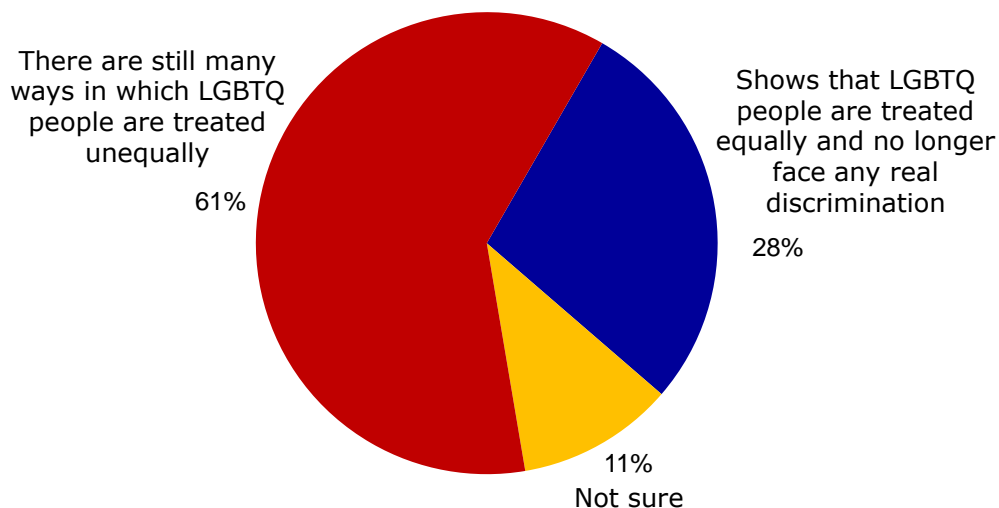


TO: All Interested Parties
FROM: Hart Research Associates
DATE: December 13, 2017
RE: Key Findings from Ohio Survey on LGBTQ Equality

From November 9 to 16, 2017, Hart Research conducted a statewide survey among voters in Ohio. A total of 400 voters were interviewed by telephone; the survey's margin of error is ± 5 percentage points for the full sample and is higher for subgroups of the sample. This memorandum highlights the key findings that emerge from this research.

- **Ohioans know that LGBTQ people still face discrimination and that marriage is not the final word on LGBTQ equality.** As outlined below, a solid majority of Ohio voters support marriage equality for same-sex couples. But they also know that being able to marry does not preclude discrimination against LGBTQ people in other areas. More than three in five (61%) voters say that there are still many ways in which LGBTQ people are treated unequally.

Two years ago the U.S. Supreme Court made it legal for same-sex couples to get married in all 50 states: Which statement about this comes closer to your point of view?



Hart Research Associates

- **Support for LGBTQ equality proposals is very high.** Majorities of Ohioans support a range of pro-LGBTQ positions; granting family and medical leave to LGBTQ workers is especially popular, with two-thirds of voters supporting it. Fewer than one in three voters takes an anti-LGBTQ position on any issue.

Favor/Oppose LGBTQ Policies		
	Favor	Oppose
	%	%
Giving LGBTQ employees access to paid family and medical leave—for the birth or adoption of a child, or to care for a sick family member—without fear of losing a paycheck or their job	68	11
Making it against the law to discriminate against LGBTQ people in employment, including in hiring and firing decisions	61	21
Allowing same-sex couples to get legally married	56	27
Allowing LGBTQ people to legally adopt children	55	27
Making it against the law to discriminate against LGBTQ people in housing	53	28

- **At the same time, majorities of Ohioans oppose two major Trump administration anti-LGBTQ policies.** Voters oppose efforts to impinge upon LGBTQ equality as much as they favor proactive policies to protect them. Each of the major LGBTQ-related policies the Trump administration has proposed receives major pushback from Ohio’s voters.

Favor/Oppose Trump Administration LGBTQ Policies		
	Favor	Oppose
	%	%
Allowing business owners to deny services to LGBTQ people if they say doing so would violate their religious beliefs	28	51
Banning transgender people from serving in the U.S. armed forces	23	59

- **A federal Equality Act and a group of state-specific protections receive similarly high levels of support.** A majority (53%) of Ohio voters support a federal Equality Act that would make it against the law to deny services to LGBTQ people and would ban discrimination against LGBTQ people in employment and housing—more than double the proportion (22%) who oppose this.

Fifty-one percent (51%) of voters say they would support a range of protections for LGBTQ people in Ohio, including the following:

- ✓ Making it against the law to discriminate against LGBTQ people in private employment, housing, and places of public accommodation;
- ✓ Banning so-called conversion therapy; and
- ✓ Passing additional non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ prospective parents and kids in foster care and adoption.

Only one in five (22%) Ohioans opposes this group of protections. And, notably, strong supporters outnumber strong opponents by 23 points (37% to 14%).

- **Right-leaning voters endorse most of these pro-LGBTQ positions.** It is not solely liberals who take the side of LGBTQ equality on these issues. Republican voters are more likely to adopt a pro-LGBTQ position than an anti-LGBTQ position on many of these issues, the exceptions being marriage equality, adoption, and allowing business owners to deny services.

Republican opposition is nominal even on a federal Equality Act (29% oppose) and Ohio-specific protections (35% oppose), and roughly equal proportions say they are in favor of each.

- **Ohio voters take a very negative view of anti-LGBTQ elected officials.** Early in the survey, before respondents have heard the types of LGBTQ protections in question, 43% of voters say that if an elected official opposed LGBTQ equality it would make them feel less favorable toward that official; just 9% say they would feel more favorable toward the official, a margin of 34 points on the negative side. By the end of the survey, once they have some awareness of the types of protections we are talking about, that margin grows to 36 points, with 46% of voters saying they would feel less favorable toward an anti-LGBTQ official and 10% saying they would feel more favorable.