

CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL
GAY MARRIAGE, THE CONSTITUTION, AND THE ELECTION
March 10-14, 2004

q68 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 you?

	** REGISTERED VOTERS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb04c
	%	%	%	%	%
Yes, would	45	32	52	54	52
No, would not	44	63	34	34	40
Depends (vol.)	3	1	5	4	4
DK/NA	8	4	9	8	4

q69 Do you think the issue of gay marriage should be part of this year's election campaign, or not? IF YES,ASK: Should it be a major part or a minor part?

Yes, major part	14	18	12	11
Yes, minor part	17	21	17	14
No,not a part	65	58	66	70
DK/NA	4	3	5	5

q74 These days, do you think most people who get married expect their marriage will last forever, or do you think they expect that they will divorce sooner or later?

	HALF SAMPLE A				May95a
Last forever	47	47	48	45	36
Divorce	47	46	44	50	55
DK/NA	6	7	8	5	9

q75 These days, do you think most same-sex couples who enter into commitments such as civil unions or domestic partnerships expect their relationship will last forever, or do you think they expect that they will separate sooner or later?

	HALF SAMPLE B			
Last forever	44	40	48	45
Separate	31	29	36	30
DK/NA	25	31	16	25

q77 Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow marriage ONLY between a man and a woman?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	*** Party ID ***				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Feb04c
	%	%	%	%	%
Favor	59	77	52	50	59
Oppose	35	17	44	42	35
DK/NA	6	6	4	8	6

q78 Do you think laws regarding marriages and civil unions between gay people should be determined by the federal government or by each state government?

Federal government	43	55	39	37
State governments	44	34	47	49
Neither (Vol.)	6	4	6	6
DK/NA	7	7	8	8

q79 Which comes closest to your view: 1. Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry OR 2. Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry OR 3. There should be no legal recognition of a gay couples relationship?

Allowed to legally marry	22	10	28	26
Allowed to form civil unions	33	31	31	36
No legal recognition	40	56	35	31
DK/NA	5	3	6	7

q81 Do you think defining marriage as a union only 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	38	56	33	29
Not that kind of issue	56	40	64	63
DK/NA	6	4	3	8

q82 Do you think that most people who favor marriage for gays or lesbians mainly want to get the same legal rights for gay people that married people have, or do you think they mainly want to get society to approve of the way gays and lesbians live?

Get the same legal rights	37	29	43	38
Get society to approve	48	56	42	46
Both (Vol.)	7	8	7	8
Neither (Vol.)	0	0	0	0
DK/NA	8	7	8	8

q83 Do you think that most people who oppose marriages for gays and lesbians are mainly concerned about the effect on traditional marriage, or do you think they mainly believe that homosexuality itself is wrong?

Effect on traditional marriage	16	19	15	15
Believe homosexuality is wrong	72	70	74	71
Both (Vol.)	6	9	2	7
Neither (Vol.)	0	0	0	1

DK/NA	6	2	9	6
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q86 Do you have a work colleague, close friend, or relative who is gay or lesbian?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	55	52	52	60
No	44	47	47	39
DK/NA	1	1	1	1

q87 Do you personally know any gay or lesbian couples that have been together for more than a year?

Yes	48	47	49	49
No	51	53	50	50
DK/NA	1	0	1	1

q88 Are any of those couples raising children?

Yes	15%	12	17	17
No	32	33	31	32
DK/NA	1	2	1	0
Don't know couple	52	53	51	51

q89 Have any of those couples gotten legal recognition of their relationship, through a domestic partnership, a civil union, or marriage?

Yes	8	7	9	8
No	33	33	33	34
DK/NA	7	7	7	7
Don't know couple	52	53	51	51

q90 Do you think being homosexual is something people choose to be, or do you think it is something they cannot change?

Choose to be	43	53	39	38
Cannot change	41	34	45	44
DK/NA	16	13	16	18

q93 How important is religion in your daily life? Is it extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not at all important?

Extremely important	31	38	32	25
Very important	33	38	35	29
Somewhat important	26	19	25	34
Not at all important	9	4	9	12
DK/NA	1	1	0	0

q95 Some people think of themselves as evangelical or born again Christians.
Do you ever think of yourself in either of these ways?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **			
	*** Party ID ***			
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind
	%	%	%	%
Yes	29	39	31	20
No	69	60	67	78
DK/NA	2	1	2	2

	<u>UNWEIGHTED</u>	<u>WEIGHTED</u>
Total Respondents	1206	
Registered Voters	984	937
Total Republicans	388	376
Total Democrats	377	359
Total Independents	441	471
Half Sample A	633	625
Half Sample B	573	581