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## **N.C. marriage amendment up 20, close if voters informed**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – The marriage amendment which will be on the ballot during the May 8<sup>th</sup> North Carolina primary continues to lead for passage by 20 points, but if voters are informed of its negative consequences for the potential future passage of civil unions for gay couples, it would narrowly fail.

58% of likely primary voters say right now that they would vote “yes,” while 38% plan to vote “no.” But at the same time, 51% of these voters support some form of legal recognition for gay couples’ relationships, either full marriage or civil unions. 34% of those folks are planning to vote for the amendment. Because of that, if informed that the amendment would ban both marriage and civil unions for gay couples, support goes down 17 points to 41%, and opposition rises 4% to 42%.

Part of the problem is that voters are not well informed about what the amendment does. A 34% plurality say they are not sure on that question. Almost as many (31%) do know that it would ban both gay marriage and civil unions, but then not many fewer (28%) think it would only ban marriage. 7% actually think it would *legalize* gay marriage. Those who think it bans solely marriage rights are voting 67-30 for it, so 8% of North Carolinians, while misinformed, are voting against the measure simply because they think it bans same-sex marriage alone. Of course, those who think a “yes” vote actually legalizes these unions are voting by the same margin for it.

Democrats narrowly favor the amendment from the get-go (48-47), and Republicans do overwhelmingly (76-20), but independents oppose it, 42-55. On the informed variation of the question, the shift is highest with Republicans—they still support it, but only 57-28. Democrats move to opposition (33-49), and independents move even more against it, to 27-56.

“The marriage amendment is leading by a wide margin right now,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “But there’s a pretty dramatic shift in the numbers once voters become more aware about how far reaching it is. Education is the key for those hoping to defeat it over the next six weeks.”

PPP surveyed 1,191 likely primary voters on from March 23<sup>rd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup>. The margin of error for the survey is +/-2.8%. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews.



## North Carolina Survey Results

**Q1** Do you think you will vote in the Democratic or Republican primary election in May, or will you not vote in a primary?

*Democratic primary*..... 48%  
*Republican primary*..... 44%  
*Not Sure*..... 8%

**Q2** Would you vote for or against a constitutional amendment to provide that marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State?

*Would vote for it*..... 58%  
*Would vote against it* ..... 38%  
*Not sure* ..... 4%

**Q3** Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: 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?

*Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry* ..... 26%  
*Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry* ..... 25%  
*There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship* ..... 45%  
*Not sure* ..... 3%

**Q4** Do you think that a yes vote on Amendment 1 bans just gay marriage, bans both gay marriage and civil unions, legalizes gay marriage, or are you not sure?

*Bans just gay marriage* ..... 28%  
*Bans both gay marriage and civil unions* ..... 31%  
*Legalizes gay marriage*..... 7%  
*Not sure* ..... 34%

**Q5** If you knew that Amendment 1 banned both gay marriage and civil unions, would you vote yes or no?

*Would vote yes* ..... 41%  
*Would vote no*..... 42%  
*Not sure*..... 17%

**Q6** Who did you vote for President in 2008?

*John McCain*..... 48%  
*Barack Obama*..... 47%  
*Someone else/Don't remember* ..... 5%

**Q7** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

*Very liberal*..... 11%  
*Somewhat liberal* ..... 14%  
*Moderate*..... 26%  
*Somewhat conservative*..... 26%  
*Very conservative* ..... 24%

**Q8** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 53%  
*Man*..... 47%

**Q9** If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

*Democrat*..... 46%  
*Republican*..... 38%  
*Independent/Other*..... 16%

**Q10** If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

*White* ..... 79%  
*African-American* ..... 15%  
*Other*..... 5%





**Q11** If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29.....	12%
30 to 45.....	24%
46 to 65.....	36%
Older than 65.....	28%

**Q12**

252.....	10%
336.....	18%
704.....	22%
828.....	14%
910.....	13%
919.....	23%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Primary Vote</b>				
Democratic primary	48%	17%	81%	34%
Republican primary	44%	76%	11%	43%
Not Sure	8%	6%	8%	23%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Marriage Amendment</b>				
Would vote for it	58%	81%	35%	52%
Would vote against it	38%	16%	60%	36%
Not sure	4%	3%	5%	12%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition</b>				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	26%	9%	46%	13%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	25%	28%	23%	24%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	45%	60%	28%	52%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%	11%

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Consequences of Amendment</b>				
Bans just gay marriage	28%	35%	22%	16%
Bans both gay marriage and civil unions	31%	22%	40%	24%
Legalizes gay marriage	7%	7%	8%	4%
Not sure	34%	35%	30%	56%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	2008 Vote		
		John McCain	Barack Obama	Someone else/Don't remember
<b>Vote If Banned Marriage &amp; Civ. Unions</b>				
<b>Would vote yes</b>	41%	59%	23%	34%
<b>Would vote no</b>	42%	26%	60%	26%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	15%	17%	40%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Primary Vote</b>						
Democratic primary	48%	85%	89%	60%	27%	16%
Republican primary	44%	9%	5%	27%	67%	78%
Not Sure	8%	7%	6%	13%	6%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Marriage Amendment</b>						
<b>Would vote for it</b>	58%	28%	27%	51%	69%	85%
<b>Would vote against it</b>	38%	70%	70%	42%	27%	11%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	2%	3%	7%	3%	4%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition</b>						
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry</b>	26%	62%	55%	30%	13%	5%
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry</b>	25%	16%	21%	28%	34%	20%
<b>There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship</b>	45%	19%	20%	38%	50%	71%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	3%	3%	4%	3%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Consequences of Amendment</b>						
Bans just gay marriage	28%	32%	22%	20%	30%	37%
Bans both gay marriage and civil unions	31%	35%	49%	36%	26%	18%
Legalizes gay marriage	7%	4%	5%	9%	5%	9%
Not sure	34%	29%	23%	35%	38%	36%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Vote If Banned Marriage &amp; Civ. Unions</b>						
Would vote yes	41%	20%	21%	32%	46%	66%
Would vote no	42%	66%	66%	51%	35%	16%
Not sure	17%	14%	13%	17%	19%	19%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Primary Vote</b>			
Democratic primary	48%	58%	36%
Republican primary	44%	34%	56%
Not Sure	8%	8%	7%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Marriage Amendment</b>			
Would vote for it	58%	55%	62%
Would vote against it	38%	40%	35%
Not sure	4%	5%	3%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition</b>			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	26%	30%	22%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	25%	26%	25%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	45%	41%	49%
Not sure	3%	3%	4%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Consequences of Amendment</b>			
Bans just gay marriage	28%	24%	33%
Bans both gay marriage and civil unions	31%	31%	30%
Legalizes gay marriage	7%	8%	6%
Not sure	34%	37%	31%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Vote If Banned Marriage &amp; Civ. Unions</b>			
Would vote yes	41%	37%	46%
Would vote no	42%	43%	40%
Not sure	17%	20%	15%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Primary Vote</b>				
Democratic primary	48%	92%	5%	23%
Republican primary	44%	4%	92%	48%
Not Sure	8%	5%	3%	29%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Marriage Amendment</b>				
<b>Would vote for it</b>	58%	48%	76%	42%
<b>Would vote against it</b>	38%	47%	20%	55%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	6%	3%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition</b>				
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry</b>	26%	36%	10%	38%
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry</b>	25%	22%	29%	27%
<b>There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship</b>	45%	38%	59%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	4%	3%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Consequences of Amendment</b>				
<b>Bans just gay marriage</b>	28%	24%	35%	24%
<b>Bans both gay marriage and civil unions</b>	31%	35%	23%	36%
<b>Legalizes gay marriage</b>	7%	6%	7%	9%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	35%	34%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Vote If Banned Marriage &amp; Civ. Unions</b>				
<b>Would vote yes</b>	41%	33%	57%	27%
<b>Would vote no</b>	42%	49%	28%	56%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	19%	16%	17%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Primary Vote</b>				
Democratic primary	48%	40%	86%	47%
Republican primary	44%	52%	7%	41%
Not Sure	8%	8%	8%	12%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Marriage Amendment</b>				
Would vote for it	58%	58%	61%	43%
Would vote against it	38%	38%	30%	51%
Not sure	4%	3%	9%	6%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition</b>				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	26%	27%	16%	41%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	25%	26%	26%	18%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	45%	44%	54%	34%
Not sure	3%	3%	4%	7%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Consequences of Amendment</b>				
Bans just gay marriage	28%	29%	21%	33%
Bans both gay marriage and civil unions	31%	32%	27%	26%
Legalizes gay marriage	7%	6%	13%	2%
Not sure	34%	33%	39%	40%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
<b>Vote If Banned Marriage &amp; Civ. Unions</b>				
<b>Would vote yes</b>	41%	42%	40%	27%
<b>Would vote no</b>	42%	42%	39%	50%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	16%	21%	23%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Primary Vote</b>					
<b>Democratic primary</b>	48%	61%	40%	47%	49%
<b>Republican primary</b>	44%	25%	51%	45%	45%
<b>Not Sure</b>	8%	14%	9%	7%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Marriage Amendment</b>					
<b>Would vote for it</b>	58%	48%	51%	61%	63%
<b>Would vote against it</b>	38%	50%	44%	34%	32%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	2%	4%	4%	5%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition</b>					
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry</b>	26%	40%	32%	26%	17%
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry</b>	25%	16%	30%	24%	27%
<b>There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship</b>	45%	37%	36%	47%	52%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	7%	2%	2%	5%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Consequences of Amendment</b>					
<b>Bans just gay marriage</b>	28%	19%	36%	28%	26%
<b>Bans both gay marriage and civil unions</b>	31%	38%	32%	32%	25%
<b>Legalizes gay marriage</b>	7%	10%	6%	9%	4%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	33%	26%	31%	45%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Vote If Banned Marriage &amp; Civ. Unions</b>					
<b>Would vote yes</b>	41%	41%	40%	44%	38%
<b>Would vote no</b>	42%	39%	50%	41%	36%
<b>Not sure</b>	17%	20%	10%	14%	26%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Primary Vote</b>							
<b>Democratic primary</b>	48%	62%	41%	41%	42%	46%	57%
<b>Republican primary</b>	44%	32%	51%	48%	48%	48%	37%
<b>Not Sure</b>	8%	6%	8%	11%	10%	7%	5%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Marriage Amendment</b>							
<b>Would vote for it</b>	58%	64%	66%	58%	54%	63%	48%
<b>Would vote against it</b>	38%	30%	32%	37%	43%	30%	48%
<b>Not sure</b>	4%	6%	2%	5%	3%	7%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition</b>							
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	26%	15%	22%	28%	27%	18%	37%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	25%	26%	29%	22%	24%	25%	27%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	45%	57%	48%	43%	48%	52%	33%
Not sure	3%	2%	1%	7%	1%	5%	3%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Consequences of Amendment</b>							
Bans just gay marriage	28%	19%	35%	25%	23%	29%	32%
Bans both gay marriage and civil unions	31%	28%	27%	30%	32%	27%	36%
Legalizes gay marriage	7%	11%	6%	7%	8%	7%	6%
Not sure	34%	42%	31%	38%	37%	36%	26%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
<b>Vote If Banned Marriage &amp; Civ. Unions</b>							
Would vote yes	41%	52%	44%	37%	37%	50%	35%
Would vote no	42%	30%	39%	44%	48%	32%	49%
Not sure	17%	19%	17%	20%	15%	18%	16%

