

Newsweek Poll
Gay Marriage/President-Elect Obama
Princeton Survey Research Associates International

Final Topline Results
(12/5/08)

N = 1,006 adults, 18+
Margins of error: plus or minus 3.7 for all adults
Interviewing dates: 12/3-4/08

Notes: Data are weighted so that sample demographics match Census Current Population Survey parameters for gender, age, education, race, region, and population density.

Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error. Sample size and margins of error for these subgroups are included in a separate methodology statement.

An asterisk () indicates a value less than 1%.*

1. Are you satisfied or dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States at this time?

	<u>Satisfied</u>	<u>Dissatisfied</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	21	72	7	=100
TRENDS ¹				
10/08-09/08	10	86	4	=100
6/18-19/08	14	80	6	=100
2/6-7/08	24	69	7	=100
8/1-2/07	24	69	7	=100
7/11-12/07	27	68	5	=100
7/2-3/07	24	67	9	=100
6/18-19/07	26	68	6	=100
5/2-3/07 Bush veto of Iraq funding bill	25	71	4	=100
3/28-29/07	28	66	6	=100
3/14-15/07	28	64	8	=100
1/24-25/07	30	61	9	=100
1/17-18/07	30	62	8	=100
12/6-7/06	31	59	10	=100
11/9-10/06	29	63	8	=100
10/26-27/06	31	61	8	=100
10/5-6/06 Foley scandal	25	67	8	=100
8/10-11/06	26	67	7	=100
5/11-12/06 NSA wiretapping	23	71	6	=100
3/16-17/06	30	64	6	=100
11/10-11/05	26	68	6	=100
9/8-9/05 Hurricane Katrina	28	66	6	=100
8/2-4/05	36	54	10	=100
12/2-3/04	46	46	8	=100
10/21-22/04	40	56	4	=100
7/8-9/04	40	54	6	=100
5/13-14/04 Prisoner abuse scandal	30	62	8	=100
4/8-9/04	36	59	5	=100
1/8-9/04	46	47	7	=100
12/18-19/03 Saddam's capture	46	47	7	=100
10/9-10/03	40	54	6	=100
4/03 Iraq War begins	50	41	9	=100
7/02	46	46	8	=100
9/01 Terrorist attacks	57	34	9	=100
6/01	43	52	5	=100
1/01	55	41	4	=100
6/00	47	45	8	=100
8/99	56	39	5	=100
9/98	54	42	4	=100
1/97	38	58	4	=100
3/96	28	70	2	=100
6/95	25	73	2	=100
8/94	24	71	5	=100
6/92 Recession	14	84	2	=100
3/91 Gulf War Victory	66	31	3	=100
9/90	37	58	5	=100
9/88	56	40	4	=100
11/85	51	46	3	=100

¹ Full trendline from 11/06 to present; earlier trends selected. Trends from 4/03, 6/00-6/01 and 6/95-8/99 from Pew Research Center; 11/85-6/92 from Gallup.

2. On another subject... Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his presidential transition?

<u>Current Total</u>		<u>Bush</u> <u>1/18-19/01</u>	<u>Clinton</u> <u>11/19-20/92</u>
72	Approve	59	62
13	Disapprove	30	14
<u>15</u>	Don't know	<u>11</u>	<u>24</u>
100		100	100

3. In general, do you approve or disapprove of Obama's choices to fill Cabinet-level positions in his new administration so far?

<u>Current Total</u>		<u>Bush</u> <u>1/10-12/01</u>
72	Approve	57
18	Disapprove	28
<u>10</u>	Don't know	<u>15</u>
100		100

4. Please tell me if you approve or disapprove of each of the following choices Barack Obama has made. (First), what about... (INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE) ? (Do you approve or disapprove?)

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. His choice of Hillary Clinton for Secretary of State	68	27	5	=100
b. His decision to ask Robert Gates, a Bush appointee, to stay on as Defense Secretary	73	18	9	=100
c. His choice of Tim Geithner, current head of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, for Treasury Secretary	63	16	21	=100
d. His choice of Eric Holder, a Justice Department official under Bill Clinton, for Attorney General	62	22	16	=100

5. Now thinking about the nominations that Obama has made for Cabinet-level positions so far, please tell me if you think he has chosen too many, too few, or about the right amount of the following kinds of people. (First,) what about the number of ... (INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE) (that Obama has chosen for Cabinet level positions)?

READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: Has he chosen too many, too few, or about the right amount?

	<u>Too many</u>	<u>Too few</u>	<u>Right amount</u>	<u>DK</u>	
ASK ITEMS a-c IN ORDER, AS A GROUP					
a. Former Clinton administration officials	27	5	51	17	=100
b. Republicans and officials who have served under President Bush	22	15	47	16	=100
c. Washington outsiders who have NOT served in previous administrations	12	23	41	24	=100
d. African-Americans and other minorities	4	16	59	21	=100
e. Women	4	19	62	15	=100

6. We're interested in how much progress, if any, you think the country is likely to make in some different areas under new President Barack Obama. (First/next), how much progress do you think will be made in... **(INSERT--READ AND ROTATE)?**

READ FOR FIRST ITEM, THEN REPEAT AS NECESSARY: a lot of progress, some progress, no progress, or are things in this area likely to get worse under President Obama?

	<u>A lot of progress</u>	<u>Some progress</u>	<u>No progress</u>	<u>Things will get worse</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Strengthening the economy and improving the jobs situation	25	50	12	9	4	=100
	TREND					
	Clinton 11/2-4/96					
b. Reducing taxes for the middle class	14	46	21	15	4	=100
c. Improving conditions for the poor	21	40	25	9	5	=100
d. Making health care more affordable and accessible	26	48	15	7	4	=100
e. Bringing U.S. troops home from Iraq without seriously destabilizing the situation there	25	45	17	8	5	=100
f. Defeating Al Qaeda and the Taliban in Afghanistan	27	42	15	10	6	=100
g. Making the United States more energy independent	13	40	27	11	9	=100
h. Improving the environment and reducing global warming	24	53	15	5	3	=100
i. Improving race relations	19	48	21	6	6	=100
	34	44	11	6	5	=100

7. On another subject... As time passes, how do you think history will see George W. Bush as president? Do you think Bush will be seen as an average president, above average, or below average?

<u>Current Total</u>		<u>1/24-25/07</u>	<u>9/8-9/05</u>	<u>10/9-10/03</u>	<u>Clinton 1/10-12/01</u>
27	Average	30	35	40	34
10	Above average	14	19	29	41
61	Below average	53	42	26	23
<u>2</u>	Don't know	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
100		100	100	100	100

8. Now I have a few questions about the situation for gay men and women in this country and the issue of gay rights... Do you think there should or should NOT be...(INSERT—READ AND RANDOMIZE)?

ALWAYS ASK ITEMS a-b AS A PAIR, IN ORDER:

	<u>Should be</u>	<u>Should not be</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Legally-sanctioned gay and lesbian unions or partnerships				
CURRENT TOTAL	55	36	9	=100
Men	52	38	10	=100
Women	59	33	8	=100
White	57	36	7	=100
Non-White	54	34	12	=100
18-34	58	31	11	=100
35-44	65	29	6	=100
45-64	56	39	5	=100
65+	42	44	14	=100
TRENDS				
(2/5-6/04)	40	51	9	=100
(2/7-9/4/00)	47	42	11	=100
b. Legally-sanctioned gay and lesbian marriages				
CURRENT TOTAL	39	55	6	=100
Men	34	59	7	=100
Women	44	50	6	=100
White	40	55	5	=100
Non-White	37	54	9	=100
18-34	51	40	9	=100
35-44	43	54	3	=100
45-64	38	58	4	=100
65+	22	69	9	=100
See Marriage as Legal Matter (Q14)	66	29	5	=100
See Marriage as Religious Matter/Both (Q14)	27	67	6	=100
TRENDS ²				
(2/5-6/04)	33	58	9	=100
(4/25-26/02)	35	57	8	=100
(3/9-10/00)	34	57	9	=100
(7/98)	33	61	6	=100
(5/96)	33	58	9	=100
(2/94)	29	62	9	=100
(9/92)	35	58	7	=100

² Previous polling used this wording: "Legally-sanctioned gay marriages."

<i>Q8 continued...</i>	<u>Should be</u>	<u>Should not be</u>	<u>DK</u>	
c. Adoption rights for gays and lesbians so they can legally adopt children				
CURRENT TOTAL	53	39	8	=100
18-34	58	36	6	=100
35-44	62	27	11	=100
45-64	52	43	5	=100
65+	39	50	11	=100
TRENDS				
(2/5-6/04)	45	47	8	=100
(4/25-26/02)	46	44	10	=100
(2/7-9/4/00)	46	47	7	=100
d. Inheritance rights for gay and lesbian domestic partners				
CURRENT TOTAL	74	20	6	=100
18-34	81	15	4	=100
35-44	79	17	4	=100
45-64	72	24	4	=100
65+	57	27	16	=100
TRENDS ³				
(2/5-6/04)	60	30	10	=100
(3/9-10/00)	62	28	10	=100
(7/98)	59	33	8	=100
(5/96)	61	29	10	=100
(2/94)	61	30	9	=100
(9/92)	70	25	5	=100
e. Social Security benefits for gay and lesbian domestic partners				
CURRENT TOTAL	67	27	6	=100
18-34	76	17	7	=100
35-44	67	29	4	=100
45-64	66	30	4	=100
65+	55	37	8	=100
TRENDS ⁴				
(2/5-6/04)	55	36	9	=100
(3/9-10/00)	54	38	8	=100
(7/98)	52	41	7	=100
(5/96)	48	43	9	=100
(2/94)	55	39	6	=100
(9/92)	58	35	7	=100

³ Previous polling used this wording: "Inheritance rights for gay spouses."

⁴ Previous polling used this wording: "Social Security benefits for gay spouses."

<i>Q8 continued...</i>	<u>Should be</u>	<u>Should not be</u>	<u>DK</u>	
f. Health insurance and other employee benefits for gay and lesbian domestic partners				
CURRENT TOTAL	73	23	4	=100
18-34	82	15	3	=100
35-44	75	22	3	=100
45-64	72	25	3	=100
65+	62	30	8	=100
TRENDS ⁵				
(2/5-6/04)	60	33	7	=100
(3/9-10/00)	58	34	8	=100
(7/98)	58	37	5	=100
g. Hospital visitation rights for gay and lesbian domestic partners				
CURRENT TOTAL	86	10	4	=100
18-34	89	7	4	=100
35-44	95	4	1	=100
45-64	85	13	2	=100
65+	75	14	11	=100
h. Gays and lesbians serving openly in the military				
CURRENT TOTAL	66	29	5	=100
18-34	65	31	4	=100
35-44	72	24	4	=100
45-64	68	29	3	=100
65+	63	28	9	=100
TRENDS				
(2/5-6/04)	60	29	11	=100
(3/9-10/00)	57	35	8	=100
(7/98)	56	38	6	=100

⁵ Previous polling used this wording: "Health insurance and other employee benefits for gay spouses."

<i>Q8 continued...</i>	<u>Should be</u>	<u>Should not be</u>	<u>DK</u>	
i. Equal rights for gays and lesbians in terms of job opportunities				
CURRENT TOTAL	87	10	3	=100
18-34	88	9	3	=100
35-44	93	4	3	=100
45-64	86	12	2	=100
65+	80	17	3	=100
TRENDS				
(2/5-6/04)	87	10	3	=100
(4/25-26/02)	85	10	5	=100
(3/9-10/00)	83	12	5	=100
(7/98)	83	14	3	=100
(5/96)	84	12	4	=100
(2/94)	74	19	7	=100
(9/92)	78	17	5	=100
(6/92)	74	18	8	=100
(1989)	71	18	11	=100
(1982)	59	28	13	=100
(1977)	56	33	11	=100
j. Equal rights for gays and lesbians in terms of housing				
CURRENT TOTAL	82	13	5	=100
18-34	81	13	6	=100
35-44	89	8	3	=100
45-64	83	16	1	=100
65+	71	17	12	=100
TRENDS				
(3/9-10/00)	78	15	7	=100
7/98	75	21	4	=100
5/96	80	17	3	=100
2/94	81	14	5	=100

Note: Trend results for item a based on total sample. 2000 trends for items b and c from PSRA survey for Kaiser Family Foundation.

Q9 and Q10 rotated.

9. Do you think gays and lesbians should or should NOT be hired as ELEMENTARY SCHOOL teachers?

	<u>Should be</u>	<u>Should not be</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	62	33	5	=100
18-34	62	34	4	=100
35-44	77	19	4	=100
45-64	63	34	3	=100
65+	49	44	7	=100
TRENDS				
(3/9-10/00)	60	36	4	=100
(7/98)	55	40	5	=100
(2/94)	47	46	7	=100
(9/92)	51	45	4	=100

10. Do you think gays and lesbians should or should NOT be hired as HIGH SCHOOL teachers?

	<u>Should be</u>	<u>Should not be</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	69	26	5	=100
18-34	74	21	5	=100
35-44	83	13	4	=100
45-64	67	28	5	=100
65+	52	40	8	=100
TRENDS				
(3/9-10/00)	63	32	5	=100
(7/98)	60	34	6	=100
(2/94)	53	40	7	=100
(9/92)	54	42	4	=100

11. Thinking again about legal rights for gay and lesbian couples, which of the following comes CLOSEST to your position on this issue? Do you support FULL marriage rights for same-sex couples, OR support civil unions or partnerships for same-sex couples, BUT NOT full marriage rights, OR do you oppose ANY legal recognition for same-sex couples?

	<u>Marriage Rights</u>	<u>Civil Unions</u>	<u>No legal recognition</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	31	32	30	7	=100
Men	28	33	33	6	=100
Women	35	32	26	7	=100
White	32	33	29	6	=100
Non-White	28	29	33	10	=100
18-34	39	30	25	6	=100
35-44	37	32	25	6	=100
45-64	31	33	32	4	=100
65+	15	34	38	13	=100
TRENDS					
(6/18-19/08) ⁶	30	27	37	6	=100
(10/26-27/06)	24	26	40	10	=100
(5/13-14/04)	28	23	43	6	=100
(2/19-20/04)	23	24	45	8	=100

⁶ Modified introduction wording used in previous polls: "There has been much talk recently about whether states should give gay and lesbian couples the legal right to marry."

READ IF SUPPORT FULL MARRIAGE RIGHTS (Q11=1): Even though you told me you favor full marriage rights for same-sex couples, I need to ask everyone the following question...

12a/b. Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. constitution that would BAN gay marriage IN ALL STATES? *12b. Do you feel STRONGLY about that, or not?

	Total Favor	<u>Strongly</u>	Not <u>strongly</u>	Total Oppose	<u>Strongly</u>	Not <u>strongly</u>	<u>DK</u>	
CURRENT TOTAL	43	35	8	52	41	11	5	=100
Men	49	39	10	45	34	11	6	=100
Women	37	32	5	58	48	10	5	=100
White	42	35	7	52	43	9	6	=100
Non-White	44	34	10	50	35	15	6	=100
18-34	38	29	9	57	43	14	5	=100
35-44	45	35	10	51	42	9	4	=100
45-64	45	40	5	51	42	9	4	=100
65+	44	36	8	47	37	10	9	=100
TRENDS								
2/5-6/04	47	43	4	45	35	10	8	=100

13. Gay marriage can also be an issue at the state level. Suppose YOUR STATE held an election where you could vote for or against an amendment to the state constitution that would ban gay marriage. Would you be more likely to vote "yes" in favor of OR "no" against a ban on gay marriage in your state?

	<u>Yes, favor ban</u>	<u>No, against ban</u>	<u>DK</u>	
Total	45	49	6	=100
Men	50	43	7	=100
Women	41	55	4	=100
White	45	50	5	=100
Non-white	45	47	8	=100
18-34	37	56	7	=100
35-44	47	50	3	=100
45-64	52	44	4	=100
65+	43	47	10	=100

14. Now thinking about marriage more generally... Some people think of marriage mostly as a legal matter and others think of it mostly as a religious matter. Do you personally think of marriage... **(READ)**

<u>Current Total</u>		<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>	<u>2/19-20/04</u>
30	Mostly as a legal matter	34	26	31	28	28
41	Mostly as a religious matter	38	45	45	35	46
25	Both equally (VOL.)	22	27	22	32	22
<u>4</u>	Don't know	<u>6</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>4</u>
100		100	100	100	100	100

15. How much, if at all, do your religious beliefs determine your views on the issue of gay marriage? Are your religious beliefs very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not at all important in determining your views on gay marriage?

	<u>Very important</u>	<u>Somewhat important</u>	<u>Not too important</u>	<u>Not at all important</u>	<u>DK</u>	
Total	41	21	11	23	4	=100
18-34	39	21	10	29	1	=100
35-44	39	22	8	24	7	=100
45-64	44	24	10	19	3	=100
65+	42	16	17	19	6	=100

16. Suppose a gay or lesbian couple are legally married and have a child through assisted reproductive technology. If the couple gets divorced, how do you think the law should deal with disputes over child custody? Should the gay partner who is NOT the child's biological parent have custody rights, such as visitation and a role in making decisions about the child's upbringing, or not?

	<u>Yes, should have rights</u>	<u>No, should not have rights</u>	<u>DK</u>	
Total	63	19	18	=100
Men	55	23	22	=100
Women	71	15	14	=100
18-34	71	15	14	=100
35-44	69	19	12	=100
45-64	63	20	17	=100
65+	45	22	33	=100

READ INTRO TO Q17a-d TO ALL: We're interested in how people feel about the morality of certain things. As I describe some different situations, please tell me which ONE is more morally objectionable to you.

- 17a. Which is more morally objectionable to you... **(READ AND ROTATE 1-2)?**

<u>Total</u>		<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
18	A gay couple in a long term, committed sexual relationship (or)	16	25	19	14
55	A married heterosexual who has sex with someone other than their spouse (or)	64	55	55	40
6	(VOL.—DO NOT READ) Neither	6	5	6	6
13	(VOL.—DO NOT READ) Both equally	8	11	14	20
8	Don't know/Refused	6	4	6	20
100		100	100	100	100

17b. Which is more morally objectionable to you... **(READ AND ROTATE 1-2)?**

<u>Total</u>		<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
21	A gay couple in a long term, committed sexual relationship (or)	24	25	20	16
48	An unmarried heterosexual who has sex with many different partners (or)	53	51	46	41
10	(VOL.—DO NOT READ) Neither	11	10	13	6
13	(VOL.—DO NOT READ) Both equally	8	10	13	19
8	Don't know/Refused	4	4	8	18
100		100	100	100	100

17c. Which is more morally objectionable to you... **(READ AND ROTATE 1-2)?**

<u>Total</u>		<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
26	A gay couple in a long term, committed sexual relationship (or)	30	34	23	21
37	A heterosexual who has been married and divorced more than twice (or)	46	39	37	26
15	(VOL.—DO NOT READ) Neither	14	14	19	11
9	(VOL.—DO NOT READ) Both equally	5	5	10	12
13	Don't know/Refused	5	8	11	30
100		100	100	100	100

17d. Which is more morally objectionable to you... **(READ AND ROTATE 1-2)?**

<u>Total</u>		<u>18-34</u>	<u>35-44</u>	<u>45-64</u>	<u>65+</u>
24	A gay couple in a long term, committed sexual relationship (or)	24	29	22	23
48	A heterosexual who suddenly decides to get married in Las Vegas, but has the marriage annulled one week later (or)	55	50	51	32
9	(VOL.—DO NOT READ) Neither	12	8	10	7
10	(VOL.—DO NOT READ) Both equally	6	10	10	14
9	Don't know/Refused	3	3	7	24
100		100	100	100	100

18. Please tell me which, if any, of the following apply to you. (First,) do you...**(READ ITEMS IN ORDER)?**

	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	
a. Work with someone you know is gay or lesbian				
CURRENT TOTAL	38	59	3	=100
TRENDS				
(3/9-10/00)	32	66	2	=100
(7/98)	31	67	2	=100
(5/96)	31	66	3	=100
(2/94)	19	79	2	=100
(7/92)	20	78	2	=100

<i>Q18 continued...</i>	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>DK</u>	
b. Have someone in your family who is gay or lesbian				
CURRENT TOTAL	33	64	3	=100
TRENDS				
(3/9-10/00)	23	75	2	=100
(7/98)	21	76	3	=100
(5/96)	18	80	2	=100
(2/94)	12	88	*	=100
(7/92)	9	90	1	=100
c. Have a friend or acquaintance who is gay or lesbian				
CURRENT TOTAL	66	32	2	=100
TRENDS				
(3/9-10/00)	56	42	2	=100
(7/98)	55	44	1	=100
(5/96)	56	42	2	=100
(2/94)	43	56	1	=100
(1985)	22	77	1	=100

NET: Know someone who is gay or lesbian
CURRENT TOTAL 78%

18-34	86%
35-44	88%
45-64	78%
65+	62%

TRENDS	
(3/9-10/00)	67%
(7/98)	66%
(5/96)	66%
(2/94)	53%

D2. Now I have just a few more questions so we can describe the people who took part in our survey... Regardless of how you might have voted in recent elections, in politics TODAY, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or Independent?

<u>Total</u>	
26	Republican
39	Democrat
31	Independent
2	(VOL.) No party/Not interested in politics
*	(VOL.) Other party
<u>2</u>	Don't know/Refused
100	

END OF INTERVIEW. THANK RESPONDENT: That completes the interview. Thank you very much for your cooperation.

Newsweek Poll
Gay Marriage/President-Elect Obama
Princeton Survey Research Associates International

Methodology Statement
(12/5/08)

This poll was conducted by Princeton Survey Research Associates International from December 3-4, 2008. Telephone interviews were conducted with 1,006 adults, 18 or older. Results are weighted so that the sample demographics match Census Current Population Survey parameters for gender, age, education, race, region, and population density. The overall margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.7 percentage points for results based on 1,006 adults. Results based on smaller subgroups are subject to larger margins of sampling error.

SAMPLE SIZE/MARGIN OF ERROR FOR SUBGROUPS:

488	Men (plus or minus 5.4)
518	Women (plus or minus 5.2)
825	White (plus or minus 4.1)
166	Non-White (plus or minus 8.6)
131	18-34 (plus or minus 8.9)
136	35-44 (plus or minus 9.3)
437	45-64 (plus or minus 5.4)
261	65+ (plus or minus 7.6)
310	Legal Matter (plus or minus 6.7)
661	Religious Matter/Both (plus or minus 4.6)

In addition to sampling error, the practical difficulties of conducting surveys can also introduce error or bias to poll results.

NEWSWEEK POLL: Gay Marriage/President-Elect Obama DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE	
	<u>Total</u> (n=1,006) %
<u>Gender</u>	
Men	48
Women	52
<u>Age</u>	
18-34	26
35-44	18
45-64	35
65+	17
Undesignated	4
<u>Party ID</u>	
Republican	26
Democrat	39
Independent	31
Other/Don't know	4
<u>Education</u>	
College graduate	28
Some college	24
No college	47
Undesignated	1
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u>	
White, non-Hispanic	72
Total Non-White	26
Black	11
Hispanic	10
Asian	2
Other/Mixed race	3
Undesignated	2