

**TYLER MCKENZIE**

*LEAD PASTOR*

## Philippians 1:27-30

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you, I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one [mind], fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News. Don't be intimidated in any way by your enemies. This will be a sign to them that they are going to be destroyed, but that you are going to be saved, even by God Himself.

## Philippians 1:27-30

For you have been given not only the privilege of trusting in Christ but also the privilege of suffering for Him. We are in this struggle together. You have seen my struggle in the past, and you know that I am still in the midst of it.

## Philippians 1:27-28

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you,

I will know that you are standing together with one spirit and one [mind], fighting together for the faith, which is the Good News.

Week 1 - Politics in the Public Square

How do Christians engage publicly?

Week 2 - Politics in our Relationships

How do Christians stay united?

Week 3 - Politics in my Heart

How do Christians stay Christian?

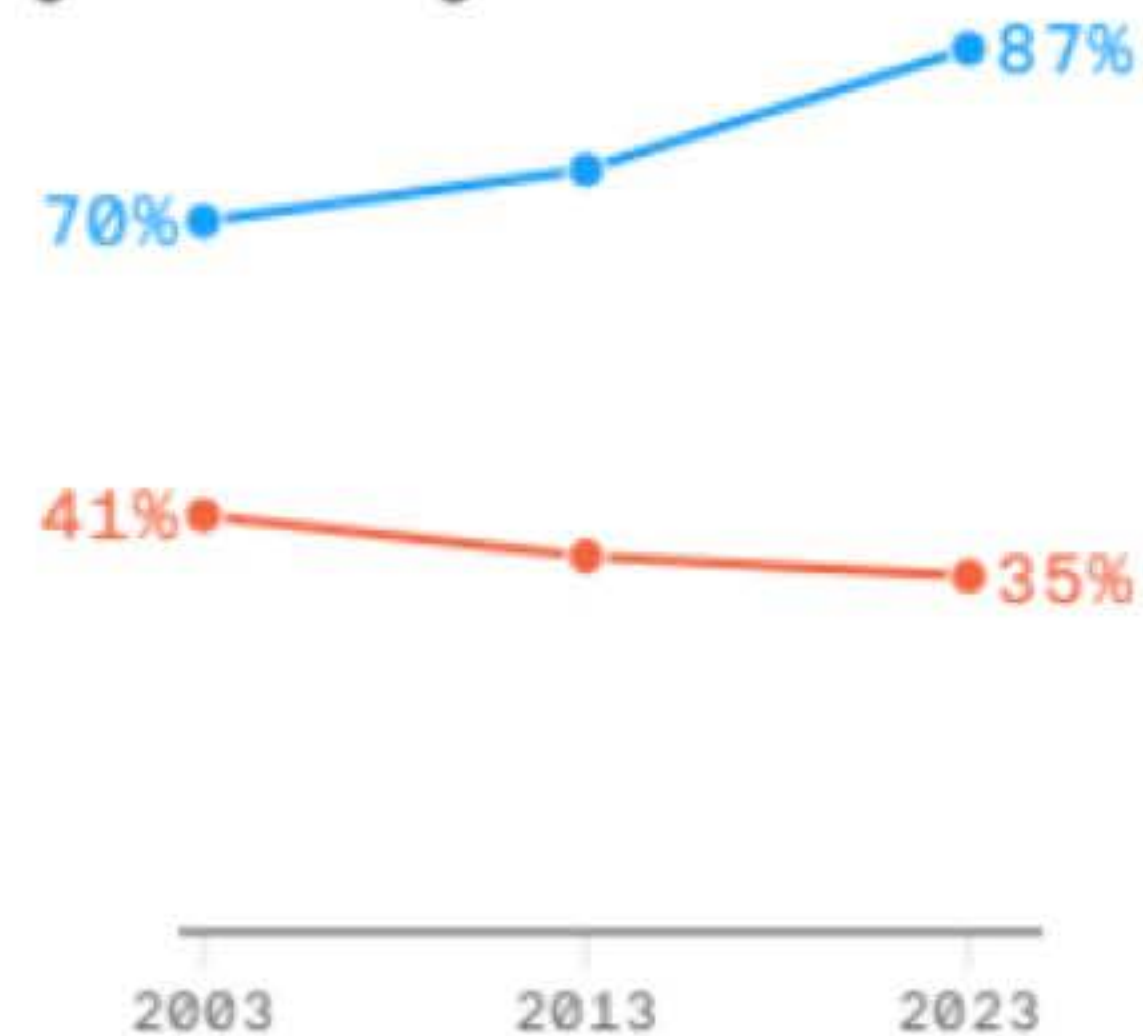
Survey of at least 1,000 U.S. adults conducted between 2003 and 2023 at roughly 10-year intervals

● Democrat or Democrat-leaning ● Republican or Republican-leaning

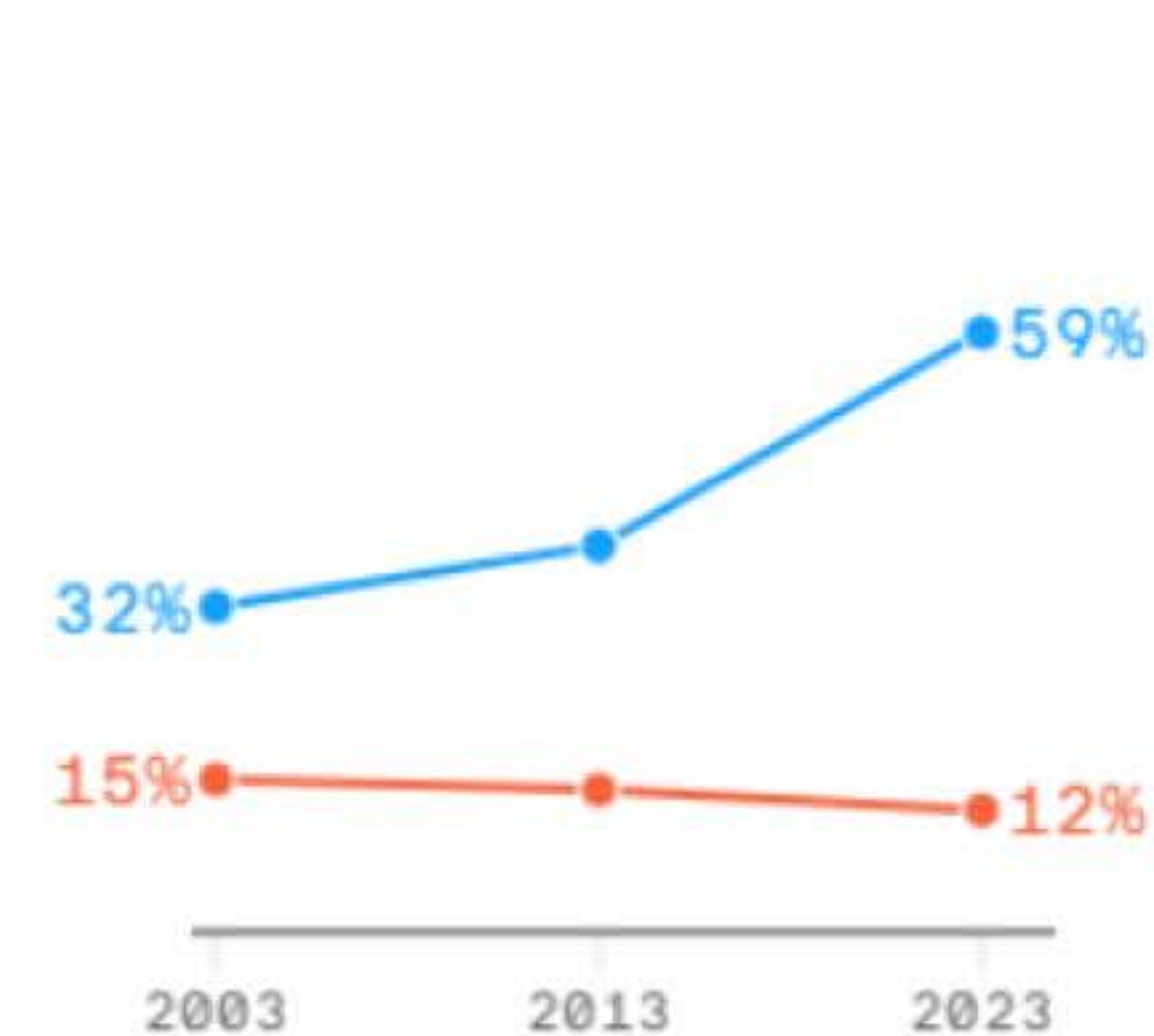
Gun laws should be stricter



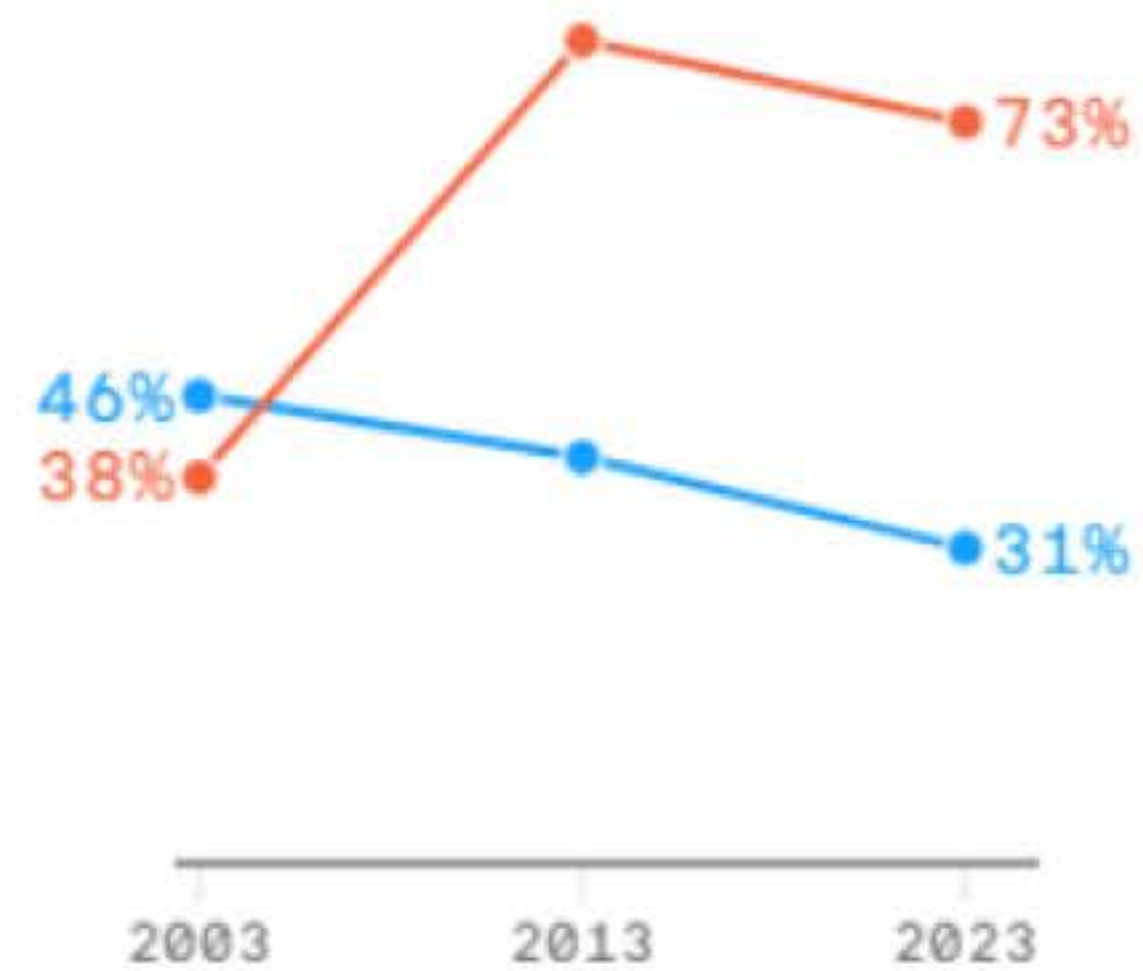
Worry great deal or fair amount about global warming



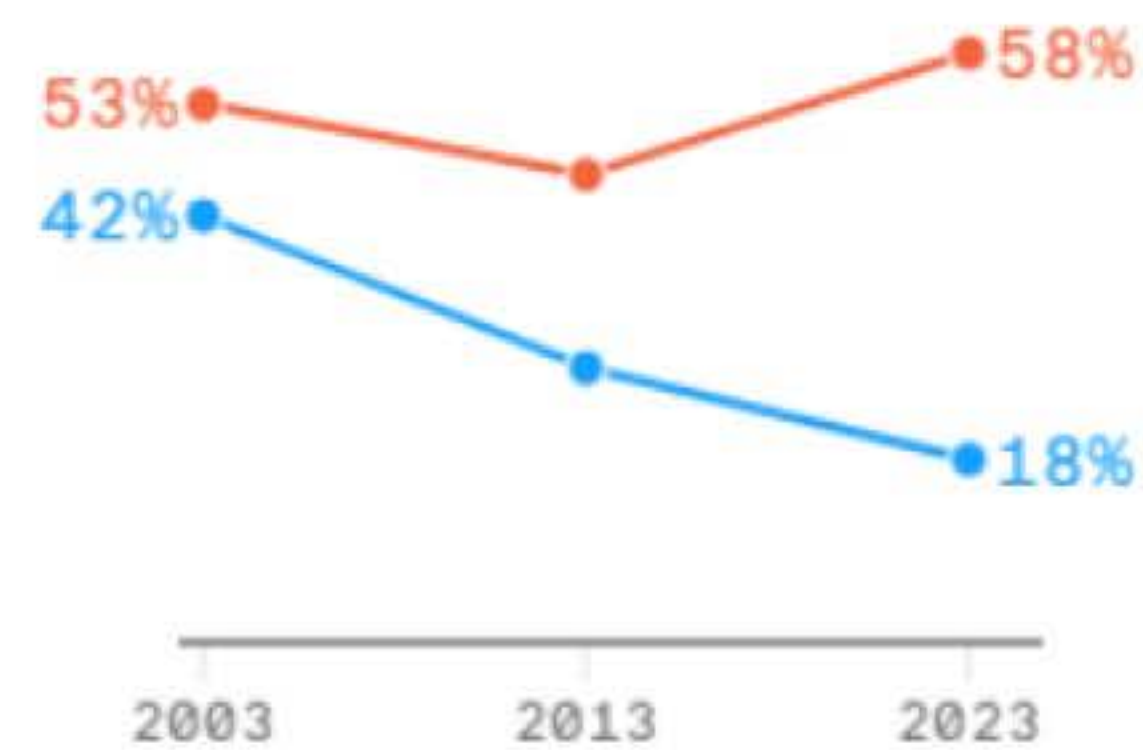
Abortion should be legal under any circumstance



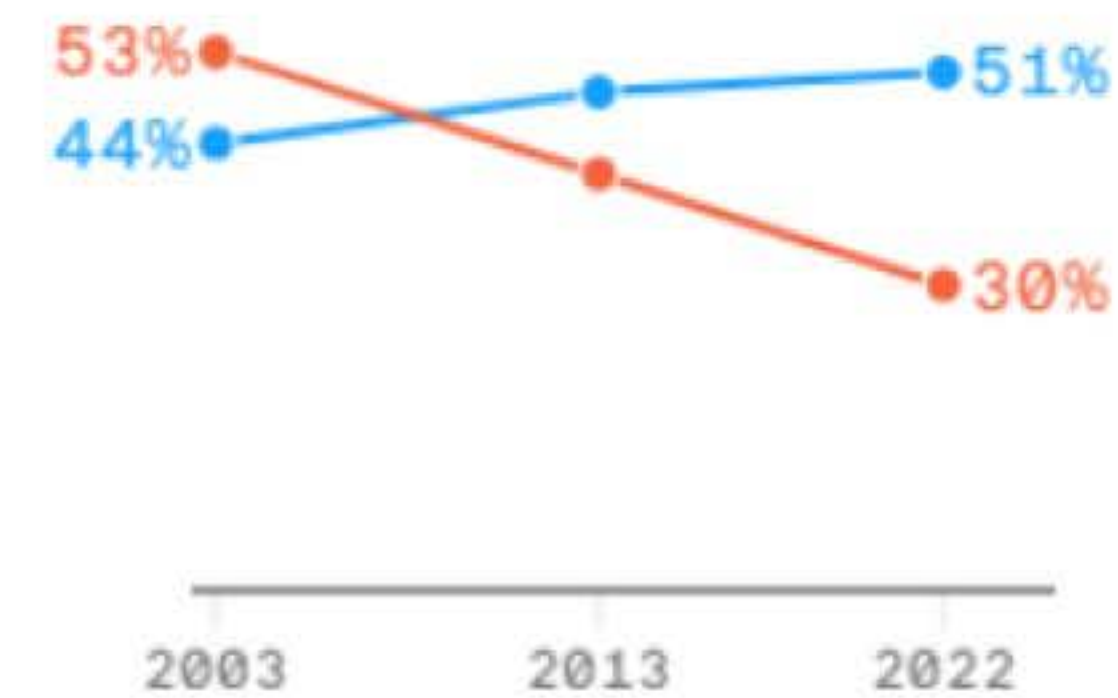
Federal government has too much power



Immigration should be decreased



Completely or somewhat satisfied with K-12 education in U.S.

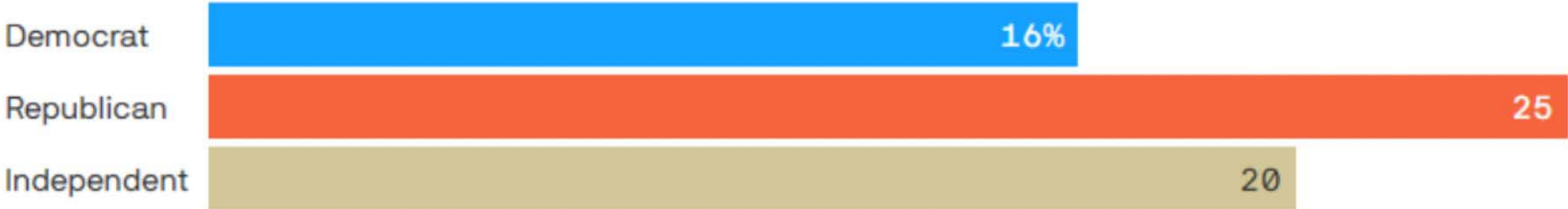


- 40% of Americans would call the other party "evil".
- Nearly one in five think their political adversaries "lack the traits to be considered fully human".
- In 2021, 81% of local officials reported being on the receiving end of harassment, threats, or violence.

# Share of Americans who say they support the following scenarios, by party ID

Poll of 1,018 U.S. adults conducted March 10-13, 2023

## A 'national divorce' where Republican-leaning states form a separate country from Democratic-leaning states



## Your state seceding and leaving the United States to form or join a new country





# College students who would not \_\_\_\_\_ someone who voted for the opposing presidential candidate

Survey of 850 college students nationwide conducted Nov. 18–22, 2021



We are living through a revival of fundamentalist religions, but the revival is among nonreligious political groups.

“If secularists hoped that declining religiosity would make for more rational politics, drained of faith’s inflaming passions, they are likely disappointed. As Christianity’s hold, in particular, has weakened, ideological intensity and fragmentation have risen. American faith, it turns out, is as fervent as ever; it’s just that what was once religious belief has now been channeled into political belief ... This is what religion without religion looks like.”

-Shadi Hamid

“Quick question. If someone is yelling “repent” at you in the street, are they more likely to be (a) a religious preacher or (b) a left-wing activist?”

-Helen Lewis

## "Collective Effervescence"

A sociological term for the emotional electricity you get from singing, chanting, or worshipping in community.

## French's Three Marks of Fundamentalists

1. Certainty – hold their pet-peeve beliefs with absolute certainty
2. Ferocity – act against their objectors with rage, bitterness, and dismissal
3. Solidarity – build insular community that excludes anyone not all-in

## **The Law of In-Group Polarization**

When a group of people all share the same political beliefs, members tend to adopt more extreme versions of those beliefs while ostracizing anyone who disagrees.

- Philippi on major highway in Greece connecting West with Asia minor.
- 42BC – Octavian + Mark Antony defeat Cassius and Brutus (assassins of Julius Caesar) in plain next to Philippi
- Octavian honors Philippi by “refounding” it as Roman military colony, giving it civic honors, and populating it with discharged veterans.
- 30BC – Octavian defeats Mark Antony near Philippi.
- Forgives Antony's soldiers and settles them in Philippi
- Fast-forward to Paul, Philippi had become the urban political center of the region
- Convert #1 - Lydia, wealthy business woman
- Convert #2 - Jailer, Roman soldier and law enforcement



## PHILIPPIANS 1:27

Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven [πολιτεύομαι - politeuomai], conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News [εὐαγγέλιον - euangelion] about Christ.

1:13 – Shared the gospel while in prison to the entire imperial guard

4:22 – Offers greetings from the Christians in Caesar's household

2:25 - I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier.

3:20 – “our citizenship is in heaven”

2:10-11 – every knee will bow and tongue confess Jesus Lord (kurios) and Savior (soter)

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## PHILIPPIANS 2:1-2

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.

# PHILIPPIANS 2:5

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ  
Jesus...

# PHILIPPIANS 3:19-20

[Enemies of the cross of Christ's] minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven...

# PHILIPPIANS 4:2

I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to be  
of the same mind in the Lord.

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4:22 – Offers greetings from the Christians in Caesar's household

2:25 - I thought I should send Epaphroditus back to you. He is a true brother, co-worker, and fellow soldier.

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