

JULY 31, 2012

Obama Endorsement Has Limited Impact

Two-Thirds of Democrats Now Support Gay Marriage

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Two-Thirds of Democrats Now Support Gay Marriage

Reports that the Democratic Party may add support for gay marriage to its party platform are in keeping with a significant shift of opinion on this issue among Democrats nationwide. Just four years ago, in 2008, only half (50%) of Democrats favored allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, while 42% were opposed. Support for gay marriage among Democrats has jumped to 65% today, more than double the percentage that is opposed (29%).

The latest national survey by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life and the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press, conducted June 28-July 9, 2012, among 2,973 adults, finds that the partisan divide over gay marriage continues to widen. Just 24% of Republicans now favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, which is only slightly higher than the percentage of Republicans who supported gay marriage in 2008 (19%).

Independent support for gay marriage has grown substantially since 2008. More independents today favor (51%) than oppose (40%) gay marriage; four years ago independents were divided evenly (44% favor, 45% oppose).

Steep Rise in Support for Gay Marriage among Democrats

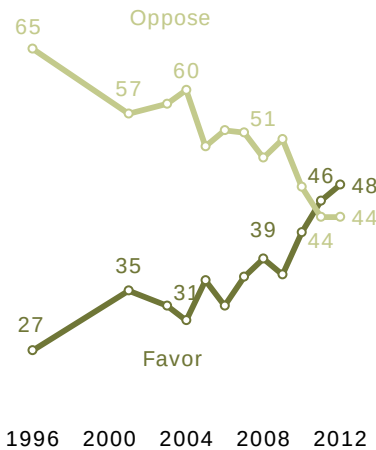
	2004	2008	July 2012	08-12 change
Total public	%	%	%	
Favor	31	39	48	+9
Oppose	60	51	44	-7
Democrats				
Favor	40	50	65	+15
Oppose	50	42	29	-13
Independents				
Favor	37	44	51	+7
Oppose	53	45	40	-5
Republicans				
Favor	17	19	24	+5
Oppose	78	73	70	-3
Dem-Rep Gap	+23	+31	+41	

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Yearly totals from 2004 and 2008 based on all surveys conducted in each calendar year.

While President Obama's endorsement of gay marriage earlier this year drew significant news coverage and public interest, its effect on public opinion has been limited. Two consecutive national surveys conducted since May 9, when Obama made his announcement, show 48% in favor of allowing gay marriage and 44% opposed. This is virtually unchanged from a survey conducted in April, before the president's statement.

Obama Endorsement of Gay Marriage Doesn't Affect Public Opinion

1996-2012 Yearly Totals



2012 Detail

	Obama announcement (May 9) ↓		
	April 4-15	June 7-17	Jun 28-July 9
	%	%	%
Favor	47	48	48
Oppose	43	44	44
Don't know	11	9	8
	100	100	100
N	1,514	2,013	2,973

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q30a. Yearly totals based on all surveys conducted in each calendar year. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

But Obama's announcement may have rallied the Democratic base – particularly liberal Democrats – to the issue. Democrats supported gay marriage by a 59% to 31% margin in April – that stands at 65% to 29% today. Most of this shift has come among liberal Democrats, 83% of whom now support gay marriage, up from 73% earlier this year.

Attitudes have not shifted among any other segment of the public following Obama's announcement, including younger Americans, who continue to back gay marriage at the same rate as before, and African Americans, who remain, on balance, opposed to gay marriage.

Liberal Democrats Even More Supportive of Gay Marriage

	April 2012	July 2012	Change
	%	%	
Total	47	48	+2
Republican	23	24	+1
Independent	52	51	-1
Democrat	59	65	+6
Liberal Democrat	73	83	+10
Cons/Mod Democrat	49	54	+5

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q30a.

Part of the long-term growth in support for gay marriage is linked to changing public views about homosexuality in general. A Los Angeles Times survey in 1985 found just 20% of the public believed that homosexuality was something that people are born with, while twice as many (42%) said it was just the way some people prefer to live. Today, the

balance of opinion is quite different: 41% say homosexuality is something people are born with, while 35% say it is a personal preference.

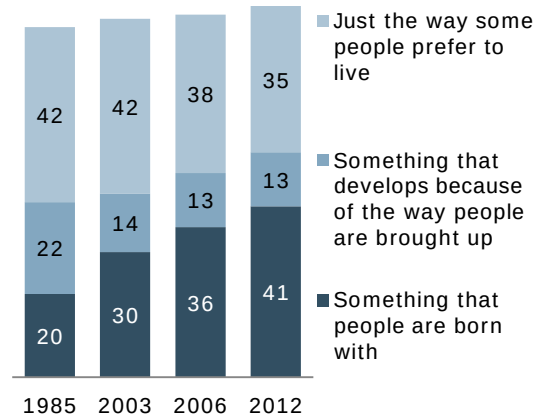
But views of homosexuality have changed relatively slowly, if at all, in recent years. About half (51%) of Americans believe a person's sexual orientation is something that cannot be changed, while 36% believe it can. That is little different from six years ago, when the balance was 49% vs. 39%. Similarly, the share who say homosexuality is something people are born with is up only five percentage points (from 36% to 41%) since 2006 – a period in which support for gay marriage jumped by 13 percentage points (from 35% to 48%) and support for gay adoption jumped 10 points (from 42% to 52%).

Those who believe homosexuality is something people are born with have consistently been the most supportive of gay marriage, and that support has risen substantially in recent years, to 76% in the new poll. By comparison, there has been little change among those who say homosexuality is the way that some people prefer to live; 63% of this group opposes gay marriage.

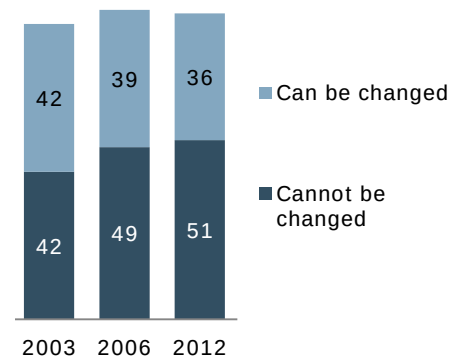
However, there has been a rise in support for gay marriage across many demographic groups, even those who have traditionally been the most opposed. While the share of African Americans who support gay marriage is no higher today than it was before Obama's endorsement of gay marriage (40% currently, 39% in April), it is up substantially from 26% in 2008 and 21% in 2004. Today 28% of people who attend church services at least weekly support gay marriage, up from 23% in 2008 and 16% in 2004.

Views of Homosexuality Shift, But Slowly

Do you think homosexuality is...



Do you think a person's sexual orientation...

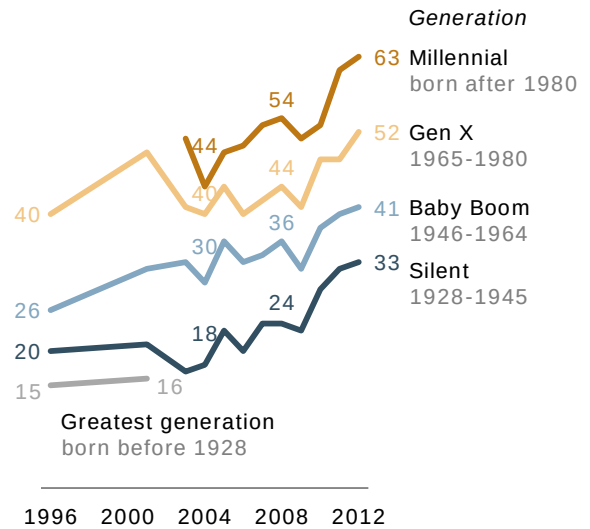


PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q31/32. 1985 data from Los Angeles Times survey.

A large portion of the growth in acceptance of gay marriage over the past two decades is the result of generational replacement -- the arrival of younger, more supportive generations making up a larger share of the population. But the pace of change in support for gay marriage has increased in recent years across generational lines. *Millennials* have consistently been the most supportive of gay marriage, but even here the share in favor of allowing gays and lesbians to marry has jumped from 54% to 63% since 2008. Similarly, support is up from 44% to 52% in *Generation X*.

Even among the older *Silent* generation, which has been the most opposed to allowing gay marriage in recent years, there is increased support. Currently, 33% of the Silent generation favors gay marriage, up from 24% in 2008.

Rising Support for Gay Marriage Across Generations



PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Yearly totals based on all surveys conducted in each calendar year.

SECTION 1: LITTLE CHANGE IN VIEWS OF GAY MARRIAGE FOLLOWING OBAMA'S ANNOUNCEMENT

President Obama's statement on May 9 that "same-sex couples should be able to get married" garnered significant public and media attention. Reports about Obama's endorsement of gay marriage accounted for 14% of major news organizations' coverage over the course of that week, equal to the amount of coverage given to the election contest and nearly double the amount of coverage of the nation's economy, according to an analysis by the Project for Excellence in Journalism.

[A Pew Research Center survey conducted May 10-May 13](#) found that a quarter of Americans (26%) said they followed the news about Obama's statement more closely than any other news event that week.

Yet two consecutive Pew Research Center surveys conducted in the wake of Obama's announcement show that it had no significant effect on the balance of public opinion on the issue. Both surveys, conducted in June and July, found 48% in favor of allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, and 44% opposed. That is largely

Gay Marriage: Before and After Obama's Statement of Position

<i>Allow gays and lesbians to marry legally ...</i>	April 2012	June 2012	July 2012
	%	%	%
Favor	47	48	48
Strongly	22	23	23
Oppose	43	44	44
Strongly	22	23	24
Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q30a. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

No Short-Term Shift in Gay Marriage Opinions, Aside from Liberal Democrats

Allow gays and lesbians to marry legally ...

	April 2012			July 2012		
	Favor	Oppose	DK	Favor	Oppose	DK
	%	%	%	%	%	%
Total	47	43	11=100	48	44	8=100
White	47	43	10=100	49	44	7=100
Black	39	49	12=100	40	51	9=100
Hispanic	47	41	11=100	51	38	12=100
18-29	65	30	5=100	63	32	5=100
30-49	48	41	11=100	51	42	7=100
50-64	40	47	13=100	44	47	9=100
65+	31	56	13=100	31	57	12=100
Republican	23	68	10=100	24	70	7=100
Conserv Rep	16	75	8=100	17	78	5=100
Mod/Lib Rep	43	42	15=100	41	50	9=100
Independent	52	38	10=100	51	40	9=100
Democrat	59	31	10=100	65	29	6=100
Cons/Mod Dem	49	40	11=100	54	38	8=100
Liberal Dem	73	20	7=100	83	13	3=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q30a. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

unchanged from a 47% to 43% balance of opinion in April of this year.

This stability over the course of the year exists across most key demographic groups: There is virtually no change in attitudes toward gay marriage across age, race and ethnic groups. Among political groups, support for gay marriage among liberal Democrats has increased by ten points since April. But opinions among conservative and moderate Democrats have changed less – 54% favor gay marriage in June/July polling; 49% did so in April. Conservative Republicans' views also are largely unchanged: 75% opposed gay marriage before Obama's announcement, 78% oppose it currently.

There is also little evidence that views of Obama have changed as a result of his support for gay marriage. [A Pew Research Center survey conducted immediately after Obama's announcement \(May 10-13\)](#) found roughly half (52%) saying his support for gay marriage did not affect their opinion of him. A quarter (25%) said they felt less favorably toward Obama while 19% said they felt more favorably. Obama's overall approval ratings have remained relatively stable over this period.

Gay marriage remains a relatively low-priority issue for most voters. In the current survey, only one-in-twenty Americans (4%) say that gay marriage is the issue that matters most to them in deciding their vote for president this year.

SECTION 2: LONG-TERM VIEWS OF HOMOSEXUALITY, GAY MARRIAGE AND ADOPTION

The proportion of Americans who favor gay marriage has increased by 21 points since 1996, from 27% to 48%. Over this period, opposition has fallen from 65% to 44%.

Strong support for gay marriage now equals strong opposition (22% strongly favor, 23% strongly oppose). As recently as four years ago, twice as many strongly opposed as strongly favored gay marriage (30% vs. 14%). In 1996, 41% strongly opposed gay marriage while only 6% strongly favored it.

There also has been a steady increase in support for allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children. In 1999, just 38% favored gay adoption while 57% were opposed. Today, 52% favor gay adoption while 42% are opposed.

Growing Support for Gay Marriage and Gay Adoption

<i>Allow gays and lesbians to marry legally</i>	1996	2004	2008	2012
Favor	27	31	39	48
Strongly	6	11	14	22
Oppose	65	60	51	44
Strongly	41	36	30	23
Don't know	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>9</u>
	100	100	100	100

<i>Allow gays and lesbians to adopt children</i>	1999	2006	2008	2012
Favor	38	42	46	52
Strongly	10	11	16	23
Oppose	57	52	48	42
Strongly	30	28	26	22
Don't know	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>
	100	100	100	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q.30a,b.
Data on gay marriage from 2004, 2008 and 2012 represent annual totals of polls conducted in each year. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Views of Gay Marriage

The issue of gay marriage remains a polarizing one across the political spectrum. Among conservative Republicans, an overwhelming majority (78%) opposes gay marriage. By contrast, a wide majority of liberal Democrats (83%) favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. Views of independents, and moderates in both parties, are more mixed.

Six-in-ten college graduates support allowing gays to marry (60%), compared with 51% of those with some college experience and 38% of those with no more than a high school education. (*For long-term trends on views of gay marriage, based on yearly totals, see “Changing Attitudes on Gay Marriage”, April 25, 2012.*)

Current Attitudes Toward Gay Marriage

	Favor	Oppose	DK
	%	%	%
Total	48	44	8=100
Men	43	48	9=100
Women	53	40	7=100
White	49	44	7=100
Black	40	51	9=100
Hispanic	51	38	12=100
18-29	63	32	5=100
30-49	51	42	7=100
50-64	44	47	9=100
65+	31	57	12=100
College grad+	60	34	6=100
Some college	51	40	9=100
HS or less	38	52	9=100
<i>Family income</i>			
\$75,000+	57	37	6=100
\$30k-75,000	47	46	8=100
<\$30,000	45	46	9=100
Conservative Rep	17	78	5=100
Mod/Lib Rep	41	50	9=100
Independent	51	40	9=100
Cons/Mod Dem	54	38	8=100
Liberal Dem	83	13	3=100
Northeast	62	32	7=100
Midwest	49	43	8=100
South	39	52	9=100
West	51	41	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q30a.
Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic;
Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100%
because of rounding.

Just 22% of white evangelical Protestants favor gay marriage while 73% oppose it. By comparison, there is more support (50%) than opposition (40%) among white mainline Protestants. Nearly six-in-ten white non-Hispanic Catholics (59%) favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry, as do 57% of Hispanic Catholics.

About four-in-ten black Protestants (38%) favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally, while more than half (54%) are opposed.

People who have no religious affiliation favor gay marriage by 72% to 20%. Among atheists and agnostics, an overwhelming majority (88%) supports gay marriage; just 6% are opposed. Among those who describe their religion as nothing in particular, 65% support gay marriage and 26% are opposed.

Generally, those with high levels of religious commitment oppose gay marriage. Nearly two-thirds (65%) of those who attend religious services at least weekly oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry, as do 59% of those who say religion is very important in their lives. There is far more support for gay marriage among those who attend services less frequently and those who say religion is less personally important.

Religious Views on Gay Marriage

	Favor %	Oppose %	DK %
Total	48	44	8=100
Protestant	33	59	7=100
White evangelical	22	73	5=100
White mainline	50	40	9=100
Black Protestant	38	54	7=100
Catholic	58	33	9=100
White Catholic	59	34	8=100
Hispanic Catholic	57	32	11=100
Unaffiliated	72	20	8=100
Atheist/Agnostic	88	6	6=100
Nothing in particular	65	26	9=100
Attendance			
Weekly+	28	65	7=100
Monthly/Yearly	56	35	9=100
Seldom/Never	66	26	8=100
Importance of religion			
Very important	33	59	8=100
Less important	69	23	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q30a.
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because of rounding.

Views of Gay Adoption

Like support for gay marriage, support for allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children has increased in recent years. There has been a 10-point increase in support since July 2006 (when 42% of the population supported allowing gays to adopt and 52% were opposed). Since 1999 there has been a 14-point increase in support.

In many ways, views about gay adoption mirror those of gay marriage. Both parties are split ideologically over allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children. While 85% of liberal Democrats favor gay adoption, 55% of conservative and moderate Democrats do so. Among Republicans, moderates and liberals are at least twice as likely as conservatives to favor gay adoption (53% vs. 23%).

More women than men favor gay adoption (57% vs. 46%). And gay adoption is supported by more of those younger than 30 (67%) than any other age group.

As with gay marriage, whites are more likely than African Americans to favor allowing gays to adopt (54% vs. 43%). While Hispanics are more likely to support gay marriage than to oppose it, they are roughly evenly divided regarding gay adoption, with 44% in favor and 48% opposed.

Attitudes Toward Gay Adoption

Allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children ...

	Favor	Oppose	DK
	%	%	%
Total	52	42	7=100
Men	46	47	7=100
Women	57	37	6=100
White	54	40	6=100
Black	43	50	7=100
Hispanic	44	48	8=100
18-29	67	29	4=100
30-49	56	39	5=100
50-64	47	45	8=100
65+	35	55	10=100
College grad+	65	29	5=100
Some college	55	38	7=100
HS or less	41	52	7=100
<i>Family income</i>			
\$75,000+	64	29	7=100
\$30k-75,000	52	43	5=100
<\$30,000	46	49	6=100
Conservative Rep	23	69	8=100
Mod/Lib Rep	53	43	4=100
Independent	55	38	7=100
Cons/Mod Dem	55	39	6=100
Liberal Dem	85	13	2=100
Northeast	66	28	6=100
Midwest	52	42	6=100
South	43	49	8=100
West	53	41	7=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q30b.
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because of rounding.

Three-in-ten white evangelicals (30%) support allowing gay adoption, but twice as many (65%) oppose it. Among white mainline Protestants, about half support allowing gays to adopt (53%). Somewhat fewer white mainline Protestants (40%) oppose it.

Among Catholics there is a sharp split along ethnic lines. Nearly two thirds of white Catholics (63%) support allowing gays to adopt and fewer than one third (30%) oppose the practice. By contrast, less than half of Hispanic Catholics (40%) support allowing gays to adopt.

A majority of people who say religion is very important in their lives oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to adopt (55%), while about one-in-four (23%) people who say religion is less than very important oppose this.

Religious Views on Gay Adoption

Allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children ...

	Favor	Oppose	DK
	%	%	%
Total	52	42	7=100
Protestant	40	54	6=100
White evangelical	30	65	5=100
White mainline	53	40	7=100
Black protestant	44	49	7=100
Catholic	55	37	8=100
White Catholic	63	30	7=100
Hispanic Catholic	40	50	10=100
Unaffiliated	74	21	5=100
Atheist/Agnostic	86	9	5=100
Nothing in particular	69	26	5=100
Attendance			
Weekly+	33	59	7=100
Monthly/Yearly	60	34	7=100
Seldom/Never	69	26	5=100
Importance of religion			
Very important	38	55	7=100
Less important	72	23	5=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q30b.
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because of rounding.

There is considerable overlap between support for allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally and allowing them to adopt children. People who believe that gays and lesbians should be allowed to marry legally also tend to believe gay and lesbians should be allowed to adopt children. And people who oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry often also oppose allowing them to adopt. In fact, three quarters of the public either favors both (41%) or opposes both (34%) of these practices.

Views of Gay Marriage, Adoption Overlap

<i>Gay marriage and adoption ...</i>	%
Favor both	41
Favor marriage, oppose adoption	5
Favor adoption, oppose marriage	8
Oppose both	34
Don't know to either	<u>11</u>
	100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q30a,b.

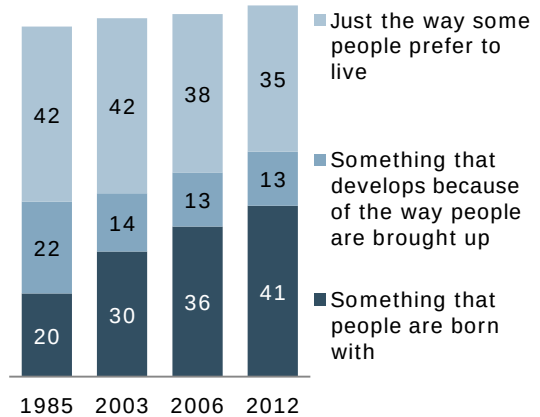
Views of Homosexuality

Today, a plurality of Americans (41%) believe that homosexuality is something that people are born with. A slightly smaller portion (35%) believes it is just how some people prefer to live, and a minority (13%) thinks it develops because of the way people are brought up. About one-in-ten Americans (11%) are unsure whether homosexuality is inborn, the result of upbringing or a personal preference.

Six years ago, opinions were more evenly divided, with 36% of the public saying people are born homosexual, and 38% saying that it is just how some people prefer to live. Three years earlier, in 2003, a plurality of the public (42%) believed that homosexuality was a personal preference. At that time three-in-ten people (30%) felt that homosexuality was something people were born with. In the period between 2003 and 2012, the percentage saying homosexuality is something that develops because of people's upbringing has remained fairly stable (13% now, 14% in 2003).

Shifting Views of Homosexuality

Do you think that homosexuality is...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q31. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding. 1985 question from LA Times asked "what causes homosexuality."

A plurality of whites (46%) believe that homosexuality is something people are born with, about one-in-ten (12%) believe it is linked to upbringing, and one third (32%) believe it is just how some people prefer to live.

Hispanics are evenly divided on whether homosexuality is something people are born with (38%) or is just how some people prefer to live (39%), with only a minority (14%) saying it is linked to upbringing.

Blacks are far more likely than whites to say that homosexuality is how some people prefer to live (51% vs. 32% of whites). Just 19% of blacks say homosexuality is something people are born with, compared with 46% of whites.

Views of Homosexuality ...

	Something people are born with	Linked to upbringing	Just how some people prefer to live	DK
	%	%	%	%
Total	41	13	35	11=100
Men	35	17	36	12=100
Women	47	10	34	9=100
White	46	12	32	10=100
Black	19	22	51	9=100
Hispanic	38	14	39	10=100
18-29	40	19	34	8=100
30-49	43	14	34	9=100
50-64	39	11	38	12=100
65+	44	9	32	15=100
College grad+	53	9	27	10=100
Some college	46	13	29	12=100
HS or less	30	16	44	10=100
<i>Family income</i>				
\$75,000+	54	11	25	9=100
\$30k-75,000	42	13	36	9=100
<\$30,000	34	15	42	9=100
Conservative Rep	26	18	47	10=100
Mod/Lib Rep	43	12	38	7=100
Independent	42	12	34	12=100
Cons/Mod Dem	39	14	36	11=100
Liberal Dem	69	6	20	5=100
Northeast	50	13	30	7=100
Midwest	39	14	36	11=100
South	36	13	39	12=100
West	45	14	31	10=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q31. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

While young people are more supportive of gay marriage than are older Americans, they are not any more likely to say that homosexuality is something that people are born with. Roughly four-in-ten across age groups, including 40% of those younger than 30, say that homosexuality is something that people are born with.

About half of white evangelicals (49%) believe that homosexuality is a personal preference, 24% say it is something that people are born with and 19% think it is linked to upbringing. Among black Protestants, about half (54%) say homosexuality is a personal preference, 18% say it is inborn, and 21% say it is linked to upbringing.

Among most other religious groups, the prevailing view is that homosexuality is something that people are born with. This opinion is especially common among atheists and agnostics, 70% of whom say that homosexuality is something that people are born with.

Religious Groups' Views of Homosexuality

	How some people are born	Linked to upbringing	Just how some people prefer to live	DK
	%	%	%	%
Total	41	13	35	11=100
Protestant	32	16	43	9=100
White evangelical	24	19	49	8=100
White mainline	56	8	25	11=100
Black Protestant	18	21	54	7=100
Catholic	54	10	26	11=100
White Catholic	56	9	23	12=100
Unaffiliated	50	11	26	13=100
Atheist/Agnostic	70	6	13	12=100
Nothing in particular	42	13	32	14=100
<i>Church attendance</i>				
Weekly or more	28	16	45	12=100
Monthly/Yearly	45	13	32	10=100
Seldom/Never	54	10	25	10=100
<i>Importance of religion in your life</i>				
Very important	31	16	42	12=100
Less important	56	10	26	8=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q31. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

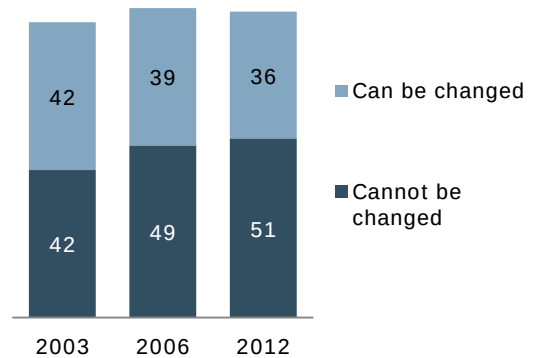
Can Homosexuality Be Changed?

About half of Americans (51%) say that a gay or lesbian person's sexual orientation cannot be changed. Fewer (36%) think that a gay person's sexual orientation is something that can be changed.

Six years ago, four-in-ten people (39%) said that homosexuality can be changed, and about half (49%) said it can't be changed. In 2003, the public was evenly divided, with 42% asserting that homosexuality can be changed and 42% saying it can't be changed.

Half Say Homosexuality Cannot be Changed

A gay or lesbian person's sexual orientation...



PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q32.

Slightly more than half of whites think that homosexuality can't be changed (55%). Far fewer whites (32%) believe it can be changed.

The more common view among blacks (54%) is that it can be changed, with fewer (36%) saying that it cannot be changed. Hispanics are evenly divided on the issue, with 42% saying it can be changed, and 43% saying it cannot.

By a margin of two-to-one, Democrats say a gay person's sexual orientation cannot be changed (61% to 30%); three-quarters of liberal Democrats hold that view, as do about half (52%) of conservative and moderate Democrats.

Republicans are evenly divided, with 45% saying that a gay person's sexual orientation can be changed and 44% saying it cannot. About half of conservative Republicans (52%) say change is possible, compared with 31% of moderate and liberal Republicans.

Conservatives and Blacks Say Homosexuality Can be Changed

A gay or lesbian person's sexual orientation...

	Can be changed	Cannot be changed	DK
	%	%	%
Total	36	51	13=100
Men	38	48	14=100
Women	35	53	12=100
White	32	55	13=100
Black	54	36	10=100
Hispanic	42	43	15=100
18-29	40	50	9=100
30-49	36	52	12=100
50-64	36	51	13=100
65+	32	49	19=100
College grad+	27	61	12=100
Some college	35	52	12=100
HS or less	43	42	14=100
<i>Family income</i>			
\$75,000+	25	64	11=100
\$30k-75,000	37	52	11=100
<\$30,000	45	43	12=100
Conservative Rep	52	35	14=100
Mod/Lib Rep	31	61	8=100
Independent	36	48	16=100
Cons/Mod Dem	37	52	11=100
Liberal Dem	19	75	6=100
Northeast	31	55	14=100
Midwest	32	53	14=100
South	44	45	12=100
West	33	54	13=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q32. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

The view that homosexuality can be changed is held by about half of white evangelicals (52%). Far fewer (35%) think it cannot. Similarly, a majority of black Protestants (58%), say homosexuality can be changed and only one-in-three (33%) say it cannot be changed.

The view that homosexuality cannot be changed is most common among white mainline Protestants and people who are atheist or agnostic. Among white mainline Protestants, 19% think that homosexuality can be changed, and 70% say it cannot be changed. Among atheists or agnostics, 17% say homosexuality can be changed and 76% say it is a fixed trait.

Among people who say religion is very important in their lives, slightly less than half (46%) say that homosexuality can be changed. Among those who say religion is less important, the balance of opinion is reversed. Fully two-thirds (68%) say it cannot be changed, while only 23% think it can be changed.

Among people who attend religious services at least weekly, about half (52%) say homosexuality can be changed. Far fewer weekly attenders (34%) say it cannot be changed. By contrast, 60% of people who attend religious services less than weekly say that homosexuality cannot be changed, while 27% say it can be changed.

Religious Divisions over Homosexuality's Permanence

A gay or lesbian person's sexual orientation...

	Can be changed	Cannot be changed	DK
	%	%	%
Total	36	51	13=100
Protestant	44	45	12=100
White evangelical	52	35	14=100
White mainline	19	70	11=100
Black Protestant	58	33	9=100
Catholic	31	56	13=100
White Catholic	25	61	14=100
Unaffiliated	28	61	11=100
Atheist/Agnostic	17	76	7=100
Nothing in particular	32	55	13=100
Attendance			
Weekly+	52	34	14=100
Monthly/Yearly	31	57	12=100
Seldom/Never	23	65	12=100
Importance of religion			
Very important	46	39	16=100
Less important	23	68	9=100

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012. Q32. Whites and blacks include only those who are not Hispanic; Hispanics are of any race. Figures may not add to 100% because of rounding.

Gay Marriage and Views of Homosexuality

Opinions about gay marriage are closely related to views about the nature of homosexuality. Fully three-quarters (76%) of people who believe homosexuality is something people are born with favor allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally. By contrast, most people who believe homosexuality is something linked to a person's upbringing or who see it as a personal preference say gay marriage should not be legal.

The pattern is similar when it comes to whether homosexuality can be changed. Among the 51% of Americans who say a gay or lesbian person's sexual orientation cannot be changed, most support gay marriage, by a 69% to 26% margin. Among the 36% who say homosexuality can be changed, most oppose gay marriage, by a 65% to 26% margin.

Over the past six years, support for gay marriage has risen among those who say homosexuality is something some people are born with (from 59% to 76%) and among those who say it is something linked to a person's upbringing (from 12% to 25%). There has been no significant change among those who say homosexuality is a preference.

Beliefs about Homosexuality and Gay Marriage

	2006	2012	Change
General public	%	%	
Favor gay marriage	35	48	+13
Oppose gay marriage	56	44	-12
<i>Among those who say homosexuality is...</i>			
Something people are born with			
Favor gay marriage	59	76	+17
Oppose gay marriage	30	18	-12
Develops as people are brought up			
Favor gay marriage	12	25	+13
Oppose gay marriage	82	62	-20
Just the way some people prefer to live			
Favor gay marriage	24	30	+6
Oppose gay marriage	70	63	-7
<i>Among those who say a person's sexual orientation...</i>			
Cannot be changed			
Favor gay marriage	53	69	+16
Oppose gay marriage	38	26	-12
Can be changed			
Favor gay marriage	17	26	+9
Oppose gay marriage	78	65	-13

PEW RESEARCH CENTER June 28-July 9, 2012.

About the Survey

The analysis in this report is based on telephone interviews conducted June 28-July 9, 2012, among a national sample of 2,973 adults, 18 years of age or older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia (1,771 respondents were interviewed on a landline telephone, and 1,202 were interviewed on a cell phone, including 596 who had no landline telephone). The survey was conducted by interviewers at Princeton Data Source and Universal Survey Center 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://people-press.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 among respondents with a landline phone.

An additional 511 interviews were conducted June 28-July 10, 2012, with religiously unaffiliated adults by screening landline and cell phone RDD samples (261 interviews) and by recontacting respondents from recent surveys who had identified as religiously unaffiliated (250 interviews). These interviews are used only when reporting on the religiously unaffiliated (including the unaffiliated subgroups – atheist, agnostic, and those who describe their religion as “nothing in particular”). For the RDD and cell phone recontact samples, respondents were initially selected in the same way as described above. For the landline recontact sample, interviewers asked to speak with the person based on gender and age who participated in the earlier survey. Once the selected respondents were on the phone, interviewers asked them a few questions and then asked their religious affiliation; those who are religiously unaffiliated continued with the remainder of the interview.

The weighting procedure for the additional interviews with religiously unaffiliated respondents used an iterative technique that included all of the parameters described above. In addition, the weighting accounted for the oversampling of unaffiliated respondents in the screened and callback samples, the type of unaffiliated respondent (atheist, agnostic or “nothing in particular”), as well as gender, age, region and the 2012 presidential vote preference among the unaffiliated. The parameters for the type of unaffiliated respondent and for gender, age and region among the unaffiliated are based on combined data from Pew Research Center surveys conducted from July 2011-June 2012. The parameter for the 2012 vote preference is based on the vote preferences of unaffiliated respondents in the main 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...
Total	2973	2.1 percentage points
Republicans	774	4.1 percentage points
Democrats	995	3.6 percentage points
Independents	1037	3.5 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.

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GAY MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press

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

	2004				2008				2012			
	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	2004 N	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	2008 N	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	2012 N
TOTAL	31	60	9	8724	39	51	10	6414	48	44	9	6500
SEX												
Men	28	63	9	4162	34	56	10	3157	43	47	9	3107
Women	34	57	9	4562	43	47	10	3257	51	40	8	3393
AGE												
18-49	38	54	8	4680	46	46	9	2994	56	37	7	2772
50+	22	68	10	3931	30	59	11	3308	38	51	11	3609
DETAILED AGE												
18-29	45	48	7	1458	53	40	7	1038	64	30	5	1120
30-49	34	57	9	3222	41	49	10	1956	50	42	8	1652
50-64	26	64	10	2231	35	55	10	1904	42	48	10	1949
65+	16	74	11	1700	22	66	12	1404	32	56	12	1660
GENERATION												
Millennial (1981-)	44	48	8	748	54	39	7	870	63	32	6	1270
Gen X (1965-1980)	40	52	8	2130	44	46	10	1413	52	40	8	1303
Boomer (1946-1964)	30	60	10	3304	36	54	9	2425	41	49	10	2382
Silent (1928-1945)	18	73	9	1829	24	65	12	1313	33	56	12	1250
SEX BY AGE												
Men 18-49	35	58	8	2346	40	50	10	1613	51	42	7	1428
Men 50+	18	71	10	1781	26	64	10	1497	34	54	12	1633
Women 18-49	41	51	9	2334	51	41	8	1381	61	33	6	1344
Women 50+	25	66	10	2150	33	55	12	1811	41	49	10	1976
RACE												
White, non-Hispanic	31	61	8	6770	41	51	9	4872	48	44	8	4635
Black, non-Hispanic	21	67	12	886	26	63	11	613	39	51	10	735
Hispanic					38	50	12	250	50	39	11	638
EDUCATION												
College grad+	42	50	8	3073	51	40	9	2350	59	34	8	2521
Some college	33	57	10	2060	42	49	10	1650	49	42	9	1858
High school or less	25	66	9	3567	31	59	10	2363	39	52	10	2088
FAMILY INCOME												
\$75,000+	40	52	8	2089	46	45	9	1863	57	36	7	1900
\$30,000-\$74,999	31	61	7	3226	39	53	8	2140	47	46	8	1997
Less than \$30,000	28	62	10	2360	35	55	10	1475	45	46	9	1743
DETAILED INCOME												
\$100,000+	41	50	9	1180	47	43	10	1114	58	35	7	1137
\$75,000-\$99,000	38	54	7	909	44	47	9	749	54	38	8	763
\$50,000-\$74,990	33	60	7	1360	41	51	8	1001	51	43	7	854
\$30,000-\$49,999	30	62	8	1866	37	54	8	1139	44	48	8	1143
Less than \$30,000	28	62	10	2360	35	55	10	1475	45	46	9	1743
REGION												
Northeast	40	49	10	1561	49	41	10	1175	59	33	8	1163
Midwest	29	61	10	2166	37	52	11	1587	48	43	9	1541
South	23	69	8	3166	31	59	10	2407	39	52	9	2448
West	39	52	9	1831	44	47	9	1245	52	39	9	1348

Data for these tables represent averages of multiple Pew Research Center surveys which asked the question. This includes five surveys from 2004, three surveys from 2008, and three surveys from 2012, including the most recent July 2012 religion and politics survey. Hispanic figures are based only on surveys where bilingual interviews were used. Figures for Hispanics and Hispanic subgroups are not shown for 2004 because of a lack of bilingual interviewing. Whites and blacks are non-Hispanic only; Hispanics are of any race.

GAY MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES (CONT.)

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press

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

	2004				2008				2012			
	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	2004 N	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	2008 N	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	2012 N
PARTY ID												
Republican	17	78	5	2729	19	73	8	1810	24	68	8	1699
Democrat	40	50	9	2880	50	42	8	2167	62	30	8	2154
Independent	37	53	11	2612	44	45	11	2122	52	40	8	2341
IDEOLOGY												
Conservative	15	78	7	3355	20	72	7	2628	26	66	8	2538
Moderate	34	55	11	3373	45	44	12	2261	57	34	9	2305
Liberal	60	32	8	1644	68	24	8	1255	71	22	7	1385
PARTY AND IDEOLOGY												
Conservative Republican	11	84	4	1792	14	80	6	1285	17	76	7	1242
Mod/Lib Republican	28	66	7	886	31	57	12	497	43	46	11	426
Mod/Cons Democrat	30	59	10	1891	39	52	9	1366	51	40	9	1262
Liberal Democrat	66	27	7	889	73	21	6	738	80	15	5	836
PARTY AND AGE												
<i>Republican</i>												
18-29	25	71	4	406	23	71	6	207	35	58	7	221
30-49	21	73	6	1041	23	68	10	542	25	66	9	390
50-64	11	85	4	663	17	77	7	537	23	68	8	499
65+	7	86	7	588	12	79	8	499	16	76	8	557
<i>Democrat</i>												
18-29	56	38	6	436	68	27	5	332	82	16	3	360
30-49	45	47	8	1030	52	41	6	633	65	29	6	484
50-64	37	53	11	758	44	45	10	679	57	34	9	690
65+	22	65	13	625	32	55	12	505	44	43	13	591
<i>Independent</i>												
18-29	50	41	9	535	56	35	8	439	67	28	5	484
30-49	37	53	11	987	44	46	11	677	54	39	7	689
50-64	31	56	13	689	40	48	12	631	42	48	9	672
65+	20	71	10	373	23	63	13	341	35	52	13	458
TEA PARTY (REP/LEAN REP)												
Agree									21	71	8	1238
Disagree/No opinion									37	55	8	1437

GAY MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES (CONT.)

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press

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

	2004				2008				2012			
	Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref	2004	Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref	2008	Favor	Oppose	DK/Ref	2012
	%	%	%	N	%	%	%	N	%	%	%	N
RELIGIOUS PREFERENCE												
Total Protestants	22	69	8	5029	29	62	10	3575	33	58	9	3406
White non-Hisp. evang.	11	85	4	1988	16	78	6	1396	19	76	5	1351
White non-Hisp. Mainline	34	55	12	1972	44	45	11	1327	52	37	11	1146
Black non-Hisp. Protestant	19	70	11	704	24	64	12	501	35	55	10	556
Total Catholic	36	55	9	2051	43	46	11	1413	53	37	9	1391
White non-Hisp. Cath.	35	56	9	1571	44	47	9	1085	53	38	8	940
Hispanic Catholic					39	45	16	139	53	37	11	337
Unaffiliated	61	30	9	805	62	29	9	867	73	20	7	1064
ATTEND RELIGIOUS SERVICES												
Weekly or more	16	77	7	3580	23	69	8	2635	28	65	7	2651
Less than weekly	41	49	10	5056	49	41	11	3705	60	31	10	3795
RELIGION BY ATTENDANCE												
<i>White non-Hisp. evang. Prot.</i>												
Weekly or more	6	91	3	1315	12	85	3	924	11	86	3	907
Less than weekly	19	74	7	662	25	65	10	468	32	59	9	441
<i>White non-Hisp. mainline Prot.</i>												
Weekly or more	28	62	10	478	36	54	10	391	43	49	7	345
Less than weekly	35	53	12	1481	47	41	12	927	55	33	12	795
<i>Black non-Hisp. Protestant</i>												
Weekly or more	13	78	9	431	15	74	11	288	28	63	9	342
Less than weekly	27	61	12	266	34	52	14	210	45	44	11	209
<i>White non-Hisp. Catholic</i>												
Weekly or more	24	66	10	695	35	54	11	504	39	53	9	418
Less than weekly	43	49	8	872	50	42	8	577	63	29	8	515
RELIGION AND AGE												
<i>White non-Hisp. evang. Prot.</i>												
18-34	23	74	4	343	25	70	5	218	30	67	3	204
35-49	9	85	6	578	15	76	8	301	20	75	4	256
50-64	7	89	3	534	16	79	5	466	18	78	4	423
65+	5	91	4	517	9	85	6	392	10	82	8	443
<i>White non-Hisp. mainline Prot.</i>												
18-34	43	48	8	356	60	35	5	192	63	27	10	170
35-49	37	50	13	532	47	40	13	303	58	34	8	203
50-64	33	55	12	568	41	47	13	457	50	37	14	364
65+	21	66	13	495	27	59	14	364	40	49	11	386
<i>Catholic</i>												
18-34	47	46	7	511	53	36	11	282	72	22	6	252
35-49	41	49	10	594	45	46	9	391	57	34	9	305
50-64	32	59	9	544	42	45	13	409	47	43	10	432
65+	13	74	13	378	23	66	11	309	36	52	12	387
<i>Unaffiliated</i>												
18-34	66	28	7	356	66	26	8	314	79	16	5	434
35-49	59	33	7	225	64	29	7	235	73	18	9	213
50-64	55	29	17	156	55	32	13	202	64	27	9	263
65+	--	--	--	--	52	38	10	106	65	23	12	145

GAY MARRIAGE DETAILED TABLES (CONT.)

Pew Research Center for the People and the Press

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

	2004				2008				2012			
	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	2004 N	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	2008 N	Favor %	Oppose %	DK/Ref %	2012 N
AMONG WHITES												
Men	28	64	8	3243	36	55	9	2389	44	48	9	2187
Women	34	58	9	3527	45	46	9	2483	53	41	7	2448
18-49	38	55	8	3350	49	43	8	2051	58	36	6	1727
50-64	23	68	9	3343	31	59	10	2759	39	52	9	2831
18-29	45	50	6	915	55	37	7	664	66	30	4	647
30-49	35	57	8	2435	45	47	8	1387	53	40	7	1080
50-64	27	64	9	1826	37	53	10	1546	44	48	8	1446
65+	16	74	10	1517	23	67	10	1213	33	57	10	1385
College grad+	43	49	7	2512	52	39	9	1890	59	34	6	1947
Some college or less	26	65	9	4245	36	55	9	2969	43	49	8	2677
Male college grad+	41	53	6	1295	46	45	9	992	53	39	8	981
Female college grad+	46	46	8	1217	59	33	9	898	66	30	5	966
Male some college or less	22	69	9	1942	31	60	9	1390	40	52	9	1204
Female some college or less	29	62	9	2303	40	51	9	1579	47	46	8	1473
\$75,000+	40	52	8	1749	46	45	8	1516	56	37	7	1498
\$30,000-\$74,999	30	63	7	2575	41	51	8	1662	47	46	7	1485
Less than \$30,000	28	64	9	1610	38	54	8	999	46	47	7	1045
Republican	16	79	5	2480	19	74	7	1644	24	69	8	1531
Democrat	45	46	9	1896	59	34	7	1414	72	22	6	1249
Independent	37	53	11	2036	47	43	10	1616	54	39	7	1692
Northeast	41	49	9	1276	52	39	9	942	61	32	7	874
Midwest	29	62	9	1837	38	52	10	1337	49	43	8	1256
South	22	71	7	2324	33	59	8	1709	38	55	8	1634
West	38	53	8	1333	46	46	8	884	53	39	8	871
AMONG BLACKS												
Men	22	67	11	370	22	65	13	284	34	57	9	321
Women	21	67	12	516	29	61	10	329	43	45	11	414
18-49	25	66	9	568	30	60	10	358	44	48	7	370
50+	15	70	15	307	18	68	13	248	32	54	14	356
18-29	32	57	11	207	39	53	8	138	50	43	7	152
30-49	20	71	9	361	25	64	12	220	41	52	8	218
50-64	17	67	16	205	21	68	12	168	35	52	12	230
65+	10	75	14	102					24	58	18	126
College grad+	28	62	9	205	32	59	9	144	51	38	11	216
Some college or less	20	68	12	679	25	64	12	464	36	54	10	516
AMONG HISPANICS												
Men	--	--	--	--	34	54	13	136	48	41	11	336
Women	--	--	--	--	42	46	12	114	53	37	11	302
18-49	--	--	--	--	39	47	13	174	58	34	7	410
50+	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	32	50	18	222
18-29	--	--	--	--					70	26	5	200
30-49	--	--	--	--	31	56	14	102	49	41	9	210
50-64	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33	51	16	140
65+	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
College grad+	--	--	--	--					60	31	9	140
Some college or less	--	--	--	--	36	51	13	188	48	41	11	495

PEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE PEOPLE & THE PRESS
PEW FORUM ON RELIGION & PUBLIC LIFE
JULY 2012 RELIGION & POLITICS SURVEY
June 28 – July 9, 2012
N=2973

QUESTIONS 1-3, 10, 12-13, 18-26, 34-35, 40-50, 75-78, 95-96 PREVIOUSLY RELEASED

NO QUESTIONS 4-9, 11, 14-17, 27-29, 33, 36-39, 54-69, 74, 79, 84-94

QUESTIONS 51-54, 70-73, 80-83 HELD FOR FUTURE RELEASE

ASK ALL:

Q.30 Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose [INSERT ITEM; ASK ITEMS IN ORDER]

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.)
		<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
a.	Allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally							
	Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012 ¹	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
	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

1 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.30 CONTINUED...

		-----Favor-----			-----Oppose-----			(VOL.)
		Strongly			Strongly			
		<u>Total</u>	<u>favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>oppose</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>
b.	Allowing gays and lesbians to adopt children							
	Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	52	23	28	42	22	20	7
	August, 2008	46	16	30	48	26	22	6
	July, 2006	42	11	31	52	28	24	6
	March, 2006	46	14	32	48	26	22	6
	September, 1999	38	10	28	57	30	27	5

ASK FORM 1 ONLY[N=1466]:Q.31F1 In your opinion, do you think that homosexuality is **[READ IN ORDER]**

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		July <u>2006</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>	L.A. Times <u>Dec 1985</u> ²
41	Something that people are born with	36	30	20
13	Something that develops because of the way people are brought up	13	14	22
35	Or is it just the way that some people prefer to live?	38	42	42
11	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	13	14	16

ASK FORM 1 [N=1466]:

Q.32F1 Do you think a gay or lesbian person's sexual orientation can be changed or cannot be changed?

Jun 28-Jul 9 <u>2012</u>		July <u>2006</u>	Oct <u>2003</u>
36	Can be changed	39	42
51	Cannot be changed	49	42
13	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)	12	16

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.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
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
Jan 11-16, 2012	22	31	42	3	*	2	17	16
Jan 4-8, 2012	26	31	35	4	*	4	14	14
Dec 7-11, 2011	23	33	38	3	*	2	12	17
Nov 9-14, 2011	24	33	38	3	1	2	16	15
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	23	33	38	2	1	3	18	16
Aug 17-21, 2011	24	30	40	3	*	3	17	18
Jul 20-24, 2011	24	32	38	4	*	2	16	14
Yearly Totals								
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

2 In December 1985 the Los Angeles Times question was worded: "In your opinion, what causes homosexuality? Is it..."

PARTY / PARTYLN CONTINUED...

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Lean	Lean
	<u>Republican</u>	<u>Democrat</u>	<u>Independent</u>	<u>No preference</u>	<u>Other party</u>	<u>DK/Ref</u>	<u>Rep</u>	<u>Dem</u>
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 ALL:

TEAPARTY2 From what you know, do you agree or disagree with the Tea Party movement, or don't you have an opinion either way?

				(VOL.)	(VOL.)	Not
	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>Haven't heard of</u>	<u>Refused</u>	<u>heard of/ DK</u>
Jun 28-Jul 9, 2012	19	27	49	3	2	--
Jun 7-17, 2012	21	25	52	2	1	--
May 9-Jun 3, 2012	16	25	54	2	3	--
Apr 4-15, 2012	20	26	50	3	2	--
Mar 7-11, 2012	19	29	48	2	2	--
Feb 8-12, 2012	18	25	53	2	2	--
Jan 11-16, 2012	20	24	52	2	2	--
Jan 4-8, 2012	18	25	52	2	3	--
Dec 7-11, 2011	19	27	50	2	2	--
Nov 9-14, 2011	20	27	51	1	1	--
Sep 22-Oct 4, 2011	19	27	51	2	1	--
Aug 17-21, 2011	20	27	50	1	1	--
Jul 20-24, 2011	20	24	53	1	1	--
Jun 15-19, 2011	20	26	50	3	2	--
May 25-30, 2011	18	23	54	2	2	--
Mar 30-Apr 3, 2011	22	29	47	1	1	--
Mar 8-14, 2011	19	25	54	1	1	--
Feb 22-Mar 1, 2011	20	25	52	2	2	--
Feb 2-7, 2011 ³	22	22	53	2	2	--
Jan 5-9, 2011	24	22	50	2	1	--
Dec 1-5, 2010	22	26	49	2	2	--

3 In the February 2-7, 2011 survey and before, question read "...do you strongly agree, agree, disagree or strongly disagree with the Tea Party movement..." In October 2010 and earlier, question was asked only of those who had heard or read a lot or a little about the Tea Party. In May 2010 through October 2010, it was described as: "the Tea Party movement that has been involved in campaigns and protests in the U.S. over the past year." In March 2010 it was described as "the Tea Party protests that have taken place in the U.S. over the past year."

TEAPARTY2 CONTINUED...

	<u>Agree</u>	<u>Disagree</u>	<u>No opinion either way</u>	<u>(VOL.) Haven't heard of</u>	<u>(VOL.) Refused</u>	<i>Not heard of/ DK</i>
Nov 4-7, 2010	27	22	49	1	1	--
Oct 27-30, 2010 (RVs)	29	25	32	--	1	13
Oct 13-18, 2010 (RVs)	28	24	30	--	1	16
Aug 25-Sep 6, 2010 (RVs)	29	26	32	--	1	13
Jul 21-Aug 5, 2010	22	18	37	--	1	21
Jun 16-20, 2010	24	18	30	--	*	27
May 20-23, 2010	25	18	31	--	1	25
Mar 11-21, 2010	24	14	29	--	1	31