

**University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll: Iowans' views on gay marriage and civil unions**  
**Topline Results**  
**April 2, 2009**

Sample: 978 Iowa adults. Margin of error for the full sample is +/- 3.1 percent.

Data were collected between March 23 and March 31, 2009. David Redlawsk and Caroline Tolbert, associate professors of political science in the University of Iowa College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, coordinated the poll.

MEDIA CONTACTS: David Redlawsk, Hawkeye Poll, 319-400-1134, [david-redlawsk@uiowa.edu](mailto:david-redlawsk@uiowa.edu);  
 Nicole Riehl, University News Services, 319-384-0070, 319-430-6576, [nicole-riehl@uiowa.edu](mailto:nicole-riehl@uiowa.edu)

---

**Question on Support for Gay Marriage in Iowa**

Some people say same sex marriage should be allowed because the right to marry is an important civil right for all. Others support same-sex civil unions but oppose gay marriage. And still others oppose both gay marriage and civil unions. What is your position? Do you: support gay marriage, oppose gay marriage but support civil unions, or oppose both gay marriage and civil unions.

Characteristic	N	Support Gay Marriage	Oppose Gay Marriage, Support Unions	Oppose Both Marriage and Unions	Don't Know/ Refused
Overall	978	26.2%	27.9%	36.7%	9.2%
Female	566	27.9%	26.5%	35.9%	9.7%
Male	411	23.8%	29.9%	37.7%	8.6%
<b>PARTY IDENTIFICATION</b>					
Republican	299	7.7%	35.8%	51.2%	5.7%
Independent	323	27.9%	26.6%	34.1%	11.1%
Democrat	302	44.4%	24.8%	22.2%	8.6%
<b>FREQUENCY OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE</b>					
More than once a week	133	7.5%	33.8%	53.4%	5.3%
Every week	342	16.7%	29.2%	46.2%	7.9%
Once or twice a month	128	27.3%	29.7%	30.5%	12.5%
A few times a year	140	42.9%	20.7%	27.9%	8.5%
Seldom or Never	218	41.2%	27.5%	21.1%	10.2%
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>					
Conservative	372	9.4%	29.6%	55.1%	2.9%
Moderate	374	29.7%	32.1%	28.3%	9.9%
Liberal	167	56.3%	21.6%	14.4%	7.7%

**MARITAL STATUS**

Married	618	24.6%	29.4%	39.3%	6.3%
Not Married	343	29.2%	26.2%	32.1%	12.5%

**EDUCATION**

High School grad	321	20.9%	26.5%	40.5%	12.1%
Some college	291	25.1%	28.2%	38.5%	8.2%
College grad	195	30.3%	29.2%	36.4%	4.1%
Post College	105	38.1%	38.1%	18.1%	5.7%

**AGE**

18-29	64	57.8%	17.2%	15.6%	9.4%
30-49	152	29.6%	32.2%	30.3%	7.9%
50-64	312	29.5%	24.7%	35.9%	9.9%
65+	450	18.2%	30.6%	42.4%	8.8%

---

## Question on Response to Possible Iowa Supreme Court Ruling

Gay marriage is before the Iowa Supreme Court which may rule that the Iowa Constitution requires that gays and lesbians be allowed to marry. If the State Supreme Court decides this way, how should Iowa respond: Amend the state Constitution to ban any same-sex relationship, amend the state Constitution to ban gay marriage but allow civil unions, or accept the Supreme Court's decision and allow gay marriage in Iowa?

Characteristic	N	Accept Decision Allow gay marriage	Amend to Ban Gay Marriage but Accept Unions	Amend to Ban any Same-Sex Relationship	Don't Know/ Refused
Overall	978	30.4%	25.0%	33.3%	9.0%
Female	566	32.3%	25.3%	32.7%	9.7%
Male	411	29.7%	26.3%	36.0%	8.0%
<b>PARTY IDENTIFICATION</b>					
Republican	299	11.0%	31.4%	52.5%	5.0%
Independent	323	33.7%	25.4%	30.3%	10.5%
Democrat	302	50.0%	21.9%	18.5%	9.6%
<b>FREQUENCY OF CHURCH ATTENDANCE</b>					
More than once a week	133	8.3%	33.8%	51.9%	4.0%
Every week	342	22.8%	26.3%	41.5%	9.4%
Once or twice a month	128	35.9%	27.3%	26.6%	10.2%
A few times a year	140	47.9%	20.7%	22.1%	9.3%
Seldom or Never	218	44.5%	22.9%	23.8%	9.7%
<b>IDEOLOGY</b>					
Conservative	372	11.6%	28.0%	54.0%	6.7%
Moderate	374	35.6%	29.1%	24.9%	10.4%
Liberal	167	65.9%	16.2%	12.6%	5.3%
<b>MARITAL STATUS</b>					
Married	618	28.5%	27.2%	36.9%	7.4%
Not Married	343	35.9%	23.6%	29.2%	11.3%
<b>EDUCATION</b>					
High School grad	321	25.2%	25.5%	38.6%	11.7%
Some college	291	31.3%	25.8%	35.4%	7.5%
College grad	195	32.3%	25.6%	33.8%	8.3%
Post College	105	46.7%	30.5%	15.2%	7.6%
<b>AGE</b>					
18-29	64	56.2%	10.9%	25.0%	7.9%
30-49	152	40.1%	25.7%	27.0%	7.2%
50-64	312	32.4%	26.0%	32.7%	8.9%
65+	450	23.8%	27.6%	38.9%	9.7%

