

Summary of Key Findings – Gay/Lesbian Rights
ABC7 Listens Poll #70 - June, 2008

- 81% of Bay Area residents in our most recent ABC7 Listens Poll believe that homosexual relations between consenting adults should be legal. This is the highest percentage who have expressed that view since the question was first posed in our ABC7 Listens Poll in 2003.

Do you think homosexual relations between consenting adults should be legal or not legal?

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	ABC 2006	ABC7 2005	ABC7 2004	ABC7 2003	Gall 2007	Gall 2006	Gall 2004	Gall 2003
Legal	81%	73%	77%	74%	78%	74%	59%	56%	52%	60%
Not Legal	12%	17%	16%	19%	15%	19%	37%	40%	43%	35%
Not Sure/	7%	10%	7%	7%	7%	7%	4%	4%	5%	5%

- Bay Area residents continue to express more acceptance of homosexuality compared with all Americans in national surveys on a number of questions.

Do you think marriages between homosexuals should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	Gall 2008	Gall 2007	Gall 2006	Gall 2005	Gall 2004
1. Favor/Valid	59%	59%	40%	46%	42%	39%	42%
2. Oppose/Not Valid	35%	34%	56%	53%	56%	56%	55%
3. Not Sure/No Opinion	6%	7%	4%	1%	2%	5%	3%

Would you like to see homosexuality be more widely accepted in this nation, less widely accepted, or is the acceptance of homosexuality in this nation today about right?

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	Gall 2007	Gall 2005	Gall 2003
1. More widely accepted	54%	58%	33%	29%	28%
2. Less widely accepted	21%	20%	37%	36%	31%
3. About right	17%	16%	27%	30%	34%
4. Not sure	8%	6%	3%	5%	7%

Do you feel that homosexuality should be considered an acceptable alternative lifestyle or not?
(Wording for the 2008 ABC7 Poll “Do you feel that homosexuality should be considered acceptable or not?”)

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	ABC 2006	ABC7 2005	ABC7 2004	ABC7 2003	Gall 2008	Gall 2007	Gall 2006	Gall 2005	Gall 2004	Gall 2003
Accept.	72%	69%	69%	69%	73%	67%	57%	57%	54%	51%	54%	54%
Not Acc.	18%	24%	23%	24%	20%	24%	40%	39%	41%	45%	42%	43%
Not Sure	10%	8%	8%	7%	7%	9%	3%	3%	4%	4%	4%	3%

Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution prohibiting same sex marriages? [Gallup Poll question was phrased "Would you favor or oppose a constitutional amendment that would define marriage as being between a man and a woman?"]

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	ABC7 2006	ABC7 2005	ABC7 2004	Gall 2008	Gall 2006	Gall 2005	Gall 2004
1. Favor	32%	24%	22%	25%	25%	49%	50%	53%	51%
2. Oppose	62%	68%	71%	68%	69%	48%	47%	44%	45%
3. Not Sure	6%	8%	7%	7%	6%	3%	3%	3%	4%

Do you think homosexual couples should or should not have the right to adopt a child?

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	ABC7 2006	ABC7 2005	ABC7 2004	ABC7 2003	Gallup 2003
1. Should Have Right	66%	69%	70%	64%	71%	60%	49%
2. Should Not Have Right	22%	22%	22%	27%	21%	30%	48%
3. Not Sure/No Opinion	12%	9%	8%	9%	8%	10%	3%

- The views of Bay Area residents remain largely similar to those expressed by all Americans in national surveys in regard to the origin of homosexuality and some legal rights for homosexuals.

In your view, is homosexuality something a person is born with, or is homosexuality due to factors such as upbringing and environment?

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	ABC7 2006	ABC7 2005	ABC7 2004	ABC7 2003	Gall 2007	Gall 2006	Gall 2005	Gall 2004	Gall 2003
Born With	42%	45%	48%	41%	43%	41%	42%	42%	38%	37%	38%
Upbring./Environ.	12%	9%	14%	15%	13%	13%	35%	37%	44%	41%	44%
Both	36%	36%	31%	35%	29%	32%	11%	11%	10%	11%	11%
Neither/Not Sure	10%	10%	7%	9%	15%	14%	11%	11%	8%	11%	7%

Do you think homosexual couples should or should not have the same legal rights as married heterosexual couples regarding health care benefits and Social Security survivor benefits?

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	ABC7 2006	ABC7 2005	ABC7 2004	ABC7 2003	Gallup 2003
1. Yes/Should Have	77%	70%	73%	72%	77%	68%	62%
2. No/Should Not Have	19%	24%	21%	23%	17%	26%	35%
3. Not Sure/No Opinion	4%	6%	6%	5%	6%	6%	3%

Do you think homosexuals should or should not have equal rights in terms of job opportunities?

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	Gallup 2008	Gallup 2007
1. Should have	94%	89%	89%	89%
2. Should not have	4%	3%	8%	8%
3. Depends	2%	6%	----	1%
4. Not sure	----	2%	3%	2%

Do you favor or oppose allowing openly gay men and lesbian women to serve in the military?

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	Gall 2004
1. Favor	74%	75%	63%
2. Oppose	17%	15%	32%
3. Not sure	9%	10%	5%

- Bay Area residents expressed their highest level of optimism since 2003 in regard to whether or not same sex marriage would ever be legalized nationally.

Do you think that same sex marriage will ever be legalized nationally?

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	ABC7 2006	ABC7 2005	ABC7 2004
1. Yes	46%	38%	32%	29%	46%
2. No	40%	47%	52%	53%	30%
3. Not sure	14%	15%	16%	18%	24%

- The views of Bay Area residents have changed little on other questions that were asked in this and previous surveys.

Do you think a homosexual person should or should not have the right to adopt their partner's children?

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	ABC7 2006	ABC7 2005	ABC7 2004	ABC7 2003
1. Should Have Right	71%	72%	73%	68%	74%	66%
2. Should Not Have Right	17%	20%	19%	20%	18%	22%
3. Not Sure/No Opinion	12%	8%	8%	12%	8%	12%

There is a proposal to expand federal hate crime laws to include crimes committed on the basis of the victim's gender, sexual orientation or gender identity. Would you favor or oppose expanding the federal hate crime laws in this way?" [ABC7 Polls Only]

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007
1. Favor	73%	75%
2. Oppose	20%	19%
3. Not sure	7%	6%

- There were also relatively few changes in the demographic makeup of this year's ABC7 Listens Poll respondents on these issues compared with previous years.

Which of the following best describes your household? [ABC7 Polls Only]

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	ABC7 2006	ABC7 2005	ABC7 2004	ABC7 2003
1. Single	33%	33%	33%	32%	33%	35%
2. Married	56%	59%	57%	58%	57%	55%
3. Unmarried Couples	6%	4%	6%	7%	7%	7%
4. Same Sex Partners	5%	4%	4%	5%	3%	3%

Do you have children living in your household? [ABC7 Polls Only]

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	ABC7 2006	ABC7 2005	ABC7 2004	ABC7 2003
1. Yes	29%	31%	32%	34%	36%	35%
2. No	71%	69%	68%	66%	64%	65%

Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation? [ABC7 Polls Only]

	ABC7 2008	ABC7 2007	ABC7 2006	ABC7 2005	ABC7 2004	ABC7 2003
1. Heterosexual (Straight)	90%	90%	91%	91%	90%	90%
2. Gay	6%	6%	6%	5%	5%	6%
3. Lesbian	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
4. Bisexual	2%	2%	1%	2%	3%	2%
5. Transgender (Recorded 2005-08)	.2%	-----	.2%	.2%	---	---

Survey Background Facts – ABC7 Listens Poll 2008

Number of People Interviewed	907 Bay Area Residents
Interview Dates:	May 30 – June 5, 2008
Conducted Online by:	Hertz Research, Petaluma, CA

How ABC7 Listens Polls are Conducted and Potential Sources of Error

ABC7 Listens Polls are conducted by Hertz Research of Petaluma, California. The polls are conducted online among Bay Area residents who registered in advance to participate in the ABC7 Listens Polling program. In order to create samples as representative of the entire Bay Area population as possible, the results for each poll are statistically weighted using a variety of demographic factors provided by respondents during the registration process. These statistical weighting procedures also take into account differences between groups of people who tend to use or not use the Internet.

Regardless of methodology, all polls are potentially affected by a number of factors that may influence their accuracy. A common source for survey inaccuracy is sampling error. The number of respondents largely determines sampling error. Statistical theory indicates that in the case of a poll with this sample size (907 Total Interviews), 95 percent of the time the results of a survey of this size would be the same as interviewing the entire population of the Bay Area, give or take approximately four percent. This is not a probability sample.

However, other sources of error also can impact the accuracy of poll results conducted online and with other techniques. These include but are not limited to the percentage of the population choosing to participate, the likelihood a possible respondent is at home or connected to the Internet, the wording, and ordering of questions, and the techniques used to determine possible survey participants and likely voters. The cumulative impact of all of these potential sources of error is impossible to assess precisely.