

FFRF Member Survey, 2010

More than 3,800 surveys submitted, out of 15,000+ members at the time. Percentages are based on the number who answered each question, not on the total. (Except where noted.)

1. Male 71%; Female 29%

2. Age: Average age: 59.5

Under 20: 6
20-19: 3.5%
30-39: 8.5%
40-49: 14%
50-59: 20.7%
60-69: 25%
70-79: 17.7%
80-89: 9.2%
90-99: 0.1%

3. Racial/ethnic background:

Caucasian only, 95.4%
Mixed only, 2%
Hispanic total 1.4%
Native American total 1.2%
African/American total 0.7%
Asian total 0.7%

4. Typical political leaning, if any:

(Very rough estimate . . . they wrote so many things down!) Only 326 (less than 10%) of the people responded with a political affiliation, which means most don't think it is important to our organization)

Progressive 20%
Socialist, Marxist 9.2%
Liberal 9%
Green 6.5%
Democratic 4.3%
Libertarian 4%
No party 4%
Conservative, GOP, Republican 2.5%

5. Check if GLBT: 9% based on total number of surveys

6. Check if vegetarian: 11% based on total number of surveys

7. Check if veteran: 24% based on total number of surveys

8 Check if current military: 1% based on total number of surveys

(Veteran & Vegetarian = 62; GLBT & Military = 2; GLBT & Veteran = 35)

9. What is your current marital status?

Married: 58%
Single: 17%
Divorced: 12.6%

Formal Civil Union: 0.8%
Informal Civil Union: 4.5%
Widow: 6.8%

10. What best describes your freethought views

Atheist: 88.2%
Agnostic: 11.8%
 Female Atheist: 87.5%
 Female Agnostic: 12.6%
 Male Atheist: 83.3%
 Male Agnostic: 16.7%

11. What best describes the home you grew up in?

Freethought: 17.7%
Mixed: 25.5%
Religious: 56.7%

12. What best describes you as a freethinker?

1st generation: 76%
2nd generation: 17.5%
3rd generation: 5%
4th generation: 0.6%
5th generation or more: 0.3%

13. If raised religious, what religious denomination?

Protestant: 42%
Catholic: 30%
Jewish: 27%
Other: 1%

14. If you deconverted from religion to freethought, what was the primary catalyst?

Religion doesn't make sense: 32%
Lack of evidence: 19.2%
Science: 17%
Religious hypocrisy/bigotry: 17%
Reading skeptical authors: 9.2%
Reading the bible: 5.2%

15. How many persons (besides yourself) read your copy of Freethought Today? 1.7

(So the readership is almost double the number mailed.)

16. Check any statement that applies to you:

A total of 3,627 people selected one or more items from this list:

I speak out freely about my lack of religion: 50.9%
My spouse or companion is also nonbelieving: 48.1%
I have an adequate freethought "support system": 32.9%
My child(ren) are nonbelievers: 31.5%
I am wary of letting others know I reject religion: 30.9%
My immediate family members are also freethinkers: 28.1%

I often feel like the only “infidel” in my area: 25.7%

I have experienced social stigmatism as a nonbeliever: 19.8%

17. Select highest completed level of education. (You may select more than one advanced degree.)

Highest level:

4-year college: 33.4%

Masters: 26%

2-year college: 13.1%

Ph.D: 10.6%

High school: 10%

J.D.: 3.7%

M.D.: 3.0%

Total advanced degrees:

Masters: 23.4%; Multiple masters: 3.7%; Total Masters: 30.8%+

Ph.D: 10.8%

M.D.: 3%

J.D.: 4%

18. Major fields (printed separately)

19. Occupation or profession (for 5+ people)

Education: 13.3%

Teacher: 250

Professor: 175

Instructor: 29

Educator: 32

Teaching: 17

Faculty: 4

Engineering, electrical engineer: 6.8%

Information/computers: 6.6%

Database: 14

Information: 14

IT: 21

Computers: 60

Computer programmer: 30

Software: 99

Systems analyst: 13

Medicine: 4.7%

Nurse, nursing, R.N.: 63

Physician, MD: 64

Anesthesiologist: 4

Medicine, medical: 47

Management: 4.6%

Law: 3.5%

Attorney: 93

Paralegal: 6

Legal field: 33

Science: 3.3%

Scientist: 32

Physicist: 15

Biologist: 12

Geologist: 7

Psychologist: 35

Chemist: 26

Writer, technical writer, author: 2.2%

Military (military, Air Force, Army, Navy, Marines): 1.6%

Homemaker, "domestic goddess," house husband: 1.4%

Research: 1.4%

Administration: 1.3%

News: 1.2%

Editor: 25

Journalist: 5

Radio: 5

Reporter: 5

Newspaper: 7

Library: 1.2%

Librarian: 32

Library work: 15

Accounting: 1.2%

Student: 1.1%

Artist: 1.0%

Occupation or professions less than 1%: Social work: 35, Therapist: 34, Driver: 29, Executive: 28, Post office, mail carrier: 28, Real Estate: 27, Health: 27, Unemployed: 26, Pilot: 23, Government: 23, Marketing: 20, Construction: 19, Musician: 18, Graphics: 17, Insurance: 17, Sales: 17, Finance: 17, Veterinarian: 16, Dentist: 15, Self-employed: 15, Farming: 14, Contractor: 14, Mental health: 14, Pharmacy: 14, Environment: 13, Police/correctional: 13, Food, chef, cook: 13, Investment: 12, Freelance: 12, Photography: 12, Nonprofit: 12, Firefighter: 12, Publishing: 11, Human resources, factors, services: 11, Broker, banker: 10, Small business owner: 10, Forestry: 10, Historian: 8, Entrepreneur: 8, Property management: 7, Bookkeeping: 7, Carpentry: 6, Automotive: 5

Other occupations: Activist, Accupuncturist, Air traffic control, Army wife, Bartender, Bus driver, Casino dealer, Chiropractor, Diplomat (spy), Federal wildlife biologist, Fitness instructor, Forensics, Funeral director, Gunsmith, Hairstylist & church organist, Helicopter pilot, Ice Show Chorus Skater, Inventor, Judge, Lineperson for telephone company (1st woman on the lines in Mpls, 1968), Longshoreman, Luthier, Magician, Massage therapist, Meteorologist, Museum curator, National Park Ranger, Ophthalmologist, Optometrist, Parliamentarian, Pastor, Piano tuner, Playwright, Poet, Pollster, Presbyterian minister, Provocateur, Puzzle designer, Railroad conductor, Surveyor, School psychologist, FAA Safety Inspector, Seamstress, Sign maker, Theater, Travel agent, TV Station Producer, Venture capitalist, Web designer, Winery owner, Zookeeper

20. Check if retired: 43%

21. Check if you do volunteer work on a regular basis: 29.9%

23. In which area of the country would you be most apt to attend a FFRF national convention?

West Coast	28.0%
Midwest	25.4%
Northeast	19.4%
Southeast	13.0%
Southwest	9.7%
Rockies	4.5%

24. If interested in attending an FFRF convention, which of these cities would most attract you?

San Francisco	13.7%
Chicago	12.3%
Portland	11.1%
New York City	9.7%
San Diego	8.8%
Philadelphia	8.5%
Boston	7.9%
Los Angeles	6.9%
Atlanta	6.7%
Phoenix	5.4%
Indianapolis	4.7%
San Antonio	4.2%

Percentage of people who picked only one city: Chicago 16.0%, New York City 11.7%, San Francisco 11.3%, Portland 11.0%, Atlanta 11.0%, Los Angeles 9.3%, Philadelphia 7.3%, San Antonio 5.8%, Boston 5.4%, San Diego 3.9%, Phoenix 3.7%, Indianapolis 3.6%

25. I am willing to be interviewed by media if FFRF issues come up in my area: 37%

26. I am an attorney interested in working with FFRF, either as volunteer, researcher, to act as local counsel in litigation, pro bono help, etc.: 1.3%

27. I am a graphic artist or designer willing to donate design or artwork: 2.1%

28. I would like to help FFRF find a billboard in my area: 9.3%

29. I would like to offer other expertise or services to FFRF: 13.2%

Results printed separately.

31. Is there any special project/activity related to freethought or state/church separation which you would like to suggest be undertaken by the Foundation? 27% Results printed separately. (Note: Many people said “Keep up the good work” and “You are doing great.” Some wrote “No.”)