PRRI/RNS December 2015 Survey
N = 1,003 (503 Landline, 500 Cell phone)
December 2 – December 6, 2015

Q.1 Thinking about some issues in the country today, do you think that **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]** is a critical issue facing the country, one among many important issues or not that important compared to other issues? What about **[INSERT; NEXT]**?

REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Is this a critical issue facing the country, one among many important issues or not that important compared to other issues?

a.   Illegal Immigration

Dec. 2015	Aug. 2011	
41	43	Critical issue
37	35	One among many important issues
20	21	Not that important an issue
2	1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

b. Terrorism

Dec. 2015	Aug. 2011	
75	53	Critical issue
21	35	One among many important issues
4	11	Not that important an issue
1	1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

c. Mass shootings

67	Critical issue
27	One among many important issues
4	Not that important an issue
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Turning to the news and current events…

Q.2   How much, if at all, do you believe that the recent anti-abortion language in the political debate contributed to the shooting at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs?

31	A lot
30	A little
25	Not at all
<u>14</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

Turning to the issue of immigration…

Q.3   Would you say that, in general, the growing number of newcomers from other countries…?

	Threatens traditional American customs and <u>values</u>	Strengthens American <u>society</u>	Neither/ Both equally (Vol.)	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Dec. 2015	35	48	11	7 =100
Nov. 2015	36	51	7	7=100
Oct. 2015	37	51	6	5=100
Sept. 2015	34	51	9	6=100
Late Aug. 2015	36	48	10	6=100
Early Aug. 2015	32	49	12	8=100
July 2015	35	50	9	8=100
Late June 2015	33	54	7	7=100
Early June 2015	34	51	6	9=100
May 2015	29	50	10	10=100
Nov. 2014	45	48	5	3=100
April 2013	36	55	5	4=100
Feb. 2013	40	54	3	3=100
Aug. 2011	42	53	2	3=100

Q.4   Which statement comes closest to your view about how the immigration
       system should deal with immigrants who are currently living in the U.S.
       illegally? The immigration system should…? **[READ LIST IN ORDER;
       ROTATE 1-3; 3-1]**

	Allow them a way to become citizens provided they meet certain requirements	Allow them to become permanent legal residents, but not citizens	Identify and deport them	None of these (VOL.)	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Dec. 2015	63	15	18	2	2=100
Nov. 2015	64	14	16	1	5=100
Oct. 2015	66	13	19	1	2=100
Sept. 2015	63	12	21	1	3=100
Late Aug. 2015	63	16	19	1	2=100
Early Aug. 2015	60	16	19	2	3=100
July 2015	64	14	17	2	3=100
Late June 2015	64	15	16	1	4=100
Early June 2015	61	17	18	2	3=100
May 2015	60	14	21	1	3=100
Feb. 2015	59	19	18	1	3=100
Dec. 2014	65	18	15	1	1=100
Late Nov. 2014	58	19	20	1	2=100
Early Nov. 2014	59	16	22	1	3=100
Oct. 2014	60	17	20	1	2=100
Sept. 2014	57	17	23	1	2=100
Aug. 2014	57	19	21	1	2=100
Late July 2014	58	17	22	1	2=100
Early July 2014	58	18	19	2	4=100
June 2014	61	16	20	1	2=100
May 2014	64	16	17	1	2=100
April 2014	61	16	20	1	2=100
Nov. 2013	63	14	18	1	4=100
Aug. 2013	63	12	19	1	4=100
Feb. 2013	63	14	21	1	1=100

Q.5   Now, we would like to get your views on some issues that are being
        discussed in the country today. Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or
        strongly oppose **[INSERT FIRST]**? What about **[INSERT NEXT]**?
        [RANDOMIZE LIST]

        [READ AS NECESSARY] Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly
        oppose this?

a. Allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Dec. 2015	22	30	19	19	10=100
Nov. 2015	32	24	17	20	8=100
Late Oct. 2015	27	28	19	19	6=100
Early Oct. 2015	31	29	17	22	1=100
Sept. 2015	28	27	16	21	7=100
Late Aug. 2015	26	29	15	20	9=100
Early Aug. 2015	28	25	16	23	8=100
July 2015	24	28	16	24	8=100
June 2015	27	28	18	19	9=100
May 2015	26	27	20	19	9=100
Dec. 2014	25	32	18	18	7=100
Nov. 2014	25	29	20	19	7=100
Oct. 2014	24	32	18	17	9=100
Sept. 2014	22	33	18	19	8=100
Late Aug. 2014	24	25	20	22	9=100
Early Aug. 2014	28	28	17	20	7=100
July 2014	24	29	18	20	10=100
June 2014	25	28	14	26	7=100
May 2014	26	24	19	21	10=100
April 2014	27	27	18	22	5=100
Dec. 2013	22	31	21	20	5=100
Oct. 2013	25	27	19	25	4=100
June 2013	22	30	21	20	7=100
May 2013	24	28	22	21	5=100
March 2013	23	27	18	21	10=100
Feb. 2013	25	27	19	23	7=100
Sept. 2012	24	25	18	27	7=100
Aug. 2012	24	25	17	28	6=100
June 2012	25	24	18	26	7=100
March 2012	22	30	19	25	5=100
Oct. 2011	24	24	20	26	6=100
Aug. 2011	19	29	21	25	6=100
July 2011	18	29	21	26	6=100

b. Laws that would protect gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people against discrimination in jobs, public accommodations, and housing

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Dec. 2015	32	37	16	10	5=100
Nov. 2015	39	33	12	11	6=100
Oct. 2015	34	35	15	11	4=100
Sept. 2015	37	34	15	10	4=100
Late Aug. 2015	37	33	15	9	6=100
Early Aug. 2015	35	36	13	11	5=100
July 2015	34	34	14	11	6=100
June 2015	40	29	13	12	6=100
May 2015	35	36	15	9	5=100

c. Allowing a small business owner in your state to refuse to provide products or services to gay or lesbian people, if doing so violates their religious beliefs.

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)
Dec. 2015	15	21	32	26	7=100
Nov. 2015	15	20	23	36	7=100
Oct. 2015	14	20	27	32	6=100
Sept. 2015	17	18	28	32	5=100
Late Aug. 2015	14	21	29	28	8=100
Early Aug. 2015	17	21	28	28	5=100
July 2015	17	19	27	28	7=100
June 2015	16	18	28	32	5=100
May 2015	14	18	30	32	5=100

Q.6   Now, as I read a few statements please tell me if you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree with each one. First… **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**. Next…

READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly DISagree or completely disagree?

a. The values of Islam, the Muslim religion, are at odds with American values and way of life

Dec. 2015	Oct. 2015	Feb. 2013	Aug. 2011	
20	26	23	17	Completely agree
27	30	24	30	Mostly agree
24	28	25	32	Mostly disagree
19	13	19	16	Completely disagree
10	3	9	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	100	Total

b. American Muslims are an important part of the religious community in the U.S.

Dec. 2015	Feb. 2012	Aug. 2011	Feb. 2011	
22	21	15	24	Completely agree
35	33	39	38	Mostly agree
20	19	27	17	Mostly disagree
15	14	16	13	Completely disagree
8	14	3	8	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	100	Total

c. American Muslims have not done enough to oppose extremism in their own communities

Dec. 2015	Feb. 2011	
24	19	Completely agree
29	27	Mostly agree
22	21	Mostly disagree
13	12	Completely disagree
13	20	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

Q.7   How much do you know about the religious beliefs and practices of Muslims? Would you say a lot, a little or nothing at all?

Dec. 2015	Aug. 2011	
16	14	A lot
57	57	A little
26	29	Nothing at all
1	*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

Q.8   Now, thinking about the conversations you have had with different types of people in the past 12 months. How often have you had a conversation with someone who, as far as you know, is Muslim?

Dec. 2015	Aug. 2011	
8	6	At least once a day
29	24	Occasionally
26	28	Seldom
36	40	Never
1	2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

Q.9   Which comes closer to your view about how the U.S. should deal with Syrian refugees who want to come to this country? **[READ; RANDOMIZE]**

53	The U.S. should allow refugees from Syria into the United States as long as they go through a security clearance process
41	The U.S. should not allow any refugees from Syria into the United States at this time
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF NOT ALLOW REFUGEES INTO US, (Q9=2), ASK [N = 415]:
Q.10   What is the MOST important reason the U.S. should not allow refugees from Syria into the United States?

57	They would represent a threat to national security
16	They would be a burden on local communities
17	They do not share American values
8	Other [SPECIFY—VOL.]
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

ASK ALL:
Q.11   How worried are you that you or someone in your family will be a victim of terrorism?

Dec. 2015	Nov. 2014	
17	11	Very worried
30	22	Somewhat worried
30	35	Not too worried
23	31	Not at all worried
*	1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

ROTATE Q12 & Q13
Q.12   When people claim to be Muslim and commit acts of violence in the name of Islam, do you believe they really are Muslim, or not?

Dec. 2015	Aug. 2011	
37	44	Yes
50	48	No
13	9	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

And…
Q.13   When people claim to be Christian and commit acts of violence in the name of
         Christianity, do you believe they really are Christian, or not?

Dec. 2015	Aug. 2011	
19	13	Yes
75	83	No
6	4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

On a different subject…
PARTY   Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as…?

20	A Republican
32	A Democrat
39	An independent
2	Other (SPECIFY) (VOL.)
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF INDEPENDENT OR OTHER [PARTY=3,4,0,8,9], ASK [N=441]:
PARTYLN   As of today do you lean more towards the Republican Party or more
              towards the Democratic Party?

32	Republican
29	Democrat
13	Independent (VOL.)
4	Other (SPECIFY) (VOL.)
22	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

IF IDENTIFY AS DEMOCRAT (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2) AND REGISTERED TO VOTE (REGVOTE=1), ASK [N=375]:

Q.14   Which of the following Democratic candidates would you most like to see as the Democratic Party's 2016 nominee for president? **[READ: RANDOMIZE LIST]**

Dec. 2015	Nov. 2015[1]	Oct. 2015	
52	64	49	Hillary Clinton
-	-	21	Joe Biden
31	28	24	Bernie Sanders
4	3	1	Martin O'Malley
-	-	1	Jim Webb
1	1	2	Other (SPECIFY) (VOL.)
13	5	1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	Total

IF IDENTIFY AS REPUBLICAN (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) AND REGISTERED TO VOTE (REGVOTE=1), ASK [N=330]:

Q.15   Which of the following Republican candidates would you most like to see as the Republican Party's 2016 nominee for president? **[READ: RANDOMIZE LIST]**

Dec. 2015	Nov. 2015[2]	Oct. 2015	
4	0	3	Rand Paul
11	8	5	Ted Cruz
12	9	10	Marco Rubio
-	-	3	Scott Walker
9	9	10	Jeb Bush
3	4	3	Chris Christie
23	23	28	Donald Trump
16	25	14	Ben Carson
2	3	11	Carly Fiorina
2	4	3	John Kasich
2	4	5	Mike Huckabee
-	-	1	Bobby Jindal
-	-	1	Rick Santorum
2	*	1	Other (SPECIFY) (VOL.)
14	11	1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	Total

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[1] Results for November 2015 do not include independents who lean towards the Democratic Party.
[2] Results for November 2015 do not include independents who lean towards the Republican Party.

Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute in partnership with Religion News Service. The survey was made possible by a generous grant from The Henry Luce Foundation. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) RDD telephone interviews conducted between December 2, 2015, and December 6, 2015, by professional interviewers under the direction of SSRS. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 1,003 adults 18 years of age or older living in the United States (500 respondents were interviewed on a cell phone). The selection of respondents within households was accomplished by randomly requesting to speak with the youngest adult male or female currently living in the household.

Data collection is based on stratified, single-stage, random-digit-dialing (RDD) sample of landline telephone households and randomly generated cell phone numbers. The sample is designed to represent the total U.S. adult population and includes respondents from all 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska. The landline and cell phone samples are provided by Marketing Systems Group.

The weighting is accomplished in two separate stages. The first stage of weighting corrects for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns.[3] In the second stage, sample demographics are balanced to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, region (U.S. Census definitions), population density and telephone usage. The population density parameter was derived from Census 2010 data. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of the January-September 2014 National Health Interview Survey. All other weighting parameters are derived from an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's May 2015 Current Population Survey.

The sample weighting is accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IFP) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target populations.

The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.7 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.4. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

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[3] Telephone usage refers to whether respondents have only a landline telephone, only a cell phone, or both types.

Appendix

Table 1. Demographic, Political, Religious, and Issue Subgroup Sample Sizes
(All figures are unweighted)

	General Public
Total Sample	1,003
Male	508
Female	495
Republican	234
Independent	364
Democrat	328
Democratic/Democratic-leaning voters	375
Republican/Republican-leaning voters	330
White, non-Hispanic	698
Black, non-Hispanic	102
Hispanic	110
18-29	156
30-49	250
50-64	274
65+	317
White evangelical Protestant	197
White mainline Protestant	163
Non-white Protestant	137
Catholic	196
White Catholic	*119*
Religiously Unaffiliated	212