

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS**  
**MAY 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY**  
**FINAL TOPLINE**  
**May 1-5, 2013**  
**N=1,504**

**QUESTIONS 1-5, 9, 14, 17c PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**  
**QUESTION 17a HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE**  
**NO QUESTIONS 6-8, 10-13, 15-16**

**ASK ALL:**

Q.17 Here are some pairs of statements. Please tell me whether the **FIRST** statement or the **SECOND** statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is...  
**[READ AND RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]**

	<u>Homosexuality should be accepted by society</u>	<u>Homosexuality should be discouraged by society</u>	<b>(VOL.)</b> Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
b.			
May 1-5, 2013	60	31	8
Mar 13-17, 2013	57	36	7
Jan 4-8, 2012	56	32	12
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	58	33	8
October, 2006 <sup>1</sup>	51	38	11
December, 2004	49	44	7
June, 2003	47	45	8
September, 2000	50	41	9
August, 1999	49	44	7
October, 1997	46	48	6
June, 1997	45	50	5
October, 1996	44	49	7
April, 1996	44	49	7
October, 1995	45	50	5
April, 1995	47	48	5
October, 1994	46	48	6
July, 1994	46	49	5

**QUESTIONS 17c, 18-20, 25-27, 29-30 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**  
**NO QUESTIONS 21-24, 28, 31-35**

<sup>1</sup> In 2006 and before, both answer choices began "Homosexuality is a way of life that should be..."

**ASK ALL:**

Next,

Q.36 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose [INSERT ITEM; ASK ITEMS IN ORDER].  
And how about [NEXT ITEM]?

- a. Allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Total	<i>Strongly</i> <i>favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	Total	<i>Strongly</i> <i>oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	
May 1-5, 2013	51	21	30	42	19	22	8
Mar 13-17, 2013 <sup>2</sup>	49	22	27	44	22	21	8
Oct 24-28, 2012	49	22	27	40	19	21	11
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	48	23	25	44	24	20	8
Jun 7-17, 2012	48	23	25	44	23	21	9
Apr 4-15, 2012	46	22	25	43	22	21	11
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	--	--	44	--	--	9
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	45	20	25	46	25	21	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	16	27	47	26	22	10
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	41	17	24	48	24	24	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	39	14	25	53	31	22	8
April 14-21, 2009	35	14	21	54	31	23	11
August, 2008	39	13	26	52	30	22	9
June, 2008	40	15	25	52	31	21	8
Late May, 2008	38	15	23	49	29	20	13
November, 2007	36	12	24	54	29	25	10
August, 2007	36	13	23	55	31	24	9
Early January, 2007	37	13	24	55	33	22	8
July, 2006	35	12	23	56	31	25	9
June, 2006	33	13	20	55	32	23	12
March, 2006	39	10	29	51	28	23	10
July, 2005	36	13	23	53	31	22	11
December, 2004	32	14	18	61	38	23	7
August, 2004	29	8	21	60	35	25	11
July, 2004	32	10	22	56	33	23	12
Mid-March, 2004	32	10	22	59	35	24	9
Early February, 2004	30	9	21	63	42	21	7
November, 2003	30	10	20	62	41	21	8
October, 2003	30	9	21	58	33	25	12
Mid-July, 2003	38	10	28	53	30	23	9
March, 2001	35	8	27	57	34	23	8
June, 1996	27	6	21	65	41	24	8

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:**

- b.F1 Allowing gays and lesbians to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples?

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Total	<i>Strongly</i> <i>favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	Total	<i>Strongly</i> <i>oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	
May 1-5, 2013	67	30	36	28	13	15	5
August 11-17, 2009 <sup>3</sup>	57	22	35	37	21	17	6
April 14-21, 2009	53	20	33	39	21	18	8
August, 2008	54	18	36	40	21	19	6
Late May, 2008	51	21	30	41	25	16	8
July, 2006	54	19	35	42	24	18	4

<sup>2</sup> In March 2013, October 2012, June 2012, April 2012, March 2011, September 2010, April 2009, May and June 2008, November 2007, June and July 2006, mid-March through August 2004, and October 2003, the question was not part of a list of items. In June and April 2012, August and April 2009, and June and May 2008, the question read "allowing gay and lesbian couples"; all other instances read "allowing gays and lesbians."

<sup>3</sup> In August 2009 and earlier, the question read "allowing gay and lesbian couples" rather than "allowing gays and lesbians." For all surveys prior to August 2009 (with the exception of August 2008) question was not part of a list.

**Q.36 CONTINUED...**

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			<b>(VOL.)</b> DK/Ref
	Strongly			Strongly			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
July, 2005	53	22	31	40	24	16	7
August, 2004	48	15	33	45	24	21	7
July, 2004	49	18	31	43	25	18	8
Mid-March, 2004	49	16	33	44	26	18	7
October, 2003	46	14	32	47	27	20	8

**ASK IF FAVOR LEGAL AGREEMENTS AND OPPOSE SAME-SEX MARRIAGE (Q36a=3,4 AND Q36bF1=1,2) [N=123]:**

Q.37F1 Why do you oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally? **[OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES.] [IF RESPONDENT IS UNCLEAR/IF NECESSARY: "You said you favor allowing legal agreements for gay and lesbian couples but that you oppose gay marriage, why is that?"]?**

May 1-5  
2013

- 41 Morally wrong/Against religious beliefs/A sin/God says (or) Bible says  
Definition of marriage is only for a man and a woman/God created man and woman/
- 37 Man and woman needed to procreate
- 10 The term "marriage"/Marriage is part of religion
- 4 It's just wrong/I don't agree with it
- 10 Other
- 8 Don't know/Refused

Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.38 Regardless of your opinion about same-sex marriage, do you think legal recognition of it is inevitable, or not?

	<i>LA Times</i>	
	May 1-5 <u>2013</u>	March <u>2004</u>
72	Inevitable	59
21	Not inevitable	31
7	Don't know/Refused <b>(VOL.)</b>	10

**NO QUESTIONS 39, 43-45, 54-55  
QUESTIONS 40-42, 46-53 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**

**ASK ALL:**

Now thinking generally about homosexuality...

Q.56 Would you say your overall opinion of **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]** is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable or very unfavorable? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**?

		Very	Mostly	Mostly	Very	<b>(VOL.)</b> DK/Ref
		<u>favorable</u>	<u>favorable</u>	<u>unfavorable</u>	<u>unfavorable</u>	
a.	Gay men					
	May 1-5, 2013	18	36	15	17	13
	October, 2003	8	30	21	29	12
b.	Lesbian women					
	May 1-5, 2013	20	38	14	15	13
	October, 2003	9	30	22	26	13

**ASK ALL:**

Q.57 Thinking about people who are gay or lesbian. Which comes closer to your view. **[READ IN ORDER; IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF SAMPLE]**

May 1-5

2013

41 People are born gay or lesbian  
 8 Being gay or lesbian is a result of a person's upbringing [OR]  
 42 Being gay or lesbian is just the way that some people choose to live?  
 9 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**TREND FOR COMPARISON:**

*In your opinion, do you think that homosexuality is [READ IN ORDER]*

	Jul <u>2012</u>	Jul <u>2006</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>	L.A. Times <u>Sep 1983</u> <sup>4</sup>
Something that people are born with	41	36	30	16
Something that develops because of the way people are brought up	13	13	14	25
Or is it just the way that some people prefer to live?	35	38	42	37
Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	11	13	14	22

**ASK ALL:**

Q.58 And thinking about your own religious beliefs, do you personally feel that there is a conflict between your religious beliefs and homosexuality, or not? **[IF CONFLICT: How much conflict do you think there is, a lot or a little?]**

May 1-5

2013

35 Yes, a lot of conflict  
 12 Yes, a little conflict  
 48 No, no conflict  
 4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.59 Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian, or not?

**ASK IF KNOW ANYONE (Q59=1):**

Q.60 And about how many people who are gay or lesbian would you say you personally know **[READ OPTIONS IN ORDER; REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF SAMPLE]?**

May 1-5

2013

		NBC/WSJ <u>June 1993</u>
87	Yes	61
23	A lot	--
44	Some [OR]	--
19	Only one or two	--
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	--
12	No/None in Q.60 (VOL.)	37
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

<sup>4</sup> In Sep 1983 the *Los Angeles Times* question was worded: "In your opinion, what causes homosexuality? Is it ... "

**ASK ALL:**

Q.59 Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian, or not?

**IF KNOW SOMEONE (Q.59=1):**

Q.61 And thinking about your CLOSE family members and closest friends, are any of them gay or lesbian, or not?

May 1-5

2013

87	Yes
49	Yes, close family members or closest friends
37	No, no close family members or closest friends
2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
12	No
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

Q.59 Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian, or not?

**IF KNOW SOMEONE (Q.59=1):**

Q.62 And do you happen to personally know any gay or lesbian people who are raising children, or not?

May 1-5

2013

87	Yes
31	Yes, know people who are raising children
56	No, do not know people who are raising children
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
12	No
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=740]:**

Q.63F1 If you had a child who told you he or she was gay or lesbian, what do you think your reaction would be? Would you be upset or not? **[IF UPSET: would you be very upset or somewhat upset?]**

May 1-5

2013

		<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>Mar 2004</u>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>June 2000</u> <sup>5</sup>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>Dec 1985</u>
19	Very upset	33	36	64
21	Somewhat upset	27	37	25
55	Not upset	36	23	9
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4	4	3

**NO QUESTIONS 64-68****ASK ALL:**

Q.69 Would you say **[READ AND RANDOMIZE]**

May 1-5

2013

82	It doesn't bother you to be around homosexuals <b>[OR]</b>	Oct <u>2003</u> 76
14	It makes you uncomfortable to be around homosexuals	20
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

<sup>5</sup> In June 2000 and Dec 1985, the *Los Angeles Times* question was worded: "If you had a child who told you he or she was gay or a lesbian, what do you think your reaction would be? Would you be very upset, somewhat upset, not very upset or not upset at all?" "Not very upset" and "Not upset at all" are merged into "Not upset."

**ASK FORM 1a ONLY<sup>6</sup> [N=426]:**

Q.70F1a What entertainment or public figures, if any, first come to mind who are gay or lesbian? **[OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES]**

May 1-5

2013

32	Ellen DeGeneres
7	Jason Collins
6	Elton John
3	Rosie O'Donnell
3	Barney Frank
3	Anderson Cooper
3	Rock Hudson
2	Liberace
2	Ricky Martin
1	Neil Patrick Harris
12	Other (specific)
1	Other (general)
38	Don't know/Refused

*Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.*

**ASK IF FORM 2 AND DISCOURAGE HOMOSEXUALITY (FORM=2 AND Q.17b=2) [N=243]:**

Q.71F2 Earlier you said that homosexuality should be discouraged by society. What are the main reasons you think this? **[OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. PROBE ONCE FOR CLARITY IF RESPONSE IS SIMPLY "IT'S WRONG" OR "IT'S BAD" OR "I JUST DON'T AGREE WITH IT" OR SIMILARLY VAGUE ANSWERS]**

May 1-5

2013

52	Morally wrong/Against religious beliefs/A sin/The Bible says
13	Bad for children/the family
10	Man and woman/Life is about creating life
10	Not natural/Not normal/Choice, not born that way
10	It's just wrong/I just don't agree with it
6	Public displays/Feel like being shoved in face
1	Hard life/They are targeted
9	Other
5	Not sure/Don't know

*Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.*

**ASK ALL:**

Q.72 Do you think it is a sin, or not, to engage in homosexual behavior?

May 1-5

2013

		Oct <u>2003</u>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>Aug 1987</u>
45	Is a sin	55	69
45	Is not a sin	33	21
10	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	12	10

**NO QUESTIONS 73-74**

<sup>6</sup> Also asked of Form 1b on Wednesday, May 1, and some interviews on Thursday, May 2. These responses are included here.

**ASK ALL:**

Q.75 How important is religion in your life – very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important?

May 1-5

2013

59 Very important  
 22 Somewhat important  
 11 Not too important  
 8 Not at all important  
 1 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

**ASK ALL:**

PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

**ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):**

PARTYLN As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
May 1-5, 2013	25	32	37	2	1	3	14	16
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb.13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
<b>Yearly Totals</b>								
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5

## PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

## ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=600]:

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

May 1-5		Mar 13-17	Feb 13-18	Jan 9-13
<u>2013</u>		<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2013</u>
28	Agree	43	36	35
8	Disagree	7	9	10
61	No opinion either way	47	52	51
2	Haven't heard of (VOL.)	1	1	2
1	Refused (VOL.)	1	3	2