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Growing Support for Gay Marriage: Changed Minds and Changing Demographics

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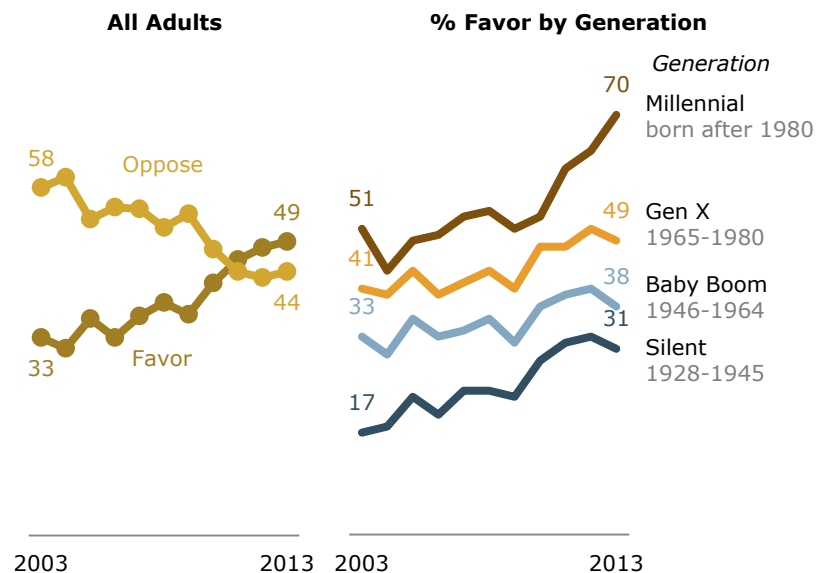
Growing Support for Gay Marriage: Changed Minds and Changing Demographics

The rise in support for same-sex marriage over the past decade is among the largest changes in opinion on any policy issue over this time period. A new national survey finds that much of the shift is attributable to the arrival of a large cohort of young adults – the Millennial generation – who are far more open to gay rights than previous generations. Equally important, however, is that 14% of all Americans – and 28% of gay marriage supporters – say they have changed their minds on this issue in favor of gay marriage.

The long-term shift in the public's views about same-sex marriage is unambiguous. Polling conducted in 2003 found most Americans (58%) opposed to allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, and just a third (33%) in favor. The new survey by the Pew Research Center, conducted March 13-17, 2013 among 1,501 adults nationwide, confirms that these figures have crossed, with 49% supporting same-sex marriage, and 44% opposed.

Growing Support for Same-Sex Marriage

Allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.
2003-2012 figures based on all surveys conducted in each year.

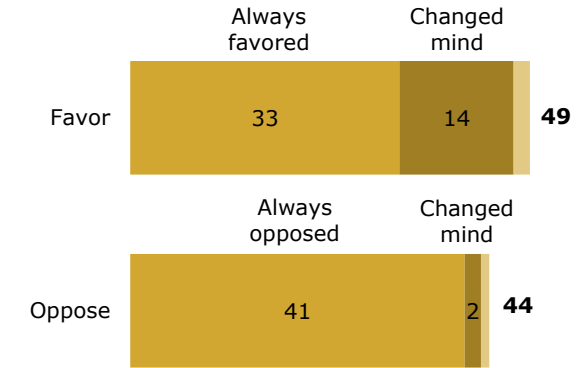
The new survey finds 70% of “Millennials” – born since 1980 and age 18-32 today – in favor of same-sex marriage. That is far higher than the support among older generations. But two other factors also make the views of this group significant. Millennial support for same-sex marriage has grown substantially over the past decade, from 51% in 2003 to 70% today. And Millennials make up a larger share of the adult population today. In 2003, Millennials made up just 9% of the adult population. Today, 27% of adults are in the Millennial generation.

Support for same-sex marriage also has increased among older generations over the past decade. For example, in 2003, just 17% of those in the Silent generation – born between 1928 and 1945 – favored same-sex marriage; today 31% do.

To better understand this change, the new survey asked supporters of same-sex marriage if they have always held this view or if they have changed their mind on this issue. More than a quarter of same-sex marriage proponents (28%) say their views have changed. This represents 14% of the American public overall. By comparison, virtually everyone who opposes same-sex marriage – 41% out of 44% – say they have always been against it.

When those who say they have shifted to supporting same-sex marriage are asked why their views changed, people offer a range of answers. Roughly a third (32%) say it is because they know someone – a friend, family member or other acquaintance – who is homosexual. A quarter (25%) say that their personal views have changed as they have thought about the issue or simply because they have grown older.

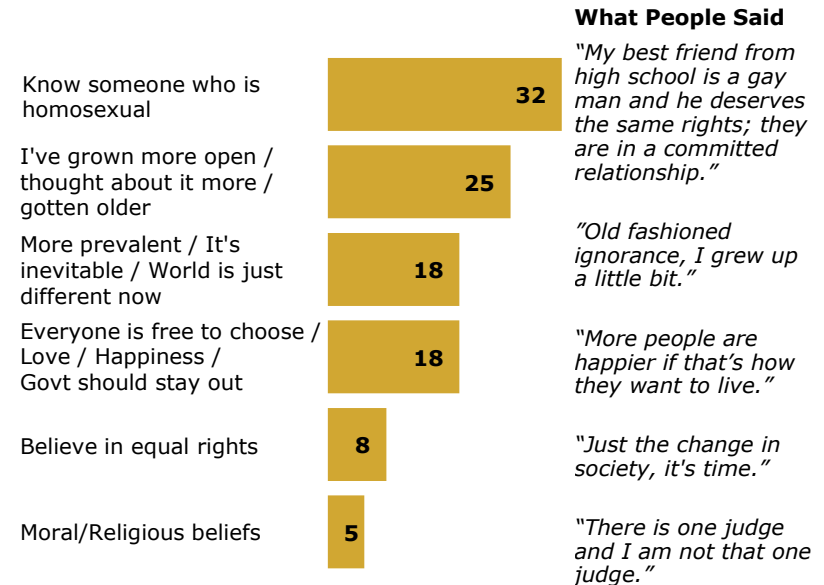
One-in-Seven Have Changed Their Minds in Support of Gay Marriage



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Q62-Q63.

Why People Have Changed Their Minds

Asked of supporters who have changed their minds
"What made you change your mind about same-sex marriage?"



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Q62a. Open-ended responses.

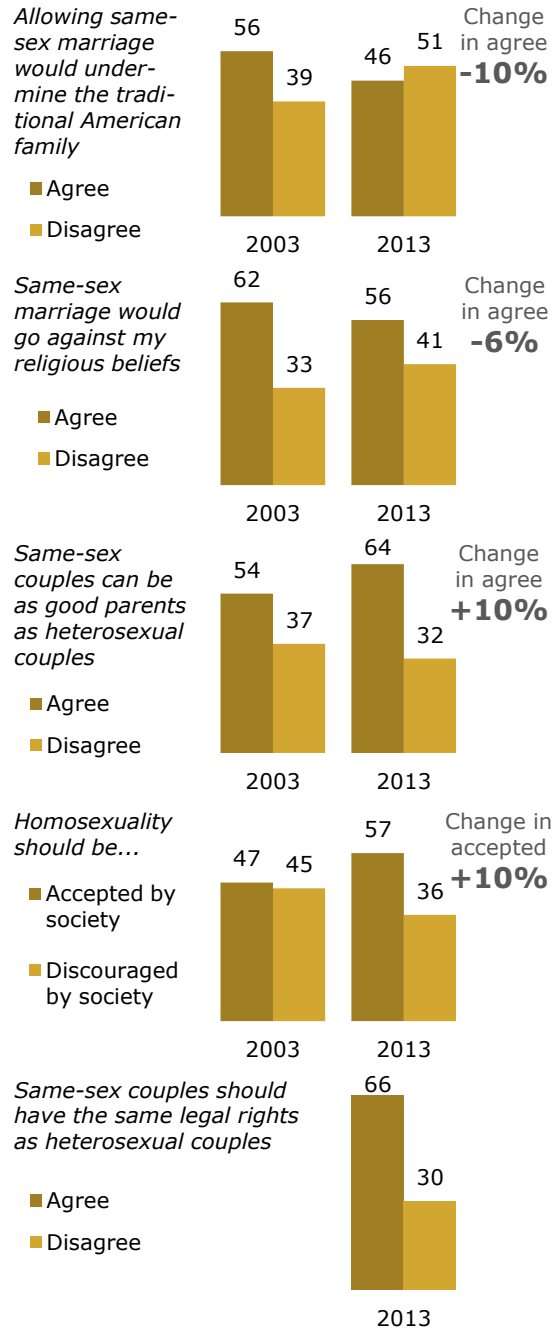
About one-in-five (18%) say they changed their minds to support gay marriage because the world has changed and that this kind of shift is inevitable. The same percentage (18%) say they changed their minds because they think people should be free to choose what makes them happy and that they no longer think the government should be involved in people's personal lives in this way.

Opinions about homosexuality and the possible impact same-sex marriage also have shifted substantially over the past decade. In 2003, as the debate over same-sex marriage intensified and Massachusetts became the first state to allow same-sex marriage, a 56% majority of Americans felt that allowing gays and lesbians to marry would undermine the traditional American family, while 39% disagreed. Today, 46% say same-sex marriage would undermine the traditional family while slightly more (51%) disagree.

Other trends have shown similar movement since 2003: The percentage saying same-sex couples can be as good parents as heterosexual couples has risen 10 points (to 64%) and there has been a comparable increase in the percentage saying that in general homosexuality should be accepted, rather than discouraged, by society.

Nonetheless, a majority of Americans (56%) continues to say that same-sex-marriage would go against their religious beliefs, though this percentage has declined by six points over the past decade.

Shifting Attitudes about Homosexuality and Gay Marriage



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Q65, Q15c.

Two-thirds of Americans (66%) agree that same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples; just 30% disagree. Even among those who oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, a third (33%) say that same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as other couples.

More Say Homosexuality Should Be Accepted

The growing acceptance of same-sex marriage is occurring as broader attitudes about homosexuality are changing. Ten years ago, the public was evenly divided about whether homosexuality should be accepted (47%) or discouraged (45%) by society. Today, 57% say it should be accepted; 36% say it should be discouraged.

The partisan and demographic differences in opinions about societal acceptance of homosexuality are mirrored in attitudes related to same-sex marriage, including whether it would conflict with people's religious beliefs and undermine the traditional family.

Younger generations, who were more accepting than older generations 10 years ago, have only grown more-

Growing Percentage Says Homosexuality Should Be Accepted by Society

<i>Homosexuality should be accepted or discouraged by society...</i>	June 2003		March 2013		Change in accepted
	Accepted %	Dis-couraged %	Accepted %	Dis-couraged %	
Total	47	45	57	36	+10
Men	42	51	53	41	+11
Women	52	39	61	31	+9
Generations					
Millennial (18-32)	66	30	74	22	+8
Gen X (33-48)	50	44	62	28	+12
Boomer (49-67)	48	45	46	47	-2
Silent (68-85)	38	51	42	49	+4
College grad+	55	40	66	28	+11
Some college	46	46	61	32	+15
HS or less	44	47	49	43	+5
Republican	37	59	38	54	+1
Conserv Rep	27	67	32	59	+5
Mod/Lib Rep	56	41	53	42	-3
Independent	52	39	65	31	+13
Democrat	56	35	66	28	+10
Cons/Mod Dem	47	45	58	34	+11
Liberal Dem	76	18	82	15	+6
Protestant	36	57	46	46	+10
White evang	22	71	30	61	+8
White mainline	49	43	68	28	+19
Catholic	62	32	61	32	-1
White Catholic	65	28	56	37	-9
Unaffiliated	--	--	83	13	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 13-17, 2013. Q15c. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Generation ages in parentheses are the current ages of those in each generation.

so, while there is little change among their elders. Generational differences about homosexuality largely mirror attitudes about same-sex marriage, with about three-quarters of Millennials (75%) and 62% of Gen Xers now saying homosexuality should be accepted. Those in older generations are more divided.

While about two-thirds of both Democrats (66%) and independents (65%) now say homosexuality should be accepted, reflecting significant shifts towards greater acceptance among these groups, Republican attitudes are largely unchanged from 2003 (38% of Republicans say homosexuality should be accepted, 54% say it should be discouraged).

Most See Same-Sex Marriage in Conflict with Religious Beliefs

While public acceptance of homosexuality has increased, a majority of Americans (56%) agree that “same-sex marriage would go against my religious beliefs.” While this is down six points overall from 10 years ago, it has shifted little—and remains the majority position—among most religious groups.

White evangelicals overwhelmingly agree with this statement (83%), as do smaller majorities of black Protestants (64%), and white Catholics (70%).

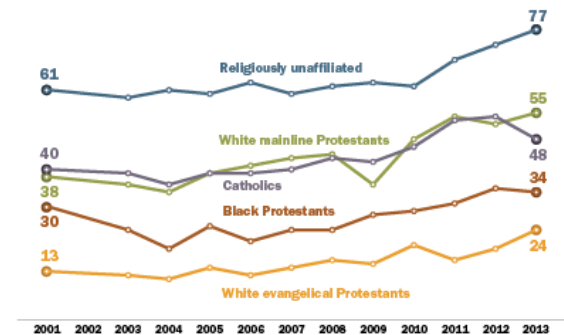
Notably, white mainline Protestants are the only religious group that has changed substantially on this question: In 2003 a 58% majority said gay marriage would go against their religious beliefs; just 44% say this today.

Majorities in Most Religious Groups Say Same-Sex Marriage Would Violate Religious Beliefs

	Oct 2003		March 2013		Change in agree
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	
<i>Same-sex marriage would go against my religious beliefs</i>	%	%	%	%	
Total	62	33	56	41	-6
Protestant	70	26	67	32	-3
White evangelical	84	14	83	16	-1
White mainline	58	38	44	54	-14
Black Protestant	66	27	64	36	-2
Catholic	65	31	62	35	-3
White Catholic	69	27	70	29	+1
Unaffiliated	18	76	24	73	+6

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Q65a. Oct 2003 asked about “gay marriage.”

Changing Attitudes on Same-Sex Marriage, by Religious Affiliation
Percent who favor same-sex marriage among ...



Source: Aggregated data from Pew Research Center polls conducted in each year. 2013 figures are based on one poll.
Pew Research Center • Updated March 2013

And the growth in support for same-sex marriage among mainline Protestants over this time is also substantial: Today 55% favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry, up from 36% 10 years ago. *(Click the graphic for interactive trends on support for same-sex marriage across religious groups.)*

Public Divided Over Impact of Same-Sex Marriage on the Family

Shifting attitudes about homosexuality are also evident in public opinion about same-sex marriage and the traditional American family. In 2003, a 56% majority of Americans agreed with the statement: “allowing gays and lesbians to legally marry would undermine the traditional American family;” today 46% say this.

Growing Partisan Differences on Whether Same-Sex Marriage Undermines Traditional Family

<i>Allowing same-sex marriage would undermine traditional family ...</i>	Oct 2003*		March 2013		Change in agree
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	
	%	%	%	%	
Total	56	39	46	51	-10
Republican	72	25	68	32	-4
Conservative Rep	81	17	78	22	-3
Mod/Lib Rep	58	38	46	54	-12
Independent	50	45	44	54	-6
Democrat	48	47	33	63	-15
Cons/Mod Dem	54	41	42	54	-12
Liberal Dem	32	66	16	82	-16

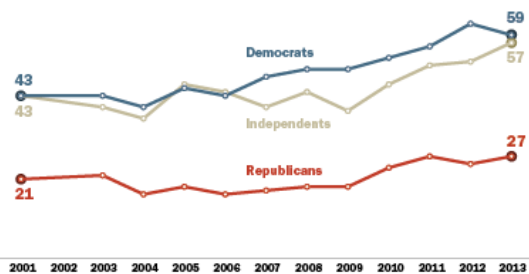
PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Q65b.Oct 2003 asked about “gay marriage.”

But partisan differences are substantial, and have grown in recent years. Just a third (33%) of Democrats now agree with the statement, while 63% disagree; in 2003 Democrats were evenly divided on this question. Republican opinions, in contrast, have remained more stable: 68% of Republicans say same-sex marriage would negatively impact the American family, little changed since 2003.

These partisan differences, both in current size and in trajectory, are similar to those seen in attitudes about same-sex marriage. Democratic and independent support for gay marriage has steadily increased over the last decade, while there has not been a commensurate shift in GOP opinion. *(Click the graphic for interactive partisan trends on support for same-sex marriage.)*

Changing Attitudes on Same-Sex Marriage, by Party Identification

Percent who favor same-sex marriage among ...



Source: Aggregated data from Pew Research Center polls conducted in each year. 2013 figures are based on one poll. Pew Research Center • Updated March 2013

Majority Has Positive View of Same-Sex Couples as Parents

Americans have also become more accepting of same-sex couples as parents: 64% now agree that “same-sex couples can be as good parents as heterosexual couples,” up from 54% in 2003. As with other attitudes about LGBT (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender) people, younger generations remain substantially more accepting—and have grown more so over time.

Gender gaps persist on this and other questions about homosexuality, including attitudes about same-sex marriage. While 71% of women say same-sex couples can be good parents, a smaller majority (57%) of men agree (*click the graphic for interactive trends on support for same-sex marriage by gender*). There are no substantial differences between parents and non-parents on this question.

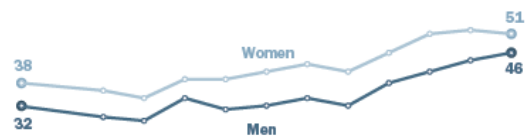
Continued Gender Differences in Opinions about Same-Sex Couples as Parents

<i>Same-sex couples can be as good parents as heterosexual couples...</i>	Oct 2003		March 2013		Change in agree
	Agree	Disagree	Agree	Disagree	
Total	54	38	64	32	+10
Men	47	45	57	39	+10
Women	60	31	71	25	+11
Generations					
Millennial (18-32)	70	30	78	18	+8
Gen X (33-48)	62	32	70	29	+8
Boomer (49-67)	53	38	54	42	+1
Silent (68-85)	43	48	53	41	+10
Parent	56	37	66	31	+10
Non-parent	53	38	63	32	+10

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Mar. 13-17, 2013. Q65c. Oct 2003 asked about “gay and lesbian couples.”

Changing Attitudes on Same-Sex Marriage, by Gender

Percent who favor same-sex marriage among ...



2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013

Source: Aggregate of data from Pew Research Center polls conducted in each year. 2013 figures are based on one poll. Pew Research Center • updated March 2013

Two-Thirds Favor Same Legal Rights for Same-Sex Couples

Two-thirds of Americans (66%) say they think same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples; just 30% disagree.

Although majorities across all educational groups say gay and lesbian couples should be entitled to the same rights, support for this position increases with education: 76% of college graduates agree with the statement, compared with 69% of those with some college experience and 58% of those who have not attended college.

Partisan differences also are sizable in views of whether same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples. Opinions among Democrats and independents are almost identical – 74% in both groups agree that same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as other couples. But Republicans are evenly divided – 49% say same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples, while 48% disagree.

Nearly all (96%) of those who favor same-sex marriage favor the same legal rights for same-sex couples as heterosexual couples. Among those who oppose same-sex marriage, a third (33%) favor gay couples having the same legal rights as heterosexual couples while 63% are opposed.

Republicans Divided over Legal Rights for Same-Sex Couples

<i>Same-sex couples should have same legal rights as heterosexual couples</i>	Agree	Disagree	Mixed/DK
	%	%	%
Total	66	30	3=100
College grad+	76	21	3=100
Some coll	69	28	2=100
HS or less	58	38	4=100
Republican	49	48	3=100
Democrat	74	23	3=100
Independent	74	24	2=100
Favor same-sex marriage	96	3	1=100
Oppose same-sex marriage	33	63	4=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Q65d. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. Oct 2003 asked about "gay and lesbian couples."

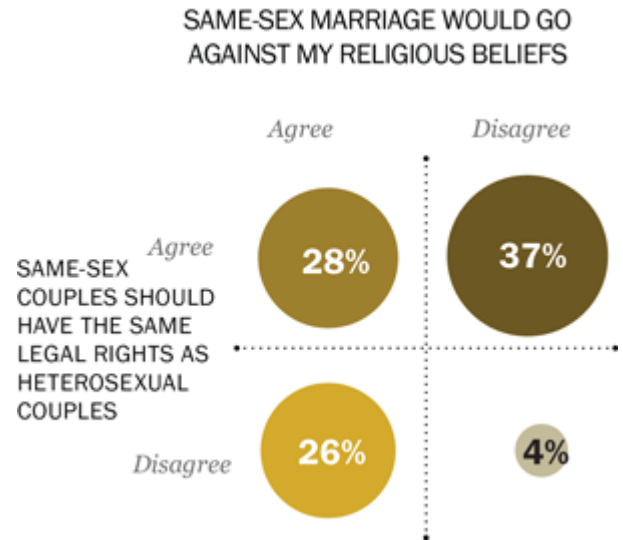
Many Are Cross-Pressured over Same-Sex Marriage

Most people (56%) say that same-sex marriage would conflict with their religious beliefs. Most (66%) also say that same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples. Just over a quarter (28%) of Americans agree with both of these statements: that same-sex marriage conflicts with their religious beliefs and that same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples.

This tension is particularly widespread among Catholics – 37% of Catholics say same-sex marriage goes against their religious beliefs while feeling that couples should have the same legal rights regardless of sexuality.

Among the 28% of the public who say that same-sex couples should have the same rights as others – but also say that same-sex marriage conflicts with their religious beliefs – opinion is divided over allowing same-sex marriage. While 46% favor legalizing same-sex marriage, 44% are opposed.

Gay Marriage, Religious Beliefs and Legal Rights for Gay Couples



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013. Q65a-d.

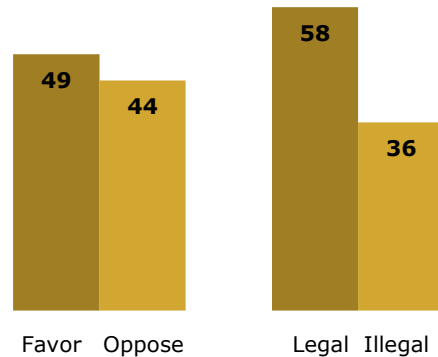
Question Wording and Support for Same-Sex Marriage

The rise in support for same-sex marriage has been confirmed by every major national survey organization tracking the issue. But the balance of opinion differs based on the wording of the question. The Pew Research Center question asks: “Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?” The March 13-17 survey finds 49% in favor and 44% opposed. A Washington Post/ABC News survey, conducted March 7-10, asks a different question: “Do you think it should be legal or illegal for gay and lesbian couples to get married?” This question has consistently elicited a higher level of support for same-sex marriage; the latest survey found 58% saying legal and 36% illegal.

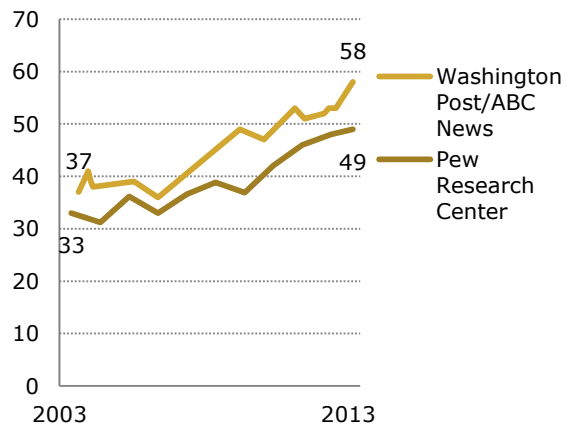
These two surveys show that more Americans *oppose* making same-sex marriage *legal* (44% in the Pew Research Center poll) than *favor* making it *illegal* (36% in the Washington Post/ABC News poll). Both organizations have tracked their questions since 2003, and the Washington Post/ABC News poll has consistently found higher support for same-sex marriage. However, the two polls tell the same story: significant growth in support for same-sex marriage over the last 10 years.

Question Wording Matters

<p>Pew Research Center Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?</p>	<p>Washington Post/ABC News Do you think it should be legal or illegal for gay and lesbian couples to get married?</p>
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Percent Saying Favor/Legal



PEW RESEARCH CENTER March 13-17, 2013.
Washington Post/ABC News survey conducted March 7-10.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted March 13-17, 2013, among a national sample of 1,501 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (750 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone and 751 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 385 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by Abt SRBI. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about the survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the 2011 Census Bureau's American Community Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2012 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size among respondents with a landline phone. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the unweighted sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

Group	Unweighted sample size	Plus or minus ...
Total sample	1,501	2.9 percentage points
Republican	420	5.6 percentage points
Democrat	487	5.2 percentage points
Independent	498	5.1 percentage points
Favor gay marriage	712	4.3 percentage points
Changed mind on issue	225	7.6 percentage points
Oppose gay marriage	684	4.4 percentage points

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request. In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press

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

	2003				2012-2013			12-13 N
	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	2003 N	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	
TOTAL	33	58	9	3247	48	43	9	10009
SEX								
Men	29	62	9	1565	44	46	10	4777
Women	36	55	9	1682	52	40	9	5232
AGE								
18-49	40	52	9	1808	56	36	7	4204
50+	22	68	10	1392	38	51	11	5631
DETAILED AGE								
18-29	50	42	7	585	66	29	5	1640
30-49	34	56	9	1223	50	41	9	2564
50-64	27	64	9	839	41	48	10	3053
65+	15	74	11	553	33	55	12	2578
SEX BY AGE								
Men 18-49	35	56	9	903	52	40	8	2183
Men 50+	19	73	9	649	35	54	11	2535
Women 18-49	45	47	8	905	61	32	7	2021
Women 50+	25	65	11	743	41	48	10	3096
RACE								
White, non-Hispanic	32	59	9	2536	49	43	8	7184
Black, non-Hispanic	27	63	10	288	40	48	12	1083
Hispanic	--	--	--	92	49	39	12	961
EDUCATION								
College grad+	44	48	8	1166	59	33	8	3884
Some college	34	57	9	790	50	41	9	2889
High school or less	26	64	10	1280	39	51	11	3178
FAMILY INCOME								
\$75,000+	39	54	7	726	56	37	7	2913
\$30,000-\$74,999	34	58	8	1216	48	45	8	3135
Less than \$30,000	31	59	10	869	45	45	10	2695
DETAILED INCOME								
\$100,000+	40	51	9	393	58	35	7	1776
\$75,000-\$99,000	38	57	5	333	54	38	8	1137
\$50,000-\$74,990	34	58	9	530	51	43	6	1361
\$30,000-\$49,999	34	59	7	686	45	46	9	1774
Less than \$30,000	31	59	10	869	45	45	10	2695
REGION								
Northeast	40	49	11	622	58	33	9	1802
Midwest	31	59	10	837	48	43	10	2329
South	25	67	8	1159	39	51	10	3763
West	40	51	8	629	53	38	9	2115

Data shown represent averages of multiple Pew Research Center surveys that asked about same-sex marriage. This includes three surveys from 2003 and five surveys from 2012-2013, including the most recent March 2013 survey. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic only; Hispanics are of any race. Hispanic figures are based only on surveys where bilingual interviews were used. Figures are not shown when too few interviews are available.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES (CONT.)

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press

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

	2003			2003 N	2012-2013			12-13 N
	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %		Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	
PARTY ID*								
Republican	22	71	7	545	25	67	8	2734
Democrat	43	48	9	527	61	31	8	3298
Independent	40	48	12	529	53	39	8	3475
IDEOLOGY								
Conservative	18	76	6	1303	26	65	8	3932
Moderate	36	54	10	1155	57	33	10	3521
Liberal	57	33	10	638	72	22	6	2126
PARTY AND IDEOLOGY*								
Conservative Republican	15	80	5	367	18	75	6	1968
Mod/Lib Republican	36	53	11	169	43	46	10	720
Mod/Cons Democrat	37	55	8	340	51	39	10	1922
Liberal Democrat	61	29	10	167	80	16	4	1279
PARTY AND AGE*								
<i>Republican</i>								
18-29	--	--	--	82	39	54	7	331
30-49	25	68	7	225	27	66	7	652
50-64	13	79	7	134	24	69	8	799
65+	--	--	--	95	16	76	9	907
<i>Democrat</i>								
18-29	--	--	--	94	80	18	3	521
30-49	46	44	10	186	63	30	7	775
50-64	35	57	8	154	56	34	10	1075
65+	--	--	--	86	47	40	12	891
<i>Independent</i>								
18-29	46	46	8	122	69	26	5	705
30-49	41	44	15	202	55	37	8	980
50-64	37	49	13	136	43	47	10	1041
65+	--	--	--	64	36	51	13	695
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE								
Total Protestants	23	69	8	1915	34	57	9	5222
White non-Hisp. evang.	12	83	5	752	19	75	5	2060
White non-Hisp. Mainline	36	52	12	773	52	36	11	1780
Black non-Hisp. Protestant	24	68	8	231	35	52	12	818
Total Catholic	39	51	11	698	53	38	9	2136
White non-Hisp. Cath.	36	54	10	536	53	40	8	1464
Hispanic Catholic	--	--	--	49	52	35	13	486
Jewish	--	--	--	50	76	18	6	210
Unaffiliated	59	31	10	359	74	18	8	1673

* Figures by party affiliation for 2003 are based on two surveys rather than three surveys as shown for other subgroups. The omitted survey asked party affiliation only of registered voters.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES (CONT.)

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press

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

	2003				2012-2013			
	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %	2003 N	<u>Favor</u> %	<u>Oppose</u> %	<u>DK/Ref</u> %	12-13 N
ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES								
Weekly or more	17	75	8	1339	28	64	8	3956
Less than weekly	43	47	10	1879	60	31	9	5957
RELIGION BY ATTENDANCE								
<i>White non-Hisp. evang. Prot.</i>								
Weekly or more	7	89	3	518	12	84	4	1353
Less than weekly	21	71	7	232	32	60	8	700
<i>White non-Hisp. mainline Prot.</i>								
Weekly or more	22	60	17	210	45	46	9	520
Less than weekly	41	50	10	560	55	33	12	1248
<i>Black non-Hisp. Protestant</i>								
Weekly or more	16	79	5	123	29	60	11	482
Less than weekly	32	56	12	108	42	43	15	330
<i>White non-Hisp. Catholic</i>								
Weekly or more	24	67	9	249	38	53	9	639
Less than weekly	46	43	11	286	62	31	7	817
RELIGION AND AGE								
<i>White non-Hisp. evang. Prot.</i>								
18-34	25	68	7	128	30	65	6	285
35-49	14	83	4	221	21	75	4	399
50-64	6	91	3	214	18	78	4	661
65+	5	88	6	178	11	81	8	686
<i>White non-Hisp. mainline Prot.</i>								
18-34	50	41	9	143	64	26	10	257
35-49	41	50	10	213	57	34	9	289
50-64	36	52	12	235	50	37	13	579
65+	17	68	16	173	42	47	11	621
<i>Catholic</i>								
18-34	58	33	9	183	72	22	6	380
35-49	38	48	13	236	55	36	9	478
50-64	26	60	14	166	46	43	10	679
65+	15	80	6	108	36	52	12	572
<i>Unaffiliated</i>								
18-34	67	23	10	147	81	13	6	644
35-49	58	36	7	102	72	20	9	357
50-64	--	--	--	81	63	27	10	415
65+	--	--	--	25	67	23	10	243

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES (CONT.)

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press

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

	2003			2003 N	2012-2013			12-13 N
	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %		Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	
AMONG WHITES								
Men	28	63	9	1224	44	47	9	3370
Women	36	55	9	1312	53	40	7	3814
18-49	41	51	9	1292	58	36	6	2620
18-29	52	40	8	357	67	28	5	921
30-49	36	55	9	935	53	40	7	1699
50+	22	69	9	1217	40	51	9	4454
50-64	28	62	9	717	44	48	8	2267
65+	14	76	10	500	34	56	10	2187
College grad+	44	48	9	973	60	34	7	3015
Some college or less	28	63	9	1556	44	48	8	4146
Male college grad+	39	53	8	488	53	39	8	1489
Female college grad+	48	43	9	485	66	29	5	1526
Male some college or less	23	68	9	732	40	51	9	1875
Female some college or less	31	60	9	824	47	46	8	2271
\$75,000+	39	54	7	609	56	37	7	2321
\$30,000-\$74,999	33	60	8	976	48	45	7	2339
Less than \$30,000	30	59	10	604	46	46	8	1630
Republican*	21	72	7	490	24	68	7	2454
Democrat	47	42	10	328	71	22	6	1938
Independent	41	46	12	404	55	37	8	2526
Northeast	41	47	11	498	60	32	8	1337
Midwest	31	60	10	733	49	43	8	1923
South	24	68	8	867	39	54	8	2522
West	38	55	7	438	55	38	7	1402
AMONG BLACKS								
Men	22	70	9	128	37	53	10	484
Women	31	59	11	160	42	44	13	599
18-49	29	63	7	204	44	47	9	548
18-29	--	--	--	89	53	41	6	233
30-49	33	60	7	115	38	51	11	315
50+	--	--	--	81	34	50	16	524
College grad+	--	--	--	51	52	38	10	311
Some college or less	--	--	--	30	37	50	13	769
AMONG HISPANICS								
Men	--	--	--	57	46	41	13	501
Women	--	--	--	35	54	36	11	460
18-49	--	--	--	69	58	33	9	622
18-29	--	--	--	30	70	24	6	306
30-49	--	--	--	39	48	40	12	316
50+	--	--	--	20	30	52	18	333
College grad+	--	--	--	13	60	31	9	208
Some college or less	--	--	--	7	48	40	12	750

* Figures by party affiliation for 2003 are based on two surveys rather than three surveys as shown for other subgroups. The omitted survey asked party affiliation only of registered voters.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
March 13-17, 2013
N=1,501

QUESTIONS 1, 5-7, 15A, 15B, 15e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 2-4, 8-14, 15d

ASK ALL:

Q.15 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]

c.	(VOL.)		
	<u>Homosexuality should be accepted by society</u>	<u>Homosexuality should be discouraged by society</u>	<u>Neither/DK/ Ref</u>
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

NO QUESTIONS 16-17, 19, 25, 30-34, 39-44, 49-55, 58-60

QUESTIONS 18, 20-24, 26-29, 35-38, 45-48, 56-57 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.61 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>	
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 ²	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

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

² In 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, 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."

Q.61 CONTINUED...

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
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 IF FAVOR (Q.61=1,2) [N=712]:

Q.62 Have you always favored same-sex marriage, or have you changed your mind on this issue?

	(PIAL)
Mar 13-17 <u>2013</u>	June 14-July 3 <u>2004</u> ³
68 Always favored	73
28 Have changed mind	26
4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

ASK IF POSITION HAS CHANGED TO FAVOR (Q.62=2) [N=225]:

Q.62a What made you change your mind about same-sex marriage? [OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL WITH "ANY OTHER REASON?"]?

Mar 13-17 <u>2013</u>	
32	Friends/family/acquaintances who are gay/lesbian
25	Become more tolerant/older/studied more/more aware
18	World has changed/more prevalent/inevitable/doesn't hurt
18	Freedom to choose/love and happiness
8	Equal rights
5	Morals/religious beliefs/only God can judge
2	Born that way
6	Other
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

³ In July 2004 survey the question read, "Have you always held this position, or has your opinion on this issue changed over time?" It was asked after a question that read, "Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?"

ASK IF OPPOSE (Q.61=3,4) [N=684]:

Q.63 Have you always opposed same-sex marriage, or have you changed your mind on this issue?

		(PIAL)
Mar 13-17		Jun 14-Jul 3
<u>2013</u>		<u>2004⁴</u>
95	Always opposed	95
4	Have changed mind	5
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*

ASK IF POSITION HAS CHANGED TO OPPOSE (Q.63=2) [N=28]:

Q.63a What made you change your mind about same-sex marriage? [OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL WITH "ANY OTHER REASON?"]?

Q.63a RESULTS NOT SHOWN BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF CASES FOR ANALYSIS.

NO QUESTION 64**ASK ALL:**

Q.65 Now I'm going to read you some statements, some of which you will probably agree with, others you will probably disagree with. The first is... [INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE], do you agree or disagree? Next, [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you agree or disagree that (ITEM)]?⁵

		Agree	Disagree	(VOL.) Mixed opinion	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	Same-sex marriage would go against my religious beliefs				
	Mar 13-17, 2013	56	41	1	2
	October, 2003 ⁶	62	33	1	4
	PSRA/Newsweek: May, 1996 ⁷	67	29	N/A	4
b.	Allowing gays and lesbians to legally marry would undermine the traditional American family				
	Mar 13-17, 2013	46	51	1	3
	October, 2003 ⁸	56	39	2	3
	Kaiser Family Foundation: September, 2000 ⁹	54	42	1	3
c.	Same-sex couples can be as good parents as heterosexual couples				
	Mar 13-17, 2013	64	32	1	3
	October, 2003 ¹⁰	54	37	3	6
	Kaiser Family Foundation: September, 2000	56	39	1	4
d.	Same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples				
	Mar 13-17, 2013	66	30	1	2

⁴ In July 2004 survey the question read, "Have you always held this position, or has your opinion on this issue changed over time?" It was asked after a question that read, "Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?"

⁵ In September, 2000 and October, 2003 polls respondent were given four response options: "completely agree," "somewhat agree," "somewhat disagree" and "completely disagree."

⁶ In October 2003 the question began "Gay marriage would..."

⁷ In May, 1996 survey the question was preceded by, ""Next, I'm going to read you some statements about the issue of gay marriages. For each statement please tell me if you agree or disagree..."

⁸ In October 2003 the question read "Allowing gay and lesbian couples ..."

⁹ In September, 2000 the question was preceded by, "Now I'm going to read you a series of statements that describe different views about gays, lesbians and human sexuality. Some statements will probably come very close to describing your own opinions, while others will not come close at all. As I read each statement, please tell me if you completely agree with it, somewhat agree, somewhat DISagree, or completely disagree with it."

¹⁰ In October 2003 the question began "Gay and lesbian couples can..."

NO QUESTIONS 66-69, 72, 74-76, 78-84, 93-97**QUESTIONS 70-71, 73, 98-102 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTIONS 77, 85-92 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****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
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
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Yearly Totals								
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) [N=623]:

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

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

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(PIAL) Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life project
