

Keep your identity safe online

A recent report by AARP suggests consumers have grown overwhelmed by attempts to protect their online identity and believe identity theft and exploitation of their credit is inevitable. As a result, the survey suggests consumers aren't working as hard to keep their online identities safe as they should.

AARP is trying to help its members fight back by offering three basic tips for keeping yourself safe online. They include: using separate passwords for your online accounts, ordering a credit freeze, and setting up digital access to online bank accounts, and Use separate passwords — Make sure you use unique passwords for each of your online accounts. That way, if one account is hacked, it does not put your other accounts at risk.

It used to be something of a running joke to make the password to your online accounts "password," just for the sake of having to remember one password. However, data suggests the word, "password," is the most common password in the world. A recent survey by AARP shows 48 percent of consumers use the same password for more than one online account.

The Privacy Rights Clearinghouse suggests there have been over 2,000 data breaches in the US since 2015 impacting over 7 billion online records. When there is a data breach, the online thieves get your username and password and begin to try using it on other websites, such as banking sites and credit card sites. This gives them access to your credit and your cash. That is why changing up passwords becomes such an important part of protecting yourself online.

Order a freeze: Put a security freeze in place with the three credit reporting bureaus so that no one can access your credit file or open a new credit account with your information. For a guide to the process, visit www.aarp.org/CreditFreeze. Traditionally there has been a fee for placing a freeze on your credit report, but beginning later this month the process is free thanks to legislation passed by Congress in May.

Set up digital access: Set up online access to all of your financial accounts — bank accounts, credit cards, 401(k)s, etc. — and regularly monitor the accounts so you can stay up-to-date on all transactions and recognize any fraudulent activity that may occur. AARP reports just 43 percent of respondents to its recent survey have online access to their bank accounts to monitor the accounts.

If you want to test your knowledge of ways to keep yourself safe online, feel free to take AARP's Digital Identity IQ Quiz, consisting of eight true-or-false questions. Among the quiz results from AARP's recent polling:

Only one-third of respondents (29 percent) were aware that a fraud alert will not prevent their credit file from being shared with potential creditors. A fraud alert does not block potential new credit, but places a comment on your history so that creditors will contact you prior to opening a new account.

Just half of respondents (49 percent) know that purchasing ID theft monitoring services does not prevent identity thieves from stealing your identity. Most ID theft monitoring services will notify individuals if someone is attempting to open new credit in their name, however it won't prevent it from happening.

Only about half (48 percent) of respondents know that when it comes to protecting yourself from fraud, a debit card is not as safe as a credit card. Consumers are responsible for no more than \$50 of fraudulent charges on a credit card; however, if money is stolen from a bank account through a debit card, there are no protections on that money.

SAM SHUMWAY is the state director for AARP Wyoming, an organization with 87,000 members in Wyoming, which seeks to better the lives of all citizens age 50 and over.



SAM SHUMWAY



MICHAEL ILLIANO | THE SHERIDAN PRESS

'Johnnie Black, Private Eye'

The Hub on Smith's Young At Heart Players performed "Johnnie Black, Private Eye," a radio play on stage written by Bruce Scigliano and George Krawczyk, Thursday, Sept. 13, 2018. Kitty Norris-Guile, left, starred as Johnnie Black and Lloyd Marsden, right, played Harry, Johnnie's apprentice private eye.

Poll: Voters open to candidates who aren't very religious

BY DAVID CRARY
AP NATIONAL WRITER

NEW YORK (AP) — Religion's role in politics and public policy is in the spotlight heading toward the midterm elections, yet relatively few Americans consider it crucial that a candidate be devoutly religious or share their religious beliefs, according to a poll released Tuesday by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Just 25 percent of Americans say it's very or extremely important that a candidate has strong religious beliefs, according to the poll. Only 19 percent consider it very or extremely important that a candidate shares their own beliefs, and nearly half say that's not very important or not important at all.

Still, most Americans see a role for religion in shaping public policy. A solid majority of Americans — 57 percent — want the influence of religion on government policy to extend beyond traditional culture-war issues and into policies addressing poverty. Americans are more likely to say religion should have at least some influence on poverty than on abortion (45 percent) or LGBT issues (34 percent).

There is little public support for the campaign by some conservative religious leaders — backed by President Donald Trump — to allow clergy and religious organizations to endorse political candidates while

retaining their tax-exempt status. Such a change is opposed by 53 percent of Americans and supported by 13 percent. The rest expressed no opinion.

Trump's stance on political endorsements by clergy is one of many reasons he has retained strong support among white evangelical Christians, despite aspects of his behavior and personal life that don't neatly align with Christian values. The AP-NORC poll found that 7 in 10 white evangelical Protestants say they approve of Trump.

The importance of a candidate's religious faith varied across religious and political groups.

Among white evangelical Protestants, 51 percent consider it very or extremely important that a candidate has strong religious beliefs. An additional 25 percent think it's moderately important. Far fewer Catholics and white mainline Protestants considered this important. Roughly two-thirds of Republicans said it's at least moderately important that a candidate has strong religious beliefs, compared with 37 percent of Democrats.

Jack Kane, an accountant from Key West, Florida, was among the Republican-leaning poll participants who said it wasn't important to him whether a candidate was deeply religious.

"I'd much rather have a guy run the government and not spend all our money, instead of sounding off on what's going on

in the church or on things like abortion," said Kane, 65, who describes himself as nonreligious. "Who is Catholic, Jewish, Southern Baptist — I could care less, as long as they're going to carry the torch of freedom."

Kent Jaquette, a Republican-turned-independent and a former United Methodist pastor who lives near San Antonio, said he does not base his choice of candidates on their religious faith.

"In politics, you need to look at a person where their morals are, where their values are," he said. "It may or may not have anything to do with their religion."

Jaquette also questioned the motives of evangelicals who support Trump.

"To me, it's supporting someone who gives no indication he intends to live a Christian life," said Jaquette, 63. "I believe that Christians should do things that Christ taught — feed the hungry, visit people in jail, help immigrants."

Veronica Irving, a 55-year-old Roman Catholic Republican who lives near Chicago, says it's extremely important to her that a politician has strong religious beliefs. She's disappointed that Trump doesn't demonstrate this more clearly through his behaviors and actions.

"It's not about what faith you come from — it's just important that you have faith," she said.

At the highest levels of political office, it's still rare for a politician to profess that he or she is an atheist;

surveys indicate that roughly 10 percent of Americans do not believe in a higher power.

In recent years, only a small handful of members of Congress have identified themselves as nonbelievers.

However, there is some evidence of increasing acceptance of religious diversity — for example, the recent victories by Muslim-American women in Democratic congressional primaries in Michigan and Minnesota.

The AP-NORC poll found broad interest in religion having at least some influence on a range of policy issues.

In addition to the concern about poverty, 49 percent of Americans want to see religion have some influence on education, 44 percent on health care policy, 43 percent on immigration, 38 percent on gun policy, 36 percent on income inequality, 34 percent on foreign policy and 32 percent on climate change.

From each of the largest religious groups, there was strong support for greater religious influence on poverty policy — 71 percent of white evangelical Protestants, 54 percent of white mainline Protestants, 75 percent of nonwhite Protestants and 67 percent of Catholics.

The Rev. Jim Wallis, founder of the Christian social justice organization Sojourners, said the poll findings signaled a potentially broader and more vibrant role for organized religion in U.S. politics.

SENIOR HAPPENINGS

- The Bluegrass Burgers finale performance will take place from 7-9 p.m. Tuesday at The Hub on Smith. Burgers, chips and cookies will be available for \$2. Sign up if you can. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.
- Calling all bookworms! If you love to read, The Hub on Smith is looking to form a group of readers who enable other members' book addictions and enjoy the friendship of each other through respectful, honest conversa-

tion and sharing. How about joining fellow bookworms once or twice a month to discuss books together over a cup of coffee or tea at The Hub. To start the ball rolling, the group will start by reading "The Alice Network" by Kate Quinn. Those who attend the first meeting on Sept. 19 at 2 p.m. should bring a list of 5-10 favorite books. Please sign up at the front desk of The Hub.

- The Yarn Shop at The Hub will

have a variety of colors, some specialty yarns, large selection of tapestry/needle point yarn and latch hook rug yarn. The shop will be open Mondays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m. and Thursdays from 1-3 p.m.

- On Thursdays, the Knitting & Crocheting class will be in session at The Hub on Smith. Join in, if you like, and place donations in box on the wall next to door.



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A CENTER FOR ALL GENERATIONS

ENTRÉE CHOICE* or SOUP/SALAD

Tue- Chicken Marsala
Wed- Beef Fajitas & the fixings
Thurs- Cod baked w/Carrots & Leeks
Fri- Kielbasa w/Pierogis
Sat- Chicken Tarragon Salad
Sun- Baked Ham
Mon- Roast Turkey w/pan Au Jus

FUN AND FOOD BUILD YOUR OWN SALAD
Mondays - Fridays
Entrees and kiosk include sides, dessert and drink.

Salad Bar Available
Mondays - Fridays

No Salad Bar on
Saturday or Sunday

*entrée only offered for Home Delivered Meals

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| Tue- \$2 Burgers & Bluegrass | 6:30 p.m. | Café |
| Wed- Java with a Journalist | 2:00 p.m. | Lobby |
| Thurs- Writers' Group | 2:00 p.m. | Community Room |
| Fri - Bridge | 12:30 p.m. | Community Room |
| Sat- Jeans & Queens Square Dancing | 7 to 9 p.m. | Fitness Room |

Lunch Service Hours: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., 365 days a year at 211 Smith Street
Home Delivered Meals (307) 672-6079

Loan Closet, Outreach, and Administration Services, 672-2240. Mondays - Fridays.

Help at Home Services, 675-1978. 232 North Brooks. Mondays - Fridays.

Day Break Adult Care Services, 674-4968. 241 Smith Street. Mondays - Fridays.