

**GAYS IN THE MILITARY**  
 February 5-10, 2010

A 59% majority of Americans now supports allowing homosexuals to serve in the U.S. military, up from 42% in 1993 (when the debate over allowing gay people to serve first arose early in Bill Clinton's presidency), but down 8 points from one year ago. The percentage that strongly opposes it has dropped significantly since 1993.

**FAVOR OR OPPOSE HOMOSEXUALS SERVING IN MILITARY?**

	Now	1/2009	2/1993
Strongly favor	34%	46%	21%
Somewhat favor	25	21	21
Somewhat oppose	10	6	13
Strongly oppose	19	11	29

In his State of the Union address last month, President Barack Obama vowed to end the policy that bars gay and lesbians from serving openly in the military - commonly referred to as "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."

Americans now divide over whether homosexuals should be allowed to serve openly in the military. In 1993, a majority was opposed.

**HOMOSEXUALS ALLOWED TO SERVE OPENLY**

	Now	1/1993
Favor	44%	37%
Oppose	42	56

Question wording impacts views on this subject. When the phrase "gay men and lesbians" is used instead of "homosexuals," support for permitting them to serve in the military increases.

**FAVOR OR OPPOSE \_\_\_\_\_ SERVING IN MILITARY?**

	Homosexuals	Gay Men & Lesbians
Strongly favor	34%	51%
Somewhat favor	25	19
Somewhat oppose	10	7
Strongly oppose	19	12

There is a similar effect when it comes to whether gay people should serve openly. When referred to as "homosexuals," 44% favor allowing them to serve in the military openly. When referred to as "gay men and lesbians," that percentage rises to 58%.

**ALLOWED TO SERVE OPENLY**

	Homosexuals	Gay Men & Lesbians
Favor	44%	58%
Oppose	42	28

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This poll was conducted among a random sample of 1,084 adults nationwide,  
interviewed by telephone February 5-10, 2010. Phone numbers were dialed from  
random digit dial samples of both standard land-line and cell phones. The  
error due to sampling for results based on the entire sample could be plus or  
minus three percentage points. The error for subgroups is higher.

This poll release conforms to the Standards of Disclosure of the National  
Council on Public Polls.  
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**CBS NEWS/NEW YORK TIMES POLL**  
**Gays in the Military**  
**February 5-10, 2010**

q82 Do you favor or oppose permitting homosexuals to serve in the military? Do you favor/oppose that strongly or not so strongly?

	HALF SAMPLE A	JAN09A
	%	%
Favor strongly	34	46
Favor not so strongly	25	21
Oppose strongly	19	11
Oppose not so strongly	10	6
DK/NA	12	16

q83 What if they openly announce their sexual orientation? In that case would you favor or oppose permitting homosexuals to serve in the military?

Favor	44
Oppose	42
DK/NA	14

q84 Do you favor or oppose permitting gay men and lesbians to serve in the military? Do you favor/oppose that strongly or not so strongly?

	HALF SAMPLE B
	%
Favor strongly	51
Favor not so strongly	19
Oppose strongly	12
Oppose not so strongly	7
DK/NA	11

q85 What if they openly announce their sexual orientation? In that case would you favor or oppose permitting gay men and lesbians to serve in the military?

Favor	58
Oppose	28
DK/NA	14

	<u>Unweighted</u>	<u>Weighted</u>
Total Respondents	1084	
Half Sample A	550	560
Half Sample B	534	524