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OF THE PRESS RELEASE**

## **Vermont supports gay marriage, single-payer health care**

**Raleigh, N.C.** – Same-sex marriage has been legal in Vermont for two years, and civil unions for nine years before that. The state’s voters are strongly behind full marriage equality, with 58% saying it should be legal and only a third saying it should still be illegal. Only 18% say there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple’s relationship at all. 79%, including 56% of Republicans and 82% of the independent plurality, think gay couples should have at least the legal rights associated with civil unions. And when asked what impact gay marriage has had on their lives, 60% of voters say it has had no effect whatsoever, while 22% say it has had a positive effect and 18% a negative one.

The state’s recently passed single-payer health care law is only narrowly liked, 40-35. Democrats are for it, 64-12, and independents narrowly, 38-31, but Republicans totally against, 6-74. Proving that “socialism” is a dirty word even in the bluest of states, only 20% see socialism favorably, while 46% see it unfavorably. Democrats are the only ones who see it positively, and only by a narrow 32-24 margin.

Patrick Leahy is not quite as popular as his junior colleague Bernie Sanders, but is still one of the most beloved senators in the country. 62% approve of the work he is doing in the Senate, and half that disapprove. That ties him for seventh out of the 86 sitting senators on which PPP has polled. At-large Congressman Peter Welch is also very well-liked, with a 59-29 approval rating.

Jim Jeffords, for having been a Republican and then an independent, is still liked best by Democrats in the state. His strong overall 52-22 favorability rating is bolstered by his 62-10 with Democrats. GOP voters now like him very little (27-49), and independents fall 58-18 in his favor. Howard Dean is still well-liked (52-38), but less so than these other figures, likely because his stewardship of the DNC and his presidential campaign stirred up more negative feelings with Republicans and independents, who like him by a 53-35 margin, versus 58-18 for Jeffords, 65-27 for Leahy, and 64-25 for Welch.

PPP surveyed 1,233 Vermont voters from July 28<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</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. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.



## Vermont Survey Results

**Q1** Do you approve or disapprove of Senator Patrick Leahy's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 62%  
*Disapprove*..... 31%  
*Not sure* ..... 8%

**Q2** Do you approve or disapprove of Congressman Peter Welch's job performance?

*Approve* ..... 59%  
*Disapprove*..... 29%  
*Not sure* ..... 12%

**Q3** Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal or illegal?

*Legal*..... 58%  
*Illegal* ..... 33%  
*Not sure* ..... 9%

**Q4** 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* ..... 55%  
*Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry* ..... 24%  
*There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship* ..... 18%  
*Not sure* ..... 3%

**Q5** Has the legalization of gay marriage in Vermont had a positive or negative impact on your life, or has it not had any impact at all?

*Positive Impact* ..... 22%  
*Negative impact* ..... 18%  
*No Impact* ..... 60%

**Q6** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Howard Dean?

*Favorable*..... 52%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 38%  
*Not sure* ..... 10%

**Q7** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Jim Jeffords?

*Favorable*..... 52%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 22%  
*Not sure* ..... 26%

**Q8** Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of Socialism?

*Favorable*..... 20%  
*Unfavorable* ..... 46%  
*Not sure* ..... 34%

**Q9** Do you support or oppose Vermont's single payer health care law?

*Support* ..... 40%  
*Oppose* ..... 35%  
*Not sure* ..... 26%

**Q10** Do you support or oppose the continuing operation of the Vermont Yankee Nuclear Power Plant?

*Should operate* ..... 45%  
*Should not operate* ..... 41%  
*Not sure* ..... 15%





**Q11** If the candidates for State Treasurer next year were Democrat Beth Pearce and Republican Randy Brock, who would you vote for?

*Beth Pearce* ..... 31%  
*Randy Brock* ..... 36%  
*Undecided*..... 33%

**Q12** Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

*Very liberal*..... 15%  
*Somewhat liberal* ..... 25%  
*Moderate*..... 30%  
*Somewhat conservative*..... 20%  
*Very conservative* ..... 9%

**Q13** If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

*Woman* ..... 52%  
*Man*..... 48%

**Q14** 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* ..... 37%  
*Republican*..... 24%  
*Independent/Other*..... 40%

**Q15** If you are white, press 1. If other, press 2.

*White* ..... 94%  
*Other*..... 6%

**Q16** 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*..... 10%  
*30 to 45*..... 28%  
*46 to 65*..... 42%  
*Older than 65*..... 20%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Leahy approval</b>						
Approve	62%	88%	87%	72%	23%	3%
Disapprove	31%	6%	9%	20%	64%	86%
Not sure	8%	5%	4%	8%	13%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Welch approval</b>						
Approve	59%	86%	79%	67%	28%	9%
Disapprove	29%	6%	13%	19%	54%	79%
Not sure	12%	9%	7%	14%	18%	12%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Same-Sex Marriage</b>						
Legal	58%	93%	84%	59%	20%	8%
Illegal	33%	5%	10%	29%	67%	84%
Not sure	9%	3%	6%	11%	12%	9%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Gay Marriage/Civil Unions/No Recognition</b>						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	55%	93%	81%	54%	17%	6%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	24%	2%	15%	28%	44%	33%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	18%	6%	3%	14%	35%	56%
Not sure	3%	-	1%	4%	4%	4%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Gay Marriage Impact</b>						
<b>Positive Impact</b>	22%	59%	30%	12%	11%	1%
<b>Negative impact</b>	18%	8%	5%	15%	29%	56%
<b>No Impact</b>	60%	34%	65%	73%	60%	43%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Dean Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	52%	85%	70%	57%	20%	3%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	38%	11%	15%	31%	71%	92%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	4%	15%	12%	9%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Jeffords Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	52%	66%	62%	62%	32%	16%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	12%	8%	13%	40%	66%
<b>Not sure</b>	26%	22%	30%	25%	28%	18%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Socialism Favorability</b>						
<b>Favorable</b>	20%	57%	24%	14%	4%	1%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	13%	25%	44%	80%	93%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	30%	51%	42%	17%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Single Payer Support</b>						
<b>Support</b>	40%	81%	57%	37%	9%	3%
<b>Oppose</b>	35%	7%	13%	30%	68%	81%
<b>Not sure</b>	26%	12%	30%	33%	23%	16%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Power Plant Operation Support</b>						
<b>Should operate</b>	45%	23%	23%	46%	68%	80%
<b>Should not operate</b>	41%	65%	61%	35%	20%	9%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	12%	16%	18%	13%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
<b>Pearce/Brock</b>						
<b>Beth Pearce</b>	31%	71%	42%	27%	7%	1%
<b>Randy Brock</b>	36%	6%	18%	26%	70%	85%
<b>Undecided</b>	33%	22%	40%	47%	23%	13%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Leahy approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	62%	67%	56%
<b>Disapprove</b>	31%	23%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	9%	6%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Welch approval</b>			
<b>Approve</b>	59%	64%	54%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	22%	35%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	13%	11%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Same-Sex Marriage</b>			
<b>Legal</b>	58%	62%	53%
<b>Illegal</b>	33%	29%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	9%	9%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gay Marriage/Civil Unions/No Recognition</b>			
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry</b>	55%	59%	50%
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry</b>	24%	25%	24%
<b>There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship</b>	18%	13%	24%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	2%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Gay Marriage Impact</b>			
<b>Positive Impact</b>	22%	24%	20%
<b>Negative impact</b>	18%	15%	22%
<b>No Impact</b>	60%	61%	58%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Dean Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>52%</b>	56%	47%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>38%</b>	33%	43%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	11%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Jeffords Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>52%</b>	55%	49%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>22%</b>	16%	28%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>26%</b>	29%	23%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Socialism Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>20%</b>	20%	19%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>46%</b>	41%	53%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>34%</b>	39%	28%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Single Payer Support</b>			
<b>Support</b>	<b>40%</b>	39%	40%
<b>Oppose</b>	<b>35%</b>	29%	40%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>26%</b>	32%	19%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Power Plant Operation Support</b>			
<b>Should operate</b>	45%	39%	51%
<b>Should not operate</b>	41%	44%	37%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	17%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
<b>Pearce/Brock</b>			
<b>Beth Pearce</b>	31%	33%	28%
<b>Randy Brock</b>	36%	30%	42%
<b>Undecided</b>	33%	37%	30%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Leahy approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	62%	89%	15%	65%
<b>Disapprove</b>	31%	6%	74%	27%
<b>Not sure</b>	8%	5%	10%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Welch approval</b>				
<b>Approve</b>	59%	82%	17%	64%
<b>Disapprove</b>	29%	8%	66%	25%
<b>Not sure</b>	12%	10%	17%	11%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Same-Sex Marriage</b>				
<b>Legal</b>	58%	80%	17%	62%
<b>Illegal</b>	33%	13%	72%	29%
<b>Not sure</b>	9%	7%	11%	9%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gay Marriage/Civil Unions/No Recognition</b>				
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry</b>	55%	78%	14%	57%
<b>Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry</b>	24%	13%	42%	25%
<b>There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship</b>	18%	9%	40%	14%
<b>Not sure</b>	3%	0%	4%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Gay Marriage Impact</b>				
<b>Positive impact</b>	22%	33%	5%	23%
<b>Negative impact</b>	18%	9%	41%	13%
<b>No impact</b>	60%	58%	54%	64%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Dean Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	52%	78%	11%	53%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	38%	12%	82%	35%
<b>Not sure</b>	10%	10%	7%	12%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Jeffords Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	52%	62%	27%	58%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	22%	10%	49%	18%
<b>Not sure</b>	26%	29%	24%	25%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Socialism Favorability</b>				
<b>Favorable</b>	20%	32%	2%	19%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	24%	87%	42%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	44%	11%	39%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Single Payer Support</b>				
<b>Support</b>	40%	64%	6%	38%
<b>Oppose</b>	35%	12%	74%	31%
<b>Not sure</b>	26%	24%	20%	30%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Power Plant Operation Support</b>				
<b>Should operate</b>	45%	27%	77%	42%
<b>Should not operate</b>	41%	58%	13%	41%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	16%	10%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
<b>Pearce/Brock</b>				
Beth Pearce	31%	56%	1%	26%
Randy Brock	36%	12%	82%	30%
Undecided	33%	32%	17%	44%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Leahy approval</b>			
Approve	62%	61%	66%
Disapprove	31%	31%	30%
Not sure	8%	8%	4%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Welch approval</b>			
Approve	59%	59%	62%
Disapprove	29%	29%	28%
Not sure	12%	12%	9%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Same-Sex Marriage</b>			
Legal	58%	58%	48%
Illegal	33%	33%	35%
Not sure	9%	8%	17%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Gay Marriage/Civil Unions/No Recognition</b>			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	55%	55%	47%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	24%	24%	25%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	18%	18%	25%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Gay Marriage Impact</b>			
Positive Impact	22%	22%	21%
Negative impact	18%	18%	21%
No Impact	60%	60%	57%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Dean Favorability</b>			
Favorable	52%	52%	43%
Unfavorable	38%	38%	41%
Not sure	10%	10%	16%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Jeffords Favorability</b>			
Favorable	52%	52%	53%
Unfavorable	22%	22%	28%
Not sure	26%	26%	19%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Socialism Favorability</b>			
<b>Favorable</b>	20%	19%	23%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	46%	46%	47%
<b>Not sure</b>	34%	34%	30%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Single Payer Support</b>			
<b>Support</b>	40%	40%	41%
<b>Oppose</b>	35%	35%	33%
<b>Not sure</b>	26%	26%	26%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Power Plant Operation Support</b>			
<b>Should operate</b>	45%	45%	43%
<b>Should not operate</b>	41%	41%	40%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	15%	17%

	Base	Race	
		White	Other
<b>Pearce/Brock</b>			
<b>Beth Pearce</b>	31%	31%	31%
<b>Randy Brock</b>	36%	36%	39%
<b>Undecided</b>	33%	34%	30%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Leahy approval</b>					
Approve	62%	64%	63%	62%	59%
Disapprove	31%	19%	32%	32%	32%
Not sure	8%	17%	5%	6%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Welch approval</b>					
Approve	59%	58%	56%	62%	60%
Disapprove	29%	19%	35%	28%	26%
Not sure	12%	22%	10%	10%	14%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Same-Sex Marriage</b>					
Legal	58%	75%	64%	57%	42%
Illegal	33%	19%	28%	34%	47%
Not sure	9%	6%	8%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gay Marriage/Civil Unions/No Recognition</b>					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	55%	72%	57%	56%	39%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	24%	8%	24%	24%	34%
There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship	18%	17%	13%	19%	25%
Not sure	3%	3%	6%	1%	1%





**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Gay Marriage Impact</b>					
<b>Positive Impact</b>	<b>22%</b>	47%	28%	17%	12%
<b>Negative impact</b>	<b>18%</b>	22%	15%	18%	21%
<b>No Impact</b>	<b>60%</b>	31%	56%	65%	67%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Dean Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>52%</b>	64%	49%	53%	47%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>38%</b>	25%	40%	37%	42%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>10%</b>	11%	11%	9%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Jeffords Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>52%</b>	50%	38%	58%	59%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>22%</b>	19%	26%	21%	19%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>26%</b>	31%	35%	21%	22%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Socialism Favorability</b>					
<b>Favorable</b>	<b>20%</b>	39%	20%	18%	12%
<b>Unfavorable</b>	<b>46%</b>	31%	49%	46%	51%
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>34%</b>	31%	31%	36%	37%







**Crosstabs**

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Single Payer Support</b>					
<b>Support</b>	40%	46%	38%	42%	34%
<b>Oppose</b>	35%	23%	37%	34%	38%
<b>Not sure</b>	26%	31%	25%	24%	28%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Power Plant Operation Support</b>					
<b>Should operate</b>	45%	47%	42%	43%	50%
<b>Should not operate</b>	41%	31%	43%	44%	34%
<b>Not sure</b>	15%	22%	15%	13%	16%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
<b>Pearce/Brock</b>					
<b>Beth Pearce</b>	31%	44%	26%	31%	30%
<b>Randy Brock</b>	36%	22%	39%	36%	36%
<b>Undecided</b>	33%	33%	35%	33%	34%

