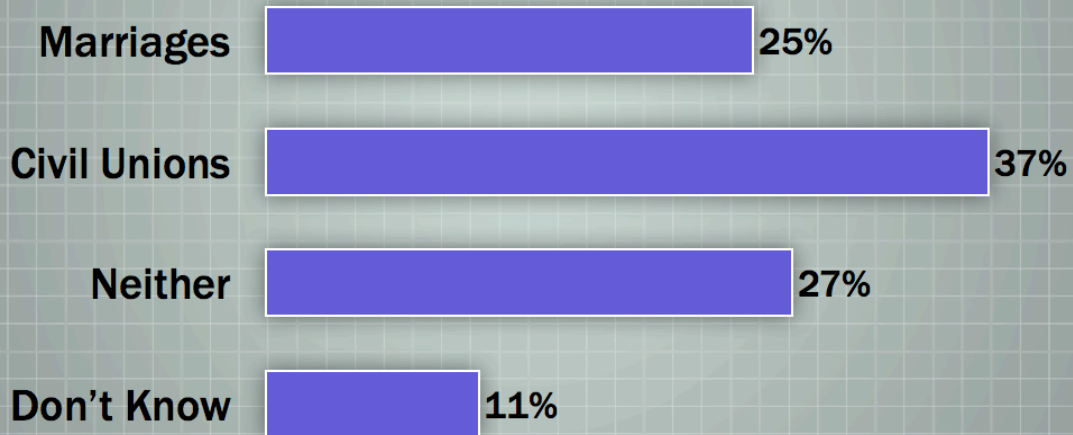


“INSIDE” INTELLIGENCE

*The Texas Weekly/Texas Tribune insider poll
for the week of 24 January 2014*

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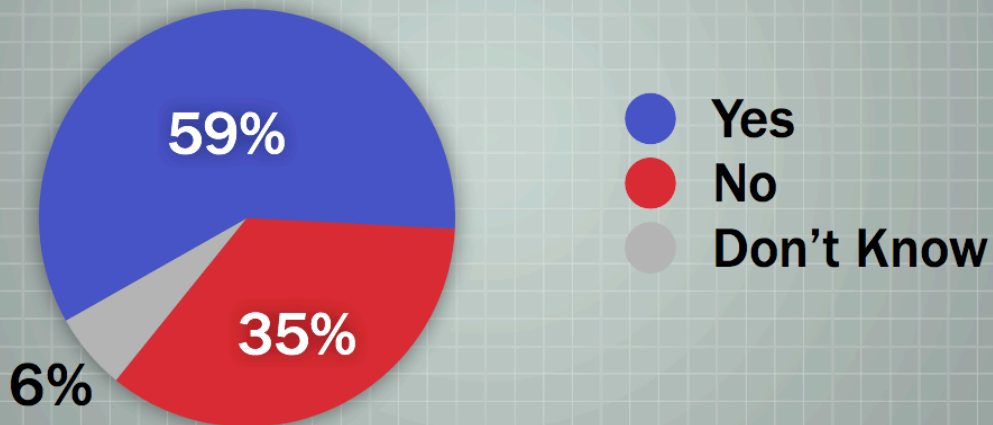
Will Texas eventually recognize same-sex relationships?



Inside Intelligence is an informal survey of political and government insiders in Texas and is not meant to measure public opinion.

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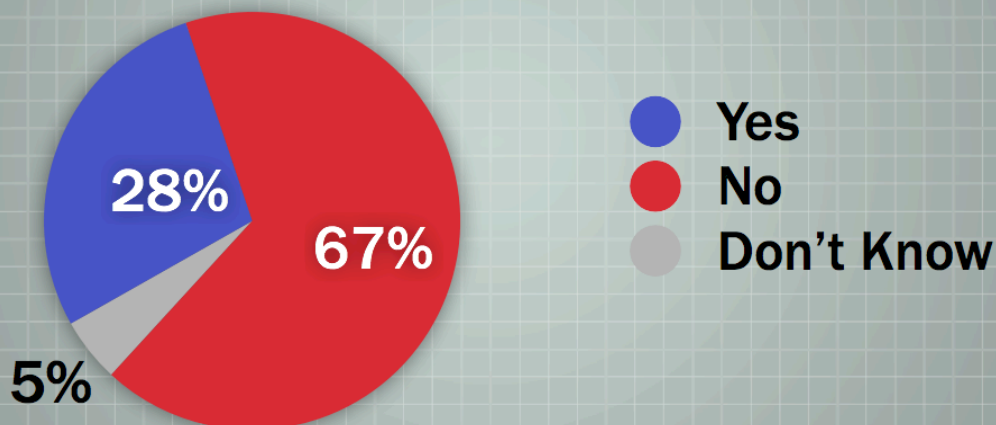
Should the state offer benefits to same-sex partners?



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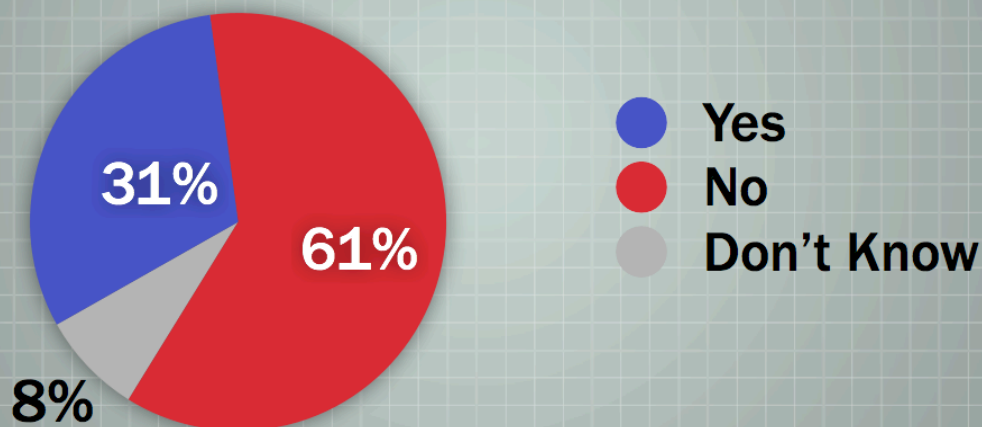
Will same-sex unions be an election issue this year?



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Will same-sex unions be a legislative issue next year?



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Will the state of Texas eventually recognize same-sex marriages or civil unions?

- "I believe Mayor Parker of Houston send a cleared message when she waited until after her election to get married. Houston's electorate is approaching 70% democrat, but polling showed that even democrats have a hard time swallowing gay marriage. I think civil unions will be more acceptable."
- "Can the Lege muster the votes to take it out of the constitution? Probably not."
- "What does eventually mean? In 100 years?"
- "Eventually they will be compelled to do so by the federal courts."
- "Eventually, as in two decades from now..."
- "Eventually? Yes."
- "While the rest of the nation progresses, Texans will pridefully embrace their redneck ways while the politicians pander to the people."
- "This one is going to take a while - that's so far out it's too fuzzy to tell. I wouldn't let the perceived apathy in Houston currently be a guide here. If this was to show up as a serious campaign issue it would certainly drive turnout - it would be the best gift the Republicans could ask for."
- "But it may only be after the federal government makes it law and it will be a very long time from now."
- "This fight is over. Equality won."
- "Define eventually"
- "The key word being 'eventually.'"
- "The courts will do it for us."
- "It certainly won't happen overnight. But with more court cases in the works, and some that have already been filed in Texas, it looks like we're headed to a day where the state won't have a choice."
- "Honestly, I just don't know. We have moved so far 'backwards' on so many things, it would be far to 'progressive' for us."
- "Eventually is the key word. It will be many years down the road, but eventually same-sex marriages will be legal in Texas."
- "The war is over, but some battles rage on. Same sex partners will eventually have benefits all over the US."
- "The train is picking up steam!!!"
- "We will fight and make the New York Times front pages several times."
- "I don't think either will happen anytime soon unless/until the federal courts order it."
- "Not in our professional lifetimes."
- "Almost don't care.. If we remain part of the Union and same sex marriage is legal in the United States then I expect Texas will eventually recognize it legally."

- "Federal Courts will require it"
- "Maybe in 10-20 years. Too much hate right now."
- "Marriages are sacred and rooted in religious symbolism as between one man and one woman. No-fault divorce, contrary to popular belief, doesn't destroy the institution of marriage. They will remain so until government entities are forced (by judicial fiat or voter will) to either change it or reject it."
- "Probably will be one of the last states to do so as long as the right wing is in charge, but one of these years, every state will."
- "Not even the State of Texas can defy the US Constitution. Usually."
- "It is the civil rights movement of our era. People who oppose it will look like Strom Thurmond in 15 years."
- "Eventually? Of course. Our lifetime? Doubtful"
- "The way the legal environment is changing, Texas may not have a choice. Any more than it can prohibit miscegenation."
- "Eventually is a long time..."
- "Only a matter of time - but Texas will fight it every step of the way."
- "Probably happen but unlikely to be a product of the Legislature."
- "Eventually they will; the federal judiciary seems intent on requiring it."
- "Eventually.... yes. Probably not anytime soon though."
- "Once the US Supreme Court compels it as a matter of constitutional law"
- "The tide has turned."
- "Eventually. I think they will be forced to."
- "Texans don't have a reputation for bowing to political pressure."
- "It will happen but only after another 20 years."
- "The US Supreme Court will force recognition before the State of Texas does."
- "Eventually, like before the end of time?"
- "First civil unions, then marriages - by the end of the decade."
- "The trend in public support for gay marriage is evident, especially among young voters. Even groups in which gay marriage has traditionally experienced less support, e.g., evangelicals, demonstrate this trend among younger voters. The effects of cohort replacement will bring gay marriage to Texas within the next 20-30 years."
- "Eventually yes, soon, unfortunately probably not."
- "If either is recognized, it is likely to be civil unions, and that will be a long time coming."
- "Texas won't, but it should."

- "The far right wing of the GOP would take back a woman's right to vote if they could. Thankfully they aren't running the state."
- "Personal freedom? In Texas? What's next, allowing women to vote and black people to sit where they want on a bus?"
- "Gay marriage will eventually become the law of the land."
- "Not without a direct order from the US Supreme Court and a federal threat of marshal law - even then, probably not."
- "Civil unions? That's so 1996. Gay marriage advocates have dispensed with that transitional step now that Justice Kennedy has cleared the way

for the full Monty. But gay marriage will only come to Texas by court order, and that's unlikely to happen any time soon."

- "But it will be a while yet."
- "Eventually could be a very long time."
- "Full faith and credit will require that Texas recognize valid marriages in other states; but I don't think Texas will move beyond civil unions for state law in the near future"
- "Eventually, perhaps, but not anytime soon."
- "Some day...just not soon."
- "2050 maybe..."

Should the state offer benefits to same-sex partners of state employees?

- "It's a slippery slope. The system will be prone to fraud. The state should first deal on whether or not to allow gay marriage in TX."
- "Once it is a recognized marriage, then yes."
- "This is a major reason why same sex marriages must be legalized. Otherwise, people will be showing up at the office demanding insurance benefits for the really cool person they met last Friday who moved in over the weekend. There is no legal definition of 'partner' for either heterosexuals or homosexuals -- (Who am I to say someone is not in a committed relationship with someone

just because they only met last week)?"

- "Should it? Yes. Will it? Probably not until the issue is forced."
- "If the State refuses to allow a state employee to enter into a legally-recognized marriage, then the least it could do is allow the employee to provide the same benefits to his or her 'partner' I was allowed to provide for my spouse."
- "It's anti traditional marriage and under equal protection if it is extended to same sex couples what about opposite sex couples?"
- "If it helps attract top talent, sure."

- "We'll treat benefits like portability of health care: take it where you want to go."
- "Don't we pay enough for state employees already?"
- "If they are married."
- "Yes, but only if they're a part of a 'civil union' ... informal relationships with a hotboy from the dance club will not count."
- "Not unless and until they're in a civil union or married. The state doesn't offer benefits to hetero, non-married couples. Why should non-married same-sex couples get those benefits? If the courts decide that same-sex couples deserve the benefits without marriage, then look for non-married hetero couples to seek (and get) benefits, too. Then watch the state stop offering benefits altogether--it simply cannot afford to support benefits for same-sex and hetero non-married couples, as well as married couples."
- "Of course, unless we insist on being a bastion of bigotry."
- "Probably yes. But state budget writers can hide behind the fiscal impact such a move would make."
- "What could matter less?"
- "Should they? No. Will they? Yep."
- "It's now a business competition issue"
- "If gay marriage was legal in the state I would have no problem with doing it. But, I don't think same-sex or different-sex partners should be eligible for benefits."
- "Think about the abuses. College roommates could apply. Brothers or sisters could apply by lying about their sexual orientation."
- "Not til same-sex marriages or civil unions are recognized by Texas"
- "Same-sex couples should have the same rights as a Kardashian marriage."
- "It will happen eventually."
- "We're busting the budget offering the benefits to the employees we've got. We'll go broke offering it anyone else."
- "No, not without a contract of legitimacy."

Will same-sex unions be an issue in this year's elections?

- "Leave no dog whistle unblown."
- "Wendy Davis' biography will be the main issue. Latino mothers will want to know why the judge awarded custody of her children to her ex husband."
- "Only in terms of who opposes them the most."
- "Maybe in Austin. Not in Texas, though. HA!"
- "And by 'an issue' do you mean that Republicans will campaign on their

hatred for homosexuals and all things non-white, male WASP? Then 'yes' it will be 'an issue'."

- "Any candidate outside of maybe a couple of city council precincts in the entire state that would even want to make this an issue is really only working to promote Republican GOTV. Find a way to put this on the ballot - and you've just turned the state from red to scarlet."

- "I think that is a maybe really. The R's will make it an issue. However, it is becoming similar to abortion. The politicians care about it while the public shrugs its shoulders. It is an issue for the extremes."

- "Democrats have embraced this and Republicans, except for Sarah Davis, all oppose it. Not an issue. No debate."

- "Wendy will talk about it, but it won't help her (or hurt her) much. People who care about this issue have already decided which candidate they want."

- "They might serve as campaign fodder in some Republican primaries, but I don't see them being a game changer in any election. It's easy enough to predict where most candidates stand on the issue already."

- "If it is, it won't be a factor in the way supporters of equal rights hope."

- "Only to the extent the press and Democrats can push it."

- "May pop up if the HD 92 race gets ugly. Not sure if Cargile wants to make an issue of it."

- "Some Houston area folks might try to make it an issue because of Mayor Parker's recent act, but around the state it's not an issue that comes up when officeholders and candidates talk to voters."

- "Not in this state since no one is talking about it."

- "It's hard to see how either party could benefit from the issue. True believers on both sides have already picked a party."

- "Statewide ballot Ds will be forced to embrace the issue - and that will further alienate candidates from the far more conservative voter base across Texas."

- "The right wingers will launch their usual crusade on family values, at least as they define it, but their sermons are beginning to grow old."

- "Doubtful. I think the number of voters that think of it as a pivotal issue would be minimal."

- "It will be one of the many federal overreach issues discussed. Presidents aren't exempt from the law and U.S. Constitution."

- "As a Republican, I would like the party to shift more of their focus from social issues to the economy and continuing to sustain a health business climate. Allow people to marry who they want to marry and pay their taxes accordingly."

- "We are still years away from same-sex unions moving voters in a meaningful way in the general election in Texas. The first battleground over this issue will be in

primaries among Latino Democrats, who are predominantly Catholic and also demonstrate a growing Pentecostal influence."

- "It is not likely since it would not benefit the Democrats to make that an issue."
- "It depends on whether Dan Patrick is the nominee. If that's the case, then everything is on the table."

• "Won't be a direct election issue, although GOP will tie all Dem state candidates to national Democratic agenda."

- "It will be an issue that will get the Democrats all lathered-up during their primaries."
- "Only in Republican primaries as a talking point."

Will same-sex unions be an issue in next year's legislative session?

- "It will become an issue once the democrats take over the House."
- "At least not a serious issue."
- "It will be filed and never given a hearing by a Republican chair"
- "You betcha. And its gonna be ugly."
- "Maybe but futile"
- "It will be an issue in the negative, meaning DOMA type proposals."
- "As the topic of same-sex marriage continues to swirl around the Supreme Court, members will surely file bills on the subject - especially those who want to prove their Republican bona fides."
- "The conservatives will bury it."
- "Of course, it always is now in the 21st century, even if it's only a few very loud hard line right wingers screaming"

• "Gay-friendly politicians know there's no point in bringing it up right now."

• "It'll become an issue if the courts make it an issue. Will SCOTUS take up the Utah case? Which other cases might come before SCOTUS between now and then that will draw out supporters of both sides of the issue?"

• "If I were a liberal, I would wait for the federal courts. If I were a conservative, I would have a hard time thinking of what else could be done. Art 1, sec 32 of the Texas Constitution pretty much covers it."

• "As long as the overall ideological makeup of the legislature stays the same, this issue will be a non-starter."

• "See above"

• "I am sure there will be some go nowhere legislation, but I guess if the gay marriage ban is knocked down then there could be some more action."

- "We can expect Democrats to behave like Democrats."
- "A bill will possibly be filed but it will gain no traction whatsoever."
- "If Dan Patrick is Lt. Gov as Palin says, 'you betcha!'"
- "This issue is not going away. Outside of the Baby Boomer generation, allowing people of the same sex to get married and have the same rights as all other married couples is generally accepted. You should have a right to marry or enter into a civil union with your chosen one and judgment should only be between the couple and their god."
- "We are still years away from same-sex unions moving voters in a meaningful way in the general election in Texas. The first battleground over this issue will be in primaries among Latino Democrats, who are predominantly Catholic and also demonstrate a growing Pentecostal influence."
- "By next Session, same-sex unions may have evolved to an issue for certain Members of the Legislature. It is difficult to say at this juncture. There does not appear to be much impetus to make same-sex unions an issue."
- "I don't think letting black people vote could pass this legislature. Wait, with Voter ID it essentially didn't."
- "Perhaps a show issue, but nothing will pass."
- "It will never see the light of day."
- "Not really. Bills will be filed, but they will be DOA."
- "Surely people understand that this is a no-win issue.... why tackle it?"
- "No need. DOMA is still in place."
- "It will not likely get a lot of traction, but will certainly be an issue."

Our thanks to this week's participants: Gene Acuna, Cathie Adams, Brandon Aghamalian, Jenny Aghamalian, Brandon Alderete, Clyde Alexander, George Allen, Jay Arnold, Charles Bailey, Dave Beckwith, Andrew Biar, Allen Blakemore, Tom Blanton, Hugh Brady, Chris Britton, Lydia Camarillo, Kerry Cammack, Marc Campos, Janis Carter, Corbin Casteel, William Chapman, Elizabeth Christian, Elna Christopher, Kevin Cooper, Beth Cubriel, Randy Cubriel, Jenna Dailey, Denise Davis, Hector De Leon, June Dadrack, Nora Del Bosque, Glenn Deshields, Holly DeShields, Tom Duffy, David Dunn, Richard Dyer, Jeff Eller, Jack Erskine, Gay Erwin, John Esparza, Jon Fisher, Wil Galloway, Norman Garza, Dominic Giarratani, Bruce Gibson, Stephanie Gibson, Daniel Gonzalez, Jim Grace, Thomas Graham, John Greytok, Michael Grimes, Clint Hackney, Anthony Haley, Wayne Hamilton, Bill Hammond, Richard Hardy, John Heasley, Jim Henson, Ken Hodges, Kathy Hutto, Deborah Ingersoll, Jason Johnson, Bill Jones, Mark Jones, Robert Jones, Robert Kepple, Richard Khouri, Tom Kleinworth, Nick Lampson, Pete Laney, Bill Lauderback, Dick Lavine, James LeBas, Donald Lee, Luke Legate, Leslie Lemon, Ruben Longoria, Matt Mackowiak, Luke Marchant, Phillip Martin, Kathy Miller, Bee Moorhead, Mike

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