

SPOTLIGHT: Getting Obama's Faith Wrong

➔ An August Pew Forum report found that nearly one in five Americans thinks President Obama is a Muslim. Even more surprising: 60 percent of Americans who think he's Muslim say they learned it from the media. A quarter of those who think he's Muslim say Obama talks about his faith too much. The belief correlates strongly with political opposition, but it's not only those who dislike Obama who have changed: less than half of Democrats and African Americans now say he's a Christian. By the way, Pew's survey happened before Obama spoke about the prospect of an Islamic center near the World Trade Center site. A *Time* poll taken after his remarks, with slightly different wording than Pew's, found that 24 percent of Americans think Obama is a Muslim.

18%

18 PERCENTERS

So if 18 percent of Americans think Obama is a Muslim, is that a large number or a small one?

Consider that 18 percent of Americans also:

Strongly believe that climate change is real, human-caused, and harmful.

Nature

Believe the sun revolves around the earth.

Gallup

Affiliate with a mainline Protestant church.

Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life

Believe it is definitely true that human beings developed over millions of years from less-advanced forms of life.

Gallup

Do not use the Internet.

Center for the Digital Future

Have read a book written by James Dobson.

Baylor Religion Survey

Think charitable organizations do a very good job running their programs and services.

Organizational Performance Initiative

Are very confident they will meet their retirement savings goals by the time they retire.

Employee Benefit Research Institute

Don't buckle their seatbelts.

National Highway Traffic Safety Administration

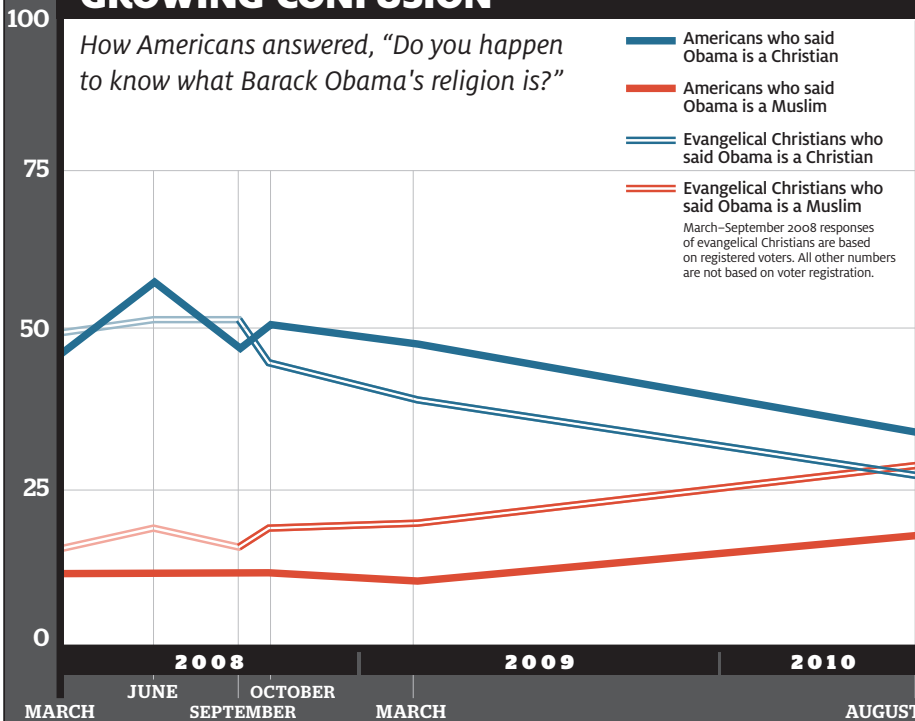
Believe creatures such as Bigfoot and the Loch Ness Monster will be discovered by science one day.

Baylor Religion Survey

Can name freedom of religion as one of the freedoms guaranteed by the First Amendment.

First Amendment Center

GROWING CONFUSION



"I am a devout Christian. I believe in the redemptive death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. . . . I have never practiced Islam. I am respectful of the religion, but it's not my own."

Barack Obama, in a January 2008 interview with *Christianity Today*