

HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN®

# HRC REPORT:

## POLLING SHOWS AMERICANS SUPPORT LGBT PEOPLE ON ALL ISSUES

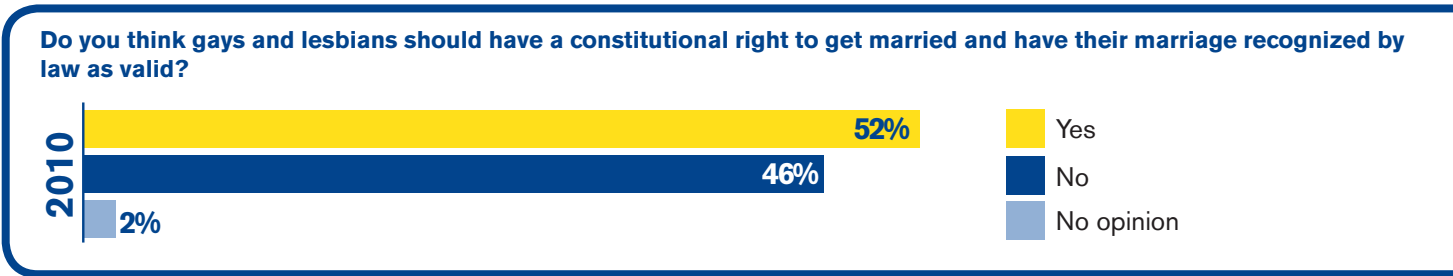
Changing hearts and minds is the key to achieving equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. As part of a special report, HRC has analyzed diverse polling data that clearly shows that Americans are supportive of fairness on a wide range of issues affecting the LGBT community. From marriage and relationship recognition to employment nondiscrimination laws, Americans are quickly and consistently moving to embrace equality. The numbers prove it.



### MARRIAGE EQUALITY & RELATIONSHIP RECOGNITION

In 1996, when the federal Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) became law, only 25% of Americans supported marriage equality. That number has increased significantly over the past 15 years.

- An August 2010 CNN/Opinion Research Corporation Poll showed for the first time a majority of Americans favored marriage equality. 52% of respondents said that same-sex couples should have the constitutional right to marry.



- Another August 2010 Poll conducted by GfK Roper Public Affairs & Corporate Communications for the Associated Press shows a majority of Americans support marriage equality. 52% said the Federal Government should give legal recognition to marriage between couples of the same sex.

**Should the Federal Government give legal recognition to marriages between couples of the same sex, or not?**

	8/11-16/10	9/3-8/09
YES	52	46
NO	46	53
DON'T KNOW	2	1
REFUSED	*	*

Based on: N=1,007      N=1,007

# SUPPORT FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN THE STATES

**5** AND DC States with marriage equality

**3** States considering marriage equality in 2011 (NY, MD, RI)

When looking state by state, support for marriage equality has also increased. According to research conducted by professors of political science at Columbia University:

- As recently as 2004, same-sex marriage did not have majority support in any state.
- By 2008, three states had crossed the 50% line.
- Today at least 17 states are over that line.

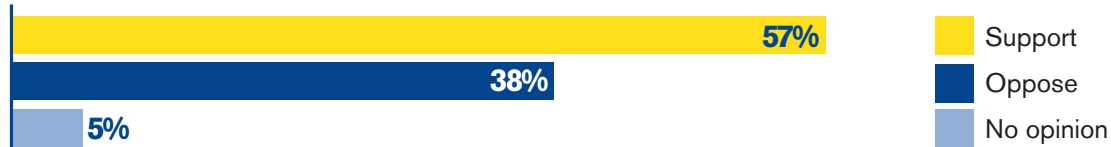
## Support in the states for same-sex marriage, from least to most in 2010

Since 1996, 30 states (■) have passed constitutional amendments banning same-sex marriage. It is currently allowed in five states (□), but support has risen across the country, even in relatively conservative states.

	1994-6	2010		1994-6	2010		1994-6	2010		1994-6	2010	
■ Utah	12%	22%	■ Tex.	24%	35%	W. Va.	21%	41%	■ Ariz.	25%	48%	
■ Okla.	16	26	■ Neb.	20	35	■ Fla.	26	41	Ill.	26	48	
■ Ala.	17	26	■ La.	23	36	■ Va.	24	42	N.M.	24	49	
■ Miss.	17	27	N.C.	21	36	□ Iowa	24	44	Del.	29	50	
■ Ark.	17	29	■ Kan.	24	37	■ Wis.	26	44	■ Nev.	26	50	
■ Tenn.	19	31	■ Mo.	26	37	■ Alaska	23	45	Md.	29	51	
■ Ky.	18	31	Ind.	22	37	■ Ohio	24	45	Pa.	27	51	
■ S.C.	21	32	Wyo.	19	37	■ Mont.	23	45	■ Ore.	26	52	
■ Idaho	17	33	■ S.D.	23	38	■ Mich.	26	46	■ Colo.	27	52	
■ Ga.	21	34	■ N.D.	22	38	Minn.	26	47	Wash.	29	54	
										1994-6	2010	
										■ Hawaii	28%	54%
										Me.	29	55
										N.J.	27	55
										□ N.H.	30	55
										■ Calif.	32	56
										□ Conn.	34	57
										N.Y.	36	58
										□ Vt.	32	59
										R.I.	34	60
										□ Mass.	33	62

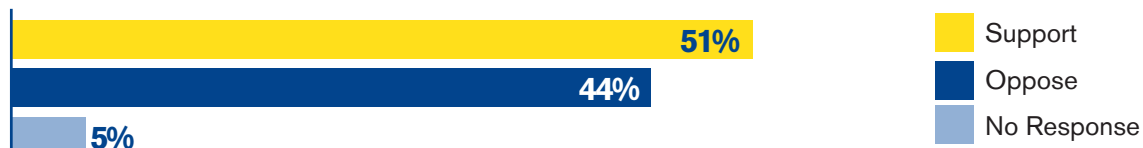
## Marriage Equality Legislation has the support of New Yorkers, Marylanders and Rhode Islanders

Making same-sex marriage legal in New York State



Source Data: Siena Research Institute, January 2011

Making same-sex marriage legal in Maryland



Source Data: Washington Post, January 25, 2011

Making same-sex marriage legal in Rhode Island



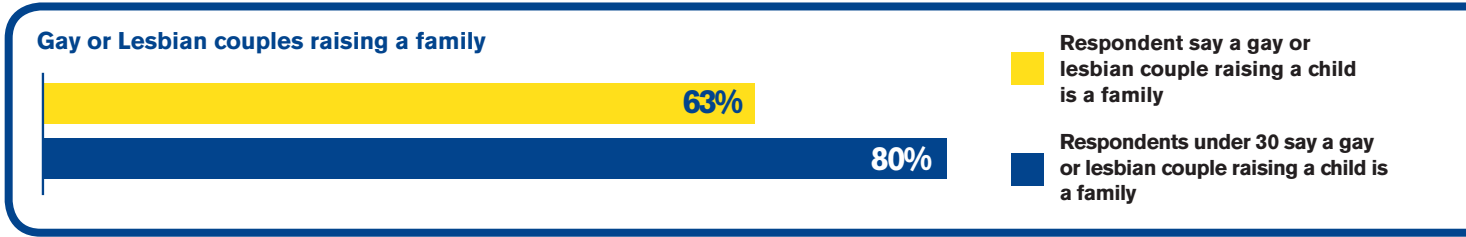
Source Data: Providence Journal, August 19, 2010



## DEFINITION OF FAMILY

While marriage equality is a reality in only five states and the District of Columbia, families headed by same-sex couples are in every state across the country. Views on what constitutes a family have evolved over the years.

According to a November 2010 Poll by the Pew Research Center:



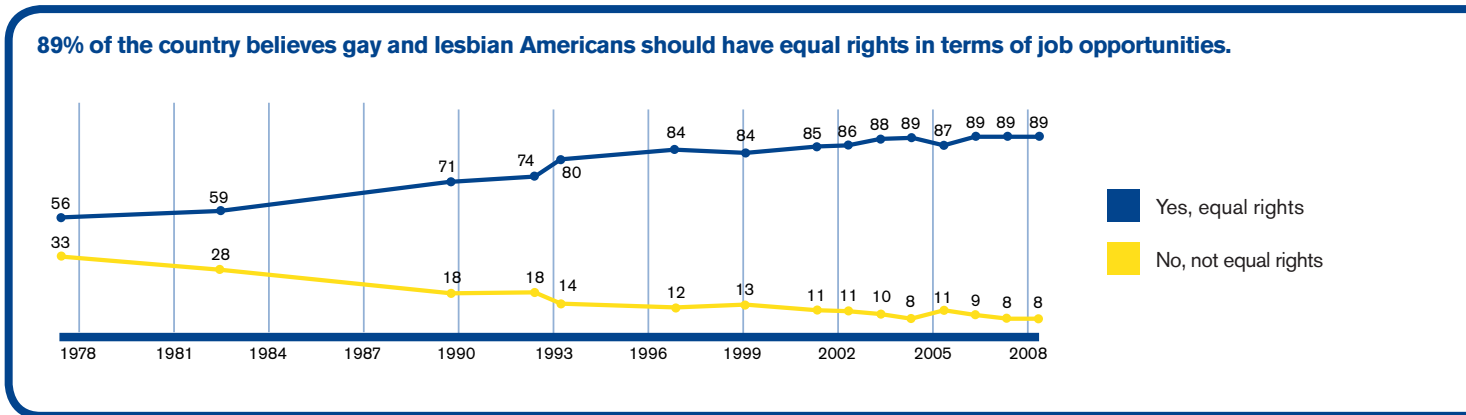
## EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION

In spite of the fact that the majority of the American public supports equality in the workplace, thousands of hardworking lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Americans have lost their livelihoods simply because of who they are.

**38** States you can be fired based on sexual orientation and gender identity

**29** States you can be fired based on sexual orientation

According to a 2008 Gallup Poll:

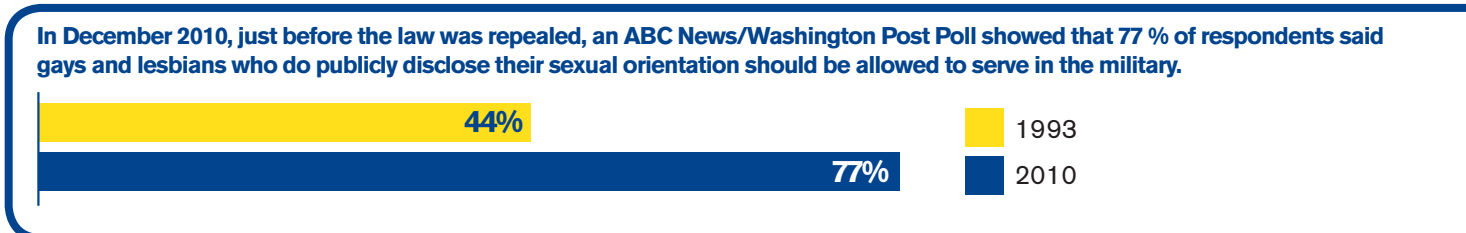


The majority of the American public also supports employee benefits for LGBT employees and their partners. According to a May 2009 Gallup Poll, 67% of respondents said there should be health insurance and other employee benefits for gay and lesbian domestic partners.



## DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL

President Obama signed the legislation to repeal into law on December 22, 2010 and gay and lesbian service members will soon be able to serve with the full honor and integrity the uniform demands.

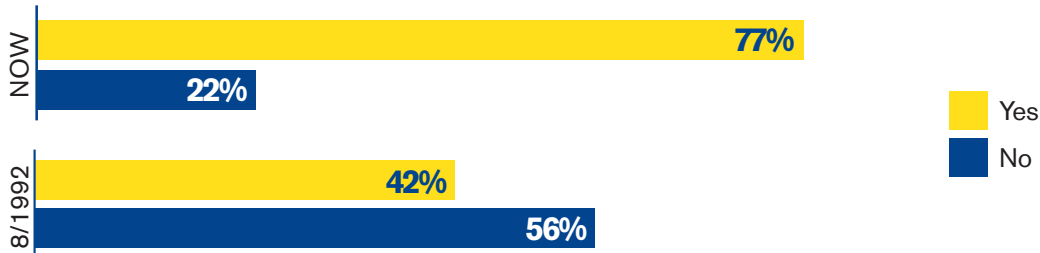




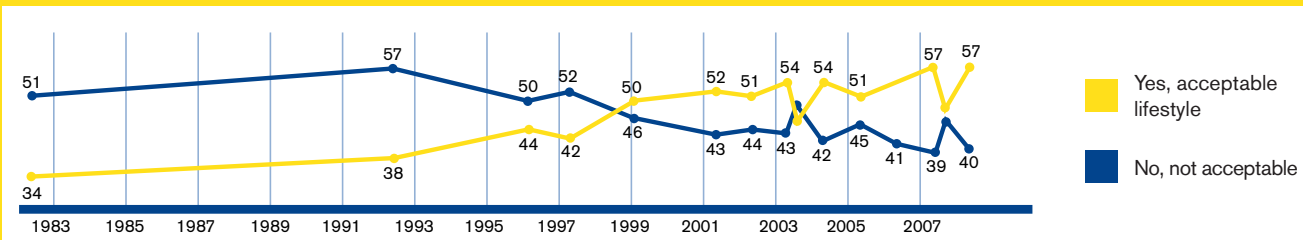
## WHAT IS THE DRIVING FORCE IN THE CHANGE IN HEARTS AND MINDS?

- **People.** In a 2010 CBS News Poll, 77 % of Americans said they know a person that is gay or lesbian, up from only 42% in 1992. LGBT people are our neighbors, friends, and family members.

### Do you know someone who is gay or lesbian?



**Times are changing.** Since at least 1983, Gallup has been asking Americans, “Do you think homosexuality should be considered an acceptable alternative lifestyle or not?” The use of the term homosexuality evokes bias and being LGBT is not a “lifestyle,” but public opinion is moving in our favor.

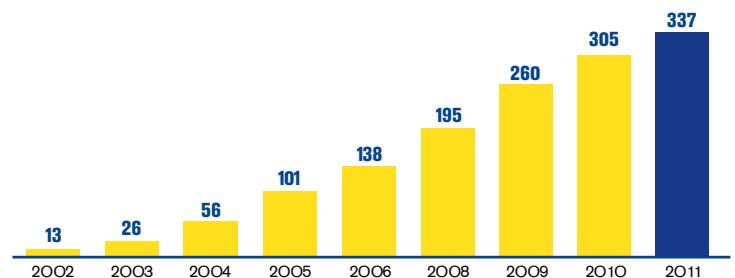


**Generational replacement.** Polling shows younger voters are more likely to support equal rights for LGBT Americans in every area, including marriage equality.

**THIS SUPPORT FOR SAME-SEX MARRIAGE IS EVEN MORE APPARENT IN YOUNG VOTERS. POLLING DATA FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND SHOWS THAT NEARLY TWO-THIRDS OF YOUNGER VOTERS POLLED SUPPORTED SAME-SEX MARRIAGE.**

### Corporate America is leading the way.

Corporate America protects LGBT workers from discrimination and provides benefits in ways that our own government does not. While only 29% of the U.S. population lives in states with statewide non-discrimination statutes that specify sexual orientation and gender identity, 99% companies rated by HRC’s Corporate Equality Index, include sexual orientation and 76% include sexual orientation and gender identity in their non-discrimination policies. In 2002, only 5% of CEI-rated companies included gender identity among their non-discrimination policies.



- **We are everywhere.** According to the 2000 U.S. Census, gay people were in every state and 99.3 percent of U.S. counties. In 2010, the Census shows the South is the home to the most child-rearing same-sex couples.
- **Positive images in the media.** It wasn’t that long ago we didn’t see too many LGBT people on TV. Now every major network has increased LGBT presence in programming and they’re doing so in a positive way. The media is helping to combat homophobia.