

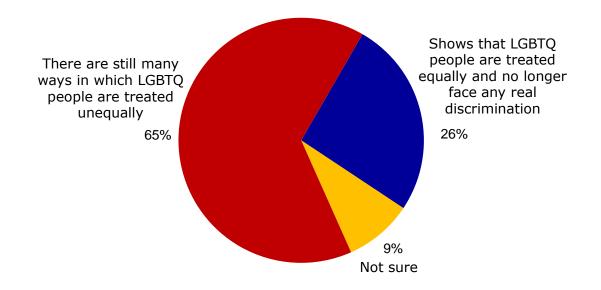
- TO: All Interested Parties
- FROM: Hart Research Associates
- DATE: December 14, 2017

## **RE:** Key Findings from Pennsylvania Survey on LGBTQ Equality

From November 9 to 16, 2017, Hart Research conducted a statewide survey among voters in Pennsylvania. A total of 400 voters were interviewed by telephone; the survey's margin of error is  $\pm 5$  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.

Pennsylvania voters 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 Pennsylvania 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. Two-thirds (65%) of Keystone State 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 Pennsylvanians support a range of pro-LGBTQ positions; granting family and medical leave to LGBTQ workers is especially popular, with seven in 10 voters supporting it. At most one in four 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	71	10	
Allowing LGBTQ people to legally adopt children	<b>59</b>	23	
Making it against the law to discriminate against LGBTQ people in employment, including in hiring and firing decisions	56	25	
Allowing same-sex couples to get legally married	55	24	
Making it against the law to discriminate against LGBTQ people in housing	53	26	

At the same time, in Pennsylvania there is considerable opposition to two major Trump administration anti-LGBTQ policies. Just as they favor policies that protect LGBTQ rights, Pennsylvanians oppose efforts to impinge upon LGBTQ equality. Each of the major LGBTQ-related policies the Trump administration has proposed is opposed by half or more of Pennsylvania's voters.

Favor/Oppose Trump Administration LGBTQ Policies			
	<u>Favor</u> %	Oppose %	
Allowing business owners to deny services to LGBTQ people if they say doing so would violate their religious beliefs	27	49	
Banning transgender people from serving in the U.S. armed forces	23	53	

A federal Equality Act and a group of state-specific protections receive similarly high levels of support. A majority (56%) of Pennsylvania 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 (25%) who oppose this. Fifty-four percent (54%) of Pennsylvania voters say they would support a range of protections for LGBTQ people in the Commonwealth, including:

- Prohibiting discrimination against LGBTQ people in private employment, housing, and public accommodation;
- ✓ Banning so-called conversion therapy; and
- Passing non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ prospective parents and kids in foster care and adoption.

Less than one in five (18%) Pennsylvania voters opposes this group of protections. And, notably, *strong* supporters outnumber strong opponents by 31 percentage points (42% to 11%).

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 all of these issues.

Republicans are also more likely than not to favor a federal Equality Act (43% to 33%) and Pennsylvania-specific protections (37% to 28%).

Pennsylvania voters take a very negative view of anti-LGBTQ elected officials. Early in the survey, even before respondents have heard the types of LGBTQ protections in question, 46% of voters say that if an elected official opposed LGBTQ equality it would make them feel less favorable toward that official; just 11% say they would feel more favorable toward the official, a margin of 35 points on the negative side.