



MEMORANDUM

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: Amy Simon, Goodwin Simon Strategic Research
Jan R van Lohuizen, Voter Consumer Research

RE: National Survey Findings on DOMA

DATE: February 15, 2013

***Methodology:** These findings are based on a live interviewer telephone survey conducted January 23 – 27, 2013 among 802 registered voters nationwide. The sample includes cell phones and landlines. Overall results have a margin of error of +/- 3.5%.*

Key Findings

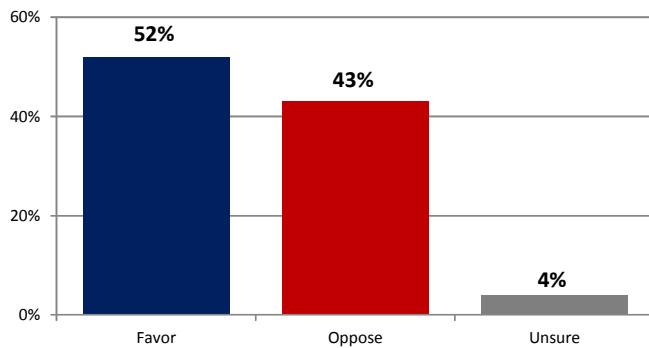
In this brief memo we highlight key findings from a survey of registered voters that examines views toward the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which prohibits the federal government from recognizing the marriages of same-sex couples who are legally married in their own states and denies these couples the federal benefits and responsibilities afforded to married men and women.

Support for Marriage for Same-Sex Couples

First, mirroring other recent national polls, we see that a majority (52%) of registered voters favor allowing same-sex couples to legally marry.

SUPPORT FOR MARRIAGE FOR SAME-SEX COUPLES

Do you favor or oppose allowing same-sex couples to legally marry?



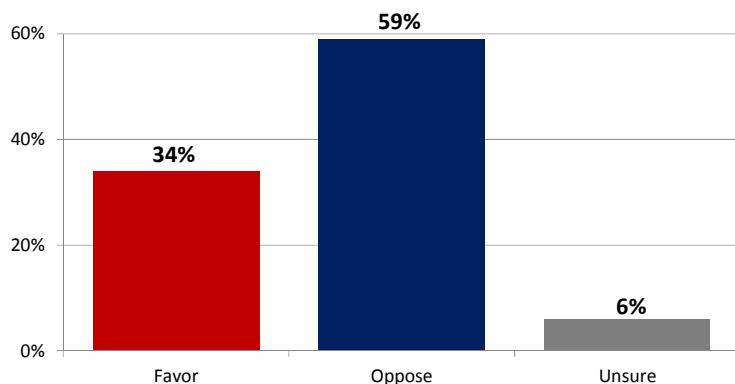
Please note that due to rounding, totals may not equal 100 percent.

Opposition to DOMA

Nearly six in ten (59%) registered voters oppose Section 3 of DOMA, which requires the federal government to treat legally married same-sex couples as unmarried for the purposes of federal benefits and protections. Just one-third (34%) favor this part of DOMA, while six percent are unsure.

OPPOSITION TO DOMA SECTION 3

"One part [of DOMA] says even when a same-sex couple is legally married under state law, the federal government has to treat them as unmarried and cannot grant them the federal benefits and protections of marriage." Do you favor or oppose this part of DOMA?



Why Oppose Section Three of DOMA?

Notably, some voters who oppose marriage for same-sex couples nonetheless believe that if same-sex couples are allowed to legally marry in their state, then the federal government should recognize those legal marriages. These voters reject the section of DOMA that prohibits federal recognition of marriage for same-sex couples. Therefore, while 52 percent of respondents favor marriage for same-sex couples, a larger 59 percent oppose DOMA's requirement that the federal government treat them as unmarried.

Shedding insight into these findings is that 62 percent of respondents agree that "it is discrimination for the federal government to deny marriage protections and benefits to legally married same-sex couples." Just 34 percent disagree with this statement, while four percent are unsure.

Federal Benefits and Responsibilities of Marriage

From two-thirds to almost four-fifths of respondents — including a portion of those who oppose legal marriage for same-sex couples — say the federal government should not deny to legally married same-sex couples many of the responsibilities and benefits of marriage that the federal government affords a married man and woman.

Just under eight in ten (78%) respondents say legally married same-sex couples should not be denied "being able to visit your spouse or child in the hospital or ride with them in an ambulance in an emergency."

Roughly seven in ten say the federal government should not deny “family and medical leave” (71%), “survivor benefits if a spouse is killed in the line of duty as a police officer, fire, fighter or state trooper” (70%), health insurance benefits covering your spouse or children (69%), or protections and benefits for military spouses (69%).

Roughly two-thirds of registered voters also say the federal government should not deny other benefits and responsibilities, including the ability to inherit a home or other property when a spouse dies (68%), access to a spouse’s pension plan (67%), and Social Security benefits (66%).

<i>Ranked by Greatest to Least by Should Not</i>	SHOULD NOT	SHOULD	UNSURE
Being able to visit your spouse or child in the hospital, or ride with them in an ambulance in an emergency	78%	17%	4%
Family and medical leave	71	25	4
Survivor benefits if a spouse is killed in the line of duty as a police officer, firefighter, or state trooper	70	25	4
Health insurance benefits such as covering your spouse or children under a family plan or being able to continue your family coverage if you become unemployed	69	26	4
Protections and benefits for military spouses, including notification if a spouse is killed or injured, and access to health care, housing, education, disability and burial services	69	26	4
Ability to inherit a home, business, or other property when your spouse dies, without having to pay enormous taxes	68	28	3
Access to your spouse’s pension benefits or participating in your spouse’s retirement savings plans	67	27	5
Social Security survival benefits in case of death or disability of your spouse	66	29	4

Conclusion

In 2013, registered voters have reached a tipping point, in which a majority favors allowing marriage for same-sex couples. However, an even larger portion – almost six in ten (59%) respondents – oppose DOMA’s requirement that the federal government discriminate against those same-sex couples who are legally married by denying their marriages recognition. When thinking about particular benefits and responsibilities that the federal government confers on married men and women, even larger portions – between two-thirds and almost eight in ten respondents – believe that these benefits and responsibilities should not be denied to legally married same-sex couples.