PROTECTING THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES

Prepared for

Citizens Flag Alliance

Prepared by

OPINION RESEARCH CORPORATION

April 21, 2006
METHODOLOGY

♦ National (continental U.S.) telephone survey among 1,024 adults conducted April 6-9, 2006 using RDD sample. Error margin is plus or minus 3 percentage points (at 95% confidence level).
KEY FINDINGS

♦ A substantial majority of Americans:
  • Support a flag protection amendment to the U.S. Constitution
  • Believe it important that such protection be enacted
  • Would prohibit flag desecration in all circumstances

♦ With some exceptions, results are similar across gender, age, education and party affiliation.
Desecrating the Flag is Not an Appropriate Expression of Freedom of Speech

Since 1989, the act of burning the U.S. flag has been protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Do you believe the physical act of desecrating the U.S. flag is an appropriate expression of freedom of speech?

- Yes (is appropriate expression): 28%
- No (not appropriate expression): 68%
- Don't know: 4%

Base = 1024 adults.
Protecting the Flag of the United States

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**Percent Saying No (not appropriate)**

**Gender**
- Male: 67%
- Female: 69%

**Age**
- 18-29: 62%
- 30-49: 69%
- 50+: 72%

*Base = males (511), females (513) Base = 18-29 (138); 30-49 (351); 50+ (511)*
Since 1989, the act of burning the U.S. flag has been protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Do you believe the physical act of desecrating the U.S. flag is an appropriate expression of freedom of speech?

**Percent Saying No (not appropriate)**

**EDUCATION**
- No college: 73%
- Some college: 67%
- College degree: 63%

**PARTY AFFILIATION**
- Republican/Lean Rep.: 83%
- Democrat/Lean Dem.: 58%

Base = No College (372); Some College (253); College Degree (380)  
Base = Rep./Inde. Lean Rep. (367); Dem/Inde. Leaning Dem. (372)
Importance of Making Desecration of the U.S. Flag Illegal

How important do you think it is to make physical desecration of the U.S. flag against the law? That is, do you think it is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not very important at all?

Base = 1024 adults.
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How important do you think it is to make physical desecration of the U.S. flag against the law? That is, do you think it is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not very important at all?

Percent Saying Extremely/Very Important

**GENDER**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Extremely/Very Important</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>51%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>57%</td>
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**AGE**

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<tr>
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How important do you think it is to make physical desecration of the U.S. flag against the law? That is, do you think it is extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not very important at all?

Percent Saying Extremely/Very Important

**EDUCATION**

- No college: 67%
- Some college: 47%
- College Degree: 44%

**PARTY AFFILIATION**

- Republican/Lean Rep.: 69%
- Democrat/Lean Dem.: 44%

Base = No College (372); Some College (253); College Degree (380)

Base = Rep./Inde. Lean Rep. (367); Dem/Inde. Leaning Dem. (372)
Voting for Someone Opposed to Protecting the U.S. Flag

Would you be likely to vote for someone who is opposed to protecting the U.S. flag?

Don’t Know
11%

Yes
28%

No
62%

Base = 1024 adults.
Would you be likely to vote for someone who is opposed to protecting the U.S. flag?

**Percent Saying No**

**Gender**
- Male: 61%
- Female: 62%

**Age**
- 18-29: 61%
- 30-49: 63%
- 50+: 62%

*Base = males (511), females (513) Base = 18-29 (138); 30-49 (351); 50+ (511)*
Would you be likely to vote for someone who is opposed to protecting the U.S. flag?

**Percent Saying No**

**EDUCATION**
- **No college**: 62%
- **Some college**: 65%
- **College Degree**: 59%

**PARTY AFFILIATION**
- **Republican/Lean Rep.**: 72%
- **Democrat/Lean Dem.**: 52%

*Base = No College (372); Some College (253); College Degree (380)  
Base = Rep./Inde. Lean Rep. (367); Dem/Inde. Leaning Dem. (372)*
Strong Support for Constitutional Amendment Allowing Congress to Enact Flag Protection Laws

Would you favor or oppose a Constitutional amendment that would allow Congress to enact laws to protect the U.S. flag? That is, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose such an amendment?

- STRONGLY/ SOMEWHAT FAVOR: 65%
- Strongly favor: 40%
- Somewhat favor: 25%
- Somewhat oppose: 11%
- Strongly oppose: 16%
- Don't know: 7%

Base = 1024 adults.
Strong Support for Constitutional Amendment Allowing Congress to Enact Flag Protection Laws

Would you favor or oppose a Constitutional amendment that would allow Congress to enact laws to protect the U.S. flag? That is, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose such an amendment?

Percent Strongly/Somewhat Favor

**Gender**
- Male: 63%
- Female: 68%

**Age**
- 18-29: 59%
- 30-49: 68%
- 50+: 67%

Base = males (511), females (513)  Base = 18-29 (138); 30-49 (351); 50+ (511)
Strong Support for Constitutional Amendment Allowing Congress to Enact Flag Protection Laws

Would you favor or oppose a Constitutional amendment that would allow Congress to enact laws to protect the U.S. flag? That is, do you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose such an amendment?

Percent Strongly/Somewhat Favor

**EDUCATION**

- No college: 74%
- Some college: 66%
- College degree: 57%

**PARTY AFFILIATION**

- Republican/Lean Rep.: 85%
- Democrat/Lean Dem.: 57%

Base = No College (372); Some College (253); College Degree (380)

Base = Rep./Inde. Lean Rep. (367); Dem/Inde. Leaning Dem. (372)
Under What Circumstances Should the Flag Be Protected?

Utah Senator Robert Bennett and several cosponsors are proposing that Congress pass a law to protect the flag from physical desecration under limited circumstances only. Do you think the flag should be protected under limited circumstances only or would you like to see it protected under all circumstances?

- Limited circumstances: 32%
- All circumstances: 57%
- Don't know: 11%

Base = 1024 adults.
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**Percent Saying All Circumstances**

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Percent Saying All Circumstances

**EDUCATION**
- No college: 73%
- Some college: 54%
- College Degree: 43%

**PARTY AFFILIATION**
- Republican/Lean Rep.: 68%
- Democrat/Lean Dem.: 54%

Base = No College (372); Some College (253); College Degree (380)
Let the People Decide on Flag Protection Issues

Fifty state legislatures have passed resolutions calling on Congress to pass the flag amendment and send it to the states for ratification. Do you think members of Congress who may personally oppose the amendment should vote in favor of it anyway so that “we the people” can decide the issue?

Base = 1024 adults.
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**Percent Saying Yes**

**GENDER**

- **Male**: 70%
- **Female**: 74%

**AGE**

- **18-29**: 75%
- **30-49**: 75%
- **50+**: 69%

Base = males (511), females (513)

Base =18-29 (138); 30-49 (351); 50+ (511)
Let the People Decide on Flag Protection Issues

Fifty state legislatures have passed resolutions calling on Congress to pass the flag amendment and send it to the states for ratification. Do you think members of Congress who may personally oppose the amendment should vote in favor of it anyway so that “we the people” can decide the issue?

Percent Saying Yes

**EDUCATION**

- No college: 80%
- Some college: 78%
- College Degree: 60%

**PARTY AFFILIATION**

- Republican/Lean Rep.: 79%
- Democrat/Lean Dem.: 69%

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