



The New Pope

How Canadians feel about Pope Leo XIV

May 2025

40TH
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Methodology

Field Window	May 16 th to 20 th , 2025
Sampling	Online survey of 3,400 adult (18+) Canadians. Respondents were recruited from multiple research panels.
Reliability*	Online surveys cannot be assigned a margin of error. As a guideline, a probability sample of this size carries a margin of error of $\pm 1.7\%$, 19 times out of 20. The margin of error is larger for sub-segments.
Weighting	Data has been weighted using the most current language, gender, age, & region Census data, to ensure the sample reflects the actual population of adult Canadians.
Research standards	Pollara Strategic Insights is a member of the Canadian Research Insights Council (CRIC), and this research was conducted in compliance with CRIC standards.
Religion	This poll contains a sample of 996 Catholics.

REGION	Number of Interviews (unweighted)	Margin of error*
Atlantic Canada	650	$\pm 3.8\%$
Quebec	500	$\pm 4.4\%$
Ontario	650	$\pm 3.8\%$
Manitoba/ Saskatchewan	700	$\pm 3.7\%$
Alberta	500	$\pm 4.4\%$
British Columbia	395	$\pm 4.9\%$
Canada	3,400	$\pm 1.7\%$

Key Findings

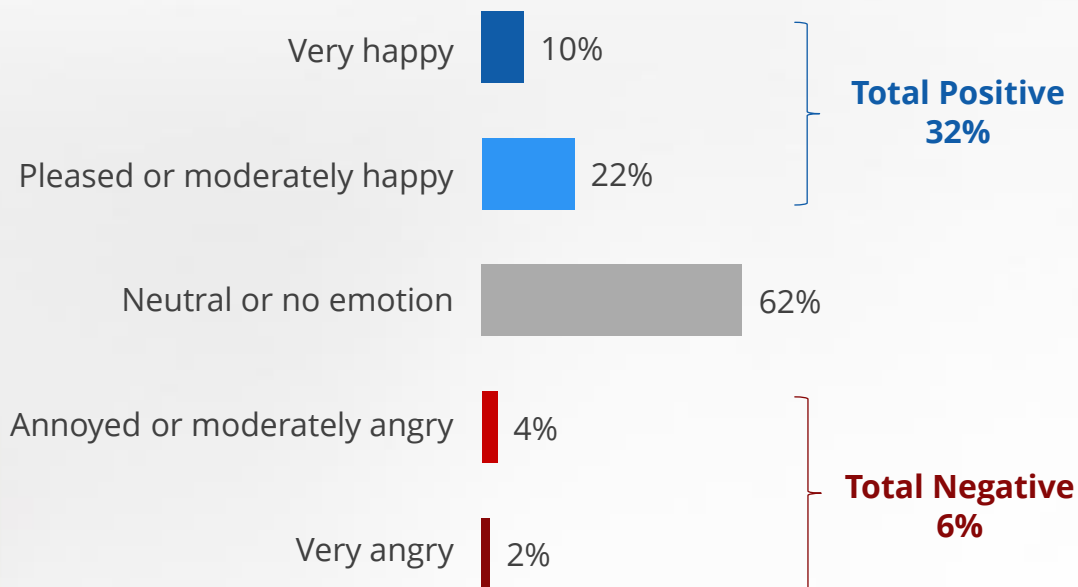
69%

Of Canadian Catholics feel positive and 8% feel negative about Pope Leo XIV

- Five times more Canadians feel positively than negatively about Pope Leo XIV (positive 52% / negative 10%).
 - Catholics are especially positive towards him (69% / 8%).
- Impressions of Pope Leo XIV are similar to impressions of former popes Francis (60% / 11%) and John Paul II (53% / 13%).
- There are mixed views on the direction people want to see from the new pope: 28% hope he will continue Pope Francis' approach, while 29% hope for a more progressive direction and 13% hope for a more conservative direction.
 - Among Catholics, 31% want to see a more progressive approach and 14% want to see a more conservative approach.

More positive than negative emotions about selection of new Pope

- Among Catholics, 50% feel positively and 6% feel negatively.



32%

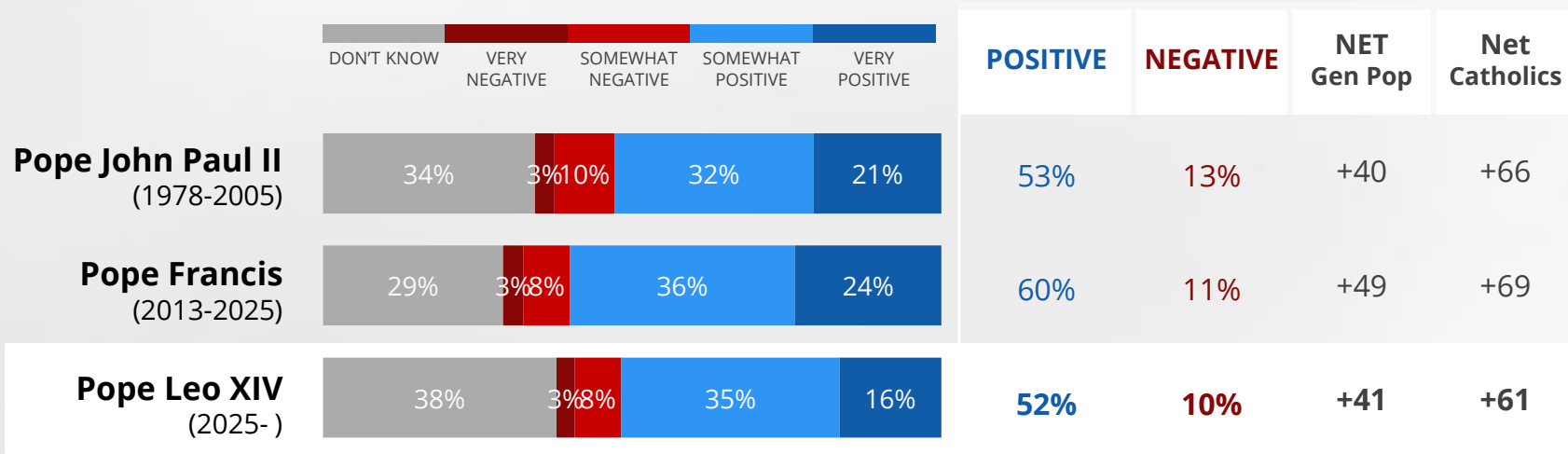
of Canadians feel pleased or happy about the selection of a new Pope



Q. What emotion best describes how you feel when you think about each of the following? -
The selection of a new Pope
Base: All respondents (n=3,400)

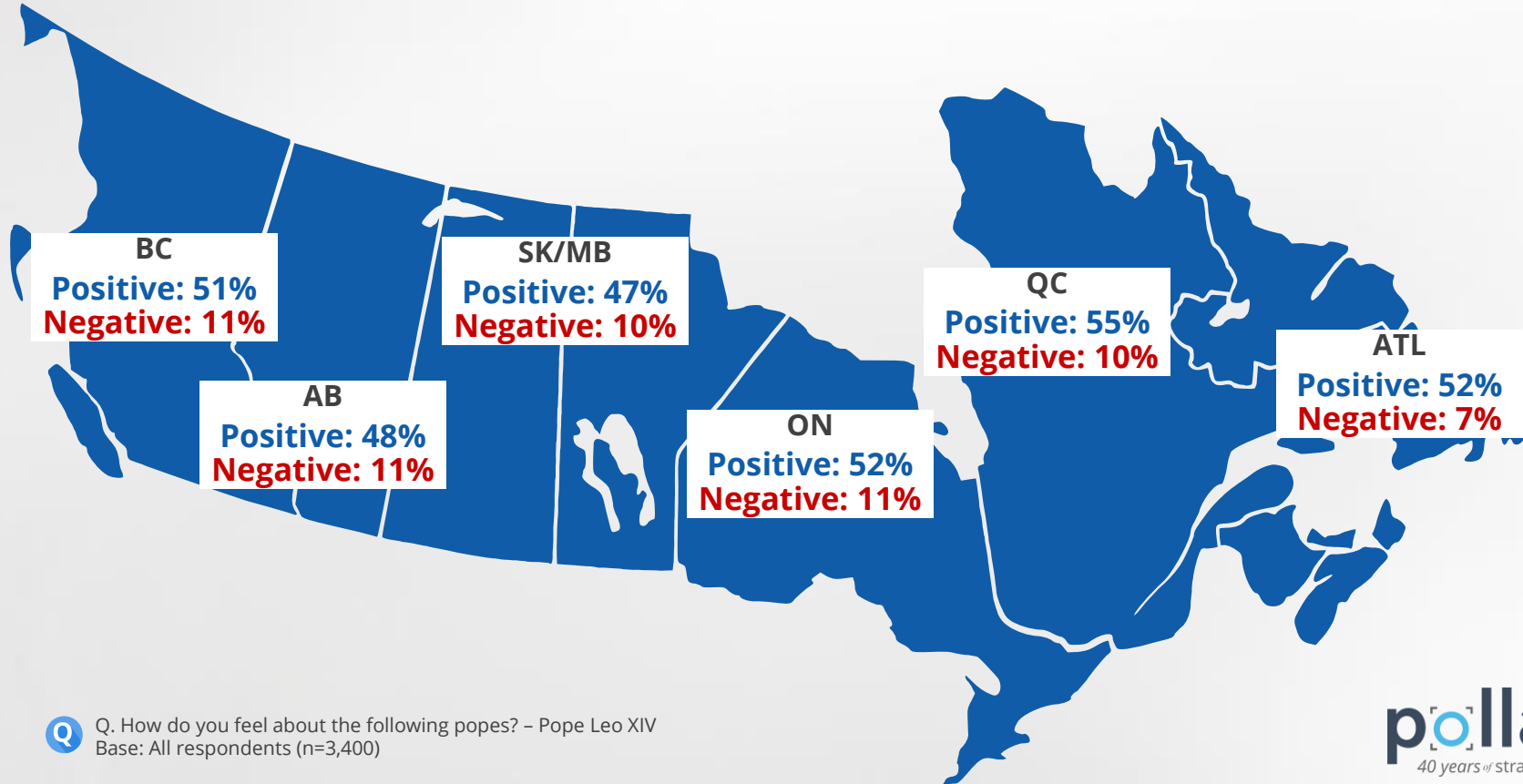
Half (52%) of Canadians feel positively about Pope Leo XIV, with only one-in-ten (10%) holding negative feelings towards him

- Among Catholics, 69% feel positive and 8% feel negative towards Pope Leo XIV.
- Feelings towards Pope Leo XIV are similar to those towards former popes Francis and John Paul II.



Q. How do you feel about the following popes?
Base: All respondents (n=3,400)

Impressions of Pope Leo XIV - By Region



Q. How do you feel about the following popes? – Pope Leo XIV
Base: All respondents (n=3,400)

Impression of Pope Leo XIV - By Demographics

AGE & GENDER

Men		Women		18-34		35-49		50-64		65+	
Positive	52%	Positive	51%	Positive	47%	Positive	46%	Positive	53%	Positive	62%
Negative	12%	Negative	9%	Negative	15%	Negative	15%	Negative	6%	Negative	5%

RELIGION

Christian - Catholic		Christian - Protestant		Christian - Orthodox		Muslim		Atheist	
Positive	69%	Positive	58%	Positive	54%	Positive	57%	Positive	37%
Negative	8%	Negative	5%	Negative	13%	Negative	17%	Negative	13%



Q. How do you feel about the following popes? – Pope Leo XIV
Base: All respondents (n=3,400)

Desire for Change in Approach?

- Among Catholics, 35% hope the new pope will share a similar outlook to Pope Francis, while 31% would like to see a more progressive approach and 14% want a shift toward a more conservative approach.

More progressive than Pope Francis



29%

Have a similar outlook to Pope Francis



28%

More conservative than Pope Francis



13%

Don't know



30%

31%

of Canadian Catholics would like to see a more progressive approach from the new Pope, while 13% would like a more conservative approach



Q. Do you hope that the new Pope will be ...
Base: All respondents (n=3,400)



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Media Spokesperson:

Dan Arnold, Chief Strategy Officer
DanArnold@pollara.com

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