

**PEW RESEARCH CENTER
MAY 2015 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
MAY 12-18, 2015
N=2,002**

QUESTIONS 1-3, 10-18 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 4-9, 19-23****ASK ALL:**

Q.24 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]

a.	Homosexuality should be	Homosexuality should be	(VOL.)
	<u>accepted by society</u>	<u>discouraged by society</u>	Both/Neither/ DK/Ref
May 12-18, 2015	63	30	6
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	62	31	7
Mar 13-17, 2013	57	36	7
Jan 4-8, 2012	56	32	12
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	58	33	8
October, 2006 ¹	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 24b, 28-39 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTIONS 25-27****ASK ALL:**

On a different subject,

Q.40 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>		
		<u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>		<u>oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
May 12-18, 2015	57	28	28	39	21	18	5
Sep 2-9, 2014	49	24	25	41	20	22	10
Feb 12-26, 2014	54	24	30	39	19	20	7
May 1-5, 2013 ²	51	21	30	42	19	22	8

¹ In October, 2006 and earlier, both answer choices began: "Homosexuality is a way of life that should be..."

² In May 1-5, 2013, Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012, Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011, July 21-Aug 5, 2010, Aug 11-17, 2009, August 2008, August 2007, Early January 2007, Early November 2006, March 2006, July 2005, December 2004, Early February 2004, November 2003, Mid-July 2003, March 2001 and June 1996 the question was asked as part of a list of items. In Jun 7-17,

Q.40 CONTINUED...

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<i>Strongly</i>			<i>Strongly</i>			
	<u>Total</u>	<u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
Mar 13-17, 2013	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	47	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
Mid-April, 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
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	30	10	20	57	31	26	13
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 ALL:Q.41 How important is the issue of same-sex marriage to you **[READ]**?

May 12-18

2015

30	Very important
24	Somewhat important
20	Not too important
25	Not at all important
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=992]:

Q.42F1 Regardless of your opinion about same-sex marriage, do you think legal recognition of it is inevitable, or not?

May 12-18		May 1-5	LA Times March
<u>2015</u>		<u>2013</u>	<u>2004</u>
72	Inevitable	72	59
24	Not inevitable	21	31
5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	7	10

2012, Apr 4-15, 2012, August 2009, April 2009, May 2008 and June 2008, the question read "allowing gay and lesbian couples;" all other instances read "allowing gays and lesbians."

NO QUESTION 43**QUESTIONS 44-46 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****ASK ALL:**

Q.47 Now thinking about people who are gay or lesbian, which comes closer to your view? **[READ IN ORDER; IN REVERSE ORDER FOR HALF SAMPLE]**

May 12-18 <u>2015</u>		May 1-5 <u>2013</u>
47	People are born gay or lesbian	41
7	Being gay or lesbian is a result of a person's upbringing [OR]	8
40	Being gay or lesbian is just the way that some people choose to live	42
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	9

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>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>Sep 1983</u> ³
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.48 Do you think a gay or lesbian person's sexual orientation can be changed or cannot be changed?

May 12-18 <u>2015</u>		Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>	July <u>2006</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>
33	Can be changed	36	39	42
60	Cannot be changed	51	49	42
7	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	13	12	16

ASK ALL:

Q.49 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 12-18 <u>2015</u>		May 1-5 <u>2013</u>
33	Yes, a lot of conflict	35
10	Yes, a little conflict	12
54	No, no conflict	48
3	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	4

³ In Sep 1983 the *Los Angeles Times* question was worded: "In your opinion, what causes homosexuality? Is it ... "

ASK ALL:

Q.50 Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian, or not?

ASK IF KNOW ANYONE (Q50=1) [N=1,779]:

Q.51 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 12-18 <u>2015</u>		May 1-5 <u>2013</u>	<i>NBC/WSJ</i> <u>June 1993</u>
88	Yes	87	61
28	A lot	23	--
43	Some [OR]	44	--
17	Only one or two	19	--
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	--
12	No/None in Q.50	12	37
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1	1

ASK ALL:

Q.50 Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian, or not?

IF KNOW SOMEONE (Q.50=1) [N=1,779]:

Q.52 And thinking about your CLOSE family members and closest friends, are any of them gay or lesbian, or not?

May 12-18 <u>2015</u>		May 1-5 <u>2013</u>
88	Yes	87
52	Yes, close family members or closest friends	49
34	No, no close family members or closest friends	37
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	2
12	No/None in Q.50	12
*	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

ASK ALL:

Q.53 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 12-18 <u>2015</u>		May 1-5 <u>2013</u>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>Mar 2004</u>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>June 2000⁴</u>	<i>L.A. Times</i> <u>Dec 1985</u>
17	Very upset	19	33	36	64
22	Somewhat upset	21	27	37	25
57	Not upset	55	36	23	9
4	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	5	4	4	3

NO QUESTIONS 54-60, 65-69**QUESTIONS 61F2-64F2 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****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?

	Republican	Democrat	Independent	(VOL.) No preference	(VOL.) Other party	(VOL.) DK/Ref	Lean Rep	Lean Dem
May 12-18, 2015	24	32	38	3	1	2	15	18
Mar 25-29, 2015	25	30	39	4	*	2	15	17
Feb 18-22, 2015	24	31	38	4	1	1	18	17
Jan 7-11, 2015	21	30	44	3	1	1	19	18

⁴ 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."

PARTY/PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Dec 3-7, 2014	24	31	39	3	1	2	17	17
Nov 6-9, 2014	27	32	36	2	*	1	15	16
Oct 15-20, 2014	24	33	38	4	*	1	13	17
Sep 2-9, 2014	24	33	38	3	1	2	15	15
Aug 20-24, 2014	24	31	37	4	1	4	15	16
Jul 8-14, 2014	25	34	37	2	1	1	16	15
Apr 23-27, 2014	24	30	41	2	1	2	18	17
Yearly Totals								
2014	23.2	31.5	39.5	3.1	.7	2.0	16.2	16.5
2013	23.9	32.1	38.3	2.9	.5	2.2	16.0	16.0
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
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):

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

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=835]:

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/DK
May 12-18, 2015	34	13	51	1	*	--
Mar 25-29, 2015	35	11	52	1	1	--
Feb 18-22, 2015	36	9	54	*	*	--
Jan 7-11, 2015	34	9	54	1	2	--
Dec 3-7, 2014	34	9	55	2	1	--
Nov 6-9, 2014	31	10	57	1	1	--
Oct 15-20, 2014	32	8	56	2	2	--
Sep 2-9, 2014	38	10	50	1	1	--
Aug 20-24, 2014	34	10	53	*	2	--
Jul 8-14, 2014	35	12	50	2	1	--

TEAPARTY3 CONTINUED...

	Agree	Disagree	No opinion either way	(VOL.) Haven't heard of	(VOL.) Refused	Not heard of/ DK
Apr 23-27, 2014	33	11	54	1	1	--
Jan 23-Mar 16, 2014	37	11	50	1	1	--
Feb 14-23, 2014	36	9	54	1	1	--
Jan 15-19, 2014	35	12	52	1	*	--
Dec 3-8, 2013	32	9	57	1	1	--
Oct 30-Nov 6, 2013	40	9	48	2	1	--
Oct 9-13, 2013	41	11	45	2	1	--
Sep 4-8, 2013	35	9	54	1	1	--
Jul 17-21, 2013	37	10	50	2	1	--
Jun 12-16, 2013	44	9	46	1	2	--
May 23-26, 2013	41	7	48	1	3	--
May 1-5, 2013	28	8	61	2	1	--
Mar 13-17, 2013	43	7	47	1	1	--
Feb 13-18, 2013	36	9	52	1	3	--
Feb 14-17, 2013	43	9	45	1	2	--
Jan 9-13, 2013	35	10	51	2	2	--
Dec 5-9, 2012	37	11	51	1	*	--
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012 (RVs)	40	8	49	1	2	--
Oct 4-7, 2012	38	9	50	1	3	--
Sep 12-16, 2013	39	7	52	1	1	--
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	40	9	47	2	1	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	36	9	53	1	2	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	42	8	48	1	1	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	38	10	49	2	1	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	40	7	51	1	1	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	42	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	37	8	52	1	1	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	40	9	48	2	1	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	41	9	49	*	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	37	11	51	1	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	43	7	49	*	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	40	7	51	*	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	42	9	47	1	1	--
May 25-30, 2011	37	7	52	1	3	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	45	9	46	*	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	37	7	54	1	*	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	41	9	48	1	1	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ⁵	43	8	47	1	1	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	45	6	47	1	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	48	5	45	1	1	--
Nov 4-7, 2010	51	5	42	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	58	5	27	--	1	9
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	54	5	30	--	1	10
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	56	6	29	--	*	9
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	46	5	36	--	1	13
Jun 16-20, 2010	46	5	30	--	*	19
May 20-23, 2010	53	4	25	--	1	16
Mar 11-21, 2010	48	4	26	--	1	21

QUESTION 70a PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

⁵ In the February 2-7, 2011, survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1):

Q.70 Thinking about how the Republican Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on **[ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on **[ITEM]**? And, how about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Republican Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]**

BASED ON REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS [N=835]:

	<u>Good job</u>	<u>Not doing a good job</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
b. Same-sex marriage			
May 12-18, 2015	29	57	13
Sep 2-9, 2014	34	53	13

QUESTIONS 70c, 72a PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTION 71****ASK DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS (PARTY=2 OR PARTYLN=2):**

Q.72 Thinking about how the Democratic Party is handling some issues today... Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on **[ITEM; RANDOMIZE]**? How about **[NEXT ITEM]**? Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on **[ITEM]**? And, how about **[NEXT ITEM]**? **[IF NECESSARY: Do you think the Democratic Party is doing a good job, OR is it NOT doing a good job representing your views on this issue?]**

BASED ON DEMOCRATS AND DEMOCRATIC LEANERS [N=975]:

	<u>Good job</u>	<u>Not doing a good job</u>	(VOL.) <u>DK/Ref</u>
b. Same-sex marriage			
May 12-18, 2015	62	30	8
Sep 2-9, 2014	62	28	10

QUESTION 72c PREVIOUSLY RELEASED**NO QUESTION 73**