

**Big Ten Battleground Poll: Iowans' views on gay marriage and civil unions**  
**Topline Results**  
**Dec. 1, 2008**

Sample: 586 registered Iowa voters. Margin of error for the full sample is +/- 4.2 percent.

The Iowa sample of the Big Ten Battleground Poll was collected Oct. 19-22. Reported results are weighted to match the sex, age, and race of Iowa registered voters. David Redlawsk and Caroline Tolbert, associate professors of political science in the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, coordinated the Iowa portion of the poll. The poll was administered by the University of Wisconsin. For more information see <http://www.bigtenpoll.org>.

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**Question on Support for Gay Marriage in Iowa**

Several states like Connecticut, Massachusetts, and California have now decided that their constitutions require that same sex marriage be allowed because the right to marry is an important civil right for all people. Some states give same sex relationships rights through civil unions but do not allow gays to marry. And other states do not recognize any kind of same sex relationship. How about you, what is your position on same-sex relationships? Do you: support gay marriage, oppose gay marriage but support civil unions, or oppose both gay marriage and civil unions.

Characteristic	N	Support Gay Marriage	Oppose Gay Marriage, Support Unions	Oppose Both Marriage and Unions	Don't Know/ Refused
Overall	586	28.1%	30.2%	32.0%	9.7%
Female	287	30.0%	29.1%	34.1%	9.1%
Male	299	26.4%	31.4%	29.6%	10.4%
<b>PARTY IDENTIFICATION</b>					
Republican	151	5.3%	32.5%	48.3%	13.9%
Independent	197	22.8%	37.1%	31.5%	8.6%
Democrat	201	47.8%	25.4%	18.0%	8.0%
<b>RELIGION</b>					
Protestant	318	18.2%	37.1%	36.8%	7.9%
Catholic	123	30.1%	30.1%	27.6%	12.2%
Other Christian	27	22.2%	18.5%	40.7%	18.5%
Other religion	41	56.1%	24.4%	14.6%	4.9%
Atheist, Agnostic	36	61.1%	0.0%	25.0%	13.9%

**FREQUENCY OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE**

More than once a week	59	10.2%	28.8%	61.0%	0.0%
Every week	182	14.8%	33.5%	40.7%	11.0%
Once or twice a month	84	23.8%	33.3%	34.5%	8.3%
Several times a year	67	35.8%	41.8%	16.4%	6.0%
Hardly ever	168	42.3%	23.8%	20.8%	13.1%

**IDEOLOGY**

Very Conservative	62	16.1%	24.2%	50.0%	9.7%
Conservative	200	12.5%	32.5%	46.5%	8.5%
Moderate	210	32.9%	34.3%	23.3%	9.5%
Liberal	67	49.3%	29.9%	6.0%	14.9%
Very Liberal	24	75.0%	16.7%	8.3%	0.0%

**MARITAL STATUS**

Married	389	22.1%	32.4%	36.0%	9.5%
Divorced	51	35.5%	36.1%	25.5%	9.8%
Widowed	36	19.4%	36.1%	36.1%	8.3%
Single	102	50.0%	21.6%	18.6%	9.8%

**EDUCATION**

High School grad	194	25.3%	27.8%	36.1%	10.8%
Some college	129	26.4%	35.7%	32.6%	5.4%
2 year college grad	78	26.9%	33.3%	29.5%	10.3%
4 year college grad	103	31.1%	34.0%	26.2%	8.7%
Advanced degree	29	48.3%	31.0%	13.8%	6.9%

**AGE**

18-29	111	50.5%	19.8%	18.9%	10.8%
30-49	203	24.5%	31.4%	33.3%	10.8%
50-64	145	26.2%	34.5%	31.7%	7.6%
65+	126	15.7%	33.1%	32.0%	9.4%

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## Question on Response to Possible Iowa Supreme Court Ruling

The issue of gay marriage is before the Iowa Supreme Court which may rule that the Iowa Constitution requires that gays and lesbians be allowed to marry. If the state's Supreme Court decides this, how should Iowa respond: Amend the state Constitution to ban any same-sex relationship, amend the state Constitution to ban gay marriage but allow civil unions, or accept the Supreme Court's decision and allow gay marriage in Iowa?

Characteristic	N	Accept Decision Allow gay marriage	Amend to Ban Gay Marriage but Accept Unions	Amend to Ban any Same-Sex Relationship	Don't Know/ Refused
Overall	586	35.1%	26.7%	28.7%	9.5%
Female	288	36.8%	27.1%	26.4%	9.4%
Male	298	33.6%	26.2%	30.9%	9.7%
<b>PARTY IDENTIFICATION</b>					
Republican	153	9.8%	33.3%	40.5%	16.3%
Democrat	200	53.5%	22.5%	17.0%	7.0%
Independent	197	36.5%	28.4%	28.4%	6.6%
<b>RELIGION</b>					
Protestant	318	23.9%	30.2%	33.6%	12.3%
Catholic	124	37.1%	28.2%	25.8%	8.9%
Other Christian	28	35.7%	21.4%	39.3%	3.6%
Other Religion	41	70.7%	19.5%	7.3%	2.4%
Atheist, Agnostic	38	50.0%	15.8%	26.3%	7.9%
<b>FREQUENCY OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE</b>					
More than once a week	58	13.8%	34.5%	51.7%	0.0%
Every week	182	26.4%	28.0%	33.5%	12.1%
Once or twice a month	83	36.1%	21.7%	27.7%	14.5%
Several times a year	68	44.1%	36.8%	17.6%	1.5%
Hardly ever	169	46.2%	24.9%	19.5%	9.5%
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>					
Very Conservative	63	15.9%	19.0%	55.6%	9.5%
Conservative	200	15.5%	34.0%	39.5%	11.0%
Moderate	209	47.4%	27.8%	17.2%	7.7%
Liberal	68	61.8%	16.2%	10.3%	11.8%
Very Liberal	24	75.0%	16.7%	0%	8.3%

**MARITAL STATUS**

Married	391	29.9%	28.9%	31.5%	9.7%
Divorced	51	41.2%	27.5%	21.6%	9.8%
Widowed	37	18.9%	29.7%	32.4%	18.9%
Never Married	102	56.9%	16.7%	19.6%	6.9%

**EDUCATION**

High School grad	194	32.0%	21.1%	36.6%	10.3%
Some college	129	30.2%	38.8%	24.0%	7.0%
2 year college grad	78	30.8%	29.5%	33.3%	6.4%
4 year college grad	104	35.6%	28.8%	27.9%	7.7%
Advanced Degree	28	64.3%	17.9%	10.7%	7.1%

**AGE**

18-29	111	50.9%	21.4%	17.0%	10.7%
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50-64	145	36.6%	29.7%	26.9%	6.9%
65+	126	21.4%	27.8%	36.5%	14.3%

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