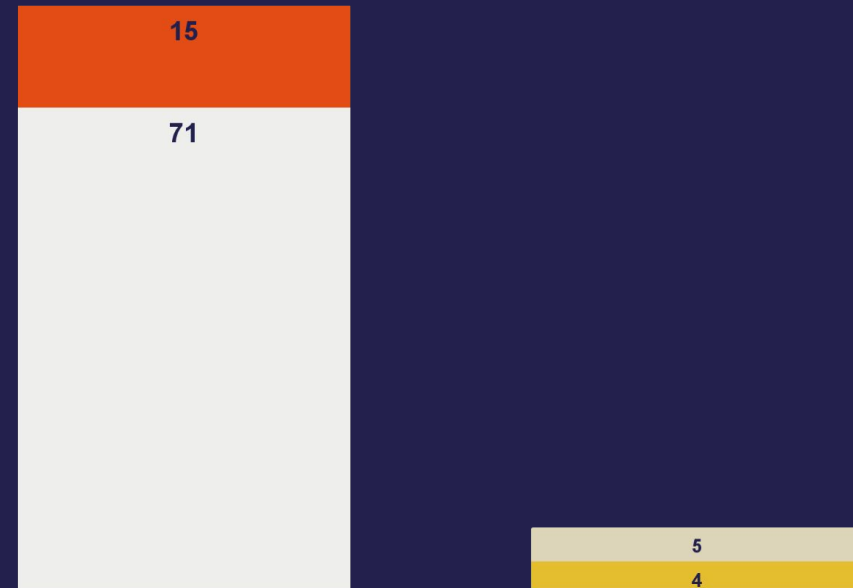
	Parents of School Aged Children	Mainline Protestants	Evangelical Christians	Rural Voters	Urban Voters	White Voters	Black Voters	Latino Voters
A lot & Some	61	56	61	59	62	57	65	59
Only a little	11	7	13	11	11	12	8	11
None at all	28	36	25	30	27	31	27	29

SUPPORT FOR CHURCH-STATE SEPARATION IS STRONG

The overwhelming majority of Texans agree that the separation of church and state should be protected, compared to fewer than 10% who don't.

Do you agree or disagree with the following statement:
 “The principle of the separation of church and state should be protected”?

- Smw. Oppose
- Str. Oppose
- Smw. Support
- Str. Support



	Parents of School Aged Children	Mainline Protestants	Evangelical Christians	Rural Voters	Urban Voters	White Voters	Black Voters	Latino Voters
Total Support	85	89	72	72	87	84	88	87
Total Oppose	11	9	20	14	10	12	6	9
Don't know	4	2	8	6	3	4	6	5

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MESSAGES

“Religious freedom is the right to **live as yourself and believe as you choose**, so long as you don’t harm others.”

“Religious freedom protects every American’s **right to practice the religion of their choice or no religion at all**, as long as they don’t harm others.”

“Religious freedom means **families, not politicians**, should get to decide if, when and how children engage with religion.”

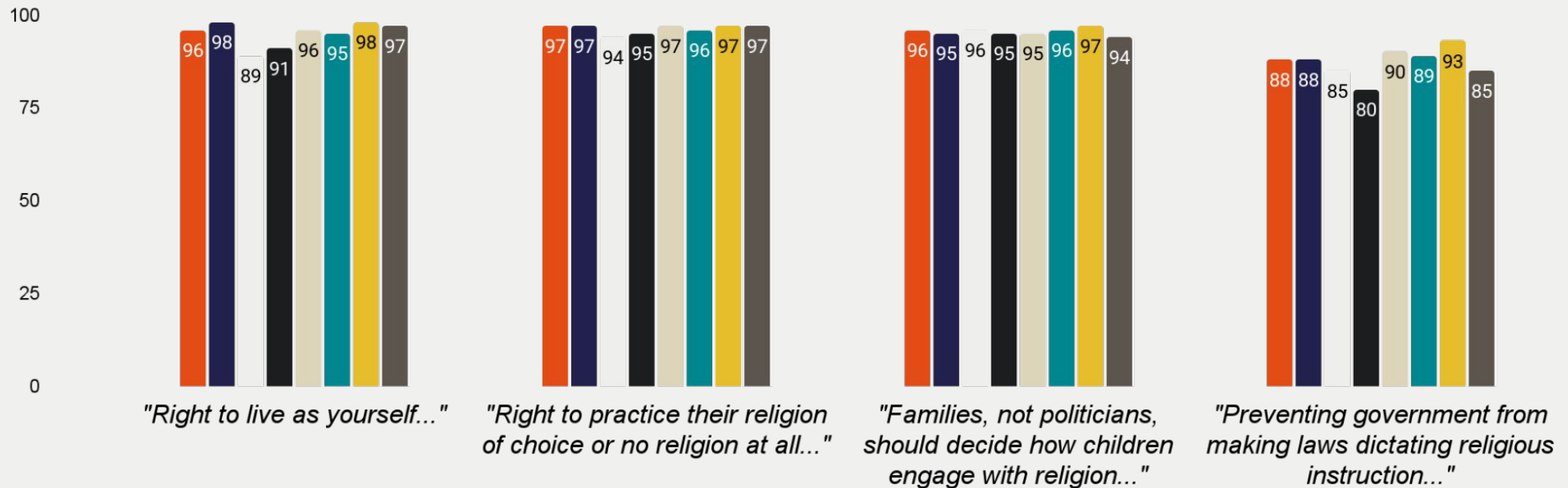
“Support for religious freedom goes hand in hand with **preventing the government from making laws dictating religious instruction**.”

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM MESSAGES RESONATE BROADLY

Support for religious freedom and AU messages is very high across the board

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

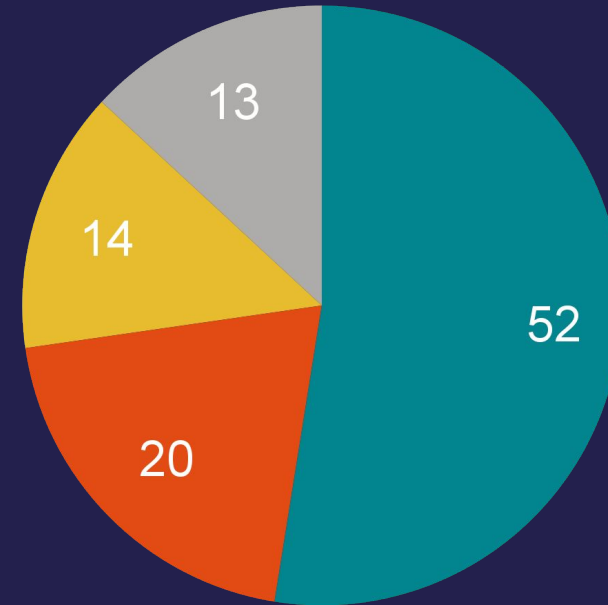
Parents of School Aged Children Mainline Protestants Evangelical Christians Rural Voters Urban Voters White Voters
Black Voters Latino Voters



MANY TEXANS THINK RELIGION HAS TOO MUCH, NOT TOO LITTLE, POWER OVER POLITICS

Do you think churches and religious organizations have...

- Too much influence
- Not enough influence
- About the right amount
- Not sure



	Parents of School Aged Children	Mainline Protestants	Evangelical Christians	Rural Voters	Urban Voters	White Voters	Black Voters	Latino Voters
Too much	43	44	22	34	56	46	61	56
Not enough	24	24	42	32	19	24	16	15
About right	17	20	19	17	14	16	15	13
Not sure	16	13	17	17	11	14	8	16



HOT TOPICS IN TEXAS



TEXAS PUBLIC SCHOOLS CONCERN ALL KEY AUDIENCE GROUPS

How concerned are you about the following?

<i>Total Concerned</i>	Overall	Parents of School Aged Children	Mainline Protestants	Evangelical Christians	Rural Voters	Urban Voters	White Voters	Black Voters	Latino Voters
Texas' public school children not receiving the tools and developing the skills necessary to participate fully in our economy, our society, and our democracy	94	95	89	92	92	94	93	95	94
The quality of public schools in Texas	92	93	90	95	90	92	91	91	92
The shortage of teachers in Texas public schools	89	88	88	87	84	89	87	94	89
Underfunding of Texas public schools	82	81	79	77	75	83	76	93	87
Overfunding of Texas public schools	28	31	30	41	32	27	27	24	31

TEXANS ACROSS THE BOARD OPPOSE GOVERNMENT IMPOSITION OF RELIGION

Do you agree or disagree with the following statements?

<i>Total Concerned</i>	Overall	Parents of School Aged Children	Mainline Protestants	Evangelical Christians	Rural Voters	Urban Voters	White Voters	Black Voters	Latino Voters
The responsibility for children lies with parents, not the Texas government. Parents should determine how their children learn the Bible, not politicians.	89	87	89	82	83	90	87	95	92
The government should not have the power to impose religion on Texans.	86	81	83	76	83	86	84	95	84
When the government imposes religion on Texas, it tramples your religious freedom.	78	72	76	63	71	79	74	85	80

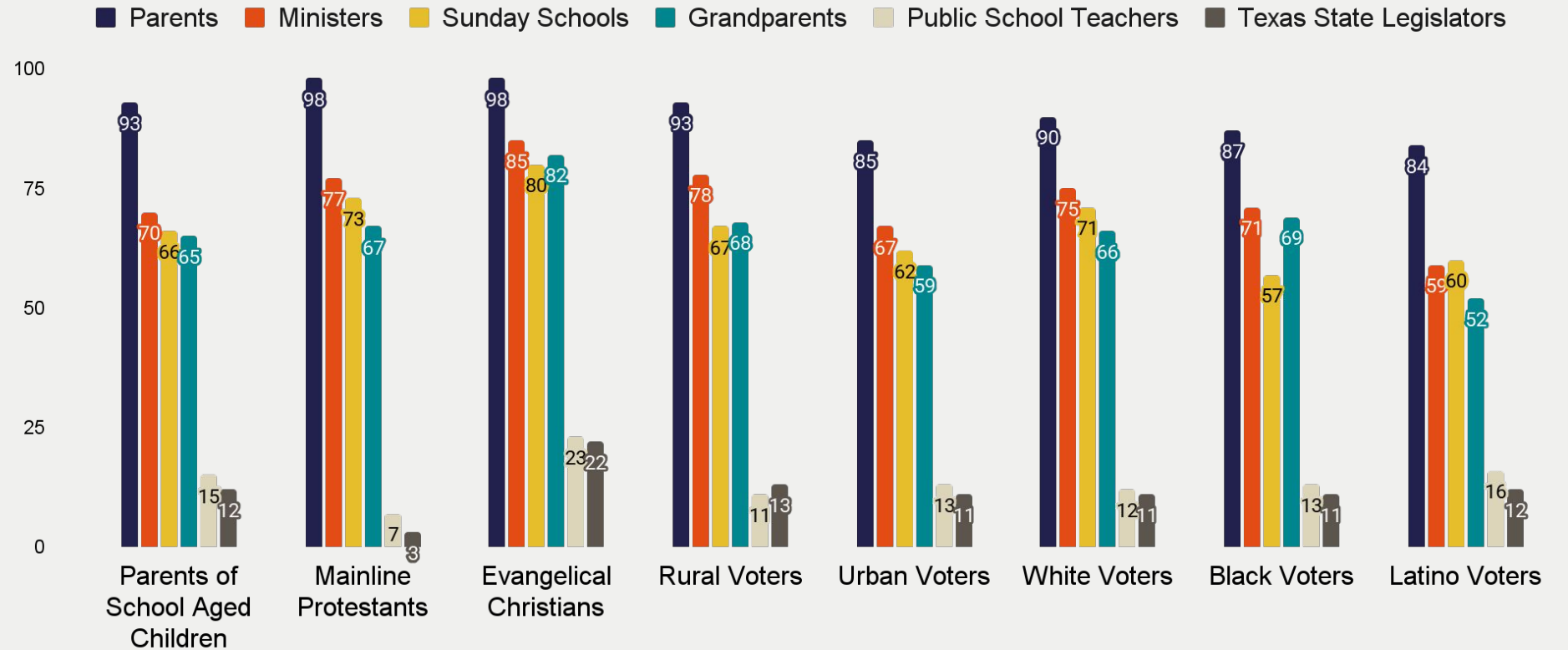
TEXANS THINK PARENTS, NOT THE GOVERNMENT, SHOULD TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT THE BIBLE

In thinking about the teaching of the Bible to children and young adults, how big a role should the following people and groups have?

	Major Role	Minor Role	No Role At All	Not Sure
Parents	86	8	3	3
Ministers, pastors, and other church leaders	67	22	7	4
Sunday school teachers in churches	64	25	7	4
Grandparents	60	29	6	4
Public school teachers during school hours	14	25	58	3
Texas State Legislators	12	21	63	5

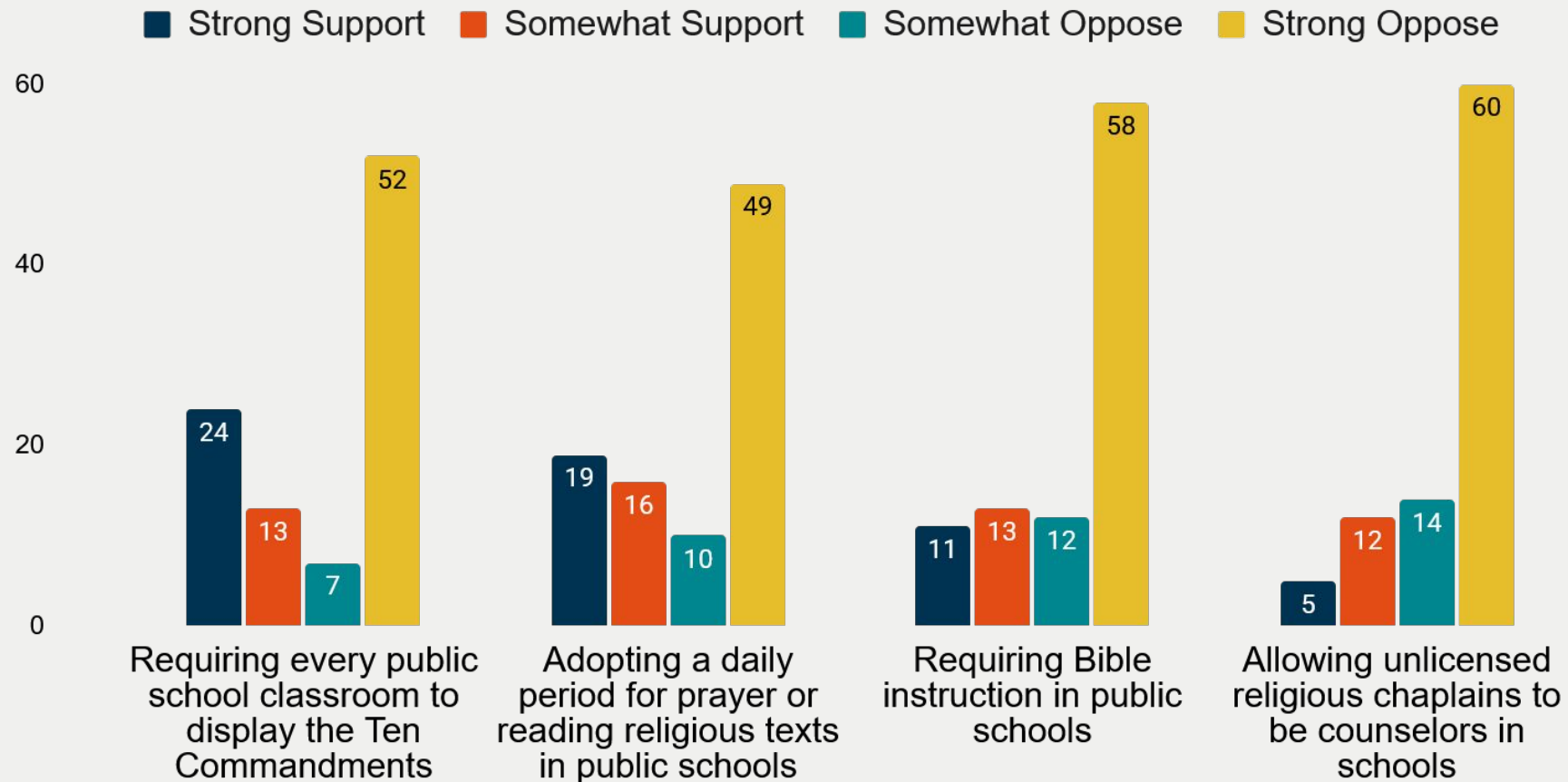
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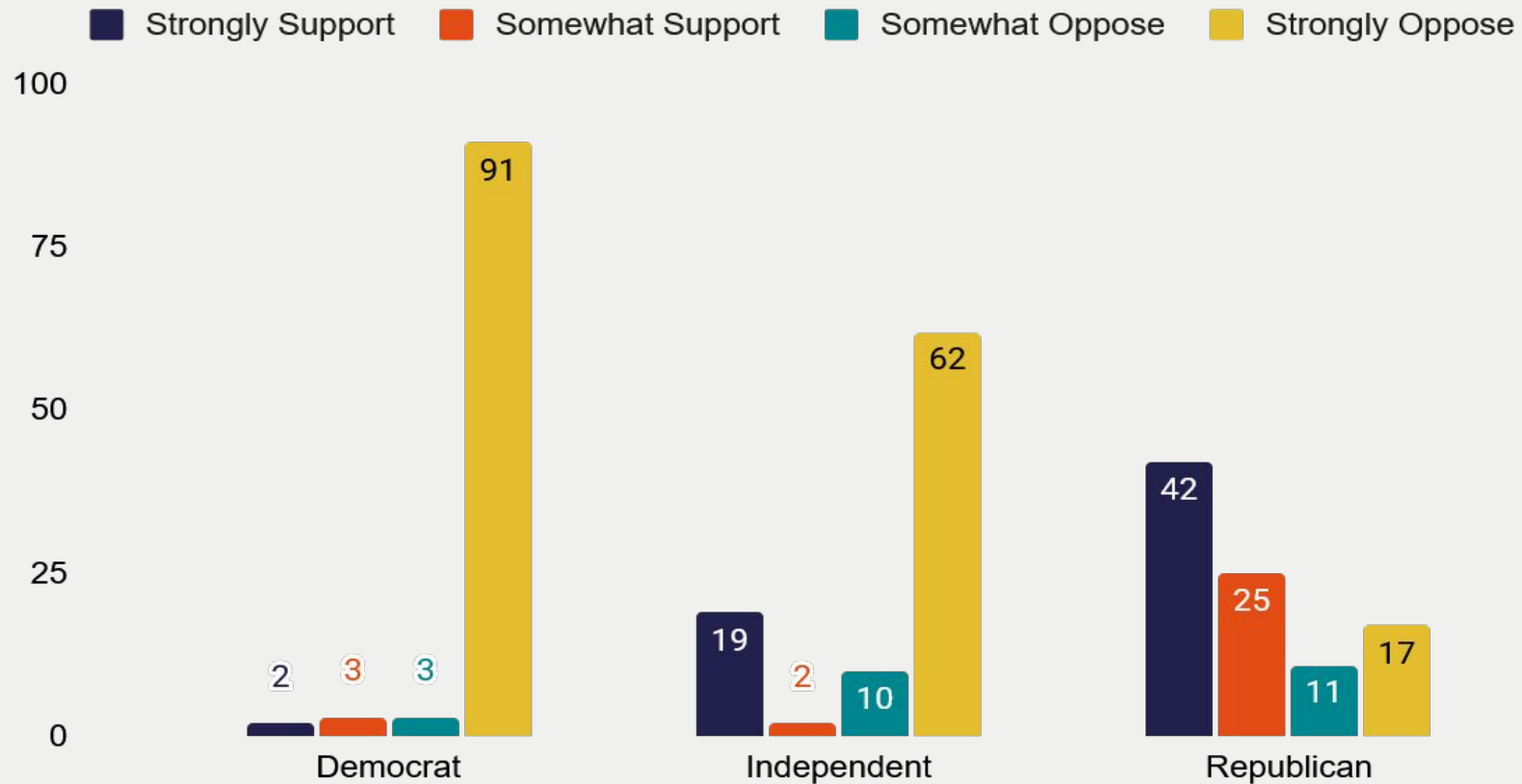
POLICIES THAT PUT RELIGION IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS ARE VERY UNPOPULAR

Do you support or oppose the following proposals?



10 COMMANDMENTS: BREAKDOWN BY POLITICAL AFFILIATION

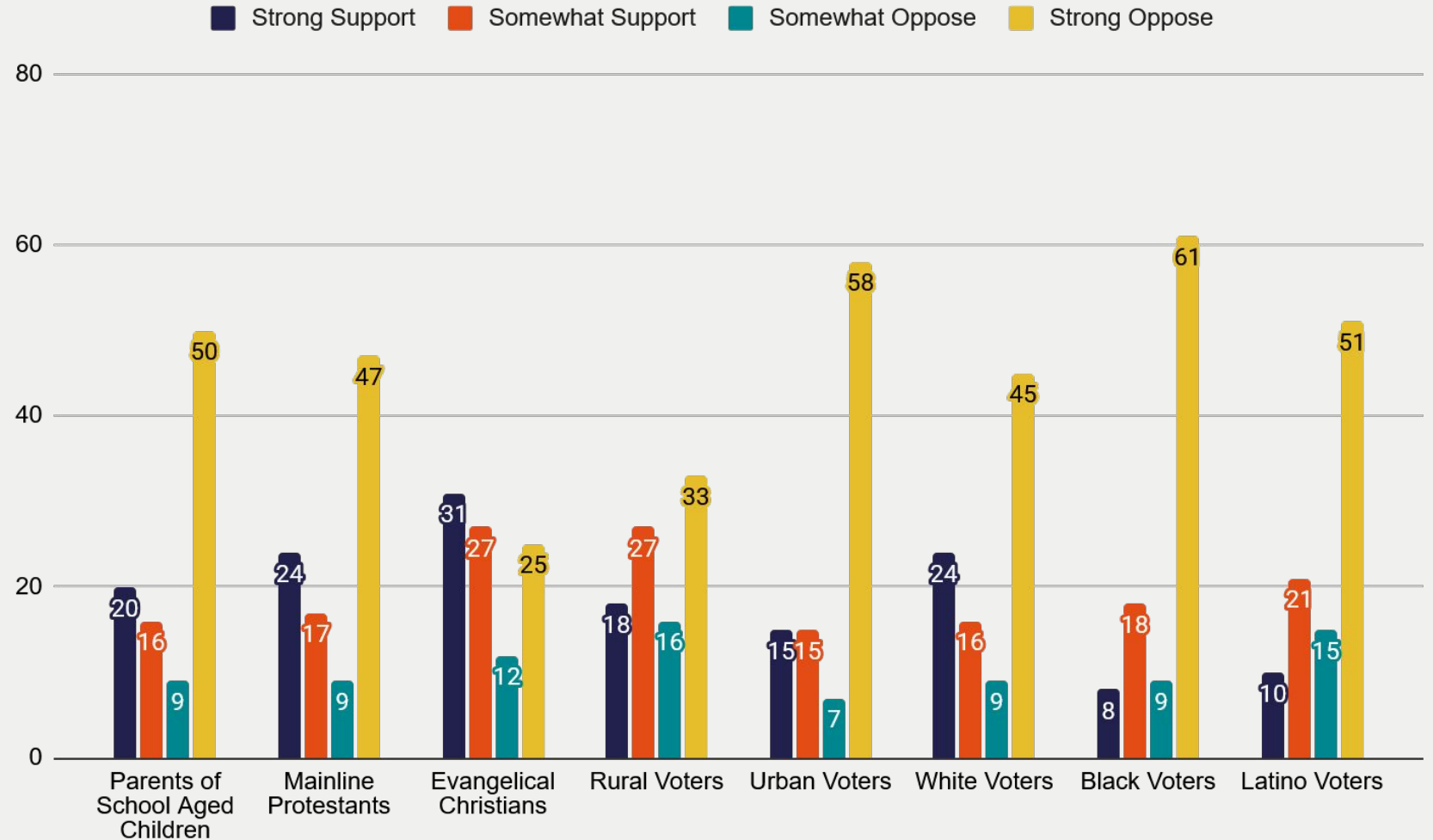
Do you support or oppose the following proposal: Requiring every public school classroom to display the Ten Commandments.



MAJORITY OF TEXANS OPPOSE TAX DOLLARS FOR PRIVATE RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

Do you support or oppose the following proposal?

“Using Texas tax dollars for children to attend private religious schools.”





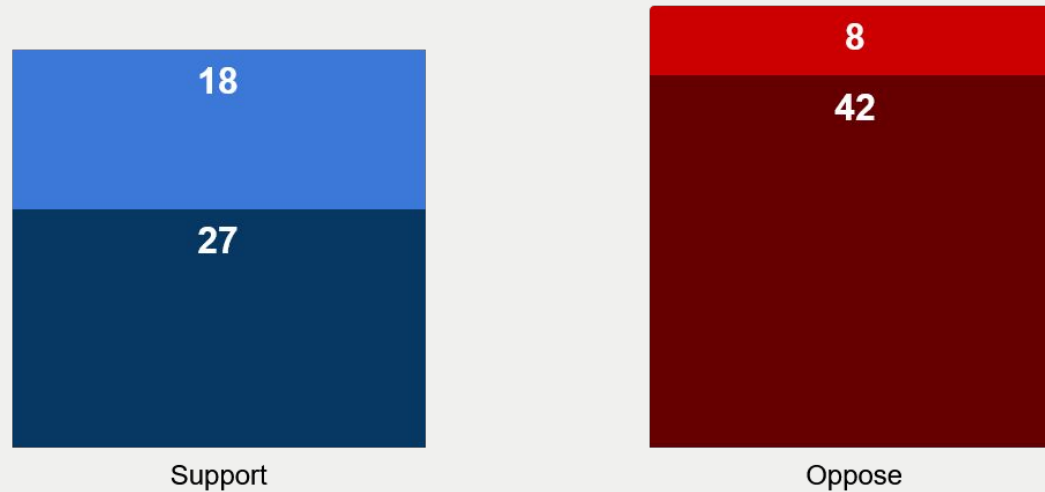
**CURRENT PUBLIC
EDUCATION DEBATES:
*DAILY PRAYER PERIOD***



MOST TEXANS DON'T SUPPORT A DAILY PRAYER PERIOD

The Texas state legislature has recently passed a bill that allows school districts to offer a daily period for prayer or reading religious texts. School districts have six months to vote on whether to provide the prayer or study period. Would you support or oppose your public school district adopting a prayer or study period?

- Somewhat Oppose
- Strongly Oppose
- Somewhat Support
- Strongly Support



	Parents of School Aged Children	Mainline Protestants	Evangelical Christians	Rural Voters	Urban Voters	White Voters	Black Voters	Latino Voters
Total Support	51	47	77	57	40	51	32	42
Total Oppose	44	48	20	37	56	44	64	52

ARGUMENTS WE TESTED IN SUPPORT OF A DAILY PRAYER PERIOD

“A school prayer period creates a **sense of belonging and unity** among students by guiding them through a shared spiritual experience and can lead to spiritual growth.”

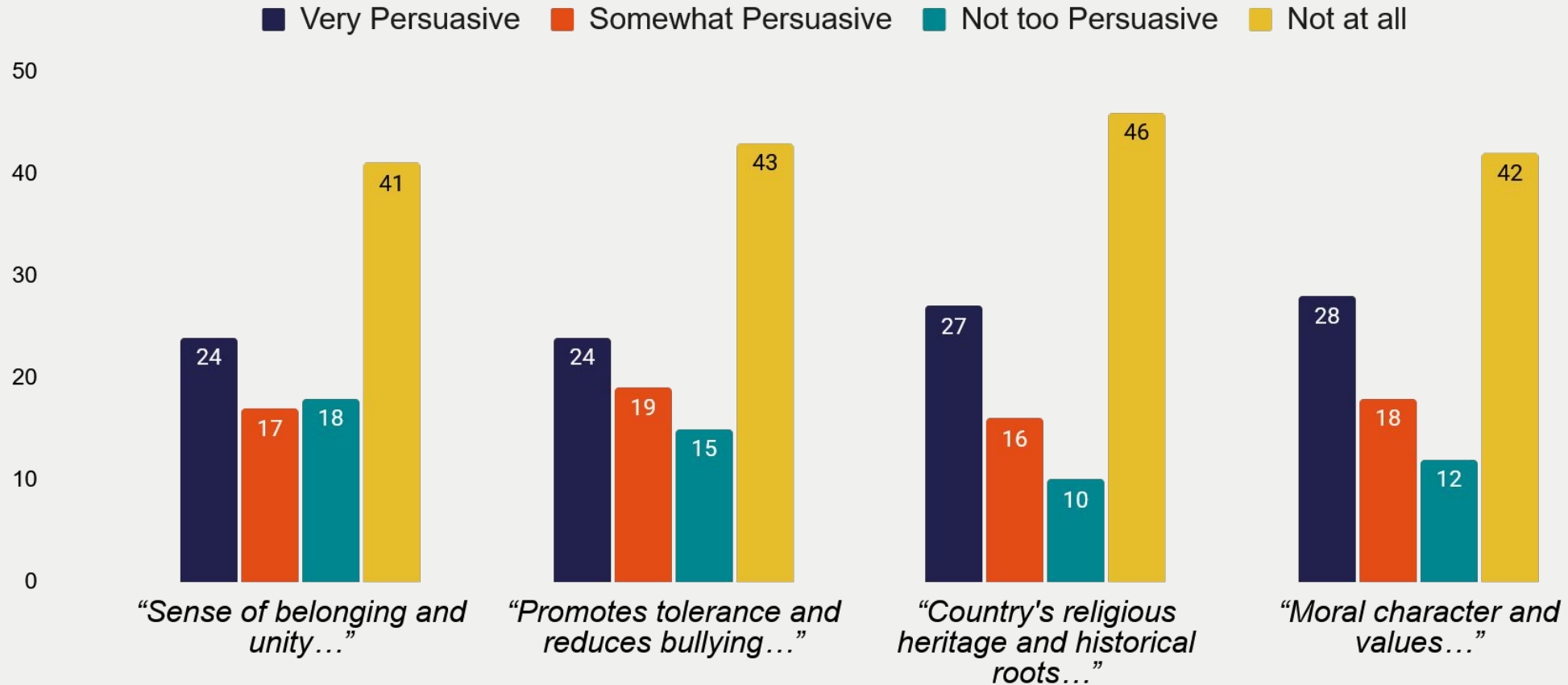
“A school prayer period **promotes tolerance and reduces bullying** by encouraging a sense of right and wrong and a sense of care for others.”

“A school prayer period acknowledges **our country's religious heritage and historical roots** in American education, which was used to create the backbone of this nation.”

“A school prayer period instills **moral character and values** among students, promoting good citizenship.”

MOST TEXANS NOT PERSUADED TO SUPPORT DAILY PRAYER PERIODS

The following are statements made by supporters of offering a daily prayer period in public schools. For each one, please indicate how persuasive you find it as a reason to support the policy.





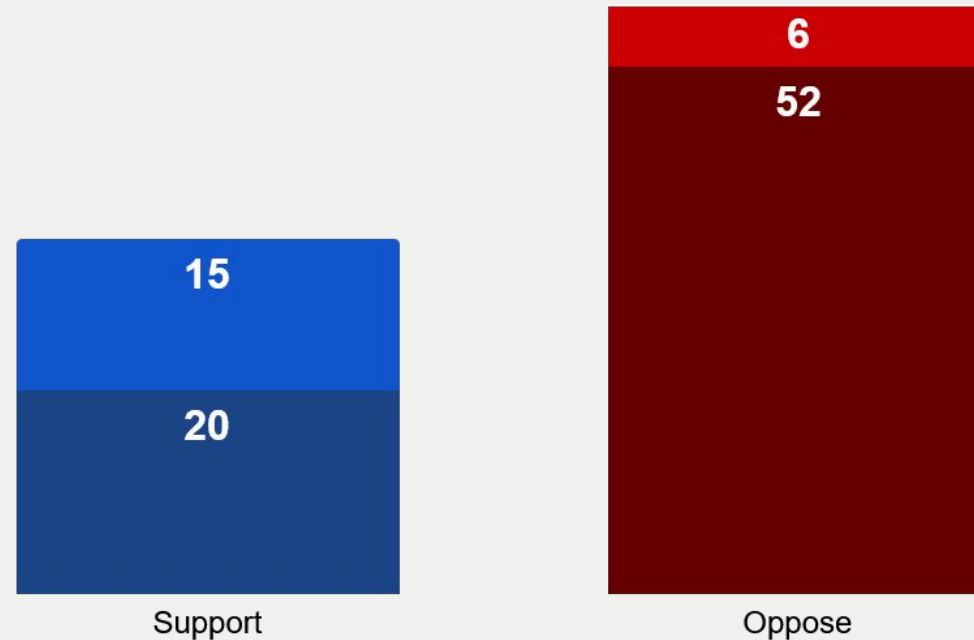
**CURRENT PUBLIC
EDUCATION DEBATES:
*BLUEBONNET
CURRICULUM***



OVER HALF OF TEXANS OPPOSE BLUEBONNET CURRICULUM

The Bluebonnet curriculum is a new, state-funded curriculum that heavily features lessons on the Bible and Christianity. Would you support or oppose your public school district using the Bluebonnet curriculum?

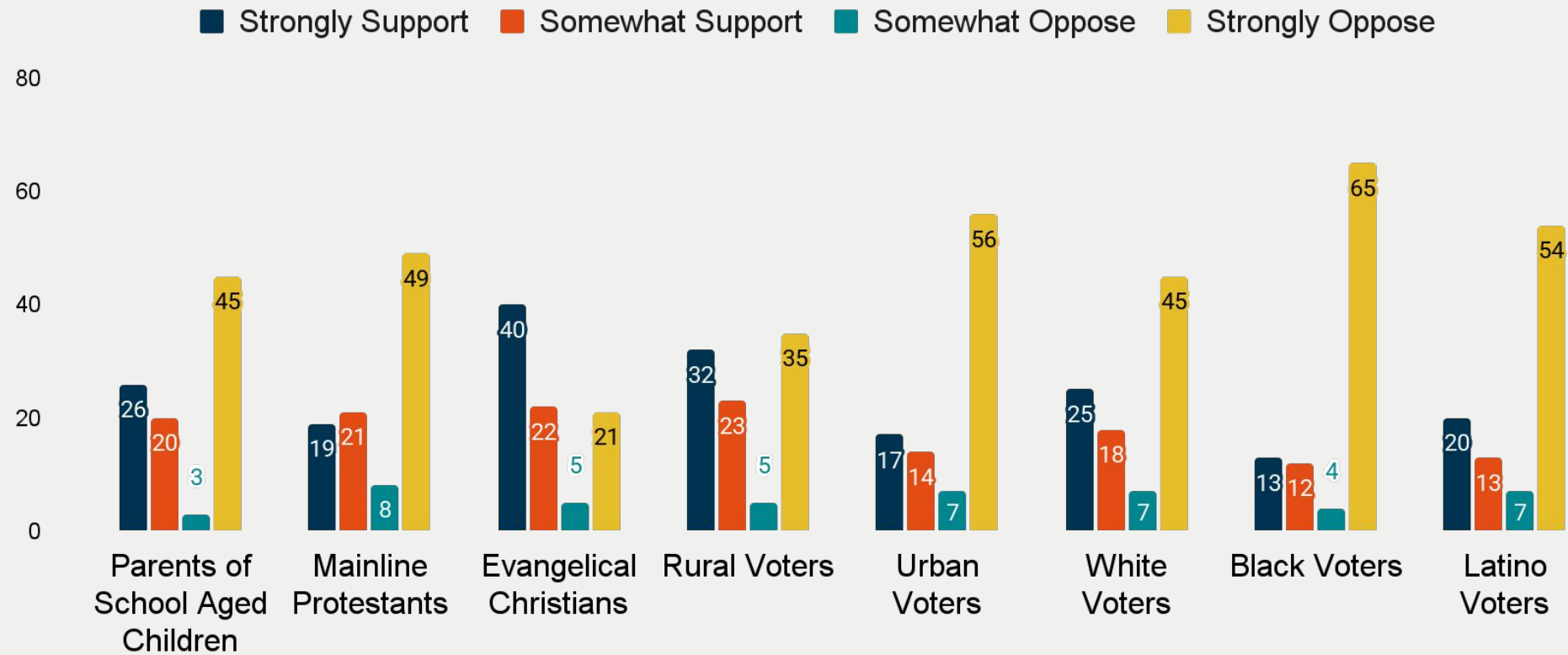
- Smw. Support
- Str. Support
- Smw. Oppose
- Str. Oppose



Opposition is highest among Black, Latino, and urban voters.

ALL AUDIENCES BUT EVANGELICAL CHRISTIANS AND RURAL VOTERS OPPOSE BLUEBONNET

The Bluebonnet curriculum is a new, state-funded curriculum that heavily features lessons on the Bible and Christianity. Would you support or oppose your public school district using the Bluebonnet curriculum?



ARGUMENTS WE TESTED IN SUPPORT OF BLUEBONNET CURRICULUM

“The Bible is a **foundational text for Western civilization and American history**.

Understanding it is essential for interpreting U.S. founding documents, key cultural and literary works, and speeches by historical figures like George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, and Martin Luther King Jr.”

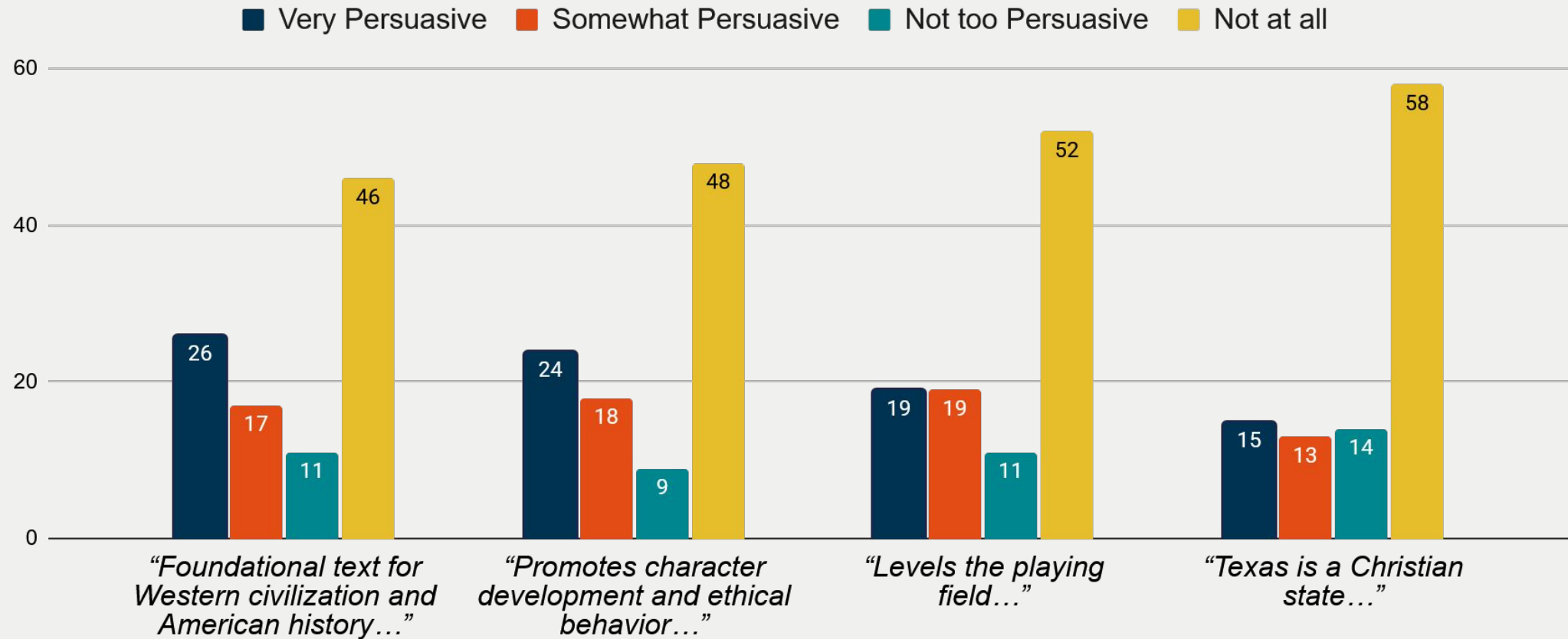
“A curriculum that includes bible instruction **promotes character development and ethical behavior**. Teaching biblical values such as honesty, compassion, and responsibility can help improve student conduct and reduce bullying or crime.”

“Too many Texas families do not have the money to send their children to a private religious school. Requiring the Bluebonnet curriculum in public schools **levels the playing field** and gives children opportunities their parents could not otherwise afford.”

“**Texas is a Christian state**, so all public school students should be taught the Bible in school.”

TEXANS GENERALLY NOT CONVINCED BY BLUEBONNET SUPPORTER MESSAGES

The following are statements made by supporters of using the Bluebonnet curriculum in Texas public schools. For each one, please indicate how persuasive you find it as a reason to support the policy.



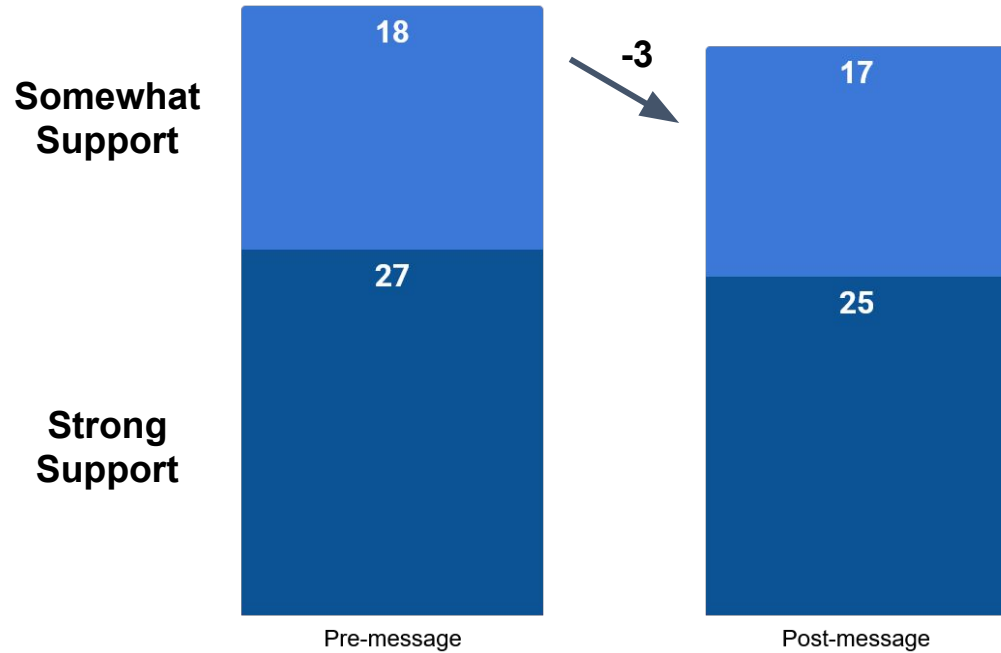


IMPACT OF MESSAGE TESTING

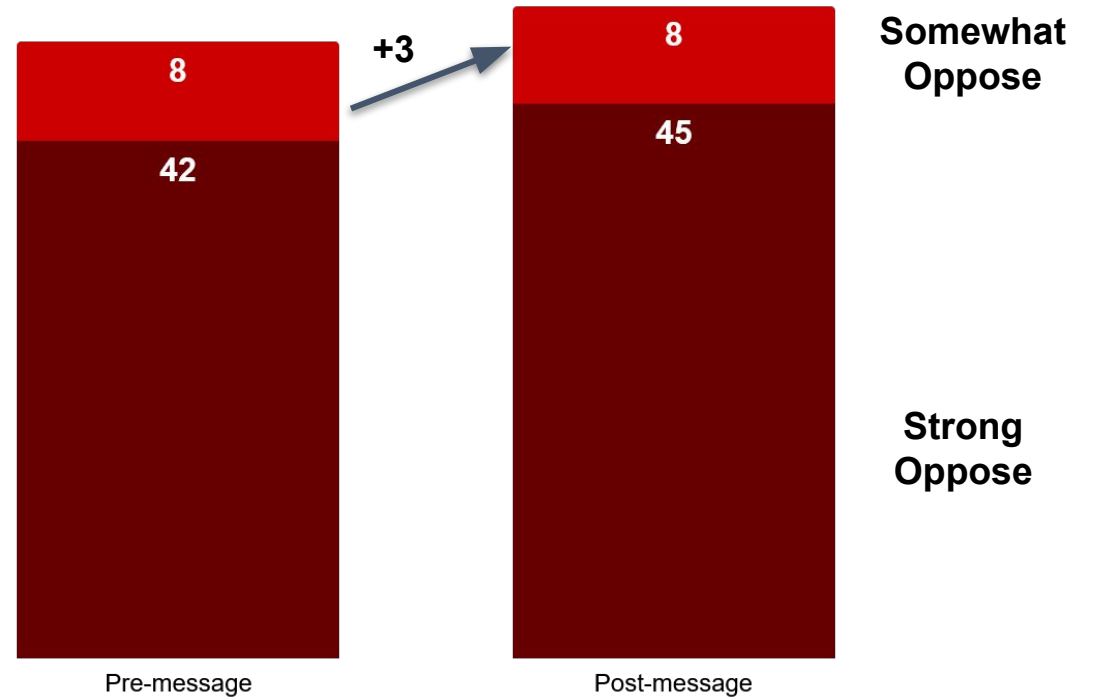


SUPPORT FOR DAILY PRAYER PERIOD LESSENS AFTER MESSAGING

Daily Prayer Period Support

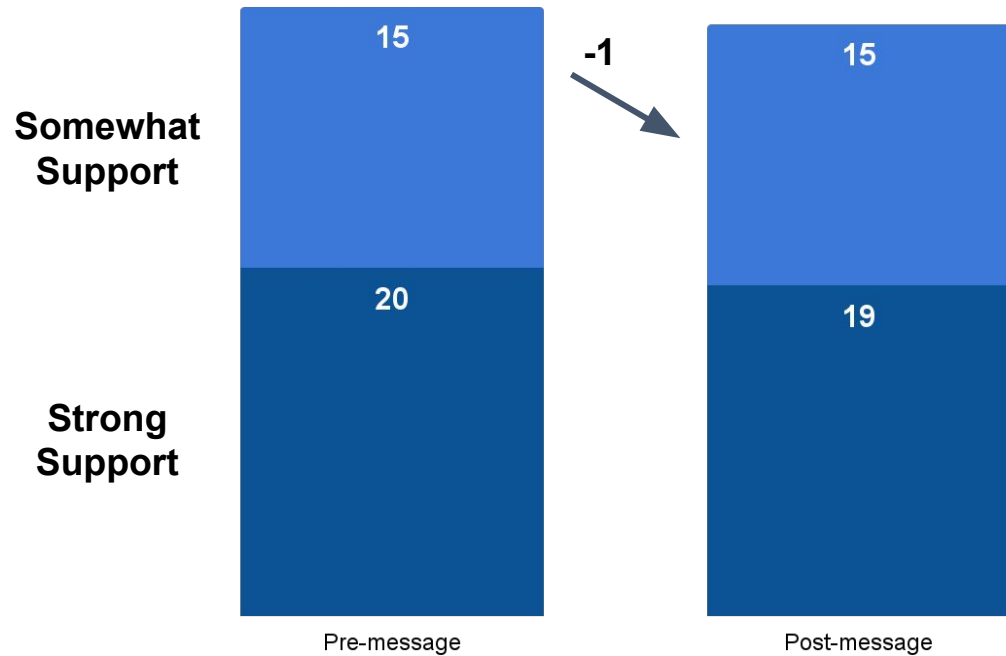


Daily Prayer Period Opposition

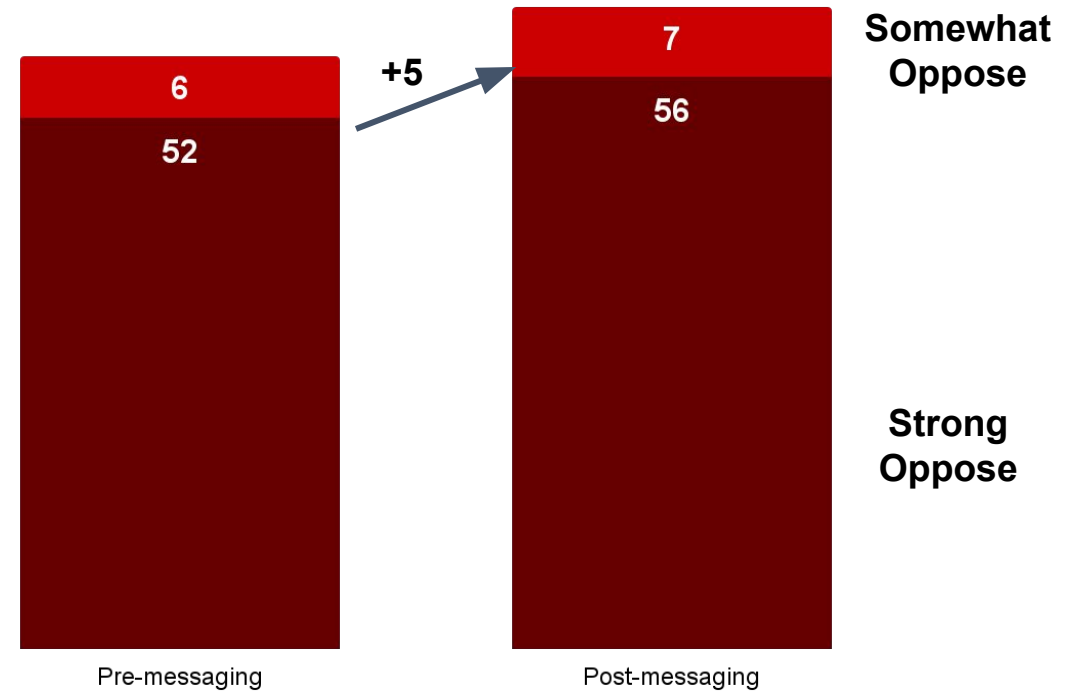


SUPPORT FOR BLUEBONNET CURRICULUM HOLDS, OPPOSITION GROWS

Bluebonnet Curriculum Support



Bluebonnet Curriculum Opposition



KEY TAKEAWAYS



- Support for church-state separation is extremely high across all groups, including evangelical Christians and rural voters.
- Texans overwhelmingly want parents—not teachers and legislators—directing the religious upbringing of children, by a 5-6x margin.
- More than half of Texans oppose a daily prayer period and the Bluebonnet curriculum. But supporter arguments about heritage/foundation and promoting moral character are somewhat persuasive.
- The Christian Nationalist argument in support of Bluebonnet, "Texas is a Christian nation," performs the poorest across all audiences, with 71% general opposition.

Across almost all groups surveyed, twice as many people think that religion has too much influence over politics rather than too little.



THANK YOU!



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