
2011 Washington Poll

A Closer Look at Attitudes
Towards Same-Sex Marriage

About the Poll

The Washington Poll is a non-partisan, academic survey research project implemented by the Center for Survey Research at the UW, a research center in the Department of Political Science. Dr. Matt Barreto, Associate Professor of Political Science is the principal investigator of this survey, and Dr. Christopher Parker, Associate Professor of Political Science is the director of the Center for Survey Research.

The survey was administered by telephone, using live callers, based on a randomly selected list of phone numbers using a publicly available list of registered voters. Voter registration status is confirmed by all respondents. Telephone numbers are merged in and verified by a third party vendor, and include both landlines and cell phones. The survey was in the field from October 10 – 30, 2011, and averaged 28 minutes in length. A total of 938 registered voters throughout the state of Washington were interviewed, yielding a 3.2% margin of error. Margin of error is larger for subsamples, or split sample components. Percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding. Full questionnaire can be found on the Washington Poll website.

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Same Sex Marriage

Next year the legislature could pass a law allowing gay and lesbian couples to get married. If that happens, there could be a referendum in which voters would be asked to approve or reject the law. If such a referendum were held today:

Would you vote YES -- that is, to keep a law in place allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry OR would you vote NO, against the law -- to make it so that gay and lesbian couples could not marry?

Yes – keep law in place – strongly	47%	}	55%
Yes – keep the law in place – not strong	8%		
No – against the law – not strong	7%	}	38%
No – against the law – strongly	31%		
Undecided	7%		

Overall statewide sample = 938 registered voters, +/- 3.2%, Oct 10-30, 2011

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Crosstabs: Same Sex Marriage Referendum

	Favor		Oppose		Combined	
	Strongly	Favor	Oppose	Strongly	Favor	Oppose
Full sample	47	8	7	31	55	38
Puget Sound	54	9	6	24	63	30
Eastern WA	37	6	7	45	43	52
Other/West	45	8	9	30	53	39
Democrat	76	8	2	9	84	11
Republican	17	7	11	59	24	70
Independent	46	8	8	27	54	35
Male	44	10	8	31	54	39
Female	52	6	6	29	58	35
18 – 40	60	5	5	24	65	29
41 – 65	50	9	7	26	59	33
66 +	40	8	8	37	48	45
Liberal	83	7	2	5	90	7
Conservative	16	6	10	59	22	69
Moderate	46	11	9	22	57	31

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Same Sex Marriage

Which of the following statements best describes your views on the issue of same-sex marriage? (Rotate list front/back)

Gay and lesbian couples should have the same legal right to marry as straight couples 43%

Gay and lesbian couples should be able to have the same legal rights as straight couples but it should not be called marriage 22%

There should be domestic partnerships that give gay and lesbian couples only some of the benefits and protections of marriage 15%

There should be no legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples 17%

Don't know 3%

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Crosstabs: Policy Stance on Same Sex Marriage

	Marriage	Partnership	Limited Rights	No Rights
Full sample	43	22	15	17
Puget Sound	47	20	15	14
Eastern WA	33	19	16	29
Other/West	42	25	12	16
Democrat	65	13	9	11
Republican	17	28	22	28
Independent	43	24	13	15
Male	41	22	15	17
Female	45	21	13	17
18 – 40	58	13	7	18
41 – 65	45	22	16	14
66 +	31	27	18	19
Liberal	75	11	5	7
Conservative	14	32	24	26
Moderate	39	24	16	14

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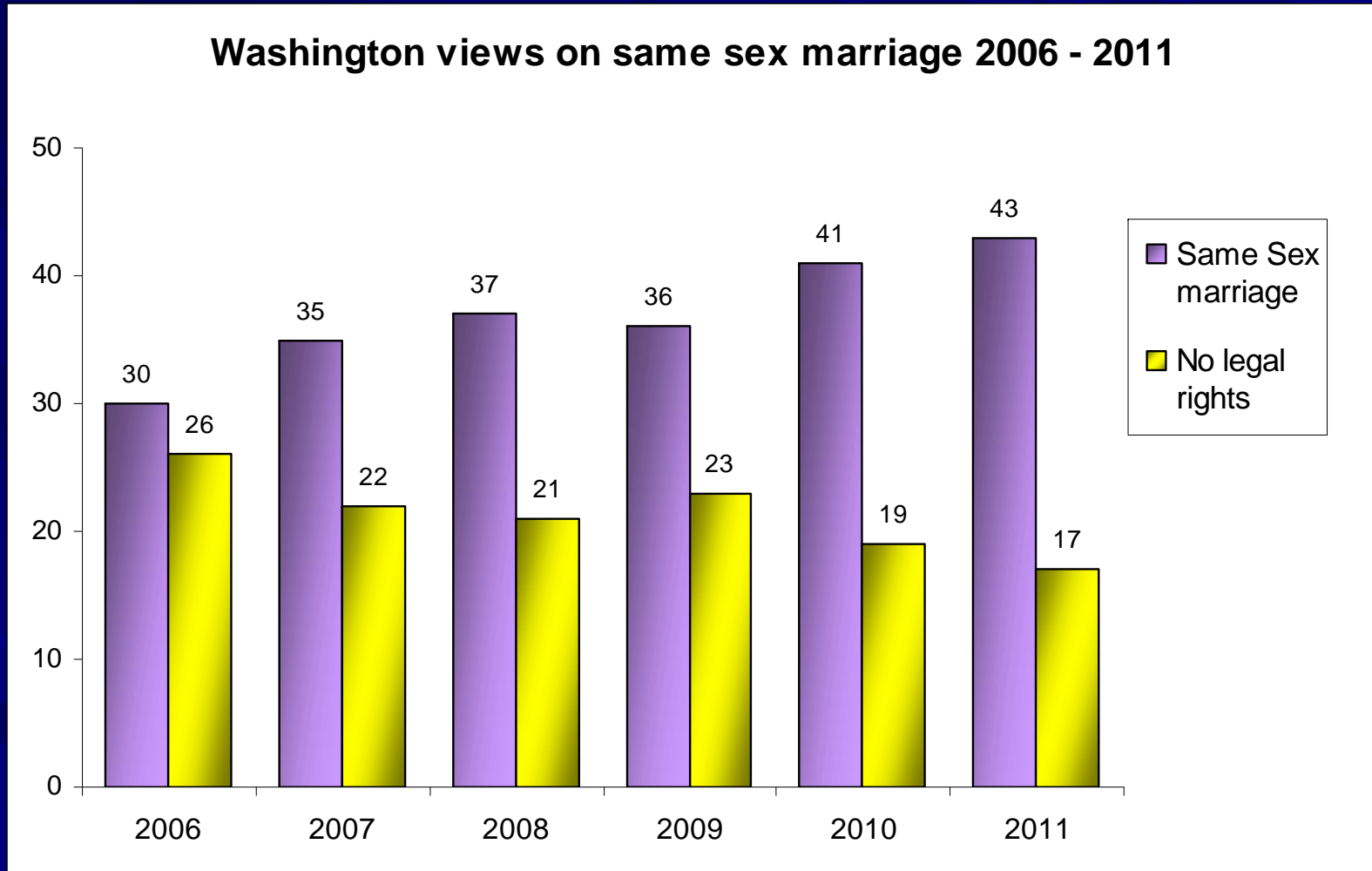
A substantial percentage of people who prefer 'domestic partnership' say they would vote yes to keep same sex marriage if passed by the legislature. Even some who do not personally support marriage say they would be okay with the state legislature passing same sex marriage

Preferred Policy	Intended Vote on SSM Referendum		
	Yes	No	Don't Know
Marriage	91%	7%	2%
Partnership	39%	46%	15%
Limited	23%	66%	10%
No Rights	27%	70%	3%

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Support for Same Sex Marriage Over Time



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Don't Ask Don't Tell

Please tell me whether you approve or disapprove of the following policy:
The repeal of “don't ask, don't tell” which allows Gays and Lesbians to
serve openly in the U.S. military

Strongly approve	51%
Somewhat approve	13%
Somewhat disapprove	8%
Strongly disapprove	17%
Don't know	11%

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Crosstabs: Support repeal of DADT

	Approve			Disappr		Combined	
	Strongly	Approve	Disappr	Strongly	Approve	Disappr	
Full sample	51	13	8	17	64	25	
Puget Sound	57	13	7	15	70	22	
Eastern WA	41	11	10	20	52	30	
Other/West	48	14	8	20	62	28	
Democrat	75	8	2	10	83	12	
Republican	20	18	15	28	38	43	
Independent	53	13	8	16	66	24	
Male	48	13	9	20	61	29	
Female	54	12	7	14	66	21	
18 – 40	59	6	5	15	65	20	
41 – 65	50	17	8	16	67	24	
66 +	49	12	8	19	61	27	
Liberal	82	6	1	8	88	9	
Conservative	21	16	18	30	37	48	
Moderate	52	20	5	12	72	17	

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