

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

THE STATE OF THE
FIRST AMENDMENT

THE STATE OF THE FIRST AMENDMENT

The Newseum Institute has supported an annual national survey of American attitudes about the First Amendment since 1997. The *State of the First Amendment: 2017* is the 20th survey in this series. This year's annual survey repeats some of the questions that have been asked since 1997 and includes some new questions as well.

This report summarizes the findings from the 2017 survey and, where appropriate, depicts how attitudes have changed over time. The first section of this report presents the survey methodology that was used to conduct the State of the First Amendment (SOFA) research. The second section highlights the key findings from the 2017 project. The final section presents the complete survey results including question wording and trend data.

The SOFA survey was conducted for the Newseum Institute by Fors Marsh Group (FMG), an applied research company based in Arlington, Va. that specializes in measuring, understanding and influencing the way people think and make decisions. FMG developed the methodology and analyzed the data that were collected through a general public survey of attitudes about the First Amendment. The questionnaire was administered in May 2017 to a nationwide sample of 1,009 American adults by telephone. Portions of the survey were developed by researchers at Fors Marsh Group in conjunction with Ms. Lata Nott, executive director of the Newseum Institute's First Amendment Center, and Mr. Gene Policinski, chief operating officer of the Newseum Institute.

Survey Methodology

The survey was conducted as a dual-frame, bilingual telephone survey designed to meet standards of quality associated with custom research studies. The final sample included 1,009 adult respondents. The margin of error (MOE) was 3.7 percent at the 95 percent confidence level with a design effect of 1.4.

The sample was designed to represent the U.S. adult population (including Hawaii and Alaska). This was a fully replicated, single-stage, random-digit dialing (RDD) sample of landline telephone households and randomly generated cellphone numbers. Sample telephone numbers were computer generated and loaded into online sample files that were accessed directly by the computer-assisted telephone interviewing (CATI) system. The interviewers were carefully trained and monitored using stringent quality control procedures.

The sample was weighted to provide nationally representative and projectable estimates of the adult population aged 18 years and older. The weighting process took into account the disproportionate probabilities of household and respondent selection due to the number of

separate telephone landlines and cellphones answered by respondents and their households, as well as the probability associated with the random selection of an individual household member. The sample was then post-stratified and balanced by key demographics, such as age, race, sex, region and education. The sample was also weighted to reflect the distribution of phone usage in the general population, meaning the proportion of those who are cellphone-only, landline-only and mixed users.

Key Findings

Introduction

The Newseum Institute's First Amendment Center contracted with Fors Mars Group to collect data on attitudes and beliefs about First Amendment freedoms from a representative sample of the U.S. adult population in May 2017. In this survey, 1,009 participants responded to questions related to the First Amendment and hot topics that have been in the news in the Spring of 2017. The sample that responded to the questionnaire included 513 males (50.8 percent) and 496 females (49.2 percent). The age of the participants ranged from 18 to 93 years old, with a mean age of 51.9 years old. Most of the respondents were White, non-Hispanic (66 percent), followed by Black, non-Hispanic (14 percent) and Hispanic participants (11.2 percent).

Political Actions and The First Amendment

- 22.5 percent of participants supported the claim that the First Amendment freedom protection goes too far.
- 46.4 percent of respondents participated in some kind of political action in the past year.

The First Amendment states: *“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.”* For the past 18 years, the SOFA survey has asked respondents whether they agree or disagree with the statement: “The First Amendment goes too far in the rights it guarantees.”

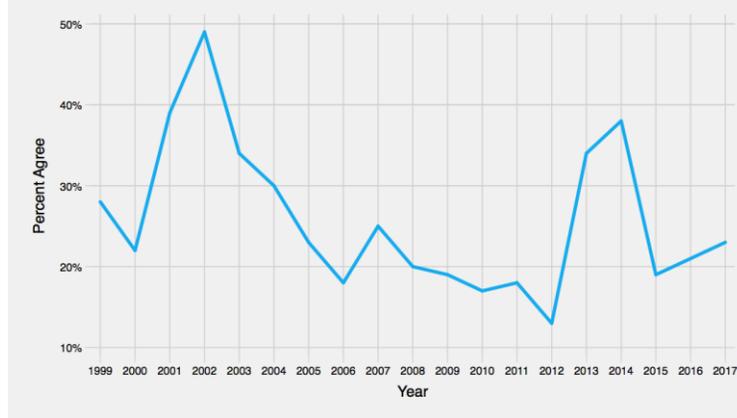
In 2017, over two-thirds of the respondents¹ (68.6 percent) disagreed with the statement that the First Amendment goes too far, whereas slightly less than one-quarter of respondents (22.5 percent) agreed with it, and about 9 percent either refused to respond or did not have an opinion on this matter. These rates are similar to the rates of the previous two years. As seen in Figure 1, there have only been two periods when more than 35 percent of the people agreed that the First Amendment goes too far, peaking at nearly 50 percent in 2002 and spiking again in 2013 and 2014.

There are ideological divisions in attitudes toward the First Amendment. In 2017, less than 16 percent of self-described Liberals agreed that the First Amendment goes too far in the freedoms

¹ The term “respondents” is used interchangeably with the term “participants” in the report, even though some of the “respondents” may have not answered some of the questions asked in the survey.

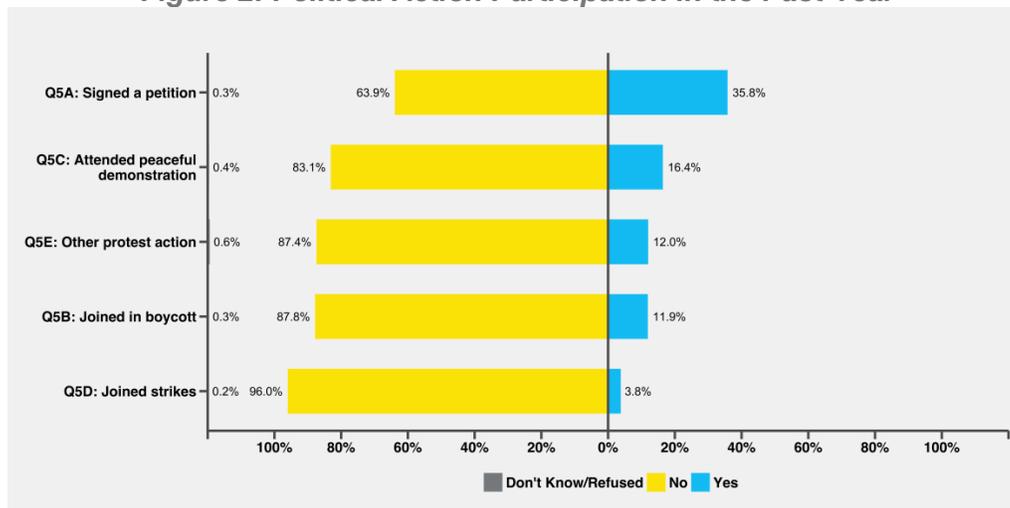
it guarantees (15.8 percent) compared to about one-quarter of both Moderates (26.3 percent) and Conservatives (24.6 percent).²

Figure 1: The First Amendment Goes Too Far, Time Series



The First Amendment Center was interested in knowing more about the kinds of political actions respondents engaged in over the past year. Participants were asked whether they had participated in any of five political actions: signing a petition, joining in boycotts, attending a peaceful demonstration, joining strikes and other acts of protest. Almost half of the respondents (46.4 percent) reported participating in at least one of these political actions in the past year. As displayed in Figure 2, the most commonly reported action was signing a petition (35.8 percent), a freedom explicitly protected by the First Amendment. Over 10 percent reported participating in boycotts, peaceful demonstrations and/or other kinds of demonstrations. Strikes were the least common form of demonstration, with only 3.8 percent of respondents reporting that they participated in this activity in the past year.

Figure 2: Political Action Participation in the Past Year



² Participants that classified themselves as Somewhat or Very Conservative/Liberal, are considered as “Conservative” and “Liberal” respectively in the report.

Freedom of the Press

- 67.7 percent of respondents agreed that the media should act as a watchdog of the government.
- 43.1 percent of participants reported that the media try to report news without bias, a 20 percent increase compared to 2016.
- Most respondents (71.5 percent) did not agree with the statement: “Elected officials should be able to determine which media outlets are able to attend public briefings.”
- More than half of participants (53.2 percent) reported that they prefer news from outlets that are aligned with their own views.
- Conservative participants agreed at higher rates than Liberal participants that leakers should be prosecuted (64 percent vs. 42.4 percent) and that journalists should not be able to publish information that was obtained illegally (76.3 percent vs. 55.9 percent).
- 34 percent of participants reported that their trust in news coming from social media had decreased in the past year.

The SOFA survey also measures public opinion about topics related to the First Amendment, especially issues related to freedom of the press. To assess perceptions of the role of news media, respondents were asked how strongly they agreed or disagreed with the idea that it is important for democracy that news media act as a watchdog of the government. Over two-thirds of participants agreed that this watchdog role is important (67.7 percent). Those with a college degree supported this idea at a higher rate (74.4 percent) than those with a high school degree or less (66.9 percent).

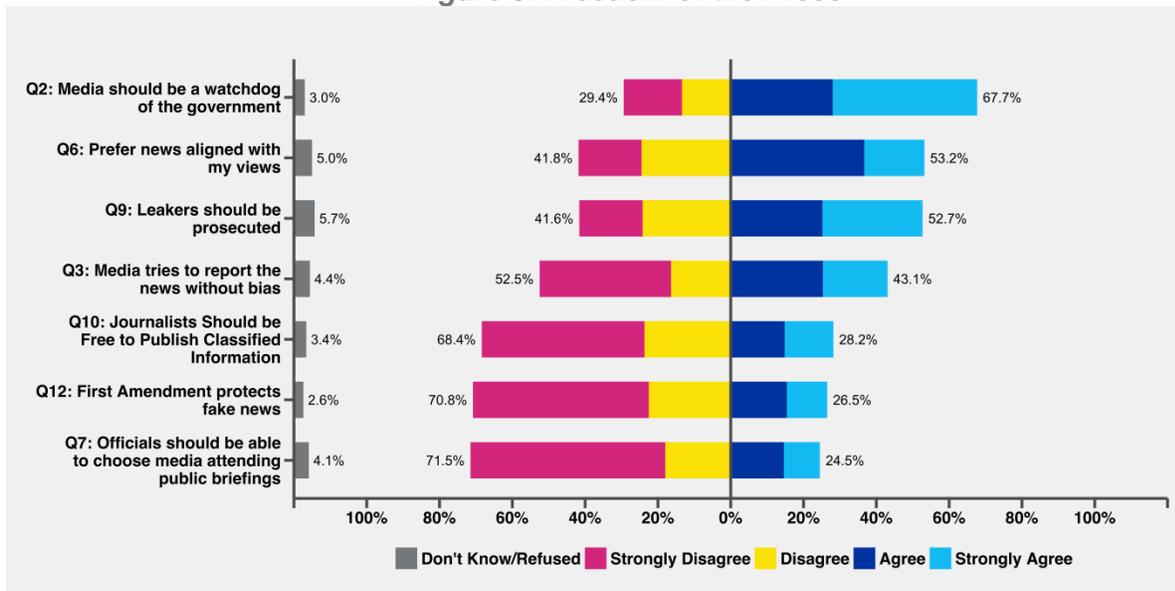
Although a majority of respondents reported that they believe in the importance of news media as watchdog of democracy, there was less of a consensus on how this responsibility is fulfilled. Less than half of respondents (43.1 percent) agreed that news media try to report the news without bias. This is an improvement from 2015 and 2016 (24 percent and 23 percent, respectively) and similar to 2013 and 2014 (46 percent and 41 percent, respectively). When asked about their own news preferences, 53.2 percent of respondents reported a preference for news information that aligns with their own views.

Among those who believe that media try to report unbiased information, most expressed a preference for news information that aligns with their own views (60.7 percent). Those who were more critical of media efforts to report news without bias were less prone to report a preference for news aligned with their own views (49.1 percent). Education was associated with more critical attitudes toward news media. Those respondents with a college degree disagreed that media try to report without bias (59.4 percent) at a much higher rate than those with a high school degree or less (45.3 percent).

Government efforts to interfere with the press were widely perceived to be inappropriate. Less than one-quarter of respondents (24.5 percent) agreed that elected officials should be able to determine which media outlets can attend public briefings. Self-identified Democrats disagreed

with the idea that officials have this authority (76.1 percent) at a higher rate than those identifying as Republicans (60.8 percent).³

Figure 3: Freedom of the Press



Although there is widespread general support for the press’s freedom and independence, many expressed support for limitations on the publication of certain kinds of ideas and information. Only about one in four respondents agreed that journalists should be able to publish classified information that was obtained illegally by someone else (28.2 percent), and more than half of respondents (52.7 percent) agreed that those who leak classified information from the government should be prosecuted, even if the information is of public interest. There is an ideological divide in these attitudes toward the leaking and publication of classified information. While 40.9 percent of self-described Liberals supported the rights of journalists to publish classified information, only 20.6 percent of Conservatives agreed that such publication should be protected. The majority of Conservatives agreed that those who leak classified information should be prosecuted (64 percent) compared to 42.4 percent of Liberals supporting such prosecution.

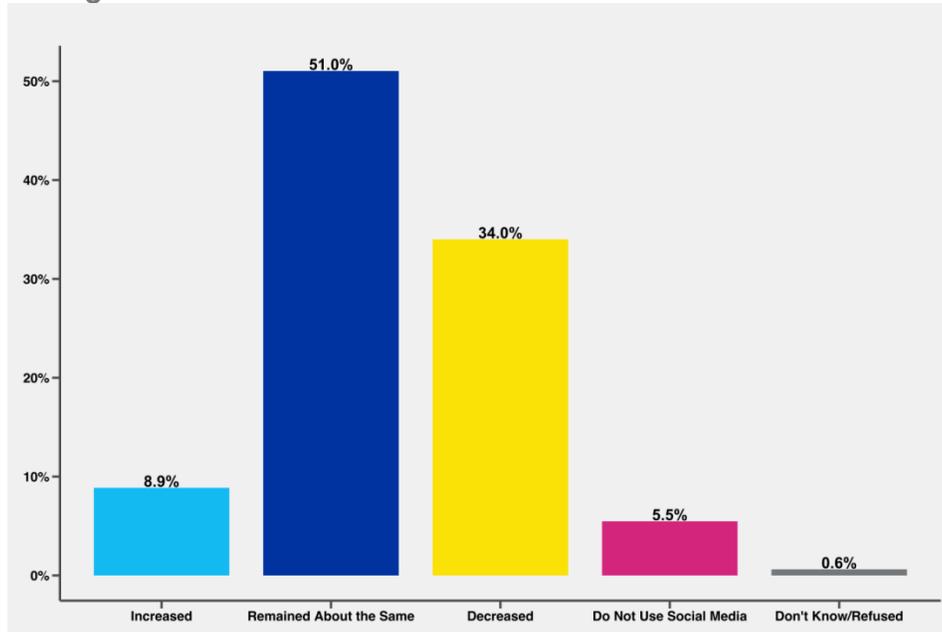
In recent months, there has been concern about the existence and impact of “fake news.” The 2017 SOFA survey asked whether fake news should be protected by the First Amendment. Only 26.5 percent agreed that purposely fake news reports should be protected.

News that appears on social media has been under particular scrutiny. As shown in Figure 4, about one-third of respondents (34 percent) reported a decrease of trust in information obtained from social media, about half reported their trust was unchanged (51 percent), and only 8.9 percent reported that their trust had increased in the past year. The decrease of trust in

³ This difference is not statistically significant ($p=.057$) when controlling for the following demographic characteristics: sex, age, education, income, race, religion and political ideology.

news obtained through social media was particularly high among Republicans (41.4 percent) compared to their Democratic counterparts (28.8 percent).

Figure 4: Trust in News from Social Media over the Past Year



Freedom of Religion, Speech, Petition and Assembly

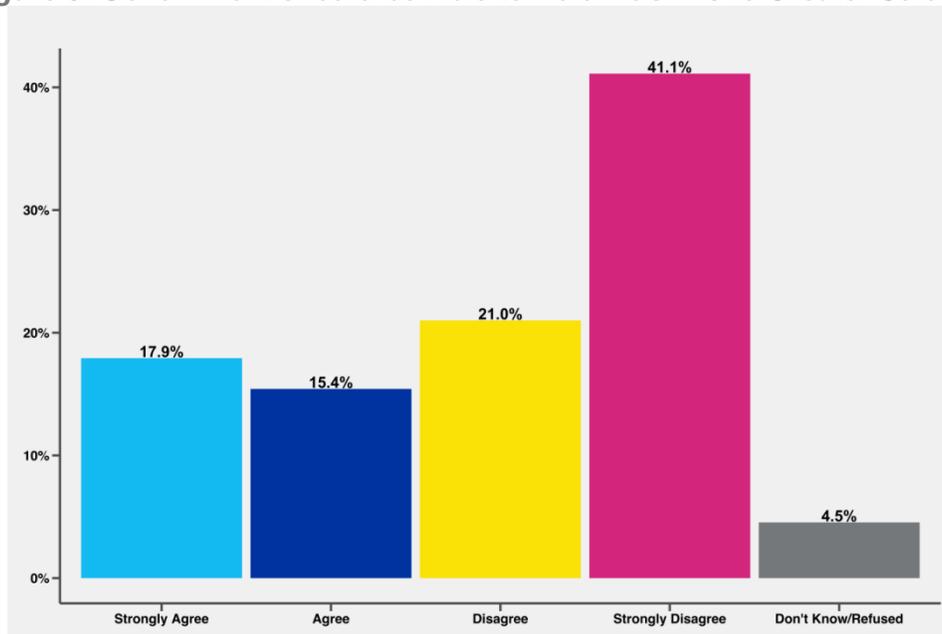
- 62.1 percent of participants did not agree that the Government should be able to hold Muslims to higher levels of scrutiny.
- 43.3 percent of respondents agreed that colleges should be able to ban controversial speakers.

The questionnaire also explored beliefs about situations that affect the other four freedoms defended by the First Amendment.

Regarding freedom of religion, more than half of respondents (58.8 percent) agreed that religious freedom applied to all religious groups, even those widely considered to be extreme or fringe. This is virtually the same percentage recorded in the 2016 SOFA (59 percent). The freedom of worship was supported by more than 60 percent of respondents of all age groups, except for those between 18 and 29 years old (49.4 percent of agreement).

Additionally, participants were asked if people should be treated differently based on their religion. The questionnaire asked if the government should be able to hold Muslims to a greater level of scrutiny even if it infringes on their religious liberty. As shown in Figure 5, one-third of the respondents (33.3 percent) agreed with this statement, whereas almost two-thirds of respondents (62.1 percent) disagreed. Muslim and Jewish respondents had particularly high rates of disagreement (75.4 percent and 84.6 percent, respectively).

Figure 5: Government should be Able to Hold Muslims to Greater Scrutiny

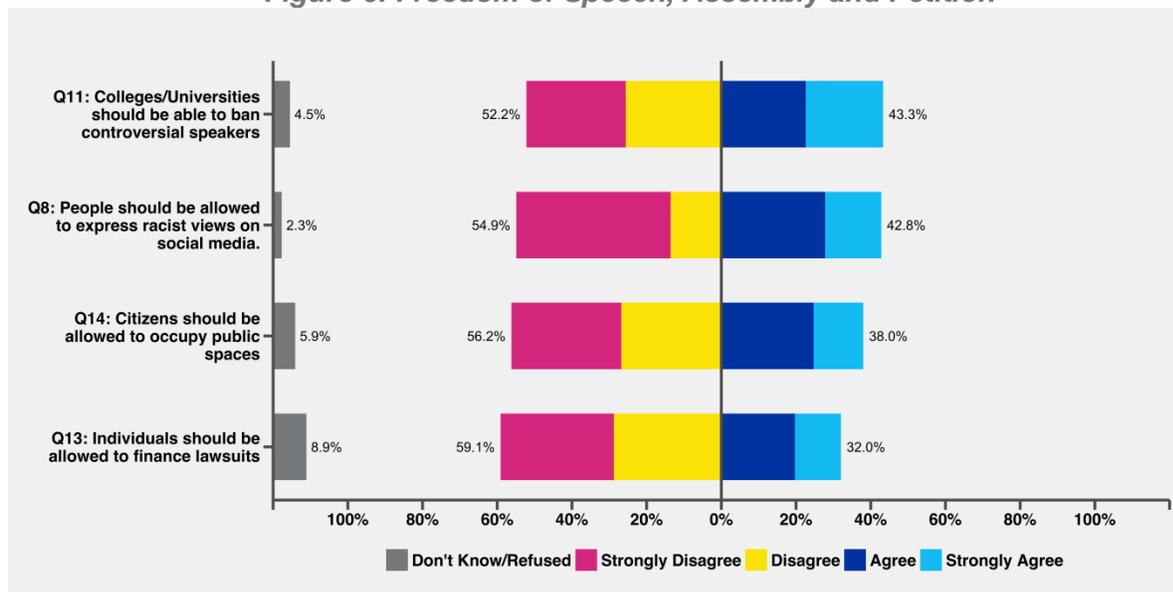


The survey also asked individuals about topics related to freedom of speech. As shown in Figure 6, respondents were fairly evenly divided between those who reported that they thought that freedom of speech should be protected no matter the content of the speech and those who reported that they thought that some kinds of speech should not be allowed. With respect to the expression of racist views on social media, 54.9 percent of respondents reported that such comments should not be allowed. At the regional level, participants from the North East and North Central states of the United States agreed at a higher rate that racist speech on social media should not be permitted (62.2 percent and 59.2 percent, respectively) compared to respondents from the South and West regions of the United States (52.5 percent and 49.1 percent, respectively).⁴

The participants were also asked if colleges should be able to ban speakers on campus when those speakers have a history of provoking extreme opposition. In this case, 43.3 percent of respondents agreed that colleges and universities should have the right to ban speakers. No big differences were recorded across regions of the United States.

⁴ This difference is significant at the $p < .05$ level after controlling for the impact of the following demographic characteristics: sex, age, education, income, race, religion, political party affiliation and political ideology.

Figure 6: Freedom of Speech, Assembly and Petition



Regarding freedom of assembly, the survey asked participants if they thought that citizens should be allowed to occupy a public space even if it affects other citizens' ability to use that space. More than half of respondents (56.2 percent) disagreed that this activity should be protected. Liberals were unique in their support for this behavior, with only 38.3 percent disagreeing that this practice should be protected compared to 66.2 percent of Conservatives and 60.8 percent of Moderates. When looking at differences in age, the results showed that the younger the respondent, the higher the support for the right to occupy public spaces. Almost half of participants (47.5 percent) between the ages of 18 and 29 supported this practice, compared to 38.7 percent among respondents between 30 and 49 years old and less than 35 percent among those participants aged 50 and over.⁵

Finally, participants were asked about their beliefs on whether individuals should be allowed to finance lawsuits against media outlets that do not directly affect the financier. For this question, 32 percent of participants agreed with this practice, whereas 59.1 percent were opposed to it. This proportion was very similar across participants with different political views and demographic backgrounds.

⁵ This difference is significant at the $p < .05$ level after controlling for the impact of the following demographic characteristics: sex, education, income, race, religion, political party affiliation and political ideology.

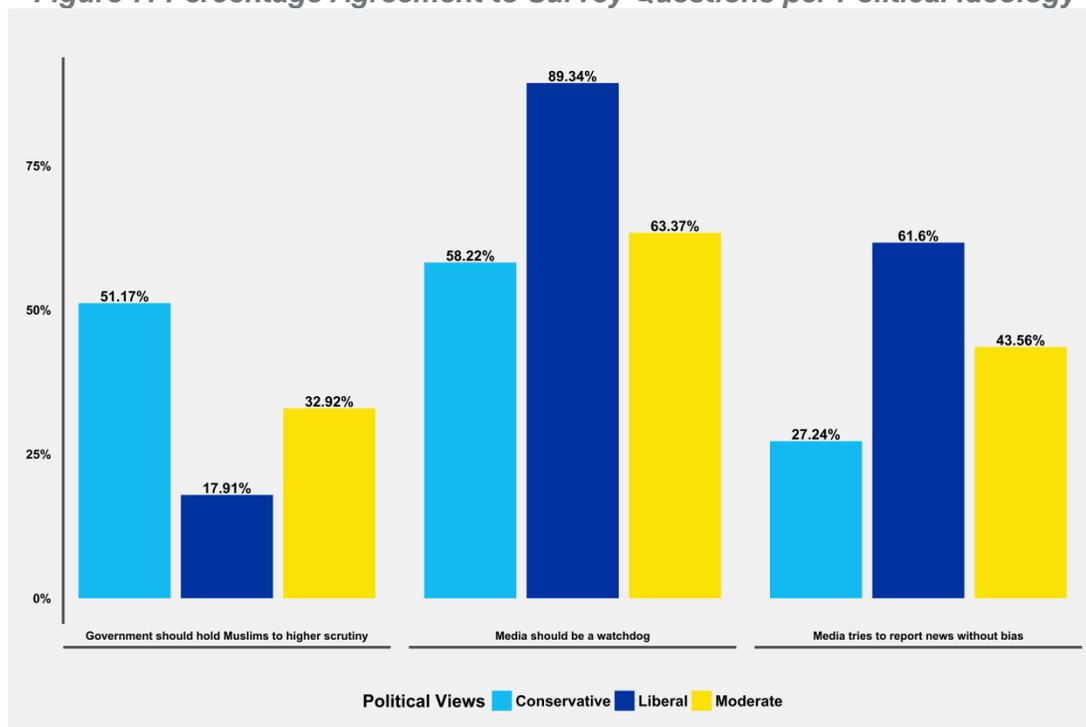
Additional Analyses – Political Ideology

- Liberal participants reported that they engaged in the political actions covered in the survey (e.g., peaceful demonstrations, sign a petition, boycotts) more often than those respondents who considered themselves Conservatives or Moderates.
- 51.2 percent of Conservative participants agreed that the government should be allowed to hold Muslims to a greater level of scrutiny, compared to 32.9 percent of Moderates and 17.9 percent of Liberals.

Participants were asked to report whether they considered themselves: Very/Somewhat Conservative, Moderate or Very/Somewhat Liberal. Unsurprisingly, responses varied widely across the ideological spectrum on most of the items covered in the 2017 SOFA survey. This suggests that there may be some ideological dimension to the First Amendment debate, as questions related to the freedoms in different situations elicited very different responses from participants of different political ideologies.

In order to make sure that discrepancies were not influenced by other demographic characteristics of the sample, the effect of the following characteristics was held constant: sex, age, education level, income, race, religion and political party affiliation. Even after controlling for those characteristics, ideological divisions remained in items covering several topics.

Figure 7: Percentage Agreement to Survey Questions per Political Ideology



Regarding freedom of the press, respondents of different ideologies had distinct opinions on the media and its role in society. Liberal participants were more inclined to think that media should act as a watchdog of the government (89.3 percent) than their Moderate (63.4 percent) and Conservative (58.2 percent) counterparts. Additionally, Conservatives were more skeptical of the media reporting news without bias, as 27.2 percent of Conservative participants agreed with that statement compared to 43.6 percent of Moderate participants and 61.6 percent of Liberal participants.

Liberals reported engaging in the political actions included in the survey at higher rates than Moderate and Conservative participants. Particularly, Liberal respondents reported participating in peaceful demonstrations twice as often as Moderates and over four times more frequently than Conservative participants. Other items that showed large discrepancies among respondents with different ideological views were those about freedom of religion and freedom of assembly. About one-third of Conservative and Moderate respondents supported the claim that “citizens should be allowed to occupy a public space,” whereas half of the Liberal participants agreed with that practice. When asked whether the “government should be able to hold Muslims to a greater level of scrutiny when considering immigration applications or status,” half of the Conservative respondents agreed with the statement compared to one-third of Moderates and 17.9 percent of Liberals (Figure 7).

Some questions, however, elicited similar responses from participants of different political ideologies: two of these questions were related to the media. In general, participants of all political views agreed that “fake” news should not be protected by the First Amendment and reported that their trust in news coming from social media had not increased in the last year.

Additional Analyses – First Amendment Question

- 42.5 percent of participants who agreed that the First Amendment goes too far in the freedoms it guarantees thought the government should be able to choose the media outlets that are able to attend public briefings.
- 53 percent of participants who reported that the First Amendment guarantees too much freedom also reported that the media try to report news without bias.

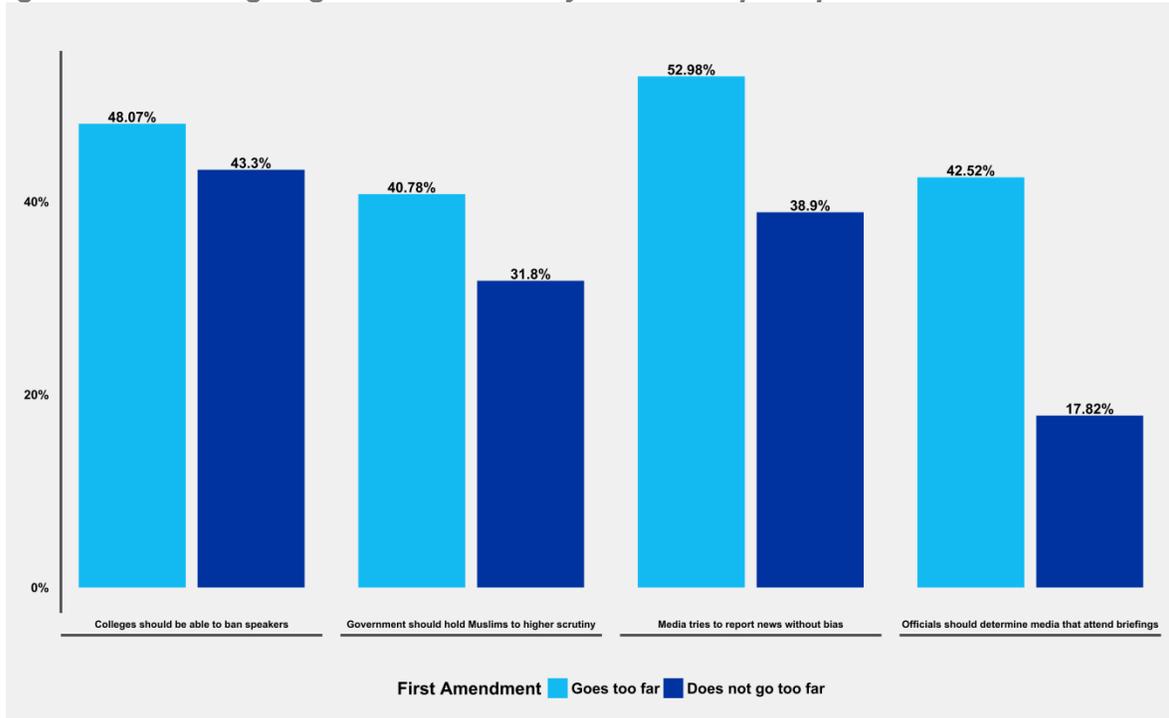
The first item in the questionnaire asked participants whether they thought the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment go too far. And, although most participants did not agree with that idea (68.6 percent), almost one-quarter of respondents (22.5 percent) reported that they thought the five freedoms go too far. When exploring the responses that these participants gave to the rest of the items in the questionnaire, some differences arose between those who did and those who did not think that the First Amendment goes too far in the freedoms it guarantees. Similar to the comparisons between those respondents with different ideologies, sex, age, education, income, race, religion, political party affiliation and political ideology were controlled for in this analysis.⁶

Participants who reported that they thought the First Amendment goes too far in the freedoms it guarantees had a better opinion of the news media, as 53 percent of those participants agreed

⁶ All the comparisons reported in this section were found significant at the $p < .05$ level.

that media try to report news without bias compared to 38.9 percent of those who responded that the First Amendment does not go too far. However, the participants that did not think the First Amendment goes too far in the freedoms it guarantees were more prone to protect media independence, as 80.2 percent of them disagreed with the possibility of elected officials selecting media outlets for public briefings, compared to 53.8 percent of those respondents who thought the First Amendment goes too far.

Figure 8: Percentage Agreement to Survey Questions per Opinion on First Amendment



When asked about topics related to the freedoms of religion and assembly, participants who thought the First Amendment goes too far in the freedom it guarantees were more prone to agree that the government should be able to hold Muslims to higher levels of scrutiny (40.8 percent) and that colleges should be able to ban controversial speakers (48.1 percent) compared to the participants who did not think that the First Amendment goes too far, who agreed with the mentioned statements at lower rates (31.8 percent and 43.3 percent, respectively)

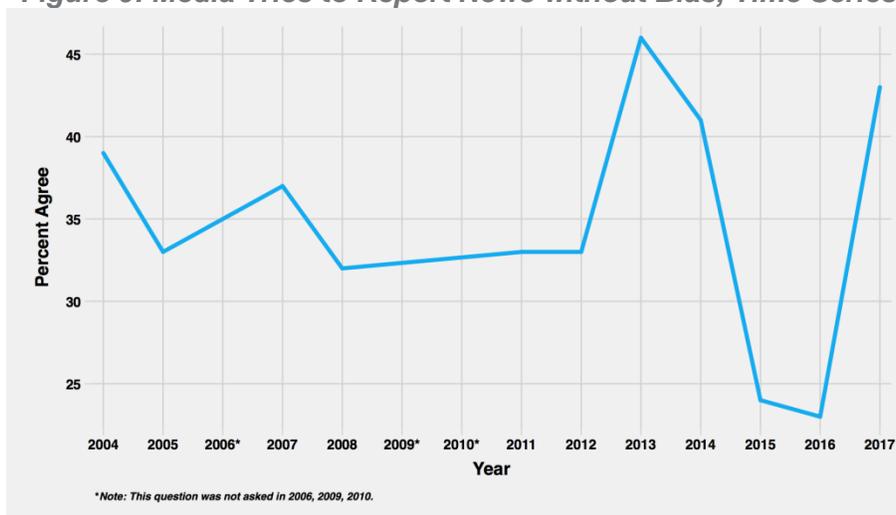
It is interesting that some of the questions related to the freedoms of religion, press and speech generated such discrepancies between participants who thought the First Amendment guarantees too much freedom and participants who did not agree with that statement. Further investigation could shed light on whether there are particular freedoms of the five that are protected by the First Amendment that cause opposition among determined groups of the population.

Additional Analyses – Media Bias

- Participants who thought media try to report news without bias tended to consume news aligned with their own views at higher rates than participants who reported that they thought media are biased (62.9 percent vs. 46.4 percent).
- Respondents who reported that they thought the media are biased tended to agree more with holding Muslims to higher levels of scrutiny than those who reported that they thought media are not biased (41.8 percent vs. 24.3 percent).

During the past year, there has been an increase in discussion about media bias, particularly after the eruption of the “fake news” phenomenon. Previous SOFA surveys asked participants whether they thought “the news media try to report the news without bias.” As seen in Figure 9, there have been trend changes in the past, and it seems the opinion of the media has improved compared to the last two years. In 2015 and 2016, about 25 percent of respondents thought the news media tried to report news without bias, whereas in 2017 the percentage increased to 52.5 percent. This is a somewhat surprising result because of the magnitude of the change in participants’ perception of the media and the recent argument about media impartiality.

Figure 9: Media Tries to Report News without Bias, Time Series



Some differences stand out in the perception of the media between those who do and do not think that the media try to be unbiased. Almost two-thirds (62.9 percent) of participants who think the media try to report news without bias tend to consume news content aligned with their own views compared to 46.4 percent of those participants that believe the news media is biased. Additionally, respondents thinking the media tries to be unbiased agree more with the idea that media should act as a watchdog of the government (80.6 percent) compared to those who think the news media are biased (58.4 percent).

Those participants who are more skeptical about media reporting news without bias showed a larger decrease in their trust of news received through social media in the past year (44.3

percent) than the participants who thought the media is unbiased (22.4 percent). Also, three-quarters (75.6 percent) of the participants who thought the news media are biased disagreed with the statement: “Journalists should be free to publish classified information that was obtained illegally by someone else” at a higher rate than those respondents who thought news media try to report news without bias (59.2 percent).⁷

These groups also reported some differences on other, non-media topics. For example, participants who reported that they thought the news media are biased agreed at higher rates (41.8 percent agreement) with the statement that Muslims should be held to higher levels of scrutiny than their counterparts (24.3 percent agreement).⁷

Additional Analyses – Religious Freedom Among Young Respondents

The debate about the freedom of religion and whether some religions should be held to more scrutiny has gained presence in the media in the past months. In the Key Findings section, the general results were reported for items related to these topics. It was noted that when asked if freedom of worship applies to all religions—including those considered extreme or fringe—49.4 percent of respondents between the ages of 18 and 29 agreed with the statement, whereas the rest of the age groups agreed at rates above 60 percent. Interestingly, the group of young participants who thought freedom of worship does not include religions considered extreme, disagreed at higher rates with the idea that the government should be able to hold Muslims to higher levels of scrutiny than the total sample (72.1 percent vs. 62.1 percent, respectively).

⁷ Differences were significant at the $p < .05$ level after controlling for the following demographic characteristics: sex, age, education, income, race, religion, political party affiliation and political ideology.

APPENDIX

Survey Items and Response Rates

Q1. 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.”

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.

Year	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%
2014	38%	57%
2015	19%	75%
2016	21%	75%
2017	23%	69%

Q2. It is important for our democracy that the news media act as a watchdog on government.

Year	Agree	Disagree
2004	77%	21%
2005	74%	22%
2008	76%	19%
2009	71%	22%
2011	76%	21%
2012	75%	20%
2013	80%	18%
2014	80%	16%
2015	69%	25%
2016	71%	25%
2017	68%	29%

Q3. Overall, the news media tries to report the news without bias.

Year	Agree	Disagree
2004	39%	58%
2005	33%	64%
2007	37%	60%
2008	32%	64%
2011	33%	66%
2012	33%	62%
2013	46%	52%
2014	41%	55%
2015	24%	70%
2016	23%	74%
2017	43%	53%

Q4. 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?

Year	Applies to all groups	Never applied to extreme/fringe groups	Don't know / Refused
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%
2016	59%	29%	13%
2017	59%	32%	8%

Q5. Please tell me if you have participated in the following political actions in the last year (Yes/No):

Political Action	Yes	No	Don't know / Refused
Signing a petition	35.8%	63.9%	0.3%
Joining in boycotts	11.9%	87.8%	0.3%
Attending peaceful demonstrations	16.4%	83.1%	0.4%
Joining strikes	3.8%	96.0%	0.2%
Other act or protest	12.0%	87.4%	0.6%

Q6. In general, I prefer news information from outlets that are aligned with my own views.

	2017
Strongly Agree	16.5%
Somewhat Agree	36.7%
Somewhat Disagree	24.5%
Strongly Disagree	17.3%
Don't know / Refused	5.0%

Q7. Elected officials should be able to determine which media outlets are able to attend public briefings.

	2017
Strongly Agree	9.9%
Somewhat Agree	14.6%
Somewhat Disagree	18.0%
Strongly Disagree	53.5%
Don't know / Refused	4.1 %

Q8. People should be allowed to express racist views on social media.

	2017
Strongly Agree	15.0%
Somewhat Agree	27.8%
Somewhat Disagree	13.6%
Strongly Disagree	41.3%
Don't know / Refused	2.3%

Q9. Those who leak classified government information should be prosecuted even if the information is found to serve the public interest.

	2017
Strongly Agree	27.5%
Somewhat Agree	25.2%
Somewhat Disagree	24.2%
Strongly Disagree	17.4%
Don't know / Refused	5.7%

Q10. Journalists should be free to publish classified information that was obtained illegally by someone else.

	2017
Strongly Agree	13.4%
Somewhat Agree	14.8%
Somewhat Disagree	23.7%
Strongly Disagree	44.7%
Don't know / Refused	3.4%

Q11. Colleges or universities should be able to forbid people from speaking on campus who have a history of provoking extreme opposition.

	2017
Strongly Agree	20.7%
Somewhat Agree	22.6%
Somewhat Disagree	25.6%
Strongly Disagree	26.6%
Don't know / Refused	4.5%

Q12. The First Amendment should protect the publication of news reports even if they are purposely fake.

	2017
Strongly Agree	11.1%
Somewhat Agree	15.4%
Somewhat Disagree	22.5%
Strongly Disagree	48.3%
Don't know / Refused	2.6%

Q13. Individuals should be allowed to finance lawsuits against media outlets that do not directly involve that individual.

	2017
Strongly Agree	12.3%
Somewhat Agree	19.7%
Somewhat Disagree	28.8%
Strongly Disagree	30.3%
Don't know / Refused	8.9%

Q14. Citizens should be allowed to occupy a public space (e.g., a park or plaza) even if it affects other citizens' ability to use that space.

	2017
Strongly Agree	13.3%
Somewhat Agree	24.7%
Somewhat Disagree	26.8%
Strongly Disagree	29.4%
Don't know / Refused	5.9%

Q15. Government should be able to hold Muslims to a greater level of scrutiny in considering immigration applications or status, even if it infringes on their religious liberty.

	2017
Strongly Agree	17.9%
Somewhat Agree	15.4%
Somewhat Disagree	21.0%
Strongly Disagree	41.1%
Don't know / Refused	4.5%

Q16. In the past year, has your trust in news you receive through social media increased, decreased or remained about the same?

	2017
Trust has increased	8.9%
Trust has remained about the same	51.0%
Trust has decreased	34.0%
Don't use social media	5.5%
Don't know / Refused	0.6%