

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
MARCH 2013 POLITICAL SURVEY
FINAL TOPLINE
March 13-17, 2013
N=1,501

QUESTIONS 1, 5-7, 15A, 15B, 15e HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

NO QUESTIONS 2-4, 8-14, 15d

ASK ALL:

Q.15 Here are some pairs of statements. Please tell me whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. The first pair is...
[READ AND RANDOMIZE PAIRS BUT NOT STATEMENTS WITHIN EACH PAIR]

c.	(VOL.)		
	<u>Homosexuality should be accepted by society</u>	<u>Homosexuality should be discouraged by society</u>	<u>Neither/DK/ Ref</u>
Mar 13-17, 2013	57	36	7
Jan 4-8, 2012	56	32	12
Feb 22-Mar 14, 2011	58	33	8
October, 2006 ¹	51	38	11
December, 2004	49	44	7
June, 2003	47	45	8
September, 2000	50	41	9
August, 1999	49	44	7
October, 1997	46	48	6
June, 1997	45	50	5
October, 1996	44	49	7
April, 1996	44	49	7
October, 1995	45	50	5
April, 1995	47	48	5
October, 1994	46	48	6
July, 1994	46	49	5

NO QUESTIONS 16-17, 19, 25, 30-34, 39-44, 49-55, 58-60

QUESTIONS 18, 20-24, 26-29, 35-38, 45-48, 56-57 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

On another subject...

Q.61 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.)
	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly</u>		
		<u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>		<u>oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	
Mar 13-17, 2013	49	22	27	44	22	21	8
Oct 24-28, 2012	49	22	27	40	19	21	11
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012 ²	48	23	25	44	24	20	8
Jun 7-17, 2012	48	23	25	44	23	21	9
Apr 4-15, 2012	47	22	25	43	22	21	11
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	46	--	--	44	--	--	9

¹ In 2006 and before, both answer choices began "Homosexuality is a way of life that should be..."

² In Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012, 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 Jun 7-17, 2012, Apr 4-15, 2012, 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."

Q.61 CONTINUED...

	-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.) DK/Ref
	Total	<i>Strongly</i> <i>favor</i>	<i>Favor</i>	Total	<i>Strongly</i> <i>oppose</i>	<i>Oppose</i>	
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	45	20	25	46	25	21	9
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010	43	16	27	47	26	22	10
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	41	17	24	48	24	24	10
Aug 11-17, 2009	39	14	25	53	31	22	8
Mid-April, 2009	35	14	21	54	31	23	11
August, 2008	39	13	26	52	30	22	9
June, 2008	40	15	25	52	31	21	8
Late May, 2008	38	15	23	49	29	20	13
November, 2007	36	12	24	54	29	25	10
August, 2007	36	13	23	55	31	24	9
Early January, 2007	37	13	24	55	33	22	8
Early November, 2006 (RVs)	30	10	20	57	31	26	13
July, 2006	35	12	23	56	31	25	9
June, 2006	33	13	20	55	32	23	12
March, 2006	39	10	29	51	28	23	10
July, 2005	36	13	23	53	31	22	11
December, 2004	32	14	18	61	38	23	7
August, 2004	29	8	21	60	35	25	11
July, 2004	32	10	22	56	33	23	12
Mid-March, 2004	32	10	22	59	35	24	9
Early February, 2004	30	9	21	63	42	21	7
November, 2003	30	10	20	62	41	21	8
October, 2003	30	9	21	58	33	25	12
Mid-July, 2003	38	10	28	53	30	23	9
March, 2001	35	8	27	57	34	23	8
June, 1996	27	6	21	65	41	24	8

ASK IF FAVOR (Q.61=1,2) [N=712]:

Q.62 Have you always favored same-sex marriage, or have you changed your mind on this issue?

	(PIAL)
Mar 13-17 <u>2013</u>	June 14-July 3 <u>2004</u> ³
68 Always favored	73
28 Have changed mind	26
4 Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	1

ASK IF POSITION HAS CHANGED TO FAVOR (Q.62=2) [N=225]:

Q.62a What made you change your mind about same-sex marriage? [OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL WITH "ANY OTHER REASON?"]?

Mar 13-17 <u>2013</u>	
32	Friends/family/acquaintances who are gay/lesbian
25	Become more tolerant/older/studied more/more aware
18	World has changed/more prevalent/inevitable/doesn't hurt
18	Freedom to choose/love and happiness
8	Equal rights
5	Morals/religious beliefs/only God can judge
2	Born that way
6	Other
6	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)

Total exceeds 100% because of multiple responses.

³ In July 2004 survey the question read, "Have you always held this position, or has your opinion on this issue changed over time?" It was asked after a question that read, "Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?"

ASK IF OPPOSE (Q.61=3,4) [N=684]:

Q.63 Have you always opposed same-sex marriage, or have you changed your mind on this issue?

		(PIAL)
Mar 13-17		Jun 14-Jul 3
<u>2013</u>		<u>2004⁴</u>
95	Always opposed	95
4	Have changed mind	5
1	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	*

ASK IF POSITION HAS CHANGED TO OPPOSE (Q.63=2) [N=28]:

Q.63a What made you change your mind about same-sex marriage? [OPEN END: ACCEPT UP TO THREE RESPONSES. PROBE ONCE FOR ADDITIONAL WITH "ANY OTHER REASON?"]?

Q.63a RESULTS NOT SHOWN BECAUSE OF INSUFFICIENT NUMBER OF CASES FOR ANALYSIS.

NO QUESTION 64**ASK ALL:**

Q.65 Now I'm going to read you some statements, some of which you will probably agree with, others you will probably disagree with. The first is... [INSERT FIRST ITEM, RANDOMIZE], do you agree or disagree? Next, [NEXT ITEM]? [IF NECESSARY: Do you agree or disagree that (ITEM)]?⁵

		Agree	Disagree	(VOL.) Mixed opinion	(VOL.) DK/Ref
a.	Same-sex marriage would go against my religious beliefs				
	Mar 13-17, 2013	56	41	1	2
	October, 2003 ⁶	62	33	1	4
	PSRA/Newsweek: May, 1996 ⁷	67	29	N/A	4
b.	Allowing gays and lesbians to legally marry would undermine the traditional American family				
	Mar 13-17, 2013	46	51	1	3
	October, 2003 ⁸	56	39	2	3
	Kaiser Family Foundation: September, 2000 ⁹	54	42	1	3
c.	Same-sex couples can be as good parents as heterosexual couples				
	Mar 13-17, 2013	64	32	1	3
	October, 2003 ¹⁰	54	37	3	6
	Kaiser Family Foundation: September, 2000	56	39	1	4
d.	Same-sex couples should have the same legal rights as heterosexual couples				
	Mar 13-17, 2013	66	30	1	2

⁴ In July 2004 survey the question read, "Have you always held this position, or has your opinion on this issue changed over time?" It was asked after a question that read, "Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?"

⁵ In September, 2000 and October, 2003 polls respondent were given four response options: "completely agree," "somewhat agree," "somewhat disagree" and "completely disagree."

⁶ In October 2003 the question began "Gay marriage would..."

⁷ In May, 1996 survey the question was preceded by, ""Next, I'm going to read you some statements about the issue of gay marriages. For each statement please tell me if you agree or disagree..."

⁸ In October 2003 the question read "Allowing gay and lesbian couples ..."

⁹ In September, 2000 the question was preceded by, "Now I'm going to read you a series of statements that describe different views about gays, lesbians and human sexuality. Some statements will probably come very close to describing your own opinions, while others will not come close at all. As I read each statement, please tell me if you completely agree with it, somewhat agree, somewhat DISagree, or completely disagree with it."

¹⁰ In October 2003 the question began "Gay and lesbian couples can..."

NO QUESTIONS 66-69, 72, 74-76, 78-84, 93-97**QUESTIONS 70-71, 73, 98-102 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED****QUESTIONS 77, 85-92 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE****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?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	Republican	Democrat	Independent	No preference	Other party	DK/Ref	Rep	Dem
Mar 13-17, 2013	26	33	34	3	1	3	14	15
Feb. 13-18, 2013	22	32	41	2	*	2	15	19
Jan 9-13, 2013	25	32	38	2	*	2	15	16
Dec 17-19, 2012	21	32	38	4	*	4	15	14
Dec 5-9, 2012	23	33	38	3	1	2	14	19
Oct 31-Nov 3, 2012	26	34	34	3	1	3	13	16
Oct 24-28, 2012	28	33	33	4	*	2	12	16
Oct 4-7, 2012	27	31	36	3	1	3	15	15
Sep 12-16, 2012	24	35	36	2	*	2	14	16
Jul 16-26, 2012	22	33	38	4	*	3	14	15
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	24	33	37	3	*	3	15	17
Jun 7-17, 2012	24	33	39	2	*	2	17	17
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	24	32	36	4	*	4	13	14
Apr 4-15, 2012	24	31	39	3	*	2	15	15
Mar 7-11, 2012	24	34	36	3	1	2	16	17
Feb 8-12, 2012	26	32	36	4	1	2	13	17
Yearly Totals								
2012	24.7	32.6	36.4	3.1	.5	2.7	14.4	16.1
2011	24.3	32.3	37.4	3.1	.4	2.5	15.7	15.6
2010	25.2	32.7	35.2	3.6	.4	2.8	14.5	14.1
2009	23.9	34.4	35.1	3.4	.4	2.8	13.1	15.7
2008	25.7	36.0	31.5	3.6	.3	3.0	10.6	15.2
2007	25.3	32.9	34.1	4.3	.4	2.9	10.9	17.0
2006	27.8	33.1	30.9	4.4	.3	3.4	10.5	15.1
2005	29.3	32.8	30.2	4.5	.3	2.8	10.3	14.9
2004	30.0	33.5	29.5	3.8	.4	3.0	11.7	13.4
2003	30.3	31.5	30.5	4.8	.5	2.5	12.0	12.6
2002	30.4	31.4	29.8	5.0	.7	2.7	12.4	11.6
2001	29.0	33.2	29.5	5.2	.6	2.6	11.9	11.6
2001 Post-Sept 11	30.9	31.8	27.9	5.2	.6	3.6	11.7	9.4
2001 Pre-Sept 11	27.3	34.4	30.9	5.1	.6	1.7	12.1	13.5
2000	28.0	33.4	29.1	5.5	.5	3.6	11.6	11.7
1999	26.6	33.5	33.7	3.9	.5	1.9	13.0	14.5
1998	27.9	33.7	31.1	4.6	.4	2.3	11.6	13.1
1997	28.0	33.4	32.0	4.0	.4	2.3	12.2	14.1
1996	28.9	33.9	31.8	3.0	.4	2.0	12.1	14.9
1995	31.6	30.0	33.7	2.4	.6	1.3	15.1	13.5
1994	30.1	31.5	33.5	1.3	--	3.6	13.7	12.2
1993	27.4	33.6	34.2	4.4	1.5	2.9	11.5	14.9
1992	27.6	33.7	34.7	1.5	0	2.5	12.6	16.5
1991	30.9	31.4	33.2	0	1.4	3.0	14.7	10.8
1990	30.9	33.2	29.3	1.2	1.9	3.4	12.4	11.3
1989	33	33	34	--	--	--	--	--
1987	26	35	39	--	--	--	--	--

ASK REPUBLICANS AND REPUBLICAN LEANERS ONLY (PARTY=1 OR PARTYLN=1) [N=623]:

TEAPARTY3 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

Mar 13-17 <u>2013</u>		Feb 13-18 <u>2013</u>	Jan 9-13 <u>2013</u>
43	Agree	36	35
7	Disagree	9	10
47	No opinion either way	52	51
1	Haven't heard of (VOL.)	1	2
1	Refused (VOL.)	3	2

Key to Pew Research trends noted in the topline:

(PIAL) Pew Research Center's Internet and American Life project
