

iMAPP Policy Brief

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SAME-SEX MARRIAGE: WHAT DOES THE NEXT GENERATION THINK?

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Executive Summary

What does the next generation think about same-sex marriage? Depending on how the question is asked, a majority of young adults either oppose or support same-sex marriage. In recent polls by reputable polling companies, the proportion of young adults (ages 18-29) who favor gay marriage ranges from 40% to 63%. Conversely, the proportion of young adults opposed to gay marriage ranges from 36% to 54%. In our judgment, the most neutrally worded polls find a majority of young adults currently oppose same-sex marriage, even as a majority of college students now favor it.

In the months since Goodridge transformed gay marriage into a prominent national issue, young adults' support for gay marriage appears to have dropped (although small sample sizes and survey fluctuations make it difficult to be confident about the trend). Among the next "next generation," (teenagers aged 13 to 17 years), a clear and sharp trend of increasing opposition to gay marriage is evident: 63 percent of younger teens now oppose gay marriage, about the same level as adults.

Introduction

Do most young people support same-sex marriage?

Many observers have concluded that the next generation has made up its mind on this issue and that, therefore, gay

marriage is probably inevitable. Jason West, the 27-year-old mayor of New Paltz, New York who issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples earlier this year, explained, "It's inevitable that we'll have same-sex marriage in this country, because it's a generational question. . . . Give it 10 or 20 years when we're holding state legislatures and Congress. It will just be a non-issue."¹ Jonathan Rauch of the Brookings Institution told the Denver Post, "[The Federal Marriage Amendment] will get harder to pass over time . . . People will get used to gay marriages in Massachusetts, the edge will be taken off the issue over time, plus . . . young voters are pro-gay marriage."² Evan Wolfson, executive director of Freedom to Marry, writing for WashingtonPost.com, claimed that "young people overwhelmingly support marriage equality."³ In the Wall Street Journal last October, Andrew Sullivan went so far as to say that 67 percent of young adults "believe that gay marriage would benefit society."⁴

Are they right? Has the next generation made up its mind in favor of gay marriage?⁵

I. Young Adults and Same-Sex Marriage: Recent Polls

Do most young adults support gay marriage? The answer: it depends on who you ask, and how you ask it. In recent polls by reputable polling companies, the proportion of young adults (ages 18-29) who favor gay marriage ranges from 40%

to 63%. Conversely, the proportion of young adults opposed to gay marriage ranges from 36% to 54%. Depending on how the question is asked, a majority of young adults either oppose or support same-sex marriage.

For example:

- **Annenberg Election Survey (May 2004)** “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?” Young adults (ages 18-29) oppose SSM by a margin of 50% to 42%.
- **Gallup (June 2003)** “Do you think marriages between homosexuals should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?” Young adults (18-29) support SSM 61% to 36%.
- **Pew Research Center (October 2003)** Do you favor or oppose “allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?” Young adults (18-29) are evenly split on SSM, with 45% supporting and 46% opposed.
- **ABC News (March 2004)** “Do you think it should be legal or illegal for homosexual couples to get married?” Young adults (18-30) support SSM 63% to 36%.
- **Quinnipiac University (March 2004)** “Would you support or oppose a law that would allow same-sex couples to get married?” Young adults (18-29) oppose SSM by a margin of 51% to 45%.
- **Los Angeles Times (March 2004)** “Which comes closest to your view: (a) Same-sex couples should be allowed to legally marry? (b) Same-sex couples should be allowed to form civil unions? (c) Same-sex couples should not be allowed to do either?” 44% of young adults (18-29) favored allowing same-sex marriage versus 53

percent who chose some other option (31% chose civil unions and 22% opposed both gay marriage and civil unions).

Young adults are more likely to favor gay marriage than other Americans. But whether a majority of young adults favor or oppose gay marriage depends on the poll.

II. Why the Variation?

Consider two recent polls, both by respected polling companies: ABC News and the Annenberg Public Policy Center. In February 2004, according to the Annenberg poll (Q: Do 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”) young adults (18-29) opposed gay marriage by an 11-point margin (52 percent to 41 percent).

An ABC News poll conducted just two weeks later asked whether “it should be legal or illegal for homosexual couples to get married,” and found young adults (ages 18-30) support gay marriage by a margin of 27 points (63 percent to 36 percent).

Which is it? Does 63 percent or 41 percent better represent the proportion of young adults who favor gay marriage? How do we explain these wide variations?

Partly, it depends on how the question is asked. Questions which use the word “rights” or suggest “banning” gay marriage (or making gay marriages “illegal”) produce consistently higher support for gay marriage, both among young people and among other Americans.

Why? This may be because some Americans really are less willing to support current definitions of marriage, once the exclusion of gay and lesbian couples is made explicit. However the Annenberg language, while equally clear about the consequences for gay and lesbian couples, produces dramatically lower levels of support for gay marriage among young people.

Another possible interpretation is that respondents may be uncertain about what making gay marriage “illegal” might actually mean, especially compared to the status quo: Does “banning gay marriage” or making it “illegal” suggest criminalizing gay people who live together as married, or who go through private or religious wedding ceremonies? If so, greater support for gay marriage shown in these polls may reflect younger Americans’ opposition to criminalizing gay unions, rather than their support for a new legal definition of marriage that includes same-sex couples.

Such an interpretation may partly explain ABC News/Washington Post polls that showed an unusually sharp increase in apparent support for gay marriage among young adults between January and March 2004, while some other polls such as those conducted by the Quinnipiac University Polling Institute (January and March 2004) and the Pew Research Center (February and March 2004) found young adult opinion moving in the opposite direction.

When asked whether they think it should be “legal or illegal” for homosexual couples to get married, the proportion of young adults in the ABC News poll who said “legal” jumped sharply from 56 percent to 63 percent between January and March of 2004, after the Mayor of New Paltz and several New York clergy were threatened with criminal prosecutions for performing same-sex weddings.

Wide fluctuations also reflect the fact that most polls of young adults are subsets of larger nationally representative polls, and therefore have a smaller sample sizes and larger margins of error. Given the importance attached to next generation opinion on this issue, more polling using larger sample sizes is needed to come to definitive conclusions. In general, however, large swings in opinion suggest an unsettled underlying body of opinion, particularly when replicated by reasonable and subtle variations of the same question as posed by

responsible pollsters. Young adults are still making up their minds about same-sex marriage.

III. The Next Generation: College Students

While a majority of young adults may not yet support gay marriage, a majority of college students now appear to do so. A March 2004 Harvard Institute of Politics poll found college students favored same-sex marriage by a margin of 57% to 34%. (Q: “Do you think marriages between homosexuals should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?”) A May 2004 Panetta Institute survey found college students favored gay marriage by 52% to 38% (Q: “Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into same-sex marriages?”).

These two recent surveys of college students also suggest that same-sex marriage is becoming a more partisan issue on college campuses, with growing support for gay marriage among college Democrats and Independents while Republican college students continue to oppose same-sex marriage by large majorities.

A 2003 Pew poll of adults of all ages found that only a minority of Republicans, Independents or Democrats support homosexual marriage: 18% of Republicans, 39% of Independents, and 39% of Democrats. (Q: Do you favor or oppose “allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally?”) Among college students, however, the April 2004 Harvard Institute of Politics survey found 76 percent of college Democrats and 62 percent of Independents supported gay marriage compared to just 26 percent of Republican college students. (Q: “Do you think marriages between homosexuals should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?”) The Panetta Institute survey found similar strong partisan differences: 69% of college

Democrats supported same-sex marriage while 67% of college Republicans were opposed. (Q: “Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into same-sex marriages?”)

IV. Most Recent Trends: The Shift

The decade-long trend toward increasing support for gay marriage among young adults was sharply interrupted in the last half of 2003, as gay marriage became a prominent national issue. Opposition to gay marriage rose sharply among all Americans in the immediate aftermath of the *Goodridge* decision, but young adults’ apparent shift against gay marriage was much larger. For example, in the Gallup poll of June 2003, young adults (ages 18-29) favored gay marriage 61 percent to 36 percent. By December of 2003, the proportion of young adults who supported same-sex marriage plunged 17 percentage points (more than twice the 8 percentage point drop in all Americans’ support for gay marriage) while the proportion of young adults who opposed same-sex marriage climbed 17 percentage points. In the December 2003 Gallup poll, young adults now opposed same-sex marriage 53 percent to 44 percent.

Was this a temporary backlash? Because of the small sample sizes involved, it is difficult to be confident of the trend. The most recent Gallup poll shows a strong rebound in young adults’ support for same-sex marriage, although not yet to pre-*Goodridge* levels.⁶ By contrast, the Pew poll (Q: “Do you favor or oppose allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally”), shows a sustained drop in young adults’ support for gay marriage over the last year. In a November 2003 Pew poll, young adults favored allowing gays and lesbians to marry legally (53 percent to 42 percent); in the latest poll in August of 2004, young adults now oppose gay marriage (50 percent to 40 percent).⁷

V. The Next “Next Generation”: 13 to 17 Year Olds

What does the next “next generation” think about same-sex marriage? Perhaps surprisingly, younger teens’ opposition to gay marriage appears to be rising sharply. Since 2001, Gallup has asked teenagers (ages 13-17) whether they “approve or disapprove of marriages between homosexuals?” Between 2003 and 2004, teens’ approval of same-sex marriage dropped six percentage points, while the proportion who disapproved rose eight percentage points.⁸ In 2003, teens opposed gay marriage by a margin of 55 percent to 42 percent. By 2004, teens disapproved of gay marriage by a larger, 27-point margin: 63 percent to 36 percent. Teens’ disapproval of gay marriage has now risen to about the same level as adults’.

What explains teens’ increasing disapproval of gay marriage? Most likely, as gay marriage has become a more visible national issue, more parents, clergy and other adults are expressing opposition to same-sex marriage. As more adults voice firm objections to gay marriage, they appear to be having an impact on their children’s attitudes and values as well.

VI. Is Gay Marriage Inevitable?

Many people believe that young adults overwhelmingly favor same-sex marriage, and that getting to gay marriage is therefore just a matter of time. Young adults are certainly more likely to favor same-sex marriage than older Americans. But polls find wide variations in young adult support for gay marriage between polls, and some evidence of declining support for gay marriage in recent time periods. In our judgment, the most neutrally worded polls find a majority of teens and young adults currently oppose same-sex marriage, even as a majority of college students now favor it. How the opinions of the current generation of young adults and college students will evolve as they move through the lifecycle,

including getting married and having children themselves, is of course uncertain.

Among teenagers, opposition to gay marriage is rising significantly, most likely in response to increasingly visible opposition to same-sex marriage by parents, by political leaders, by clergy, and other significant adults. Whether this “next” next

generation will continue to oppose same-sex marriage as they mature and go through college or whether they will change their opinions to mirror the current generation of young adults is, of course, unknown.

On the question of same-sex marriage, the next generation’s minds are far from made up.

¹ Carl Weiser, *They’re Young, Savvy, Hip; They’re the Government*, CINCINNATI ENQUIRER, July 18, 2004, at 1A.

² Anne C. Mulkern, *Gay-Marriage Ban Fails, Procedural Vote Scraps Measure*, DENVER POST, July 15, 2004, at A1.

³ Evan Wolfson, *Massachusetts Ruling on Same-Sex Marriage*, LIVEONLINE, WASHINGTONPOST.COM, Feb. 5, 2004.

⁴ Andrew Sullivan, *American Conservatism: The State of our Unions*, WALL STREET JOURNAL, Oct. 8, 2003, at A24 (The USA Today poll Sullivan cited actually showed 24% of young adults thought gay marriage would benefit society, while 43% thought it would make no difference. Andrew Sullivan later corrected the error on his website but maintained his general point still held.)

⁵ Two trends are clear: Young adults are more favorable to same-sex marriage than older Americans and that support for gay marriage among all age groups has risen in the last decade. In 1996, when Gallup asked the question, 41% of young adults (ages 18-29) supported same-sex marriage, 14 percentage points higher than the nation as a whole. By June 2003, support for same-sex marriage among young adults in the Gallup poll reached 61 percent, 22 percentage points higher than the nation as a whole. Similarly, between 1997 and 2003, the proportion of incoming college freshman in UCLA’s annual survey who agreed that “[s]ame-sex couples should have the right to legal marital status” rose from 50 percent to 59 percent.

⁶ The latest Gallup poll (July 2004) did not contain enough young adults to produce a reliable response, according to Gallup. The previous Gallup poll in May 2004, showed a rise in young adult support for gay marriage (58 percent to 41 percent), although young adult support remained lower than its previous June 2003 high. The May 2004 poll also recorded a sharp rise in public support for gay marriage among “all adults” which other polls (including the July Gallup poll) have not recorded, suggesting either that positive press coverage of Massachusetts weddings may have boosted public support temporarily, and/or that the May sampling may be anomalous.

⁷ The ABC News poll (should it be “legal or illegal for couples to get married?”) has produced wide fluctuations: In January 2004, a majority of young adults favored gay marriage (56 percent to 42 percent). In March, support for gay marriage among young adults shot up to 63 percent (36 percent opposed). The latest ABC News poll in August 2004 showed young adults opinion split 49 percent in favor to 48 percent opposed. The Quinnipiac University poll (“do you support or oppose a law that would allow same-sex couples to get married”) also found wide fluctuations but an opposing trend: in January young adults supported gay marriage 53 percent to 46 percent. In March, they opposed same-sex marriage by a margin of 51 percent to 45 percent. By July young adults again supported gay marriage, 54 percent to 42 percent.

⁸ The trend towards increasing teen disapproval of homosexuals marrying pre-dates the recent controversies. Between 2001 and 2003, the proportion of teens (ages 13-17) who approved of gay marriages dropped from 46 percent to 42 percent.

SAME-SEX MARRIAGE POLLS

ABC News/Washington Post

“Do you think it should be legal or illegal for homosexual couples to get married?”

Date	Young Adults (18-30)			All Adults			Sample/MoE	Survey
	Legal	Illegal	Other	Legal	Illegal	Other		
August 2004	49%	48%	4%	32%	62%	5%	1207 (± 3%)	8/26-29
March 2004	63%	36%	1%	38%	59%	3%	1202 (± 3%)	3/4-7
February 2004	54%*	NR	NR	39%	55%	6%	1028 (± 3%)	2/18-22
January 2004	56%	42%	3%	41%	55%	4%	1036 (± 3%)	1/15-18
September 2003	51%*	46%*	3%*	37%	55%	8%	1028 (± 3%)	9/3-7

* Indicates results for ages 18-34.

Annenberg Public Policy Center (U. Penn.)

“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?”

Date	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults			Sample/MoE	Dates
	Legal	Illegal	Other	Legal	Illegal	Other		
May 2004	42%	50%	8%	30%	61%	9%	1181 (± 3%)	5/2-16

“Would you favor or oppose a law in your state that would allow gays and lesbians to marry a partner of the same sex?”

Date	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults			Sample/MoE	Dates
	Legal	Illegal	Other	Legal	Illegal	Other		
February 2004	41%	52%	7%	30%	64%	6%	1943 (± 2%)	2/14-23
February 2004	50%	43%	7%	31%	60%	9%	814 (±3%)	2/5-8
December 2003	NR	NR	NR	33%	59%	8%	3775 (±2%)	12/1-22
November 2003	NR	NR	NR	34%	60%	6%	1167 (±3%)	11/19-24

CBS News/New York Times

Would you favor or oppose a law that would allow homosexual couples to marry, giving them the same legal rights as other married couples?

Date	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults			Sample/MoE	Dates
	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other		
December 2003	56%	40%	4%	34%	61%	5%	1057 (±3%)	12/10-13
July 2003	61%	35%	4%	40%	55%	5%	3092 (± 2%)	7/13-27

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics

Yesterday the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled in favor of same-sex marriage in that state. Do you favor or oppose same-sex marriage?

Date	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults			Sample/MoE	Dates
	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other		
November 2003	44%	54%	1%	25%	66%	9%	900 (± 3%)	11/18-19

Recently there has been a lot of talk about allowing gays and lesbians to marry a partner of the same sex. Do you favor or oppose same-sex marriage?

Date	Young Adults (18-34)			All Adults			Sample/MoE	Dates
	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other		
August 2003	48%	42%	10%	26%	62%	12%	900 (± 3%)	8/12-13

Gallup/CNN/USA Today (Adults)

"Do you think marriages between homosexuals should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?"

Date	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults			Sample/MoE	Dates
	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other		
July 2004	NR	NR	NR	32%	62%	6%	499 (± 5%)	7/19-21
May 2004	58%	41%	1%	42%	55%	3%	1000 (± 3%)	5/2-4
March 2004	47%	45%	8%	33%	61%	6%	1005 (± 3%)	3/5-7
February 2004	49%	51%	1%	32%	64%	4%	(± 3%)	2/16-17
December 2003	44%	53%	3%	31%	65%	4%	(± 3%)	12/15-16
October 2003	49%	47%	4%	35%	61%	4%	1305 (± 3%)	10/24-27
June 2003	61%	36%	3%	39%	55%	6%	1003 (± 3%)	6/27-29
January 2000	NR	NR	NR	34%	62%	4%	(± 5%)	1/13-16
February 1999	52%	47%	1%	35%	62%	3%	(± 3%)	2/8-9
March 1996	41%	54%	5%	27%	68%	5%	(± 3%)	3/15-17

Gallup (Teens)

Do you approve or disapprove of marriages between homosexuals?

Date	Teens (13-17)			All Adults			Sample/MoE	Dates
	Approve	Disapprove	Other	Approve	Disapprove	Other		
August 2004	36%	63%	1%	NA	NA	NA	439 (± 5%)	8/8-19
August 2003	42%	55%	3%	NA	NA	NA	517 (± 5%)	8/1-29
June 2001	46%	NR	NR	NA	NA	NA		

Harvard Institute of Politics

Do you think marriages between homosexuals should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?

	College Students			All Adults				
Date	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other	Sample/MoE	Dates
May 2004	57%	34%	8%	NA	NA	NA	1205 (± 2.8%)	3/12-23

Ipsos/Newsweek/MSNBC

Should same-sex marriages be legal, or not?

	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults				
Date	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other	Sample/MoE	Dates
January 2004	50%	47%	3%	NA	NA	NA	350 (± 5.3%)	1/2-18

Panetta Institute

Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into same-sex marriages?

	College Students			All Adults				
Date	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other	Sample/MoE	Dates
May 2004	52%	38%	10%	NA	NA	NA	800 (± 3.5%)	4/28-5/2

Pew/PSRA

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

	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults				
Date	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other	Sample/MoE	Dates
August 2004	40%	50%	10%	29%	60%	11%	1512 (± 3%)	8/5-10
July 2004	NR	NR	NR	32%	56%	12%	2009 (± 2.5%)	7/8-18
March 2004	47%	46%	7%	32%	59%	9%	1703 (± 3%)	3/17-21
February 2004	41%	52%	7%	30%	63%	7%	1500 (± 3%)	2/11-16
December 2003	45%	46%	9%	30%	63%	7%		
November 2003	53%	42%	5%	30%	62%	9%		
October 2003	45%	46%	9%	32%	59%	9%	1515 (± 3%)	10/15-19
July 2003	52%	40%	8%	38%	53%	9%	1001 (± 3%)	6/24-7/8
March 2001	52%	41%	7%	35%	57%	8%	2041 (± 2.5%)	3/5-18
June 1996	42%	51%	7%	28%	65%	7%	1975 (± 3%)	5/31-6/9

Quinnipiac University Polling Institute

Would you support or oppose a law that would allow same-sex couples to get married?

Date	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults			Sample/MoE	Dates
	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other		
July 2004	54%	42%	4%	31%	63%	6%	1551 (± 2.5%)	7/18-22
March 2004	45%	51%	4%	31%	63%	6%	1865 (± 2.3%)	3/16-22
January 2004	53%	46%	2%	34%	61%	5%	1219 (± 2.8%)	1/28-31
December 2003	NR	NR	NR	35%	60%	5%	1071 (± 3%)	12/4-8

UCLA-CIRP (American Freshmen)

Mark one in each row: Agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, disagree strongly:
Same sex couples should have the right to legal marital status.

Date	College Freshmen			Sample/MoE	Dates
	Favor	Oppose	Other		
2003	59.4%	NR	NR	276,000/NA	Mar. – Oct. 2003
2002	59.3%	NR	NR	283,000/NA	Mar. – Oct. 2002
2001	57.9%	NR	NR	281,000/NA	Mar. – Oct. 2001
2000	56.0%	NR	NR	269,000/NA	Mar. – Oct. 2000
1999	52.4%	NR	NR	261,000/NA	Mar. – Oct. 1999
1998	49.4%	NR	NR	276,000/NA	Mar. – Oct. 1998
1997	49.8%	NR	NR	252,000/NA	Mar. – Oct. 1997

MISCELLANEOUS POLLING QUESTIONS

ABC News/Washington Post

On another subject, do you think homosexual couples should or should not be allowed to form legally recognized civil unions, giving them the legal rights of married couples in areas such as health insurance, inheritance, and pension coverage?

	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults				
Date	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other	Sample/MoE	Dates
March 2004	68%	NR	NR	51%	46%	3%	1202 (± 3%)	3/4-7

CBS News/New York Times

Which comes closest to your view? Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship.

	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults				
Date	SSM	Civil Unions	Neither	SSM	Civil Unions	Neither	Sample/MoE	Dates
May 2004	43%	32%	25%	28%	29%	40%	1113 (± 3%)	5/20-23
March 2004	NR	NR	NR	22%	33%	40%	1206 (± 3%)	3/10-14

Fox News/Opinion Dynamics

Do you support or oppose allowing homosexual couples to form civil unions that are not marriages, but would give gay couples rights such as inheritance, insurance, and hospital visiting privileges?

	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults				
Date	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other	Sample/MoE	Dates
November 2003	58%	38%	4%	41%	48%	11%	900 (± 3%)	11/18-19

LA Times

Which comes closest to your view:
 (a) Same-sex couples should be allowed to legally marry?
 (b) Same-sex couples should be allowed to form civil unions?
 (c) Same-sex couples should not be allowed to do either?

	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults				
Date	SSM	Civil Unions	Neither	SSM	Civil Unions	Neither	Sample/MoE	Dates
March 2004	44%	31%	22%	24%	38%	34%	1616 (± 3%)	3/27-30

Newsweek

There has been much talk recently about whether gays and lesbians should have the legal right to marry someone of the same sex. Which of the following comes closest to your position on this issue?

Do you support FULL marriage rights for gay and lesbian couples;
do you support gay civil unions or partnerships BUT NOT gay marriage; or
do you oppose ANY legal recognition for gay and lesbian couples?

	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults				
Date	SSM	Civil Unions	Neither	SSM	Civil Unions	Neither	Sample/MoE	Dates
May 2004	41%	23%	34%	28%	23%	43%	1010 (± 3%)	5/13-14

Quinnipiac

Would you support or oppose a law that would allow same-sex couples to form civil unions, giving them many of the legal rights of married couples?

	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults				
Date	Favor	Oppose	Other	Favor	Oppose	Other	Sample/MoE	Dates
March 2004	48%	46%	6%	40%	53%	7%	1865 (± 2.3%)	3/16-22

USA Today

Do you think that allowing two people of the same sex to legally marry will change society for the better, have no effect, or change society for the worse?

	Young Adults (18-29)			All Adults				
Date	Better	Worse	No Effect	Better	Worse	No Effect	Sample/MoE	Dates
September 2003	24%	32%	43%	10%	48%	40%	1003 (± 3%)	9/19-21