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Majority Continues to Favor Gays Serving Openly in Military

Support For Same-Sex Marriage Edges Upward

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Majority Continues to Favor Gays Serving Openly in Military Support for Same-Sex Marriage Edges Upward

Polls this year have found that more Americans favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally than did so just last year. In two polls conducted over the past few months, based on interviews with more than 6,000 adults, 42% favor same-sex marriage while 48% are opposed. In polls conducted in 2009, 37% favored allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally and 54% were opposed. For the first time in 15 years of Pew Research Center polling, fewer than half oppose same-sex marriage.

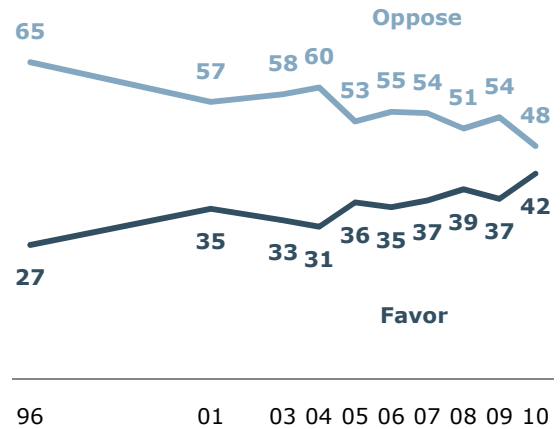
The shift in opinion on same-sex marriage has been broad-based, occurring across many demographic, political and religious groups.

Notably, pluralities of white mainline

Protestants and white Catholics now favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally – the first time this has occurred in Pew Research Center surveys. Political independents are divided in their views of same-sex-marriage; in 2009, they opposed it by a wide margin.

The surveys conducted by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life have found that same-sex marriage ranks at the bottom of the list of issues in this year's congressional elections. Not surprisingly, far more voters are saying the economy and jobs will be very important to their vote this year.

Same-Sex Marriage Gains More Acceptance



PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Data from 1996, 2001 and 2005 are from individual surveys. Data from 2003 to 2010 represent annual totals of polls conducted in each year.

The public continues to be far more supportive of gays and lesbians serving openly in the military than of allowing legal same-sex marriages. This year, 60% say they favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, while 30% oppose this. Support for gays serving openly in the military has remained fairly stable over the last five years. In 1994, shortly after the Clinton administration implemented the “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” policy, opinion was more evenly divided (52% favor vs. 45% oppose).

Continuing Support for Gays Serving Openly in the Military

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
August, 2010	60	30	10=100
February, 2010	61	27	12=100
March, 2009	59	32	9=100
March, 2006	60	32	8=100
July, 2005	58	32	10=100
July, 1994	52	45	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.

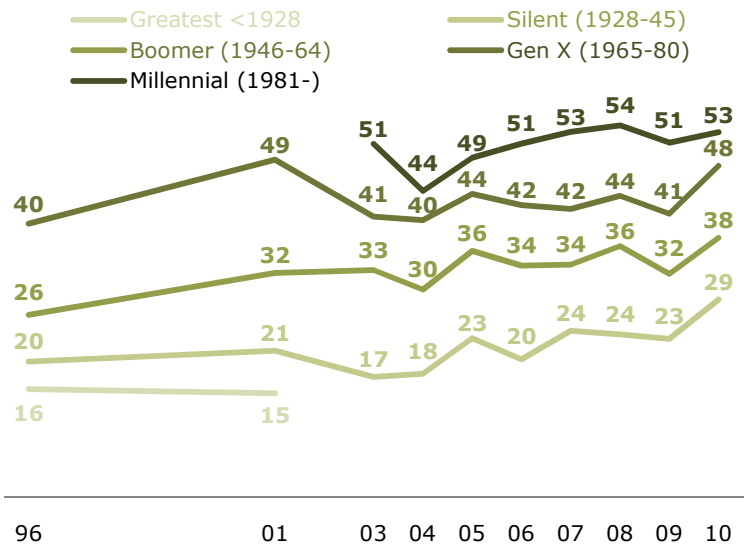
Persistent Generational Divide

There are substantial age and generational differences in opinions about same-sex marriage. Millennials, born after 1980, favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally by a 53% to 39% margin. Support for gay marriage among Millennials has changed little in recent years, but is up from 2004 when opinion was more divided.

Among Gen Xers (born 1965 to 1980), 48% now favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally while 43% are opposed. Support is up from 2009 when 41% favored this and 50% were opposed, but is on par with levels in 2001.

Views About Same-Sex Marriage by Generation

% who favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally



PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Data from 1996, 2001 and 2005 are from individual surveys. Data from 2003 to 2010 represent annual totals of polls conducted in each year.

There is less support for same-sex marriage among Baby Boomers – those born 1946 to 1964 – than among younger age groups. Currently, 38% favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally while 52% are opposed. Still, support among Baby Boomers has increased over the past year (from 32%).

The Silent Generation (born 1928 to 1945) continues to oppose same-sex marriage; just 29% favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally while 59% are opposed. Even among the Silent Generation, however, there is somewhat more support than in 2009 (23% favor) and substantially greater support than in 2003, when just 17% backed gay marriage.

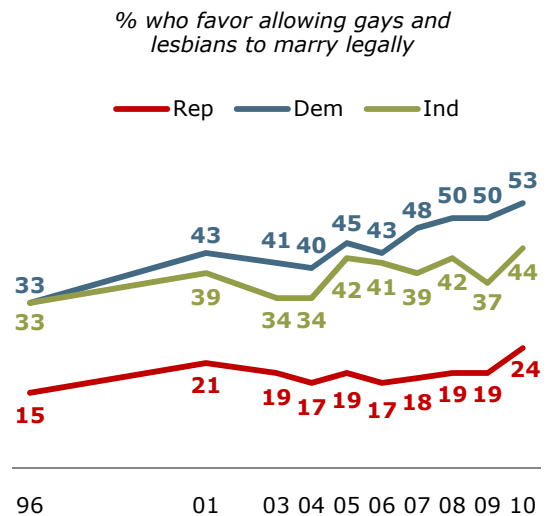
Partisan and Ideological Differences

There also are substantial partisan differences on the issue of same-sex marriage. A majority of Democrats (53%) favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally while 38% are opposed. By contrast, only 24% of Republicans support same-sex marriage and 69% are opposed.

Independents and other non-partisans are now divided in their view: 44% favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally while 43% are opposed. In 2009, more independents opposed same-sex marriage than favored it (37% favor, 51% oppose). Throughout the past decade, opinion among independents has tracked more closely with Democrats than Republicans on this issue.

Among Democrats and Republicans there is a substantial ideological divide. Liberal Democrats favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally by more than a three-to-one margin (75% favor, 20% oppose). And conservative Republicans oppose same-sex marriage by an equally wide margin (16% favor, 77% oppose). But moderate Republicans and Democrats are more divided in their views. While 41% of moderate and liberal Republicans support same-sex marriage, 51%

Independents More Supportive of Same-Sex Marriage



PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Data from 1996, 2001 and 2005 are from individual surveys. Data from 2003 to 2010 represent annual totals of polls conducted in each year.

are opposed. Similarly, 41% of conservative and moderate Democrats favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally and 48% are opposed.

Race and Gender Gaps

Whites are now evenly divided over gay marriage; in polls conducted this year, 44% of non-Hispanic whites favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally and 46% are opposed. In three surveys between August 2008 and August 2009, 39% of non-Hispanic whites favored same-sex marriage compared with 52% who were opposed.

By contrast, blacks continue to oppose same-sex marriage by a wide margin. In 2010, just 30% of non-Hispanic blacks favor gay marriage while 59% are opposed. From 2008 to 2009, 28% of blacks favored same-sex marriage and 62% were opposed (surveys were combined to increase sample size). Notably, the gender, age and education differences among the general public are mirrored among whites and blacks; however, there is far less support among all subgroups of blacks.

Whites Now Evenly Divided Over Gay Marriage

	2008-2009		2010		Change in Favor
	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	
	%	%	%	%	
Total	38	53	42	48	+4
Men	33	57	38	51	+5
Women	43	49	46	45	+3
White, non-Hispanic	39	52	44	46	+5
Black, non-Hispanic	28	62	30	59	+2
Hispanic	39	49	41	47	+2
18-29	52	39	53	39	+1
30-49	39	51	46	45	+7
50-64	34	57	38	52	+4
65+	23	67	28	59	+5
College grad+	50	42	52	39	+2
Some college	41	50	46	45	+5
HS or less	30	60	34	55	+4
Northeast	48	42	49	41	+1
Midwest	36	54	44	44	+8
South	30	60	35	55	+5
West	43	49	47	45	+4

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. 2008-2009 data combine three polls conducted in Aug. 2008, April 2009 and Aug. 2009 (N=6,422). Data from 2010 combine two polls conducted in Aug. and Sept. 2010 (N=6,512). **Bold** figures indicate statistically significant changes. See detailed tables for complete sample sizes for all subgroups.

Overall, women continue to be more supportive of same-sex marriage than are men. Opinion among women is evenly divided: 46% favor same-sex marriage and 45% are opposed. Roughly four-in-ten (38%) men support allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally while 51% are opposed.

A majority (52%) of college graduates favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. Support is much lower among those without a college degree – 46% with some college education and 34% with a high school education or less support same-sex marriage. But among these two education groups, more now favor same-sex marriage than did so over the past two years.

Americans living in the Midwest are now evenly split over same-sex marriage; 44% favor and 44% oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. Opinion has shifted substantially since 2008 and 2009 when only 36% in the Midwest favored this and 54% were opposed. Support also is up in the South but a majority (55%) continues to oppose allowing same-sex marriage. As was the case over the past two years, more in the Northeast favor than oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally (49% vs. 41%). Those living in the West are about evenly divided in their opinion (47% favor, 45% oppose).

For details on these comparisons and others, as well as data for 1996, see tables on pgs. 14-17.

White Catholics More Supportive

White mainline Protestants and white Catholics have become more supportive of gay marriage, though virtually all of the change in opinion among both groups has come among those who attend services relatively infrequently.

About half (49%) of white mainline Protestants support same-sex marriage while 38% oppose this. This is a reversal of opinion from the past two years when 40% favored and 49% opposed allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. Just 35% of white mainline Protestants who attend church at least once a week favor same-sex marriage, nearly the same percentage as in 2008-2009 (34%). Among those who attend services less often, support has increased by 11 points (from 42% to 53%).

There has been a similar shift among white Catholics – 49% now favor same-sex marriage while 41% are opposed.

Opinion was more evenly divided over the past two years (44% favor, 45% oppose). Here too, support has increased among those who attend services less than weekly, from 51% in 2008-2009 to 59% in 2010.

White evangelical Protestants overwhelmingly oppose gay marriage (20% favor vs. 74% oppose), and these opinions have changed little since 2008-2009. Similarly, black Protestants continue to oppose gay marriage by a wide margin (28% favor vs. 62% oppose).

By contrast, Jews and the unaffiliated have remained far more supportive of same-sex marriage. Their views also have changed little during this time. Three-quarters of Jews (76%) and 62% of the religiously unaffiliated say they favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally.

Religion and Views of Gay Marriage

	2008-2009		2010		Change in favor
	Favor %	Oppose %	Favor %	Oppose %	
All Protestants	27	64	31	59	+4
White Evangelical	17	77	20	74	+3
Men	13	81	17	77	+4
Women	20	74	22	71	+2
18-49	22	72	26	69	+4
50+	13	82	15	78	+2
Attend weekly	10	85	14	81	+4
Attend less	28	64	31	61	+3
White Mainline	40	49	49	38	+9
Men	30	59	39	45	+9
Women	48	41	57	33	+9
18-49	45	44	54	34	+9
50+	34	54	44	43	+10
Attend weekly	34	56	35	57	+1
Attend less	42	47	53	33	+11
Black Protestant	27	63	28	62	+1
Attend weekly	19	71	22	69	+3
Attend less	37	53	37	52	0
All Catholics	42	45	46	42	+4
White Catholic	44	45	49	41	+5
Men	36	50	45	45	+9
Women	51	40	52	37	+1
18-49	53	37	58	33	+5
50+	34	54	39	48	+5
Attend weekly	34	55	34	55	0
Attend less	51	38	59	31	+8
Hispanic Catholic	40	43	42	43	+2
Jewish	75	18	76	18	+1
All unaffiliated	63	30	62	28	-1
Men	56	35	56	32	0
Women	73	22	71	22	-2
18-49	66	28	66	25	0
50+	56	34	56	31	0
Atheist/Agnostic	82	14	80	16	-2
Nothing in particular	54	36	57	32	+3
Church attendance					
Weekly or more	23	69	24	68	+1
Monthly/yearly	44	45	49	40	+5
Seldom/never	52	38	59	29	+7

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. 2008-2009 data combine three polls conducted in Aug. 2008, April 2009 and Aug. 2009. 2010 data combine two polls conducted in Aug. and Sept. 2010. **Bold** figures indicate statistically significant changes. See detailed tables for complete sample sizes for all subgroups.

Same-Sex Marriage and the 2010 Vote

The economy and jobs overshadow other issues, including social issues such as abortion and gay marriage, in importance for voters. Fully 90% of registered voters say the economy will be very important to their vote while nearly as many (88%) rate jobs as very important.

By contrast, just 43% say abortion will be very important and just 32% say the same about same-sex marriage – the lowest percentage for 13 issues tested. Opponents of same-sex marriage (44% very important) are more likely than supporters (22%) to say that this issue will be very important to their vote.

White evangelical Protestant voters are far more likely than any other religious group to say that same-sex marriage is very important to their vote in this year's midterm election – 46% say this compared with less than a third in all other religious groups. For more on the importance of various issues in the 2010 elections and the impact of religion on various issues, see [Few Say Religion Shapes Immigration, Environment Views: Religion and the Issues](#).

Economy, Jobs Not Same-Sex Marriage

% saying each issue is "very important" to their vote

90	Economy
88	Jobs
78	Health care
71	Terrorism
69	Budget deficit
68	Taxes
65	Financial system
62	Energy
59	Afghanistan
58	Immigration
57	Environment
43	Abortion
32	Same-sex marriage

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010. Based on registered voters.

Gays in the Military

By a two-to-one margin (60% favor, 30% oppose), Americans favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. While views on this issue have changed little in recent years, there was less support for gays serving openly in 1994 (52% favor vs. 45% oppose).

Across most demographic groups, majorities favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military – and in most groups there is more support than in 1994. Nonetheless, as with views about same-sex marriage, there are differences of opinion across political and demographic groups. Democrats, women, whites, younger people and college graduates are more likely to support gays and lesbians serving openly in the military.

Opinion is more divided among key groups who also oppose same-sex marriage – 47% of Republicans favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military while 43% are opposed. By comparison, 67% of Democrats and 63% of independents favor this.

While 43% of white evangelical Protestants support allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military, 47% are opposed. Black Protestants are similarly divided (46% favor, 41% oppose). Support is greater among other religious groups – 68% of white mainline Protestants, 68% of Catholics and 66% of the religiously unaffiliated favor allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military. And far fewer people who attend religious services

Majority in Most Groups Supports Allowing Gays to Serve Openly

	1994		2010		2010 N
	Favor	Oppose	Favor	Oppose	
Total	52	45	60	30	3003
Men	44	54	55	35	1336
Women	59	37	65	25	1667
White	51	46	63	28	2211
Black	57	38	48	38	340
Hispanic	--	--	57	32	249
18-29	56	43	65	28	491
30-49	56	42	65	26	837
50-64	47	50	57	33	913
65+	41	50	51	34	705
College grad+	61	38	68	22	1110
Some college	58	40	63	27	780
HS grad or less	46	50	54	35	1096
Northeast	62	36	65	24	539
Midwest	53	43	62	28	732
South	42	55	54	35	1183
West	56	41	65	26	549
Republican	39	60	47	43	842
Conservative	30	69	39	50	585
Mod./Liberal	54	45	62	29	239
Democrat	60	36	67	24	992
Conserv./Mod.	57	39	57	31	582
Liberal	71	27	85	11	367
Independent	54	43	63	26	1169
Protestant	45	52	52	37	1609
White evang.	31	66	43	47	663
White mainline	55	42	68	21	534
Black prot.	55	39	46	41	270
Catholic	58	39	68	23	657
White	59	39	71	21	477
Hispanic	--	--	60	29	130
Unaffiliated	72	26	66	24	446
Attend weekly	40	56	49	40	1238
Monthly/yearly	57	41	66	25	975
Seldom/never	68	30	69	22	747

PEW RESEARCH CENTER July 21-August 5, 2010.

weekly or more support gays serving openly in the military compared with those who attend less often.

For more, see the following reports from the Pew Research Center:

[“Few Say Religion Shapes Immigration, Environment Views,”](#) Sept. 17, 2010, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

[“Americans Spending More Time Following the News,”](#) Sept. 12, 2010, Pew Research Center for the People & the Press. This report includes an analysis of where gay rights supporters and opponents regularly get news.

[“A Contentious Debate: Same-Sex Marriage in the U.S.,”](#) July 9, 2009, Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

[“Four-in-Ten Americans Have Close Friends or Relatives Who Are Gay,”](#) May 23, 2007 commentary by Pew Research Center for the People & the Press.

About the Surveys

Results for the 2010 surveys are based on telephone interviews conducted under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International among a national sample of adults living in the continental United States, 18 years of age or older. The first survey was conducted from July 21-August 5, 2010 among 3,003 adults (2,002 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,001 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 431 who had no landline telephone). The second survey was conducted from August 25-September 6, 2010 among 3,509 adults (2,351 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,158 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 508 who had no landline telephone). Both the landline and cell phone samples for each survey were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see <http://people-press.org/methodology/>.

The combined landline and cell phone sample for each survey are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race/ethnicity, region, and population density to parameters from the March 2009 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey. The sample is also 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 2009 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 within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting.

The following tables show the full same-sex marriage trend, including results and samples sizes for individual polls and the yearly totals. The margin of error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the 95% level of confidence is shown for the yearly totals. In addition, the second table shows the full gays in the military trend, including the results, sample sizes and margin of error for each individual poll. The margin of error for subgroups would be larger.

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 Trend and Sample Sizes

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

	NET Favor %	<i>Strongly Favor %</i>	<i>Favor %</i>	NET Oppose %	<i>Strongly Oppose %</i>	<i>Oppose %</i>	(VOL) DK/Ref %	N	Margin of error plus or minus...
2010	42	17	25	48	25	23	10	6512	1.5 percentage points
Aug 25-Sep 6	43	16	27	47	26	22	10	3509	
Jul 21-Aug 5 ¹	41	17	24	48	24	24	10	3003	
2009	37	14	23	54	31	23	9	3517	2.0 percentage points
Aug 11-17	39	14	25	53	31	22	8	2010	
Mid-April	35	14	21	54	31	23	11	1507	
2008	39	14	25	51	30	21	10	6414	1.5 percentage points
August	39	13	26	52	30	22	9	2905	
June	40	15	25	52	31	21	8	2004	
Late May	38	15	23	49	29	20	13	1505	
2007	37	13	24	54	31	23	9	6408	1.5 percentage points
November	36	12	24	54	29	25	10	1399	
August	36	13	23	55	31	24	9	3002	
Early January	37	13	24	55	33	22	8	2007	
2006	35	12	23	55	31	24	10	4214	2.0 percentage points
July	35	12	23	56	31	25	9	2003	
June	33	13	20	55	32	23	12	1501	
March	39	10	29	51	28	23	10	710	
2005	36	13	23	53	31	22	11	1502	3.0 percentage points
July	36	13	23	53	31	22	11	1502	
2004	31	11	21	60	36	23	9	8724	1.5 percentage points
December	32	14	18	61	38	23	7	2000	
August	29	8	21	60	35	25	11	1512	
July	32	10	22	56	33	23	12	2009	
Mid-March	32	10	22	59	35	24	9	1703	
Early February	30	9	21	63	42	21	7	1500	
2003	33	10	23	58	36	23	9	3247	2.0 percentage points
November	30	10	20	62	41	21	8	1509	
October	30	9	21	58	33	25	12	735	
Mid-July	38	10	28	53	30	23	9	1003	
2001	35	8	27	57	34	23	8	2041	3.0 percentage points
March	35	8	27	57	34	23	8	2041	
1996	27	6	21	65	41	24	8	1975	3.0 percentage points
June	27	6	21	65	41	24	8	1975	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Figures may not add to 100% and net favor or net oppose may not equal the sum of internal categories because of rounding.

¹ In July 21-Aug 5, 2010, Aug 11-17, 2009, Aug 2008, Aug 2007, Early Jan 2007, Early Nov 2006, March 2006, July 2005, Dec 2004, Early Feb 2004, Nov 2003, Mid-July 2003, March 2001 and June 1996 the question was asked as part of a list of items. In Aug 2009, May 2008 and June 2008, the question asked about "allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally." In Nov 2006, the question was asked only of registered voters so this survey is not shown here.

Gays and Lesbians in the Military Trend and Sample Sizes

Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military?

	NET	<i>Strongly</i>		NET	<i>Strongly</i>		(Vol.)		Margin of error
	Favor	<i>Favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	Oppose	<i>Oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	DK/Ref	N	plus or minus...
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	60	21	39	30	13	17	10	3003	2.5 percentage points
Feb 3-9, 2010 ²	61	18	43	27	10	17	12	1383	3.5 percentage points
Mar 9-12, 2009	59	19	40	32	13	19	9	1308	3.5 percentage points
March, 2006	60	20	40	32	13	19	8	695	4.5 percentage points
July, 2005	58	15	43	32	15	17	10	1000	4.0 percentage points
July, 1994	52	16	36	45	26	19	3	3800	2.0 percentage points

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Figures may not add to 100% and net favor or net oppose may not equal the sum of internal categories because of rounding.

² Question was asked as part of a list for all surveys, except February 3-9, 2010.

About the Projects

The report is a joint effort of the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life. Both organizations are sponsored by the Pew Charitable Trusts and are projects of the Pew Research Center, a nonpartisan "fact tank" that provides information on the issues, attitudes and trends shaping America and the world.

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press is an independent opinion research group that studies attitudes toward the press, politics and public policy issues. The Center's purpose is to serve as a forum for ideas on the media and public policy through public opinion research. In this role it serves as an important information resource for political leaders, journalists, scholars, and public interest organizations. All of the Center's current survey results are made available free of charge.

The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life seeks to promote a deeper understanding of issues at the intersection of religion and public affairs. It studies public opinion, demographics and other important aspects of religion and public life in the U.S. and around the world. It also provides a neutral venue for discussions of timely issues through roundtables and briefings.

This report is a collaborative product based on the input and analysis of the following individuals:

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SAME-SEX MARRIAGE TABLE

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

	JUNE 1996				AUG 2008-2009				AUG-SEPT 2010			
	(VOL.)			N	(VOL.)			N	(VOL.)			N
	Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref		Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref		Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref	
TOTAL	27	65	8	1975	38	53	9	6422	42	48	10	6512
SEX												
Men	23	69	8	941	33	57	10	3073	38	51	11	2948
Women	32	61	8	1034	43	49	9	3349	46	45	10	3564
AGE												
18-49	32	61	7	1327	44	47	9	2844	49	43	9	2860
50+	19	73	9	624	29	61	10	3464	34	54	12	3529
DETAILED AGE												
18-29	42	52	6	472	52	39	9	905	53	39	8	1019
30-49	27	66	8	855	39	51	9	1939	46	45	9	1841
50-64	22	69	9	345	34	57	9	1975	38	52	10	2027
65+	15	77	8	279	23	67	10	1489	28	59	13	1502
SEX BY AGE												
Men 18-49	26	66	8	676	38	52	10	1484	44	46	10	1405
Men 50+	15	77	7	258	25	65	10	1538	30	58	12	1503
Women 18-49	38	56	6	651	51	41	8	1360	54	39	8	1455
Women 50+	21	70	9	366	33	58	9	1926	37	52	11	2026
RACE												
White, non-Hisp	27	65	8	1566	39	52	9	4832	44	46	10	4733
Black, non-Hisp	26	66	8	166	28	62	10	616	30	59	11	707
Hispanic	32	64	4	145	39	49	12	541	41	47	12	581
WHITES												
Men	23	69	8	743	34	57	10	2308	41	49	10	2109
Women	32	61	8	823	44	48	8	2524	48	43	9	2624
18-49	32	61	7	997	46	46	9	1920	52	40	8	1837
50+	19	73	8	550	31	60	9	2850	36	53	11	2826
College grad+	36	57	7	503	52	40	8	1947	54	38	8	1856
Some college or less	25	67	8	1063	34	57	9	2872	40	50	10	2854
\$75,000+	34	60	6	225	44	48	7	1536	54	38	8	1375
\$30,000-\$74,999	27	65	8	670	38	53	9	1606	43	48	9	1568
<\$30,000	27	66	7	511	37	55	9	991	39	50	11	1047
Republican	14	80	5	536	19	74	6	1567	24	68	7	1580
Democrat	34	57	10	454	59	35	6	1334	64	28	8	1274
Independent	33	58	8	576	40	47	12	1931	47	40	11	1879
Northeast	34	58	8	302	53	38	10	932	55	35	10	879
Midwest	25	66	9	453	36	55	9	1323	45	44	11	1325
South	22	71	7	541	31	60	9	1719	36	55	9	1684
West	32	60	8	270	43	49	8	858	50	43	8	845
BLACKS												
Men	--	--	--	66	21	68	11	262	25	63	12	324
Women	--	--	--	100	34	58	8	354	36	55	10	383
18-49	--	--	--	131	34	56	9	326	37	53	10	379
50+	--	--	--	35	18	72	10	286	20	67	12	312
College grad+	--	--	--	49	36	56	8	144	44	46	10	190
Some college or less	--	--	--	116	27	63	10	471	27	62	11	515
Republican	--	--	--	10	--	--	--	22	--	--	--	26
Democrat	--	--	--	102	30	62	9	435	30	60	10	476
Independent	--	--	--	54	29	60	11	159	33	54	13	205

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE TABLE (CONT.)

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

	JUNE 1996				AUG 2008-2009				AUG-SEPT 2010			
	(VOL.) 1996				(VOL.) 2008-9				(VOL.) 2010			
	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	N	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	N	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	N
EDUCATION												
College grad+	35	57	8	626	50	42	8	2391	52	39	9	2377
Some college	33	60	7	485	41	50	10	1620	46	45	9	1637
HS or less	22	70	8	859	30	60	10	2359	34	55	11	2454
INCOME												
\$75,000+	33	59	7	265	45	47	8	1859	52	39	8	1711
\$30,000-\$74,999	27	66	7	803	38	53	8	2077	42	49	9	2097
<\$30,000	28	65	7	699	34	56	10	1524	37	51	12	1653
DETAILED INCOME												
\$100,000+	36	56	8	128	46	46	8	1096	53	39	8	996
\$75,000-\$99,999	31	63	6	137	44	49	7	763	51	40	9	715
\$50,000-\$74,999	31	62	8	290	40	52	8	972	42	49	8	914
\$30,000-\$49,999	25	68	7	513	37	55	8	1105	42	49	10	1183
<\$30,000	28	65	7	699	34	56	10	1524	37	51	12	1653
MARITAL STATUS												
Married	22	72	6	1078	34	57	9	3561	38	52	10	3423
Not married	34	57	9	893	42	48	10	2795	47	43	11	3022
MARITAL STATUS BY SEX												
Married men	19	75	7	515	29	62	9	1809	33	56	11	1615
Married women	25	70	6	563	39	53	8	1752	43	48	9	1808
Unmarried men	28	63	9	424	37	52	11	1234	44	45	11	1307
Unmarried women	40	50	10	469	46	45	9	1561	50	40	10	1715
REGION												
Northeast	34	59	8	367	48	42	10	1176	49	41	11	1159
Midwest	25	67	9	516	36	54	9	1580	44	44	12	1583
South	23	70	7	705	30	60	10	2442	35	55	10	2500
West	32	60	7	387	43	49	8	1224	47	45	8	1270

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE TABLE (CONT.)

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

	JUNE 1996				AUG 2008-2009				AUG-SEPT 2010			
	(VOL.) 1996				(VOL.) 2008-9				(VOL.) 2010			
	Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref	N	Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref	N	Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref	N
	%	%	%		%	%	%		%	%	%	
REGISTERED VOTER												
Registered voter	26	66	8	1500	38	53	9	5346	42	48	9	5247
Not a registered voter	32	60	8	475	37	51	12	1076	42	46	12	1265
PARTY ID												
Republican	15	80	5	609	20	73	7	1735	24	69	7	1768
Democrat	33	58	10	636	50	43	7	2080	53	38	9	2108
Independent	33	59	8	730	38	49	13	2607	44	43	13	2636
PARTY LEANING												
Lean Republican	22	71	7	223	26	64	10	900	32	56	11	971
Lean Democrat	41	51	7	348	54	37	9	975	59	31	9	950
No leaning	30	60	10	159	31	49	20	732	39	41	19	715
PARTY WITH LEANERS												
Rep/Rep lean	17	78	6	832	22	70	8	2635	27	64	9	2739
Dem/Dem lean	36	55	9	984	52	41	8	3055	55	36	9	3058
IDEOLOGY												
Conservative	15	78	7	752	20	73	8	2655	23	67	9	2634
Moderate	29	63	9	781	45	45	11	2262	49	40	11	2171
Liberal	52	41	7	393	65	27	8	1211	67	26	7	1391
PARTY AND IDEOLOGY												
Conservative Repub.	10	86	4	358	14	80	6	1236	16	77	7	1263
Mod/Lib Repub.	23	71	6	243	34	55	11	472	41	51	8	468
Mod/Cons Dem.	26	63	10	442	41	52	7	1296	41	48	11	1207
Liberal Dem.	52	41	8	181	72	23	5	714	75	20	5	819
REPUBLICANS												
Men	12	82	6	312	19	73	8	884	22	70	7	806
Women	18	78	4	297	21	73	6	851	25	68	8	962
18-49	18	77	5	412	24	69	7	708	29	64	7	705
50+	8	87	5	192	15	78	7	1006	18	75	7	1034
College grad+	17	77	6	210	23	69	7	676	25	65	10	699
Some college or less	14	81	5	398	19	74	7	1053	23	71	6	1062
DEMOCRATS												
Men	31	61	8	251	43	50	7	810	45	44	11	782
Women	34	55	11	385	56	38	7	1270	59	33	8	1326
18-49	37	54	9	401	58	36	5	894	60	34	6	893
50+	26	63	11	227	41	51	8	1163	46	42	12	1185
College grad+	48	42	10	189	72	23	6	765	75	19	6	744
Some college or less	29	62	9	446	43	50	7	1310	45	45	10	1349
INDEPENDENTS												
Men	26	65	8	378	35	52	13	1379	42	45	13	1360
Women	40	53	7	352	42	46	12	1228	47	40	13	1276
18-49	38	54	8	514	44	43	13	1242	51	38	11	1262
50+	19	73	8	205	29	58	13	1295	35	51	15	1310
College grad+	41	50	9	227	50	39	11	950	54	35	11	934
Some college or less	30	62	8	500	34	52	13	1616	41	45	13	1680

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE TABLE (CONT.)

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	JUNE 1996				AUG 2008-2009				AUG-SEPT 2010			
	(VOL.) 1996			N	(VOL.) 2008-9			N	(VOL.) 2010			N
	Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref		Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref		Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref	
	%	%	%		%	%	%		%	%	%	
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE												
PROTESTANT												
Total Protestant	20	73	7	1024	27	64	9	3562	31	59	10	3448
All White Protestant	20	74	7	848	27	64	8	2737	33	58	9	2575
White Evangelical	13	83	4	416	17	77	6	1458	20	74	6	1396
Men	8	89	3	166	13	81	6	639	17	77	6	542
Women	16	79	5	250	20	74	6	819	22	71	7	854
18-49	15	82	3	249	22	72	7	531	26	69	5	481
50+	9	86	5	161	13	82	5	914	15	78	7	900
Attend weekly	8	89	4	287	10	85	4	963	14	81	5	894
Attend less	25	70	5	126	28	64	9	488	31	61	8	490
White Mainline	27	64	10	432	40	49	11	1278	49	38	13	1179
Men	19	72	8	206	30	59	11	589	39	45	16	520
Women	34	56	11	226	48	41	11	689	57	33	11	659
18-49	33	58	9	248	45	44	11	441	54	34	12	399
50+	18	72	10	179	34	54	11	820	44	43	13	762
Attend weekly	15	75	9	99	34	56	10	377	35	57	8	313
Attend less	30	61	9	330	42	47	12	888	53	33	14	859
Black Protestant	23	69	9	110	27	63	10	484	28	62	10	539
Attend weekly	--	--	--	67	19	71	10	272	22	69	9	338
Attend less	--	--	--	43	37	53	10	202	37	52	11	199
CATHOLIC												
Total Catholic	32	59	9	480	42	45	13	1448	46	42	12	1436
White Catholic	31	60	9	375	44	45	11	1050	49	41	11	1001
Men	23	67	10	166	36	50	14	492	45	45	11	444
Women	37	55	9	209	51	40	9	558	52	37	11	557
18-49	36	53	11	257	53	37	10	429	58	33	8	383
50+	18	76	6	110	34	54	12	611	39	48	13	610
Attend weekly	21	72	6	154	34	55	11	484	34	55	11	457
Attend less	37	52	11	220	51	38	11	562	59	31	10	540
Hispanic Catholic	--	--	--	76	40	43	17	300	42	43	15	317
JEWISH	--	--	--	28	75	18	7	120	76	18	6	139
UNAFFILIATED	45	46	9	222	63	30	8	842	62	28	10	953
Men	-	-	-	158	56	35	9	496	56	32	12	528
Women	-	-	-	64	73	22	6	346	71	22	7	425
18-49	-	-	-	177	66	28	6	487	66	25	9	555
50+	-	-	-	44	56	34	10	340	56	31	13	377
Atheist/Agnostic	-	-	-	-	82	14	4	266	80	16	5	246
Nothing in particular	-	-	-	-	54	36	9	576	57	32	12	707
CHURCH ATTENDANCE												
Weekly or more	16	78	6	785	23	69	8	2686	24	68	8	2639
Monthly/yearly	35	58	7	758	44	45	11	2088	49	40	10	2063
Seldom/Never	37	53	10	419	52	38	10	1570	59	29	12	1710

PEW RESEARCH CENTER. Data for 1996 is from the June 1996 survey. Data for Aug 2008-2009 combine three polls conducted in Aug. 2008, April 2009 and Aug. 2009. Data for 2010 combine two polls conducted in Aug. and Sept. 2010. Sample sizes for Aug 2008-2009 were corrected on October 14, 2010.