

Third Way Washington Post Election Frequency Questionnaire

November 3-5, 2009
617 Voters

Q.3 First of all, are you registered to vote at this address?

	Total
Yes.....	100
No	-
(Refused)	-
(ref:SCREEN1)	

Q.4 As you may know, there was a recent mail in referendum in Washington state on several public questions on the ballot. Many people weren't able to vote. How about you? Were you able to vote or for some reason were you unable to vote?

	Total
Voted	100
Did not vote.....	-
(Can't remember/don't know).....	-
(Refused)(TERMINATE)	-
(Have not voted yet)	-
(ref:CP5)	

Q.5 Generally speaking, do you think that things in Washington are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	Total
Right direction	40
Wrong track	44
(Don't know/refused).....	16
Right - Wrong	-4
(ref:DIRECTME)	

Q.7 Now, I'd like to rate your feelings toward some people with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred, the higher the number the more favorable your feelings are toward that person or organization. If you have no opinion or never heard of that person, please say so.

	Mean	% Warm	% Cool	% ID
6 Barack Obama	58	55	34	98
7 Christine Gregoire	51	46	38	96
8 Gay and lesbian people.....	63	44	18	84
9 Equal Rights Washington	63	35	13	57

	Mean	% Warm	% Cool	% ID
10 Senator Patty Murray..... (ref:THERM04)	56	48	30	91

[597 Respondents]

Q.11 [ALLOCATED] One of the questions on the ballot read as follows: 'The bill will expand the rights, responsibilities and obligations accorded state-registered same sex and senior domestic partners to be equivalent to those of married spouses, except that a domestic partnership is not a marriage.'

Did you vote to approve this bill or to reject it?

	Total
Approve	52
Reject.....	48
(Refused)	-
(ref:BALLOTPO)	

Q.12 Do you recall seeing or hearing anything recently asking people to APPROVE Referendum 71 and supporting domestic partnerships for gay and lesbian couples?

	Total
Yes.....	66
No	31
(Don't know/refused).....	3
Yes - No	36
(ref:RECALLAP)	

[408 Respondents]

Q.13 (IF YES) What was the main message from people asking you to approve Referendum 71?

	Total
EQUALITY/VALUES	60
Equality/fairness/civil rights/everyone should be same.....	41
Denying them rights/hospital visitations/benefits.....	11
Same sex couples should have same rights/should be allowed to have family	8
ADS	10
TV ads/radio/newspaper/calls	4
Woman not able to visit dying partner in hospital.....	4
Signs	2
Other ad	0
WHY APPROVE REFERENDUM 71	6
Not just about gays/affects seniors	2
Right thing to do	1
Let people do what they want/make their own decisions	1
It's about love/two people who love each other/everyone deserves happiness	1
Every family does not need "mom" and "dad"	1
Not a threat to marriage	0
Other reason	1
INSTRUCTIONS	5
Approve 71	4
To vote against it/reject it	1
Should vote	0
AGAINST DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP RIGHTS	1
OTHER	6
DK/REFUSED	11
(ref:RCLAPOE2)	

Q.14 Do you recall seeing or hearing anything recently asking people to REJECT Referendum 71 and oppose domestic partnership laws?

	Total
Yes.....	52
No	44
(Don't know/refused).....	3
Yes - No	8
(ref:RECALRJ)	

[324 Respondents]

Q.15 (IF YES) What was the main message from people asking you to reject Referendum 71?

	Total
PROTECT TRADITIONAL FAMILIES	34
Save marriage/threatens sanctity of marriage/one step closer to gay marriage	19
Marriage is between a man and a woman	10
Protect families/not real families/against families	4
Do it for your children/protect your children.....	2
WASTEFUL	5
Legislature wasting time/money/focus on more important issues	3
Costs/will cost government/budget/taxes	2
RELIGIOUS	5
Against religion/church/God/Bible	4
Morally wrong.....	1
REJECT 71	5
ADS	3
Generic mention of ads/TV/radio/newspaper/calls.....	2
Teaching about two dads in school	1
SCHOOLS	2
OTHER	24
Hate/bigotry/homophobic	8
They already have rights/will gain rights they shouldn't have/should not be equal.....	4
Saw signs/protesters	4
Other	9
DK/REF/NOTHING/NOT CONTACTED	20

(ref:RCLRJOE2)

Q.16 Regardless of how you voted, which of the following do you believe is the best reason to have approved Referendum 71 and to support domestic partnerships?

	Total
We should not have one set of rules for one group of people and another set of rules for another; everyone should be treated equally under the law.	29
We should not take away a safety net from any families, including protections families need such as family and medical leave and protections for children when a parent dies.	24
I support marriage for gay and lesbian couples and this is a step towards marriage equality.	10
Allowing gay and lesbian couples to enter into domestic partnerships will create more stable homes for their children.	5
(All)	11
(None)	21
(Don't know/refused).....	6
(ref:REASONAP)	

Q.17 Regardless of how you voted, which of the following do you believe is the best reason to have rejected Referendum 71 and to oppose domestic partnerships?

	Total
Gay and lesbian couples have a right to live as they choose, but they do not have the right to redefine marriage for the rest of us. This law is the final step towards gay marriage.	29
Gay and lesbian couples already have sufficient legal protections under existing domestic partnership laws and don't need this law.	13
Studies show that children are better off being raised by a mother and father	12
Homosexuality is a sin and we should not recognize same sex relationships	8
(All)	5
(None)	32
(Don't know/refused).....	6
(ref:REASONRJ)	

Q.18 Regardless of how you voted on the domestic partnership referendum, do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?

	Total
Strongly favor.....	31
Somewhat favor.....	12
Somewhat oppose.....	11
Strongly oppose.....	39
(Don't know/refused).....	8
Total favor	43
Total oppose	49
Favor - Oppose	-7
(ref:GMBALLOT)	

Q.19 Which one of the following statements do you most agree with when it comes to the issue of gay and lesbian couples?

	Total
Gay and lesbian couples should have the same legal right to marry as do a man and a woman.	35
Gay and lesbian couples should have the same legal rights that a man and a woman have, but it should not be called marriage.	16
Marriage under the law should only be between a man and a woman, but there should be domestic partnerships or some other legal rights for gay and lesbian couples.	24
There should be no legal recognition of a relationship between gay or lesbian couples.	19
(All)	1
(None).....	4
(Don't know/refused).....	2
(ref:FOURWAY)	

[308 Respondents]

Q.20 (SPLIT B) Some people say that if we allow gay and lesbian couples to marry, gay marriage and gay families will be taught about in our public schools and will be presented as equal to heterosexual marriage.

If gay and lesbian couples are allowed to marry how concerned are you about the following statements.

	Very Conc	Smwt Conc	A Little Conc	Not at All	DK/ Ref	Very/ Smwt Conv	Little/ Not Conv
20 More kids will experiment with homosexuality	26	8	9	54	3	34	63
21 Schools will be teaching lessons about homosexuality that should only be taught at home.	33	16	8	39	3	50	47
22 More kids will be raised by gay parents.....	21	13	10	57	1	33	66
23 Young people will be more accepting of gay and lesbian couples	23	13	8	54	2	36	62
(ref:AGREE3)							

[309 Respondents]

Q.24 (SPLIT A) Some people say that if we allow gay and lesbian couples to marry, gay marriage and gay families will be taught about in our public schools and will be presented as equal to heterosexual marriage.

If gay and lesbian couples are allowed to marry how likely are the following statements.

	Very Likly	Smwt Likly	Smwt Un likly	Very Un likly	DK/ Ref	Total Likly	Total Un Ikly	Likly - UnLkly
24 More kids will experiment with homosexuality	16	17	18	43	6	33	61	-29
25 Schools will be teaching lessons about homosexuality that should only be taught at home.	32	15	21	26	6	47	47	0
26 More kids will be raised by gay parents....	28	27	16	17	12	55	33	22
27 Young people will be more accepting of gay and lesbian couples (ref:AGREE2)	47	37	7	4	4	85	11	73

Q.28 Please tell me which of the following statements come closest to your point of view.

	1st Stmt Strng	1st Not Strng	2nd Not Strng	2nd Stmt Strng	DK/ Ref	Total 1st Stmt	Total 2nd Stmt	1st - 2nd	
[309 Respondents]									
28 (SPLIT C) STATEMENT A: School curriculum should include some age appropriate material about the diversity of Washington families including families headed by same-sex couples.									
OR									
STATEMENT B: Some things are best taught at home and school curriculum should not include any material about gay marriage or gay families. 25									
	14	11	43	1	3	2	39	55	-16
[308 Respondents]									
29 (SPLIT D) STATEMENT A: No child should be made to feel ashamed, including the children of same sex couples, and some age appropriate material about the diversity of Washington families should be part of the school curriculum									
OR									
STATEMENT B: Some things are best taught at home and school curriculum should not include any material about gay marriage or gay families. 27									
	12	14	38	1	4	4	40	51	-12
(ref:SCHLPAIR)									

Q.30 How would you describe the state of marriage in this country? Do you think it is in good shape, faces minor problems or faces major problems?

	Total
Good shape	10
Minor problems	29
Major problems	56
(Don't know/refused).....	5
(ref:MARRIAGE)	

Q.31 Which one of the following phrases best describe what marriage means to you:

	Total
A lifetime commitment between two people through good times and bad.	42
A sacred bond between two people and God.	21
A union between two people who love each other.	10
A civic institution that provides legal rights and responsibilities.	7
An institution in which to have children and raise a family.	5
(All)	10
(None).....	3
(Don't know/refused).....	2
(ref:MARRIAGE2)	

Q.32 Regardless of how you feel about this issue, do you believe that gay and lesbian couples who want to get married are trying to change the institution of marriage or join it?

	Total
Change it	37
Join it	55
(Don't know/refused).....	8
(ref:INTENT)	

[228 Respondents]

Q.33 (ASK IF CHANGE IT IN INTENT) Let me read to you a couple ways that some people feel the institution of marriage would change if gay and lesbian couples are allowed to marry. Once I finish please tell me which two you agree with the most.

	Total
It would undermine the sanctity of marriage before God.	49
It would change the way children perceive marriage.	23
It would cheapen traditional marriage.	17
It would get away from the main purpose of marriage, which is having children.	14
It would change the importance of monogamy and faithfulness.....	13
It would change the role of men and women in society.	12
(All)	6
(None).....	3
(Don't know/Refuse)	6
(ref:INTENT2)	

Q.34 Setting aside the issue of marriage, over the last five or ten years, have your feelings towards gay and lesbian people become much more accepting, somewhat more accepting, somewhat less accepting, much less accepting or not changed?

	Total
Much more accepting	15
Somewhat more accepting	20
Somewhat less accepting	2
Much less accepting	4
Not changed	57
(Don't know/refused).....	2
Total more	35
Total less	7
More - Less	29
(ref:CHANGE1)	

Q.35 I am going to read you some statements about several issues. After each one I read, please tell me if you agree, disagree or if you neither agree nor disagree.

	Comp letely Agree	Smwt Agree	Nei ther	Smwt Dis	Comp letely Dis	DK/ Ref	Total Agree	Total Dis	Agree - Dis
35 The children in same-sex families would be better off if their parents could marry.....	26	15	13	15	25	6	41	40	1
[309 Respondents]									
36 (SPLIT A) People who are gay can choose to change and become heterosexual.....	15	12	9	11	42	11	27	52	-25
[308 Respondents]									
37 (SPLIT B) Most people who are gay are born that way.....	34	12	12	8	22	11	47	30	16
[309 Respondents]									
38 (SPLIT A) A gay person can be a good Christian.	62	15	3	4	12	4	77	16	61
39 The government should stay out of the private personal matters of adults, including gay and lesbian adults.....	60	19	6	5	4	4	80	10	70
40 Homosexuality goes against my religious beliefs.....	38	5	7	10	37	3	43	47	-4
[308 Respondents]									
41 (SPLIT B) A gay person can go to heaven.....	58	8	11	1	7	14	66	8	58

	Comp letely Agree	Smwt Agree	Nei ther	Smwt Dis	Comp letely Dis	Dk/ Ref	Total Agree	Total Dis	Agree - Dis
[309 Respondents]									
42 (SPLIT A) We should all follow the Golden Rule and treat others as we'd like to be treated, including gay and lesbian people.	77	13	5	1	4	-	90	5	85
[308 Respondents]									
43 (SPLIT B) We should all follow the Golden Rule and treat others as we'd like to be treated, including allowing gay and lesbian couples to get married.	43	12	6	11	25	4	55	36	19
44 Denying gay and lesbian couples the right to marry is discrimination.	38	7	4	11	35	4	45	47	-2
45 Children raised in households with gay parents are better off than children in orphanages or passed around from foster home to foster home.	51	19	10	6	8	5	71	14	56
46 The gay rights movement is contributing to the moral decline in American culture.	24	15	4	13	42	2	39	55	-17
47 Marriage is a civil right that should be available to all people.	42	12	5	11	27	3	53	39	15
[309 Respondents]									
48 (SPLIT A) Separate is not equal; everyone, including gay and lesbian couples, should be treated equally under the law, including laws governing marriage.	42	9	5	13	27	4	51	40	11
[308 Respondents]									
49 (SPLIT B) We should not have one set of rules for one group of people and another set of rules for other people including laws governing marriage. (ref:AGREE)	49	7	6	11	21	5	57	32	24

Q.50 Some people say that gay and lesbian couples have a right to live as they choose, but they do not have a right to redefine marriage for the rest of us. Marriage is between a man and a woman. Generally speaking, do you find this a very convincing reason to OPPOSE allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, a somewhat convincing reason to OPPOSE allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, a not very convincing reason to OPPOSE allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry or a not at all convincing reason to OPPOSE allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry?

	Total
Very convincing	34
Somewhat convincing.....	18
Not very convincing	11
Not at all convincing.....	34
(Don't know/refused).....	4
Total Convincing.....	52
Total Not Convincing.....	44
(ref:MESS1)	

[206 Respondents]

Q.51 (SPLIT E) Other people say that we should not set up one set of rules for one group of people and another set of rules for other people. We all should be treated equally under the law and this includes allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry. Generally speaking, do you find this a very convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, a somewhat convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, a not very convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry or a not at all convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry?

	Total
Very convincing	31
Somewhat convincing.....	18
Not very convincing	16
Not at all convincing.....	32
(Don't know/refused).....	3
Total Convincing.....	49
Total Not Convincing.....	48
(ref:MESS2)	

[206 Respondents]

Q.52 (SPLIT F) Other people say that everyone should be allowed to live how they want to live. It is not their place to interfere with someone's happiness or personal decisions about family life just because they may disagree with them on the issue of marriage. Generally speaking, do you this find this a very convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, a somewhat convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, a not very convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry or a not at all convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry?

	Total
Very convincing	27
Somewhat convincing.....	25
Not very convincing	19
Not at all convincing.....	23
(Don't know/refused).....	6
Total Convincing.....	52
Total Not Convincing.....	42
(ref:MESS3)	

[206 Respondents]

Q.53 (SPLIT G) Other people say that if gay and lesbian couples pledge to accept all of the responsibilities and obligations that come with a lifetime commitment to another person, they should be allowed to marry. Generally speaking, do you find this a very convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, a somewhat convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry, a not very convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry or a not at all convincing reason to SUPPORT allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry?

	Total
Very convincing	28
Somewhat convincing.....	23
Not very convincing	13
Not at all convincing.....	33
(Don't know/refused).....	3
Total Convincing.....	51
Total Not Convincing.....	47
(ref:MESS4)	

Q.54 I would like to ask you a few questions for statistical purposes. What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	Total
1 - 11th grade	2
High School graduate	16
Non college post H.S.	2
Some college	28
College graduate	34
Post-graduate school.....	17
(Don't know/Refused)	1
(ref:EDUC)	

Q.55 In what year were you born?

	Total
18-24.....	6
25-29.....	6
30-34.....	5
35-39.....	6
40-44.....	7
45-49.....	9
50-54.....	8
55-59.....	11
60-64.....	13
Over 64	28
(No answer)	1
(ref:AGE)	

Q.56 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican or what?

	Total
Strong Democrat.....	25
Weak Democrat.....	14
Lean Democrat.....	10
Independent.....	14
Lean Republican.....	12
Weak Republican.....	11
Strong Republican.....	13
(Don't know/Refused).....	1
(ref:PTYID1)	

Q.57 Do you personally know or work with someone who is gay or lesbian?

	Total
Yes.....	76
No.....	21
(Don't know/refused).....	2
(ref:KNOWGAY)	

[469 Respondents]

Q.58 (IF YES IN KNOWGAY) Thinking of the gay or lesbian person you know best, how would you describe your relationship with him or her? Is it very close, close, somewhat close, or not close at all?

	Total
Very close.....	23
Close.....	24
Somewhat close.....	36
Not close at all.....	15
(Don't know/Refused).....	2
Very close/Close.....	47
Somewhat close/Not close.....	51
(ref:CLOSEGAY)	

[469 Respondents]

Q.59 Did knowing this gay person affect how you voted on Referendum 71, the domestic partnership referendum?

	Total
Yes.....	22
No.....	78
(Don't know/refused).....	0
(ref:AFFECT)	

Q.60 Thinking in political terms, would you say that you are Conservative, Moderate, or Liberal?

	Total
Liberal.....	27
Moderate.....	33
Conservative.....	36
(Don't know/Refused).....	4
(ref:IDEO1)	

Q.61 Next, are you registered to vote as a Democrat, a Republican, a member of the Green Party, or as an Independent?

	Total
Democrat	38
Republican	29
Green Party	0
Independent.....	19
(Other)	5
Don't know/refused	9
(ref:SELFPTY)	

Q.62 What is your religion -- Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, another Christian religion, another religion, or do you not have a religious affiliation?

	Total
Protestant	37
Catholic.....	15
Jewish.....	0
Muslim/Islam	-
Other Christian.....	15
Other religion	7
Not affiliated or nothing in particular	19
(Don't now/refused).....	6
(ref:RELIG1A)	

[553 Respondents]

Q.63 Would you describe yourself a born-again or Evangelical Christian, or not?

	Total
Yes.....	31
No	62
(Don't know/Refused)	7
(ref:BORNAGIN)	

Q.64 Aside from weddings and funerals, how often do you attend religious services, more than once a week, once a week, once or twice a month, a few times a year, seldom, or never?

	Total
More than once a week	6
Once a week.....	32
Once or twice a month.....	12
A few times a year	13
Seldom.....	18
Never	16
(Don't know/Refused)	2
Regular	38
Irregular	59
(ref:RELIG2)	

Q.65 Are you married, single, living with a partner in a civil union or domestic partnership, living with a partner outside a legally recognized relationship, separated, divorced, or widowed?

	Total
Married.....	67
Single.....	16
Living with partner, civil union or domestic partnership	1
Living with a partner, no civil union or domestic partnership	1
Separated/divorced.....	6
Widowed	8
(Don't know/refused).....	1
Sep/Div/Wid	14
(ref:MARITAL)	

Q.66 Do you have any children 18 years of age or younger living at home?

	Total
Yes.....	28
No	71
(Don't know/Refused)	1
(ref:KIDS)	

Q.67 Before voting, did you talk with anyone about this election and the issue of domestic partnerships for gay and lesbian couples?

	Total
Yes.....	53
No	47
(Don't know/refused).....	1
(ref:TALK3)	

Q.68 (IF YES ON TALK3) I am going to read through a list of people and groups. For each one I read, please tell me if you talked about the issue of domestic partnerships with them before voting.

	Yes	No	DK/ Ref
[325 Respondents]			
68 Your immediate family	88	11	1
[110 Respondents]			
69 (IF YES AT KIDS) Your children.....	37	63	1
[325 Respondents]			
70 Your colleagues at work	38	61	1
[216 Respondents]			
71 (IF PUNCH 1, 2 OR 5 ON RELIG) People at church.....	35	64	1
[216 Respondents]			
72 (IF PUNCH 1, 2 OR 5 ON RELIG) Your minister or priest	10	89	1
[325 Respondents]			
73 Friends	73	25	1

	Yes	No	DK/ Ref
[263 Respondents]			
74 (IF YES ON KNOWGAY) Gay or lesbian people you know .. (ref:TALK2)	33	66	1

Q.2 Record respondent's gender

	Total
Male	47
Female.....	53
(ref:GENDER)	