

**NEW ENGLAND
FIRST AMENDMENT COALITION**

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The Survey Center
University of New Hampshire

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The University of New Hampshire

Survey Center

The UNH Survey Center is an independent, non-partisan academic survey research organization and a division of the UNH Carsey Institute.

The Survey Center conducts telephone, mail, e-mail, Internet, and intercept surveys, as well as focus groups and other qualitative research for university researchers, government agencies, public non-profit organizations, private businesses, and media clients.

Our senior staff have over 40 years experience in designing and conducting custom research on a broad range of political, social, health care, and other public policy issues.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The University of New Hampshire Survey Center conducted a survey for the New England First Amendment Coalition. The specific areas of interest are the attitudes about the First Amendment and public record laws. Six hundred and six (606) adults throughout all six New England States were interviewed between September 14 and September 27, 2009. The margin of sampling error for the survey is +/- 4.0%. (See Technical Report below for a more detailed description of survey methods.) The following figures display survey results, detailed tabular results can be found in Appendix A, and Appendix B contains the survey instrument.

The major findings of the survey include:

Views on the Five Freedoms under the First Amendment

- A plurality of New England adults (44%) feel that the freedom of speech is the most important freedom provided for under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, followed by religion (15%), petition (7%), press (3%), and assembly (2%). A quarter of New England adults (25%) feel that all the freedoms are equally important, and 5 percent don't know. **Figure 1**
 - Political liberals, those who have never been married, those earning \$60,000 to \$74,999 annually, and those earning \$100,000 or more annually are most likely to feel the freedom of speech is the most important.
 - Vermont adults are most likely to feel that all five freedoms are equally important.
- About one in ten New England adults (13%) feel that the freedom to petition the government is the least important freedom provided for under the First Amendment, followed by religion (12%), press (6%), assembly (6%), and speech (1%). Almost half of respondents (44%) feel that all the freedoms are equally important, and 17 percent don't know. **Figure 2**
- About a quarter of New England adults (22%) feel that the freedom of speech has been the most eroded over time, followed by religion (18%), press (14%), petition (8%), and assembly (7%). About one in ten respondents (11%) feel that none of them had been eroded over time, 5 percent feel they had all equally been eroded over time, and 14 percent don't know. **Figure 3**
 - Rhode Island adults and those age 35 to 49 are most likely to feel that the freedom of speech has been the most eroded over time.
 - Maine adults are most likely to feel that the freedom of religion has been the most eroded over time.
- More than a third of New England adults (38%) feel that the freedom of speech is the most strongly defended, followed by religion (21%), press (11%), assembly (4%), and petition (2%). Less than one in ten respondents (8%) feel that none of them had been defended, 5 percent feel they have all equally been defended, and 10 percent don't know. **Figure 4**
 - Adults age 18 to 24 are most likely to feel the freedom of speech has been the most strongly defended.

Familiarity with Public Record Laws

When asked about the specifics involved in obtaining public records, such as how up to date the records are, the percentage of New England adults who feel they do not have enough information to say tends to be higher than when responding to a more generalized question.

- Three quarters of New England adults (75%) agree (35% "strongly" and 40% "somewhat") that they are familiar with their state's laws concerning their rights to obtain public information, 62 percent agree that they are familiar with the process for requesting and receiving public information, 49 percent agree that their *local government* does an excellent job of keeping government records up to date and open to the public, and 37 percent agree that their *state government* does an excellent job of keeping government records up to date and open to the public. **Figure 5**

- Maine adults and those who identify themselves as Independents are most likely to agree they are familiar with their state's laws concerning the right to obtain public information.
- Adults who identify themselves as Independents are most likely to agree they are familiar with the process for requesting and receiving public information.
- Adults age 65 or older are most likely to agree that their local government does an excellent job of keeping government records up to date and open to the public.
- Vermont adults and those earning \$75,000 to \$99,999 annually are most likely to agree that their state government does an excellent job of keeping government records up to date and open to the public.

Experience Obtaining Public Records

- More than three quarters of New England adults (77%) say they have not requested a public document within the last 12 months, 23 percent have, and 1 percent don't know. **Figure 6**
- Vermont adults are most likely to have not requested a public document within the last 12 months.
- Among those that did request a public document (n=135), 87 percent say they received the information they requested, 9 percent say they did not receive the information requested, and 4 percent say they received some of the information they requested but not all of it. Less than two-thirds of those that requested public document in the last 12 months (61%) say the price they were charged for public document was very affordable, 25 percent say it was somewhat affordable, 5 percent say it was not very affordable, 7 percent say it was not at all affordable, and 3 percent don't know. **Figures 7 & 8**
- Adults with a high school education or less are most likely to have received the information they requested.

Government Role in Providing Public Records

When asked about specific details about how the government provides public records, such as affordability of the charges to obtain a document, a higher percentage of New England adults feel they do not have enough information to say than when asked a more generalized question.

- A large majority of New England adults (87%) agree (67% "strongly" and 20% "somewhat") that a government agency that wrongfully denies access to records should have to pay the citizen's legal bills, if action is taken, 59 percent agree that if they needed a public document, their state or local government would provide it in a timely manner, 49 percent agree that the costs charged by their state and local government to provide public documents is fair and affordable, 49 percent say that a public official in their state would be reprimanded if he or she denied a legitimate request for public records, and 41 percent say that all public business in their community is being done in public view. **Figure 9**
- Vermont adults are most likely to agree their state or local government would provide a requested public document in a timely manner.

Citizenship and Public Records

- Nearly all New England adults (92%) agree (78% "strongly" and 14% "somewhat") that having easy access to public records is important to their role as a citizen, 64 percent agree that local news media will seek out public information that is important for them to know, 63 percent agree that open government laws in their state should be strengthened, 58 percent agree that every citizen in their state is given the same access to open records, and 55 percent agree that issues of privacy sometimes must take a back seat for government to be open and transparent. **Figure 10**
- Adults who identify themselves as Democrats and political liberals are most likely to agree that their local news media will seek out public information that is important for them to know.
- Adults age 18 to 34 and those with one child in the household are most likely to agree that open government laws in their state should be strengthened.
- Vermont adults, Maine adults, and those earning \$75,000 to \$99,999 annually are most likely to agree that every citizen in their state is given the same access to open records.

- Adults age 35 to 49 are most likely to agree that issues of privacy sometimes must take a back seat in order for government to be open and transparent.
- The vast majority of New England adults (86%) say they have not been refused access to a meeting that they believe should have been open to the public, 12 percent say they have been denied access, and 2 percent don't know. **Figure 11**
- Vermont adults and those with a high school education or less are most likely to have not been refused access to a meeting that they believed should have been open to the public.

Figure 1: “The First Amendment provides for five freedoms, including religion, speech, press, assembly and the right to petition the government. Which one of the five freedoms, if any, do you personally feel is the MOST important, or would you say you don’t have an opinion about this?”

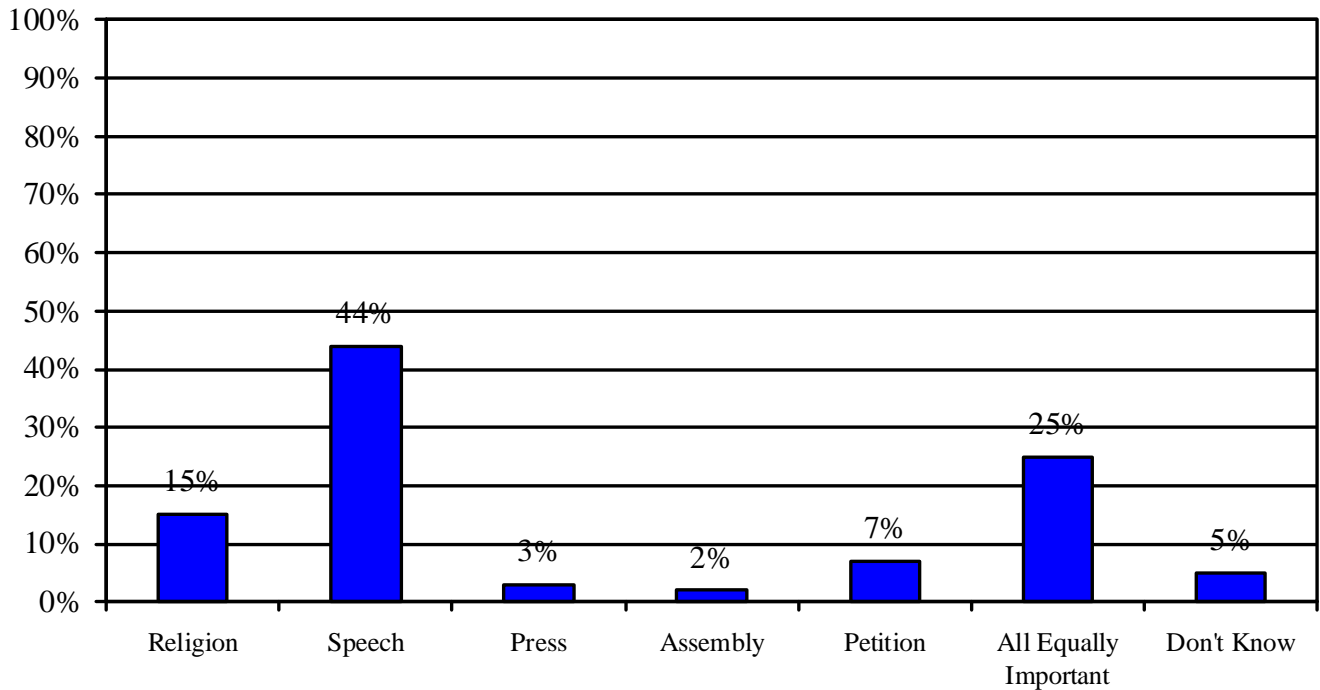


Figure 2: “Which one of the five freedoms, if any, do you personally feel is the LEAST important, or would you say you don’t have an opinion about this?”

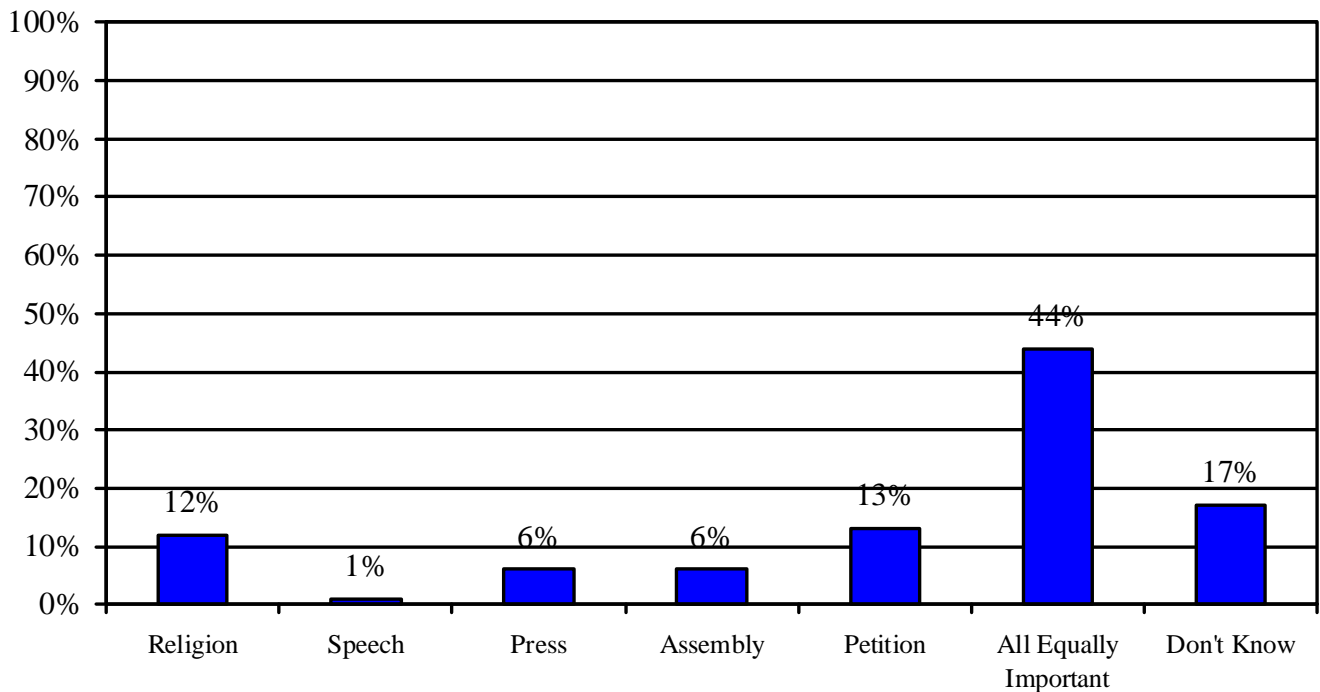


Figure 3: “In your opinion, which one of the five freedoms, if any, has been MOST eroded over time, or would you say you don’t have an opinion about this?”

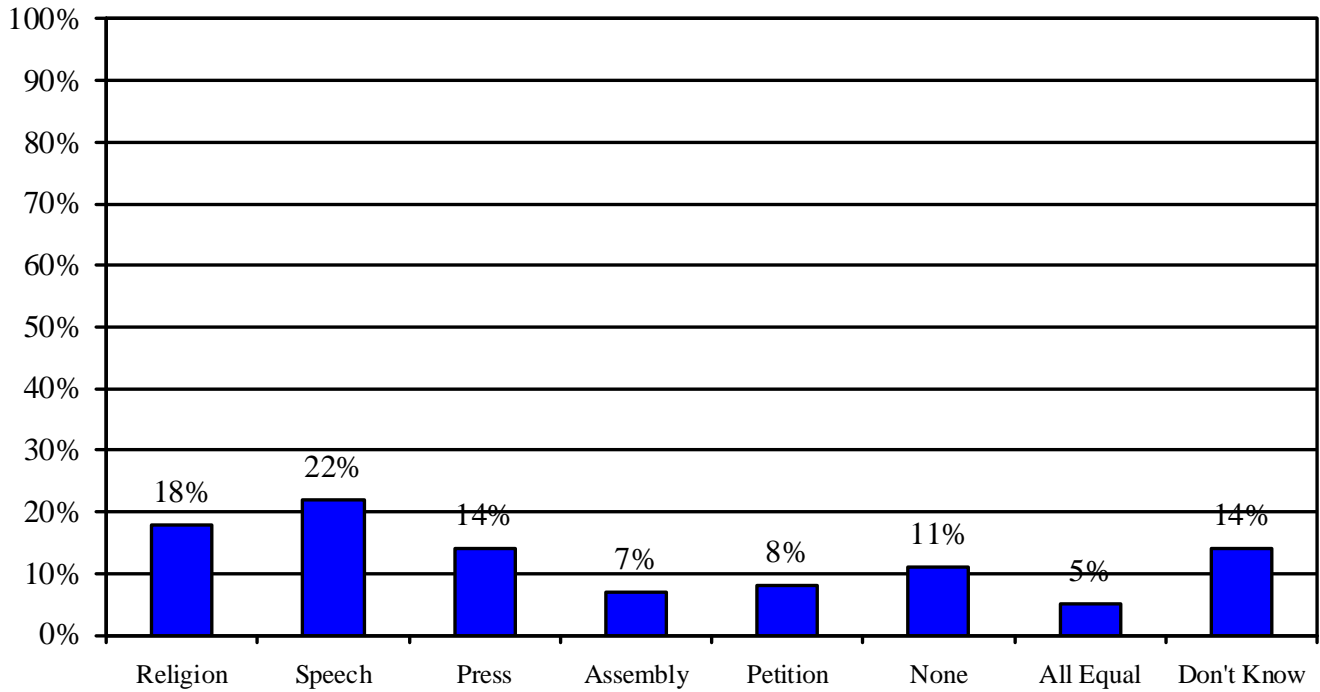


Figure 4: “Which one of these five freedoms, if any, do you feel is MOST strongly defended, or would you say you don’t have an opinion about this?”

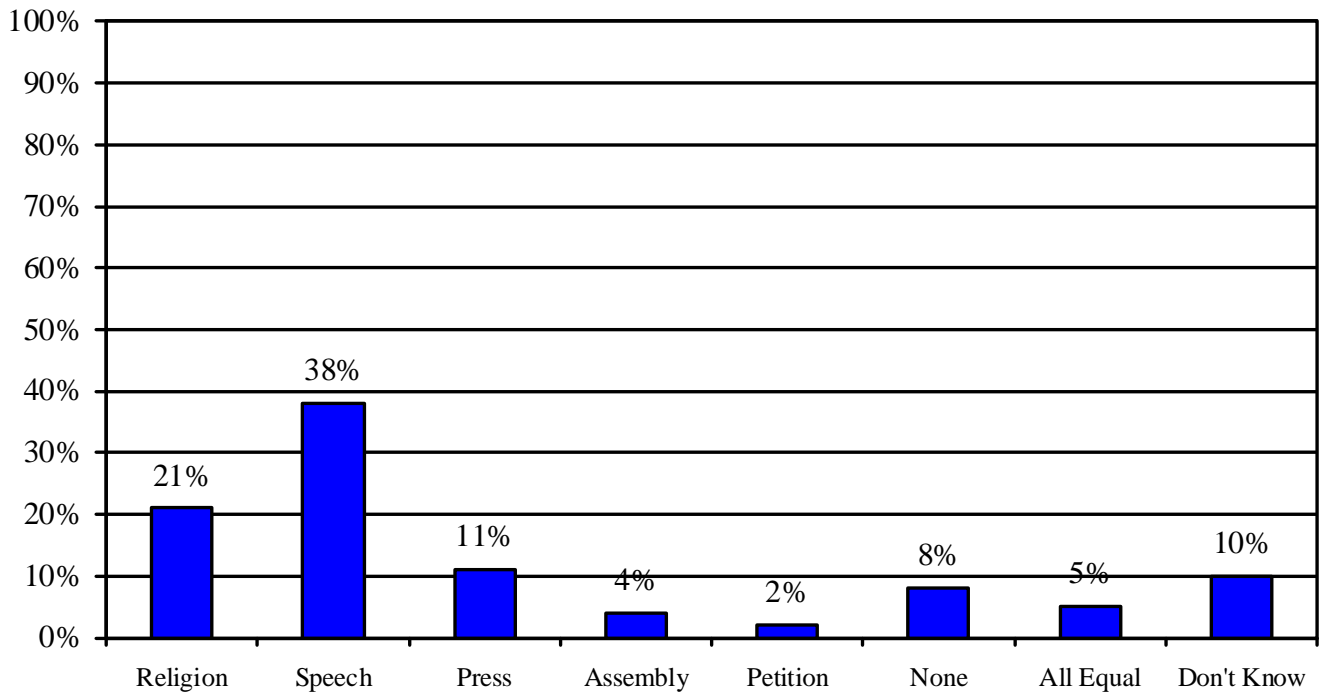


Figure 5: Process of obtaining public records and keeping records up to date

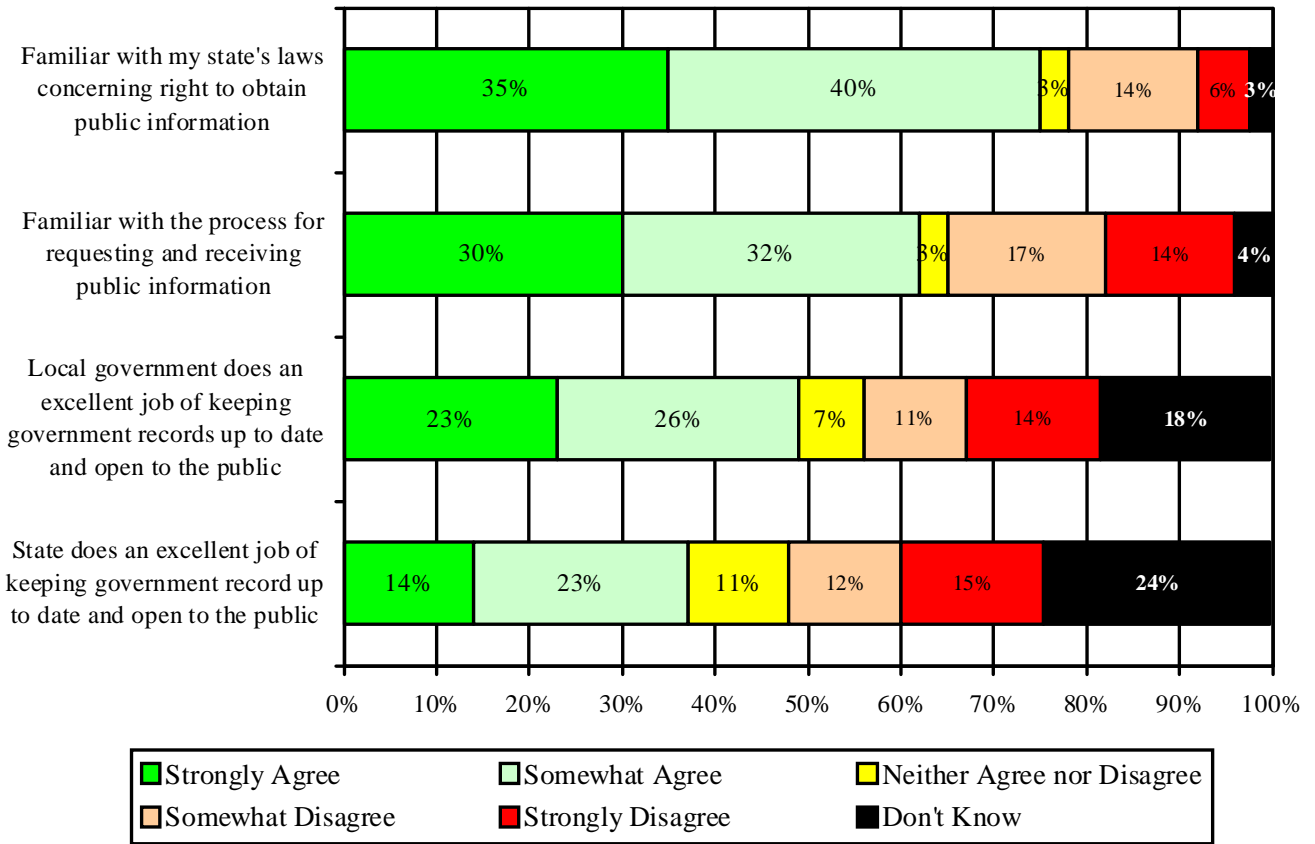


Figure 6: "Have you requested a public document within the last 12 months?"

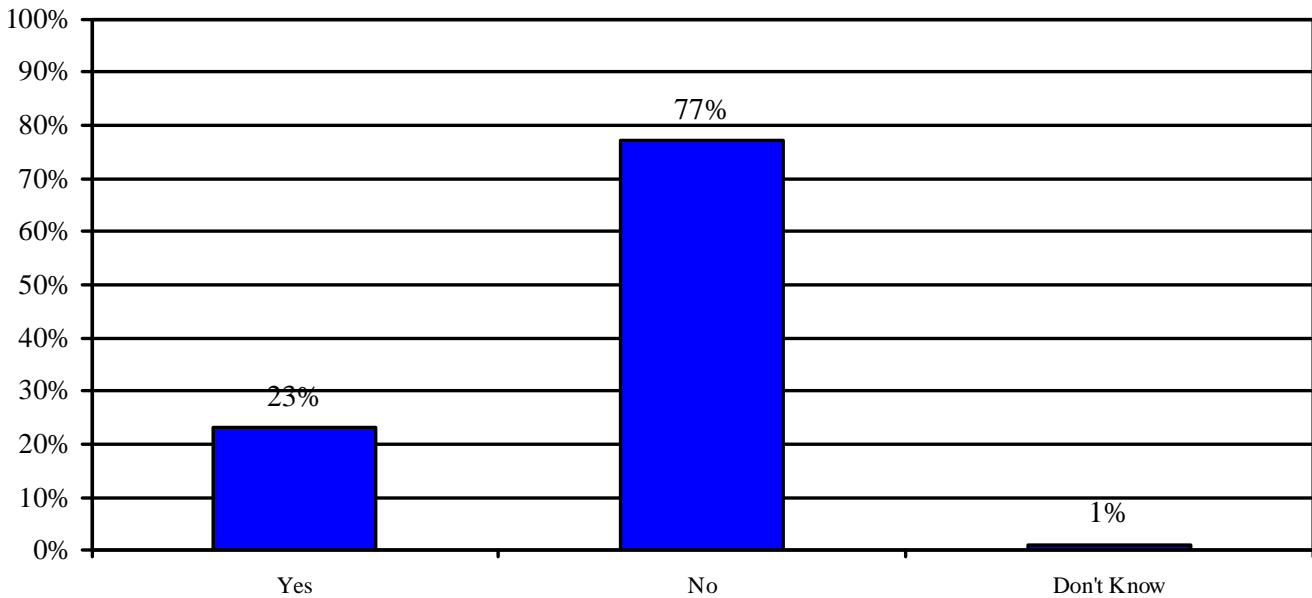


Figure 7: “Did you receive the information you requested?” (N=135)

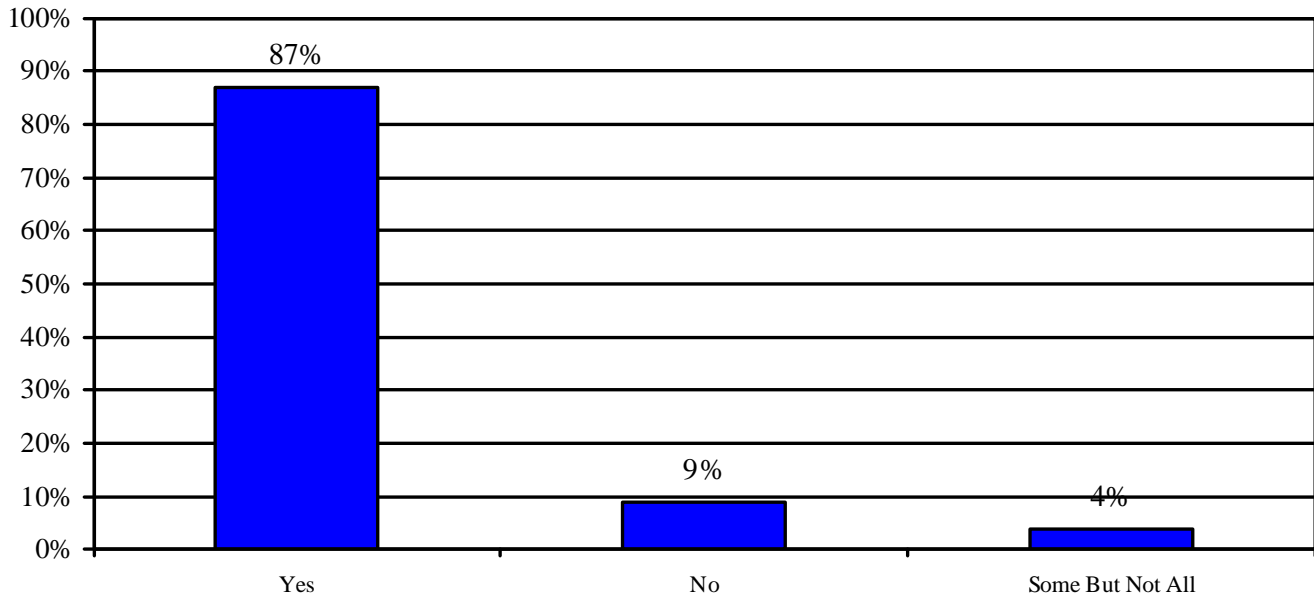


Figure 8: “How affordable was the price you were charged for the public document you requested in the last 12 months. Would you say the price was very affordable ... somewhat affordable ... not very affordable, or ... not at all affordable?” (N=135)

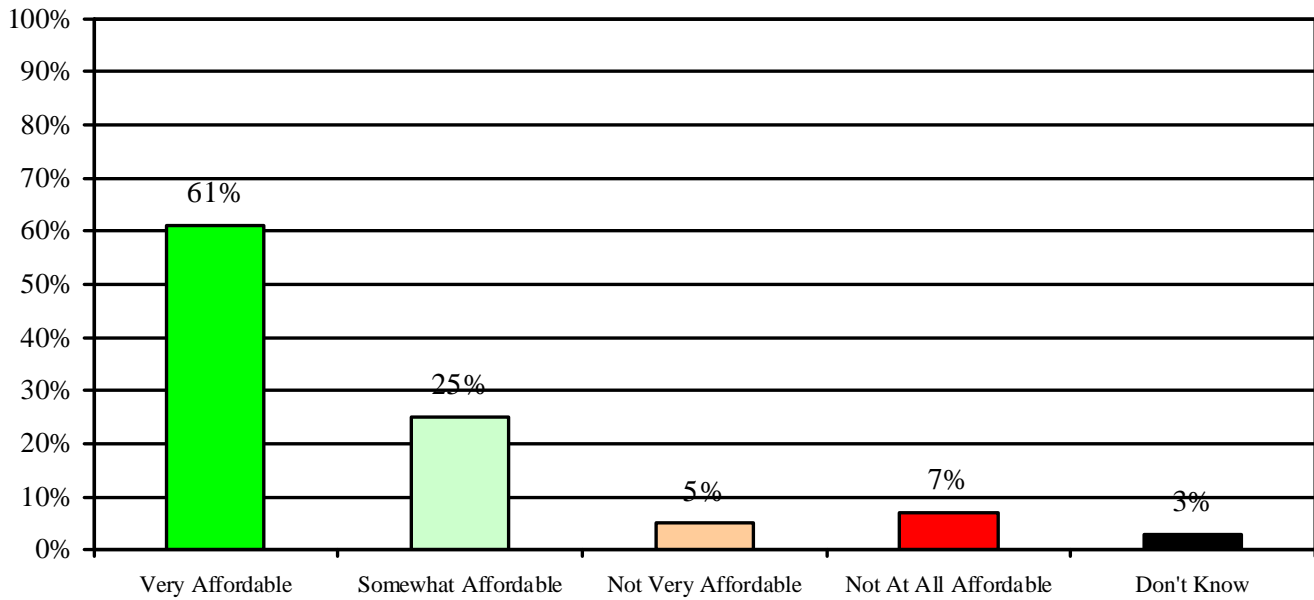


Figure 9: Government role in providing public records

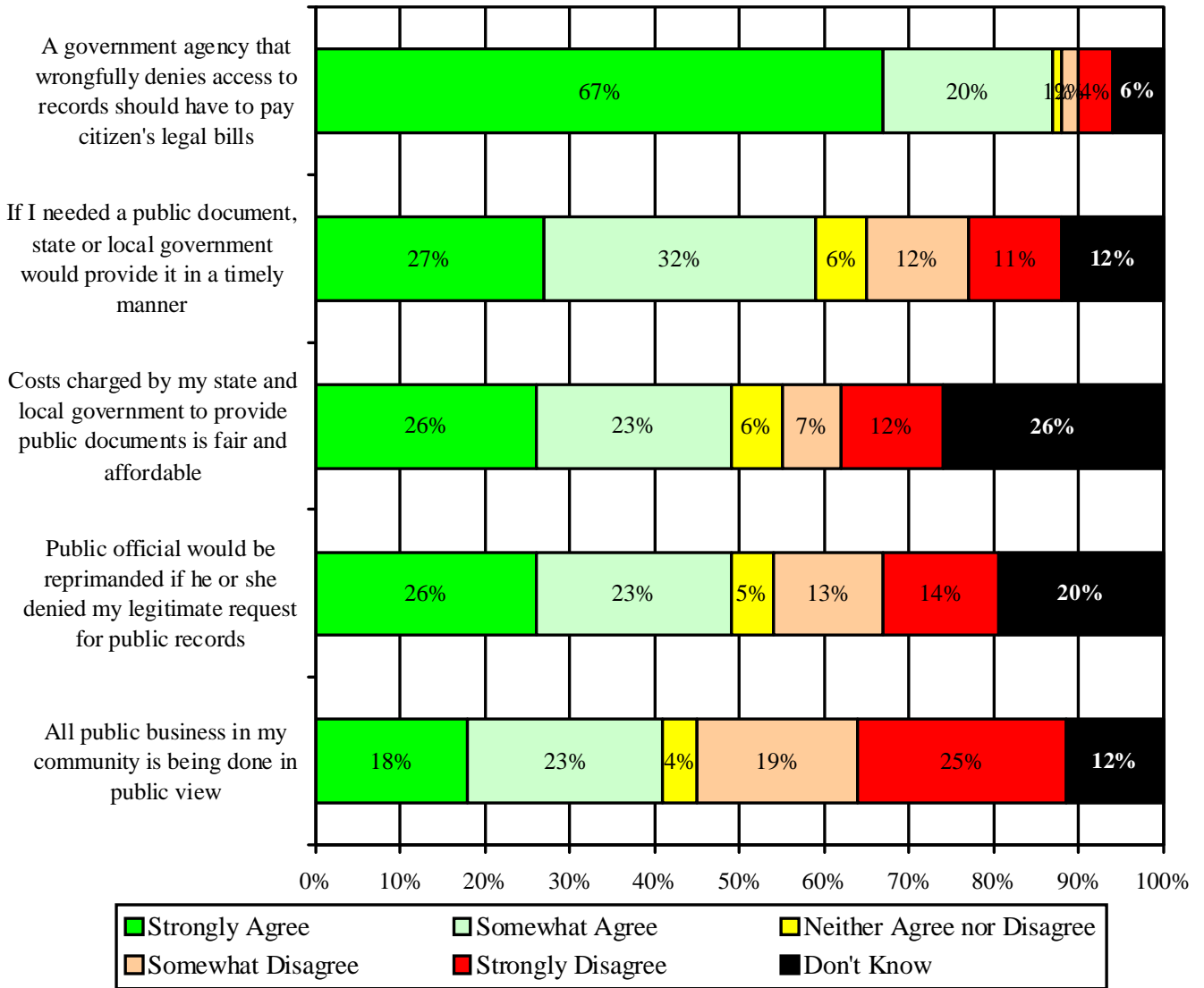


Figure 10: Citizenship and public records access

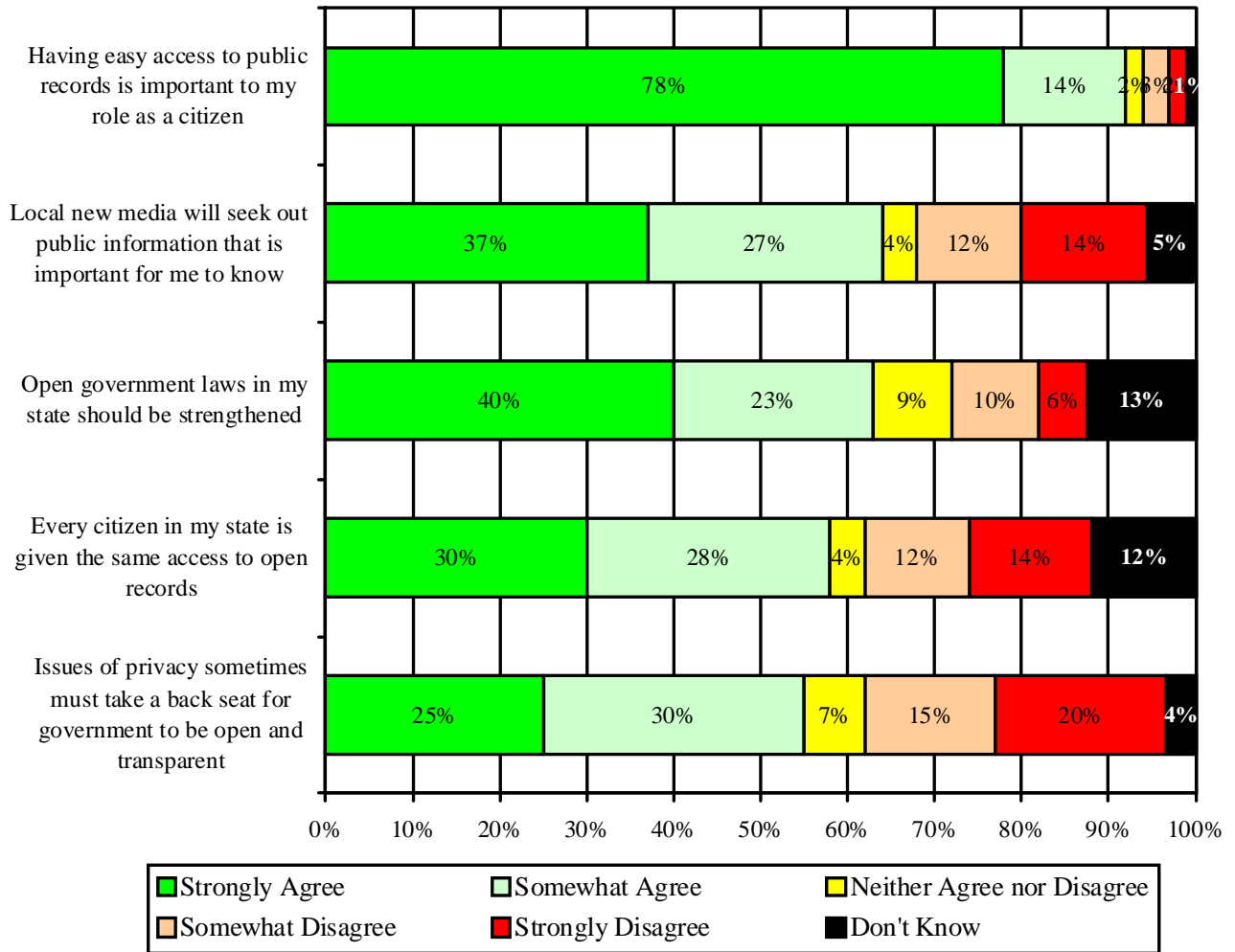
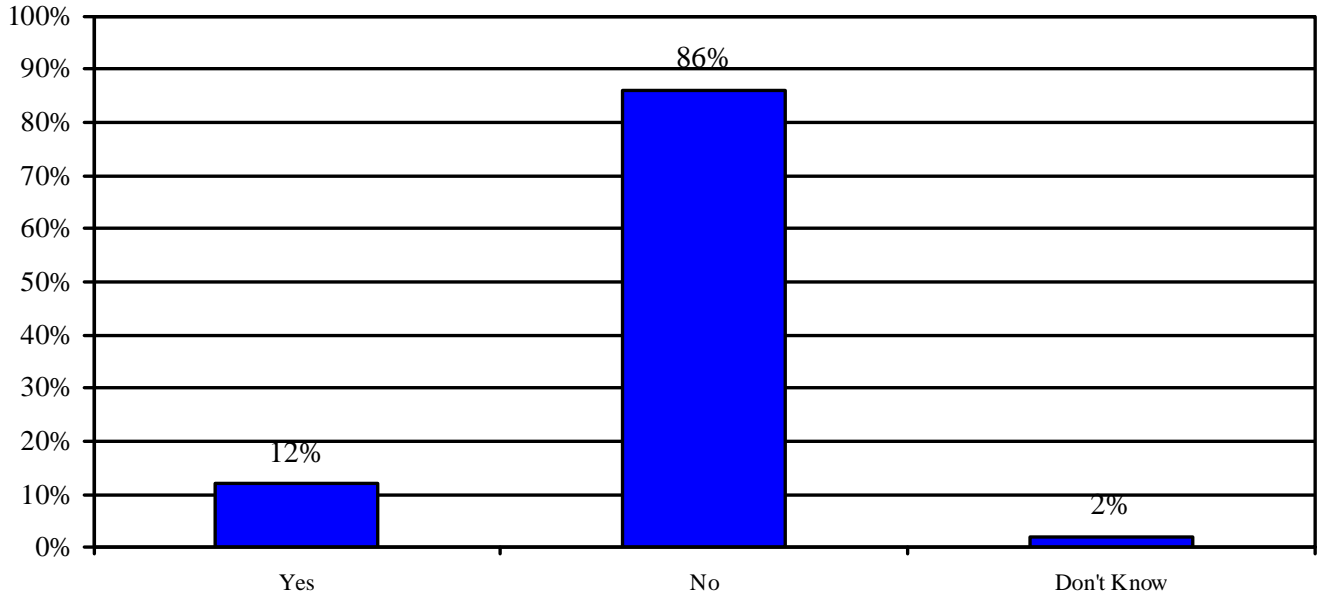


Figure 11: “Have you ever been refused access to a meeting that you believed should have been open to the public?”



TECHNICAL REPORT

How the Sample Was Selected

The New England First Amendment Coalition Survey was a survey of randomly selected adults in the states of New Hampshire, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. This survey was conducted using a procedure called Random Digit Dialing (RDD) which is described below.

A sample of households in the area was selected by a procedure known as random digit dialing. The way this works is as follows. First, with the aid of the computer, one of the three-digit telephone exchanges that are currently used in the area (e.g., 772) is randomly selected. The computer then randomly selects one of the "working blocks"--the first two of the last four numbers in a telephone number (e.g., 64)--and attaches it to the randomly selected exchange. Finally, the computer program then generates a two-digit random number between 00 and 99 (e.g., 57) which is attached to the previously selected prefix (772), and the previously selected working block (64) resulting in a complete telephone number -- i.e., 772-6457. This procedure is then repeated numerous times by the computer to generate more random numbers, so that we have a sufficient quantity to conduct the survey. The end result is that each household in the area in which there is a telephone has an equally likely chance of being selected into the sample.

The random sample used in the New England First Amendment Coalition Survey was purchased from Scientific Telephones Samples (STS), Foothill Ranch, California. STS screens each selected telephone number to eliminate non-working numbers, disconnected numbers, and business numbers to improve the efficiency of the sample, reducing the amount of time interviewers spend calling non-usable numbers.

Each of these randomly generated telephone numbers is called by one of our interviewers from a centrally supervised facility at the UNH Survey Center. If the number called is found not to be a residential one, it is discarded and another random number is called. (Approximately forty-five percent of the numbers were discarded because they are found to be businesses, institutions, or not assigned.) If it is a residential number, the interviewer then randomly selects a member of the household by asking to speak with the adult currently living in the household who has had the most recent birthday. This selection process ensures that every adult (18 years of age or older) in the household has an equally likely chance of being included in the survey. No substitutions are allowed. If, for example, the randomly selected adult is not at home when the household is first contacted, the interviewer cannot substitute by selecting someone else who just happens to be there at the time. Instead, he or she must make an appointment to call back when the randomly selected adult is at home. In this way, respondent selection bias is minimized.

When the Interviewing Was Done

New England adults in the New England First Amendment Coalition Survey were interviewed between September 14 and September 27, 2009. Each selected respondent was called by a professional UNH Survey Center interviewer from a centrally supervised facility at the UNH Survey Center. Telephone calls during the field period were made between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

Response Rates

Interviews were completed with 604 randomly selected adults in New England from a sample of 6620 randomly selected telephone numbers. Using American Association for Public Opinion (AAPOR) Response Rate 4, the response rate for the New England First Amendment Coalition Survey was 32 percent. The formula to calculate standard AAPOR response rate is:

$$\frac{I}{((I+P) + (R+NC+O) + e(UH+UO))}$$

I=Complete Interviews, **P**=Partial Interviews, **R**=Refusal and break off, **NC**=Non Contact, **O**=Other, **e**=estimated portion of cases of unknown eligibility that are eligible, **UH**=Unknown household, **UO**=Unknown other.

Weighting of Data

The data have been weighted to account for known biases of telephone surveys. The data in the New England First Amendment Coalition Survey are weighted by the number of adults and telephone lines within households to equalize the chances that any one adult would be selected for inclusion. The data are also weighted by respondent sex, and state of residence.

Sampling Error

The New England First Amendment Coalition Survey, like all surveys, is subject to sampling error due to the fact that all residents in the area were not interviewed. For those questions asked of five hundred (500) or so respondents, the error is +/-4.4%. For those questions where fewer than 500 persons responded, the sampling error can be calculated as follows:

$$\text{Sampling error} = \pm (1.96) \frac{\sqrt{P(1-P)}}{\sqrt{N}}$$

Where **P** is the percentage of responses in the answer category being evaluated and **N** is the total number of persons answering the particular question.

For example, suppose you had the following distribution of answers to the question, "Should the state spend more money on road repair even if that means higher taxes?" Assume 1,000 respondents answered the question as follows:

YES	- 47%
NO	- 48%
DON'T KNOW	- 5%

The sampling error for the "YES" percentage of 47% would be

$$\pm(1.96) \frac{\sqrt{(47)(53)}}{\sqrt{1,000}} = \pm 3.1\%;$$

for the "NO" percentage of 48% it would be

$$\pm(1.96) \frac{\sqrt{(48)(52)}}{\sqrt{1,000}} = \pm 3.1\%;$$

and for the "DON'T KNOW" percentage of 5% it would be

$$\pm(1.96) \frac{\sqrt{(5)(95)}}{\sqrt{1,000}} = \pm 1.4\%;$$

In this case we would expect the true population figures to be within the following ranges:

YES	43.9% - 50.1% (i.e., 47% +/-3.1%)
NO	44.9% - 51.1% (i.e., 48% +/-3.1%)
DON'T KNOW	3.6% - 6.4% (i.e., 5% +/-1.4%)

APPENDIX A:
DETAILED TABULAR RESULTS

Q1: "The First Amendment provides for five freedoms, including religion, speech, press, assembly and the right to petition the government. Which one of the five freedoms, if any, do you personally feel is the MOST important, or would you say you don't have an opinion about this?"

	Religion	Speech	Press	Assembly	Petition	All Equally Important	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	15%	44%	3%	2%	7%	25%	5%	603
State								
New Hampshire	17%	47%	5%	6%	4%	18%	4%	53
Vermont	5%	27%	6%	0%	11%	39%	11%	30
Maine	19%	32%	4%	3%	5%	34%	3%	54
Massachusetts	16%	46%	2%	1%	7%	23%	4%	271
Connecticut	13%	45%	3%	2%	7%	24%	6%	152
Rhode Island	7%	55%	0%	0%	4%	26%	8%	42
Party Identification								
Democrat	14%	49%	4%	1%	6%	21%	5%	271
Independent	7%	42%	3%	2%	7%	34%	6%	120
Republican	16%	43%	1%	3%	7%	25%	5%	186
Political Ideology								
Liberal	8%	58%	5%	0%	4%	20%	6%	144
Moderate	15%	39%	3%	3%	7%	27%	6%	248
Conservative	18%	47%	1%	3%	7%	23%	1%	153
Sex								
Male	12%	43%	5%	3%	6%	26%	5%	293
Female	17%	45%	1%	1%	8%	24%	5%	309
Age								
18 to 34	20%	49%	1%	5%	2%	11%	12%	58
35 to 49	16%	47%	4%	1%	8%	22%	2%	174
50 to 64	12%	47%	3%	1%	5%	26%	6%	241
65 and older	16%	35%	2%	3%	7%	32%	5%	106
Marital Status								
Married	14%	44%	3%	2%	6%	26%	5%	408
Divorced/Separated	15%	36%	5%	1%	10%	26%	6%	105
Never married	14%	55%	0%	2%	6%	16%	7%	77
Adults in Household								
One	16%	39%	2%	1%	9%	27%	5%	91
Two	13%	45%	3%	2%	6%	27%	5%	346
Three or more	19%	49%	2%	2%	6%	16%	6%	156
Children in Household								
No children	16%	42%	3%	2%	6%	26%	5%	391
One	12%	48%	1%	0%	8%	22%	8%	87
Two or more	12%	52%	3%	1%	6%	22%	4%	119
Race								
White	14%	45%	3%	2%	6%	25%	5%	536
Af. American	49%	47%	0%	0%	3%	0%	0%	11
Hispanic	12%	42%	0%	0%	0%	27%	20%	18
Other Race(s)	26%	37%	0%	0%	11%	19%	8%	23
Education								
High school or less	18%	36%	2%	1%	9%	24%	11%	133
Technical school/Some college	18%	49%	1%	2%	5%	24%	2%	124
College graduate	13%	46%	3%	1%	6%	25%	6%	207
Postgraduate work	11%	49%	4%	4%	6%	25%	1%	133
Income								
Less than \$30,000	16%	48%	4%	2%	7%	18%	4%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	11%	37%	2%	3%	4%	32%	10%	96
\$60,000 to \$74,999	9%	56%	0%	0%	8%	25%	1%	48
\$75,000 to \$99,999	8%	53%	3%	0%	8%	26%	1%	57
\$100,000 or more	14%	54%	4%	2%	4%	19%	2%	146

Q2: "Which one of the five freedoms, if any, do you personally feel is the LEAST important, or would you say you don't have an opinion about this?"

	Religion	Speech	Press	Assembly	Petition	All Are Equal	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	12%	1%	6%	6%	13%	44%	17%	594
State								
New Hampshire	18%	0%	10%	2%	12%	38%	20%	52
Vermont	21%	2%	11%	2%	4%	44%	17%	30
Maine	10%	0%	4%	11%	6%	50%	20%	53
Massachusetts	11%	1%	6%	7%	12%	44%	18%	266
Connecticut	10%	2%	4%	5%	18%	46%	15%	151
Rhode Island	17%	0%	10%	4%	10%	41%	18%	42
Party Identification								
Democrat	16%	1%	6%	7%	14%	42%	14%	265
Independent	6%	1%	10%	6%	4%	48%	26%	119
Republican	11%	2%	6%	4%	15%	44%	17%	184
Political Ideology								
Liberal	16%	0%	2%	8%	18%	43%	13%	142
Moderate	11%	2%	8%	5%	10%	46%	18%	246
Conservative	12%	1%	7%	4%	15%	42%	18%	150
Sex								
Male	13%	2%	5%	5%	14%	42%	20%	292
Female	12%	1%	8%	6%	11%	46%	15%	302
Age								
18 to 34	11%	3%	5%	0%	13%	46%	22%	58
35 to 49	11%	0%	8%	3%	16%	44%	18%	169
50 to 64	15%	1%	5%	8%	12%	45%	15%	240
65 and older	10%	2%	6%	10%	12%	41%	18%	105
Marital Status								
Married	14%	0%	5%	5%	13%	45%	17%	401
Divorced/Separated	6%	5%	10%	8%	13%	41%	17%	103
Never married	12%	3%	9%	3%	14%	41%	19%	77
Adults in Household								
One	10%	1%	10%	5%	13%	45%	16%	89
Two	12%	1%	4%	7%	13%	45%	18%	340
Three or more	14%	2%	9%	4%	14%	40%	17%	155
Children in Household								
No children	12%	2%	7%	6%	12%	45%	16%	388
One	14%	0%	4%	4%	11%	44%	22%	86
Two or more	10%	0%	7%	6%	17%	41%	19%	115
Race								
White	12%	1%	7%	6%	13%	44%	17%	527
Af. American	0%	0%	24%	3%	17%	36%	20%	11
Hispanic	17%	0%	0%	1%	11%	35%	36%	18
Other Race(s)	25%	2%	0%	0%	21%	46%	6%	23
Education								
High school or less	19%	2%	11%	4%	10%	31%	23%	131
Technical school/Some college	9%	0%	13%	8%	10%	44%	16%	121
College graduate	13%	2%	2%	4%	15%	44%	21%	205
Postgraduate work	8%	0%	3%	7%	16%	58%	9%	132
Income								
Less than \$30,000	15%	2%	13%	6%	10%	41%	14%	57
\$30,000 to \$59,999	12%	0%	7%	7%	8%	44%	21%	95
\$60,000 to \$74,999	12%	0%	2%	8%	12%	51%	14%	48
\$75,000 to \$99,999	19%	0%	8%	6%	8%	46%	13%	55

\$100,000 or more

9%

1%

5%

9%

22%

41%

12%

143

Q3: "In your opinion, which one of the five freedoms, if any, has been MOST eroded over time, or would you say you don't have an opinion about this?"

	Religion	Speech	Press	Assembly	Petition	None	All Equal	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	18%	22%	14%	7%	8%	11%	5%	14%	598
State									
New Hampshire	22%	17%	11%	4%	6%	17%	4%	19%	54
Vermont	16%	19%	13%	4%	7%	11%	13%	19%	30
Maine	29%	15%	14%	7%	8%	11%	7%	10%	54
Massachusetts	16%	22%	15%	8%	12%	10%	2%	15%	268
Connecticut	19%	24%	15%	11%	3%	12%	6%	10%	151
Rhode Island	17%	40%	3%	0%	6%	13%	12%	9%	42
Party Identification									
Democrat	18%	21%	13%	7%	9%	13%	4%	16%	266
Independent	17%	22%	15%	11%	9%	11%	1%	13%	120
Republican	21%	25%	16%	4%	5%	10%	8%	11%	185
Political Ideology									
Liberal	12%	22%	16%	7%	8%	15%	4%	15%	143
Moderate	19%	23%	12%	8%	9%	10%	5%	15%	247
Conservative	21%	22%	18%	6%	6%	11%	5%	11%	153
Sex									
Male	15%	22%	14%	10%	9%	11%	5%	16%	293
Female	22%	23%	14%	5%	7%	12%	6%	12%	306
Age									
18 to 34	16%	21%	17%	13%	7%	10%	5%	11%	58
35 to 49	22%	32%	8%	4%	9%	12%	4%	10%	173
50 to 64	18%	21%	16%	8%	9%	12%	4%	12%	238
65 and older	15%	15%	18%	6%	6%	10%	9%	21%	106
Marital Status									
Married	20%	22%	14%	8%	8%	10%	5%	13%	406
Divorced/Separated	8%	24%	11%	4%	13%	18%	6%	16%	102
Never married	17%	23%	17%	10%	4%	9%	4%	17%	77
Adults in Household									
One	16%	21%	15%	6%	9%	13%	3%	17%	90
Two	19%	24%	13%	8%	8%	11%	4%	12%	343
Three or more	19%	21%	15%	8%	8%	11%	5%	14%	155
Children in Household									
No children	18%	20%	16%	8%	8%	11%	6%	14%	387
One	12%	25%	15%	7%	11%	15%	3%	14%	87
Two or more	25%	28%	6%	7%	7%	11%	4%	12%	118
Race									
White	18%	22%	15%	8%	8%	12%	4%	13%	530
Af. American	10%	0%	11%	0%	14%	11%	17%	37%	11
Hispanic	11%	36%	16%	0%	8%	8%	17%	3%	18
Other Race(s)	21%	46%	0%	3%	5%	5%	0%	21%	23
Education									
High school or less	19%	26%	6%	4%	6%	10%	8%	22%	132
Technical school/Some college	20%	18%	16%	13%	6%	10%	3%	14%	123
College graduate	20%	25%	14%	5%	9%	11%	4%	11%	204
Postgraduate work	14%	20%	20%	7%	10%	15%	5%	8%	133
Income									
Less than \$30,000	16%	18%	11%	9%	12%	8%	5%	20%	57
\$30,000 to \$59,999	17%	21%	15%	2%	17%	12%	2%	15%	95
\$60,000 to \$74,999	11%	25%	15%	10%	3%	9%	9%	18%	48
\$75,000 to \$99,999	20%	20%	13%	9%	2%	7%	11%	18%	57
\$100,000 or more	19%	23%	16%	8%	8%	15%	2%	7%	144

Q4: "Which one of these five freedoms, if any, do you feel is MOST strongly defended, or would you say you don't have an opinion about this?"

	Religion	Speech	Press	Assembly	Petition	None	All Equal	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	21%	38%	11%	4%	2%	8%	5%	10%	600
State									
New Hampshire	21%	40%	14%	4%	1%	2%	2%	17%	53
Vermont	14%	44%	6%	3%	10%	5%	5%	13%	30
Maine	9%	47%	9%	2%	1%	7%	10%	14%	54
Massachusetts	24%	36%	12%	5%	2%	8%	4%	9%	270
Connecticut	20%	39%	13%	3%	3%	12%	2%	9%	152
Rhode Island	25%	30%	6%	3%	0%	11%	15%	11%	42
Party Identification									
Democrat	25%	41%	9%	3%	0%	7%	4%	11%	269
Independent	14%	37%	17%	3%	5%	11%	3%	10%	120
Republican	20%	36%	12%	6%	3%	7%	7%	9%	184
Political Ideology									
Liberal	23%	46%	7%	4%	2%	7%	2%	9%	144
Moderate	21%	36%	14%	3%	2%	7%	5%	11%	248
Conservative	22%	38%	13%	5%	2%	6%	4%	10%	151
Sex									
Male	23%	38%	11%	4%	2%	10%	3%	10%	290
Female	20%	38%	12%	4%	3%	7%	5%	11%	310
Age									
18 to 34	21%	49%	5%	5%	2%	3%	6%	9%	58
35 to 49	25%	41%	11%	3%	2%	8%	3%	7%	171
50 to 64	22%	35%	16%	4%	3%	10%	4%	6%	242
65 and older	10%	40%	8%	5%	2%	8%	8%	20%	105
Marital Status									
Married	19%	38%	13%	4%	2%	10%	4%	10%	405
Divorced/Separated	28%	33%	9%	4%	2%	5%	7%	13%	104
Never married	21%	45%	6%	4%	6%	7%	6%	6%	78
Adults in Household									
One	19%	46%	8%	3%	4%	5%	3%	13%	91
Two	23%	37%	10%	4%	1%	9%	6%	9%	342
Three or more	18%	37%	17%	4%	4%	9%	2%	10%	156
Children in Household									
No children	21%	38%	12%	3%	2%	8%	5%	11%	389
One	24%	29%	10%	7%	4%	10%	3%	13%	86
Two or more	21%	47%	10%	4%	1%	7%	4%	6%	118
Race									
White	21%	39%	11%	4%	2%	8%	5%	10%	532
Af. American	13%	72%	0%	0%	3%	8%	0%	3%	11
Hispanic	24%	38%	10%	0%	4%	4%	0%	20%	18
Other Race(s)	34%	20%	20%	0%	0%	7%	0%	19%	23
Education									
High school or less	21%	35%	7%	3%	3%	7%	6%	18%	130
Technical school/Some college	16%	33%	15%	9%	3%	10%	6%	8%	124
College graduate	23%	42%	9%	3%	2%	10%	4%	9%	208
Postgraduate work	25%	41%	15%	3%	1%	5%	3%	7%	132
Income									
Less than \$30,000	19%	31%	11%	2%	4%	11%	8%	14%	57
\$30,000 to \$59,999	18%	38%	9%	8%	0%	5%	6%	16%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	25%	47%	17%	3%	0%	1%	1%	6%	48
\$75,000 to \$99,999	25%	44%	10%	0%	0%	9%	2%	10%	57

\$100,000 or more 22% 43% 10% 6% 3% 7% 3% 6% 145

Q6: "Now please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statements. I am familiar with my state's laws concerning my right to obtain public information."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	35%	40%	3%	14%	6%	3%	604
State							
New Hampshire	25%	41%	6%	16%	10%	2%	53
Vermont	28%	47%	1%	15%	0%	10%	30
Maine	45%	40%	1%	10%	2%	1%	55
Massachusetts	33%	41%	2%	15%	6%	1%	273
Connecticut	42%	34%	2%	12%	7%	3%	150
Rhode Island	23%	52%	6%	7%	7%	5%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	36%	40%	3%	11%	8%	2%	272
Independent	40%	46%	1%	11%	2%	1%	120
Republican	30%	40%	4%	17%	5%	4%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	36%	38%	3%	14%	8%	1%	144
Moderate	33%	45%	3%	11%	4%	4%	248
Conservative	34%	39%	2%	14%	8%	3%	153
Sex							
Male	34%	41%	3%	14%	7%	2%	295
Female	35%	40%	3%	13%	5%	3%	309
Age							
18 to 34	40%	37%	5%	9%	3%	5%	58
35 to 49	37%	40%	2%	15%	6%	0%	175
50 to 64	33%	42%	2%	14%	6%	2%	243
65 and older	36%	38%	4%	12%	4%	6%	106
Marital Status							
Married	34%	43%	3%	13%	5%	2%	408
Divorced/Separated	41%	35%	2%	15%	4%	4%	105
Never married	32%	39%	3%	11%	10%	5%	79
Adults in Household							
One	34%	39%	1%	15%	6%	4%	91
Two	32%	43%	3%	15%	6%	1%	347
Three or more	40%	36%	3%	11%	6%	5%	156
Children in Household							
No children	36%	40%	3%	13%	5%	3%	393
One	38%	34%	3%	16%	8%	2%	87
Two or more	28%	47%	3%	15%	6%	2%	119
Race							
White	35%	41%	3%	13%	6%	2%	536
Af. American	38%	43%	0%	4%	0%	15%	13
Hispanic	29%	40%	6%	8%	16%	0%	18
Other Race(s)	26%	36%	0%	26%	0%	12%	23
Education							
High school or less	32%	36%	4%	13%	12%	4%	133
Technical school/Some college	44%	37%	3%	14%	1%	1%	124
College graduate	27%	45%	3%	16%	6%	3%	208
Postgraduate work	41%	41%	2%	10%	4%	2%	135
Income							
Less than \$30,000	41%	33%	0%	9%	13%	4%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	40%	44%	3%	7%	4%	3%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	22%	55%	7%	10%	6%	1%	50

\$75,000 to \$99,999	35%	46%	3%	4%	8%	3%	57
\$100,000 or more	40%	37%	3%	16%	2%	2%	146

Q7: "I am familiar with the process for requesting and receiving public information."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	30%	32%	3%	17%	14%	4%	604
State							
New Hampshire	25%	31%	7%	17%	16%	4%	53
Vermont	30%	37%	2%	16%	9%	6%	30
Maine	33%	31%	1%	23%	9%	2%	55
Massachusetts	30%	34%	2%	16%	15%	3%	273
Connecticut	31%	30%	4%	16%	14%	5%	150
Rhode Island	29%	25%	10%	18%	18%	0%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	29%	34%	4%	17%	14%	2%	272
Independent	34%	38%	3%	13%	9%	3%	120
Republican	29%	27%	4%	18%	16%	6%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	33%	29%	1%	23%	12%	1%	144
Moderate	28%	35%	5%	14%	13%	6%	248
Conservative	31%	26%	5%	17%	17%	3%	153
Sex							
Male	30%	32%	2%	19%	14%	3%	295
Female	30%	32%	5%	15%	14%	4%	309
Age							
18 to 34	30%	24%	0%	18%	26%	2%	58
35 to 49	29%	34%	5%	17%	13%	2%	175
50 to 64	31%	31%	3%	17%	14%	3%	243
65 and older	31%	33%	2%	16%	8%	9%	106
Marital Status							
Married	29%	34%	5%	17%	12%	4%	408
Divorced/Separated	35%	28%	1%	13%	20%	5%	105
Never married	31%	33%	1%	18%	16%	1%	79
Adults in Household							
One	30%	31%	3%	15%	15%	5%	91
Two	29%	32%	3%	19%	15%	3%	347
Three or more	31%	33%	6%	15%	11%	5%	156
Children in Household							
No children	33%	30%	4%	16%	13%	5%	393
One	28%	28%	5%	14%	20%	4%	87
Two or more	22%	41%	2%	22%	13%	0%	119
Race							
White	30%	33%	4%	17%	13%	4%	536
Af. American	41%	27%	0%	0%	17%	15%	13
Hispanic	45%	4%	0%	22%	26%	3%	18
Other Race(s)	23%	40%	3%	5%	30%	0%	23
Education							
High school or less	33%	31%	3%	13%	17%	4%	133
Technical school/Some college	35%	29%	4%	19%	12%	2%	124
College graduate	22%	34%	3%	18%	17%	5%	208
Postgraduate work	35%	34%	3%	17%	8%	4%	135
Income							
Less than \$30,000	36%	32%	0%	19%	11%	1%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	30%	28%	5%	15%	13%	9%	97

\$60,000 to \$74,999	16%	46%	3%	20%	15%	0%	50
\$75,000 to \$99,999	36%	32%	0%	14%	14%	3%	57
\$100,000 or more	36%	27%	5%	16%	12%	4%	146

Q8: "My state does an excellent job of keeping government records up to date and open to the public."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	14%	23%	11%	12%	15%	24%	604
State							
New Hampshire	7%	25%	9%	11%	9%	40%	53
Vermont	19%	31%	8%	8%	8%	25%	30
Maine	18%	20%	9%	6%	13%	34%	55
Massachusetts	15%	21%	11%	13%	17%	23%	273
Connecticut	15%	27%	11%	14%	12%	20%	150
Rhode Island	11%	20%	15%	15%	22%	17%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	19%	23%	11%	12%	10%	24%	272
Independent	14%	23%	12%	14%	16%	20%	120
Republican	8%	23%	9%	11%	21%	27%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	16%	23%	12%	13%	7%	29%	144
Moderate	15%	24%	11%	13%	14%	23%	248
Conservative	11%	25%	9%	10%	24%	21%	153
Sex							
Male	16%	27%	9%	11%	15%	23%	295
Female	13%	20%	13%	13%	15%	26%	309
Age							
18 to 34	18%	30%	17%	12%	7%	16%	58
35 to 49	14%	26%	10%	8%	12%	29%	175
50 to 64	11%	21%	10%	15%	18%	24%	243
65 and older	22%	20%	7%	15%	16%	20%	106
Martial Status							
Married	14%	24%	11%	11%	14%	26%	408
Divorced/Separated	15%	18%	9%	16%	19%	23%	105
Never married	16%	29%	11%	13%	14%	17%	79
Adults in Household							
One	19%	20%	8%	14%	18%	20%	91
Two	12%	26%	13%	12%	13%	24%	347
Three or more	17%	17%	8%	12%	18%	28%	156
Children in Household							
No children	15%	23%	10%	14%	16%	23%	393
One	11%	23%	15%	5%	22%	23%	87
Two or more	16%	24%	10%	13%	7%	31%	119
Race							
White	15%	24%	10%	11%	14%	26%	536
Af. American	9%	11%	10%	35%	27%	7%	13
Hispanic	8%	21%	9%	17%	27%	18%	18
Other Race(s)	19%	15%	17%	18%	23%	7%	23
Education							
High school or less	18%	21%	10%	14%	12%	24%	133
Technical school/Some college	20%	22%	7%	12%	18%	21%	124
College graduate	11%	24%	10%	14%	15%	26%	208
Postgraduate work	12%	26%	15%	9%	15%	24%	135
Income							
Less than \$30,000	26%	15%	3%	15%	19%	21%	58

\$30,000 to \$59,999	17%	21%	9%	18%	10%	25%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	10%	33%	9%	13%	14%	21%	50
\$75,000 to \$99,999	21%	28%	10%	9%	8%	23%	57
\$100,000 or more	9%	29%	15%	7%	16%	23%	146

Q8A: "My local government does an excellent job of keeping government records up to date and open to the public."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	23%	26%	7%	11%	14%	18%	603
State							
New Hampshire	24%	36%	2%	7%	6%	25%	53
Vermont	27%	27%	7%	11%	8%	20%	30
Maine	25%	30%	9%	6%	13%	16%	55
Massachusetts	20%	23%	8%	12%	18%	18%	271
Connecticut	25%	30%	6%	13%	11%	15%	150
Rhode Island	24%	18%	6%	8%	18%	26%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	20%	28%	7%	14%	13%	19%	271
Independent	32%	21%	8%	11%	17%	11%	120
Republican	23%	28%	6%	8%	14%	21%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	23%	29%	7%	12%	9%	20%	143
Moderate	24%	27%	7%	11%	15%	16%	248
Conservative	22%	26%	5%	11%	17%	19%	153
Sex							
Male	24%	28%	6%	9%	17%	17%	294
Female	22%	25%	7%	14%	12%	20%	308
Age							
18 to 34	17%	18%	11%	19%	10%	24%	58
35 to 49	23%	30%	7%	6%	14%	20%	175
50 to 64	20%	25%	7%	14%	17%	17%	242
65 and older	34%	25%	5%	9%	13%	14%	106
Marital Status							
Married	25%	27%	5%	11%	12%	20%	407
Divorced/Separated	25%	24%	8%	9%	19%	15%	105
Never married	12%	26%	10%	16%	19%	16%	79
Adults in Household							
One	23%	24%	6%	11%	22%	14%	91
Two	24%	28%	7%	12%	10%	18%	346
Three or more	20%	23%	5%	10%	20%	22%	156
Children in Household							
No children	24%	27%	6%	11%	16%	16%	391
One	16%	22%	8%	10%	19%	24%	87
Two or more	25%	25%	7%	13%	6%	23%	119
Race							
White	23%	28%	6%	10%	14%	19%	535
Af. American	12%	19%	5%	32%	27%	5%	13
Hispanic	22%	6%	6%	29%	18%	18%	18
Other Race(s)	19%	13%	3%	15%	28%	22%	23
Education							
High school or less	20%	25%	7%	15%	15%	18%	133
Technical school/Some college	31%	23%	6%	6%	19%	15%	123
College graduate	18%	25%	7%	12%	13%	25%	207
Postgraduate work	25%	32%	6%	12%	12%	14%	135
Income							

Less than \$30,000	24%	24%	4%	15%	23%	11%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	23%	26%	7%	16%	11%	17%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	12%	37%	3%	7%	17%	23%	50
\$75,000 to \$99,999	23%	32%	6%	11%	13%	15%	56
\$100,000 or more	25%	23%	11%	8%	16%	18%	146

Q9: "Have you requested a public document within the last 12 months?"

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	23%	77%	1%	604
State				
New Hampshire	25%	75%	0%	53
Vermont	9%	91%	0%	30
Maine	19%	81%	0%	55
Massachusetts	24%	75%	1%	273
Connecticut	25%	75%	0%	150
Rhode Island	15%	82%	3%	42
Party Identification				
Democrat	23%	76%	1%	272
Independent	23%	77%	0%	120
Republican	22%	78%	1%	186
Political Ideology				
Liberal	26%	73%	2%	144
Moderate	21%	79%	1%	248
Conservative	23%	77%	0%	153
Sex				
Male	19%	81%	1%	295
Female	26%	73%	1%	309
Age				
18 to 34	19%	81%	0%	58
35 to 49	25%	75%	0%	175
50 to 64	27%	72%	0%	243
65 and older	12%	85%	2%	106
Marital Status				
Married	22%	77%	1%	408
Divorced/Separated	22%	78%	0%	105
Never married	25%	75%	0%	79
Adults in Household				
One	16%	84%	0%	91
Two	23%	76%	1%	347
Three or more	25%	75%	0%	156
Children in Household				
No children	20%	79%	1%	393
One	30%	70%	0%	87
Two or more	25%	75%	0%	119
Race				
White	23%	77%	1%	536
Af. American	8%	92%	0%	13
Hispanic	44%	56%	0%	18
Other Race(s)	23%	77%	0%	23
Education				
High school or less	14%	85%	1%	133
Technical school/Some college	27%	72%	1%	124
College graduate	22%	77%	1%	208
Postgraduate work	29%	71%	0%	135
Income				

Less than \$30,000	15%	85%	0%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	23%	74%	3%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	21%	77%	2%	50
\$75,000 to \$99,999	20%	80%	0%	57
\$100,000 or more	29%	71%	0%	146

Q10: "Did you receive the information you requested?"

	Yes	No	Some But Not All	Number Responded
New England Adults	87%	9%	4%	137
State				
New Hampshire	91%	5%	4%	14
Vermont	88%	12%	0%	3
Maine	84%	16%	0%	10
Massachusetts	87%	9%	4%	67
Connecticut	88%	6%	6%	37
Rhode Island	72%	28%	0%	6
Party Identification				
Democrat	90%	7%	3%	63
Independent	79%	14%	7%	28
Republican	89%	9%	2%	40
Political Ideology				
Liberal	80%	10%	10%	37
Moderate	92%	7%	1%	52
Conservative	88%	11%	1%	35
Sex				
Male	86%	10%	4%	56
Female	88%	8%	4%	81
Age				
18 to 34	94%	6%	0%	11
35 to 49	93%	4%	3%	44
50 to 64	83%	12%	5%	66
65 and older	79%	14%	7%	13
Marital Status				
Married	89%	9%	2%	90
Divorced/Separated	86%	6%	8%	23
Never married	82%	10%	8%	19
Adults in Household				
One	71%	23%	6%	15
Two	90%	8%	2%	81
Three or more	87%	5%	8%	39
Children in Household				
No children	88%	7%	5%	80
One	87%	13%	0%	26
Two or more	84%	11%	5%	30
Race				
White	89%	9%	2%	121
Af. American	0%	0%	100%	1
Hispanic	58%	18%	24%	8
Other Race(s)	91%	9%	0%	5
Education				
High school or less	100%	0%	0%	19
Technical school/Some college	77%	12%	11%	33
College graduate	90%	9%	1%	46
Postgraduate work	85%	11%	4%	39
Income				
Less than \$30,000	79%	15%	6%	9
\$30,000 to \$59,999	84%	16%	0%	23
\$60,000 to \$74,999	85%	3%	11%	10
\$75,000 to \$99,999	100%	0%	0%	12
\$100,000 or more	88%	9%	3%	42

Q11: "How affordable was the price you were charged for the public document you requested in the last 12 months. Would you say the price was very affordable ... somewhat affordable ... not very affordable, or ... not at all affordable?"

	Very Affordable	Somewhat Affordable	Not Very Affordable	Not At All Affordable	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	61%	25%	5%	7%	3%	136
State						
New Hampshire	64%	22%	10%	0%	3%	14
Vermont	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%	3
Maine	55%	17%	0%	28%	0%	10
Massachusetts	66%	18%	7%	5%	3%	66
Connecticut	53%	39%	1%	7%	0%	37
Rhode Island	48%	32%	0%	0%	20%	6
Party Identification						
Democrat	64%	27%	1%	7%	1%	63
Independent	69%	16%	3%	7%	6%	28
Republican	58%	24%	11%	7%	0%	40
Political Ideology						
Liberal	61%	22%	2%	15%	0%	37
Moderate	60%	28%	5%	3%	5%	52
Conservative	63%	24%	8%	6%	0%	35
Sex						
Male	69%	16%	2%	10%	3%	56
Female	55%	31%	7%	4%	3%	80
Age						
18 to 34	67%	33%	0%	0%	0%	11
35 to 49	68%	22%	3%	3%	3%	44
50 to 64	56%	25%	8%	9%	2%	66
65 and older	43%	33%	0%	15%	9%	13
Marital Status						
Married	63%	22%	7%	4%	4%	90
Divorced/Separated	51%	25%	3%	22%	0%	23
Never married	61%	39%	0%	0%	0%	19
Adults in Household						
One	61%	27%	4%	9%	0%	15
Two	67%	23%	5%	1%	4%	81
Three or more	50%	25%	5%	17%	2%	39
Children in Household						
No children	59%	27%	5%	5%	3%	80
One	42%	34%	4%	14%	5%	26
Two or more	82%	11%	4%	3%	0%	30
Race						
White	61%	25%	6%	5%	3%	121
Af. American	0%	100%	0%	0%	0%	1
Hispanic	66%	0%	0%	34%	0%	8
Other Race(s)	36%	42%	0%	14%	9%	5
Education						
High school or less	52%	34%	0%	10%	5%	19
Technical school/Some college	62%	17%	4%	18%	0%	33
College graduate	59%	27%	7%	2%	6%	45
Postgraduate work	67%	25%	6%	2%	1%	39
Income						
Less than \$30,000	37%	42%	0%	21%	0%	9
\$30,000 to \$59,999	65%	25%	3%	7%	0%	22
\$60,000 to \$74,999	41%	48%	11%	0%	0%	10
\$75,000 to \$99,999	81%	13%	0%	6%	0%	12
\$100,000 or more	59%	26%	8%	7%	0%	42

Q12: "If I needed a public document, my state or local government would provide it in a timely manner."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	27%	32%	6%	12%	11%	12%	601
State							
New Hampshire	22%	37%	5%	19%	6%	11%	53
Vermont	27%	47%	0%	7%	9%	10%	30
Maine	27%	40%	0%	12%	7%	14%	55
Massachusetts	28%	27%	6%	14%	12%	13%	270
Connecticut	25%	34%	11%	8%	10%	11%	150
Rhode Island	28%	26%	9%	12%	16%	8%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	27%	35%	8%	11%	8%	12%	271
Independent	30%	31%	5%	16%	9%	9%	118
Republican	26%	31%	4%	13%	12%	14%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	26%	37%	9%	8%	9%	11%	143
Moderate	30%	30%	5%	13%	9%	13%	247
Conservative	25%	35%	5%	15%	12%	8%	153
Sex							
Male	28%	29%	5%	13%	14%	11%	293
Female	26%	35%	8%	12%	7%	13%	308
Age							
18 to 34	25%	31%	5%	13%	17%	9%	58
35 to 49	26%	31%	7%	15%	10%	11%	175
50 to 64	26%	33%	8%	12%	9%	13%	242
65 and older	31%	34%	3%	9%	10%	12%	104
Marital Status							
Married	28%	32%	7%	14%	8%	11%	405
Divorced/Separated	26%	31%	5%	9%	13%	16%	105
Never married	22%	36%	5%	11%	18%	9%	79
Adults in Household							
One	30%	33%	5%	10%	10%	12%	91
Two	28%	33%	7%	13%	7%	12%	346
Three or more	22%	30%	4%	14%	18%	12%	155
Children in Household							
No children	26%	34%	6%	12%	11%	12%	390
One	34%	27%	3%	14%	12%	10%	87
Two or more	25%	30%	11%	12%	8%	13%	119
Race							
White	28%	33%	6%	12%	9%	12%	533
Af. American	9%	19%	5%	19%	28%	20%	13
Hispanic	33%	30%	9%	7%	18%	3%	18
Other Race(s)	8%	33%	9%	8%	27%	15%	23
Education							
High school or less	29%	31%	6%	14%	10%	9%	133
Technical school/Some college	29%	31%	3%	13%	11%	13%	123
College graduate	22%	33%	8%	13%	10%	15%	206
Postgraduate work	30%	33%	8%	9%	10%	9%	135
Income							
Less than \$30,000	32%	23%	3%	13%	15%	13%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	30%	32%	5%	9%	7%	17%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	30%	34%	15%	7%	8%	8%	48
\$75,000 to \$99,999	26%	42%	8%	5%	7%	11%	57

\$100,000 or more	22%	31%	5%	17%	11%	13%	146
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Q13: "The costs charged by my state and local government to provide public documents is fair and affordable."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	26%	23%	6%	7%	12%	26%	600
State							
New Hampshire	18%	26%	3%	12%	8%	34%	53
Vermont	22%	27%	0%	13%	3%	34%	30
Maine	32%	22%	4%	6%	16%	20%	55
Massachusetts	25%	21%	6%	4%	15%	29%	269
Connecticut	30%	27%	9%	9%	7%	19%	150
Rhode Island	32%	26%	5%	6%	13%	18%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	27%	24%	6%	6%	10%	27%	272
Independent	32%	25%	7%	6%	16%	14%	120
Republican	24%	23%	5%	9%	8%	31%	185
Political Ideology							
Liberal	25%	23%	6%	5%	10%	31%	144
Moderate	31%	23%	5%	8%	9%	24%	248
Conservative	20%	28%	7%	6%	15%	23%	152
Sex							
Male	27%	24%	5%	6%	15%	23%	295
Female	25%	23%	7%	7%	9%	29%	305
Age							
18 to 34	29%	33%	3%	5%	9%	20%	58
35 to 49	25%	24%	4%	8%	11%	28%	173
50 to 64	27%	20%	7%	9%	13%	24%	241
65 and older	28%	27%	6%	3%	10%	25%	106
Marital Status							
Married	28%	23%	7%	7%	9%	26%	407
Divorced/Separated	29%	24%	2%	4%	17%	25%	104
Never married	18%	28%	6%	8%	18%	22%	78
Adults in Household							
One	25%	24%	5%	4%	14%	29%	91
Two	26%	24%	7%	7%	9%	26%	346
Three or more	28%	21%	4%	9%	16%	23%	155
Children in Household							
No children	25%	24%	7%	7%	12%	24%	391
One	27%	23%	2%	7%	16%	24%	84
Two or more	30%	21%	5%	7%	5%	32%	119
Race							
White	25%	25%	5%	7%	11%	26%	533
Af. American	41%	11%	5%	7%	11%	24%	13
Hispanic	65%	0%	0%	0%	15%	20%	18
Other Race(s)	24%	28%	13%	9%	21%	6%	23
Education							
High school or less	23%	29%	4%	8%	16%	19%	133
Technical school/Some college	30%	22%	10%	6%	12%	21%	124
College graduate	28%	20%	6%	8%	9%	29%	204
Postgraduate work	25%	25%	2%	6%	10%	31%	135
Income							
Less than \$30,000	31%	23%	3%	6%	20%	16%	57
\$30,000 to \$59,999	31%	18%	9%	8%	10%	24%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	18%	34%	8%	7%	7%	27%	50

\$75,000 to \$99,999	29%	17%	6%	5%	10%	34%	57
\$100,000 or more	25%	25%	4%	8%	8%	29%	145

Q14: "Having easy access to public records is important to my role as a citizen."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	78%	14%	2%	3%	2%	1%	603
State							
New Hampshire	76%	14%	2%	3%	0%	6%	53
Vermont	62%	29%	4%	0%	0%	6%	30
Maine	75%	14%	6%	4%	1%	0%	55
Massachusetts	80%	14%	1%	3%	2%	0%	272
Connecticut	77%	13%	1%	4%	3%	1%	150
Rhode Island	82%	12%	0%	5%	0%	0%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	78%	16%	1%	2%	1%	1%	271
Independent	77%	15%	2%	4%	3%	0%	120
Republican	76%	12%	3%	4%	3%	2%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	83%	11%	1%	4%	2%	0%	144
Moderate	75%	17%	2%	1%	2%	3%	247
Conservative	79%	13%	2%	4%	1%	0%	153
Sex							
Male	76%	14%	2%	3%	2%	2%	295
Female	79%	14%	1%	3%	2%	0%	308
Age							
18 to 34	73%	18%	5%	1%	1%	3%	58
35 to 49	80%	13%	2%	4%	1%	0%	175
50 to 64	79%	12%	1%	4%	3%	1%	242
65 and older	78%	14%	3%	3%	0%	2%	106
Marital Status							
Married	78%	15%	2%	3%	1%	1%	408
Divorced/Separated	78%	12%	1%	4%	3%	2%	104
Never married	78%	10%	4%	4%	5%	0%	79
Adults in Household							
One	77%	15%	0%	4%	2%	1%	91
Two	77%	17%	2%	2%	1%	0%	346
Three or more	79%	9%	2%	6%	3%	2%	156
Children in Household							
No children	78%	13%	2%	4%	2%	1%	391
One	81%	13%	0%	5%	2%	0%	87
Two or more	76%	19%	3%	1%	0%	1%	119
Race							
White	78%	14%	2%	3%	2%	1%	535
Af. American	81%	16%	0%	3%	0%	0%	13
Hispanic	84%	12%	0%	4%	0%	0%	18
Other Race(s)	65%	25%	0%	10%	0%	0%	23
Education							
High school or less	70%	15%	4%	6%	4%	2%	132
Technical school/Some college	80%	13%	1%	4%	0%	2%	124
College graduate	80%	13%	2%	4%	1%	1%	208
Postgraduate work	80%	16%	1%	0%	3%	0%	135
Income							
Less than \$30,000	84%	8%	0%	5%	1%	2%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	77%	15%	1%	1%	2%	3%	96

\$60,000 to \$74,999	80%	13%	2%	1%	0%	3%	50
\$75,000 to \$99,999	79%	18%	0%	4%	0%	0%	57
\$100,000 or more	76%	14%	3%	4%	3%	0%	146

Q15: "Issues of privacy sometimes must take a back seat in order for government to be open and transparent."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	25%	30%	7%	15%	20%	4%	604
State							
New Hampshire	25%	30%	11%	12%	16%	6%	53
Vermont	18%	34%	10%	12%	23%	2%	30
Maine	26%	31%	6%	15%	21%	0%	55
Massachusetts	25%	33%	6%	12%	18%	5%	273
Connecticut	29%	22%	5%	17%	25%	3%	150
Rhode Island	17%	32%	13%	24%	14%	0%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	24%	37%	8%	11%	17%	3%	272
Independent	24%	24%	4%	19%	25%	4%	120
Republican	29%	25%	8%	16%	19%	4%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	20%	41%	7%	11%	18%	2%	144
Moderate	26%	26%	6%	18%	21%	4%	248
Conservative	32%	25%	8%	13%	17%	5%	153
Sex							
Male	25%	26%	7%	18%	22%	3%	295
Female	26%	33%	7%	12%	18%	4%	309
Age							
18 to 34	29%	28%	8%	17%	16%	2%	58
35 to 49	25%	40%	7%	9%	18%	1%	175
50 to 64	23%	28%	5%	16%	24%	3%	243
65 and older	31%	19%	9%	20%	13%	7%	106
Martial Status							
Married	27%	30%	7%	15%	18%	4%	408
Divorced/Separated	27%	26%	8%	12%	22%	5%	105
Never married	17%	30%	7%	19%	25%	2%	79
Adults in Household							
One	31%	30%	5%	11%	20%	3%	91
Two	23%	34%	8%	12%	20%	3%	347
Three or more	27%	22%	6%	22%	19%	4%	156
Children in Household							
No children	24%	27%	8%	18%	20%	4%	393
One	29%	32%	7%	9%	19%	3%	87
Two or more	27%	37%	6%	7%	19%	2%	119
Race							
White	26%	31%	7%	13%	19%	3%	536
Af. American	22%	36%	0%	35%	7%	0%	13
Hispanic	25%	8%	15%	21%	31%	0%	18
Other Race(s)	21%	19%	5%	22%	29%	5%	23
Education							
High school or less	27%	24%	11%	15%	18%	5%	133
Technical school/Some college	21%	20%	4%	21%	28%	7%	124
College graduate	25%	37%	8%	12%	18%	1%	208
Postgraduate work	29%	34%	5%	12%	17%	2%	135
Income							
Less than \$30,000	26%	31%	0%	20%	21%	2%	58

\$30,000 to \$59,999	30%	22%	8%	15%	17%	9%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	18%	35%	8%	17%	18%	4%	50
\$75,000 to \$99,999	21%	32%	4%	18%	24%	0%	57
\$100,000 or more	26%	38%	7%	15%	14%	1%	146

Q16: "Every citizen in my state is given the same access to open records."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	30%	28%	4%	12%	14%	12%	602
State							
New Hampshire	36%	31%	1%	8%	10%	14%	53
Vermont	25%	50%	0%	11%	6%	8%	30
Maine	41%	32%	5%	8%	8%	7%	55
Massachusetts	25%	27%	5%	14%	15%	12%	270
Connecticut	33%	25%	2%	11%	16%	14%	150
Rhode Island	27%	19%	6%	13%	19%	15%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	29%	28%	6%	12%	12%	13%	272
Independent	27%	30%	2%	11%	15%	16%	118
Republican	33%	26%	2%	14%	15%	10%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	33%	21%	7%	14%	12%	12%	144
Moderate	24%	31%	3%	12%	14%	16%	247
Conservative	34%	30%	1%	11%	15%	9%	153
Sex							
Male	30%	28%	3%	12%	17%	10%	293
Female	29%	28%	5%	12%	11%	15%	309
Age							
18 to 34	36%	24%	7%	8%	16%	9%	58
35 to 49	33%	32%	5%	10%	8%	12%	175
50 to 64	25%	27%	2%	16%	19%	11%	241
65 and older	29%	28%	3%	11%	12%	17%	106
Marital Status							
Married	30%	30%	4%	12%	14%	12%	407
Divorced/Separated	27%	24%	3%	12%	17%	17%	105
Never married	36%	23%	8%	15%	9%	9%	79
Adults in Household							
One	29%	23%	3%	13%	16%	17%	91
Two	28%	32%	4%	12%	14%	10%	347
Three or more	34%	23%	3%	11%	14%	15%	155
Children in Household							
No children	29%	28%	3%	12%	14%	13%	390
One	28%	23%	2%	17%	20%	11%	87
Two or more	34%	30%	8%	8%	8%	13%	119
Race							
White	30%	30%	3%	13%	12%	13%	534
Af. American	37%	11%	8%	18%	22%	3%	13
Hispanic	10%	11%	27%	0%	39%	12%	18
Other Race(s)	30%	15%	3%	9%	18%	25%	23
Education							
High school or less	31%	31%	4%	9%	11%	15%	133
Technical school/Some college	35%	29%	2%	9%	15%	10%	122
College graduate	27%	28%	5%	15%	14%	12%	207
Postgraduate work	30%	25%	4%	14%	14%	13%	135
Income							

Less than \$30,000	41%	22%	2%	14%	15%	6%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	22%	31%	5%	11%	13%	18%	96
\$60,000 to \$74,999	25%	35%	4%	5%	11%	21%	48
\$75,000 to \$99,999	43%	29%	1%	10%	11%	6%	57
\$100,000 or more	29%	29%	5%	18%	10%	10%	146

Q17: "In my state, a public official would be reprimanded if he or she denied my legitimate request for public records."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	26%	23%	5%	13%	14%	20%	603
State							
New Hampshire	31%	20%	5%	11%	9%	24%	53
Vermont	32%	28%	9%	1%	3%	28%	30
Maine	24%	33%	1%	15%	10%	17%	55
Massachusetts	22%	22%	5%	17%	15%	18%	272
Connecticut	27%	20%	5%	9%	15%	24%	150
Rhode Island	31%	26%	4%	7%	28%	5%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	28%	27%	4%	13%	10%	19%	272
Independent	24%	23%	6%	8%	17%	21%	119
Republican	25%	20%	3%	14%	18%	19%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	23%	29%	3%	12%	12%	21%	144
Moderate	28%	22%	6%	13%	12%	19%	248
Conservative	29%	18%	1%	14%	21%	17%	153
Sex							
Male	23%	25%	4%	11%	16%	21%	294
Female	28%	21%	5%	15%	12%	19%	309
Age							
18 to 34	33%	17%	5%	13%	15%	16%	58
35 to 49	20%	28%	4%	13%	14%	22%	175
50 to 64	25%	23%	6%	14%	16%	17%	243
65 and older	38%	20%	3%	9%	11%	19%	106
Marital Status							
Married	26%	22%	6%	13%	13%	19%	408
Divorced/Separated	25%	27%	1%	9%	18%	20%	105
Never married	26%	25%	2%	15%	13%	19%	79
Adults in Household							
One	25%	26%	1%	12%	12%	24%	91
Two	25%	24%	5%	14%	12%	20%	347
Three or more	27%	20%	5%	11%	19%	18%	156
Children in Household							
No children	29%	23%	4%	12%	13%	19%	392
One	20%	23%	8%	16%	15%	18%	87
Two or more	20%	24%	5%	11%	17%	24%	119
Race							
White	26%	24%	4%	13%	13%	20%	536
Af. American	44%	11%	15%	10%	8%	11%	13
Hispanic	12%	0%	21%	8%	46%	13%	18
Other Race(s)	28%	32%	0%	2%	27%	11%	23
Education							
High school or less	33%	17%	3%	9%	11%	25%	133
Technical school/Some college	26%	27%	0%	10%	19%	17%	124
College graduate	23%	23%	8%	14%	14%	19%	207
Postgraduate work	23%	26%	5%	16%	12%	17%	135

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Income							
Less than \$30,000	29%	23%	0%	12%	13%	23%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	32%	20%	2%	11%	10%	25%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	19%	33%	5%	13%	13%	16%	49
\$75,000 to \$99,999	34%	28%	5%	7%	16%	10%	57
\$100,000 or more	20%	26%	6%	17%	17%	15%	146

Q18: "My local news media will seek out public information that is important for me to know."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	37%	27%	4%	12%	14%	5%	603
State							
New Hampshire	27%	31%	3%	16%	14%	10%	53
Vermont	35%	36%	0%	20%	5%	4%	30
Maine	34%	28%	7%	9%	16%	5%	55
Massachusetts	35%	27%	5%	12%	16%	5%	272
Connecticut	42%	25%	2%	10%	16%	5%	150
Rhode Island	55%	27%	7%	6%	6%	0%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	44%	31%	3%	8%	7%	6%	272
Independent	36%	26%	5%	14%	16%	3%	119
Republican	31%	21%	5%	15%	24%	3%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	41%	35%	4%	11%	7%	2%	144
Moderate	38%	26%	5%	11%	13%	7%	248
Conservative	35%	18%	4%	15%	25%	2%	153
Sex							
Male	34%	27%	4%	12%	18%	5%	294
Female	40%	27%	5%	11%	11%	5%	309
Age							
18 to 34	47%	19%	6%	10%	12%	6%	58
35 to 49	29%	33%	7%	10%	17%	4%	175
50 to 64	39%	30%	3%	11%	13%	3%	243
65 and older	43%	21%	1%	15%	14%	7%	106
Marital Status							
Married	36%	27%	4%	12%	15%	5%	408
Divorced/Separated	43%	26%	4%	10%	12%	5%	105
Never married	36%	30%	6%	11%	14%	2%	79
Adults in Household							
One	37%	32%	2%	11%	14%	3%	91
Two	33%	30%	5%	11%	14%	6%	347
Three or more	47%	19%	4%	13%	15%	2%	156
Children in Household							
No children	36%	27%	4%	13%	14%	5%	392
One	44%	27%	8%	7%	8%	6%	87
Two or more	36%	29%	2%	11%	18%	4%	119
Race							
White	37%	29%	4%	12%	14%	4%	536
Af. American	60%	28%	0%	0%	11%	0%	13
Hispanic	40%	9%	14%	17%	11%	9%	18
Other Race(s)	49%	11%	6%	4%	21%	9%	23
Education							
High school or less	45%	24%	3%	9%	16%	3%	133
Technical school/Some college	44%	24%	4%	7%	13%	7%	124
College graduate	32%	31%	5%	16%	13%	3%	207
Postgraduate work	31%	29%	5%	11%	17%	7%	135

Income							
Less than \$30,000	42%	27%	2%	14%	16%	0%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	42%	29%	3%	9%	10%	6%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	35%	36%	6%	8%	15%	0%	49
\$75,000 to \$99,999	49%	22%	3%	10%	15%	1%	57
\$100,000 or more	33%	31%	6%	11%	13%	5%	146

Q19: "Open government laws in my state should be strengthened."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	40%	23%	9%	10%	6%	13%	600
State							
New Hampshire	23%	27%	15%	8%	9%	18%	53
Vermont	25%	24%	5%	15%	4%	27%	30
Maine	35%	17%	7%	11%	11%	18%	55
Massachusetts	43%	21%	10%	10%	6%	10%	269
Connecticut	40%	28%	8%	6%	3%	14%	150
Rhode Island	55%	17%	9%	14%	0%	5%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	37%	27%	11%	10%	4%	11%	271
Independent	37%	20%	10%	10%	9%	14%	120
Republican	45%	19%	7%	11%	5%	12%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	31%	24%	14%	13%	5%	13%	144
Moderate	44%	20%	8%	11%	6%	11%	247
Conservative	48%	26%	5%	6%	6%	9%	153
Sex							
Male	39%	21%	9%	10%	9%	13%	294
Female	40%	25%	10%	9%	3%	13%	306
Age							
18 to 34	41%	32%	13%	0%	9%	5%	58
35 to 49	36%	26%	6%	11%	7%	14%	174
50 to 64	40%	25%	9%	11%	4%	11%	240
65 and older	45%	11%	11%	13%	5%	16%	106
Marital Status							
Married	37%	24%	11%	11%	5%	13%	406
Divorced/Separated	49%	20%	5%	8%	5%	14%	104
Never married	43%	24%	7%	5%	11%	10%	79
Adults in Household							
One	45%	19%	5%	9%	5%	17%	91
Two	37%	24%	11%	10%	5%	13%	345
Three or more	41%	24%	8%	9%	7%	10%	155
Children in Household							
No children	42%	21%	8%	11%	5%	13%	391
One	41%	33%	14%	2%	3%	7%	85
Two or more	28%	24%	9%	12%	9%	17%	119
Race							
White	38%	24%	9%	11%	6%	13%	533
Af. American	53%	23%	8%	0%	3%	12%	13
Hispanic	62%	22%	8%	0%	0%	8%	18
Other Race(s)	49%	17%	16%	0%	5%	13%	23
Education							
High school or less	47%	16%	6%	10%	10%	11%	132
Technical school/Some college	45%	20%	9%	7%	6%	13%	123
College graduate	34%	29%	9%	12%	4%	11%	206

Postgraduate work	36%	24%	11%	9%	4%	17%	135
Income							
Less than \$30,000	62%	13%	0%	4%	12%	9%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	43%	18%	10%	9%	6%	14%	95
\$60,000 to \$74,999	21%	41%	10%	7%	6%	14%	50
\$75,000 to \$99,999	41%	24%	4%	11%	10%	10%	57
\$100,000 or more	34%	29%	13%	13%	4%	7%	146

Q20: "All public business in my community is being done in public view."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	18%	23%	4%	19%	25%	12%	603
State							
New Hampshire	13%	35%	0%	18%	25%	9%	53
Vermont	19%	37%	0%	20%	10%	14%	30
Maine	25%	12%	4%	18%	20%	21%	55
Massachusetts	18%	23%	4%	20%	27%	9%	272
Connecticut	17%	21%	2%	19%	25%	16%	150
Rhode Island	17%	17%	13%	22%	24%	7%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	18%	23%	5%	23%	19%	11%	271
Independent	18%	29%	2%	14%	30%	6%	120
Republican	18%	20%	2%	20%	26%	15%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	15%	24%	6%	25%	18%	13%	144
Moderate	18%	26%	4%	20%	22%	11%	247
Conservative	20%	19%	1%	18%	29%	12%	153
Sex							
Male	18%	22%	3%	17%	28%	11%	295
Female	17%	24%	4%	21%	21%	12%	308
Age							
18 to 34	24%	20%	3%	21%	20%	11%	58
35 to 49	14%	31%	6%	16%	20%	12%	175
50 to 64	16%	18%	1%	26%	28%	10%	242
65 and older	24%	22%	5%	12%	25%	12%	106
Marital Status							
Married	18%	24%	3%	20%	23%	11%	408
Divorced/Separated	17%	18%	4%	13%	34%	13%	104
Never married	17%	23%	7%	25%	18%	10%	79
Adults in Household							
One	17%	19%	3%	20%	29%	12%	91
Two	18%	26%	4%	20%	21%	12%	346
Three or more	19%	20%	3%	19%	30%	10%	156
Children in Household							
No children	18%	20%	3%	22%	25%	12%	391
One	15%	25%	6%	18%	22%	13%	87
Two or more	20%	31%	3%	11%	24%	12%	119
Race							
White	17%	24%	3%	19%	24%	12%	535
Af. American	10%	18%	0%	49%	11%	12%	13
Hispanic	41%	7%	6%	8%	30%	8%	18
Other Race(s)	23%	14%	8%	21%	24%	9%	23
Education							
High school or less	23%	21%	4%	18%	26%	8%	132
Technical school/Some college	22%	23%	4%	15%	23%	13%	124

College graduate	16%	22%	3%	22%	23%	14%	208
Postgraduate work	11%	27%	3%	20%	27%	11%	135
Income							
Less than \$30,000	33%	11%	1%	20%	26%	8%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	20%	21%	5%	20%	23%	12%	96
\$60,000 to \$74,999	10%	24%	4%	26%	26%	10%	50
\$75,000 to \$99,999	15%	39%	3%	19%	16%	8%	57
\$100,000 or more	16%	26%	4%	24%	20%	10%	146

Q21: "A government agency that wrongfully denies access to records should have to pay the citizen's legal bills, if action is taken."

	Strongly Agree	Somewhat Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Somewhat Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	67%	20%	1%	2%	4%	6%	604
State							
New Hampshire	58%	27%	2%	1%	5%	8%	53
Vermont	56%	28%	3%	5%	3%	5%	30
Maine	70%	11%	1%	4%	5%	9%	55
Massachusetts	70%	22%	1%	2%	2%	4%	273
Connecticut	65%	18%	2%	3%	6%	6%	150
Rhode Island	68%	12%	0%	7%	3%	9%	42
Party Identification							
Democrat	67%	22%	2%	1%	2%	6%	272
Independent	73%	16%	1%	3%	3%	5%	120
Republican	66%	20%	0%	3%	7%	4%	186
Political Ideology							
Liberal	67%	24%	3%	1%	1%	5%	144
Moderate	68%	19%	1%	2%	5%	5%	248
Conservative	73%	18%	0%	3%	3%	3%	153
Sex							
Male	66%	21%	1%	2%	6%	4%	295
Female	68%	18%	2%	2%	2%	8%	309
Age							
18 to 34	62%	28%	0%	1%	3%	7%	58
35 to 49	69%	19%	1%	3%	4%	3%	175
50 to 64	70%	20%	2%	1%	3%	5%	243
65 and older	66%	16%	1%	4%	5%	8%	106
Martial Status							
Married	65%	22%	1%	2%	4%	5%	408
Divorced/Separated	71%	15%	2%	3%	4%	5%	105
Never married	73%	17%	1%	0%	1%	7%	79
Adults in Household							
One	67%	14%	1%	4%	3%	11%	91
Two	65%	23%	1%	3%	4%	4%	347
Three or more	72%	18%	1%	0%	3%	6%	156
Children in Household							
No children	69%	18%	1%	2%	3%	6%	393
One	65%	22%	2%	2%	4%	4%	87
Two or more	63%	24%	2%	2%	5%	4%	119
Race							
White	67%	21%	1%	2%	4%	6%	536
Af. American	71%	7%	0%	0%	18%	4%	13
Hispanic	90%	10%	0%	0%	0%	0%	18
Other Race(s)	54%	21%	8%	7%	5%	4%	23
Education							
High school or less	67%	19%	0%	2%	4%	8%	133

Survey Center

September, 2009

Technical school/Some college	78%	10%	1%	4%	4%	3%	124
College graduate	61%	24%	2%	3%	4%	6%	208
Postgraduate work	65%	24%	3%	0%	2%	5%	135
Income							
Less than \$30,000	77%	10%	0%	2%	6%	6%	58
\$30,000 to \$59,999	72%	19%	1%	1%	2%	5%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	73%	19%	0%	4%	2%	3%	50
\$75,000 to \$99,999	76%	12%	3%	0%	8%	0%	57
\$100,000 or more	64%	26%	3%	2%	2%	4%	146

Q22: "Have you ever been refused access to a meeting that you believed should have been open to the public?"

	Yes	No	Don't Know	Number Responded
New England Adults	12%	86%	2%	600
State				
New Hampshire	7%	88%	4%	53
Vermont	0%	100%	0%	30
Maine	10%	87%	3%	55
Massachusetts	12%	87%	1%	271
Connecticut	18%	80%	2%	148
Rhode Island	8%	90%	2%	42
Party Identification				
Democrat	10%	89%	2%	272
Independent	12%	84%	4%	118
Republican	16%	83%	1%	186
Political Ideology				
Liberal	13%	86%	1%	144
Moderate	10%	88%	2%	248
Conservative	17%	82%	1%	153
Sex				
Male	11%	87%	2%	293
Female	13%	86%	1%	307
Age				
18 to 34	7%	90%	3%	58
35 to 49	11%	89%	0%	171
50 to 64	16%	81%	3%	243
65 and older	9%	91%	0%	106
Martial Status				
Married	12%	87%	1%	408
Divorced/Separated	13%	85%	2%	101
Never married	11%	86%	4%	79
Adults in Household				
One	14%	85%	1%	91
Two	9%	89%	2%	347
Three or more	18%	81%	1%	152
Children in Household				
No children	13%	85%	2%	388
One	9%	91%	0%	87
Two or more	11%	87%	2%	119
Race				
White	11%	88%	1%	535
Af. American	21%	79%	0%	13
Hispanic	31%	60%	9%	18
Other Race(s)	17%	75%	8%	20
Education				
High school or less	4%	96%	1%	130

Survey Center

September, 2009

Technical school/Some college	16%	81%	3%	122
College graduate	15%	83%	2%	208
Postgraduate work	12%	88%	0%	135
Income				
Less than \$30,000	16%	84%	0%	56
\$30,000 to \$59,999	13%	86%	1%	97
\$60,000 to \$74,999	6%	93%	1%	50
\$75,000 to \$99,999	6%	90%	4%	57
\$100,000 or more	13%	87%	0%	146

APPENDIX B:
QUESTIONNAIRE AND CODEBOOK

This appendix contains the questionnaire used in the New England First Amendment Coalition Survey. It also includes the following information about the data:

1. The numeric codes used to categorize the answers given by survey respondents.
2. A code indicating the sponsor of the question.
3. The variable names and numbers of the variables in the SPSS file of the data.
4. The missing data codes used in the SPSS file (indicated by an asterisk [*])

NE FAC
Conducted by the UNH Survey Center
FINAL

INTRO:

“Good afternoon / evening. My name is _____ and I'm from the University of New Hampshire Survey Center on behalf of New England First Amendment Coalition. We are conducting a short, confidential study of New England resident's opinions about their government, and we'd really appreciate your help and cooperation.”

- 1 CONTINUE
- 99 REFUSED

BIR1

“In order to determine who to interview, could you tell me, of the adults who currently live in your household -- including yourself -- who had the most recent birthday? I don't mean who is the youngest, but rather, who had the most recent birthday?”

- 1 INFORMANT → SKIP TO SEX
- 2 SOMEONE ELSE (SPECIFY): _____ → SKIP TO INT2
- 3 DON'T KNOW ALL BIRTHDAYS, ONLY SOME → CONTINUE WITH BIR2
- 4 DON'T KNOW ANY BIRTHDAYS OTHER THAN OWN → SKIP TO SEX

- 99 REFUSED -- ENTER NON-RESPONSE INFORMATION

BIR2

“Of the ones that you do know, who had the most recent birthday?”

- 1 INFORMANT → SKIP TO SEX
- 2 SOMEONE ELSE (SPECIFY): _____ → SKIP TO INT2

- 99 REFUSED

INT2

ASK TO SPEAK TO THAT PERSON

“Good afternoon / evening, this is _____ calling from the University of New Hampshire on behalf of New England First Amendment Coalition. This month, we are conducting a confidential study of New England resident's opinions about their government, and we'd really appreciate your help and cooperation. You have been identified as the adult in your household who had the most recent birthday. Is this correct?”

- 1 YES SKIP TO SEX
- 2 APPOINTMENT

- 99 REFUSAL TERMINATE

SEX

“Thank you very much for helping us with this important study. We really appreciate your help. Before we begin I want to assure you that all of your answers are strictly confidential. Your telephone number was randomly selected from all families in New England and your responses will be combined with answers from other people from across the region.”

“Participation is voluntary. If you decide to participate, you may decline to answer any question or end the interview at any time. This call may be monitored for quality assurance.”

IF ASKED: “This survey will take about 7 minutes to complete.”

RECORD SEX OF RESPONDENT

	1	MALE
	2	FEMALE
*	99	NA / REFUSED

STATE

PROGRAMMED FROM SAMPLE

TOWN

“First, what town do you live in?”

RECORD NUMBER OF TOWN FROM SHEET

	997	OTHER
	998	DON'T KNOW
	999	NA/REFUSED

Q1

“The First Amendment provides for five freedoms, including religion, speech, press, assembly and the right to petition the government.”

“Which one of the five freedoms, if any, do you personally feel is the MOST important, or would you say you don’t have an opinion about this?”

IF NECESSARY: The FREEDOMS are religion, speech, press, assembly and petition.”

- 1 RELIGION
- 2 SPEECH
- 3 PRESS
- 4 ASSEMBLY
- 5 PETITION

- 6 ALL ARE EQUALLY IMPORTANT

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q2

“Which one of the five freedoms, if any, do you personally feel is the LEAST important, or would you say you don’t have an opinion about this?”

IF NECESSARY: The rights are religion, speech, press, assembly and petition.”

- 1 RELIGION
- 2 SPEECH
- 3 PRESS
- 4 ASSEMBLY
- 5 PETITION

- 6 ALL ARE EQUAL

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q3

“In your opinion, which one of the five freedoms, if any, has been MOST eroded over time, or would you say you don’t have an opinion about this?”

IF NECESSARY: “The freedoms are religion, speech, press, assembly and petition.”

- 1 RELIGION
- 2 SPEECH
- 3 PRESS
- 4 ASSEMBLY
- 5 PETITION

- 6 NONE
- 7 ALL EQUAL

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q4

“Which one of these five freedoms, if any, do you feel is MOST strongly defended, or would you say you don’t have an opinion about this?”

IF NECESSARY: The freedoms are religion, speech, press, assembly and petition.”

- 1 RELIGION
- 2 SPEECH
- 3 PRESS
- 4 ASSEMBLY
- 5 PETITION

- 6 NONE
- 7 ALL EQUAL

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q5

“Next I am going to ask a series of questions about public records. The First Amendment supports transparency, or openness, in government, and laws have been passed at the state and federal levels to provide access to public records. Public records include print and electronic documents, emails, photos and other forms of information relating to a government’s handling of the public’s business. These records may include, among other things, criminal records, real estate records, sex offender registration, legislative minutes, government spending reports, consumer protection information, census records and court documents.”

“Do you understand what I mean by this?”

- 1 YES
- 2 NO – “Let me read that statement again ...” REREAD AND THEN ENTER “1”

PRESS ‘1’ TO CONTINUE

Q6

“Now please tell me if you agree or disagree with the following statements.”

“I am familiar with my state’s laws concerning my right to obtain public information.”

“Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree, or ... strongly disagree?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q7

“I am familiar with the process for requesting and receiving public information.”

“Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree, or ... strongly disagree?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q8

“My state does an excellent job of keeping government records up to date and open to the public.”

“Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don't you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON'T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q8a

“My local government does an excellent job of keeping government records up to date and open to the public.”

“Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don't you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON'T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q9

“Have you requested a public document within the last 12 months?”

- 1 YES
- 2 NO → SKIPTO Q12

- 98 DON'T KNOW → SKIPTO Q12
- 99 NA/REFUSED → SKIPTO Q12

Q10

“Did you receive the information you requested?”

- 1 YES
- 2 NO
- 3 SOME BUT NOT ALL - VOLUNTEERED

- 98 DON'T KNOW
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q11

“How affordable was the price you were charged for the public document you requested in the last 12 months. Would you say the price was very affordable ... somewhat affordable ... not very affordable, or ... not at all affordable?”

- 1 VERY AFFORDABLE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AFFORDABLE
- 3 NOT VERY AFFORDABLE
- 4 NOT AT ALL AFFORDABLE

- 5 WAS NOT CHARGED - VOLUNTEERED

- 98 DON'T KNOW
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q12

“Next I am going to read some statements about public documents, and please tell me whether you agree or disagree.”

“If I needed a public document, my state or local government would provide it in a timely manner.”

“Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don't you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON'T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q13

“The costs charged by my state and local government to provide public documents is fair and affordable.”

“Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don't you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON'T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q14

“Having easy access to public records is important to my role as a citizen.”

IF NECESSARY: “Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don’t you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q15

“Issues of privacy sometimes must take a back seat in order for government to be open and transparent.”

IF NECESSARY: “Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don’t you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q16

“Every citizen in my state is given the same access to open records.”

IF NECESSARY: “Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don’t you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q17

“In my state, a public official would be reprimanded if he or she denied my legitimate request for public records.”

IF NECESSARY: “Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don’t you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q18

“My local news media will seek out public information that is important for me to know.”

IF NECESSARY: “Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don’t you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q19

“Open government laws in my state should be strengthened.”

IF NECESSARY: “Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don’t you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q20

“All public business in my community is being done in public view.”

IF NECESSARY: “Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don’t you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q21

“A government agency that wrongfully denies access to records should have to pay the citizen’s legal bills, if action is taken.”

IF NECESSARY: “Would you say you strongly agree ... somewhat agree ...neither agree nor disagree ... somewhat disagree ... strongly disagree, or ... don’t you know enough about this to say?”

- 1 STRONGLY AGREE
- 2 SOMEWHAT AGREE
- 3 NEITHER AGREE NOR DISAGREE
- 4 SOMEWHAT DISAGREE
- 5 STRONGLY DISAGREE

- 98 DON’T KNOW – DO NOT PROBE
- 99 NA/REFUSED

Q22

“Have you ever been refused access to a meeting that you believed should have been open to the public?”

- 1 YES
- 2 NO

- 98 DON’T KNOW
- 99 NA/REFUSED

D1

“Now, a few final questions ...”

“Are you currently married, widowed, divorced, separated, or have you never been married?”

- 1 MARRIED (INCLUDE COMMON LAW MARRIAGE & SPOUSE AWAY IN MILITARY)
- 2 WIDOWED
- 3 DIVORCED
- 4 SEPARATED
- 5 NEVER MARRIED (INCLUDING ANNULMENTS)
- 6 LIVING TOGETHER NOT MARRIED (VOLUNTEERED)

- 99 NA / REFUSED

D2

“What is the highest grade in school, or level of education that you’ve completed and got credit for ...”
[READ RESPONSES]

- 1 “Eighth grade or less,
- 2 Some high school,
- 3 High school graduate, (INCLUDES G.E.D.)
- 4 Technical school,
- 5 Some college,
- 6 College graduate,
- 7 Or postgraduate work?”

- 98 DK (DO NOT PROBE)
- 99 NA / REFUSED

D3

“What is your current age?”

(RECORD EXACT NUMBER OF YEARS OLD -- E.G., 45)

- 96 NINETY-SIX YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER
- 97 REFUSED
- 98 DK
- * 99 NA

D4

"Are you of Hispanic or Spanish origin?"

- 1 YES
- 2 NO

- 98 DON'T KNOW
- 99 REFUSED

D5

"(In addition to being Hispanic) Which of the following categories best describes your race ... American Indian, Asian, Black or African-American, White, multi-racial OR another race?"

- 1 AMERICAN INDIAN
- 2 ASIAN
- 3 BLACK OR AFRICAN-AMERICAN
- 4 WHITE
- 5 MULTIRACIAL
- 6 OTHER RACE (SPECIFY)

- 98 DON'T KNOW
- 99 REFUSED

D6

"How many of the persons who CURRENTLY live in your household are under 18 years of age, including babies and small children?"

- 0 NONE
- 1 ONE
- 2 TWO
- 3 THREE
- 4 FOUR
- 5 FIVE
- 6 SIX
- 7 SEVEN OR MORE

- 98 DK
- 99 NA / REFUSED

D7

“GENERALLY SPEAKING, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent or what?”

(IF REPUBLICAN): “Would you call yourself a STRONG Republican or a NOT VERY STRONG Republican?”

(IF DEMOCRAT): “Would you call yourself a STRONG Democrat or a NOT VERY STRONG Democrat?”

(IF INDEPENDENT, NO PREFERENCE, OR OTHER): “Do you think of yourself as closer to the Republican or to the Democratic party?”

- 1 STRONG DEMOCRAT
- 2 NOT VERY STRONG DEMOCRAT
- 3 INDEPENDENT, BUT CLOSER TO DEMOCRATS
- 4 INDEPENDENT--CLOSER TO NEITHER
- 5 INDEPENDENT, BUT CLOSER TO REPUBLICANS
- 6 NOT VERY STRONG REPUBLICAN
- 7 STRONG REPUBLICAN

- 98 OTHER PARTY
- * 99 DK / NA / REFUSED

D8

“We hear a lot of talk these days about liberals and conservatives. What about yourself--that is, in politics, do you generally think of yourself as a liberal, a moderate, or a conservative?” (PROBE: “In general . . .”)

(IF LIBERAL): “Would you say you are EXTREMELY liberal, FAIRLY liberal, or just SOMEWHAT liberal?”

(IF CONSERVATIVE): “Would you say you are EXTREMELY conservative, FAIRLY conservative, or just SOMEWHAT conservative?”

(IF MODERATE MIDDLE OF THE ROAD): “Would you say that you LEAN a little more toward the LIBERAL side or the CONSERVATIVE side?”

- 1 EXTREMELY LIBERAL
- 2 FAIRLY LIBERAL
- 3 SOMEWHAT LIBERAL
- 4 MODERATE--LEANS LIBERAL
- 5 MODERATE--LEANS NEITHER
- 6 MODERATE--LEANS CONSERVATIVE
- 7 SOMEWHAT CONSERVATIVE
- 8 FAIRLY CONSERVATIVE
- 9 EXTREMELY CONSERVATIVE

- 97 REFUSED
- 98 DK (PROBE: “In general . . .”)
- * 99 NA / REFUSED

D11

“Including yourself, how many adults CURRENTLY live in your household?”

- 1 ONE
- 2 TWO
- 3 THREE
- 4 FOUR
- 5 FIVE
- 6 SIX
- 7 SEVEN OR MORE

- 98 DK
- 99 NA / REFUSED

EMPLOY

"Which of the following best describes your current employment status ... Are you currently ...

READ RESPONSES. IF R GIVES 2 RESPONSES, ENTER LOWER NUMBER

- 1 Employed full-time,
- 2 Employed part-time,
- 3 Self-employed,
- 4 Retired and not working,
- 5 Unemployed and looking for work,
- 6 Homemaker,
- 7 Disabled, or a
- 8 Student?"

- 98 DK / NOT SURE (DO NOT PROBE)
- 99 NA / REFUSED

D13

"How much TOTAL income did you and your family receive in 2008, not just from wages or salaries but from ALL sources -- that is, before taxes and other deductions were made? Was it ...

	<u>ANNUAL</u>	<u>MONTHLY EQUIVALENT</u>
1	Less than \$15,000,	LESS THAN \$1,250
2	\$15,000 - \$29,999,	\$1,250 - \$2,499
3	\$30,000 - \$44,999,	\$2,500 - \$3,749
4	\$45,000 - \$59,999,	\$3,750 - \$4,999
5	\$60,000 - \$74,999,	\$5,000 - \$6,249
6	\$75,000 - \$99,999, or	\$6,250 - \$8,333
7	\$100,000 and over?"	\$8,334 AND OVER
97	REFUSED	
98	DK	
99	NA	

D14

“Not counting business lines, extension phones, or cellular phones -- on how many different telephone NUMBERS can your household be reached?”

- 1 ONE
- 2 TWO
- 3 THREE
- 4 FOUR
- 5 FIVE
- 6 SIX
- 7 SEVEN OR MORE

- 98 DK
- 99 NA / REFUSED

D15

“Finally, would you be willing to discuss some of the topics we’ve been talking about with a researcher?”

- 1 YES--”Could I have just your first name in case a reporter wants to call you?” ____
- 2 NO / DK (DO NOT PROBE)

- * 99 NA / REFUSED

Q:END

"Thank you for your time and participation. Your input has been very valuable. Goodbye"