



**Date:** February 3, 2009  
**RE: Results from nationwide poll**

**Methodology**

Zogby International conducted an omnibus telephone survey of likely voters from 1/29/09 through 1/31/09.

The sample is 1,053 likely voters interviews with approximately 44 questions asked. Samples are randomly drawn from telephone CDs of national listed sample. Zogby International surveys employ sampling strategies in which selection probabilities are proportional to population size within area codes and exchanges. Up to six calls are made to reach a sampled phone number. Cooperation rates are calculated using one of AAPOR’s approved methodologies<sup>1</sup> and are comparable to other professional public-opinion surveys conducted using similar sampling strategies.<sup>2</sup> Weighting by region, party, age, race, religion, and gender is used to adjust for non-response. The margin of error is +/- 3.1 percentage points. Margins of error are higher in sub-groups.

**Narrative Summary**

*4. Would you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that teachers and students should have the academic freedom to discuss both the strengths and weaknesses of evolution as a scientific theory?*

Strongly agree	54%	<b>Agree</b>	<b>80%</b>
Somewhat agree	26		
Somewhat disagree	6	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>17</b>
Strongly disagree	11		
Not sure	4		

A large majority (80%) agree that teachers and students should have the academic freedom to discuss both the strengths and weaknesses of evolution as a scientific theory, with more than half (54%) saying they strongly agree. A sixth (17%) disagree.

<sup>1</sup> See COOP4 (p.38) in *Standard Definitions: Final Dispositions of Case Codes and Outcome Rates of Surveys*. The American Association for Public Opinion Research, (2000).

<sup>2</sup> *Cooperation Tracking Study: April 2003 Update*, Jane M. Sheppard and Shelly Haas. The Council for Marketing & Opinion Research (CMOR). Cincinnati, Ohio (2003).

5. Charles Darwin wrote that when considering the evidence for his theory of evolution, “...a fair result can be obtained only by fully stating and balancing the facts and arguments on both sides of each question.” Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with Darwin’s statement?

Strongly agree	45%	<b>Agree</b>	<b>76%</b>
Somewhat agree	31		
Somewhat disagree	6	<b>Disagree</b>	<b>18</b>
Strongly disagree	12		
Not sure	5		

Three-quarters (76%) say they agree with Darwin’s statement, while about a fifth (18%) say they disagree.

6. I am going to read you two statements about Biology teachers teaching Darwin’s theory of evolution. Please tell me which statement comes closest to your own point of view—Statement A or Statement B?

***Statement A: Biology teachers should teach only Darwin’s theory of evolution and the scientific evidence that supports it.***

***Statement B: Biology teachers should teach Darwin’s theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it.***

Statement A	14%
Statement B	78
Neither	5
Other/Not sure	2

A large majority (78%) say Statement B, “Biology teachers should teach Darwin’s theory of evolution, but also the scientific evidence against it,” comes closest to their point of view, while 14% say Statement A, “Biology teachers should teach only Darwin’s theory of evolution and the scientific evidence that supports it” comes closest to theirs.