



New Poll: 54% of Delaware Voters Support Marriage Equality

WILMINGTON - Today, Equality Delaware released a statewide poll showing a majority – 54% - of voters in the state support the General Assembly passing a marriage equality bill. Just 37% oppose it.

“This poll is the latest indication that a decisive majority of voters in Delaware believe in treating all loving couples and their families equally under the law,” said Mark Purpura, President of Equality Delaware Foundation, which commissioned the poll.

“This poll shows that Delawareans, like a majority of Americans, believe in marriage equality,” said Lisa Goodman, President of Equality Delaware, Inc. “As we have seen from the recent passage of marriage bills through the house in Rhode Island and the senate in Illinois, other states are moving to marriage. A majority of Delawareans now look forward to Delaware also becoming a state where every loving couple has the unique protections and recognition that only marriage can provide.”

Same-sex couples can marry in nine states and the District of Columbia.

The poll of 600 likely 2014 voters was conducted by the Global Strategy Group on February 12-14, 2013. A pollster memo follows.

For further information please contact Lisa Goodman at 302-743-7777

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Jeffrey Pollock & Joe Hickerson
RE: Survey of Delaware Voters on Marriage Equality
DATE: March 4, 2013

KEY FINDINGS

- A clear majority of Delaware voters (54%) support the legislature passing a new law to allow gay and lesbian couples to marry, while 37% oppose such a law.
 - In New Castle County, support for marriage equality is even higher at 60%.
 - Support is nearly as high among Independents (61%) as it is among Democrats (65%).
- Nearly three-quarters say a state legislator's vote to legalize same-sex marriage would either make them more likely to support the legislator (24%) or would have no effect on the way they vote in the next election (48%). Just 27% say a vote to legalize same-sex marriage would make them less likely to support a legislator.
 - Democrats who would be more likely to support a legislator who voted for the law (32%) significantly outnumber those who would be less likely (19%), and the same is true for Independents (23% more likely/17% unlikely).
- Eight out of 10 voters (80%) do not believe allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry would negatively impact their lives, including 11% who say the impact would be positive.
 - This includes 72% of Republicans who say the proposed law would not negatively impact their lives.
- Additionally, most Delaware voters are happy with the way things are going in the state and give high marks to the state's political leaders.
 - A majority (52%) believes the state is headed in the right direction, while fewer than one third of voters (30%) say things are off track.
 - Two thirds have a favorable opinion of Jack Markell (67% favorable/20% unfavorable) and approve of the job he is doing as Governor (69% approve/22% disapprove).
 - Approval of the state legislature is also high (59% approve/28% disapprove).

METHODOLOGY

- This memorandum summarizes the results from a live telephone poll of 603 randomly-selected likely 2014 voters in Delaware that was conducted February 12-14, 2013.
 - The estimation error associated with a sample of this size is 4.0% at the 95% confidence interval. This means that in 95 of 100 cases, the results of this poll are within plus or minus 4.0 points of the results that would have been obtained if all likely voters had been interviewed. Special care was taken to ensure the geographic and demographic divisions of voters Delaware are properly represented.