

Fall, 2015 NCSU Pack Poll: “The Pope” TOPLINES REPORT

Oct 5-6

N=952; Response rate = 27%

Margin of sampling error* = $\pm 3.3\%$

These are the results for this semester’s first “Flash Poll” about the Pope and related issues (October 5-6, 2015). The survey was administered over the internet to a random sample of 3,500 NCSU undergraduates, generating a 27% response rate for the first question, and a 24% response rate by the time our the last question was asked, because some respondents did not complete the entire survey. Sampling error is higher than $\pm 3.3\%$ for the first question because only half received one version of it. Sampling error is also higher for results that are reported for sub-groups. In addition to sampling error, other forms of error occur in surveys, such as confusion about question wording or the order of questions, but these are not precisely quantifiable. We do not apply post-stratification sample weights to adjust for possible demographic imbalances in our sample because we did not measure known population characteristics such as students’ year in school, race or gender.

[Split ballot: $\frac{1}{2}$ randomly asked Q1a, $\frac{1}{2}$ asked Q1b]

Q1a. What is your view of Pope Francis?

24%	Very favorable		
61%	Favorable	85%	Favorable
12%	Unfavorable	15%	Unfavorable
3%	Very unfavorable		

Q1b. What is your view of Pope Francis, **or do you not have an opinion?**

20%	Very favorable		
39%	Favorable	59%	Favorable
32%	No opinion	32%	No Opinion
7%	Unfavorable	9%	Unfavorable
2%	Very unfavorable		

Q2. Pope Francis recently said that governments should do more to reduce the gap between the rich and poor. All in all, would you say you agree or disagree with Pope Francis on this issue?

74% Agree

26% Disagree

Q3. Pope Francis recently said that unborn fetuses are sacred and must be protected. All in all, would you say you agree or disagree with Pope Francis on this issue?

51% Agree

49% Disagree

Q14. Do you think it is sinful to:

	Yes	No
Have an abortion	40%	60%
Engage in homosexual behavior	35%	65%
Cheat on schoolwork	64%	37%
Cheat on your partner	87%	13%
Use energy without considering the environment	36%	64%
Use contraceptives	7%	93%
Drink alcohol	6%	94%

Q15. The following are some stories covered by news organizations this past week. Did you happen to follow each news story:

	Very closely	Fairly closely	Not too closely	Not at all closely
News about candidates for the 2016 presidential election	13%	35%	33%	20%
The agreement on Iran's nuclear program	9%	20%	35%	37%
Pope Francis' visit to the U.S.	6%	30%	40%	24%
Kim Davis, who was sent to jail for refusing to issue marriage licenses to gay couples	9%	30%	34%	26%

Q16. Generally speaking, do you consider yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, or an independent?

44% Democrat
40% Republican
17% Independent

Q14 What is your present religion, if any? Are you Protestant, Roman Catholic, Mormon, Orthodox such as Greek or Russian Orthodox, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, atheist, agnostic, or something else?

34% Protestant
15% Catholic
14% Atheist
15% Agnostic
23% Something else/Other