



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NC marriage amendment has plenty of support in primary test

Raleigh, N.C. – If next May’s North Carolina primary were held right now, the so-called marriage amendment would pass handily. 61% say they would vote for an amendment to amend the constitution establishing that marriage between one man and one woman is the only union recognized in the state. 34% would vote against it. Republicans would support it by an 80-17 margin, and independents by 52-43, but that accounts for only 36% out of the 50% needed to pass. With Democrats making up just over half of the people who say they will vote in the primary, it needs their support too, and right now it gets it. Democrats just narrowly pledge to vote for it, 49-44.

Republicans will show up for the presidential primary, and they will almost unanimously support the amendment. For the amendment to fail, Democratic support will have to be cut in half, or more Democrats who oppose the amendment will have to turn out, or independents will have to be turned against it and more of them brought to the polls, or a combination of the three.

“Our polling has repeatedly found that a majority of North Carolinians support either gay marriage or civil unions for same sex couples,” said Dean Debnam, President of Public Policy Polling. “The key for those opposed to this amendment will be to convince pro-civil union voters that it goes well beyond banning gay marriage and thus reaches too far.”

Though the gap has closed since last month, with the legislature out of session, General Assembly Republicans are still less popular than their Democratic counterparts. 38% have a favorable opinion of the Democratic legislators, and 36% of their friends across the aisle. 47% have an unfavorable opinion of the Democrats and 48% of the Republicans.

PPP surveyed 760 North Carolina voters, including 671 primary voters, from September 30th to October 3rd. The margin of error for the entire survey is +/-3.6%, and +/-3.8% for the primary portion. This poll was not paid for or authorized by any campaign or political organization. PPP surveys are conducted through automated telephone interviews. PPP is a Democratic polling company, but polling expert Nate Silver of the *New York Times* found that its surveys in 2010 actually exhibited a slight bias toward Republican candidates.





North Carolina Survey Results

Q1 If there was an election for the state legislature today, would you vote Democratic or Republican?

Democrat 44%
Republican..... 45%
Not sure 12%

Q2 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Democrats in the North Carolina Legislature?

Favorable..... 38%
Unfavorable 47%
Not sure 15%

Q3 Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of the Republicans in the North Carolina Legislature?

Favorable..... 36%
Unfavorable 48%
Not sure 17%

Q4 Do you have more faith in Governor Perdue or Legislative Republicans to lead the state?

Governor Perdue 43%
Legislative Republicans 42%
Not sure 15%

Q5 Do you think you will vote in the Democratic or Republican primary next spring, or will you not vote in a primary?

Democratic primary..... 47%
Republican primary..... 40%
Won't vote in a primary 13%

Q6 Would you vote for or against a constitutional amendment to provide that marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State? (Asked only of 671 likely primary voters)

Would vote for it..... 61%
Would vote against it 34%
Not sure 5%

Q7 Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal or illegal? (Asked only of 671 likely primary voters)

Legal..... 30%
Illegal 63%
Not sure..... 7%

Q8 Which of the following best describes your opinion on gay marriage: gay couples should be allowed to legally marry, or gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry, or there should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship? (Asked only of 671 likely primary voters)

Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry 22%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry 29%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship 46%
Not sure..... 3%

Q9 Would you describe yourself as very liberal, somewhat liberal, moderate, somewhat conservative, or very conservative?

Very liberal 10%
Somewhat liberal 16%
Moderate..... 28%
Somewhat conservative..... 25%
Very conservative 22%



Q10 If you are a woman, press 1. If a man, press 2.

Woman 51%

Man..... 49%

Q11 If you are a Democrat, press 1. If a Republican, press 2. If you are an independent or identify with another party, press 3.

Democrat 48%

Republican..... 36%

Independent/Other..... 16%

Q12 If you are white, press 1. If African-American, press 2. If other, press 3.

White 76%

African-American 20%

Other..... 4%

Q13 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1. If 30 to 45, press 2. If 46 to 65, press 3. If you are older than 65, press 4.

18 to 29..... 12%

30 to 45..... 28%

46 to 65..... 40%

Older than 65..... 20%

Q14

252..... 13%

336..... 19%

704..... 19%

828..... 15%

910..... 13%

919..... 22%



Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Generic Leg. Ballot						
Democrat	44%	77%	78%	59%	17%	13%
Republican	45%	10%	16%	24%	67%	81%
Not sure	12%	13%	6%	16%	16%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Leg. Dems Favorability						
Favorable	38%	64%	65%	49%	18%	14%
Unfavorable	47%	18%	20%	31%	65%	80%
Not sure	15%	18%	15%	20%	16%	6%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Leg. GOP Favorability						
Favorable	36%	17%	10%	19%	47%	72%
Unfavorable	48%	68%	73%	67%	28%	17%
Not sure	17%	14%	17%	14%	25%	11%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?						
Governor Perdue	43%	79%	78%	56%	19%	13%
Legislative Republicans	42%	11%	13%	19%	62%	83%
Not sure	15%	10%	9%	25%	19%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Primary Vote						
Democratic primary	47%	82%	80%	62%	24%	17%
Republican primary	40%	6%	11%	21%	59%	78%
Won't vote in a primary	13%	12%	9%	17%	17%	5%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Marriage Amendment						
Would vote for it	61%	27%	38%	44%	81%	90%
Would vote against it	34%	67%	56%	47%	16%	8%
Not sure	5%	6%	7%	9%	3%	2%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Same-sex Legal/Illegal						
Legal	30%	60%	60%	39%	13%	3%
Illegal	63%	35%	30%	51%	81%	94%
Not sure	7%	5%	11%	10%	5%	3%

	Base	Ideology				
		Very liberal	Somewhat liberal	Moderate	Somewhat conservative	Very conservative
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition						
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	22%	58%	44%	26%	8%	1%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	15%	35%	35%	36%	18%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	24%	19%	33%	54%	79%
Not sure	3%	4%	2%	6%	2%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Generic Leg. Ballot			
Democrat	44%	52%	35%
Republican	45%	37%	53%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Leg. Dems Favorability			
Favorable	38%	44%	31%
Unfavorable	47%	40%	54%
Not sure	15%	15%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Leg. GOP Favorability			
Favorable	36%	31%	41%
Unfavorable	48%	51%	44%
Not sure	17%	18%	15%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?			
Governor Perdue	43%	49%	37%
Legislative Republicans	42%	33%	51%
Not sure	15%	18%	12%





Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Primary Vote			
Democratic primary	47%	56%	38%
Republican primary	40%	34%	46%
Won't vote in a primary	13%	10%	16%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Marriage Amendment			
Would vote for it	61%	58%	65%
Would vote against it	34%	35%	32%
Not sure	5%	7%	3%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Same-sex Legal/Illegal			
Legal	30%	33%	27%
Illegal	63%	60%	66%
Not sure	7%	7%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Woman	Man
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition			
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	22%	25%	19%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	28%	30%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	44%	48%
Not sure	3%	3%	3%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	44%	79%	4%	28%
Republican	45%	12%	89%	41%
Not sure	12%	9%	7%	31%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Leg. Dems Favorability				
Favorable	38%	67%	7%	21%
Unfavorable	47%	19%	81%	53%
Not sure	15%	14%	11%	26%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Leg. GOP Favorability				
Favorable	36%	11%	70%	33%
Unfavorable	48%	73%	15%	46%
Not sure	17%	17%	15%	21%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?				
Governor Perdue	43%	70%	8%	41%
Legislative Republicans	42%	12%	82%	40%
Not sure	15%	18%	10%	19%





Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Primary Vote				
Democratic primary	47%	89%	5%	21%
Republican primary	40%	3%	87%	41%
Won't vote in a primary	13%	8%	8%	38%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Marriage Amendment				
Would vote for it	61%	49%	80%	52%
Would vote against it	34%	44%	17%	43%
Not sure	5%	7%	3%	4%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Same-sex Legal/Illegal				
Legal	30%	39%	14%	43%
Illegal	63%	52%	81%	51%
Not sure	7%	8%	5%	6%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Independent/Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	22%	32%	7%	29%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	28%	30%	30%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	35%	62%	39%
Not sure	3%	5%	1%	2%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Generic Leg. Ballot				
Democrat	44%	33%	80%	63%
Republican	45%	55%	8%	26%
Not sure	12%	12%	11%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Leg. Dems Favorability				
Favorable	38%	28%	70%	58%
Unfavorable	47%	57%	15%	30%
Not sure	15%	15%	15%	12%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Leg. GOP Favorability				
Favorable	36%	43%	12%	29%
Unfavorable	48%	41%	66%	70%
Not sure	17%	16%	22%	2%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?				
Governor Perdue	43%	34%	75%	63%
Legislative Republicans	42%	51%	10%	27%
Not sure	15%	15%	15%	10%





Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Primary Vote				
Democratic primary	47%	38%	81%	55%
Republican primary	40%	49%	6%	29%
Won't vote in a primary	13%	13%	12%	16%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Marriage Amendment				
Would vote for it	61%	59%	71%	42%
Would vote against it	34%	36%	24%	38%
Not sure	5%	4%	5%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Same-sex Legal/Illegal				
Legal	30%	32%	21%	39%
Illegal	63%	61%	75%	41%
Not sure	7%	7%	4%	20%

	Base	Race		
		White	African-American	Other
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition				
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	22%	24%	14%	30%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	29%	29%	28%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	45%	51%	35%
Not sure	3%	2%	6%	7%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Generic Leg. Ballot					
Democrat	44%	62%	34%	47%	40%
Republican	45%	26%	52%	43%	48%
Not sure	12%	13%	14%	10%	11%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Leg. Dems Favorability					
Favorable	38%	54%	32%	39%	34%
Unfavorable	47%	33%	52%	47%	49%
Not sure	15%	13%	16%	14%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Leg. GOP Favorability					
Favorable	36%	28%	39%	36%	35%
Unfavorable	48%	49%	47%	49%	45%
Not sure	17%	23%	13%	15%	20%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?					
Governor Perdue	43%	59%	37%	44%	41%
Legislative Republicans	42%	18%	47%	44%	46%
Not sure	15%	23%	16%	12%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Primary Vote					
Democratic primary	47%	67%	36%	50%	48%
Republican primary	40%	15%	47%	41%	41%
Won't vote in a primary	13%	18%	17%	9%	12%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Marriage Amendment					
Would vote for it	61%	53%	66%	61%	61%
Would vote against it	34%	44%	30%	34%	32%
Not sure	5%	3%	4%	5%	7%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Same-sex Legal/Illegal					
Legal	30%	41%	27%	31%	27%
Illegal	63%	53%	69%	62%	63%
Not sure	7%	6%	4%	7%	10%

	Base	Age			
		18 to 29	30 to 45	46 to 65	Older than 65
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition					
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	22%	28%	24%	22%	16%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	31%	23%	32%	31%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	34%	52%	44%	48%
Not sure	3%	6%	2%	2%	5%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Generic Leg. Ballot							
Democrat	44%	49%	39%	50%	36%	42%	45%
Republican	45%	39%	49%	41%	52%	44%	42%
Not sure	12%	12%	12%	9%	12%	14%	13%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Leg. Dems Favorability							
Favorable	38%	42%	33%	42%	34%	38%	37%
Unfavorable	47%	47%	52%	46%	50%	46%	43%
Not sure	15%	11%	15%	11%	15%	16%	20%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Leg. GOP Favorability							
Favorable	36%	32%	38%	42%	38%	35%	30%
Unfavorable	48%	46%	45%	42%	49%	48%	54%
Not sure	17%	21%	17%	16%	14%	18%	15%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
More Faith in Perdue or Leg. GOP?							
Governor Perdue	43%	39%	37%	46%	37%	49%	50%
Legislative Republicans	42%	36%	47%	45%	44%	41%	38%
Not sure	15%	25%	16%	10%	19%	10%	13%





Crosstabs

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Primary Vote							
Democratic primary	47%	55%	44%	51%	41%	42%	50%
Republican primary	40%	33%	38%	40%	52%	31%	41%
Won't vote in a primary	13%	12%	17%	8%	8%	27%	9%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Marriage Amendment							
Would vote for it	61%	75%	54%	66%	64%	62%	53%
Would vote against it	34%	20%	42%	28%	30%	35%	41%
Not sure	5%	6%	4%	6%	5%	3%	6%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Same-sex Legal/Illegal							
Legal	30%	15%	31%	22%	32%	34%	42%
Illegal	63%	78%	62%	70%	63%	59%	51%
Not sure	7%	7%	7%	8%	5%	7%	6%

	Base	Area Code					
		252	336	704	828	910	919
Gay Marriage/Civ. Unions/No Recognition							
Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry	22%	11%	26%	15%	22%	20%	31%
Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not marry	29%	33%	30%	31%	22%	26%	32%
There should be no recognition of a gay couple's relationship	46%	55%	43%	47%	55%	52%	32%
Not sure	3%	1%	0%	8%	1%	2%	5%

