



NY1/YNN-Marist Poll
NYS Residents Divide Over Same-Sex Marriage

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This NY1/YNN-Marist Poll Reports:

New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo is a proponent of legalizing same-sex marriage in New York State. But, do New Yorkers agree? A majority of New Yorkers hold a traditional view of marriage and believe marriage should be between a man and a woman. That said, half of the state's residents also agree with the governor that gay marriage should be legalized in the state. This difference is primarily due to a small proportion of New Yorkers who despite believing marriage should be between a man and a woman also share the view that same-sex marriage should be legalized in the state.

According to this NY1/YNN-Marist Poll, a majority of adults in New York -- 53% -- say marriage should only be between a man and a woman. 46% do not agree with that definition, and 2% are unsure.

Registered voters also divide on how marriage should be defined. 51% believe marriage is only between a man and a woman while 47% do not share this view. Two percent are unsure.

More than three in four Republicans -- 76% -- believe that marriage should only take place between a man and a woman while majorities of Democrats -- 58% -- and those not belonging to a political party -- 55% -- define marriage differently.

Regionally, nearly six in ten upstate New Yorkers -- 59% -- and 52% of those in New York City think marriage should only take place between a man and a woman. However, a majority of those living in the city's suburbs -- 55% -- believe that description should be revised.

Men and women differ here as well. Nearly six in ten men -- 58% -- compared with 47% of women adhere to the traditional definition of marriage.

Still, 8% of those who do believe in a traditional definition of marriage favor legalizing same-sex marriage. This compares with the overwhelming proportion -- 92% -- of those who do not adhere to a traditional definition who support legalizing gay marriage.

On the issue of legalizing same-sex marriage, residents divide. Half of New York State adults -- 50% -- say gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to legally marry in the state. 25% report they should be allowed to legally form civil unions but not to marry while an additional 25% believe there should be no legal recognition of the relationship between gay and lesbian couples.

Registered voters do not significantly differ in opinion from adults as a whole. Among registered voters, 51% favor legalizing gay marriage while 28% support civil unions but not marriage for gay and lesbian couples. Slightly more than one in five voters -- 21% -- doesn't believe there should be any recognition of gay and lesbian relationships.

Majorities of Democrats -- 57% -- and New Yorkers not enrolled in any political party -- 56% -- think gay marriage should be legally recognized in the state of New York. However, there is very little consensus among Republicans statewide. 37% support civil unions. 32% believe there should not be any recognition of gay and lesbian relationships while three in ten -- 30% -- say gay marriage should be legalized.

There are also regional and gender differences on this issue. Majorities in New York City -- 56% -- and in the city's suburbs -- 53% -- support legalizing gay marriage. But only 41% of those upstate agree. Women -- 55% -- are more likely than men statewide -- 44% -- to approve of legalizing gay marriage.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: New York State Poll of 941 Adults

This survey of 941 New York State adults was conducted on April 25th through April 29th, 2011. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in New York State were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the state. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each county was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this land-line sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined. Results are statistically significant within ± 3.5 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample: Adults

Nature of the Sample - NYS Adults		
		NYS Adults
		Col %
NYS Adults		100%
Registered Voters		81%
Region	New York City	43%
	Suburbs	21%
	Upstate	36%
Income	Less than \$50,000	48%
	\$50,000 or more	52%
Race	White	57%
	African American	14%
	Latino	14%
	Other	16%
Race	White	57%
	Non White	43%
Generation	Millennials (18-30)	23%
	Gen X (31-46)	25%
	Baby Boomers (47-65)	34%
	Silent-Greatest (Over 65)	19%
Age	Under 45	43%
	45 or older	57%
Gender	Men	48%
	Women	52%
Employment Status	Employed	56%
	Not employed	32%
Union Member in Household	Yes	34%
Own or Rent Home	Own	63%
	Rent	35%
Interview Type	Landline	73%
	Cell Phone	27%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Adults: Interviews conducted April 25th through 29th, 2011, N=941 MOE +/- 3.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Defining Marriage in New York State

Asked of NYS Adults Split Sample:

Question Wording: Do you believe that marriage should only be between a man and a woman?

		NYS Adults		
		Do you believe that marriage should only be between a man and a woman?		
		Yes	No	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS Adults		53%	46%	2%
NYS Registered Voters		51%	47%	2%
Party Registration	Democrat	40%	58%	2%
	Republican	76%	22%	2%
	Non-enrolled	45%	55%	<1%
Tea Party Supporters		76%	24%	<1%
Political Ideology	Liberal	27%	73%	<1%
	Moderate	45%	53%	2%
	Conservative	82%	15%	3%
Region	New York City	52%	46%	2%
	Suburbs	43%	55%	2%
	Upstate	59%	40%	1%
Income	Less than \$50,000	64%	35%	1%
	\$50,000 or more	40%	58%	2%
Education	Not college graduate	64%	34%	2%
	College graduate	40%	59%	1%
Age	Under 45	53%	46%	1%
	45 or older	52%	46%	2%
Race	White	45%	53%	2%
	Non White	63%	36%	1%
Gender	Men	58%	40%	1%
	Women	47%	51%	2%
Interview Type	Landline	53%	45%	2%
	Cell Phone	52%	48%	<1%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Adults Split Sample: Interviews conducted April 25th through 29th, 2011, N=502 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Legalizing Gay Marriage in New York State

Asked of NYS Adults Split Sample:

Question Wording: Which of the following comes closest to your view:

		NYS Adults		
		Which of the following comes closest to your view:		
		Gay or lesbian couples should be allowed to legally marry	Gay or lesbian couples should be allowed to legally form civil unions, but not marry	There should be no legal recognition of the relationship between gay or lesbian couples
		Row %	Row %	Row %
NYS Adults		50%	25%	25%
NYS Registered Voters		51%	28%	21%
Party Registration	Democrat	57%	26%	16%
	Republican	30%	37%	32%
	Non-enrolled	56%	28%	16%
Tea Party Supporters		29%	35%	36%
Political Ideology	Liberal	69%	21%	10%
	Moderate	55%	29%	16%
	Conservative	22%	41%	36%
Marriage Should be Only Between a Man and Woman	Yes	8%	42%	50%
	No	92%	8%	<1%
Region	New York City	56%	23%	21%
	Suburbs	53%	39%	8%
	Upstate	41%	21%	38%
Income	Less than \$50,000	41%	24%	36%
	\$50,000 or more	58%	27%	16%
Education	Not college graduate	38%	25%	37%
	College graduate	61%	27%	12%
Age	Under 45	51%	21%	27%
	45 or older	49%	29%	23%
Race	White	57%	26%	17%
	Non White	40%	24%	35%
Gender	Men	44%	25%	31%
	Women	55%	26%	19%
Interview Type	Landline	47%	28%	25%
	Cell Phone	58%	18%	24%

NY1/YNN-Marist Poll NYS Adults Split Sample: Interviews conducted April 25th through 29th, 2011, N=502 MOE +/- 4.5%. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding.