



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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American Public Remains Opposed To Same-Sex Marriages As They Begin In Massachusetts, Annenberg Data Show

As same-sex marriage begins today in Massachusetts, Americans remain opposed to the concept but still dubious about prohibiting it by a constitutional amendment, the University of Pennsylvania's National Annenberg Election Survey shows.

Interviewing of 3,775 adults from May 3 through 16 showed that 61 percent of the public said they opposed a law that would permit same-sex marriages in their state, while 30 percent said they favored it.

Those findings were not significantly different from the last Annenberg measure of the question. February 14 through 23 polling found that 64 percent were opposed to a same-sex marriage law in their state while 30 percent were in favor.

Nor was there significant change on the issue of a constitutional amendment to prohibit states from allowing same-sex marriages. In the latest polling, 42 percent supported such an amendment while 50 percent opposed one. In the February 14-23 period (which ended one day before President Bush called for an amendment), 41 percent favored an amendment and 48 percent opposed one.

The margin of sampling error on the constitutional amendment question was plus or minus two percentage points. On the state law question, it was plus or minus three percentage points.

There remained more support for civil unions than for same-sex marriage. People who said they opposed same-sex marriage were asked if they would favor civil unions, and enough of them did so that in all, 51 percent favored either marriage or civil union among couples of the same sex. In February, 53 percent did.

The strongest opposition to same-sex marriage laws came from those who attend church frequently, from the elderly, from conservatives and from Republicans. Among those who go to religious services more than once a week, 82 percent were opposed and 10 percent in favor. Eighty-one percent of those 65 and older were opposed and 12 percent in favor. Seventy-nine percent of conservatives were opposed and 16 percent in favor. Seventy-four percent of Republicans were opposed and 18 percent in favor.

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Liberals, people who never attend church, and young people were the groups most supportive of same-sex marriage laws. Among liberals, 51 percent were in favor and 38 percent were opposed. People who never attend religious services divided evenly, with 45 percent in favor and 45 percent opposed. Among those 18 to 29 years old, 42 percent favored it and 50 percent were opposed.

That National Annenberg Election Survey, the largest academic election poll, is a project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania (www.AnnenbergPublicPolicyCenter.org). It has been tracking the presidential campaign since October 7, and interviewing will continue until after Election Day. Dr. Kathleen Hall Jamieson is the director of the survey. Ken Winneg is the managing director of the survey. Adam Clymer is the political director of the survey.

Another major election project of the Annenberg Public Policy Center is FactCheck.org, a project that tries to hold politicians accountable by exposing false or misleading campaign statements. It is available online at www.FactCheck.Org.

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Questions

- A. Would you Favor or Oppose an amendment to the U. S. Constitution saying that no state can allow two men to marry each other or two women to marry each other?

(%)	Favor	Oppose
Total	42%	50%
Men	45%	48%
Women	38%	52%
Northeast	37%	53%
Midwest	41%	50%
South	46%	45%
West	39%	53%
18-29 years old	36%	56%
30-44 years old	42%	49%
45-64 years old	43%	48%
65+ years old	45%	47%
Attend church more than once a week	63%	30%
Once a week	51%	41%
Once or twice a Month	40%	50%
A few times a year	35%	57%
Never	27%	63%
Whites	43%	49%
African-Americans	35%	53%
Latinos	40%	54%
Republican	56%	38%
Democrat	33%	58%
Independent	40%	51%
Conservative	57%	36%
Moderate	36%	53%
Liberal	26%	67%
Married or living as married	44%	47%
Others	37%	54%
High school or less	43%	46%
Some college	44%	49%
College degree or more	35%	57%

Those who said “don’t know” or did not answer are not shown

B. Would you favor or oppose a law in your state that would allow two men to marry each other or two women to marry each other?

(%)	Favor	Oppose
Total	30%	61%
Men	24%	67%
Women	36%	54%
Northeast	34%	52%
Midwest	29%	62%
South	24%	66%
West	35%	61%
18-29 years old	42%	50%
30-44 years old	32%	60%
45-64 years old	30%	58%
65+ years old	12%	81%
Attend church more than once a week	10%	82%
Once a week	24%	69%
Once or twice a Month	31%	58%
A few times a year	33%	55%
Never	45%	45%
Whites	31%	62%
African-Americans	19%	59%
Latinos	30%	61%
Republican	18%	74%
Democrat	33%	54%
Independent	36%	58%
Conservative	16%	79%
Moderate	32%	57%
Liberal	51%	38%
Married or living as married	26%	65%
Others	35%	54%
High school or less	21%	68%
Some college	33%	60%
College degree or more	42%	49%

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C. (Asked only of respondents who said “opposed” to question B) Would you favor or oppose a law in your state allowing gay and lesbian couples to form civil unions that are not marriages but would give gay couples rights such as inheritance, insurance, and pension coverage?

(%)	Favor	Oppose
Total	34%	62%
Men	32%	63%
Women	36%	60%
Northeast	46%	49%
Midwest	28%	67%
South	26%	71%
West	45%	54%
18-29 years old	34%	65%
30-44 years old	34%	62%
45-64 years old	37%	62%
65+ years old	31%	59%
Attend church more than once a week	20%	78%
Once a week	30%	66%
Once or twice a Month	31%	67%
A few times a year	42%	52%
Never	50%	48%
Whites	35%	60%
African-Americans	28%	72%
Latinos	37%	60%
Republican	27%	68%
Democrat	37%	60%
Independent	40%	57%
Conservative	23%	73%
Moderate	48%	48%
Liberal	38%	57%
Married or living as married	34%	62%
Others	36%	62%
High school or less	28%	67%
Some college	40%	58%
College degree or more	44%	52%

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Survey Methodology

The National Annenberg Election Survey (NAES) is a survey conducted each presidential election by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania.

The 2004 National Annenberg Election Survey is based on telephone interviews which began October 7, 2003 and will continue past Election Day.

The sample of telephone exchanges called was randomly selected by a computer from a complete list of thousands of active residential exchanges across the country. Within each exchange, random digits were added to form a complete telephone number, thus permitting access to both listed and unlisted numbers. Within each household, one adult was designated by a random procedure to be the respondent for the survey. The interviewing is conducted by Schulman, Ronca, Bucuvalas, Inc.

The results have been weighted to take account of household size and number of telephone lines into the residence and to adjust for variation in the sample relating to geographic region, sex, race, age and education.

This report deals with interviewing conducted from May 2 through May 16, when 3,775 people were asked about a proposed constitutional amendment. In theory, in 19 cases out of 20 the results will differ by no more than three percentage points, up or down, from what would have been obtained by interviewing all American adults. The question about a state law allowing same-sex marriages was asked of 1,181 people, and the margin of sampling error for those answers is plus or minus three percentage points. For smaller subgroups, the margin of sampling error would be higher.

In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting any survey of public opinion may introduce other sources of error into the poll. Variations in the wording and order of questions, for example, may lead to somewhat different results.

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