

*AEI STUDIES IN PUBLIC OPINION*

**ATTITUDES ABOUT  
HOMOSEXUALITY & GAY MARRIAGE**

**(updated June 3, 2008)**

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**ACCEPTANCE:** In 1973, when the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago first asked people about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex, 73 percent described them as “always wrong” and another 7 percent as “almost always wrong.” When the organization last asked the question in 2006, 56 percent called them always wrong and 5 percent almost always wrong. NORC interviewers have asked the same question about extramarital sexual relations over the period, and they find no liberalization in attitudes. As for pre-marital sexual activity, in 1972, 37 percent told NORC interviewers that premarital sexual relations were always wrong. In the latest poll, 27 percent gave that response, while 46 percent said they were not wrong at all (See “Comparisons” section of this document).

Forty-three percent in 1977 told Gallup interviewers that homosexual relations between consenting adults should be legal. In July 2003, after the Supreme Court’s June 26 decision in Lawrence vs. Texas, 48 percent gave that response. In May 2007, 59 percent gave that response. Acceptance can be measured in ways other than legality as other findings in this document show.

- What about sexual relations between two adults of the same sex - do you think it is always wrong, almost always wrong, wrong only sometimes, or not wrong at all?

		Always Wrong	Almost Always	Only Sometimes	Not Wrong
1973	NORC/GSS	73	7	8	11
1974	NORC/GSS	71	5	8	13
1976	NORC/GSS	70	6	8	16
1977	NORC/GSS	72	6	8	15
1980	NORC/GSS	73	6	6	15
1982	NORC/GSS	75	5	7	13
1984	NORC/GSS	73	5	7	14
1985	NORC/GSS	75	4	7	14
1987	NORC/GSS	78	4	6	12
1988	NORC/GSS	77	5	6	13
1989	NORC/GSS	74	4	6	16
1990	NORC/GSS	76	5	6	13
1991	NORC/GSS	76	4	4	16
1993	NORC/GSS	66	4	7	22
1994	NORC/GSS	67	4	6	23
1996	NORC/GSS	60	5	6	28
1998	NORC/GSS	58	6	7	29
2000	NORC/GSS	59	5	8	29
2002	NORC/GSS	55	5	7	33
2004	NORC/GSS	58	5	7	31
2006	NORC/GSS	56	5	7	32

Cohort Analysis of NORC Data

Homosexual sexual relations always wrong

	1973	1974	1998	2002	Change (1973-2002)
Total	73	71	58	55	-18
Sex					
Male	72	72	60	57	-15
Female	74	69	57	52	-22
Race					
White	71	70	56	52	-19
Black	83*	75*	69	74	-9
Age					
18-29	56	52	42	48	-8
30-44	74	70	57	48	-26
45-59	75	78	55	55	-20
60 and over	89	84	77	68	-21
Education					
Less than High School	90	83	75	69	-21
High School	75	71	66	63	-12
Some College	55	63	53	53	-2
College	42*	47*	44	43	+1
Postgrad	41*	48*	40*	33*	-8
Church Attendance					
One to two times/year	63	63	45	46	-17
Once a month	72	70	47	46	-26
Nearly weekly	81	73	65	62	-19
Weekly or more	84	80	82	79	-5
Region					
Northeast	64	60	48	41	-23
Midwest	74	73	61	52	-22
South	84	79	68	71	-13
West	61	64	46	45	-20
Party					
Democrat	77	75	56	52	-25
Republican	77	73	71	68	-9
Independent	64	63	52	48	-20
Ideology					
Liberal	NA	54	36	38	-16t
Moderate	NA	76	61	54	-22t
Conservative	NA	78	72	68	-10t
Family Income					
Less than \$15,000	NA	NA	62	58	NA
\$15,000-34,999	NA	NA	61	59	NA
\$35,000-49,999	NA	NA	55	55	NA
\$50,000-74,999	NA	NA	55	51	NA
\$75,000 and over	NA	NA	46	48	NA

Note: The subgroup analysis here was prepared by the Roper Center at the University of Connecticut and AEI.

\* = Sample size less than 200

t = Change from 1974 to 2000

- (Next, I'm going to read some behaviors. For each, please tell me whether you personally believe that it is morally acceptable, morally wrong, or is it not a moral issue?

Feb. 1-5, 2006 PSRA/Pew Research Center

	Wrong	Acceptable	Not a moral issue
Married people having an affair	88	3	7
Not reporting all income on taxes	79	5	14
Drinking alcohol excessively	61	5	31
Having an abortion	52	12	23
Smoking marijuana	50	10	35
<b>Homosexual behavior</b>	50	12	33
Telling a lie to spare someone's feelings	43	23	26
Sex between unmarried adults	35	22	37
Gambling	35	17	42
Overeating	32	6	58

- What do you think about sexual relations between two adults of the same gender? Do you think it is always wrong, or almost always wrong, or only wrong sometimes, or not wrong at all?

	Always wrong	Almost Always	Only Sometimes	Not Wrong
Dec. 5-12, 1985 LAT	67	5	7	15
July 23-26, 1994 LAT	61	7	6	18
Oct. 27-30, 1995 LAT	61	6	7	19
Jun. 8-13, 2000 LAT	51	4	9	27

- Please tell me whether you personally believe that in general it is morally acceptable or morally wrong...homosexual relations? [See "Comparisons" section to see where this issue ranked compared to other social issues.]

		Morally Acceptable	Morally Wrong
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	40	53
May 6-9, 2002	Gallup	38	55
May 5-7, 2003	Gallup	44	52
May 2-4, 2004	Gallup	42	54
May 2-5, 2005	Gallup	44	52
May 8-11, 2006	Gallup	44	51
May 10-13, 2007	Gallup	47	49

Note: In 2007, 83 percent of liberals characterized homosexual relations as morally acceptable, 50 percent of moderates did and 23 percent of conservatives.

- Do you personally think that homosexual relationships between consenting adults is morally wrong, or not a moral issue?

		Morally Wrong	Not a Moral Issue
Jan. 10-11, 2004	Harris/CNN/Time	55	40
Feb. 5-6, 2004	Harris/CNN/Time	51	40

- Do you think homosexual relations between consenting adults should or should not be legal?

		Should be legal	Should not be legal
Jun. 17-20, 1977	Gallup	43	43
May 18-20, 1981	ABC/Wash Post	39	50
Jun. 25-28, 1982	Gallup	45	39
Nov. 11-18, 1985	Gallup	44	47
July 11-14, 1986	Gallup	32	57
Sept. 12-17, 1986	Gallup	33	54
Mar. 14-18, 1987	Gallup	33	55
July 1-7, 1988	Gallup	35	57
Oct. 12-15, 1989	Gallup	47	36
Aug. 29-Sept. 3, 1991	Gallup	36	54

Jun. 4-8, 1992	Gallup	48	44
Aug. 20, 1992	CBS/NYT	41	44
Feb. 9-11, 1993	CBS /NYT	46	43
Jun. 23-26, 1994	ABC/Wash Post	51	45
July 14-17, 1994	CBS/NYT	45	46
Nov. 21-24, 1996	Gallup	44	47
Aug. 10-27, 1998	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	55	34
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	50	43
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	54	42
May 6-9, 2002	Gallup	52	43
May 5-7, 2003	Gallup	60	35
May 19-21, 2003	Gallup	59	37
Jul. 13-27, 2003	CBS/NYT	54	39
Jul. 18-20, 2003	Gallup	50	44
<b>Lawrence v. Texas Supreme Court Decision</b>			
Jul. 25-27, 2003	Gallup	48	46
Dec. 10-13, 2003	CBS/NYT	41	49
Jan. 9-11, 2004	Gallup	46	49
May 2-5, 2005	Gallup	52	43
May 8-11, 2006	Gallup	56	40
May 10-13, 2007	Gallup	59	37

- For each one, please say whether you are very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied. How about the acceptance of homosexuality in the nation

		Very satisfied	Somewhat satisfied	Somewhat dissatisfied	Very dissatisfied
Jan. 2001	Gallup	5	30	28	29
Jan. 2002	Gallup	5	35	23	31
Jan. 2003	Gallup	7	30	27	27
Jan. 2004	Gallup	4	35	24	32
Jan. 2005	Gallup	6	26	23	37
Jan. 2006	Gallup	5	27	28	31
Jan. 2007	Gallup	7	27	23	35
Jan. 2008	Gallup	7	31	23	29

- On another topic, for each of the following issues, please indicate how you feel. Gay rights?

Aug. 2007	Harris Interactive	Support 40	Neither 22	Oppose 33
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- Do you think it should be legal or should not be legal for two men who are consenting adults to have sex with each other in their own home? (Asked of half sample)

May 30-Jun. 1, 2003	Gallup	Should be legal 62	Should not be legal 31
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- Do you think it should be legal or should not be legal for two women who are consenting adults to have sex with each other in their own home? (Asked of half sample)

May 30-Jun. 1, 2003	Gallup	Should be legal 63	Should not be legal 30
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- In general do you agree or disagree with the decision that allowed states to make homosexual relations illegal?

Feb. 26-Mar. 3, 2003	Quinnipiac	Agree 38	Disagree 57
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- Do you think that the U.S. Supreme Court should overturn or uphold state laws that criminalize private, consenting sex between same-sex couples, but allow the same conduct between opposite-sex couples?

		Overturn	Uphold
Apr. 17-23, 2003	Harris Interactive	74	26

Note: Responses of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals to this question can be found at the Harris Interactive website, <http://www.harrisinteractive.com/>

- The Supreme Court recently made some important rulings. Please say for each of the following if you agree or disagree with it...It is not illegal for consenting adults to have homosexual sex in their own homes?

		Agree	Disagree
Jul. 14-20, 2003	Harris Interactive	72	19

- Now I'd like to ask you some questions about homosexuals – or gays and lesbians as they are sometimes called. Today there are many different kinds of lifestyles which people find acceptable, such as homosexual relationships. How do you feel about this? Do you find it acceptable for other people but not for yourself, acceptable for other people and for yourself, or not acceptable at all?

		Acceptable For Both	Acceptable For Others	Not Acceptable
Mar. 14-18, 1978	Yankelovich	6	35	59
Jun. 15-16, 1994	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	6	52	39
Oct. 14-15, 1998	Harris/CNN/Time	12	52	33
Feb. 5-6, 2004	Harris/CNN/Time	11	49	38

- Here is a list of things some people today find acceptable behavior if people choose to do them, and others find unacceptable. For each one would you tell me whether you find it acceptable for anyone, or acceptable for others but not yourself, or not acceptable for anyone...People living in a homosexual relationship?

		Acceptable	Acceptable For Others	Not Acceptable
Nov. 1986	Roper GfK-NOP	4	22	71
Nov. 1991	Roper GfK-NOP	9	27	60
Jul. 1998	Roper GfK-NOP	12	33	53
Aug. 2003	Roper GfK-NOP	14	29	55

- Do you think that homosexual relations between consenting adults should be legal or illegal?

		Should be legal	Should not be legal
June 15-16, 1994	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	58	32
Oct. 14-15, 1998	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	55	33

- It is important to have laws prohibiting homosexual relationships.

UCLA-CIRP\*  
College Freshmen

	Strongly agree or Agree somewhat		Strongly agree or Agree somewhat
1976	47	1989	45
1977	49	1990	44
1978	46	1991	42
1979	47	1992	38
1980	49	1993	36
1981	49	1994	34
1982	47	1995	31
1983	49	1996	34
1984	48	1997	34
1985	48	1998	33
1986	52	1999	30

1987	53	2000	30
1988	49	2001	26
		2002	25
		2005	25
		2006	29
		2007	26

Note: \*Cooperative Institutional Research Program, American Freshman Study, University of California at Los Angeles.

- Do you feel that homosexuality should be considered an acceptable alternative lifestyle or not?

		Acceptable	Not acceptable
Jun. 25-28, 1982	Gallup	34	51
Jun. 4-8, 1992	Gallup	38	57
Aug. 20, 1992	CBS/NYT	38	50
Mar. 15-17, 1996	Gallup	44	50
April 18-20, 1997	Gallup	42	52
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	50	46
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	52	43
May 6-9, 2002	Gallup	51	44
May 5-7, 2003	Gallup	54	43
Jul. 25-27, 2003	Gallup	46	49
May 2-4, 2004	Gallup	54	42
May 2-5, 2005*	Gallup	51	45
May 8-11, 2006*	Gallup	54	41
May 10-13, 2007	Gallup	57	39
May 8-11, 2008	Gallup	57	40

Note: \* Means asked of half sample.

- I would like to read you several statements about some social issues facing America. For each issue, please tell me whether you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly with that statement... Homosexuality should be considered a socially permissible lifestyle?

		Agree	Disagree
Jun. 4-8, 1993	NBC/WSJ	43	53
Jun. 10-14, 1994	NBC/WSJ	39	56

- Would you like to see homosexuality be more widely accepted in this nation, less widely accepted, or is the acceptance of homosexuality in this nation about right?

		More widely	Less widely	About right
Jan. 10-14, 2001	Gallup	29	34	33
Jan. 7-9, 2002	Gallup	29	33	32

- What is your impression of how most Americans feel about homosexual behavior—do most Americans think it is acceptable or not acceptable?

		Acceptable	Not acceptable
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	21	74

- We frequently hear of the influence special interest groups have in this country. Please look at this list and tell me for each group whether you think it has too much influence in our society today, or too little influence, or about the right amount: Gay rights organizations.

		Too Much	About Right	Too Little
Jan. 1987	Roper GfK-NOP	48	26	11
Jan. 1990	Roper GfK-NOP	47	25	12
Jan. 1995	Roper GfK-NOP	54	NA	12
Feb. 2000	Roper GfK-NOP	42	30	15

Note: Prior to 1995, the choice offered was “gay rights groups”... The percentage of respondents who said gay rights organizations had too much influence (42 percent) is lower than those who thought lawyers’ organizations (56) and medical and health insurance industries (49) had too much influence. The bottom-ranked groups were organizations for the disabled (4), veterans groups (5), and senior citizens groups (6).

- I have a few questions about efforts to protect the rights of gays and lesbians in this country. Some people believe that about the right amount of effort has been made to protect gay rights. Others believe more effort is needed. Still others think efforts to protect gay rights have gone too far in giving gays special privileges. Which comes closer to your opinion?

		Right Amount	More Effort	Too Far
May 22-23, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	26	27	40
Jun. 16-20, 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	26	23	42
Feb. 5-6, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	22	25	45

- Do you think more acceptance of gays and lesbians would be a good thing or a bad thing for the country—or that it would not make much difference either way?

		Good for Country	Bad for Country	Wouldn’t Make Much Difference
Feb. 7- Sep. 4, 2000*	PSRA/Kaiser	29	23	44
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/Pew	23	31	42

Note: \* Question wording was preceded by “Regardless of what you think is actually happening...”

- Now I’m going to read a few more pairs of statements. Again, just tell me whether the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your own views—even if neither is exactly right. Homosexuality is a way of life that should be accepted by society, or homosexuality is a way of life that should be discouraged by society.

		Should Be Accepted	Should Be Discouraged
Jul. 1994	PSRA/Pew Research Center	46	49
Oct. 1994	PSRA/Pew Research Center	46	48
Apr. 1995	PSRA/Pew Research Center	47	48
Oct. 1995	PSRA/Pew Research Center	45	50
Apr. 1996	PSRA/Pew Research Center	44	49
Oct. 1996	PSRA/Pew Research Center	44	49
Jun. 1997	PSRA/Pew Research Center	45	50
Oct. 1997	PSRA/Pew Research Center	46	48
Aug. 1999	PSRA/Pew Research Center	49	44
Sep. 2000	PSRA/Pew Research Center	50	41
Jun. 2003	PSRA/Pew Research Center	47	45
Dec. 2004	PSRA/Pew Research Center	49	44

**PERSONAL COMFORT LEVEL:** Americans are growing more comfortable with homosexuals in a variety of occupations. Fifty-eight percent in 1998, up from 48 percent in 1994, say they would vote for a political candidate who is homosexual. Majorities now say they would see a doctor who is homosexual, allow a child to play in the home of a friend who has a homosexual parent, and allow a child to attend a school with homosexual staff members. In a 2004 LA Times poll, 26 percent said they would object to having a gay person as their child’s teacher; 68 percent said it would not bother them. Solid majorities are comfortable being around people who are gay.

- Please tell me whether you would or would not do each of the following:

		Yes	No
Buy something from a salesperson who is homosexual			
Jun. 15-16, 1994	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	75	21
Oct. 14-15, 1998	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	84	12
Vote for a political candidate who is homosexual			
Jun. 15-16, 1994	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	48	45
Oct. 14-15, 1998	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	58	36
See a doctor who is homosexual			
Jun. 15-16, 1994	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	39	56
Oct. 14-15, 1998	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	53	41
Allow a child of yours to play in the home of a friend who has a homosexual parent			
Jun. 15-16, 1994	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	43	50
Oct. 14-15, 1998	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	54	38
Allow a child of yours to attend a preschool which had homosexual staff members			
Jun. 15-16, 1994	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	42	52
Oct. 14-15, 1998	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	51	42
Allow a child of yours to watch a TV program which has a homosexual character on it			
Jun. 15-16, 1994	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	46	47
Oct. 14-15, 1998	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	49	43

- If you had a child of elementary school age, would you object to having a gay person as your child's school teacher or would that not bother you?

		Object	Not Bother
Mar. 27-30, 2004	L.A. Times	26	68

- If you had a child, would you permit or not permit...?

		Permit	Not Permit
Your child to play at the home of a friend who lives with a gay parent			
Mar. 27-30, 2004	L.A. Times	58	30
A gay person to baby-sit your child			
Mar. 27-30, 2004	L.A. Times	45	43
Your child to read a book that contains a story about a same-sex couple			
Mar. 27-30, 2004	L.A. Times	45	44

- Overall, do you sometimes feel uncomfortable when you are around gay men or does that not happen to you? How about being around lesbian women? Does that make you feel uncomfortable sometimes, or does that not happen to you?

		-----Uncomfortable-----			Not uncomfortable
		w/both	w/gay men	w/lesbian women	
Sept. 18-23, 1983	LAT	20	8	10	40
Dec. 5-12, 1985	LAT	18	6	11	50
Jun. 8-13, 2000	LAT	13	6	10	60
Mar. 24-27, 2004	LAT	9	5	6	56

- Now I'd like to ask you some questions about homosexuals – or gays or lesbians as they are sometimes called. In general, do you feel comfortable or uncomfortable when you are around someone you know is gay or lesbian?

		Comfortable	Uncomfortable
Jun. 15-16, 1994	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	58	32

- In general, how comfortable are you personally being around homosexuals – very comfortable, somewhat comfortable, somewhat uncomfortable, or very uncomfortable?

		Very Comfortable	Somewhat Comfortable	Somewhat Uncomfortable	Very Uncomfortable
Nov. 27-Dec. 17, 1995	PSRA/Kaiser/ Harvard	32	29	15	17
Sept. 17-Oct. 19, 1997	PSRA/Kaiser/ Harvard	31	30	15	20

- Does it bother you to be around people who are gay or lesbian? If yes, is that a lot or a little?

		-----Bother-----		Not Bothered
		A Lot	A Little	
Aug. 10-27, 1998	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	10	12	74

- What is your attitude toward homosexuality? Do you personally approve of homosexual relations between consenting adults, or do you think it's alright for other people but not for yourself, or do you oppose it for everyone?

		Approve	Alright For Others	Oppose
Sept. 18-22, 1983	LAT	5	39	52

- Now I'd like you to think about how your attitudes toward gays and lesbians might have changed in the past few years. Have you become more accepting of gays and lesbians, have your attitudes not changed, or have you become less accepting of gays and lesbians?

		More Accepting	Not Changed	Less Accepting
Jul. 18-20, 2003	Gallup	32	59	8

- Now thinking generally about homosexuality in America, would you say your overall opinion of gay men is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable or very unfavorable?

		Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/ Pew	8	30	21	29

- Now thinking generally about homosexuality in America, would you say your overall opinion of lesbian women is very favorable, mostly favorable, mostly unfavorable or very unfavorable?

		Very Favorable	Mostly Favorable	Mostly Unfavorable	Very Unfavorable
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/ Pew	9	30	22	26

- In general, would you say you, personally, are offended - or not offended - by homosexuality you see/hear on television?

		Offended	Not Offended
Feb. 6-8, 2004	Gallup	52	46

**EMPLOYMENT:** Large majorities say that homosexuals should have equal rights in terms of job opportunities. And Americans tell the pollsters that homosexuals should be hired for a wide variety of occupations. Majorities now support hiring homosexuals as elementary school teachers, an occupation about which there had been resistance in the past. Gallup polling shows that a majority (56 percent in December 2007—the last time the question was asked) would vote for a well-qualified person who happened to be homosexual (41 percent say they would not). In Pew’s March 2006 survey, 60 percent said they favored allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military.

- In general, do you think homosexuals should or should not have equal rights in terms of job opportunities?

		Should	Should Not
Jun. 17-20, 1977	Gallup	56	33
Jun. 25-28, 1982	Gallup	59	28
Oct. 12-15, 1989	Gallup	71	18
Jun. 4-8, 1992	Gallup	74	18
Aug. 20, 1992	CBS/NYT	79	13
Aug. 27, 1992	PSRA/Newsweek	78	17
Jan. 12-14, 1993	CBS/NYT	79	16
Feb. 9-11, 1993	CBS/NYT	78	15
Apr. 22-24, 1993	Gallup	80	14
Feb. 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	74	19
Feb. 22-24, 1996	CBS/NYT	83	12
May 22-23, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	84	12
Jun. 14-16, 1996	AP	86	10
Nov. 21-24, 1996	Gallup	84	12
Jun. 19-20, 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	84	13
July 28-30, 1998*	PSRA/Newsweek	83	14
Aug. 10-27, 1998	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	87	9
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	83	13
Mar. 9-10, 2000*	PSRA/Newsweek	83	12
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	85	11
Apr. 25-26, 2002*	PSRA/Newsweek	85	10
May 6-9, 2002	Gallup	86	11
May 5-7, 2003	Gallup	88	9
May 19-21, 2003	Gallup	88	10
Feb. 5-6, 2004*	PSRA/Newsweek	87	10
May 2-5, 2005	Gallup	87	11
May 8-11, 2006	Gallup	89	9
May 10-13, 2007	Gallup	89	8
May 8-11, 2008	Gallup	89	8

Note: \*Question wording was “Thinking about what might be done to protect the rights of gays and lesbians, do you think there should or should not be equal rights for gays and lesbians in terms of job opportunities?”

- We can choose our friends, but we can’t always choose the people we work closely with. Here is a list of some different types of people. For each one, would you tell me whether you strongly object to working around them, or prefer not to work around them, or wouldn’t mind working around them...people who are homosexual?

		Strongly Object	Prefer Not To	Wouldn’t Mind
Jan. 1982	Roper GfK-NOP	25	NA	NA
Apr. 1987	Roper GfK-NOP	25	27	45
Jan. 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	16	33	46

- Do you think homosexuals should or should not be hired for each of the following occupations? (SALESPERSON)

		Should	Should not
Jun. 17-20, 1977	Gallup	68	22
Oct. 12-15, 1989	Gallup	79	13
Jun. 4-8, 1992	Gallup	82	13
Aug. 27, 1992	PSRA/Newsweek	83	12
Feb 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	84	11
Nov. 21-24, 1996	Gallup	90	7
July 28-30, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	88	8
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	90	8
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	88	8
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	91	6
May 19-21, 2003	Gallup	92	6
May 2-5, 2005	Gallup	90	7

- Do you think homosexuals should or should not be hired for each of the following occupations? (ARMED FORCES)

Jun. 17-20, 1977	Gallup	51	38
Oct. 12-15, 1989	Gallup	60	29
Jun. 4-8, 1992	Gallup	57	37
Aug. 27, 1992	PSRA/Newsweek	59	36
Nov. 19-20, 1992	Gallup	48	44
Jun. 4-8, 1993	NBC/WSJ	47	43
Feb 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	58	35
Nov. 21-24, 1996	Gallup	65	29
July 28-30, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	66	30
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	70	26
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	69	25
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	72	23
May 19-21, 2003	Gallup	80	18
May 2-5, 2005	Gallup	76	22

- Do you think homosexuals should or should not be hired for each of the following occupations? (DOCTORS)

Jun. 17-20, 1977	Gallup	44	44
Jun. 4-8, 1992	Gallup	53	42
Nov. 21-24, 1996	Gallup	69	25
July 28-30, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	70	25
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	75	21
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	75	20
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	78	18
May 19-21, 2003	Gallup	82	15
May 2-5, 2005	Gallup	78	19

- Do you think homosexuals should or should not be hired for each of the following occupations? (CLERGY)

Jun. 17-20, 1977	Gallup	36	54
Oct. 12-15, 1989	Gallup	44	43
Jun. 4-8, 1992	Gallup	43	50
Nov. 21-24, 1996	Gallup	53	40
July 28-30, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	51	44
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	54	40
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	52	40
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	54	39
Apr. 25-26, 2002	PSRA/Newsweek	40	46
May 19-21, 2003	Gallup	56	39
May 2-5, 2005	Gallup	49	47

- Do you think homosexuals should or should not be hired for each of the following occupations? (ELEMENTARY SCHOOL TEACHERS)

		Should	Should Not
Jun. 17-20, 1977	Gallup	27	65
Oct. 12-15, 1989	Gallup	42	48
Jun. 4-8, 1992	Gallup	41	54
Aug. 27, 1992	PSRA/Newsweek	51	45
Feb 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	47	46
Nov. 21-24, 1996	Gallup	55	40
July 28-30, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	55	40
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	54	42
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	60	36
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	56	40
May 19-21, 2003	Gallup	61	37
May 2-5, 2005	Gallup	54	43

- Do you think homosexuals should or should not be hired for each of the following occupations? (HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS)

Oct. 12-15, 1989	Gallup	47	43
Jun. 4-8, 1992	Gallup	47	49
Aug. 27, 1992	PSRA/Newsweek	54	42
Feb 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	53	40
Nov. 21-24, 1996	Gallup	60	34
July 28-30, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	60	34
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	61	36
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	63	32
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	63	33
May 19-21, 2003	Gallup	67	31
May 2-5, 2005	Gallup	62	36

- Do you think homosexuals should or should not be hired for each of the following occupations? (PROFESSIONAL ATHLETES)

Jul. 30-31, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	85	11
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	86	8

- Do you think homosexuals should or should not be hired for each of the following occupations? (MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENT'S CABINET)

Jun. 4-8, 1992	Gallup	54	39
Nov. 19-20, 1992	Gallup	56	34
Nov. 21-24, 1996	Gallup	71	24
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	74	23
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	75	21
May 19-21, 2003	Gallup	79	19
May 2-5, 2005	Gallup	75	23

- As I list some programs and proposals that are being discussed in this country today, please tell me whether you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose...allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military?

		Favor	Oppose
Jul. 1994	PSRA/Pew Research Center	52	45
Jul. 2005	PSRA/Pew Research Center	58	32
Mar. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	60	32

- Do you think gays and lesbians should or should not be able to serve openly in the military?

		Should	Should not
Jul. 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	56	38
Mar. 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	57	35

Feb. 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	60	29
Mar. 2007	PSRA/Newsweek	63	28
Aug. 2007	PSRA/Newsweek	68	23

- Do you favor or oppose the plan in which the U.S. military does not ask new recruits whether they are homosexual, but would still prohibit homosexuals from serving if they reveal their sexual orientation?

		Favor	Oppose
May 1993	CNN/Time	44	48
Aug. 2007	CNN/ORC	38	57

- If you knew that a presidential candidate was a strong supporter of gay rights, including same-sex marriages and gays and lesbians serving openly in the military, would that make you more likely or less likely to vote for that candidate – or would it not make much difference either way?

		More likely	Less likely	Not much difference
Aug. 2007	PSRA/Newsweek	12	34	51

Note: Sample is registered voters.

- Personally, how comfortable are you in the presence of gays and lesbians?

		Comfortable	Uncomfortable
Oct. 24-26, 2006	Zogby International	73	19

Note: Sample is of U.S. military personnel of who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

- How does the presence of gays or lesbians in your unit impact your personal morale?

		Negative	No impact	Positive
Oct. 24-26, 2006	Zogby International	28	66	6

Note: Sample is of U.S. military personnel of who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

- How does the presence of gays or lesbians in your unit impact your unit's overall morale?

		Negative	No impact	Positive
Oct. 24-26, 2006	Zogby International	27	64	3

Note: Sample is of U.S. military personnel of who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

- Do you agree or disagree with allowing gays and lesbians to serve openly in the military?

		Agree	Neutral	Disagree
Oct. 24-26, 2006	Zogby International	26	32	37

Note: Sample is of U.S. military personnel of who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan.

- Do you think gays or lesbians should be allowed to serve openly in the United States military?

		Yes	No
May 4-9, 2005	Boston Globe/UNH	79	18

- Do you favor or oppose allowing openly gay men and lesbian women to serve in the military?

		Favor	Oppose
Jul. 24-27, 1993	NBC/Wall Street Journal	52	40
Nov. 19-21, 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	63	32

- Do you favor or oppose laws to protect gays against job discrimination?

		Favor	Oppose
Mar. 27-30, 2004	L.A. Times	72	18

- Do you think homosexuals should be allowed to serve in a position of high governmental office, for instance as a member of the President's Cabinet, or don't you think so?

		Should	Should Not
May 27-30, 1992	CBS News	47	43

- I'm going to read you a few attributes that might be found in a candidate for president. Tell me if each would make you more likely to vote for that candidate for president, or less likely to vote for that candidate, or if it wouldn't matter...a homosexual?

		More Likely	Not Matter	Less Likely
Apr. 29-May 8, 1988	AP/Media General	1	23	74

- If your party nominated a generally well-qualified person for president who happened to be a homosexual, would you vote for that person?

		Yes	No
Jul. 21-24, 1978	Gallup	26	66
Apr. 29-May 2, 1983	Gallup	29	64
Feb. 19-21, 1999	Gallup	59	37
Feb. 9-11, 2007	Gallup	55	43
Mar. 2-4, 2007	Gallup	55	42
Dec. 6-9, 2007	Gallup	56	41

- If you were considering voting for a presidential candidate and then learned that candidate was a homosexual, would that cause you to vote for someone else, or would that be one factor among many, or would it not affect your vote?

		Vote For Someone Else	One Factor Among Many	Would Not Affect Vote
Oct. 15-18, 1991	CBS/NYT	44	24	29

- Let me mention several things you might learn about a candidate running for president. For each one, please tell me whether this should or should not disqualify them from becoming president of the United States. If someone is gay or lesbian, do you think this should or should not disqualify this person from becoming president of the United States?

		Should Disqualify	Should Not Disqualify
Oct. 25-29, 1991	NBC/WSJ	47	47
Feb. 28-Mar. 2, 1992	NBC/WSJ	42	53

- I'd like to ask whether certain information about a candidate for political office would cause you to vote against him, regardless of other factors. What if you found out that the candidate was a homosexual...would that alone cause you to vote against him?

		Yes	No
Sept. 19-20, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	37	58

- Do you think homosexuals should or should not be hired for each of the following occupations? (MAJOR POLITICAL OFFICEHOLDERS)

		Should	Should Not
Jul. 30-31, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	68	27
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	71	24

- Let's go through this list again, this time please tell me if you were considering a candidate whom you would otherwise support, and you discovered that they had had a homosexual relationship, would you still vote for them, probably vote against them, or definitely vote against them?

		Still Vote For	Probably Vote Against	Definitely Vote Against
May 10-11, 2000	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	53	14	26

Note: Asked of registered voters. The percentage of respondents who said they definitely would vote against a candidate who had a homosexual relationship (26 percent) is higher than the percentage of those who would vote against a candidate who abused alcohol (11), had an extramarital affair (13), used marijuana (17), or been treated for a mental illness (25). It is lower than the percentage of those who definitely would vote against a candidate who lied on his resume (34), used cocaine (37), or cheated on his taxes (38).

- If a candidate for political office were to come out in favor of legalizing gay marriages, would you be more likely to vote for the candidate, less likely, or would that make no difference?

		More Likely	Less Likely	No Difference
Feb. 5-6, 2004	Harris/CNN/Time	10	48	39

**KNOW SOMEONE:** Awareness of homosexuality has grown, or perhaps people are more willing to acknowledge it to pollsters. Twenty-two percent in 1985 told PSRA/Newsweek interviewers that they had a gay friend or close acquaintance; in 2000, 56 percent gave that response. Around four in ten say they have a close friend or family member who is gay according to a December 2006-January 2007 PSRA/Pew Research Center survey.

- Do you have a close friend or family member who is gay?

		Yes	No
Dec. 2006-Jan. 2007	PSRA/Pew Research Center	41	58

- Now I'd like to ask you if you ever had the following experiences in your life...had a friend who was openly gay or lesbian?

		Yes	No
Mar.-Apr. 2006	Kaiser Family Foundation		
	Total	64	35
	Black men	48	51
	Black women	62	38
	White men	59	41
	White women	70	29

- Please tell me if any of the following apply to you...?

Work with someone you know is gay or lesbian

		Yes	No
Aug. 27, 1992	PSRA/Newsweek	20	78
Feb. 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	19	79
May 22-23, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	31	66
Jun. 19-20, 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	25	72
July 28-30, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	31	67
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	32	66

Have someone in your family who is gay or lesbian

		Yes	No
Aug. 27, 1992	PSRA/Newsweek	9	90
Feb. 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	12	88

May 22-23, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	18	80
Jun. 19-20, 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	18	80
July 28-30, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	21	76
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	23	75

Have a friend or close acquaintance who is gay or lesbian

Aug. 1-2, 1985	PSRA/Newsweek	22	77
Feb. 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	43	56
May 22-23, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	56	42
Jun. 19-20, 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	50	47
July 28-30, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	55	44
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	56	42

- Do you know any friends or co-workers who are openly homosexual? (If not) Do you know any friends or co-workers whom you suspect are homosexuals?

		Know friends/ coworkers openly homosexual	Suspect are homosexual	No, don't know or suspect
Sept. 18-22, 1983	LAT	30	14	53

- Do you know any friends, or relatives, or co-workers who have told you, personally, that they are gay or lesbian? (If not) Do you know any friends, or relatives, or co-workers who you seriously suspect are gay or lesbian – but they haven't told you that?

		Told you personally	Suspect are homosexual	No, don't know or suspect
Dec. 5-12, 1985	LAT	24	21	54

- Do you have a friend or someone you associate with on a regular basis who is a male homosexual?

			Yes	No
Jun. 15-19, 1990	ABC		13	87

- Do you happen to personally know someone who is gay or lesbian?

			Yes	No
Aug. 20, 1992	CBS/NYT		47	51

- Do you have any close friends or family members who are gay or lesbian?

			Yes	No
Jan. 12-14, 1993	CBS/NYT		19	79
Feb. 9-11, 1993	CBS/NYT		22	77

- Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian?

			Yes	No
Jun. 4-8, 1993	NBC/WSJ		61	37

- Do you have a co-worker, friend or relative who is openly homosexual?

			Yes	No
Jul. 19-21, 1993	Gallup		23	76

- Do you happen to have a family member or close friend who is gay or lesbian?

			Yes	No
Jun. 15-16, 1994	Yankelovich/CNN/Time		32	66
Oct. 14-15, 1998	Yankelovich/CNN/Time		41	57
Aug. 6-8, 2007	CNN/ORC		45	55

- Do you happen to know any males who are gay or women who are lesbian?

		Yes	No
Jun. 14-18, 1996	AP	54	44
- Do you have any close personal friends or relatives who are gay or lesbian, or not?

		Yes	No
Jul. 17-19, 1998	Harris Interactive	37	62
- Do you yourself have a friend, family member, or acquaintance who is gay or lesbian, or not?

		Yes	No
Aug. 10-27, 1998	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	59	40
- For each description I read, please tell me if it applies to you or not...Do you have a friend, colleague, or family member who is gay?

		Yes	No
Jul. 14-Sept. 9, 1999	PSRA/Pew	39	60
Aug. 14-25, 2002	PSRA/Pew	45	53
Jun. 24-Jul. 8, 2003	PSRA/Pew	45	52
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/Pew	60	38
- Do you have any close personal friends who are gay or lesbian or not?

		Yes	No
Jan. 6-10, 2000	Harris Interactive	41	58
- Thinking of all the people you know, either well or even casually—do you know anyone who is openly gay? (If no, ask—Do you know anyone who you think is gay?)

		Yes, openly	Yes, think is gay	No
Jun. 8-13, 2000	LAT	73	7	19
- Do you have any friends or relatives of co-workers who have told you, personally, that they are gay or lesbian?

		Yes	No
Jul. 18-20, 2003	Gallup	56	43
Jan. 9-11, 2004	Gallup	58	42
- Do you have a friend, colleague, or family member who is gay or lesbian?

		Yes	No
Oct. 7-Nov. 24, 2003	NAES	43	55
- Do you have a work colleague, close friend, or relative who is gay or lesbian?

		Yes	No
Mar. 10-14, 2004	CBS/NYT	55	44

**NATURE/NURTURE:** *One of the most dramatic changes in attitudes about homosexuality appears to be about its cause. More people than in the past say that people are born homosexual or that it is an orientation that they cannot change. In a Gallup question from 1977, 12 percent said homosexuality was something a person was born with; in 2007, 42 percent gave that response.*

- In your view, is homosexuality something a person is born with or is homosexuality due to other factors such as upbringing and environment?

		Born With	Upbringing/ Environment	Both (vol.)	Neither (vol.)
Jun. 17-20, 1977	Gallup	12	56	14	3
Jun. 25-28, 1982	Gallup	17	52	13	2
Oct. 12-15, 1989	Gallup	19	48	12	2
Mar. 21-24, 1991	PSRA/Newsweek	24	51	9	16
Nov. 21-24, 1996	Gallup	31	40	13	3
July 28-30, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	33	44	13	10
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	34	44	13	1
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	28	40	17	15
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	40	39	9	3
May 6-9, 2002	Gallup	40	36	12	4
May 5-7, 2003	Gallup	38	44	11	2
May 2-4, 2004	Gallup	37	41	11	3
May 2-5, 2005	Gallup	38	44	10	2
May 8-11, 2006*	Gallup	42	37	11	2
May 10-13, 2007	Gallup	42	35	11	2
Jun. 22-24, 2007	CNN/ORC	39	42	10	3

Note: \* Means asked of half sample.

- In your opinion, what causes someone to be gay? Is it something that people are born with, or is it something that develops because of the way people are brought up, or is it just the way that people choose to live?

		Born	Brought up	Choice
Sept. 18-23, 1983	LAT	16	25	37
Dec. 5-12, 1985	LAT	20	23	42
Apr. 22-24, 1993	Gallup	31	14	35
Jul. 19-21, 1993	Gallup	29	15	32
Jun. 8-10, 2000	LAT	33	11	37
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/Pew	30	14	42

- Do you think being homosexual is something people choose to be, or do you think it is something they cannot change?

		Choose to be	Cannot Change
Feb. 9-11, 1993	CBS/NYT	44	43
Jan. 27-May 31, 1994	NORC/GSS	42	45
Dec. 10-13, 2003	CBS/NYT	44	44
Mar. 10-14, 2004	CBS/NYT	43	41
Nov. 18-21, 2004	CBS/NYT	39	47
Oct. 5-8, 2006	CBS/NYT	35	53

- Do you think being homosexual is something that people choose to be, or do you think it's just the way they are?

		Choose to be	The Way They Are
Jun. 23-26, 1994	ABC/Wash Post	40	49
Oct. 12-14, 2004^	ABC	33	57

Note: ^ Likely Voters

- Do you think that being homosexual is something people choose to be, or do you think that people are born homosexual and it is something they cannot change?

July 25-27, 1998	NBC/WSJ	Choose to be 38	Cannot Change 41
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- In your opinion, what is the main cause of homosexuality? Are people born homosexual, do people become homosexual because of their experiences while growing up, or do people choose to be homosexual on their own?

Aug. 10-27, 1998	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	Born 32	Experience 20	Choice 33
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- Do you think that homosexuality is something a person is born with, or is it due to factors such as how they were raised or to their environment?

Oct. 14-15, 1998	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	Born With 33	Raised/Environment 40
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- Do you think that someone who is homosexual can change their sexual orientation if they choose to do so, or don't you think so?

Oct. 14-15, 1998	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	Change Orientation 51	Don't Think So 36
Jan. 10-11, 2001	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	42	45
Jun. 22-24, 2007	CNN/ORC	36	56

- A scientific magazine recently repudiated its own study showing that homosexuality may be genetic. Meanwhile, a new ad campaign features men and women who have left homosexuality. On the issue, do you personally believe that homosexuals are born that way or believe that homosexuals are not born that way and can change?

Jul. 23-26, 1999	Wirthlin Worldwide	Born That Way 41	Not Born That Way/ Can Change 45
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- From what you know about gay and lesbian people, do you think that gay and lesbian people choose to be homosexual or are born homosexual?

May 17-21, 2000	AP	Are born Homosexual 30	Choose to be Homosexual 46
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- Do you think a gay or lesbian person's sexual orientation can be changed or cannot be changed?

Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/Pew	Can Be Changed 42	Can't Be Changed 42
Jul. 6-19, 2006	SRB/Pew Research Center	39	49

**GAY MARRIAGE:** *The first national poll question we have been able to locate about homosexual marriage was asked by the National Opinion Research Center in 1988. The responses are displayed below. In 1996 Gallup found that 27 percent thought “marriages between homosexuals should be recognized by law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriage.” After the June 26 2003 Supreme Court decision in Lawrence v. Texas, 39 percent gave that response. In the May 2008 Gallup, 40 percent gave that response. In July 2006, a Pew survey found that 35 percent of those surveyed supported gay marriage and 56 percent were opposed to it.*

**Trends**

- Do you agree or disagree: Homosexual couples should have the right to marry one another?

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
1988	NORC/GSS	3	9	15	26	47

- Do you think marriages between homosexuals/same sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?

		Should Be Valid	Should Not Be Recognized
Feb. 8-9, 1999	Gallup	35	62
May 2-4, 2004	Gallup	42	55
Aug. 22-25, 2005	Gallup	38	59
May 8-11, 2006^	Gallup	39	58
May 8-11, 2006^	Gallup	42	56
May 10-13, 2007	Gallup	46	53
May 8-11, 2008^	Gallup	40	56

Note: ^ Asked of two different half samples.

The following askings had the exact same question wording as above, but were not preceded by questions on homosexual rights and relations.

		Should Be Valid	Should Not Be Recognized
Mar. 15-17, 1996	Gallup	27	68
Jan 13-16, 2000	Gallup	34	62
Jun. 27-29, 2003	Gallup	39	55
Oct. 24-26, 2003	Gallup	35	61
Dec. 15-16, 2003	Gallup	31	65
Feb. 6-8, 2004	Gallup	36	59
Feb. 16-17, 2004	Gallup	32	64
Mar. 5-7, 2004	Gallup	33	61
July 19-21, 2004	Gallup	32	62
Mar 18-20, 2005	Gallup	28	68
Apr. 29-May 1, 2005	Gallup	39	56
Aug. 6-8, 2007	CNN/ORC	40	57

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

		Favor	Oppose
Apr. 4-5, 2006	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	33	55

- I am going to read you a list of some programs and proposals that are being discussed in this country today. For each one, please tell me whether you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose it...Allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

Strongly Strongly

		Favor	Favor	Oppose	Oppose
May 31-Jun. 9, 1996	PSRA/Pew	6	21	24	41
Mar. 5-18, 2001	PSRA/Pew	8	27	23	34
Jun. 24-Jul.8, 2003	PSRA/Pew	10	28	23	30
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/Pew	9	23	24	35
Nov. 18-Dec. 1, 2003	PSRA/Pew	10	20	21	42
Feb. 11-16, 2004	PSRA/Pew	9	21	21	42
Mar. 17-21, 2004	PSRA/Pew	10	22	24	35
Jul. 2004	PSRA/Pew	10	22	23	33
Aug. 2004	PSRA/Pew	8	21	25	35
Dec. 2004	PSRA/Pew	14	18	23	38
Jul. 2005	PSRA/Pew	13	23	22	31
Mar. 2006	PSRA/Pew	10	29	23	28
Jun. 2006	PSRA/Pew	13	20	32	23
Jul. 2006	PSRA/Pew	12	23	31	25
Dec. 2006-					
Jan. 2007	PSRA/Pew	13	24	22	33
Aug. 2007	PSRA/Pew	13	23	24	31
		Favor	Oppose		
Jan.-Feb. 2008	PSRA/Pew	40	49		

- Do you think marriages between homosexual men or homosexual women should be recognized as legal by the law, or not?

		Yes	No
Oct. 23-25, 1989	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	23	69
Aug. 19-20, 1992	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	27	67
Jan. 22-25, 1993	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	27	65
Jun. 15-16, 1994	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	31	64
Sept. 1996	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	26	65
Oct. 14-15, 1998	Yankelovich/CNN/Time	29	64
Jul. 16-17, 2003	Harris/CNN/Time	33	60
Nov. 18-19, 2003	Harris/CNN/Time	32	62
Feb. 5-6, 2004	Harris/CNN/Time	30	62

- Would you favor or oppose a law that would allow homosexual couples to marry, giving them the same legal rights as other married couples?

		Favor	Oppose
Jul. 13-27, 2003	CBS/NYT	40	55
Dec. 10-13, 2003	CBS/NYT	34	61
Feb. 24-27, 2004	CBS	30	62

- Would you favor or oppose a law that would allow homosexual couples to legally get married, or do you not have an opinion either way?

		Favor	Oppose
Jan. 9-11, 2004	Gallup	24	53

Note: Further breakdown reveals 16 percent of respondents favor strongly, 8 percent favor moderately, 9 percent oppose moderately, and 44 percent oppose strongly

- Thinking about what might be done to protect the rights of gays and lesbians, do you think that there should or should not be legally sanctioned gay marriages?

		Should	Should not
Feb. 21-24, 1991*	PSRA	30	62
Aug. 27, 1992	PSRA/Newsweek	35	58
Feb. 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	29	62
May 22-23, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	33	58
Jun. 19-20, 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	35	56

July 28-30, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	33	61
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	34	57
Apr. 25-26, 2002	PSRA/Newsweek	35	57
Feb. 5-6, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	33	58

Note: \*In 1991, question wording was, “Do you think that homosexual couples should be allowed to get legally married or not?”

- How do you feel about so-called same sex marriages, between two men or two women? Specifically, would you say you approve or disapprove or don’t feel strongly about the issue?

		-----Marriage Between Two Men-----			----Marriage Between Two Women----		
		Approve	Disapprove	Don’t Feel Strongly	Approve	Disapprove	Don’t Feel Strongly
1996	Harris	10	64	24	11	63	25
2000	Harris	15	57	24	16	55	26
Mar. 18-29, 2004	Harris	26	51	18	27	50	19

Note: In the 1996 and 2000 surveys, the words single sex were used rather than same sex.

- Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into same-sex marriages?

			Favor	Oppose
Sep. 12-17, 1996*	NBC/WSJ		25	67
Jul. 26-27, 2003	NBC/WSJ		32	51
Dec. 13, 2003	NBC/WSJ		32	56
Mar. 6-8, 2004	NBC/WSJ		30	62

Note: \*Asked of registered voters.

- Recently there has been a lot of talk about allowing gays and lesbians to marry a partner of the same sex. Do you favor or oppose same-sex marriage?

			Favor	Oppose
Jun. 26-27, 1996	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics		22	65
Aug. 12-13, 2003	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics		26	62

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Same-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status.

UCLA-CIRP*		
College Freshmen		Strongly Agree or Agree Somewhat
	1997	50
	1998	49
	1999	52
	2000	56
	2001	58
	2002	59
	2003	59
	2005	60
	2006	65
	2007	68

- On another topic, for each of the following issues, please indicate how you feel. Same sex marriage?

		Support	Neither	Oppose
Aug. 2007	Harris Interactive	31	19	46

- Would you favor or oppose a law that would ban gay marriage, requiring that marriage should be between a man and a woman?

Jan. 16-18, 2007	AP/AOL/Ipsos	Favor ban 51	Oppose ban 45
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- Should same-sex marriages be legal, or not?

Jan. 2-18, 2004	Ipsos/Newsweek/MSNBC	Should 50	Should Not 47
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Note: Asked of 18-29 year old registered voters.

- I'm going to mention several issues, and I'd like to get your reaction. For each item I read, please tell me whether this is something you strongly favor, somewhat favor, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose...Allowing homosexual couples to be legally married?

June 16-19, 1999	NBC/WSJ	Strongly Favor 13	Somewhat Favor 15	Somewhat Oppose 14	Strongly Oppose 50
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- Do you think homosexuals should or should not have equal rights to marry one another?

Jun. 23-26, 1994	ABC/Wash Post	Should 39	Should Not 56
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- Would you, personally, support or oppose giving homosexuals a legal right to marry a partner of the same sex?

Jun. 14-16, 1996	AP	Support 31	Oppose 59
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- In general, do you think gays and lesbians should or should not be allowed to be legally married?

May 17-21, 2000	AP	Should 34	Should Not 51
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- Do you feel same-sex couples should have the right to be legally married?

Dec. 6-8, 1996	Wirthlin Worldwide	Yes 29	No 67
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- Do you think marriage between two people of the same sex should be legal, or do you think marriage should be limited only to the union of a man and woman?

Mar. 13-16, 2000	NYT	Legal 28	Only Man And Woman 62
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- Thinking now about gay marriage, that is, allowing a couple who are gay or lesbian to marry one another legally, do you support or oppose gay marriage?

Jun. 8-13, 2000	LAT	Support 34	Oppose 58
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- Now I am going to read you a list of things that some people do. For each, thinking your own values and morals, I'd like you to tell me whether you think it is generally acceptable or generally unacceptable: Marriages between people of the same sex?

Mar. 8-Apr. 22, 2001	Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard	Generally Acceptable 34	Generally Not Acceptable 64
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- Today/yesterday, the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in favor of gay marriage in that state. Do you favor or oppose same-sex marriage?

		Favor	Oppose
Nov. 18-19, 2003	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	25	66

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Just your best guess, do you think that allowing two people of the same sex to legally marry will change our society for the better, will it have no effect, or will it change our society for the worse?

		Better	No Effect	Worse
Sep. 19-21, 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	10	40	48

- Thinking more generally, 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...allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally marry would undermine the traditional American family, do you completely agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or completely disagree with this statement?

		Completely Agree	Somewhat Agree	Completely Disagree	Somewhat Disagree
Feb. 7- Sep. 4, 2000*	PSRA/Kaiser	37	17	26	16
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/Pew	40	16	24	15

Note: \*Question wording was "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."

- 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 ...gay marriage would go against my religious beliefs?

		Agree	Disagree
May 22-23, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	67	29

- Thinking more generally, 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...gay marriage would go against my religious beliefs, do you completely agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or completely disagree with this statement?

		Completely Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Completely Disagree
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/Pew	50	12	10	23

- Do you support or oppose allowing same-sex couples to marry, or haven't you heard enough about it yet to say?

		Support	Oppose	Haven't Heard Enough
Nov. 15-18, 2003	L.A.Times	31	55	14

- Would you favor or oppose a law in your state that would allow gays and lesbians to marry a partner of the same sex?

		Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Oct. 7-Nov. 24, 2003	NAES	17	17	11	49\

- Would you support or oppose a law that would allow same-sex couples to get married?

		Support	Oppose
Dec. 4-8, 2003	Quinnipiac	35	60
Jan. 28-31, 2004	Quinnipiac	34	61

Mar. 16-22, 2004	Quinnipiac	31	63
Jul. 18-22, 2004	Quinnipiac	31	63
Dec. 7-12, 2004	Quinnipiac	31	65
Nov. 13-19, 2006	Quinnipiac	34	63

- Do you approve or disapprove of changing the definition of the word marriage to also include same-sex couples?

		Approve	Disapprove
Mar. 3-4, 2004	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	25	66

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

		Strongly Favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Nov. 19-21, 2004	AP/Ipsos	14	21	25	36

- Overall, do you approve or disapprove of gay and lesbian couples being allowed to get married? Is that strongly or just somewhat?

		Strongly Approve	Somewhat Approve	Neutral	Somewhat Disapprove	Strongly Disapprove
May 4-9, 2005	Boston Globe/UNH	25	12	11	8	42

- Would you favor or oppose a law that would ban gay marriage, requiring that marriage should be between a man and a woman?

		Favor Law to Ban	Oppose Law to Ban
Aug. 8-12, 2003	AP	52	41

- There has been some debate about which of branch of government should decide if gay marriages are legal. Some people argue that courts should decide whether gay marriage should be legal and other people argue that these decisions should be made by legislatures. Which best represents your view? Should courts make decisions about legalizing gay marriage or should these decisions be left to legislatures?

May 4-9, 2005	Boston Globe/UNH	Courts	Legislature	Either	Depends on State
	All	29	52	6	2
	Democrats	40	39	7	4
	Republicans	21	68	4	1
	Independents	20	56	6	2

**MARRIAGE OR CIVIL UNIONS OR NEITHER:** In 2000, Fox News and Opinion Dynamics asked whether gays and lesbians should be allowed to get legally married, allowed a legal partnership similar to but not called marriage, or whether there should be no legal recognition of gay and lesbian relationships. Other pollsters now ask similar questions. In most of these questions, around a quarter say they support gay marriage. The distribution of the remainder of opinion is less clear. On Election Day 2004, 25 percent of voters checked a box on the national exit poll consortium ballot that said gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to legally marry, 35 percent checked the box that said they should be allowed to legally form civil unions but not marry, and 37 percent checked the box that said there should be no legal recognition of their relationships.

- Which of the following arrangements between gay or lesbian couples do you think should be recognized as legally valid – same-sex marriages, civil unions but not same-sex marriages, or neither same-sex marriages nor civil unions?

		Same-sex marriages	Civil unions	Neither
Nov. 19-21, 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	21	32	43
Mar. 18-20, 2005*	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	20	27	45
Oct. 27-29, 2006	CNN/ORC	24	26	45

Note: \* Means asked of half-sample.

- Which comes closest to your view of gay and lesbian couples?

		-----Voters-----		
		Legally Marry	Civil Unions	No Legal Recognition
Nov. 2, 2004	NEP	25	35	37

Note: The exit poll consortium, NEP, consisted of the five major networks and the Associated Press.

- Which of the following statements comes closest to your view? “Same-sex couples should be allowed to legally marry”, or “Same-sex couples should be allowed to legally form civil unions, but not marry”, or “Same-sex couples should not be allowed to either marry or form civil union”.

		Legally Marry	Civil Unions	Neither
June 5-8, 2004	L.A. Times	26	35	35
July 17-21, 2004	L.A. Times	26	38	31
Oct. 19-22, 2007	LA Times/Bloomberg	30	26	38

- Which of the following statements comes closest to your view? “Same-sex couples should be allowed to legally marry”, or “Same-sex couples should be allowed to legally form civil unions, but not marry”, or “Same-sex couples should not be allowed to either marry or form civil unions.”

		Legally marry	Legally form Civil Unions	Neither
Mar. 27-30, 2004	L. A. Times	24	38	34

- Which comes closest to your view: Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple relationship?

		Legally Marry	Civil Unions	No recognition
Mar. 10-14, 2004	CBS/NYT	22	33	40
May 20-23, 2004	CBS	28	29	40
July 11-15, 2004	CBS/NYT	28	31	38
Oct. 28-30, 2004	CBS/NYT	21	38	34
Nov. 18-21, 2004	CBS/NYT	21	32	44
Jun. 2006	CBS/NYT	27	30	40
Oct. 27-31, 2006	CBS/NYT	28	29	38
Mar. 7-11, 2007	CBS/NYT	28	32	35

- Which do you think comes closest to the views of most people in the United States? Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple’s relationship?

		Legally Marry	Civil Unions	Nothing
Nov. 18-21, 2004	CBS/NYT	6	39	49

- There has been much talk recently about whether gays and lesbians should have the legal right to marry someone of the same sex. Which one of the following comes closest to your position on this issue? Do you support full marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples, support gay civil unions or partnerships but not gay marriage or oppose any legal recognition for gay and lesbian couples?

		Full Marriage Rights	Civil Unions	No Legal Recognition
Feb. 19-20, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	23	24	45
May 13-14, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	28	23	43
Oct. 26-27, 2006	PSRA/Newsweek	24	26	40
Mar. 14-15, 2007	PSRA/Newsweek	26	24	44

- Do you think that same sex-couples should be allowed to marry, allowed to have civil unions with all the same rights of a married couple but not call it marriage or neither of these two?

		Allowed To Marry	Civil Union	Neither
Mar. 18-29, 2004	Harris	27	31	35

- Do you believe gays and lesbians should be allowed to get legally married, allowed a legal partnership similar to but not called marriage, or should there be no legal recognition to gay and lesbian relationships?

		Allowed to get legally married	Allowed legal partnership	No legal recognition
Jan. 12-13, 2000	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	19	24	47
Mar. 3-4, 2004	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	20	33	40
May 18-19, 2004	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	25	26	40
Jun. 13-14, 2006	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	27	25	39

- Do you think the issue of whether gays and lesbians can legally marry should be decided at the state or federal level?

		State	Federal
Jun. 13-14, 2006	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	48	38

**CIVIL UNIONS/LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS/BENEFITS:** Support is stronger when people are asked about civil unions and specifically about providing homosexual couples health insurance coverage and inheritance rights. Fifty-five percent thought homosexual couples should be allowed to form civil unions according to a November 2007 ABC News/Washington Post survey.

- Would you favor or oppose a law that would allow homosexual couples to legally form civil unions, giving them some of the legal rights of married couples?

		Favor	Oppose
Oct. 25-28, 2000	Gallup	42	54
May 10-14, 2001	Gallup	44	52
Feb. 8-10, 2002	Gallup	41	53
May 6-9, 2002	Gallup	46	51
May 5-7, 2003	Gallup	49	49
Jul. 25-27, 2003	Gallup	40	57
Aug. 7-11, 2003	Wash Post	37	58
Mar. 5-7, 2004	Gallup	54	42
May 2-4, 2004	Gallup	49	48

- Would you favor or oppose a law that would allow homosexual couples to legally form civil unions, giving them some of the legal rights of married couples?

		Favor	Oppose
Mar. 5-7, 2004	Gallup	54	42
May 2-4, 2004	Gallup	56	40

- What about civil unions between gay or lesbian couples that would give them some, but not all, of the legal rights of married couples...should same sex couples be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry in your state? Is that strongly favor or just somewhat?

		Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
May 4-9, 2005	Boston Globe/UNH	28	18	7	8	33

- Do you think homosexual couples should or should not be allowed to form legally recognized civil unions, giving them the legal rights of married couples in areas such as health insurance, inheritance and pension coverage?

		Should	Should Not
Sep. 3-7, 2003	ABC News	40	51
Jan. 15-18, 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	46	51
Feb. 18-22, 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	45	48
Mar. 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	51	46
Jun. 2006	ABC News/Wash Post	45	48
Nov. 2007	ABC News/Wash Post	55	42

- Should homosexual couples have the same legal rights as married couples?

		Should	Should Not
Oct. 1-4, 1989	Gallup	23	69

- Now I would like to read you several more statements about some of the social issues facing America. For each issue, please tell me whether you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly with this statement...Homosexual couples should be able to enjoy the full rights granted to married heterosexual couples?

		Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Jun. 4-8, 1993	NBC/WSJ	15	23	14	43

- In general, do you think that gays and lesbians should or should not be allowed to form a domestic partnership that would give the same-sex couple the same rights and benefits as opposite-sex marriages?

		Should	Should Not
May 17-21, 2000	AP	42	47

- Would you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to form a civil union that would give a same-sex couple the same rights and benefits as a married couple?

		Favor	Oppose
Aug. 8-12, 2003	AP	41	53

- Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legal agreements with each other that are not marriages, but that would give them many of the same legal and financial relationships as married couples? (Asked of half sample)

		Favor	Oppose
Jul. 26-27, 2003	NBC/WSJ	53	34

- Do you think gay or lesbian couples should or should not be allowed all the same legal rights as married couples in every state, or doesn't it matter to you?

Sep. 19-21, 2003	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	Should 32	Doesn't Matter 32	Should Not 35
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- (If opposed to same-sex marriage = 60 percent of the sample) Would you favor or oppose a law in your state allowing gay and lesbian couples to form civil unions that are not marriages but would give gay couples rights such as inheritance, insurance and pension coverage? Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?

Oct. 7-Nov. 24, 2003	NAES	Strongly Favor 10	Somewhat Favor 26	Somewhat Oppose 13	Strongly Oppose 45
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- What about a homosexual couple? Do you think a homosexual couple who live together in a long-term relationship should be able to get the same job benefits as a married couple, or not?

Feb. 21-24, 1991	PSRA		Yes 39	No 56
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- Do you think gay partners who make a legal commitment to each other should or should not be entitled to the same rights and benefits as couples in traditional marriages?

Jan 13-16, 2000	Gallup		Should be entitled to same rights 40	Should not be entitled to same rights 53
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- Do you support or oppose allowing homosexual couples to have the same benefits as married heterosexual couples, such as health benefits, inheritance rights and Social Security survivor benefits?

Aug. 1-5, 1996	ABC/Wash Post		Support 37	Oppose 59
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- I would like to read you a proposal in the area of legal recognition of gay and lesbian relationships. For each one, tell me whether you would favor or oppose this proposal...?

			Favor	Oppose
Providing health insurance coverage to gay partners				
May 17-21, 2000	AP		53	37
Providing Social Security benefits to gay partners				
May 17-21, 2000	AP		50	41
Providing inheritance rights to gay partners				
May 17-21, 2000	AP		56	32

- What about allowing gay and lesbian couples the same type of rights and benefits that married couples currently enjoy, such as inheritance rights, health care benefits, or a tax break. Do you support or oppose rights and benefits for gay and lesbian couples?

Jun. 8-13, 2000	L.A. Times		Support 50	Oppose 40
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- Do you think homosexual couples should or should not have the same legal rights as married heterosexual couples regarding health care benefits and Social Security survivor benefits?

May 5-7, 2003	Gallup		Should 62	Should not 35
---------------	--------	--	--------------	------------------

- Would you support or oppose allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions that are not marriages, but would give similar legal protection in areas such as inheritance and hospital visits, or haven't you heard enough it yet to say?

		Support	Oppose	Haven't heard
Nov. 15-18, 2003	L.A. Times	36	40	24

- Do you think homosexual couples should or should not be allowed to form legally recognized civil unions, giving them the legal rights of married couples in areas such as health insurance, inheritance and pension coverage?

		Should	Should Not
Sep. 3-7, 2003	ABC News	40	51
Jan. 15-18, 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	46	51
Feb. 18-22, 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	45	48
May 31- Jun. 4, 2006	ABC News	45	48

- Do you support or oppose allowing homosexual couples to form civil unions that are not marriages, but would give gay couples rights such as inheritance, insurance and hospital visiting privileges?

		Support	Oppose
Sep. 23-24, 2003	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	46	44
Nov. 18-19, 2003	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	41	48

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Would you support or oppose a law that would allow same-sex couples to form civil unions, giving them many of the legal rights of married couples?

		Support	Oppose
Dec. 4-8, 2003	Quinnipiac	40	53
Jan. 28-31, 2004	Quinnipiac	40	53
Mar. 16-22, 2004	Quinnipiac	40	53
Jul. 18-22, 2004	Quinnipiac	40	55
Dec. 7-12, 2004	Quinnipiac	45	51
Nov. 13-19, 2006	Quinnipiac	45	52

- Would you favor or oppose a law that would allow homosexual couples to legally form civil unions, giving them some of the legal rights of married couples, or do you not have an opinion either way?

		Favor	Oppose	No Opinion
Jan. 9-11, 2004	Gallup	34	41	25

Note: Further breakdown reveals 20 percent of the respondents favor strongly, 14 percent favor moderately, 6 percent oppose moderately, and 35 percent oppose strongly.

- Thinking again about what might be done to protect gay rights, do you think there should or should not be...?

#### Inheritance rights for gay spouses

		Should	Should Not
Aug. 27, 1992	PSRA/Newsweek	70	25
Feb. 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	61	30
May 22-23, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	61	29
Jun. 19-20, 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	62	30
Jul. 30-31, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	59	33
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	62	28
Feb. 5-6, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	60	30

#### Social Security benefits for gay spouses

		Should	Should Not
Aug. 27, 1992	PSRA/Newsweek	58	35
Feb. 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	55	39
May 22-23, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	48	43
Jun. 19-20, 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	57	37

Jul. 30-31, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	52	41
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	54	38
Feb. 5-6, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	55	36

Health insurance and other employee benefits for gay spouses

Jun. 19-20, 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	59	36
Jul. 30-31, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	58	37
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	58	34
Feb. 5-6, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	60	33

- Would you favor oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples who are willing to make a life-long commitment through a legal contract to receive the same rights and benefits that heterosexual couples receive?

		Favor	Oppose
Dec. 12-13, 2003	NBC/WSJ	43	44
Mar. 6-8, 2004	NBC/WSJ	46	47

- Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into legal agreements with each other that would give them many of the same rights as married couples?

		Strongly Favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/Pew	14	31	20	27
Mar. 17-21, 2004	PSRA/Pew	16	33	18	26
Jul. 2004	PSRA/Pew	18	31	18	25
Aug. 2004	PSRA/Pew	15	33	21	24
Jul. 2005	PSRA/Pew	22	31	16	24
Jul. 2006	PSRA/Pew	19	35	24	18

**CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT?:** Pollsters have been experimenting with different question wordings to see how much support there is for a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as a union between a man and a woman. In September 2003, January and February 2004 polling by ABC News and the Washington Post, 55 percent said it should be illegal for homosexual couples to marry. The 55 percent in the September poll who thought it should be illegal were then asked whether they supported a constitutional amendment to make it illegal. Thirty-six percent did, and 60 percent did not. In another ABC/Post question from January 2004, 38 percent favored a constitutional amendment, but 58 percent said the matter should be left up to individual states.

In May 2008, 49 percent in a Gallup poll favored a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman, but 48 percent were opposed.

- Do you think it should be legal or illegal for homosexual couples to get married?

		Legal	Illegal
Sep. 3-7, 2003	ABC News	37	55
Jan. 15-18, 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	41	55
Feb. 18-22, 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	39	55
May 31-Jun. 4, 2006	ABC News	36	58

(If Illegal) Is it worth amending the U.S. Constitution to make it illegal for homosexual couples to get married, or not worth it?

		Yes	No
Sep. 3-7, 2003	ABC News	36	60

- Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman, thus barring marriages between gay or lesbian couples?

		Favor	Oppose
Jul. 18-20, 2003	Gallup	50	45
Feb. 6-8, 2004^	Gallup	47	47
Feb. 9-12, 2004	Gallup	53	44
Mar. 5-7, 2004	Gallup	50	45
May 2-4, 2004	Gallup	51	45
July 19-21, 2004^	Gallup	48	46
Mar 18-20, 2005	Gallup	57	37
Apr. 29-May 1, 2005	Gallup	53	44
May 8-11, 2006	Gallup	50	47
May 8-11, 2008^	Gallup	49	48

Note: ^ Asked of a half sample

- Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the US Constitution that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman, this prohibiting marriages between gay or lesbian couples? Is that strongly or somewhat?

		Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
May 4-9, 2005	Boston Globe/UNH	38	7	5	11	36

- Would you favor or would you oppose an amendment to the United States Constitution that defines marriage as a union only between a man and a woman and makes same-sex marriages unconstitutional?

		Favor	Oppose
Dec. 12-13, 2003	NBC/WSJ	48	44
Mar. 6-8, 2004	NBC/WSJ	54	42
May 1-3, 2004	NBC/WSJ	50	44
June 25-28, 2004	NBC/WSJ	51	44
July 19-21, 2004	NBC/WSJ	50	44
Oct. 16-18, 2004	NBC/WSJ	47	46

Note: Prior to May 2004, the question was phrased, "Would you favor or would you oppose a constitutional amendment that defined marriage as a union only between a man and a woman and made same-sex marriage unconstitutional?"

- Would you support or oppose amending the United States Constitution to ban same-sex marriage?

		Support	Oppose
Mar. 16-22, 2004	Quinnipiac	41	51
Jul. 18-22, 2004	Quinnipiac	39	55
Dec. 7-12, 2004	Quinnipiac	43	53
Nov. 13-19, 2006	Quinnipiac	43	53

- Do you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that legally defines marriage as a union between a man and a woman only, and would prevent states from legally recognizing same-sex marriages?

		Favor	Oppose
Mar. 27-30, 2004	L.A. Times	51	42
July 17-21, 2004	L.A. Times	48	47

- Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow marriage only between a man and a woman?

		Favor	Oppose
Mar. 10-14, 2004	CBS/NYT	59	35

- Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution saying that no state can allow two men to marry each other or two women to marry each other?

		Favor	Oppose
May 3-16, 2004	NAES	42	50
Sep. 21-26, 2004	NAES	40	49
Oct. 14-20, 2004	NAES	42	49

- Congress is considering a constitutional amendment that marriage should only be between a man and a woman. Would you favor or oppose the amending of the Constitution to specify marriage should be between a man and a woman?

		Favor	Oppose
Aug. 8-12, 2003	AP	54	42

- Would you favor or oppose passing a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman?

		Favor	Oppose
Aug. 12-13, 2003	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	58	34
Mar. 3-4, 2004	Fox News/Opinion Dynamics	52	40

Note: Asked of registered voters

- Would you support amending the U.S. Constitution to make it illegal for homosexual couples to get married anywhere in the U.S., or should each state make its own laws on homosexual marriage?

		Support Amendment	States Make Own Laws
Jan. 15-18, 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	38	58
Feb. 18-22, 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	46	45

- (Asked of the 59 percent of respondents who said they opposed “allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally”) Should the U.S. Constitution be amended to ban gay marriage, or is it enough to prohibit gay marriage by law without changing the Constitution

		Amend the Constitution	Enough to Prohibit by Law
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/Pew	10	42

- If the courts in your state ruled that your state’s government must legally recognize gay marriages, would you favor or oppose amending your state’s constitution to legally define marriage as a union between a man and a woman?

		Favor	Oppose
Nov. 18-19, 2003	Harris Interactive	53	40

- Would you favor or oppose a law in your state that would allow two men to marry each other or two women to marry each other?

		Favor	Oppose
May 3-16, 2004	NAES	30	61

(Asked only of respondents who said “opposed” to previous question) Would you favor or oppose a law in your state allowing gay and lesbian couples to form civil unions that are not marriages but would give gay couples rights such as inheritance, insurance, and pension coverage?

		Favor	Oppose
May 3-16, 2004	NAES	34	62

Note: Asked ONLY of respondents who said opposed in the prior question.

- Would you favor or oppose legislation in your state that would prohibit marriages between gay or lesbian couples? Is that strongly or somewhat?

		Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Neutral	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
May 4-9, 2005	Boston Globe/UNH	39	7	7	10	36

- Do you favor or oppose the federal government adopting a constitutional amendment banning gay marriage? Is that strongly favor/oppose or somewhat favor/oppose?

		Strongly Favor	Somewhat Favor	Somewhat Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Oct. 7-Nov. 18, 2003	NAES	30	9	16	35
Nov. 19-24, 2003	NAES	32	8	15	36

- Would you favor/oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that no state can allow two men to marry each other or two women to marry each other?

			Favor	Oppose
Feb. 5-8, 2004	NAES		42	49
Feb. 14-23, 2004	NAES		41	48

- I'd like to ask you some questions about priorities for President Bush and Congress this year. As I read from a list, tell me if you think the item that I read should be a top priority, important but lower priority, not too important or should it not be done? Passing a constitutional amendment that would prohibit gay marriages.

		Top Priority	Important/Lower Priority	Not Too Important	Should Not Be Done
Jan. 6-11, 2004	PSRA/Pew	22	16	22	37

Note: Passing a constitutional amendment ranked 21st of 22 issues Pew inquired about as a "top priority."

- Would you favor or oppose a Constitutional amendment that would define marriage as specifically involving a man and a woman, making same-sex marriages illegal and unconstitutional?

			Favor	Oppose
Jan. 2-18, 2004	Ipsos/Newsweek/MSNBC		43	54

Note: Asked of 18-29 year old registered voters.

- Do you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that legally defines marriage as a union between a man and woman only, and would prevent states from legally recognizing marriages between homosexual men or between homosexual woman?

			Favor	Oppose
Feb. 5-6, 2004	Harris/CNN/Time		47	46

- Would you favor or oppose a Constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriage in all states?

			Favor	Oppose
Feb. 5-6, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek		47	45

- Do you think defining marriage as a union between a man and a woman is an important enough issue to be worth changing the Constitution for, or isn't it that kind of issue?

			Important Enough	Not That Kind of Issue
Mar. 10-14, 2004	CBS/NYT		38	56
Nov. 18-21, 2004	CBS/NYT		40	56

- Would you support a Constitutional amendment that would ban gay marriages in all 50 states, or do you think it should be left up to the individual states to pass their own laws about gay marriage?

		Amendment	States	Full Rights
Feb. 19-20, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	39	33	23*

Note: \*Answer given in a previous question that asked: “There has been much talk recently about whether gays and lesbians should have the legal right to marry someone of the same sex. Which of the following comes closest to your position on this issue? Do you... support full marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples?”

- Now I am going to read you some pairs of statements. As I read each pair, please tell me whether the first statement or the second statement comes closer to your own views, even if neither is exactly right. 1) I oppose amending the U.S. Constitution to bar gay marriages. 2) I favor amending the U.S. Constitution to bar gay marriages. Is that strong or weak?

		1 <sup>st</sup> Statement Strong	1 <sup>st</sup> Statement Weak	2 <sup>nd</sup> Statement Weak	2 <sup>nd</sup> Statement Strong
Mar. 16-21, 2004	Democracy Corps (Dem.)	49	7	5	32

- As you may know, there is a legal proposal in Congress to amend the U.S. Constitution to make same sex marriages illegal. Supporters of this proposed amendment say that it is a serious attempt to address the issue of gay marriages. Opponents of this proposal say that it is being promoted for political, election year purposes. Whom do you agree with more—supporters of the amendment, or opponents of the amendment?

		Supporters	Opponents
Mar. 6-8, 2004	NBC/WSJ	42	50

- Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow marriages only between a man and a woman? (Asked of half sample)

		Favor	Oppose
Feb. 24-27, 2004	CBS	59	35

- Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow marriage only between a man and a woman, and outlaw marriages between people of the same sex? (Asked of half sample)

		Favor	Oppose
Feb. 24-27, 2004	CBS News	51	42

- There has been a proposal to change the U.S. Constitution to ban gay marriage. Do you think amending the Constitution to ban gay marriage is a good idea, or a bad idea?

		Good Idea to Amend Constitution	Bad Idea to Amend Constitution
Mar. 17-21, 2004	PSRA/Pew	36	21
Jul. 2004	PSRA/Pew	31	22
Aug. 2004	PSRA/Pew	35	22
Jul. 2005	PSRA/Pew	29	22
Jun. 2006	PSRA/Pew	33	19
Jul. 2006	PSRA/Pew	30	24

Note: Asked of those who said they opposed gay marriage.

- Why do you think the Constitution should not be amended to ban gay marriages?

		Reasons
Mar. 17-21, 2004	PSRA/Pew	
	Stable Document/Way Founders Wrote It/Leave It Alone	18
	Government Should Stay out of It/Favor Individual Rights	14
	Let the States Handle It/Other Ways to Address It	11

Trivial/Not That Important/Other Priorities	8
Gay marriage Is Not a Constitutional Issue	6
It Would Open the Door to Other Changes	5
It Wouldn't Work/People Will Do What They Want	2
Unspecific Reason	1
Other Reasons	9

Note: Based on respondents who oppose gay marriage, but also believe a constitutional amendment is a bad idea.

**FAMILIES:** In 1999, about two in ten said that committed homosexual couples constitute a family. In the 2004 PSRA/Newsweek poll, 45 percent said there should be adoption rights for gay spouses, but 47 percent disagreed. In 1977, 14 percent told Gallup that homosexuals should be allowed to adopt children, and 77 percent said they should not. In 2007, in a question with slightly different wording, 57 percent said homosexual couples should have the legal right to adopt a child; 40 percent said they should not.

- You hear a lot today about the changing American family. I'd like to know your opinion on what a 'family' is. For each of the following types of living arrangements, please tell me whether you would definitely call it a family, you definitely would not call it a family, or if you aren't sure.

A married couple living with their children:

		Family	Not family	Aren't sure
Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	98	1	1
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	99	1	1
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	98	1	1

A married couple living with their children from a previous marriage:

Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	93	5	2
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	96	3	1
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	95	3	2

A man and a woman who are married, but don't have any children:

Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	87	10	3
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	88	11	2
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	86	11	3

A divorced mother living with her children:

		Family	Not Family	Aren't Sure
Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	84	13	2
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	85	14	1
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	86	12	2

A divorced father living with his children:

Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	80	17	3
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	79	19	2
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	83	13	4

An unwed (never married) mother living with her children:

Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	81	14	5
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	83	15	2
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	82	14	4

An unwed (never married) father living with his children:

Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	73	19	7
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	74	22	4
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	78	16	6

A man and a woman committed (but not married) to each other and living together, who are raising children:  
(question wording differed slightly in 1992)

Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	77	17	6
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	72	24	3
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	75	18	6

A man and woman committed to each other and living together (but not married):  
(question wording differed slightly in 1992)

Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	53	37	11
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	57	39	4
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	50	40	9

A group of unrelated adults who live together and consider themselves a “family”:

Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	28	60	12
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	33	63	4
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	29	59	12

Two lesbian women living with children they are raising together:

Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	27	62	11
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	27	68	5
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	29	59	12

Two gay men living with children they are raising:

Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	26	65	9
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	29	66	5
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	26	61	13

Two gay men committed to each other and living together:

Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	20	71	9
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	21	75	4
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	21	69	10

Two lesbian women committed to each other and living together:

		Family	Not Family	Aren't Sure
Feb 1992	Roper GfK-NOP	21	69	10
Feb. 1996	Roper GfK-NOP	22	72	6
Mar. 1999	Roper GfK-NOP	20	66	13

## **Adoption**

- On another subject, thinking about adoption in general, would you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to adopt a child?

		Favor	Oppose
Jun. 1977	Gallup	14	77
Mar. 2004	LA Times	40	52
Mar. 2006	PSRA/Pew Research Center	46	48
May 2006	ABC News/Time	49	48
May 2007	CNN/ORC	57	40

Note: Question wording varies. Gallup asked, “do you think homosexuals should or should not be allowed to adopt children?” The LA Times asked “do you favor or oppose gay couples legally adopting children?” Pew asked, “As I list some programs and proposals that are being discussed in this country today, please tell me whether you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose each...Allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children?” CNN asked, “Do you think gay or lesbian couples should or should not have the legal right to adopt a child?” [p]

- Do you think that homosexual couples should be legally permitted to adopt children or don't you think so?

		Yes, legal	No
Aug. 1992	Time/CNN	29	63
Jun. 1994	Time/CNN	28	65
Oct. 1998	Time/CNN	35	57
Sep. 2007	Gallup	46	50

- And do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children?

		Strongly Favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly Oppose
Sep. 1999	SRB/Pew Research Center	10	28	30	27
Mar. 2006	SRB/Pew Research Center	14	32	26	22
Jul. 2006	SRB/Pew Research Center	11	31	28	24

- Do you think there should or should not be...adoption rights for gay spouses?

		Should	Should Not
Feb. 3-4, 1994	PSRA/Newsweek	29	65
May 22-23, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	36	52
Oct. 17-18, 1996	PSRA/Newsweek	36	47
Jun. 19-20, 1997	PSRA/Newsweek	40	49
Jul. 30-31, 1998	PSRA/Newsweek	36	56
Mar. 9-10, 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	39	50
Feb. 7-Sep. 4, 2000	PSRA/Kaiser	46	47
Apr. 25-26, 2002	PSRA/Newsweek	46	44
Feb. 5-6, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	45	47

- Thinking more generally, 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...gay and lesbian couples can be as good parents as heterosexuals, do you completely agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or completely disagree with this statement?

		Completely Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Completely Disagree
Feb. 7- Sep. 4, 2000*	PSRA/Kaiser	32	22	11	28
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/Pew	30	24	11	26

Note: \*Question wording was “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.”

- Do you think homosexuals should or should not be allowed to adopt children?

		Should	Should Not
Jun. 17-20, 1977	Gallup	14	77

- Do you think homosexual couples should or should not have the legal right to adopt a child?

May 5-7, 2003	Gallup	Should 49	Should Not 48
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- What about adoption of children by two men or two women who live together as a couple, whether they are married or not. Do you approve or disapprove or don't feel strongly about the issue?

		-----Male Couple Adopting-----			-----Female Couple Adopting-----		
		Approve	Disapprove	Don't Feel Strongly	Approve	Disapprove	Don't Feel Strongly
1996	Harris	15	65	18	16	61	21
2000	Harris	21	57	18	22	55	19
2004	Harris	33	45	15	36	43	16

- Do you approve or disapprove or don't feel strongly about a male couple adopting a child?

Jan. 6-10, 2000	Harris Interactive	Approve 21	Disapprove 57
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Note: A September 2002 poll in Great Britain found that 44 percent agreed with the statement "Gay couples should be allowed to adopt children" and 36 percent disagreed. In a 2000 poll the results were 33 percent agreed and 55 percent disagreed. For more information go to <http://www.mori.com/digest/2002/pd021101.shtml>

- Would you favor or oppose this proposal...allowing gay couples to adopt a child?

May 25-26, 1993	USNews	Favor 24	Oppose 70
Sept. 1-12, 1999	PSRA/Pew	38	57

- If gay couples are allowed to marry, should it be easy for them to adopt children as it is for heterosexual married couples, should it be more difficult, or should they not be allowed to adopt at all?

May 22-23, 1996	PRSA/Newsweek	As Easy 30	More Difficult 20	Not Allowed at All 44
Jul. 7-Aug 8, 1997	PRSA	30	20	44

## **PARTY IDENTIFICATION & VOTING OF GAYS, LESBIANS AND BISEXUALS**

- Are you gay, lesbian, or bisexual?\*

Voters		-----How Self-Identified Gays Voted-----			
<i>Year</i>	<i>Pollster</i>	<i>Yes</i>			
1992	VRS	2	Clinton	72	Bush 14
1996	VNS	5	Clinton	66	Dole 22
2000	VNS	4	Gore	71	Bush 25
2004	NEP	4	Kerry	77	Bush 23

Note: National exit polls. \*Voters check boxes on the exit poll “ballot” if various terms apply them.

- In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent? (Asked of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals only)

		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Apr. 1993	PSRA/Newsweek	72	7	19
Feb.-Sep. 2000*	PSRA/Kaiser	61	8	26
Mar. 2000	PSRA/Newsweek	59	10	27

- Regardless of how you may vote, what do you usually consider yourself – a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or some other party? (Asked of gays and lesbians only)

		Democrat	Republican	Independent
Apr. 2000	Harris Interactive	38	18	41

- In last November’s presidential election, when Clinton ran against Bush and Perot, did things come up that kept you from voting, or did you happen to vote? (If Yes) Did you happen to vote for Clinton, Bush or Perot? (Asked of gays and lesbians only)

		Clinton	Bush	Perot
Apr. 1993	PSRA/Newsweek	89	2	3

Note: Not an exit poll.

## The 2004 Campaign

- I am going to read you a list of some of the issues that will probably be discussed in next year's presidential election campaigns. As I read each one, please tell me how important the candidates' positions on that issue will be in influencing your vote for president?

Feb. 6-8, 2004

Gallup

	Extremely Important
Terrorism	43
Education	41
Situation in Iraq	39
Economy	38
Healthcare	38
Federal budget deficit	30
Taxes	29
Environment	25
Corporate corruption	23
Abortion	22
<b>Same-sex marriage</b>	<b>22</b>
Foreign affairs	21
Gun policy	21
Immigration	19

- Which one of the following issues will be most important to your vote for president?

Sep. 21-22, 2004

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics

	Extremely Important
The economy	23
Health Care/Medicare	12
Terrorism/Homeland Security	22
Education	5
Social Security	7
Iraq	8
Foreign Policy	8
Taxes	4
<b>Gay Marriage</b>	<b>4</b>

June 22 -23, 2004

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics

	Extremely Important
The economy	26
Health Care/Medicare	16
Terrorism/Homeland Security	18
Education	6
Social Security	6
Iraq	5
Foreign Policy	5
Taxes	4
<b>Gay Marriage</b>	<b>3</b>

- Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Bush is handling the issue of same sex marriage?

		Approve	Disapprove
Mar. 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	44	52
Apr. 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	45	49

- Regardless of how you intend to vote, who do you think would do a better job on gay marriage--George W. Bush or John Kerry?

		Bush	Kerry
Mar. 16-22, 2004	Quinnipiac	41	37

- “He would do a better job of handling the issue of same-sex marriage”: Does this apply more to George W. Bush or more to John Kerry?

		Bush	Kerry
Mar. 27-30, 2004	L.A. Times	36	35

- “Who do you think would do the best job of handling social issues, such as abortion and gay marriage: George W. Bush or John Kerry?”

		Bush	Kerry
Sep. 25-28, 2004	L.A. Times	43	41

- Which do you think comes closer to reflecting your own views on the issue of gay marriage-- George W. Bush or John Kerry?

		Bush	Kerry
Feb. 5-6, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	38	29
July 29-30, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	46	33
Sept. 2-3, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	44	36
Oct. 14-15, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	41	39
Oct. 21-22, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	39	43
Oct. 27-29, 2004	PSRA/Newsweek	46	41

Note: Asked of registered voters.

- Now I'd like you to compare George W. Bush and John Kerry on a few issues. For each one, please tell me whether you think that George W. Bush or John Kerry would be better on that issue. If you think that both would be equally good and that neither would be good on a particular issue, just say so....Same-sex marriage?

		George W. Bush Better	John Kerry Better	Both Would Be Equally Good	Neither Would Be Good
May 2004	NBC/WSJ	39	29	8	10
Sep. 17-19, 2004	NBC/WSJ	39	34	7	9
Oct. 16-18, 2004	NBC/WSJ	37	33	11	12

- Regardless of which presidential candidate you support, please tell me if you think John Kerry or George W. Bush would handle each of the following issues. How about gay marriage?

		Bush	Kerry
Mar. 5-7, 2004	Gallup/CNN/USA Today	46	41

- Who do you trust to do a better job handling the issue of same sex marriage, Bush or Kerry?

		Bush	Kerry
Mar. 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	44	43
Apr. 2004	ABC News/Wash Post	51	35

- Is it possible you would ever vote for a candidate who does not share your views on the issue of gay marriage, or is the subject so important that you could not vote for a candidate who disagrees with it?

		Yes, Would	No, Would Not
Feb. 24-27, 2004	CBS	52	40
Mar. 10-14, 2004	CBS/NYT	45	44
May 20-23, 2004	CBS	56	35
Oct. 28-30, 2004	CBS/NYT	64	28
Nov. 18-21, 2004	CBS/NYT	57	33

Note: Registered Voters

- Thinking about how the gay marriage issue might affect your vote for major offices, would you only vote for a candidate who shares your views on gay marriage, consider a candidate's position on gay marriage as just one of many important factors when voting, or would you not see gay marriage as a major issue?

		Candidates Must Share View	One Of Many Important Factors	Not A Major Issue
May 2-4, 2004	Gallup	16	46	35

- What if a presidential candidate favored gay marriage? Would that make you more likely to support that candidate, less likely, or wouldn't it make any difference in your decision to support a particular candidate?

		More Likely	No Difference	Less Likely
Aug. 8-12, 2003	AP	10	39	49

- If a presidential candidate favored allowing gays and lesbians to form a civil union that would give them the same rights and benefits as a married couple, would that make you more likely to support that candidate, less likely, or wouldn't it make any difference?

		More Likely	No Difference	Less Likely
Aug. 8-12, 2003	AP	12	43	44

- In response to a question on homosexuality in the last presidential debate, Kerry mentioned that Vice President Dick Cheney's daughter is a lesbian. That's something Cheney has acknowledged. Do you think that it was appropriate or inappropriate for Kerry to mention it?

		Appropriate	Not Appropriate
Oct. 12-14, 2004^	ABC News	33	64

^Likely Voter

## COMPARISONS WITH OTHER ISSUES

- There's been a lot of discussion about the way morals and attitudes about sex are changing in this country. If a man and woman have sex relations before marriage, do you think it is always wrong, almost always wrong, wrong only sometimes, or not wrong at all?

		Always wrong	Almost always	Only sometimes	Not wrong
1972	NORC/GSS	37	12	24	27
1974	NORC/GSS	33	13	24	31
1975	NORC/GSS	31	12	24	33
1977	NORC/GSS	31	10	23	37
1978	NORC/GSS	29	12	20	39
1982	NORC/GSS	29	9	20	42
1983	NORC/GSS	27	10	24	39
1985	NORC/GSS	29	8	20	43
1986	NORC/GSS	28	9	23	40
1988	NORC/GSS	26	11	22	41
1989	NORC/GSS	28	9	23	41
1990	NORC/GSS	26	12	23	40
1991	NORC/GSS	28	10	19	44
1993	NORC/GSS	27	10	21	42
1994	NORC/GSS	26	10	20	44
1996	NORC/GSS	24	10	23	44
1998	NORC/GSS	26	9	21	44

2000	NORC/GSS	28	9	21	42
2002	NORC/GSS	27	8	20	44
2004	NORC/GSS	27	9	18	46
2006	NORC/GSS	25	9	19	45

Cohort Analysis of NORC Data:

Premarital sex not wrong at all  
Generation Gap 1973-1997

		-----AGE-----					
		18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
1973	NORC/GSS	50	41	26	20	16	15
1985	NORC/GSS	50	54	49	41	26	19
1997	NORC/GSS	48	53	47	49	33	18

SOURCE: "Changes in the Generation Gap, 1972-1998" by Tom W. Smith, National Opinion Research Center, October 2000

- What about a married person having sexual relations with someone other than the marriage partner, it is always wrong, almost always wrong, wrong only sometimes, or not wrong at all?

		Always wrong	Almost always	Only sometimes	Not wrong
1973	NORC/GSS	70	15	12	4
1974	NORC/GSS	74	12	12	3
1976	NORC/GSS	69	16	12	4
1977	NORC/GSS	73	14	10	3
1980	NORC/GSS	71	16	10	4
1982	NORC/GSS	73	13	11	3
1984	NORC/GSS	71	18	9	2
1985	NORC/GSS	75	14	9	3
1987	NORC/GSS	73	15	9	3
1988	NORC/GSS	79	13	6	2
1989	NORC/GSS	78	13	7	2
1990	NORC/GSS	79	13	7	1
1991	NORC/GSS	77	14	7	3
1993	NORC/GSS	77	14	6	3
1994	NORC/GSS	79	13	7	2
1996	NORC/GSS	78	15	5	2
1998	NORC/GSS	79	13	6	2
2000	NORC/GSS	79	11	7	3
2002	NORC/GSS	79	13	4	2
2004	NORC/GSS	80	12	5	2
2006	NORC/GSS	81	11	5	2

Cohort Analysis of NORC Data:

Extramarital sex always wrong  
 Generation Gap 1973-1997

		AGE-----					
		18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
1973	NORC/GSS	57	63	71	75	81	87
1985	NORC/GSS	66	70	68	73	83	86
1997	NORC/GSS	81	78	79	77	83	82

SOURCE: "Changes in the Generation Gap, 1972-1998" by Tom W. Smith, National Opinion Research Center, October 2000

- Now I am going to read a list of things that some people do. For each, thinking about your own values and morals, I'd like you to tell me whether you think it is: always acceptable; acceptable in some situations but not in others; unacceptable, but should be tolerated by society; or unacceptable and should not be tolerated . . . ?

Jul.-Aug. 2003

Wash Post/Kaiser/ Harvard

	Always Acceptable	Sometimes Acceptable	Tolerated	Not Acceptable
Marriages between blacks and whites	52	23	11	12
Sex before marriage	21	34	19	24
Divorce	19	57	14	9
Drinking alcohol	16	57	9	17
Having a child without being married	16	41	23	18
<b>Sex between two adults of the same sex</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>53</b>
<b>Marriages between two persons of the same sex</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>61</b>
Abortion	9	42	10	38
Making a sexist remark in a private conversation	6	26	15	52
Smoking marijuana	5	26	12	55
Making a racist remark in a private conversation	4	13	14	68
A married person having an affair	1	10	17	72

- Next, I'm going to read you a list of issues. Regardless of whether or not you think it should be legal, for each one, please tell me whether you personally believe that in general it is morally acceptable or morally wrong. How about...?

Gallup

2005

2004

2003

	Morally Acceptable	Morally Wrong	Morally Acceptable	Morally Wrong	Morally Acceptable	Morally Wrong
Divorce	66	27	66	26	66	27
The death penalty	70	25	65	28	64	31
Medical testing on animals	66	30	62	32	63	33
Gambling	64	32	66	30	63	34
Buying and wearing clothing made of animal fur	64	32	63	31	60	36
Sex between an unmarried man and woman	58	39	60	36	58	41
Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos	60	34	54	37	54	38
Having a baby outside of marriage	54	43	53	41	51	46
Doctor assisted suicide	49	46	49	45	45	49
<b>Homosexual behavior</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>52</b>

Abortion	40	51	40	50	37	53
Cloning animals	35	61	32	64	29	68
Suicide	13	82	15	79	14	81
Cloning humans	9	87	9	88	8	90
Polygamy, when one husband has more than one wife at the same time	6	92	7	91	7	92
Married men and women having an affair	5	93	7	91	6	93

	2007	
	Acceptable	Wrong
Death penalty	66	27
Divorce	65	26
Medical research using stem cells obtained from human embryos	64	30
Gambling	63	32
Medical testing on animals	59	37
Sex between an unmarried man and woman	59	38
Buying and wearing clothing made of animal fur	58	38
Having a baby outside of marriage	54	42
Doctor assisted suicide	49	44
Homosexual relations	47	49
Abortion	40	51
Cloning animals	36	59
Suicide	16	78
Cloning humans	11	86
Polygamy, when one husband has more than one wife at the same time	8	90
Married men and women having an affair	6	91

- Do you favor or oppose state laws that regulate consenting sexual relations that occur in the private home of an...?

Apr. 17-23, 2003	Harris Interactive	Favor	Oppose
Adult married opposite-sex couple		13	87
Adult unmarried opposite-sex couple		14	86
Adult same-sex couple in a domestic partnership		18	82
Adult same-sex couple not in a domestic partnership		18	82

Note: Responses of lesbians, gays, and bisexuals to this question can be found at the Harris Interactive website, <http://www.harrisinteractive.com/>

## Miscellaneous

### Youth Attitudes

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

Jun. 2007	CBS News/MTV/NYT	Legally marry	Civil unions	No legal recognition
		44	24	30

Note: Sample is 17 to 29 year-olds.

- Do you think being a homosexual is something people choose to be, or do you think it is something they cannot change?

Jun. 2007	CBS News/MTV/NYT	Choose	Cannot change
		43	50

Note: Sample is 17 to 29 year-olds.

- Do you think homosexual relations between adults are morally wrong, or are they okay, or don't you care much either way?

		Wrong	Okay	Don't care
May 30-Jun. 9, 2006	MTV/CBS News	30	27	43

Note: National sample of 13-24 year olds. Forty-nine percent of adults said "morally wrong" while 13 percent said okay. Thirty-six percent did not care.

- Do you personally know anyone who is gay or lesbian?

		Yes	No
May 30-Jun. 9, 2006	MTV/CBS News	77	23

Note: National sample of 13-24 year olds.

- Do you have a close friend or family member who is gay or lesbian?

		Yes	No
May 30-Jun. 9, 2006	MTV/CBS News	49	51

Note: National sample of 13-24 year olds.

- Do you favor or oppose permitting gay men and women to serve in the military? Do you favor/oppose that strongly or not so strongly?

		Favor Strongly	Favor Not so strongly	Oppose strongly	Oppose not so strongly
May 30-Jun. 9, 2006	MTV/CBS News	39	23	12	13

- Here is a list of some statements. For each one, please tell me how much you agree with it – do you completely agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, agree more than disagree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree more than agree, mostly disagree, or do you completely disagree with the statement...Government should stay out of people's personal lives, that is their choices about relationships, sex, family life, etc.?

		-----Govt. Should Stay Out Of Personal Lives-----						
		Completely Agree	Mostly Agree	Agree More	Neither	Disagree More	Mostly Disagree	Completely Disagree
Oct. 1995	Roper GfK-NOP	1	39	27	16	10	5	2
Oct. 1997	Roper GfK-NOP	1	38	30	16	9	3	2
Oct. 2000	Roper GfK-NOP	1	36	33	17	7	3	3

- Thinking more generally, 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...society should not put any restrictions on sex between consenting adults in the privacy of their own home, do you completely agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or completely disagree with this statement?

		Completely Agree	Somewhat Agree	Somewhat Disagree	Completely Disagree
Feb. 7- Sep. 4, 2000*	PSRA/Kaiser	76	12	4	6
Oct. 15-19, 2003	PSRA/Pew	61	19	5	8

Note: \*Wording was "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."

- As you may know, the Episcopal Church has given its bishops the option of allowing clergy to bless the committed relationships of gay or lesbian couples. Do you approve or disapprove of this decision?

Aug. 7-11, 2003	Wash Post	Approve 33	Disapprove 60
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- Now thinking about your own religious faith or denomination, would you approve or disapprove of giving local churches the option of blessing committed relationships of gay or lesbian couples?

Aug. 7-11, 2003	Wash Post	Approve 31	Disapprove 63
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- If the church you regularly attend decided to allow blessings of gay or lesbian couples, would you continue to attend that church or would you look for another church to attend?

Aug. 7-11, 2003	Wash Post	Continue To Attend 48	Look For Another 47
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- Now, I will read a list of some stories covered by news organizations this past month. As I read each item, tell me if you happened to follow this news story very closely, fairly closely, not too closely, or not at all closely?

		Very	Fairly	Not too	Not at all
May 3-9, 2004	PSRA/Pew	20	27	25	27
Mid-March 2004	PSRA/Pew	29	33	20	17
Early February 2004	PSRA/Pew	26	32	22	19
Mid-August, 2003	PSRA/Pew	19	30	22	28

- When it comes to dealing with gay marriage, which party do you think would do a better job—the Democratic party, the Republican party, or both about the same? If you think that neither would do a good job, please just say so.

		Democrats	Republicans	Both	Neither
Dec. 2003	NBC/WSJ	33	26	10	13
Jan. 2004	NBC/WSJ	31	28	16	14
Jun. 2006	NBC/WSJ	35	21	16	20

- I'm going to read you some positions that someone running for Congress could take. For each, please tell me whether you would be more likely to vote for a candidate for Congress who takes this position, less likely to vote for this candidate, or would it not make a difference to you either way? Favors adding an amendment to the Constitution that bans gay marriage.

Jun. 9-12, 2006	NBC/WSJ	More likely 37	Less likely 39	No difference 22
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- Do you think the Republicans in Congress or the Democrats in Congress would do a better job of dealing with each of the following issues and problems? How about...same-sex marriage?

Jun. 23-25, 2006	Gallup/USA Today	Republicans 34	Democrats 47
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- Do you think the question of whether gay marriage should be legal is something that should be decided at the national level, or is it something that each state should decide for itself?

Jul. 6-19, 2006	SRB/Pew Research Center	National 48	State 46
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- How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements? Homosexual relationships between consenting adults are morally wrong.

Mar. 2007	Harvard IOP	Agree 27	Disagree 53
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Note: Sample is of 18-24 year olds.

**Key:**

NAES = National Annenberg Election Survey

NORC/GSS = National Opinion Research Center, General Social Survey

Wash Post/Kaiser/Harvard = Washington Post, Kaiser Family Foundation, Harvard University

**Additional Polls:**

LeMoyne College and Zogby International are polling Catholics on a variety of issues, including homosexuality and gay marriage. Their latest Contemporary Catholic Trends poll was conducted in March 2005 and released in early May. The contact at LeMoyne College is Joe Della Posta at 315-445-4555. At Zogby, call 202-429-0022.

A January 2000 survey by MORI (Market & Opinion Research International) provides data on British attitudes toward homosexuality. It can be found at <http://www.mori.com/polls/2000/m000127.shtml>

A number of survey organizations poll gays and lesbians about their attitudes. Some of them are listed here.

- The Kaiser Family Foundation's poll of gays, lesbians, and bisexuals and their attitudes regarding sexual orientation and public issues, conducted from February to September 2000, can be found at <http://www.kff.org/content/2001/3193/LGB%20Revised%20Release.pdf>
- Zogby International, GLCensus Partners, The S.I. Newhouse School at Syracuse, OpusComm Group and GSociety are polling gays, lesbians, and bisexuals regularly about their attitudes (see <http://www.zogby.com>).
- PSRA/Newsweek has conducted four surveys on the attitudes of gays and lesbians, most recently in March 2000. The other surveys were conducted in July 1998, June 1994, and April 1993.
- Harris Interactive does surveys on the attitudes of gays and lesbians in conjunction with Witeck-Combs Communications. The most recent report was released in April 2004 (see <http://www.witeckcombs.com/news.asp> and <http://www.harrisinteractive.com/>).
- The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force is polling gays, lesbians, and bisexuals regularly about their attitudes (see <http://www.ngltf.org/>).
- Zogby International and Le Moyne University have more extensive polling data on Catholics attitudes towards homosexuality (see <http://www.lemoyne.edu/academics/zogby.htm> ).
- The LA Times poll has information on Californians' views in this area. (see <http://www.latimes.com/news/custom/timespoll/>).

Many pollsters in the United States regularly supply us with their data. This report could not have been done without their assistance, and we thank them for it. The data in this report come from the archive of public opinion polls at the American Enterprise Institute and from The Roper Center's archive at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, Connecticut. The Roper Center is the oldest and largest archive of public opinion data in the world. To learn more about the Roper Center, visit <http://www.ropercenter.uconn.edu/>.