

Opinion on Gay Unions and Gay Marriage: A National Perspective

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Survey: Design, Execution & Respondents

- Fielded: Labor Day to Election Day 2008
- Total respondents
 - 1,047 adults nationwide
- Has been fielded in 2001, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2008
- Long survey, about 30 min. ave pre-election, 20 min. post
- We are best:
 - Lots of issue measurements,
 - Try to cover all the potentially electorally relevant issues
 - Multiple items per issue
 - Also vote and large # political & community participation

Our Measures from PACES

- Federal Gay Marriage Ban
 - *“Do you think the federal government SHOULD or SHOULD NOT support a constitutional amendment banning gay marriages?”*
- Gay “Domestic Partner” Benefits or Civil Unions
 - *“Do you think the federal government SHOULD or SHOULD NOT give gay and lesbian couples the same rights and benefits that married opposite-sex couples get from the federal government?”*

Our Measures from PACES

- **Federal Gay Marriage Ban**

	2004	2005	2006	2008
Anti Gay Rights	39	37	35	31
DK/Depends/Ref	9	9	12	8
Pro Gay Rights	52	54	53	61

- **Gay “Domestic Partner” Benefits or Civil Unions**

	2004	2005	2006	2008
Anti Gay Rights	51	47	46	34
DK/Ref	10	11	11	9
Pro Gay Rights	40	42	43	56
N	1443	1290	1114	1047

Similar Measures from Other Surveys

- Gay “Domestic Partner” Benefits or Civil Unions
 - Pew Research Center
 - *“Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples?”*

	2003 (Oct.)	2004 (Aug.)	2006 (July)	2008 (May)
Anti Gay Rights	47	45	42	41
DK/Ref	8	7	4	8
Pro Gay Rights	45	48	54	51

Similar Measures from Other Surveys

- Banning Gay Marriage with Constitutional Amendment
 - Gallup
 - *"Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman, thus barring marriages between gay or lesbian couples?"*

	2003 (July)	2004 (July)	2006 (May)	2008 (May)
Anti Gay Rights	50	48	50	49
DK/Ref	5	6	3	3
Pro Gay Rights	45	46	47	48

Similar Measures from Other Surveys

- Gay Marriage, Gay Civil Unions, or Neither?

- CBS News Poll

- *Which comes closest to your view? Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry. OR, Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry. OR, There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship."*

	2004 (March)	2004 (Nov.)	2006 (Oct.)	2008 (May)
No Legal Recognition	40	44	38	36
Gay Civil Unions	33	32	29	28
Gay Marriage	22	21	28	30

Group Differences

- Banning Gay Marriage with Constitutional Amendment

	2004	2005	2006	2008
White – Black	4	7	11	6
Women – Men	(2)	2	3	10
Age Under 38 – 57+	7	0	3	8
CollGrad – HS Grad	22	14	15	24
Religion Unimportant – Great Deal of Guidance	46	39	39	49
Democrat - Republican	28	30	25	43

Group Differences

- *Allowing Gay Civil Unions*

	2004	2005	2006	2008
White – Black	18	20	0	12
Women – Men	4	4	8	15
Age (27-37) – 57+	14	15	19	11
CollGrad – HS Grad	24	20	13	22
Religion Unimportant – Great Deal of Guidance	39	37	42	60
Democrat - Republican	25	28	35	37

Ideological Packaging

- Correlations Between Gay Marriage Index & Other Issues

	2008
Abortion	.51
Religious Politics	.53
Religious Leadership	.50
Gun Control	.14
Civil Liberties	.33
Racial Issues	.22
Immigration	.28
Use of Military Force	.26
Economic Aid	.20
Health Care	.25
Taxes	.27
Environment	.42

Ideological Packaging

- # of Associations With Other Issues

	# >.30-.39	#>.40
Gay Marriage/Unions	5	3
Abortion	9	3
Religious Politics	8	3
Gun Control	4	0
Civil Liberties	9	1
Racial Issues	3	3
Immigration	5	0
Use of Military Force	6	1
Economic Aid	2	5
Health Care	0	6
Taxes	6	5
Environment	4	8

Gay Unions and Religious Leadership View

- *"How important is it that the US government have leaders with strong faith in GOD - not at all important, somewhat important, very important, or extremely important?"*
- *"How important is it that the US government have leaders with strong faith in JESUS CHRIST - not at all important, somewhat important, very important, or extremely important?"*

	Zero Import	Somewhat Important	Very Important	Extremely Important
% of Adults	30%	26%	24%	17%
Anti Gay Rights	12%	22%	52%	72%
DK/Ref	6%	11%	8%	6%
Pro Gay Rights	82%	67%	39%	22%

Conclusions

- Support for Gay Unions/Domestic Partners at least around half, maybe more
- Some possible surge in support by 2008 Election
 - Check for confirmation by NES and GSS
- Growing Divide between Several Groups
 - Women vs. Men
 - Less vs. More Religious
 - Democrats vs. Republicans
- Average Packaging Level with Other Issues
- Highly Related to Religious Governance?