

Attitudes about Same Sex Marriage Amendment Media Release Points Volume 2, no. 1

Ask-Alabama Poll, Winter 2005
Center for Governmental Services
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Significant Findings

- 1. A majority of respondents (54%) strongly support a State Constitutional amendment prohibiting gay or lesbian marriage. Support is much stronger among those who identify themselves as conservatives and Republicans than it is among moderates, independents, liberals, and Democrats.**

Total Population	Conservative	Liberal	Republican	Democrat
a. 54% strongly support	69%	28%	69%	38%
b. 4% mildly support	3%	4%	3%	2%
c. 11% indifferent	4%	12%	8%	14%
d. 5% mildly oppose	4%	5%	3%	8%
e. 23% strongly oppose	19%	47%	16%	34%

Most Alabamians are very uncomfortable with the State sanctioning same sex marriages, and they would prefer to see a constitutional amendment that would preclude a judge from forcing the State to recognize such unions. Opinions on this issue are unusually intense.

Those who identify themselves as conservatives and republicans tend to express very strong support in favor of such an amendment. Democrats, however, are equally divided among those who strongly support, strongly oppose, have no opinion, or weak opinions on the matter.

- 2. Nearly three quarters of Alabamians (74%) consider the issue of a constitutional amendment banning same sex marriages in the State to be important. The issue is very important to a greater proportion of those who identify themselves as conservative than those who are moderate or liberal**

Total Population	Conservative	Moderate	Liberal
a. 54% very important	69%	39%	37%
b. 20% somewhat important	17%	28%	28%
c. 13% not very important	8%	22%	16%
d. 10% not important at all	4%	9%	18%
e. 3% no opinion	1%	2%	2%

It appears that many voters would be motivated to cast a ballot on a constitutional amendment banning gay and lesbian marriages. In particular, those who identify with a conservative political philosophy believe that this amendment is very important and should be presented to the voters. This is an issue which unites the conservative voter and may be perceived as a litmus test in today's political environment.

3. When asked whether State officials are giving sufficient weight or attention to the issue of an amendment prohibiting gay or lesbian marriages, over 40% believed that too little attention has been given to this issue.

- a. 43% too little attention
- b. 24% just enough attention
- c. 24% too much attention
- d. 10% no opinion

Clearly, Alabamians want a resolution to this issue and want an opportunity to express themselves on it. There is a sense that if the State does not act quickly to prohibit gay and lesbian marriages, some court may take this decision out of the hands of the people.

4. In the period from July 2004 to February 2005, Alabamians have become more supportive of a same sex marriage amendment in the State Constitution, and significantly smaller percentage believe that the issue is receiving too much attention by State leaders.

	February 2005	July 2004	Diff.
a. Strongly support an amendment	54%	48%	+6%
b. Strongly oppose an amendment	23%	28%	-5%
c. Too little attention	43%	41%	+2%
d. Just enough attention	24%	18%	+6%
e. Too much attention	24%	33%	-9%

Poll Facts

Dates of Survey: January 24 – February 3, 2005
 Sample Size: 624 Alabama residents
 Estimated Margin of Error: +/- 4%
 Type of Survey: Random telephone survey of Alabamians 19 or older