



Freethought Equality

Banners from a Nationwide Survey of
1,200 likely 2018 Voters

November 4-6, 2018

**FREETHOUGHT EQUALITY
2018 Election Eve Omnibus
Nationwide -- November 4-6, 2018**

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
Q1. [DO NOT READ. RECORD GENDER.]				
Male	48	42	54	51
Female.....	52	58	46	49
Region				
New England	6	7	8	5
Middle Atlantic	11	11	8	12
East North Central	16	16	16	15
West North Central	8	7	6	10
South Atlantic	22	20	24	23
East South Central.....	6	5	7	6
West South Central.....	9	9	8	9
Mountain	8	8	5	9
Pacific.....	15	17	19	11
Northeast	17	18	16	17
Midwest	24	23	22	25
South	37	34	39	38
West.....	23	25	24	20

Q2. Before we begin, I need to know if I have reached you on a cell phone, and if so, are you in a place where you can talk safely?

[IF NOT ON A CELL PHONE, ASK:] Do you own a cell phone?

Yes, cell and can talk safely	46	51	40	40
Yes, cell and cannot talk safely	[CALL BACK]			
No, not on cell, but own one	50	45	57	53
No, not on cell and do not own one	4	3	3	6
Don't know /refused	[TERMINATE]			

Lake Research Partners designed and administered this pre-election and election night omnibus survey which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers November 4-6, 2018. The questions about voting and the demographics reached a total of 2,400 registered voters nationwide who voted in the 2018 elections – 1,358 interviews among voters who were reached on landlines and 1,042 interviews among voters who were reached on cell phones. Issue questions reached a total of 1,200 registered voters nationwide who voted in the 2018 elections (margin of error of +/-2.8%). The data were weighted to reflect the aggregated Congressional vote as reported in the 2018 exit polls, as well as by gender, age, race, party identification, education, marital status, union household, and census region to reflect the actual proportions of the electorate. The survey has a margin of error of ±2.0% at the 95% confidence interval.

TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
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[SUNDAY and MONDAY INTERVIEWS Q3-5]

Q3. Often things come up and people are not able to vote. Thinking ahead to Tuesday's elections, how likely are you to vote? Are you almost certain to vote, will you probably vote, are the chances about 50-50, will you probably not vote, or will you definitely not vote? IF CALLER SAYS THEY ALREADY VOTED PROBE: Did you vote absentee, by mail, or did you vote earlier in-person?

Almost certain	70	69	70	72
Earlier in person [SKIP TO 5]	19	18	20	19
Earlier absentee/mail [SKIP TO 5]	11	13	10	9
Probably vote	[TERMINATE]			
About 50-50	[TERMINATE]			
Probably not vote	[TERMINATE]			
Definitely not vote	[TERMINATE]			
Not sure	[TERMINATE]			

[TUESDAY INTERVIEWS Q6-9]

Q6. Many people did not get a chance to vote in this election for U.S. Congress and other offices. How about you? Were you able to vote Tuesday, or did you vote earlier in this election before Tuesday, are you voting later on Tuesday, or like many people, did you not get a chance to vote? Did you vote in person, by mail, or by absentee ballot?

Yes, voted on Election Day in person	47	49	50	45
Yes, voted on Election Day by mail/absentee ballot.....	12	11	14	12
Yes, voted early in person	21	19	19	25
Yes, voted early by mail/absentee ballot	14	16	12	13
Voting later Tuesday	6	6	6	5
No, did not vote	[TERMINATE]			
(Not sure)	[TERMINATE]			

Q7. [IF Q6=5] If voting later Tuesday: how certain are you to vote – are you very certain, probably going to vote, are the chances about 50-50, will you probably not go to vote, or are you definitely not going to vote?

Certain to vote	100	100	100	100
Probably will vote	[TERMINATE]			
50-50	[TERMINATE]			
Probably will not vote	[TERMINATE]			
Definitely not voting	[TERMINATE]			
(Not sure)	[TERMINATE]			

3/6/7.VOTE LIKELIHOOD /METHOD COMBINED

Almost certain /Certain.	51	49	55	53
Earlier in person.	34	34	32	33
Earlier absentee/mail.	15	17	14	14

TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
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Q4. [IF Q3=1] If the election for Congress were being held today, and you had to make a choice, would you be voting for **[ROTATE: _the Republican candidate or _the Democratic candidate? [IF “UNDECIDED,” ASK]:** Which candidate do you lean toward at this time? **[IF RESPONDENT DECLINES TO SAY HOW HE OR SHE WILL VOTE, SAY]:** This survey is being done for research purposes only. Your willingness to discuss your vote is really important for assuring the accuracy of our research, and we promise that we will always maintain the privacy and confidentiality of your responses.

Q5. [IF Q3=2,3] In the election for Congress did you vote for **{ROTATE: _the Republican candidate or _the Democratic candidate?}** **[IF RESPONDENT DECLINES TO SAY HOW HE OR SHE VOTED, SAY]:** This survey is being done for research purposes only. Your willingness to discuss your vote is really important for assuring the accuracy of our research, and we promise that we will always maintain the privacy and confidentiality of your responses.

Q8. [IF Q6=1-4] In the election for Congress, did you vote for **[ROTATE: _the Republican candidate or _the Democratic candidate?**

[IF RESPONDENT DECLINES TO SAY HOW HE OR SHE VOTED, SAY]: This survey is being done for research purposes only. Your willingness to discuss your vote is really important for assuring the accuracy of our research, and we promise that we will always maintain the privacy and confidentiality of your responses.

Q9. [IF Q6=5] In the election for Congress, will you vote for **[ROTATE: _the Republican candidate or _the Democratic candidate?**

[IF “UNDECIDED,” ASK]: Which candidate do you lean toward at this time?

[IF RESPONDENT DECLINES TO SAY HOW HE OR SHE VOTED, SAY]: This survey is being done for research purposes only. Your willingness to discuss your vote is really important for assuring the accuracy of our research, and we promise that we will always maintain the privacy and confidentiality of your responses.

Republican	39	2	32	84
Lean Republican	2	0	0	4
Democrat	45	87	36	4
Lean Democrat	2	3	4	0
(Other party candidate)	2	1	5	1
(Will not /Did not vote for Congress)	0	0	1	0
(Undecided)	4	2	9	3
(Refused)	6	4	13	4
Republican.	40	2	32	88
Democrat.	47	91	40	4

AMONG THOSE WITH A MAJOR PARTY CANDIDATE

Republican.	46	3	45	96
Democrat.	54	97	55	4

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
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Q10. I am going to read you a list of issues that may have come up during the election. Please tell me which one or two of these was most important to you in deciding from whom to vote. READ AND RANDOMIZE

[SELECT UP TO TWO]

Health care.....	27	37	28	15
Immigration	25	15	25	38
The economy and jobs	19	11	18	29
Dysfunction in government	19	22	21	14
Education	15	21	15	9
Social Security.....	11	13	9	9
Taxes.....	10	6	9	15
The environment and climate change	9	16	8	2
Terrorism and national security	9	4	6	16
Medicare	9	11	10	5
The federal budget deficit	5	3	6	7
Crime.....	4	5	6	3
Prescription drug costs.....	3	4	2	3
(Other)	3	3	4	3
(Don't know/refused).....	1	1	1	1

Q11. How long ago did you decide for whom to vote for in these elections – in the last few days before the election, in the past week, in the past month, one to three months ago, or more than three months ago?

In the last few days	8	7	12	6
In the past week	8	9	14	6
In the past month	19	17	22	20
One to three months ago.....	19	19	19	19
More than three months ago.....	43	44	29	47
(Don't know).....	3	3	5	2

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
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{Freethought Questions}

Q12. {Split 3} All things being equal, are you more likely to vote for [ROTATE] _a pro-life candidate, [OR] _a pro-choice candidate? [IF CANDIDATE:] And is that much more or only somewhat more? [IF UNDECIDED/NO DIFFERENCE/DON'T KNOW:] Well, to which person do you lean?

Pro-life -- much more	32	10	23	62
Pro-life -- somewhat more	7	5	3	10
Undecided - lean pro-life	3	3	1	3
Pro-choice - much more	35	57	33	12
Pro-choice somewhat more	9	12	12	3
Undecided - lean pro-choice	3	4	1	1
(Undecided/no difference/DK)	12	9	27	8
Pro-life	41	18	27	76
Pro-choice	46	74	46	16

Q13. {Split 4} All things being equal, are you more likely to vote for [ROTATE] _a pro-life candidate, that is, a candidate who supports making abortion illegal in most or all cases [OR] _a pro-choice candidate, that is, a candidate who supports keeping abortion legal in most or all cases? [IF CANDIDATE:] And is that much more or only somewhat more? [IF UNDECIDED/NO DIFFERENCE/DON'T KNOW:] Well, to which person do you lean?

Pro-life -- much more	32	13	20	56
Pro-life -- somewhat more	7	2	8	13
Undecided - lean pro-life	3	1	6	5
Pro-choice - much more	38	63	32	15
Pro-choice somewhat more	10	14	12	5
Undecided - lean pro-choice	2	1	9	1
(Undecided/no difference/DK)	8	6	14	6
Pro-life	42	16	33	73
Pro-choice	50	77	53	21

12/13.Choice candidates combined

Pro-life -- much more	32	12	21	59
Pro-life -- somewhat more	7	4	5	11
Undecided - lean pro-life	3	2	3	4
Pro-choice - much more	37	60	33	14
Pro-choice somewhat more	9	13	12	4
Undecided - lean pro-choice	2	2	5	1
(Undecided/no difference/DK)	10	8	20	7
Pro-life	42	17	30	75
Pro-choice	48	75	50	19

IND
/DK

TOTAL DEM REP

Q14. {Split 3 and 4} All things being equal, are you more likely to vote for **[ROTATE]** _a candidate who supports traditional marriage between one man and one women, **[OR]** _a candidate who supports marriage equality for the LGBTQ community? **[IF CANDIDATE:]** And is that much more or only somewhat more? **[IF UNDECIDED/NO DIFFERENCE/DON'T KNOW:]** Well, to which person do you lean?

Traditional marriage - much more	33	17	27	55
Traditional marriage - somewhat more	5	2	5	9
Undecided - lean Traditional marriage	2	2	3	2
Marriage equality - much more	39	60	39	16
Marriage equality - somewhat more	8	9	8	6
Undecided - lean Marriage equality	1	1	4	1
(Undecided/No difference/DK)	11	9	14	12
Traditional marriage	40	20	35	66
Marriage equality	48	71	51	23

Q15. {Split 3} All things being equal, are you more likely to vote for **[ROTATE]** _a candidate who believes in God, **[OR]** _a candidate who does not believe in God? **[IF CANDIDATE:]** And is that much more or only somewhat more? **[IF UNDECIDED/NO DIFFERENCE/DON'T KNOW:]** Well, to which person do you lean?

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
Believes in God -- much more.....	53	39	45	74
Believes in God - somewhat more.....	8	7	7	8
Undecided - lean Believes in God	3	5	2	2
Does not Believe in God - much more	4	7	3	1
Does not Believe in God - somewhat more	1	0	1	0
Undecided - lean Does not Believe in God	0	0	0	0
(No difference).....	27	36	35	14
(Undecided/DK).....	4	4	5	1
Believes in God	64	52	55	84
Does not Believe in God.....	5	8	5	1

Q16. {Split 4} All things being equal, are you more likely to vote for **[ROTATE]** _a candidate who believes in God, **[OR]** _a candidate who does not believe in God, or wouldn't it make any difference? **[IF CANDIDATE:]** And is that much more or only somewhat more? **[IF UNDECIDED/NO DIFFERENCE/DON'T KNOW:]** Well, to which person do you lean?

Believes in God -- much more.....	44	29	25	69
Believes in God - somewhat more.....	7	6	8	7
Undecided - lean Believes in God	1	1	2	1
No difference - lean Believes in God	4	6	7	2
Does not Believe in God - much more	1	2	0	1
Does not Believe in God - somewhat more	1	1	1	0
Undecided - lean Does not Believe in God	1	1	0	1
No difference - lean Does not believe in God	5	7	5	3
No difference	34	46	49	16
(Undecided/DK).....	2	2	3	1
Believes in God	56	41	42	79
Does not Believe in God.....	7	11	6	5

15/16. Believes in God combined

Believes in God -- much more.....	48	34	35	72
Believes in God - somewhat more.....	7	6	8	8
Undecided /No diff - lean Believes in God	4	6	5	2
Does not Believe in God - much more	3	5	2	1
Does not Believe in God - somewhat more	1	1	1	0
Undecided /No diff - lean Does not Believe in God	3	4	3	2
(No difference).....	31	41	42	15
(Undecided/DK).....	3	3	4	1
Believes in God	60	46	48	81
Does not Believe in God.....	6	10	5	3

Q17. {Split 3} In an election between a non-religious candidate who stands for most of the things you believe in versus a religious candidate who opposes most of the things you believe in, would you rather vote for **[ROTATE]** the non-religious candidate, **[OR]** the religious candidate? **[IF CANDIDATE:]** And is that much more or only somewhat more? **[IF UNDECIDED/NO DIFFERENCE/DON'T KNOW:]** Well, to which person do you lean?

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
Non-religious - much more	46	51	57	37
Non-religious - somewhat more	18	17	9	23
Undecided - lean non-religious	2	1	4	2
Religious - much more	11	11	8	14
Religious - somewhat more	5	4	3	7
Undecided - lean religious	3	1	4	4
(undecided/no difference/dk)	15	15	15	13
Non-religious	66	69	70	62
Religious	19	16	15	26

Q18. {Split 3} If there were a candidate who stood for most of the things you believed in, but did not believe in God, would you definitely vote for that candidate, probably vote for that candidate, probably not vote for that candidate, or definitely not vote for that candidate?

Definitely vote for	29	38	32	17
Probably vote for	38	34	36	46
Probably not vote for	11	9	8	14
Definitely not vote for	7	8	4	8
(Don't know)	14	11	20	15
Vote for	67	72	68	63
NOT vote for	18	17	12	22

Q19. {Split 4} In an election between a candidate who does not believe in God, who also stands for most of the things you believe in versus a religious candidate who opposes most of the things you believe in, would you rather vote for **[ROTATE]** _the candidate who does not believe in God, **[OR]** _the religious candidate? **[IF CANDIDATE:]** And is that much more or only somewhat more? **[IF UNDECIDED/NO DIFFERENCE/DON'T KNOW:]** Well, to which person do you lean?

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
Non-believer – much more	38	50	36	27
Non-believer – somewhat more	12	10	8	16
Undecided – lean Non-believer	4	6	1	4
Religious - much more	17	12	13	24
Religious - somewhat more	7	5	6	10
Undecided - lean religious	4	4	6	3
(undecided/no difference/dk)	19	14	30	17
Non-believer	53	65	45	46
Religious	28	21	25	37

17/19. Non-religious/Non-believer combined

Non-religious /Non-believer – much more	42	50	46	32
Non-religious /Non-believer – somewhat more	15	13	9	19
Undecided – lean Non-religious /Non-believer	3	3	3	3
Religious - much more	14	12	11	19
Religious - somewhat more	6	5	4	9
Undecided - lean religious	3	2	5	4
(undecided/no difference/dk)	17	15	23	15
Non-religious /Non-believer	60	67	57	54
Religious	24	19	20	31

Q20. {Split 4} If there were a candidate who stood for most of the things you believed in, but was non-religious, would you definitely vote for that candidate, probably vote for that candidate, probably not vote for that candidate, or definitely not vote for that candidate?

Definitely vote for	38	44	44	29
Probably vote for	40	42	27	43
Probably not vote for	8	4	12	13
Definitely not vote for	5	4	3	8
(Don't know)	9	6	15	7
Vote for	77	86	71	72
NOT vote for	14	7	15	21

18/20. Non-religious/Non-believer candidate combined

Definitely vote for	33	41	38	23
Probably vote for	39	38	31	44
Probably not vote for	10	6	10	13
Definitely not vote for	6	6	3	8
(Don't know)	11	9	17	11
Vote for	72	79	69	68
NOT vote for	16	12	13	22

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
Q21. {Split 3} All things being equal, in choosing between two candidates who share the same positions on the issues you care about, would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who is not religious, or wouldn't it make any difference? [IF MORE/LESS] And is that much [more/less] or only somewhat [more/less] ?				
Much more	11	11	9	11
Somewhat more	3	3	2	4
Somewhat less	7	5	5	11
Much less.....	9	5	11	12
No difference	65	71	69	56
(Undecided/dk)	4	4	3	5
(Refused)	1	0	1	1
More	14	15	11	15
Less.....	16	9	16	24

Q22. {Split 4} All things being equal, in choosing between two candidates who share the same positions on the issues you care about, would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who is agnostic, meaning they don't claim either to believe in God or not to believe in God, or wouldn't it make any difference. **[IF MORE/LESS]** And is that much **[more/less]** or only somewhat **[more/less]**?

Much more	9	9	6	11
Somewhat more	5	7	3	3
Somewhat less	7	6	5	9
Much less.....	12	7	6	20
No difference	59	65	70	51
(Undecided/dk)	5	5	6	4
(Refused)	2	1	3	2
More	14	16	9	14
Less.....	19	13	11	30

21/22. Not religious /Agnostic combined

Much more	10	10	8	11
Somewhat more	4	5	2	3
Somewhat less	7	5	5	10
Much less.....	11	6	9	16
No difference	62	68	69	54
(Undecided/dk)	5	5	5	4
(Refused)	2	1	2	1
More	14	16	10	14
Less.....	18	11	14	27

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
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Q23. {Split 3 and 4} All things being equal, in choosing between two candidates who share the same positions on the issues you care about, would you be more or less likely to vote for a candidate who is atheist, meaning they don't believe in God, or wouldn't it make any difference. **[IF MORE/LESS]** And is that much **[more/less]** or only somewhat **[more/less]**?

Much more	7	8	5	7
Somewhat more	2	2	2	2
Somewhat less	9	6	4	13
Much less.....	23	14	20	35
No difference	54	64	62	40
(Undecided/dk)	4	4	3	2
(Refused)	2	1	3	1
More	9	10	8	9
Less.....	32	20	24	48

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
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{RESUME ASKING ALL}

The remaining questions are for statistical purposes only.

D1. Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent or something else?

[IF REPUBLICAN/DEMOCRAT:] Do you consider yourself a strong or a not-so-strong (Republican/Democrat)?

[IF INDEPENDENT:] Would you say you lean more towards the Republicans or more towards the Democrats?

Strong Democrat	30	69	0	0
Not-so-strong Democrat	5	11	0	0
Independent - lean Democrat	8	20	0	0
Democrat	43	100	0	0
Independent	15	0	97	0
Republican	38	0	0	100
Independent - lean Republican	9	0	0	25
Not-so-strong Republican	5	0	0	13
Strong Republican	24	0	0	62
(Other)	2	0	0	0
(Don't know)	1	0	3	0
(Refused)	1	0	0	0

D2. What is your age?

D3. [IF AGE IS REFUSED]: I am going to read you some categories. Please stop me when we get to your category.

18-29 years	13	18	9	9
30-39 years	15	17	15	13
40-49 years	16	15	19	16
50-64 years	30	27	33	32
Over 64 years	26	23	25	30
18-24 years	7	10	5	4
25-29 years	6	8	3	5
30-34 years	7	9	7	6
35-39 years	8	9	8	7
40-44 years	7	7	11	5
45-49 years	9	8	8	11
50-54 years	8	6	10	8
55-59 years	10	9	10	10
60-64 years	13	12	13	13
65-69 years	7	6	8	9
70-74 years	7	6	5	9
Over 74 years	11	10	12	13
(Refused)	0	0	0	0

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
D4. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?				
1 - 11th Grade	2	3	2	1
High School Graduate	19	18	10	22
Vocational or technical school.....	5	5	4	6
Some college but no degree	21	20	21	22
Associate degree	11	10	12	12
4-year college graduate or bachelor's degree	22	22	26	20
Graduate School or advanced degree	17	19	21	14
(Refused)	3	2	4	2

D5. Are you married, unmarried with a partner, single, separated, divorced, or widowed?

Married	58	53	60	64
Unmarried with Partner	5	7	3	3
Single	18	25	16	13
Separated	1	1	1	1
Divorced	7	5	7	8
Widowed	8	7	7	9
(Don't Know)	1	0	2	0
(Refused)	3	3	3	1

D6. Do you have any children under the age of 18 living at home with you?

Yes	26	25	28	26
No	71	72	68	72
(Refused)	3	3	3	2

D7. What's your employment status? Are you...[READ OPTIONS]?

Employed full time	48	50	48	47
Employed part time	9	9	9	9
Unemployed	3	4	4	2
Homemaker or stay at home parent	4	4	3	4
Student	3	5	2	2
Retired	29	26	29	33
(Refused)	3	3	4	2

D8. Are you a current or retired member of a labor union?

[IF NOT CURRENT MEMBER, ASK:] Is anyone in your household a current or retired member of a union?
Select all that apply

Yes, current member of a labor union	7	8	9	5
Yes, retired member of a labor union	6	7	6	5
Yes, current member in household	2	2	0	2
Yes, retired member in household	3	3	3	3
Yes, combined	18	20	18	15
No, no one in the household	79	77	79	83
(Don't know)	3	3	3	2

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
D9. Do you think of yourself as a born again or evangelical Christian, or would you not describe yourself that way?				
Born-again/Evangelical Christian	30	22	23	43
Not Born-Again/Evangelical	57	66	58	48
(Don't know)	6	6	9	5
(Refused)	7	6	10	4

D10. In the November 2016 election for president, did you vote for {rotate:} _Donald Trump or _Hillary Clinton or Gary Johnson, or like some people, were you not able to vote?

Donald Trump	40	4	33	85
Hillary Clinton	41	78	34	4
Gary Johnson	3	3	4	2
(Someone else)	4	3	7	2
(Don't remember)	1	1	2	1
Did not vote	4	5	6	3
(Prefer not to answer)	7	5	14	3

Among those who had a candidate

Donald Trump	46	5	42	91
Hillary Clinton	47	88	44	4
Gary Johnson	3	4	6	2
(Someone else)	4	4	9	3

D12. Just to make sure we have a representative sample, could you please tell me whether you are from a Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background? [IF "NO", ASK:] What is your race - White, Black, Asian, Native American, or something else?

White	72	59	72	87
Black/African American	11	19	11	3
Spanish speaking/Latino (Puerto Rican, Mexican, etc.)	11	16	9	6
Asian	1	1	1	0
Native American	1	1	0	1
Pacific Islander	0	0	0	0
Arab American	0	0	0	0
(Other)	2	2	4	2
(Don't know / Refused)	2	2	4	1

Targetsmart 2018 Partisanship Score

90+	36	65	30	8
80-89	5	8	3	3
70-79	3	3	5	2
60-69	3	3	5	2
50-59	3	3	4	2
40-49	3	3	4	3
30-39	3	2	3	4
20-29	4	3	4	6
10-19	8	4	9	11
0 -9	32	7	32	60
(Missing)	0	0	0	0

	TOTAL	DEM	IND /DK	REP
Targetsmart 2018 Turnout Score				
90+	19	18	14	21
80-89	30	28	30	33
70-79	15	13	17	16
60-69	11	11	11	10
50-59	8	8	10	7
40-49	4	5	5	3
30-39	4	4	3	3
20-29	4	5	6	3
10-19	4	6	3	3
0 -9	2	3	2	0
(Missing)	0	0	0	0

DEFINITIONS OF CREATED VARIABLES

EDUCATION

H.S./Less

Respondents with no more than a high school diploma.

Post H.S.

Respondents with some post high school education, such as technical or vocational school or some college education or a junior college degree.

Non-college grad

Respondents who do not have a 4-year college diploma.

College graduate +

Respondents with at least a 4-year college degree.

4-year College grad

Respondents with a 4-year college degree but no post graduate education.

Post-graduate

Respondents with a 4-year college degree and a post-graduate degree.

PARTY ID

Democrat

Respondents who identify themselves as Democrats.

Independent

Respondents who identify themselves as independents.

Republican

Respondents who identify themselves as Republicans.

PARTY ID (CONT)

Indep. w/weak partisan

Respondents who identify themselves as independents or as not strong Republicans or Democrats.

PARTY ID STRENGTH

Strong Democrat

Respondents who identify themselves as strong Democrats.

Weak Democrat

Respondents who identify themselves as not strong Democrats or as independents who lean towards Democrats.

Weak Republican

Respondents who identify themselves as not strong Republicans or as independents who lean towards Republicans.

Strong Republican

Respondents who identify themselves as strong Republicans.

REGION

New England

Respondents who live in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, or Connecticut.

Middle Atlantic

Respondents who live in New York, New Jersey, or Pennsylvania.

East South Central

Respondents who live in Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi, or Kentucky.

West South Central

Respondents who live in Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, or Texas.

South Atlantic

Respondents who live in Delaware, Maryland, District of Columbia, West Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Virginia, or Florida.

East North Central

Respondents who live in Michigan, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin, or Ohio.

West North Central

Respondents who live in Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, or Kansas.

Mountain

Respondents who live in Montana, Idaho, Wyoming, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Utah, or Nevada.

Pacific

Respondents who live in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska, or Hawaii.

Northeast

Respondents who live in the New England or Middle Atlantic regions.

Midwest

Respondents who live in the East North Central or West North Central regions.

South

Respondents who live in the South Atlantic, East South Central, or West South Central regions.

West

Respondents who live in the Pacific or Mountain regions.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

Lake Research Partners and The Tarrance Group designed and administered this survey which was conducted using professional interviewers from November 4-6, 2018. The questions about voting and the demographics reached a total of 2,400 registered voters nationwide who voted in the 2018 elections – 1,358 interviews among voters who were reached on landlines and 1,042 interviews among voters who were reached on cell phones. Issue questions reached a total of 1,200 registered voters nationwide who voted in the 2018 elections (margin of error of +/-2.8%).

Telephone numbers were drawn from the Catalist voter file. The sample was stratified geographically based on the proportion of likely voters in each region. The data were weighted to reflect the aggregated Congressional vote as reported in the 2018 exit polls, as well as by gender, age, race, party identification, education, marital status, union household, and census region to reflect the actual proportions of the electorate.

The margin of error for the likely voter sample is +/-2.0%. In interpreting survey results, all sample surveys are subject to possible sampling error; that is, the results of a survey may differ from those which would be obtained if the entire population were interviewed. The size of the sampling error depends upon both the total number of respondents in the survey and the percentage distribution of responses to a particular question. For example, if 50% of respondents in a sample of 2,400 respondents answered “Yes” to a particular question, we can be 95% confident that the true percentage will fall within 2.0 points, or from 48.0% to 52.0%. The table below represents the estimated sampling error for different percentage distributions of responses. The margin of error is higher among subgroups.

**Margin of Error
for Different Percentage Distributions and Different Sample Sizes
(95% confidence)**

Sample Size	PERCENTAGES NEAR								
	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
2400	1.2	1.6	1.8	2.0	2.0	2.0	1.8	1.6	1.2
2200	1.3	1.7	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.0	1.9	1.7	1.3
2000	1.3	1.8	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.0	1.8	1.3
1800	1.4	1.8	2.1	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.1	1.8	1.4
1600	1.5	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.5	2.4	2.2	2.0	1.5
1400	1.6	2.1	2.4	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.4	2.1	1.6
1200	1.7	2.3	2.6	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.6	2.3	1.7
1000	1.9	2.5	2.8	3.0	3.1	3.0	2.8	2.5	1.9
800	2.1	2.8	3.2	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.2	2.8	2.1
600	2.4	3.2	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.9	3.7	3.2	2.4
400	2.9	3.9	4.5	4.8	4.9	4.8	4.5	3.9	2.9
200	4.2	5.5	6.4	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.4	5.5	4.2
100	5.9	7.8	9.0	9.6	9.8	9.6	9.0	7.8	5.9

To: Ron Millar, Freethought Equality Fund

From: Celinda Lake, Daniel Gotoff, and Tim Dixon, *Lake Research Partners*
Brian Nienaber, *The Tarrance Group*

Re: New Survey Reveals Public Support for Non-Religious Candidates

Date: November 15, 2018

The following memo summarizes the key findings from the results of an election eve/ Election Day survey of 2018 voters on the subject of voters' relative appetite for non-religious candidates for public office. Overall, the results are highly encouraging. A majority of voters say that it would make no difference in a choice between two candidates who shared the same views if one candidate was non-religious, agnostic, or even atheist. Moreover, faced with the choice of a non-religious candidate who stands for most of the things voters believe in versus a religious candidate who opposes most of the things that voters believe in, solid majorities would support the candidate who does not believe in God. In summary, while voters will indeed consider religious beliefs as part of their broader assessments of candidates, the results of this data contravene conventional wisdom when it comes to the weight that voters give to a candidate's religiosity, revealing just how willing they are to support secular candidates and how much other issues take precedence.

Political Environment

This data illustrates well one of the key reasons for Republican losses in the House of Representatives – an inability to match base Democratic voter enthusiasm. While Republicans lead Democrats by 3-points (72%-69%) in being almost certain to vote, there was a small but notable gap in the intensity on the generic ballot. While 88% of Republicans supported the GOP candidate on the generic Congressional ballot, 91% of Democrats were supporting the Democratic candidate. In a political environment that was trending against the GOP, this enthusiasm gap accounts for a significant number of votes in competitive races.

This vote enthusiasm data also shows the importance of early outreach to voters. Fully 49% of all voters and 47% of Republicans indicate they voted before Election Day. In addition, a plurality of all voters (43%) and Republicans (47%) indicate they made their vote decision more than three months ago. If this decision timeframe is expanded to at least a month before the election, 62% of all voters and 66% of Republicans say that they had already made their decision by then. If your outreach comes in the final 30 days of the election, your capacity for influence is notably more limited.

The issue matrix shows a strong partisan divide. While the overall electorate ranks health care (27%) as its top issue, driven by strong interest among Democrats (37%), Republicans rank immigration as their top issue (38%) followed by the economy and jobs (29%). In contrast, just 15% of Democrats rate immigration as their top issue and just 11% of Democrats rates the economy and jobs as their top issue. This was an election in which partisans were interested in two divergent sets of issues.

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Views on Choice and Marriage Equality

More voters than not support socially progressive candidates than socially conservative ones. A plurality of voters favors pro-choice candidates over pro-life candidates. All things being equal, 48% of voters are more likely to vote for pro-choice candidates (including 37% who are much more likely) versus 42% who are more likely to vote for pro-life candidates (including 32% who are much more likely). The margin of support for pro-choice candidates expands from 5 points to 8 points when the terms “pro-life” and “pro-choice” are explained to voters (46% pro-choice, 41% pro-life when uninformed; 50% pro-choice, 42% pro-life when informed). While, unsurprisingly, Democrats are solidly pro-choice (75%) and Republicans are solidly pro-life (75%), independents support pro-choice candidates over pro-life candidates by a commanding margin (50% pro-choice versus 30% pro-life).

Similarly, nearly half of voters say that they are more likely to vote for candidates who support marriage equality (48%, including 39% much more likely) over those who support traditional marriage (40%, including 33% much more likely). On this front, intensity favors the more progressive position. In terms of partisan breakdown, Democrats strongly support marriage equality (71%) while Republicans support traditional marriage (though at 66% support is less consolidated than Democrats are for pro-equality candidates). A majority of independents also support candidates who advocate for marriage equality and by a solid, double-digit margin (51% equality, 35% traditional).

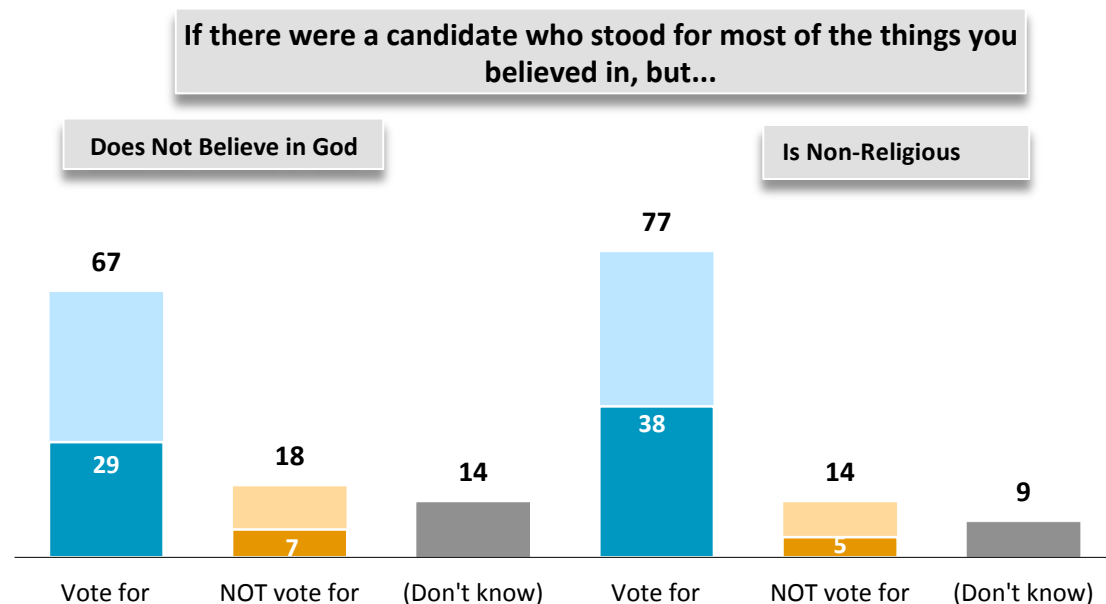
Views on the Role of Religiosity in Choosing Candidates

While three-fifths of voters say that they would prefer a candidate who believes in God over a candidate who does not believe in God (60% versus 6%, respectively), regardless of whether “no difference” is offered as an express response option, there is very little evidence of single-issue voters on this matter. It is noticeably less important to voters under 35 than older voters. Among voters under 35, 49% prefer someone who believes in God versus 49% who either prefer someone who does not believe in God (9%) or say it makes no difference (40%). For voters over 35, 63% prefer someone who believes in God, while just 5% prefer someone who does not believe in God and 29% say it makes no difference. Notably, this generational trend tends to hold throughout the data, with younger voters less likely to prioritize religious faith and more likely to value secular candidates. Republicans are also significantly more likely to prefer a candidate who believes in God. Fully 81% of Republicans indicate a preference for a candidate who believes in God versus just 46% of Democrats who hold this same preference.

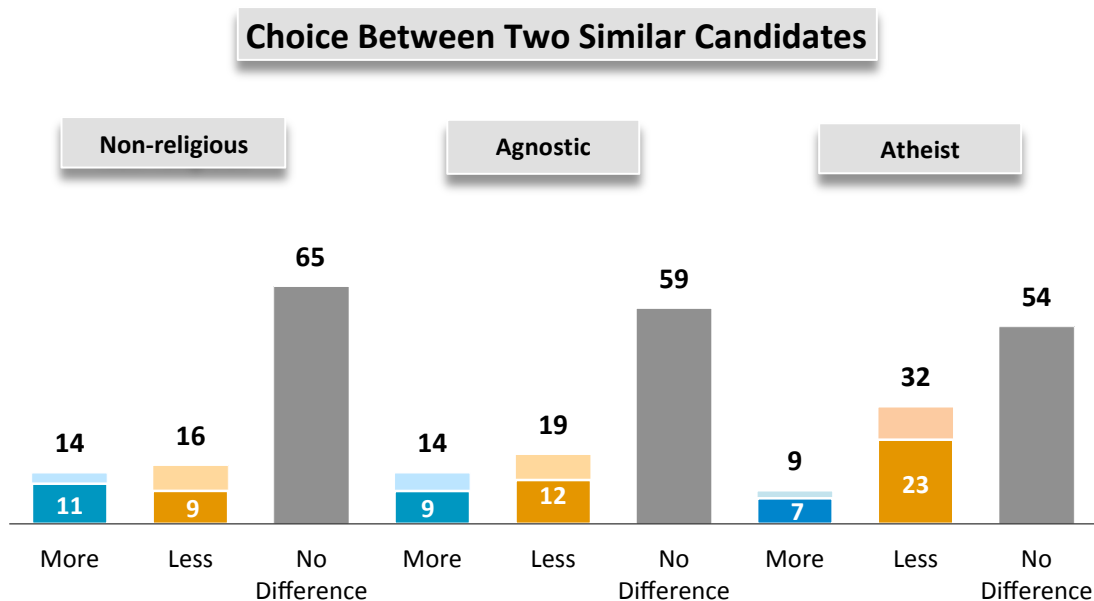
Perhaps the most promising finding in the results is that solid majorities of voters report they would support a non-religious or non-believer candidate who stands for most of the things they believe in (60%, including 42% much more) over a candidate who believes in God but opposes most of the things they supported (24%, including 14% much more). Majorities of all parties would support a non-religious or non-believer under these circumstances, including 67% of Democrats, 54% of Republicans, and 57% of independents. Men, younger voters, Democrats, whites, Latinx, and West voters are most supportive of non-religious candidates, as outlined in the following table.

	17/19. Support for Non-Religious/Non-Believer Candidate vs. Religious Candidate	18/20. Vote for Non-Religious/Non-Believer Candidate
Men	61%	71%
Women	59%	74%
Under 50	69%	80%
50 & over	53%	67%
Democrats	67%	79%
Independents	57%	69%
Republicans	54%	68%
Whites	61%	75%
Blacks	53%	58%
Latinx	61%	74%
Northeast	56%	74%
Midwest	59%	74%
South	54%	66%
West	73%	81%

Similarly, when the question is not posed as a forced choice versus a religious candidate, even more impressive numbers—two-thirds—of voter report a willingness to vote for a secular candidate who stands for most of the things they believe in (67% would vote for a candidate who is a “non-believer”, while 77% would vote for a “non-religious” candidate). Across party lines, dominant majorities support secular candidates under these circumstances, including 79% of Democrats, 69% of independents, and 68% of Republicans, than in the forced choice. Noticeably, support for non-religious/believer candidates among black voters is lower than all other major subgroups, including Republicans, though a 58% majority of black voters would still support a non-religious/believer candidate who otherwise shares their views on most major issues.



Moreover, all things being equal, in choosing between two candidates who share the same positions on the issues that voters care about, solid majorities of voters respond that it wouldn't make any difference whether a candidate were religious or not (65%). The same is true for in choosing between two candidates who share the same positions on the issues voters care about—one an atheist or agnostic and one a religious person: a majority says that their religious belief or lack thereof would not make any difference in their vote (54% for atheist, 59% for agnostic).



As is the case with much of the data in this study, these results cross partisan lines. While Republicans are noticeably less supportive of secular candidates than Democrats (71% “no difference” for non-religious, 65% for agnostic, and 64% for atheist) and independents (69% “no difference” for non-religious, 70% for agnostic, and 62% for atheist), majorities of Republicans still say it makes no difference if they are non-religious (56%) or agnostic (51%). A plurality of Republicans (48%) does say that it would be less likely to vote for an atheist candidate (13% somewhat less likely, 35% much less likely, versus 7% much more likely, 2% somewhat more likely, 40% makes no difference), however most younger Republicans (including 68% of those under 35 and 54% of those under 50) say that it makes no difference. Ultimately, while most Republican voters will not disqualify a candidate solely because they are a non-believer, atheist, or agnostic, there is a significant portion of the GOP electorate who will use the lack of a belief in God as a “tie breaker”. The key lesson here is that with an appropriately strong focus on key issues, Republicans are willing to overlook disagreements on personal religious beliefs.

In conclusion, these results show that being non-religious or atheist need not be considered an impediment to a candidate's electoral success. In the current environment, in which concerns over health care, immigration, and the economy dominate voters' issue agenda and pluralities of voters—including majorities of Democrats and independents—indicate a preference for pro-choice and pro-marriage equality candidates, voters are less focused on

candidates' religious faith or lack thereof. Indeed, key subgroups of the electorate—including younger voters—are expressing a growing preference for secular leaders, and voters—across partisan, regional, gender, generational, and racial, and ethnic lines—are prioritizing other concerns over issues of religious faith. These are certainly promising findings for atheist, agnostic, non-religious, and humanist leaders who are considering a run for elected office.

Views on Atheism among Pro-Choice, Pro-Marriage Equality Democrats

Last, we analyzed the impact of a candidate's atheism among voters who chose the Democratic candidate in the Congressional elections, and who also identify as being pro-choice and pro-LGBTQ+ on the matter of marriage equality (these voters account for about one-third of the electorate). There is little evidence that a pro-choice, pro-marriage equality candidate would lose support by announcing s/he is an atheist/non-religious; in fact, voters overwhelmingly prefer the non-religious candidate when offered the choice between a non-religious candidate who stands for most of the things they believe in versus a religious candidate who opposes most of the things they believe in (72% prefer the non-religious candidate compared to 10% who prefer the religious candidate, with the remaining 18% undecided).

Moreover, these voters are even more likely than voters overall to support a candidate who does not believe in God/is non-religious, but/and stands for most of the things they believe in, independent of an alternative: 87% versus 5%, with 8% who are unsure. They are also even more likely than voters overall to ignore the religious issue when the non-believer agrees with them more than his/her opponent: 54% of these voters say a candidate's religious beliefs or lack thereof makes no difference when all other things are equal (compared to 31% of all voters), though among those with a preference, more prefer the religious/believer candidate (31%) to the non-religious/non-believer candidate (10%), with another 5% unsure. Underscoring the point that a candidate's atheism is a non-issue—or even a plus—for pro-choice, pro-marriage equality Democratic voters, fully 74% say a candidate being not religious/agnostic would make no difference in their vote (compared to 62% of all voters) and 72% say a candidate's atheism would make no difference in their vote (compared to 54% of all voters); in both cases, 4% of voters are unsure and 1% refused to answer the question. Among those with a preference for a non-religious/agnostic candidate, 14% are more likely to vote for him/her (including 10% much more likely) and 7% are less likely (including 4% much less likely); the difference is modest, and seemingly contradicted by preferences among those (also relatively few) voters with an inclination toward an atheist candidate: 10% are more likely to vote for him/her (8% much more likely) and 13% are less likely (7% much more likely) —a difference well within the survey's margin of error.

Methodology: Lake Research Partners designed and administered this pre-election and election night omnibus survey which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers November 4-6, 2018. The questions about voting and the demographics reached a total of 2,400 registered voters nationwide who voted in the 2018 elections – 1,358 interviews among voters who were reached on landlines and 1,042 interviews among voters who were reached on cell phones. Issue questions reached a total of 1,200 registered voters nationwide who voted in the 2018 elections (margin of error of +/-2.8%). The data were weighted to reflect the aggregated Congressional vote as reported in the 2018 exit polls, as well as by gender, age, race, party identification, education, marital status, union household, and census region to reflect the actual proportions of the electorate. The survey has a margin of error of $\pm 2.0\%$ at the 95% confidence interval.