



POLL MUST BE SOURCED:

McClatchy-Marist Poll*

Nearly Half of Americans Support Same-Sex Marriage

*** Complete Tables for Poll Appended ***

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This McClatchy-Marist Poll Reports:

Gay and lesbian couples who are married legally in their states are now permitted to receive federal benefits thanks to last month's U.S. Supreme Court decision which overturned the Defense of Marriage Act. But, are Americans more receptive to same-sex marriage than they were in the past? According to this national McClatchy-Marist Poll, nearly half of adults -- 49% -- either strongly favor or favor allowing gays and lesbians to legally marry. This includes nearly one in four -- 24% -- who strongly favor and one in four -- 25% -- who are in favor of gay marriage. Four in ten -- 40% -- either strongly oppose or oppose same-sex marriage, and 11% are unsure.

"There have been significant changes in attitudes on the issue of same-sex marriage," says Dr. Lee M. Miringoff, Director of The Marist College Institute for Public Opinion. "Although younger Americans are more likely to support same-sex marriage than their older counterparts, there has been greater acceptance across all age groups over the past 10 years."

Many Americans are more open-minded to the idea of same-sex marriage than they were a decade ago. According to data by the Pew Research Center released in 2003, just 32% of adults nationally either strongly favored or favored allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. This compares with nearly six in ten -- 59% -- who strongly opposed or opposed same-sex marriage. Nine percent, at the time, were unsure.

According to this current McClatchy-Marist Poll, younger residents are more likely to support gay marriage than older Americans. Almost six in ten residents younger than 45 -- 58% --

*All references to the survey must be sourced as "McClatchy-Marist Poll"

support the legal marriage of gay and lesbian couples. This compares with 42% of those 45 and older.

There are also regional and racial differences. Americans living in the Northeast -- 65% -- and in the West -- 57% -- are more likely than U.S. residents in the Midwest -- 44% -- and in the South -- 39% -- to support same-sex marriage. Looking at race, majorities of Latino -- 54% -- and white -- 53% -- adults nationally support allowing gay and lesbians to marry legally. This compares with just 28% of African Americans.

Majority Favors Federal Recognition of Gay Marriage

The Supreme Court has not ruled on whether or not same-sex marriage is constitutional. However, a majority of Americans -- 52% -- think the decision about the legality of same-sex marriage should be made for the entire country based on federal law. 43% believe the decision should be made by each state, and 5% are unsure.

Men and women differ on this question. While a majority of women -- 56% -- want the federal government to make the decision about the legality of same-sex marriage, men divide. 48% of men believe there should be a uniform law throughout the nation while the same proportion -- 48% -- believe the ruling should be left to the states.

How the Survey was Conducted

Nature of the Sample: McClatchy-Marist National Poll of 1,204 Adults

This survey of 1,204 adults was conducted July 15th through July 18th, 2013. Adults 18 years of age and older residing in the continental United States were interviewed by telephone. Telephone numbers were selected based upon a list of telephone exchanges from throughout the nation. The exchanges were selected to ensure that each region was represented in proportion to its population. To increase coverage, this landline sample was supplemented by respondents reached through random dialing of cell phone numbers. The two samples were then combined and balanced to reflect the 2010 Census results for age, gender, income, race, and region. Results are statistically significant within ± 2.8 percentage points. There are 980 registered voters. The results for this subset are statistically significant within ± 3.1 percentage points. The error margin increases for cross-tabulations.

Nature of the Sample

		National Adults	National Registered Voters	
		Col %	Col %	
National Adults		100%		
National Registered Voters		81%	100%	
Party Identification	Democrat	n/a	34%	
	Republican	n/a	25%	
	Independent	n/a	37%	
	Other	n/a	4%	
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	n/a	22%	
	Not strong Democrats	n/a	13%	
	Democratic leaning independents	n/a	11%	
	Just Independents	n/a	13%	
	Republican leaning independents	n/a	13%	
	Not strong Republicans	n/a	12%	
	Strong Republicans	n/a	13%	
	Other	n/a	4%	
	Political Ideology	Very conservative	n/a	10%
		Conservative	n/a	29%
Moderate		n/a	36%	
Liberal		n/a	19%	
Very liberal		n/a	6%	
Gender	Men	49%	47%	
	Women	51%	53%	
Age	Under 45	45%	39%	
	45 or older	55%	61%	
Age	18 to 29	22%	16%	
	30 to 44	23%	22%	
	45 to 59	27%	29%	
	60 or older	28%	32%	
Race	White	67%	70%	
	African American	11%	11%	
	Latino	14%	13%	
	Other	7%	5%	
Region	Northeast	18%	17%	
	Midwest	22%	24%	
	South	37%	38%	
	West	23%	22%	
Household Income	Less than \$50,000	49%	46%	
	\$50,000 or more	51%	54%	
Education	Not college graduate	60%	57%	
	College graduate	40%	43%	
Interview Type	Landline	64%	67%	
	Cell Phone	36%	33%	

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted July 15th through July 18th, 2013, n=1204 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points. National Registered Voters: n=980 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults				
		Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?				
		Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		24%	25%	19%	21%	11%
National Registered Voters		24%	26%	19%	21%	10%
Party Identification^	Democrat	36%	25%	12%	20%	7%
	Republican	8%	25%	31%	28%	8%
	Independent	23%	30%	19%	18%	11%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	36%	23%	13%	22%	6%
	Soft Democrats	39%	28%	13%	13%	8%
	Just Independents	13%	29%	23%	20%	15%
	Soft Republicans	13%	33%	22%	23%	8%
Political Ideology^	Strong Republicans	5%	17%	35%	34%	10%
	Very liberal-Liberal	54%	26%	5%	9%	6%
	Moderate	23%	34%	18%	14%	10%
Region	Conservative-Very conservative	5%	21%	29%	35%	11%
	Northeast	29%	36%	14%	13%	8%
	Midwest	19%	25%	18%	27%	10%
Household Income	South	18%	21%	23%	27%	11%
	West	33%	24%	18%	13%	12%
	Less than \$50,000	22%	24%	18%	25%	11%
Education	\$50,000 or more	29%	26%	21%	16%	7%
	Not college graduate	19%	25%	20%	26%	11%
Race	College graduate	31%	27%	19%	15%	9%
	White	25%	28%	19%	20%	9%
	African American	13%	15%	28%	32%	11%
Age	Latino	30%	24%	18%	15%	13%
	18 to 29	42%	24%	12%	15%	8%
	30 to 44	26%	26%	21%	16%	12%
	45 to 59	21%	24%	20%	23%	11%
Age	60 or older	12%	28%	23%	27%	10%
	Under 45	33%	25%	16%	15%	10%
Gender	45 or older	16%	26%	21%	25%	11%
	Men	20%	27%	20%	21%	12%
Interview Type	Women	28%	23%	18%	21%	9%
	Landline	19%	27%	22%	24%	9%
	Cell Phone	33%	22%	15%	17%	13%

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Adults. Interviews conducted July 15th through July 18th, 2013, n=1204 MOE +/- 2.8 percentage points.

^National Registered Voters: n=980 MOE +/- 3.1 percentage points. Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding.

*Soft Democrats include registered voters who identify as "not strong Democrats" or Democratic leaning independents. Soft Republicans include those registered voters who identify as "not strong Republicans" or Republican leaning independents.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables

Pew Research Center Trend					
Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?					
	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Unsure
	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults					
May 1-5, 2013	21%	30%	22%	19%	8%
Mar 13-17, 2013 ²	22%	27%	21%	22%	8%
Oct 24-28, 2012	22%	27%	21%	19%	11%
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	23%	25%	20%	24%	8%
Jun 7-17, 2012	23%	25%	21%	23%	9%
Apr 4-15, 2012	22%	25%	21%	22%	11%
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011		46%		44%	9%
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20%	25%	21%	25%	9%
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	16%	27%	22%	26%	10%
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	17%	24%	24%	24%	10%
Aug 11-17, 2009	14%	25%	22%	31%	8%
April 14-21, 2009	14%	21%	23%	31%	11%
August, 2008	13%	26%	22%	30%	9%
June, 2008	15%	25%	21%	31%	8%
Late May, 2008	15%	23%	20%	29%	13%
November, 2007	12%	24%	25%	29%	10%
August, 2007	13%	23%	24%	31%	9%
Early January, 2007	13%	24%	22%	33%	8%
July, 2006	12%	23%	25%	31%	9%
June, 2006	13%	20%	23%	32%	12%
March, 2006	10%	29%	23%	28%	10%
July, 2005	13%	23%	22%	31%	11%
December, 2004	14%	18%	23%	38%	7%
August, 2004	8%	21%	25%	35%	11%
July, 2004	10%	22%	23%	33%	12%
Mid-March, 2004	10%	22%	24%	35%	9%
Early February, 2004	9%	21%	21%	42%	7%
November, 2003	10%	20%	21%	41%	8%
October, 2003	9%	21%	25%	33%	12%
Mid-July, 2003	10%	28%	23%	30%	9%
March, 2001	8%	27%	23%	34%	8%
June, 1996	6%	21%	24%	41%	8%

² In March 2013, October 2012, June 2012, April 2012, March 2011, September 2010, April 2009, May and June 2008, November 2007, June and July 2006, mid-March through August 2004, and October 2003, the question was not part of a list of items. In June and April 2012, August and April 2009, and June and May 2008, the question read “allowing gay and lesbian couples”; all other instances read “allowing gays and lesbians.”

³ In August 2009 and earlier, the question read “allowing gay and lesbian couples” rather than “allowing gays and lesbians.” For all surveys prior to August 2009 (with the exception of August 2008) question was not part of a list. For more information about Pew Research Center visit www.people-press.org.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults					
		Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?					
		2013 Marist Poll data			2003 Pew Research data		
		Oppose-Strongly					
		Strongly favor-Favor	Oppose	Unsure	Strongly favor-Favor	Oppose-Strongly Oppose	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		49%	40%	11%	32%	59%	9%
Region	Northeast	65%	27%	8%	40%	49%	11%
	Midwest	44%	45%	10%	30%	59%	10%
	South	39%	50%	11%	25%	67%	8%
	West	57%	31%	12%	40%	51%	8%
Education	High school or less	41%	47%	12%	26%	65%	9%
	Some college	47%	43%	10%	34%	57%	9%
	College grad +	58%	34%	9%	44%	48%	8%
Race*	White	53%	39%	9%	32%	59%	9%
	African American	28%	60%	11%	28%	63%	9%
	Latino	54%	33%	13%	n/a	n/a	n/a
Age	18 to 29	66%	27%	8%	51%	42%	7%
	30 to 49	48%	39%	12%	34%	57%	9%
	50 to 64	48%	42%	11%	27%	64%	9%
	65 or older	37%	53%	10%	14%	75%	11%
Gender	Men	47%	41%	12%	28%	63%	9%
	Women	51%	39%	9%	36%	55%	9%

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2003 data shown represent averages of multiple Pew Research Center surveys that asked about same-sex marriage. This includes three surveys from 2003.

*For Pew Research Center results by race whites and blacks are non-Hispanics only; Hispanics are of any race. Hispanic figures are based only on surveys where bilingual interviewers are used. Figures are not shown when too few interviewers available.

McClatchy-Marist Poll National Tables

		National Adults		
		Do you think the laws on whether same-sex marriage is legal or not should be decided by each state or should it be decided for the entire country by a federal law?		
		Decided by each state	Decided for the entire country by federal law	Unsure
		Row %	Row %	Row %
National Adults		43%	52%	5%
National Registered Voters		43%	52%	5%
Party Identification^	Democrat	29%	65%	7%
	Republican	56%	41%	3%
	Independent	47%	49%	4%
Party Identification*	Strong Democrats	27%	66%	7%
	Soft Democrats	32%	63%	5%
	Just Independents	47%	47%	6%
	Soft Republicans	54%	44%	2%
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Race	White	46%	50%	4%
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	Latino	38%	56%	6%
Age	18 to 29	38%	57%	5%
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	60 or older	45%	49%	6%
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Interview Type	Landline	45%	50%	5%
	Cell Phone	39%	56%	5%

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