

## **METHODOLOGY**

The Glengariff Group, Inc. conducted an 800 sample survey of registered voters in Ohio. The survey was conducted from November 13-16, 2006. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 3.5%. The survey was commissioned by the Equality Ohio Education Fund. Aggregate results may not total 100% due to rounding of numbers. Cross-tabulated numbers may not total 100% due to respondents that “Refused” to respond to a particular question.

## **KEY FINDINGS**

### **PERCEPTIONS OF GAY, LESBIAN, AND TRANSGENDERED POPULATIONS**

***72% of Ohio voters know someone that is gay, lesbian or trans-gendered.*** 36% of voters are very close or somewhat close to a gay, lesbian or transgendered individual. 35% of voters say they know an acquaintance. 27% of voters do not know anyone that is gay, lesbian or transgendered.

- 26% of voters believe an individual is born gay or lesbian
- 43% of voters believe an individual makes a choice to be gay or lesbian
- 9% of voters believe it is a combination of both
- 21% of voters simply do not know how someone becomes gay or lesbian

### **KEY DEMOGRAPHIC DIFFERENCES**

We asked voters their views about thirteen different gay, lesbian and trans-gendered rights issues. We then examined those thirteen issues based on a series of demographic questions including party affiliation, philosophical affiliation, region of the state, religious intensity, education, race, age and income levels.

The strongest support for gay rights legislation comes from liberal Democrats, urban and suburban areas, individuals whose church attendance has a lower intensity, younger, and those with incomes over \$100,000. Women tend to be slightly more favorable toward rights questions than men.

***The single most important predictor of support of gay rights issues is a voter's relationship with another gay, lesbian or transgendered person. The closer the relationship is, the stronger that voter's support for gay rights issues.***

The lowest support for gay rights legislation comes from conservative Republicans and Independents, living in rural areas, who attend church services weekly, are over 65 years of age, and do not know any individual that is gay, lesbian or transgendered.

***It is important to note that all of these groups are on a continuum of how much they are willing to support in terms of gay rights. For example, saying that Republican voters do not support gay rights is inaccurate.***

While it is true that only 15% of Republicans would support gay marriage legislation:

- 40% of Republicans would support civil union legislation.
- 66% of Republicans would support a non-discrimination bill for housing and employment
- 90% of Republicans would support legislation for hospital visitation rights.

Even among voters that say they do not know any gay, lesbian or transgendered individuals:

- 62% would support a non-discrimination bill
- 86% would support a hospital visitation rights bill

***Even among these voter demographics that are not generally aligned with gay and lesbian rights issues, there is a willingness to provide equal rights to gay, lesbians and transgendered citizens.***

## SPECIAL RIGHTS OR EQUAL RIGHTS?

The majority of Ohio voters believe that gays and lesbians are seeking equal rights as opposed to special rights:

- 56% of Ohio voters believe gays and lesbians are seeking equal rights.
- 36% of Ohio voters believe gays and lesbians are seeking special rights.

## TESTING KEY GAY, LESBIAN, TRANSGENDERED RIGHTS ISSUES

The survey tested Ohio voter attitudes on thirteen key gay, lesbian, and transgendered rights issues. As previously mentioned Ohio voters are willing to support equal rights for gay, lesbian and transgendered citizens, but there is a continuum of which of those rights voters are willing to support.

	<u>Support</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Hospital visitation rights	91%	6%
Ban employment/ housing discrimination	68%	27%
Ban employment/ housing discrimination for transgendered	66%	27%
Inheritance Rights	64%	29%
Domestic Partnership benefits for government employees	58%	34%
Transgender gender marker correction	41%	42%
Gay/ Lesbian marriage rights	34%	58%

The survey results show that Ohio voters are willing to guarantee that gay, lesbian and transgendered residents do not face discrimination in the workplace, in housing.

***The survey results also show that Ohio voters are willing to provide some, but not all legal protections for gay and lesbian relationships.*** There is unprecedented support across all demographic groups for guaranteeing that gay and lesbian couples have hospital visitation rights. With 91% of Ohio voters supporting hospital visitation rights for gay and lesbian couples, there is an underlying commitment among Ohio voters to treat gay and lesbian couples fairly.

## **POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS**

Voters were questioned on four potential bills: employment/housing non discrimination, hate crimes, safe schools, and domestic partnership benefits for government employees. After testing potential pieces of legislation, voters were asked whether they would be more or less likely to vote for a legislator that voted for any of these bills.

- 40% of voters would be MORE likely to vote for the candidate
- 26% of voters would be LESS likely to vote for the candidate
- 24% of voters said it would make NO DIFFERENCE
- 10% of voters just were not sure how they would vote

66% of Ohio voters are more likely to support or indifferent if a political candidate supports any of these four bills.

This legislation is most impactful among female voters with 43% of women saying they would support the candidate as compared with 23% of women that would oppose the candidate.

Conservative voters would oppose a candidate by a margin of 24%-37%. Moderate voters would support a candidate by a margin of 44%-22%. Liberal voters would support a candidate by a margin of 68%-10%.

## **ABOUT THE POLLSTER**

The Glengariff Group, Inc. is headquartered in Chicago, Illinois with offices in St Joseph, Michigan. The company specializes in survey research, focus groups, strategic planning, and marketing strategy. The Glengariff Group, Inc. conducts research nationwide, regionally, statewide and locally primarily for corporate and public sector clients.

Richard Czuba, President of the Glengariff Group, Inc., has 23 years of survey research experience both in politics and the corporate sector. He was the Director of Research and Communications for the Michigan Republican Party under then Party Chairman, Spencer Abraham, Advisor to Michigan Governor John Engler for Research and Planning, and Director of Planning and Public Affairs for the State of Michigan's economic development department, the Michigan Jobs Commission. He was Inauguration Chairman for Michigan Governor John Engler. Richard Czuba has conducted political survey research for all levels of political campaigns including county and local races, state legislative races, congressional races, statewide campaigns and statewide research for Presidential campaigns.

The Glengariff Group, Inc. has been in operation since 1998.