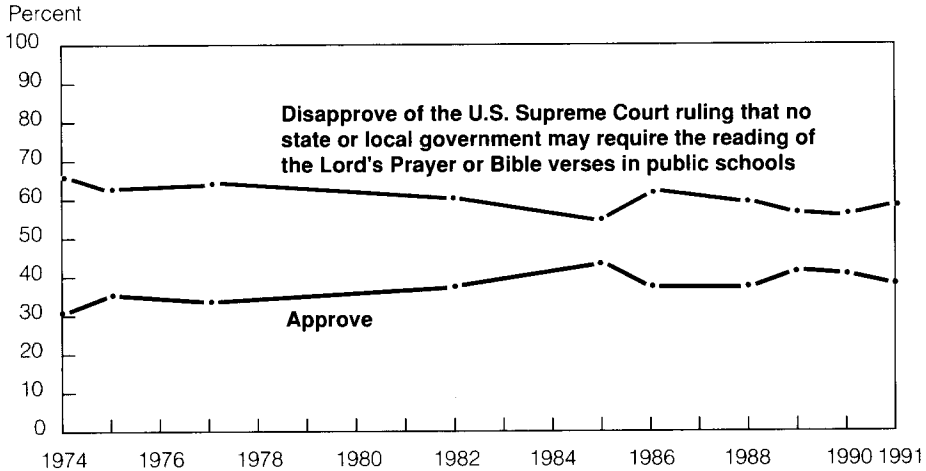


# 30 YEARS AFTER THE SUPREME

Thirty years after the Supreme Court's landmark prayer ruling in *Engel v. Vitale*, a large majority still disapproves of the decision. Disapproval is weakest among the young, those with a college education, and those who never attend services. Polls show strong support for a constitutional amendment to allow prayer in school.

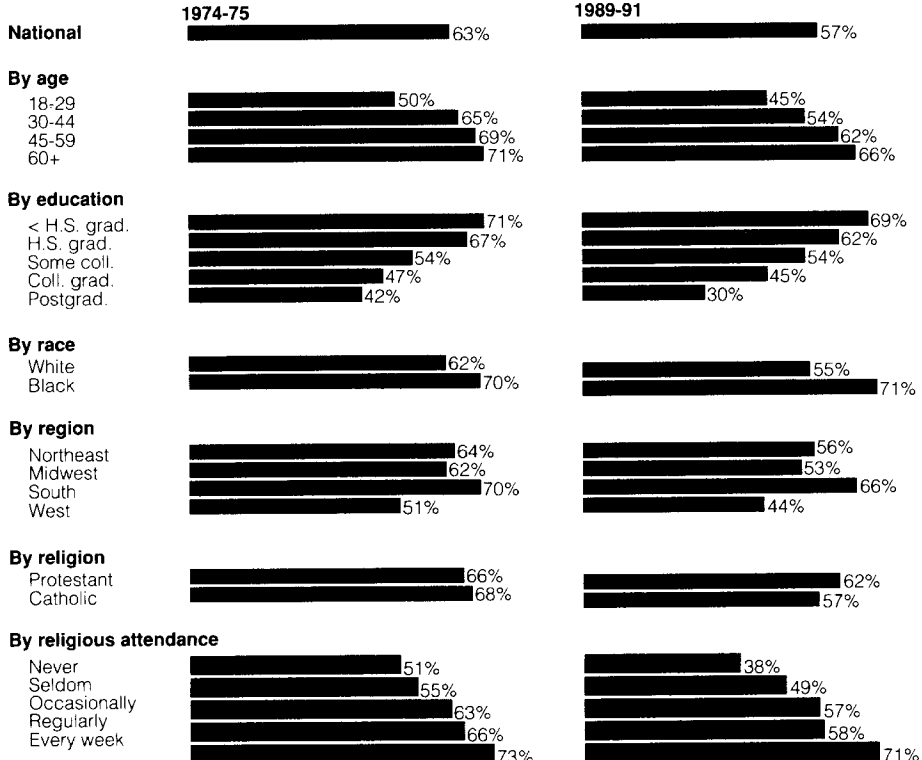
Question: **The United States Supreme Court has ruled that no state or local government may require the reading of the Lord's Prayer or Bible verses in public schools. What are your views on this—do you approve or disapprove of the court ruling?**



	Approve	Disapprove
1974	31%	66%
1975	35	62
1977	33	64
1982	37	60
1985	43	54
1986	37	61
1988	37	59
1989	41	56
1990	40	56
1991	38	58

Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, February-April of the years shown.

## Disapprove responses for selected groups



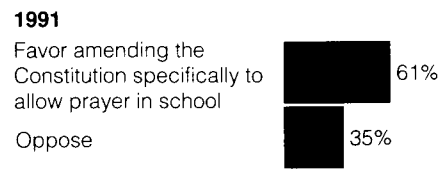
Note: Data for 1974 and 1975 and for 1989, 1990, and 1991 combined. Source: Surveys by the National Opinion Research Center, February-April of years shown.

Question: **The U.S. Supreme Court has held that prayers in public schools are unconstitutional because they violate the doctrine of separation of church and state. Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment to legalize prayers in public schools?**



Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization for Potomac Associates, September 1964.

Question: **Let me read you a number of different proposals people have made about how to change the U.S. Constitution. For each proposal, please tell me whether you favor or oppose this change in the Constitution.**



Source: Survey by NBC News/Wall Street Journal, December 6-9, 1991.

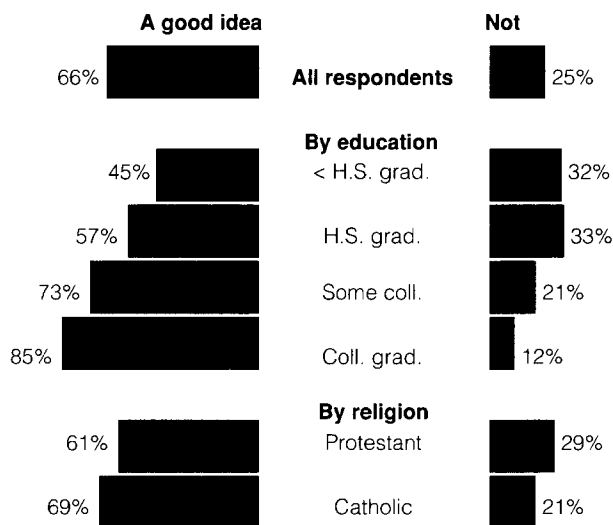
# COURT'S SCHOOL PRAYER DECISION

Despite their opposition to the Court's ruling, Americans strongly endorse the idea that there should be a separation of church and state. They do not think that many public religious activities—such as starting sessions of Congress or sporting events at public high schools with a prayer—violate that principle.

Question: **Do you think the separation of church and state is a good idea, or not?**

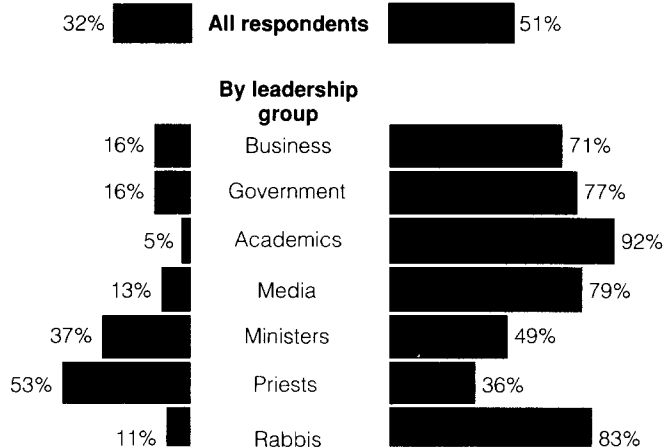
Question: **Which of these statements comes closest to your opinion?**

The separation of church and state is...



The government should take special steps to protect the Judeo-Christian heritage

There should be a high wall of separation between church and state



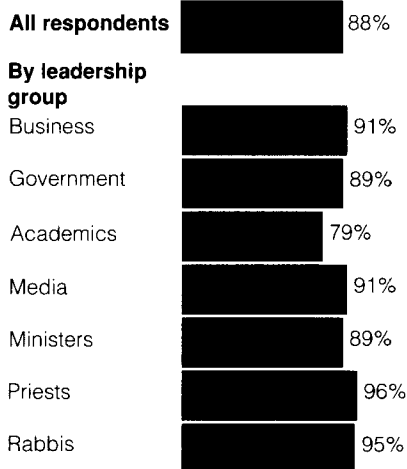
Source: Survey by Associated Press/Media General, September 1-7, 1985.

Source: Survey by the Center for Communication Dynamics for the Williamsburg Charter Foundation, December 1-15, 1987.

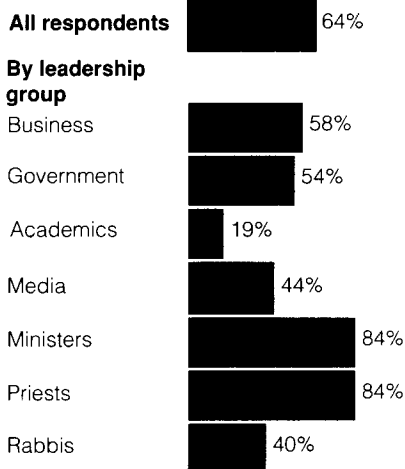
Question: **Do you think it's OK for the government to pay for chaplains for the military?**

Question: **Which of these statements comes closest to your opinion?**

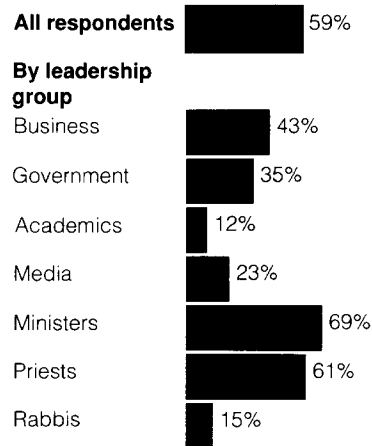
Think it's OK for the government to pay for chaplains for the military



It's good for Congress to start sessions with a public prayer



It's good for sporting events at public high schools to begin with a public prayer



Source: Survey by the Center for Communication Dynamics for the Williamsburg Charter Foundation, December 1-15, 1987.

Large majorities say that it's OK to put up religious displays on government property, even if it offends some members of the community. Freedom of religion was one of the top reasons that respondents gave for favoring such a display. A solid majority of Americans favor prayer, or some provision for such an activity, in public schools.

Question: Which of these statements comes closest to your opinion?

Agree that...

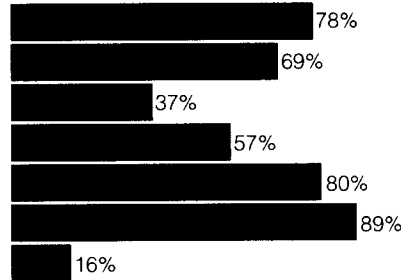
It's OK for a city government to put up a manger scene on government property at Christmas



It's OK for a city government to put up candles on government property for a Jewish religious celebration



By leadership group

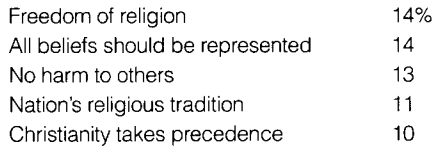


Question: Should a religious Christmas nativity scene be allowed on city property even if some community members say those displays are offensive to their own beliefs? What's the main reason you feel this way?

Religious Christmas nativity scene should be allowed on city property even if some community members say those displays are offensive to their beliefs



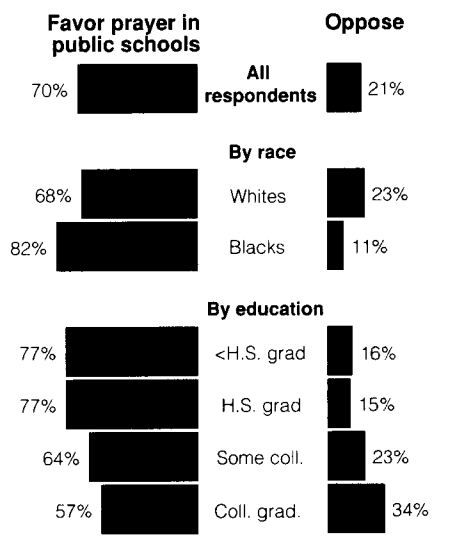
Why do you feel this way?



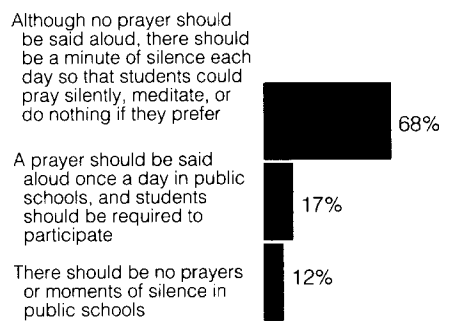
Source: Survey by the Center for Communication Dynamics for the Williamsburg Charter Foundation, December 1-15, 1987.

Note: Responses getting less than 10 percent not shown. Source: Survey by CBS News, July 23-24, 1990.

Question: Do you generally favor or oppose prayer in public schools?



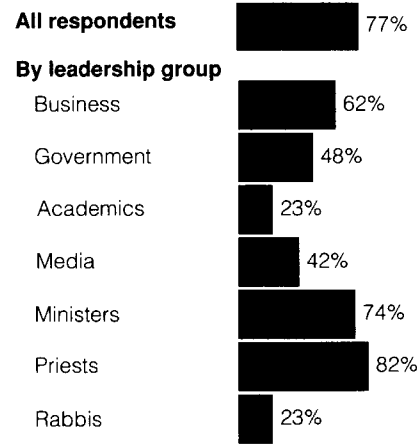
Question: Which of the following positions do you favor with respect to prayer in public schools?



Question: Which of these statements comes closest to your opinion?

Agree that...

Public schools should set aside a moment of silence each day for students to pray if they want to



Note: In an October 1991 survey by Yankelovich Clancy Shulman for Time and CNN, 78% of respondents favored allowing school children to say prayers in schools. Source: Survey by the Gallup Organization, June 24-26, 1988.

Source: Survey by Kane, Parsons, and Associates for Parents magazine, January 15-31, 1989.

Source: Survey by the Center for Communication Dynamics for the Williamsburg Charter Foundation, December 1-15, 1987.