# More Support for Gun Rights, Gay Marriage than in 2008, 2004 

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## More Support for Gun Rights, Gay Marriage than in 2008 or 2004

Opinions about a pair of contentious social issues, gun control and gay marriage, have changed substantially since previous presidential campaigns. On gun control, Americans have become more conservative; on gay marriage, they have become more liberal.

Currently, $49 \%$ of Americans say it is more important to protect the rights of Americans to own guns, while $45 \%$ say it is more important to control gun ownership. Opinion has been divided since early 2009, shortly after Barack Obama's election. From 1993 through 2008, majorities had said it was more important to control gun ownership than to protect gun rights.

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center for the People \& the Press, conducted April 4-15, 2012, also finds that the public is divided over gay marriage: $47 \%$ favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally, while $43 \%$ are opposed. In 2008, $39 \%$ favored and $51 \%$ opposed gay marriage, based on an average of polls conducted that year. In 2004, just $31 \%$ supported gay marriage, while nearly twice as many ( $60 \%$ ) were opposed.


Moreover, for the first time in a Pew Research Center survey there is as much strong support as strong opposition to gay marriage. In the current survey, $22 \%$ say they strongly support allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally; an identical percentage (22\%) strongly opposes gay marriage. In 2008, there was about twice as much strong opposition to as strong support for gay marriage ( $30 \%$ vs. $14 \%$ ).

In 2004, when the issue was widely thought to have increased turnout among socially conservative voters in several key states, $36 \%$

## Gay Marriage: Strong Support Equals Strong Opposition

| Allow gays and | $\mathbf{2 0 0 4}$ | $\mathbf{2 0 0 8}$ | April <br> $\mathbf{2 0 1 2}$ | 04-12 <br> Change |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| lesbians to marry | $\%$ | $\%$ | $\%$ |  |
| legally ... | 31 | 39 | 47 | +16 |
| Favor | 11 | 14 | 22 | +11 |
| Strongly | 60 | 51 | 43 | -17 |
| Oppose | 36 | 30 | 22 | -14 |
| Strongly | $\underline{9}$ | $\underline{10}$ | $\underline{11}$ |  |
| Don't know | 100 | 100 | 100 |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Apr. 4-15, 2012. Data from 2008 and 2004 represent annual totals of polls conducted in each year.
Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding. strongly opposed gay marriage while just 11\% strongly favored it. (For more, see Andrew Kohut's piece in the New York Times on the changing politics of gay marriage, "The Electorate Changes and Politics Follow," April 16, 2012.)

The new survey also finds continued majority support for legal abortion: 53\% of Americans say that abortion should be legal in all (23\%) or most cases (31\%); 39\% say that abortion should be illegal in all (16\%) or most cases (23\%).

That is little changed from recent years. In 2009, the percentage favoring legal abortion in all or most cases fell below $50 \%$ for the first time since 2001. Since then, however, support for legal abortion has rebounded and is generally in line with trends dating to 1995.

As in recent campaigns, voters rate social issues - including gun control, abortion, birth

## Support for Legal Abortion Holds Steady



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Apr. 4-15, 2012. control and gay marriage - as far less important than the economy or jobs. About half of registered voters (47\%) say gun control will be very important to their vote for president this fall; even fewer rate abortion (39\%), birth control (34\%) and gay marriage (28\%) as very important. By wide margins, the economy ( $86 \%$ very important) and jobs ( $84 \%$ ) are the top voting issues.

Republican voters are more likely than Democrats to view abortion and gay marriage as very important. About half of Republicans ( $51 \%$ ) rate abortion as very important to their vote, compared with $40 \%$ of Democrats. In addition, $36 \%$ of Republicans say that gay marriage is very important; $27 \%$ of Democrats agree. However, the percentage of Republicans rating gay marriage as very important has declined by 13 points since 2004. Democrats are much more likely than Republicans to say that birth control will be very important to their votes ( $47 \%$ vs. 31\%). (For more, see "With Voters Focused on Economy, Obama Lead Narrows," April 17, 2012.)

## Race, Gender Differences over Gun Rights

In the current survey, $57 \%$ of whites say it is more important to protect the rights of Americans to own guns; just $37 \%$ say it is more important to control gun ownership. This is little changed from surveys conducted since April 2009. From 1993 through 2008, however, majorities of whites consistently said that controlling gun ownership was more important than protecting gun rights.

African Americans are far less likely than whites to rate the protection of gun rights as more important than gun control. In the current survey, $35 \%$ say it is more important to protect the rights of Americans to own guns, while $60 \%$ say gun rights are more important.

## Sharp Rise in Blacks' Support for Gun Rights



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Apr. 4-15, 2012. Table shows percentage saying it is more important to protect rights of Americans to own guns. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race.

But the percentage of blacks saying that protecting gun rights is more important has climbed by 13 points, from $22 \%$, since last October. The share of blacks prioritizing gun control has fallen 11 points, from $71 \%$ then to $60 \%$ today.

There long have been gender differences in opinions about gun control, but both men and women have become more supportive of gun rights. In the current survey, $60 \%$ of men say it is more important to protect gun rights, up from $46 \%$ in April 2008. Just $39 \%$ of women say it is more important to protect the rights of Americans to own guns. But that percentage also is higher than it was four years ago (30\%).

Partisan differences in opinions about gun control have widened in recent years. Before 2009, no more than about six-in-ten Republicans prioritized gun rights over gun control. In six surveys since April 2009, between $65 \%$ and $72 \%$ (in the current survey) of Republicans have said it is more important to protect gun rights.

Independents also have become more supportive of gun rights. Currently, $55 \%$ say it is more important to protect the rights of Americans to own guns; $40 \%$ say it is more important to control gun ownership. That is little changed from surveys conducted since 2009. In prior surveys, majorities of independents said it was more important to control gun ownership than to protect gun rights.

Democrats' opinions have shown far less change over time. In the current survey, $67 \%$ of Democrats say it is more important to control gun ownership, compared with just $27 \%$ who say it is more important to protect gun rights.

## Gender Gap over Gun Rights



PEW RESEARCH CENTER Apr. 4-15, 2012. Table shows percentage saying it is more important to protect rights of Americans to own guns.

## Support for Gun Rights Grows among Republicans, Independents



PEW RESEARCH CENTER April 4-15, 2012. Table shows percentage saying it is more important to protect rights of Americans to own guns.

Decreasing Opposition to Gay Marriage

In the last two presidential campaigns, there was far more opposition than support for gay marriage. But today, opinions are divided and there is as much strong support as strong opposition to gay marriage (22\% each). (For a visual display of changes in attitudes toward gay marriage across various groups since 2001, see "Graphics Slideshow: Changing Attitudes on Gay Marriage," Pew Forum on Religion \& Public Life).

Since 2004, there has been a broad-based decline in opposition - including strong opposition -to gay marriage. In 2004,

| Allow gays and lesbians to marry legally ... | 2004 |  | 2008 |  | April 2012 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% | \% |
|  | Oppose | Strongly | Oppose | Strongly | Oppos | Strongly |
| Total | 60 | 36 | 51 | 30 | 43 | 22 |
| Men | 63 | 38 | 56 | 32 | 48 | 24 |
| Women | 57 | 35 | 47 | 28 | 39 | 20 |
| White | 61 | 37 | 51 | 29 | 43 | 25 |
| Black | 67 | 43 | 63 | 37 | 49 | 27 |
| 18-29 | 48 | 28 | 40 | 23 | 30 | 14 |
| 30-49 | 57 | 35 | 49 | 29 | 41 | 22 |
| 50-64 | 64 | 40 | 55 | 32 | 47 | 25 |
| 65+ | 74 | 46 | 66 | 39 | 56 | 28 |
| Republican | 78 | 54 | 73 | 47 | 68 | 40 |
| Democrat | 50 | 28 | 42 | 23 | 31 | 14 |
| Independent | 53 | 29 | 45 | 25 | 38 | 19 |
| Protestant | 69 | 45 | 62 | 38 | 56 | 32 |
| White evang | 85 | 61 | 78 | 52 | 78 | 56 |
| White mainline | 55 | 30 | 45 | 22 | 36 | 13 |
| Catholic | 55 | 28 | 46 | 25 | 42 | 17 |
| White Catholic | 56 | 28 | 47 | 25 | 44 | 21 |
| Unaffiliated | 30 | 16 | 29 | 14 | 18 | 5 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Apr. 4-15, 2012. Data from 2008 and 2004 represent annual totals of polls conducted in each year. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic.

Americans younger than 30
were divided ( $48 \%$ opposed, $45 \%$ favored). Today, young people favor gay marriage by more than two-to-one ( $65 \%$ to $30 \%$ ). Opposition has declined by the same percentage 18 points - among those 65 and older; still, a majority (56\%) of this group continues to oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. Strong opposition has declined 18 points since 2004 among those 65 and older (from $46 \%$ to $28 \%$ ) and 14 points among those younger than 30 (from $28 \%$ to $14 \%$ ).

In the current survey, majorities of Democrats (59\%) and independents (52\%) favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. In 2008, Democrats favored gay marriage by $50 \%$ to $42 \%$, while independents were divided ( $44 \%$ favored, $45 \%$ opposed). In 2004, pluralities of both groups ( $50 \%$ of Democrats, $53 \%$ of independents) opposed gay marriage. Republicans continue to oppose gay marriage by a wide margin ( $68 \%$ to $23 \%$ ),
but Republican opposition has declined by 10 points - and strong opposition by 14 points - since 2004.
White evangelical Protestants remain overwhelmingly opposed to gay marriage, and opinion among this group has shown relatively little change since 2004. In the current survey, $78 \%$ of white evangelicals oppose gay marriage, with $56 \%$ strongly opposed.

## Whites, Blacks and Gay Marriage

In 2008, there were sizable differences in opinions about gay marriage among whites and blacks. While whites opposed gay marriage by a modest $51 \%$ to $41 \%$ margin, blacks opposed gay marriage by more than two-to-one ( $63 \%$ to $26 \%$ ).

But the gap has narrowed. Since 2008, the proportion of African Americans favoring gay marriage has increased from $26 \%$ to $39 \%$, while opposition has fallen from $63 \%$ to $49 \%$.

Support for gay marriage also has increased among whites, though far less dramatically (from $41 \%$ in 2008 to $47 \%$ in the current

## Attitudes about Gay Marriage, by Race

Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally? Among Whites Among Blacks


$$
\begin{array}{lllll}
96 & 00 & 04 & 08 & 12
\end{array}
$$

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Apr. 4-15, 2012. Data from 1996, 2001 and 2005 are from individual surveys. Data from 2003-04, 2006-11 represent annual totals of polls conducted in each year. 2012 data from current survey. Whites and blacks are nonHispanic. survey).

## Abortion Views Little Changed

In contrast with opinions about gun control and gay marriage, public attitudes regarding abortion have changed relatively little in recent years. In surveys conducted in 2011 and $2012,53 \%$ say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases; $41 \%$ say it should be illegal in all or most cases.

Opinion was more evenly divided in 2009 and 2010 ( $48 \%$ legal in all most cases vs. $44 \%$ illegal in all most cases). But opinions since the start of last year are almost identical to those from surveys conducted in 2007 and 2008 (54\% legal vs. 40\% illegal). This analysis combines surveys in each two-year period (2007-2008, 2009-2010, 2011-2012), which enables analysis of the views of small demographic groups.

Unlike opinions about gay marriage, opinions about abortion differ only modestly across age groups. Narrow majorities of those younger than 30 ( $53 \%$ ), 30 to 49 (54\%) and 50 to 64 (55\%) say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Nearly half of those 65 and older (48\%) also support legal abortion.

There are only small differences in opinions about abortion between men and women: $55 \%$ of women and $51 \%$ of men say that abortion should be legal in all or most cases. By contrast, opinions differ substantially by education: $61 \%$ of college graduates support legal abortion compared with $46 \%$ of those with a high school education or less.

As in the past, there are wide partisan, ideological and religious differences over abortion. Conservative Republicans oppose legal abortion by about two-to-one ( $65 \%$ to $31 \%$ ). Majorities across other political and ideological groups, including $55 \%$ of moderate and liberal Republicans, favor legal abortion.

Among religious groups, majorities of white evangelical Protestants (64\%) and Hispanic Catholics (54\%) oppose legal abortion. Support for legal abortion is highest among Jews ( $86 \%$ ) and the religiously unaffiliated ( $72 \%$ ). There continue to be wide differences in views based on religious attendance, regardless of affiliation: Fully $72 \%$ of those who say they seldom or never attend religious services support legal abortion; that compares with fewer than half as many of those who attend weekly or more (34\%).

## Abortion Views Show Little Change; Modest Gender, Age Differences

|  | 2007-2008 |  |  | 2009-2010 |  |  | 2011-2012 |  |  | 07-12 <br> Change | $\begin{gathered} 11-12 \\ \mathrm{~N} \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Legal | Illegal | DK | Legal | Illegal | DK | Legal | Illegal | DK |  |  |
| Total | 54 | 40 | $6=100$ | 48 | 44 | $8=100$ | 53 | 41 | $6=100$ | -1 | 7409 |
| Men | 52 | 42 | $6=100$ | 46 | 46 | $9=100$ | 51 | 43 | $6=100$ | -1 | 3490 |
| Women | 55 | 39 | $5=100$ | 50 | 43 | $7=100$ | 55 | 40 | $5=100$ | 0 | 3919 |
| White | 55 | 40 | $6=100$ | 49 | 44 | $7=100$ | 55 | 40 | $5=100$ | 0 | 5406 |
| Black | 51 | 42 | $7=100$ | 48 | 43 | $9=100$ | 54 | 38 | $8=100$ | +3 | 726 |
| Hispanic | 47 | 49 | $4=100$ | 40 | 51 | $9=100$ | 41 | 54 | $5=100$ | -6 | 655 |
| 18-29 | 52 | 45 | $3=100$ | 50 | 45 | $5=100$ | 53 | 44 | $3=100$ | +1 | 1081 |
| 30-49 | 58 | 38 | $5=100$ | 49 | 43 | $7=100$ | 54 | 42 | $4=100$ | -4 | 2021 |
| 50-64 | 56 | 38 | $6=100$ | 49 | 42 | $9=100$ | 55 | 38 | $7=100$ | -1 | 2295 |
| 65+ | 45 | 44 | $11=100$ | 39 | 49 | $12=100$ | 48 | 43 | $9=100$ | +3 | 1891 |
| College grad+ | 63 | 32 | $5=100$ | 57 | 36 | $7=100$ | 61 | 35 | $4=100$ | -2 | 2542 |
| Some college | 57 | 38 | $5=100$ | 48 | 44 | $8=100$ | 57 | 38 | $5=100$ | 0 | 1969 |
| HS or less | 47 | 46 | $7=100$ | 42 | 50 | $9=100$ | 46 | 47 | $7=100$ | -1 | 2679 |
| Conserv Rep | 31 | 66 | $3=100$ | 26 | 70 | $4=100$ | 31 | 65 | $4=100$ | 0 | 1358 |
| Mod/Lib Rep | 57 | 39 | $4=100$ | 51 | 44 | $5=100$ | 55 | 40 | $5=100$ | -2 | 580 |
| Independent | 56 | 38 | $6=100$ | 49 | 43 | $8=100$ | 54 | 41 | $6=100$ | -2 | 2719 |
| Cons/Mod Dem | 57 | 37 | $6=100$ | 52 | 40 | $9=100$ | 58 | 37 | $5=100$ | +1 | 1398 |
| Liberal Dem | 81 | 16 | $3=100$ | 76 | 18 | $6=100$ | 80 | 18 | $2=100$ | -1 | 882 |
| Protestant | 48 | 47 | $6=100$ | 40 | 52 | $8=100$ | 46 | 48 | $6=100$ | -2 | 3833 |
| White evangelical | 32 | 64 | $5=100$ | 26 | 68 | $5=100$ | 31 | 64 | $5=100$ | -1 | 1468 |
| White mainline | 65 | 28 | $7=100$ | 57 | 34 | $9=100$ | 64 | 31 | $5=100$ | -1 | 1397 |
| Black Protestant | 49 | 44 | $7=100$ | 46 | 45 | $10=100$ | 54 | 39 | $7=100$ | +5 | 518 |
| Catholic | 53 | 42 | $5=100$ | 45 | 45 | $9=100$ | 50 | 45 | $6=100$ | -3 | 1619 |
| White Catholic | 53 | 41 | $6=100$ | 48 | 43 | $9=100$ | 54 | 41 | $5=100$ | +1 | 1133 |
| Hispanic Catholic* | 44 | 52 | $3=100$ | 40 | 49 | $11=100$ | 41 | 54 | $5=100$ | -3 | 335 |
| Jewish | 87 | 9 | $4=100$ | 73 | 20 | $7=100$ | 86 | 11 | $3=100$ | -1 | 132 |
| Unaffiliated | 71 | 23 | $6=100$ | 69 | 25 | $7=100$ | 72 | 24 | $4=100$ | +1 | 1275 |
| Religious attendance |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Weekly or more | 35 | 59 | $6=100$ | 29 | 63 | $8=100$ | 34 | 61 | $6=100$ | -1 | 1493 |
| Monthly/Yearly | 61 | 33 | $6=100$ | 55 | 37 | $8=100$ | 60 | 35 | $5=100$ | -1 | 2417 |
| Seldom/Never | 70 | 24 | $6=100$ | 65 | 28 | $7=100$ | 72 | 23 | $5=100$ | +2 | 1966 |
| Among whites |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Men | 53 | 41 | $6=100$ | 47 | 45 | $8=100$ | 53 | 41 | $5=100$ | 0 | 2486 |
| College grad + | 60 | 36 | $4=100$ | 52 | 41 | $7=100$ | 60 | 36 | $4=100$ | 0 | 972 |
| Some coll or less | 49 | 43 | $7=100$ | 44 | 47 | $9=100$ | 50 | 44 | $6=100$ | +1 | 1438 |
| Women | 56 | 39 | $5=100$ | 51 | 43 | $7=100$ | 57 | 39 | $4=100$ | +1 | 2920 |
| College grad + | 66 | 30 | $4=100$ | 62 | 33 | $5=100$ | 64 | 34 | $3=100$ | -2 | 1044 |
| Some coll or less | 52 | 43 | $5=100$ | 46 | 47 | $7=100$ | 53 | 42 | $5=100$ | +1 | 1790 |

PEW RESEARCH CENTER Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic only; Hispanics are of any race. *Hispanic figures are only from polls with Spanish-language interviewing. Figures may not add to $100 \%$ because of rounding.

## About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted April 4-15, 2012, among a national sample of 3,008 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia ( 1,805 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,203 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 603 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source under the direction of Princeton Survey Research Associates International. A combination of landline and cell phone random digit dial samples were used; both samples were provided by Survey Sampling International. Interviews were conducted in English and Spanish. Respondents in the landline sample were selected by randomly asking for the youngest adult male or female who is now at home. Interviews in the cell sample were conducted with the person who answered the phone, if that person was an adult 18 years of age or older. For detailed information about our survey methodology, see http://peoplepress.org/methodology/

The combined landline and cell phone sample are weighted using an iterative technique that matches gender, age, education, race, Hispanic origin and nativity and region to parameters from the March 2011 Census Bureau's Current Population Survey and population density to parameters from the Decennial Census. The sample also is weighted to match current patterns of telephone status and relative usage of landline and cell phones (for those with both), based on extrapolations from the 2011 National Health Interview Survey. The weighting procedure also accounts for the fact that respondents with both landline and cell phones have a greater probability of being included in the combined sample and adjusts for household size within the landline sample. Sampling errors and statistical tests of significance take into account the effect of weighting. The following table shows the sample sizes and the error attributable to sampling that would be expected at the $95 \%$ level of confidence for different groups in the survey:

| Group | Sample Size | Plus or minus... |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Form A | 1,494 | 3.0 percentage points |
| Form B | 1,514 | 2.9 percentage points |
| Form A |  |  |
| $\quad$ Republicans | 397 | 5.7 percentage points |
| Democrats | 442 | 5.4 percentage points |
| Independents | 558 | 4.8 percentage points |
| Form B |  |  |
| $\quad$ Republicans | 390 | 5.8 percentage points |
| $\quad$ Democrats | 486 | 5.2 percentage points |
| Independents | 568 | 4.8 percentage points |

Sample sizes and sampling errors for other subgroups are available upon request.
In addition to sampling error, one should bear in mind that question wording and practical difficulties in conducting surveys can introduce error or bias into the findings of opinion polls.

## PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE \& THE PRESS 2012 VALUES SURVEY <br> April 4-15, 2012 <br> $\mathrm{N}=3008$

QUESTIONS 1-2, 7-8, 17-18, 35-36 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED
QUESTIONS 3-5, 9-16, 30, 40-41, 45-59 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE
NO QUESTIONS 6, 22-29, 31-34, 37-39, 42-44
ASK FORM A ONLY [ $\mathrm{N}=1494$ ]:
On a different subject ...
Q.19FA Do you think abortion should be [READ] [PLEASE READ CATEGORIES IN REVERSE ORDER

FOR HALF THE SAMPLE]

Apr 4-15, 2012
Nov 9-14, 2011

| Legal <br> in all <br> cases | Legal <br> in most <br> cases | Illegal <br> in most <br> cases | Illegal <br> in all <br> cases | (VOL.) <br> (VK/Ref | NET <br> Legal in <br> all/most | NET <br> Illegal in <br> all/most |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 19 | 31 | 23 | 16 | 7 | 53 | 39 |
| 18 | 35 | 26 | 17 | 6 | 51 | 43 |
| 17 | 36 | 26 | 16 | 5 | 54 | 41 |
| 16 | 33 | 27 | 16 | 4 | 54 | 42 |
| 18 | 28 | 27 | 17 | 7 | 50 | 44 |
| 18 | 35 | 28 | 16 | 8 | 47 | 45 |
| 19 | 38 | 24 | 16 | 7 | 46 | 44 |
| 17 | 37 | 26 | 14 | 7 | 53 | 40 |
| 19 | 38 | 24 | 15 | 5 | 57 | 36 |
| 18 | 33 | 29 | 13 | 6 | 57 | 41 |
| 21 | 32 | 24 | 15 | 5 | 51 | 37 |
| 17 | 35 | 26 | 17 | 5 | 53 | 34 |
| 19 | 32 | 27 | 16 | 6 | 52 | 43 |
| 17 | 40 | 27 | 13 | 3 | 57 | 43 |
| 20 | 36 | 27 | 14 | 3 | 56 | 40 |
| 21 | 34 | 25 | 17 | 3 | 55 | 41 |
| 23 | 31 | 23 | 20 | 2 | 54 | 43 |
| 23 | 34 | 25 | 17 | 2 | 57 | 42 |
| 22 | 27 | 28 | 20 | 3 | 49 | 48 |
| 22 | 31 | 23 | 20 | 4 | 53 | 43 |
| 21 | 38 | 25 | 14 | 1 | 59 | 39 |
| 20 | 35 | 25 | 16 | 3 | 55 | 41 |
| 20 | 33 | 26 | 17 | 4 | 53 | 43 |
| 20 | 37 | 26 | 15 | 2 | 57 | 41 |
| 21 | 34 | 27 | 15 | 3 | 55 | 42 |
| 19 | 35 | 29 | 13 | 4 | 54 | 42 |
| 22 | 34 | 27 | 14 | 3 | 56 | 41 |
| 24 | 34 | 25 | 14 | 2 | 58 | 39 |
| 26 | 35 | 25 | 12 | 3 | 61 | 37 |
| 24 | 36 | 25 | 11 | 4 | 60 | 36 |
| 27 | 32 | 26 | 14 | 1 | 59 | 40 |

## ASK FORM B ONLY [N=1514]:

Next,
Q.20FB What do you think is more important - to protect the right of Americans to own guns, OR to control gun ownership?

Apr 4-15, 2012
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011
Jan 13-16, 2011
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010
Mar 10-14, 2010

| Protect right <br> to own guns |
| :---: |
| 49 |
| 47 |
| 48 |
| 49 |
| 46 |
| 46 |
| 45 |
| 37 |
| 42 |
| 32 |
| 37 |
| 42 |
| 38 |
| 37 |
| 29 |
| 33 |
| 30 |
| 34 |


| Control <br> gun ownership | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |
| :---: | :---: |
| 45 | 6 |
| 49 | 5 |
| 47 | 6 |
| 46 | 6 |
| 50 | 4 |
| 46 | 7 |
| 49 | 6 |
| 58 | 5 |
| 55 | 3 |
| 60 | 8 |
| 58 | 5 |
| 54 | 4 |
| 57 | 5 |
| 55 | 8 |
| 66 | 5 |
| 62 | 5 |
| 65 | 9 |

## ASK FORM B ONLY [N=1514]:

Q.21FB Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?

Apr 4-15, 2012
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011 ${ }^{1}$
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010
Aug 11-17, 2009
Mid-April, 2009
August, 2008
June, 2008
Late May, 2008
November, 2007
August, 2007
Early January, 2007
Early November, 2006 (RVs)
July, 2006
June, 2006
March, 2006
July, 2005
December, 2004
August, 2004
July, 2004
Mid-March, 2004
Early February, 2004
November, 2003
October, 2003
Mid-July, 2003

| Strongly |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | favor | Favor |
| 47 | 22 | 25 |
| 46 | -- | -- |
| 45 | 20 | 25 |
| 43 | 16 | 27 |
| 41 | 17 | 24 |
| 39 | 14 | 25 |
| 35 | 14 | 21 |
| 39 | 13 | 26 |
| 40 | 15 | 25 |
| 38 | 15 | 23 |
| 36 | 12 | 24 |
| 36 | 13 | 23 |
| 37 | 13 | 24 |
| 30 | 10 | 20 |
| 35 | 12 | 23 |
| 33 | 13 | 20 |
| 39 | 10 | 29 |
| 36 | 13 | 23 |
| 32 | 14 | 18 |
| 29 | 8 | 21 |
| 32 | 10 | 22 |
| 32 | 10 | 22 |
| 30 | 9 | 21 |
| 30 | 10 | 20 |
| 30 | 9 | 21 |
| 38 | 10 | 28 |


| --------Oppose-------- |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TotalStrongly <br> oppose | Oppose | (VOL.) <br> DK/Ref |  |
|  | 22 | 21 | 11 |
| 44 | -- | -- | 9 |
| 46 | 25 | 21 | 9 |
| 47 | 26 | 22 | 10 |
| 48 | 24 | 24 | 10 |
| 53 | 31 | 22 | 8 |
| 54 | 31 | 23 | 11 |
| 52 | 30 | 22 | 9 |
| 52 | 31 | 21 | 8 |
| 49 | 29 | 20 | 13 |
| 54 | 29 | 25 | 10 |
| 55 | 31 | 24 | 9 |
| 55 | 33 | 22 | 8 |
| 57 | 31 | 26 | 13 |
| 56 | 31 | 25 | 9 |
| 55 | 32 | 23 | 12 |
| 51 | 28 | 23 | 10 |
| 53 | 31 | 22 | 11 |
| 61 | 38 | 23 | 7 |
| 60 | 35 | 25 | 11 |
| 56 | 33 | 23 | 12 |
| 59 | 35 | 24 | 9 |
| 63 | 42 | 21 | 7 |
| 62 | 41 | 21 | 8 |
| 58 | 33 | 25 | 12 |
| 53 | 30 | 23 | 9 |

[^0]
## Q.21FB CONTINUED...

March, 2001
June, 1996

| Strongly |  |  | Strongly |  |  | (VOL.) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Total | favor | Favor | Total | oppose | Oppose | DK/Ref |
| 35 | 8 | 27 | 57 | 34 | 23 | 8 |
| 27 | 6 | 21 | 65 | 41 | 24 | 8 |

ASK ALL:
PARTY In politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?
ASK IF INDEP/NO PREF/OTHER/DK/REF (PARTY=3,4,5,9):
PARTYLN
As of today do you lean more to the Republican Party or more to the Democratic Party?



[^0]:    1 In Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011, July 21-Aug 5, 2010, Aug 11-17, 2009, August 2008, August 2007, Early January 2007, Early November 2006, March 2006, July 2005, December 2004, Early February 2004, November 2003, Mid-July 2003, March 2001 and June 1996 the question was asked as part of a list of items. In August 2009, April 2009, May 2008 and June 2008, the question read "allowing gay and lesbian couples;" all other instances read "allowing gays and lesbians."

