



CBS NEWS POLL
For release: Sunday, June 15th, 2008
9:00 am EDT

THE PUBLIC'S VIEWS ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE
May 30- June 3, 2008

Most Americans continue to think there should be some legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples, and 30% say same-sex couples should be allowed to marry - the highest number since CBS News began asking this question in 2004. 28% think same-sex couples should be permitted to form civil unions, but more than a third - 36% - say there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship.

Last month, the California Supreme Court struck down that state's ban on same-sex marriage paving the way for gay and lesbian couples to marry there.

Americans' views on this issue are different from what they were in 2004, although opinion has not changed substantially in the last two years. In November 2004 (just after the presidential election) just 21% of Americans supported the idea of same-sex couples being allowed to marry.

SAME-SEX COUPLES SHOULD BE ALLOWED...

	Now	3/2007	10/2006	11/2004	3/2004
To legally marry	30%	28%	28%	21%	22%
To form civil unions	28	32	29	32	33
No legal recognition	36	35	38	44	40

Majorities of both men and women support some form of legal recognition for gay and lesbian couples, but more women (36%) than men (24%) back the idea of same-sex marriage.

More than six in 10 Democrats think same-sex couples should be allowed to either marry or form civil unions. 50% of Republicans are against either of these options.

There are regionally differences too. Four in 10 of those living in the western portion of the U.S. favor same-sex marriage - the highest of any other region. Americans living in the south are least likely to support it.

Groups most likely to support same-sex marriage include those under age 30, liberals, Americans living in the west, and those who never go to church.

Republicans, conservatives, white evangelicals and weekly church attendees are groups that are least likely to support the idea.

VIEWS ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

(Demographics)

	<u>Allowed to Marry</u>	<u>Allowed to form Civil Unions</u>	<u>No Legal Recognition</u>
Total	30%	28	36
Men	24%	30	41
Women	36%	26	32
Age 18-29	40%	28	29
30-44	31%	29	36
45-64	30%	28	35
65+	17%	26	48
No college deg.	28%	24	41
Coll. Degree	37%	37	23
Republicans	14%	32	50
Democrats	36%	27	32
Independents	34%	26	31
Liberal	49%	22	25
Moderate	33%	32	30
Conservative	12%	27	56
White evangelicals	9%	20	67
Catholics	37%	29	29
<u>Church Attendance</u>			
Every week	13%	23	57
Almost every week	16%	29	50
Once/twice a month	28%	28	36
Few times a year	40%	33	22
Never	48%	26	22
<u>Region</u>			
Northeast	33%	34	26
Midwest	27%	27	40
South	23%	26	46
West	41%	25	29

This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,038 adults nationwide, including 930 registered voters, interviewed by telephone May 30-June 3, 2008. Phone numbers were dialed from RDD samples of both standard land-lines and cell phones. The error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or minus four percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher. The error for the sample of registered voters is plus or minus four points.

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q65 Which comes closest to your view? .. 1. Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, 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 couple's relationship?

	** TOTAL RESPONDENTS **				
	** Party ID **				
	Total	Rep	Dem	Ind	Mar07a
	%	%	%	%	%
Allowed to legally marry	30	14	36	34	28
Civil union	28	32	27	26	32
No legal recognition	36	50	32	31	35
DK/NA	6	4	5	9	5

	UNWEIGHTED	WEIGHTED
Total Respondents	1038	
Total Republicans	269	248
Total Democrats	410	400
Total Independents	359	328