

Metaformation

Memorandum

From: George Barna/Metaformation
To: First Liberty Institute
Re: Survey Data re: Bladensburg WWI Veterans Memorial

During the week of January 28, 2019, pollster George Barna of Metaformation Inc. conducted a nationally representative survey of 1,000 U.S. adults. Included in the survey were two questions related to the upcoming arguments in *The American Legion, et al. v. American Humanist Association, et al.* on February 27, 2019 before the Supreme Court of the United States. The questions and responses are shown below.

Question 1:

In a small town in Maryland there is a 40-foot tall memorial that was built and funded 93 years ago by a non-profit veterans' organization. The memorial honors 49 Americans from that area who were killed in World War 1. That memorial is the subject of a legal battle because it is in the shape of a cross and sits on public property. Those who are supporting the lawsuit say that monument, and others like it, violates the law because the cross is a religious symbol and should not be displayed on government land. Those who oppose the lawsuit say the monument is a veterans' memorial and should be left alone. If it were up to you, would you allow the memorial to stand as it is, require it to be altered, or require it to be torn down?

What Americans Want to Do with the Bladensburg Monument

(N=1,000; January 2019)

	<u>All</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Mill</u>	<u>GenX</u>	<u>Boom</u>	<u>Eldr</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Hisp</u>	<u>Black</u>
Leave it alone	84%	83%	84%	76%	83%	88%	93%	88%	73%	80%
<i>Feel strongly</i>	72	70	73	60	73	79	81	76	60	67
<i>Feel mildly</i>	12	13	11	16	10	9	12	12	13	13
Alter it	7	8	7	11	8	4	4	5	13	11
Tear it down	2	1	2	3	1	2	*	1	3	3
Don't know	7	8	7	9	7	6	2	5	11	6

Summary: A large majority of people (84%) want the Bladensburg memorial to be left alone. Most of those supporters feel strongly about that preference. No demographic surveyed fell below 73% of support for leaving the memorial alone. Just 2% support tearing the memorial down.

Question 2:

The United States has many memorials, plaques and monuments dedicated to the memory of military men and women who served our nation. Do you, personally, believe that the government should remove from public spaces all military-related memorials, plaques and monuments that contain any religious symbols or messages?

**What Americans Want to Do About Military-related Memorials
Containing Religious Symbols or Messages in Public Places**

(N=1,000; January 2019)

	<u>All</u>	<u>Men</u>	<u>Women</u>	<u>Mill</u>	<u>GenX</u>	<u>Boom</u>	<u>Eldr</u>	<u>White</u>	<u>Hisp</u>	<u>Black</u>
Do not remove	80%	78%	82%	72%	82%	84%	84%	86%	66%	74%
<i>Feel strongly</i>	48	45	50	38	55	48	55	54	26	43
<i>Feel mildly</i>	32	32	32	37	27	37	29	32	41	31
Remove them	6	7	5	9	5	3	9	4	11	7
Depends on the situation	8	8	7	12	6	6	4	5	15	12
Don't know	6	7	6	7	6	6	3	4	8	8

Summary: Most Americans (80%) support having military-related memorials containing religious symbols or messages in public places. Not surprisingly, the generations that have experienced the most prolific wars during their lifetime provide the most support. Merely 6% would support tearing down any veterans memorial with religious content.

Notes:

Possible Responses, Question 1	Possible Responses, Question 2
1. allow site to stand; feel strongly	1. Yes, remove them – strongly believe that
2. allow site to stand; feel mildly	2. Yes, remove them – somewhat believe that
3. require that it be altered; feel mildly	3. No, do NOT remove them – somewhat believe that
4. require that it be altered; feel strongly	4. No, do NOT remove them – strongly believe that
5. require that it be torn down; feel mildly	5. (VOL) It depends on the situation
6. require that it be torn down; feel strongly	6. (VOL) Not sure/Don't know
7. (VOL) not sure	

Mill = Millennials, defined as ages 18-35
GenX = Generation X/Baby Busters, defined as ages 36-54
Boom = Baby Boomers, defined as ages 55-73
Eldr = pre-Baby Boom, i.e. Elders, defined as age 74 or older

END.