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## FOCUS GROUP REPORT

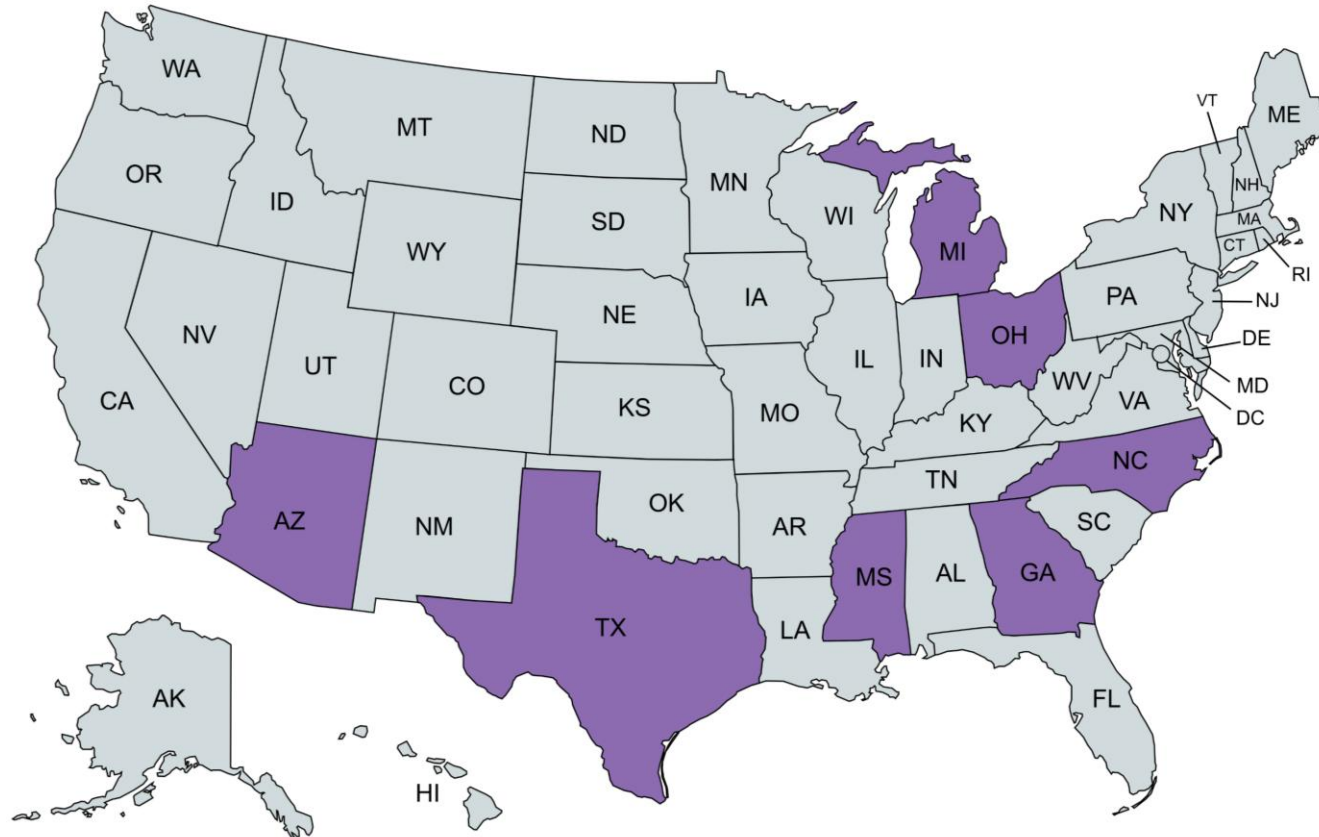
Tuesday, June 30, 2026

White Christians on America at 250



# Methodology

On June 2, 2026, GBAO conducted one online focus group with white Christians who attend religious events regularly and say faith is important to their identity. All participants were independents or weak partisans in battleground presidential and Senate states,\* and the group was part of Navigator's exploration of America at 250.



\*AZ, GA, MI, MS, NC OH, TX

# Key Takeaways

- Most see diversity and individual freedoms, particularly religious freedom, as central to American values
- Many view America's Founding Fathers and documents as divinely inspired and worthy of reverence, but worry we have strayed from their ideals
- Though many see America as a Christian nation, some also support the separation of church and state
- There is a widespread desire for more respect and unity between people both at home and abroad

# Being An American Means Embracing Personal Liberties And Freedoms

Moderator: What does it mean to be an American?

**“The freedom to disagree at work, the freedom to disagree in a public setting....[someone] said they watch a lot of the YouTube...there are some other countries that just they'll kill you and they don't have that luxury or that freedom.”** – AZ man, white Christian weak Republican

**“The essence for me of America is liberty, is personal liberty, provided your liberty doesn't infringe upon the liberty of others, doesn't harm anybody.”** – TX man, white Christian independent lean Republican

**“This is kind of the land of opportunities....You **don't have to be put into a certain mold**, and you can do multiple things. You can have a regular job and a side business.”** – GA woman, white Christian independent

**“We're **able to find what makes us happy** as Americans versus being stuck in a mold. For example, if we want to start our own business, be successful at it. Raising a family. Perhaps be able to earn enough to travel but not have a family.”** – OH man, white Christian independent

**“Doing a protest, doing everything, and also doing nothing and not being judged for either. I could sit on my couch, do nothing, or I could be one of those people who does the marches and makes the signs.”** – PA man, white Christian weak Democrat

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# America's Diversity And 'Melting Pot' Identity Is Viewed As One Of Its Greatest Strengths

Moderator: What does it mean to be an American?

"**America is the melting pot.** It's people of all walks of life, of all belief systems, of all kinds of things. Of the many different colors of glass, you get the mosaic of America. That is what makes it great." – TX man, white Christian independent lean Republican

"[An American value is] **equality.** Anybody, regardless of their background, can achieve success in America." – MS woman, white Christian weak Democrat

"America really is **a melting pot** and I think we're more united than the media makes it out to be." – GA woman, white Christian independent

"**Anyone can become an American, [that's] what I love about America.** Anybody can come, go through the procedure, go through our laws, go through what they set before us because they knew better, our Founding Fathers knew better than what we did, I think." – MI man, white Christian independent



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# Many Feel Reverence For America's Founding Fathers And Documents, And Worry We Have Strayed From Their Ideals

"I just think that we're **not living up to that integrity and values and the morals that we were founded on** and the strengths that we should be doing." – NC woman, white Christian independent

"I've heard from a lot of the left...how **they want to amend the Constitution and change the Constitution** and the Bill of Rights, and just everything that the Founding Fathers were." – AZ man, white Christian weak Republican

"['True patriotism springs from a belief in the dignity of the individual, freedom, and equality'] would definitely be **closer to our founding forefathers** quote than anything that's been said recently." – NC woman, white Christian independent

"I truly believe, I think the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, I think it's **some of the greatest documents ever**. And we were the first country to have those, and now other countries have that." – AZ man, white Christian weak Republican

"[In a time capsule I would put a] copy of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. **Man, those guys got it right. I don't know how they thought through so much** of what they thought through that long ago. But man, they got it right." – TX man, white Christian independent lean Republican



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# Many Feel America Has Recently Changed For The Worse, Though Reasons Vary

“**Taking away USAID** was a big thing for me....People are dying from starvation, and we were helping American farmers and stuff like that.” – PA man, white Christian weak Democrat

“I think we've **lost integrity as a nation**, at least as far as our government's concerned....Yes, we are a capitalist nation, and if a company has a product, they should be able to sell for the price they should sell it for. However, it feels to me as if **politicians just take the money and turn the other way.**” – OH man, white Christian independent

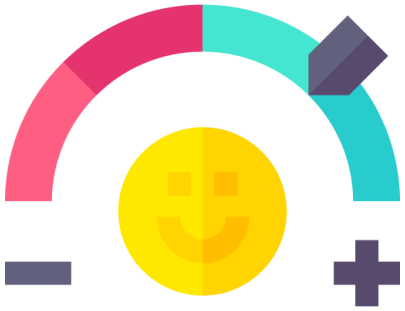
“I think both sides, at least the extreme ends to **both sides, have forgotten what it is to represent America** as a country and America's people to help be a greater country.” – OH man, white Christian independent

“**People became entitled....They were getting federal money for hiring DEI hires** that weren't even qualified for the job, didn't even have a degree, and they were bypassing people that actually went and put forth the effort. And so, when there becomes a sense of entitlement that they're owed, then that stops progression.” – AZ man, white Christian weak Republican

“We're **supposed to be the greatest country, but we have people that die because they don't have access to medicine** and healthcare is unaffordable, unreachable. We have people that die because food and nutrition. Just there's lots of things I think that take away...that other countries don't have.” – NC woman, white Christian independent

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# Some Choose To Be Optimistic, Even If They Are Uneasy



“I have **faith and high hopes that America will be great again**. I think we have to hit rock bottom, pick ourselves up and get better. And I have hopes that better days are coming.” – MS woman, white Christian weak Democrat

“I think we’re seeing the values more....We both want lower prices. **We don’t care if you’re a Republican or a Democrat ,we want lower prices.**” – PA man, white Christian weak Democrat

“I do believe that **anybody in America**, regardless of the color of their skin, their ethnic background **can become somebody.**” – MS woman, white Christian weak Democrat

“I have friends that are on both sides of either political party and **even though there may be some differences, everyone's still friends** and wants the generally basic good things for the population in America.” – GA woman, white Christian independent



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# Holidays And Historic Events Bring Out Feelings Of Pride In America

Moderator: Tell me about times or a time you felt proud of being American

“**Martin Luther King Day**, just because I just found out a couple of years ago that Martin Luther King Day, **you’re supposed to volunteer on that day**. So, to me, when I found out like, "oh, I should definitely do that." So now I drag my son and we do stuff to volunteer.” – PA man, white Christian weak Democrat

“What we just recently experienced with **Artemis**. The whole country was involved...When it came down, it was the unity and everything was so engaged. It was nice to see that the **whole country was just involved**.” – AZ man, white Christian weak Republican

“I think the night that **Obama won the presidency** was probably, for me, the most American and engaged moment I felt...it was a moment of hope, of unity, of where I wanted the country and the people in it to be in unison.” – NC woman, white Christian independent

“When I hear **Taps**, it still brings me to tears because it means so much those that gave their lives in combat to protect what we have today. That's what makes me feel American because I know people are willing to give their lives and fight for what we believe.” – OH man, white Christian independent

“On Veterans Day I would go to **Arlington Cemetery** with my uncle. And it was very somber, but also felt very **patriotic** in the same way.” – GA woman, white Christian independent

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# The Flag And Pledge Of Allegiance Represent Respect And Pride In America

Moderator: Thinking about the American flag – what does it symbolize to you?

“When I think of the Pledge of Allegiance, to me, it’s an **expression of loyalty to the United States**. I loved saying that in school and it just makes my heart feel proud when I hear it.” – MS woman, white Christian weak Democrat

“The flag as far as that went, I don't like what people just use, don't display it properly. There's rules of etiquette for it because **there are many men who shed their blood to die for that flag**.” – OH man, white Christian independent

“I'm not really into a personal display [of the flag]. And especially now. I'm not super proud of America at this point, so **I'm not going extra with the displaying of my pride**.” – NC woman, white Christian independent

“Every time I say [the Pledge of Allegiance] it's a **reminder of why I am what I am** and why I served my country and stuff like that there. It's just a reminder.” – MI man, white Christian independent

“In high school you just do [the Pledge of Allegiance] and you don't care, but then you realize what the words mean and you're like, ‘man, I should really do something because it's the Pledge of Allegiance.’ **The words mean something**, it's not just words.” – PA man, white Christian weak Democrat



# Many Conceive Of America As A Christian Nation Whose Founders Were Inspired By God

*Image of American flag with Bible on top was shown to participants*

"I believe our Founding Fathers were given **divine inspiration to choose to bleed, die, and protect the rights**....If you're taking away 'under God', out of [the Pledge of Allegiance] it entirely, you're saying, 'hey, we didn't believe that a divine creator, wherever you may choose to call it, inspired men to create this nation.'" – OH man, white Christian independent

"I think that the Founding Fathers were truly inspired on those documents. I think **it was truly inspiration...by God.**" – AZ man, white Christian weak Republican

"The country was **founded on Christianity and God.** I think we have a lot of different religions now in the United States, which is awesome, but I still like the photo [of the Bible on an American flag]." – GA woman, white Christian independent



"Our faith, our government was actually **built upon biblical principles** and some of it was taken from the British government and they expanded upon it to include their beliefs." – AZ man, white Christian weak Republican

"I feel like religious footing is becoming harder and harder to find. It's becoming less and less evident in the day-to-day ongoings of the government. Although it is the essence of those initial founding documents that are the foundation of the country....And [they're] **dripping with the influence of scripture and Christian principles.**" – TX man, white Christian independent lean Republican

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# But Some Also Prioritize Separation Of Church And State And Religious Freedom



"I'm a **firm believer of church and state** because that was [what] the Founding Fathers said....I think with these days Christians, and I'm Catholic, and sometimes seeing the media, I'm ashamed. That's not my Catholicism." – PA man, white Christian weak Democrat

"I think there's **tremendous value in the separation of church and state** and we shouldn't legislate from the pulpit." – TX man, white Christian independent lean Republican

"For me, I'm **Christian. I believe in God 100%, but it is okay that my neighbors are not....**And I just wish that everybody could accept everybody for who they are." – MS woman, white Christian weak Democrat

"I think the **radicalisms of any faith is wrong**. When that part takes place, that's the aggression that you're saying that your faith is it....So any faith that, 'oh, I'm doing this in the name of God.' No, you're not. That radicalism needs to cease." – MI man, white Christian independent



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# There Is Widespread Desire For Unity, Both At Home And Abroad

"I wish we had **more universal brotherhood and goodwill like with other countries**. I hate that we have enemies and that we are enemies to other. I wish there was more brotherhood across the universe." – MS woman, white Christian weak Democrat

"I just wish there was **more unity and stuff like that, standards worldwide**. It would make it a lot nicer place to live and travel and communicate. It's also, in my mind, for something like this to happen, we have to be respectful, respectful of other people's faiths, needs, wants, and things like that." – MI man, white Christian independent

"Everything seems to be **one extreme to the other** and not people in the center coming together to try to bring a country together, bring others together to discuss ideas in a civil manner." – OH man, white Christian independent

"We do not have to agree for me to love you, respect you, work with you, all of those things. Be frank, all of that. But I don't necessarily have to support the sin or the belief or the whatever. I agree **it's love the neighbor. That's the preeminent commandment.**" – TX man, white Christian independent lean Republican

"There should be **freedom and equality, not only for Americans, but people all over the world** and just a universal sense of goodwill towards all people no matter your walk of life or what you believe in." – GA woman, white Christian independent



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## About Navigator

In a world where the news cycle is the length of a tweet, our leaders often lack the real-time public-sentiment analysis to shape the best approaches to talking about the issues that matter the most. Navigator is designed to act as a consistent, flexible, responsive tool to inform policy debates by conducting research and reliable guidance to inform allies, elected leaders, and the press. Navigator is a project led by pollsters from Global Strategy Group and GBAO.

## About the Study

On June 2, 2026, GBAO conducted one online focus group with white Christians who attend religious events regularly and say faith is important to their identity. All participants were independents or weak partisans in battleground presidential and Senate states,\* and the group was part of Navigator's exploration of America at 250.

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