

Public want religion to be kept out of politics



Most British people believe bishops should no longer be given an automatic seat in the House of Lords
KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/REUTERS

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Politics and religion should not mix, according to the British public, who want politicians to keep their personal faith to themselves.

Most British people believe that religion should also play a less prominent role in parliament, with bishops losing their

automatic seats in the House of Lords, a YouGov survey for *The Times* found.

In the past year, the prime minister, a vicar's daughter, said that "faith guides me in everything I do", while Tim Farron, a committed Christian, faced a barrage of questions over whether he believed gay sex to be sinful before his resignation as Lib Dem leader.

The British Social Attitudes

Survey found this year that the proportion of Britons professing to have "no religion" was at a record high of 53 per cent, although *The Times's* survey also found a modest recovery in religious faith over the past year.

The survey asked almost 1,700 people whether politicians "should feel free to use their religious beliefs to inform their political decisions" or whether they should "keep their religious