

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT SAME-SEX MARRIAGE FOR THE UPCOMING SCOTUS CASE

Findings from PRRI and PRRI's American Values Atlas

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About This Document

With the Supreme Court set to rule on the legality of same-sex marriage by the end of the month, the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) created a comprehensive guide of everything you need to know about public attitudes on same-sex marriage.

PRRI pulled from the new June 2015 PRRI Religion & Politics Tracking Survey—which, among other findings, revealed that two-thirds of Americans predict the Supreme Court will legalize same-sex marriage nationwide—and the American Values Atlas—an interactive tool created from over 40,000 interviews—to create the following charts, tables, maps, and analysis.

Each chart, table, and map includes an embedded hyperlink that allows users to click through and read original analysis on the PRRI site (www.publicreligion.org).

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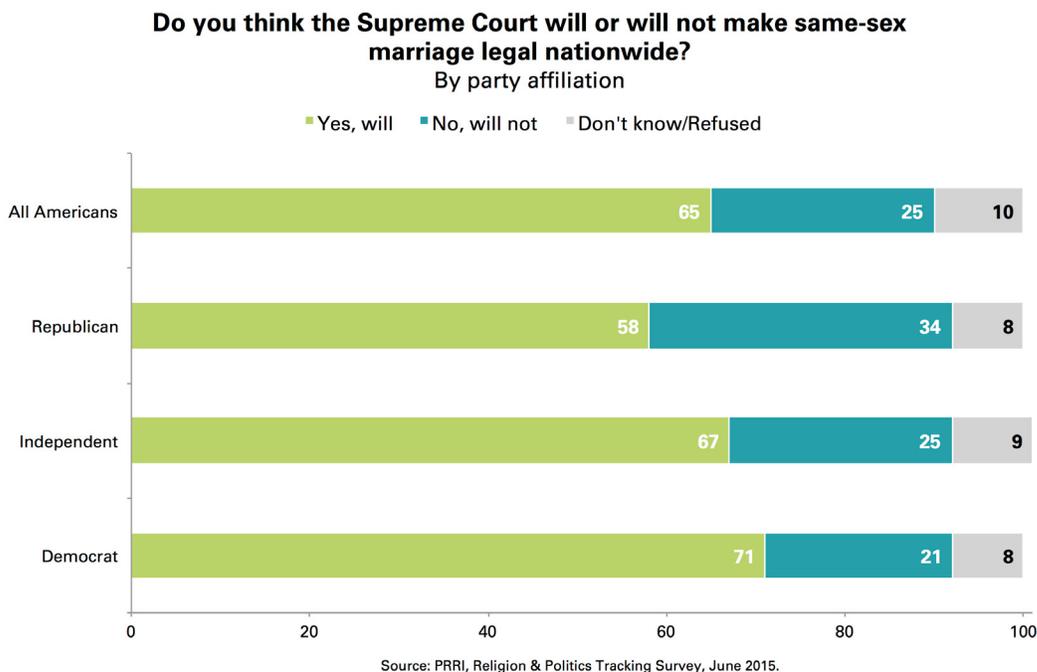


Part I: June 2015 PRRI Religion & Politics Tracking Survey

Survey | Majority Favor Same-sex Marriage; Two-thirds Believe Supreme Court Will Rule to Legalize

Nearly Two-thirds of Americans Believe Supreme Court Will Legalize Same-sex Marriage

When the Supreme Court issues its decision on the legality of same-sex marriage at the end of the month, nearly two-thirds (65%) of Americans believe that the court will overturn state bans preventing same-sex couples from marrying and make same-sex marriage legal nationwide. Only one-quarter (25%) of the public says they believe the Supreme Court will leave existing state bans on same-sex marriage intact. One in ten (10%) Americans offer no opinion on the outcome of the Supreme Court ruling.



Predictions on the Supreme Court's ruling differ sharply between same-sex marriage supporters and opponents. Among those who favor same-sex marriage, eight in ten (80%) believe the Supreme Court will make same-sex marriage legal nationwide. Opponents of same-sex marriage are divided on the outcome. Nearly half (47%) believe that the Supreme Court will legalize same-sex marriage while roughly as many (42%) believe the court will uphold the bans.

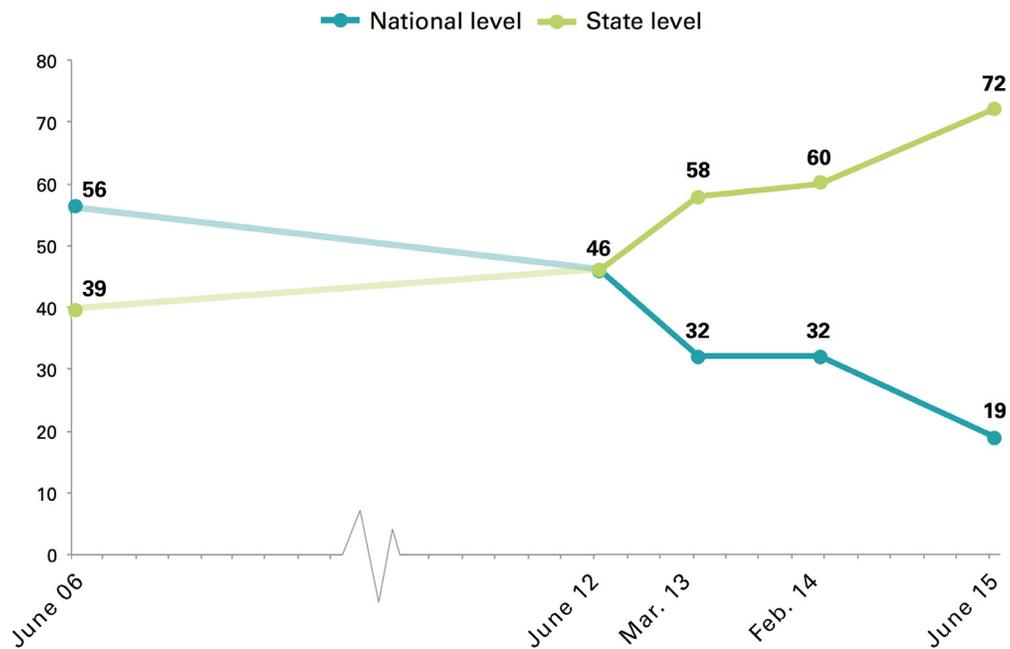
Notably, there is general agreement across party and religious lines on how the Supreme Court will rule. Seventy-one percent of Democrats, two-thirds (67%) of independents, and nearly six in ten (58%) Republicans believe that the Supreme Court will legalize same-sex marriage nationwide. Majorities of every major religious group, including 63% of white evangelical Protestants and 60% of Catholics, say they expect the court to make same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states.

Same-sex Marriage Opponents Now Say Issue Should be Decided by the States

A slim majority (51%) of Americans say the legality of same-sex marriage should be something that every state decides for itself, compared to 41% who say it should be decided at the national level.

These opinions are tightly linked to support for same-sex marriage. Among those who oppose same-sex marriage, more than seven in ten (72%) say the decision about its legality should be decided at the state level. Conversely, among those who favor same-sex marriage, nearly six in ten (59%) say that the issue should be decided at the national level.

Do you think laws about same-sex marriage should be decided at the national level or is it something that each state should decide for itself? Among opponents of same-sex marriage



Sources: PRRI Surveys, 2012-2015; Pew Research Center Survey, 2006.

Notably, as support for same-sex marriage has grown in the last decade, opponents and supporters have reversed their positions. In 2006, a majority (56%) of opponents said the decision about the legality of same-sex marriage should be made at the federal level, compared to only 39% who favored a state-level solution. Similarly, in 2006, most supporters (54%) wanted the issue to be left to the states to decide, while 42% preferred a national solution.¹

Republicans are also much more likely to prefer that the legality of same-sex marriage be left up to the states to decide, rather than the federal government (67% vs. 26%, respectively). In contrast, a majority (54%) of Democrats say the decision should be made at the national level. Independents are divided, with roughly as many expressing preference for a national decision (45%) as a state-level one (50%).

Growing Majority Favor Legalizing Same-sex Marriage— Generational, Religious, and Partisan Divisions Persist

Fifty-five percent of the public favors allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally, while 37% are opposed. Strong generational, religious, and partisan divisions persist on the issue.

Young adults (age 18 to 29) remain among the staunchest supporters of same-sex marriage, while most seniors (age 65 and over) are opposed. More than seven in ten (72%) young adults favor legalizing same-sex marriage, compared to 42% of seniors; a plurality (46%) of seniors oppose legalizing same-sex marriage.

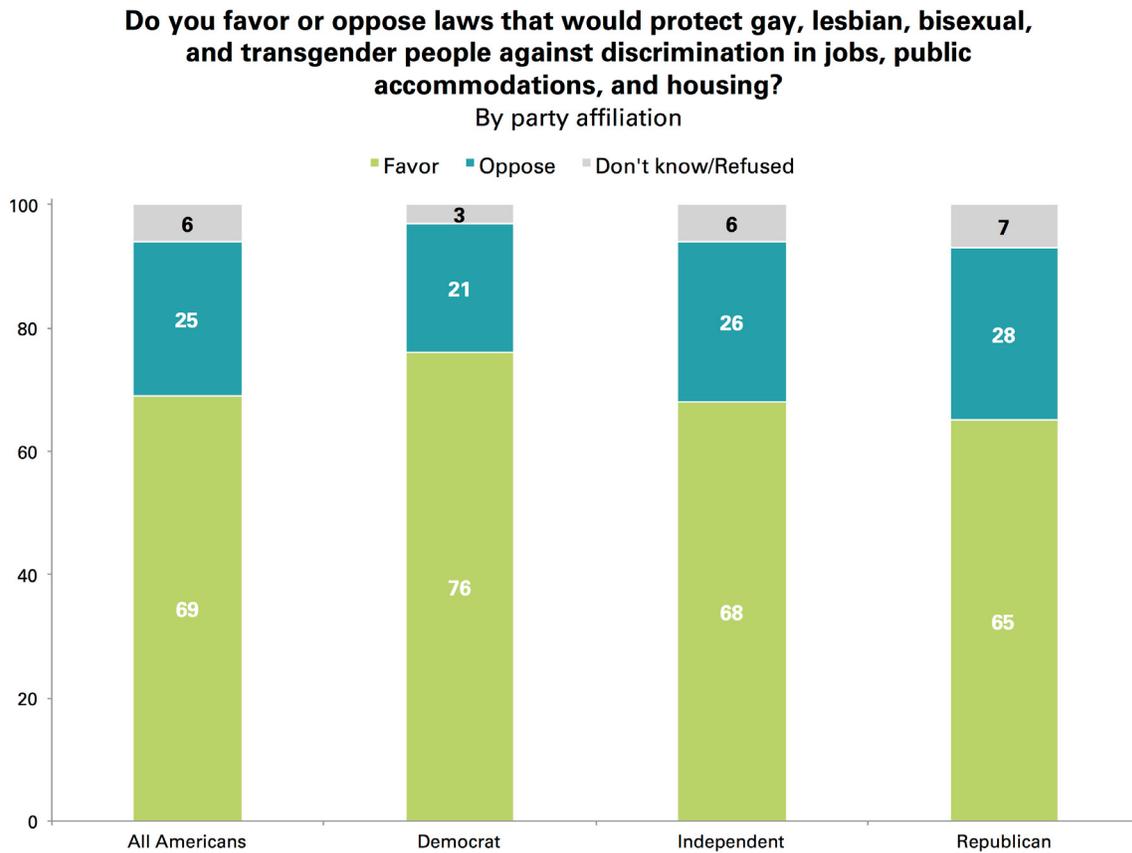
The issue of same-sex marriage continues to divide religious Americans. Majorities of religiously unaffiliated Americans (79%), white mainline Protestants (60%), and Catholics (58%) favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally. Conversely, only 29% of white evangelical Protestants and 35% of non-white Protestants support making same-sex marriage legal; majorities of white evangelical Protestants (62%) and non-white Protestants (54%) oppose.

Republicans stand apart from Democrats and independents on this issue. Two-thirds (67%) of Democrats and nearly six in ten (59%) independents favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally. Fewer than four in ten (37%) Republicans support legalizing same-sex marriage, while nearly six in ten (57%) oppose.

1 Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life/Pew Research Center for the People & the Press Survey, August 2006.

Strong Support for Discrimination Protections for LGBT People

Nearly seven in ten (69%) Americans favor laws that would protect LGBT individuals against discrimination in jobs, public accommodations, and housing, compared to 25% who oppose such policies.



Source: PRRI, Religion & Politics Tracking Survey, June 2015.

There is broad support across partisan lines for laws that would protect LGBT people from discrimination. Seventy-six percent of Democrats, 68% of political independents, and 65% of Republicans favor laws that would protect gay and lesbian people from discrimination in jobs, public accommodations, and housing.

There is also a consensus across the religious spectrum. Fifty-nine percent of non-white Protestants, 60% of white evangelical Protestants, 67% of white mainline Protestants, and 71% of Catholics favor nondiscrimination laws for LGBT people. Among religiously unaffiliated Americans, more than eight in ten (81%) support nondiscrimination laws.

Few Support Allowing Small Businesses to Refuse Service to Gay and Lesbian People on Religious Grounds

Six in ten (60%) Americans oppose allowing a small business owner to refuse products or services to gay and lesbian people, even if doing so violates their religious beliefs, while 34% support such a policy.

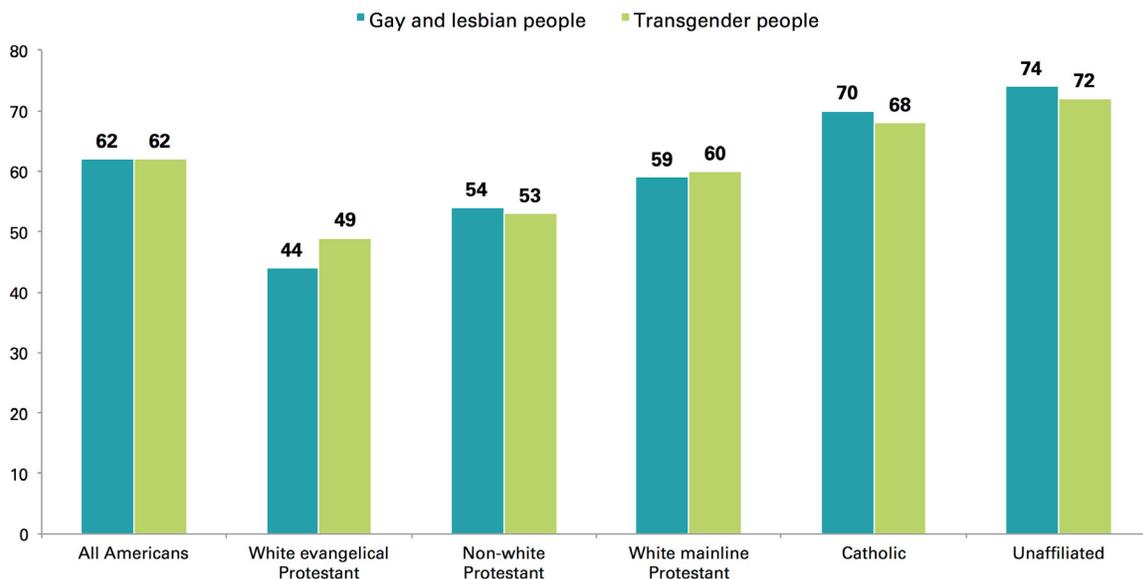
While majorities of most religious groups oppose these so-called “religious freedom” laws, white evangelical Protestants (51%) are the only religious group with majority support. Forty-two percent of white evangelical Protestants oppose allowing small businesses to refuse products or services to gay and lesbian people on religious grounds. By contrast, 59% of white mainline Protestants, 63% of non-white Protestants, and 64% of Catholics oppose allowing small business owners to refuse service to gay and lesbian people on religious grounds, as do nearly three-quarters (73%) of religiously unaffiliated Americans.

Most Americans See Gay, Lesbian, and Transgender People Facing a Lot of Discrimination

More than six in ten Americans say that gay and lesbian people (62%) and transgender people (62%) face a lot of discrimination in American society. These numbers are down from February 2014, when roughly seven in ten Americans said that they believed gay and lesbian people (68%) and transgender people (71%) face a lot of discrimination in the U.S.

In the United States today, is there a lot of discrimination against gay, lesbian, and transgender people, or not?

Percent who say each group faces a lot of discrimination by religious affiliation



Source: PRRI, Religion & Politics Tracking Survey, June 2015.

There are important differences in perceptions of discrimination by political affiliation, religious affiliation, and age.

Three-quarters (75%) of Democrats and roughly six in ten (61%) independents say there is a lot of discrimination against transgender people, while half (50%) of Republicans say the same. Nearly four in ten (39%) Republicans say transgender people do not face a lot of discrimination in America today and eleven percent offer no opinion. Political divisions on perceptions of discrimination faced by gay and lesbian people are similar.

With the exception of white evangelical Protestants, most religious groups believe that transgender people face a lot of discrimination, including a majority of non-white Protestants (53%), white mainline Protestants (60%), Catholics (68%), and the religiously unaffiliated (72%). In contrast, only 49% of white evangelical Protestants agree that transgender people face a lot of discrimination in society, while 37% say that they do not. Fifteen percent of white evangelical Protestants offer no opinion. The pattern of views among religious groups about discrimination faced by transgender people mirrors that of gay and lesbian people.

Young adults are much more likely than older Americans to believe that gay, lesbian, and transgender people face a lot of discrimination in the U.S. today. Roughly seven in ten young adults say that gay and lesbian people (70%) and transgender people (73%) face a lot of discrimination. In contrast, fewer seniors believe that gay and lesbian people (56%) and transgender people (53%) face a lot of discrimination in the U.S. today.

One in Ten Have Close Friend or Family Member Who is Transgender

Nearly two-thirds (65%) of Americans report having a close friend or family member who is gay or lesbian. Substantially fewer Americans report having a close friend or family member who is bisexual (35%) or transgender (11%).

Young adults are more than twice as likely as seniors to say they have a close friend or family member who is transgender (19% vs. 7%, respectively) or bisexual (50% vs. 19%, respectively). Younger adults are also more likely to have a close friend or family member who is gay or lesbian (70% vs. 52%, respectively).

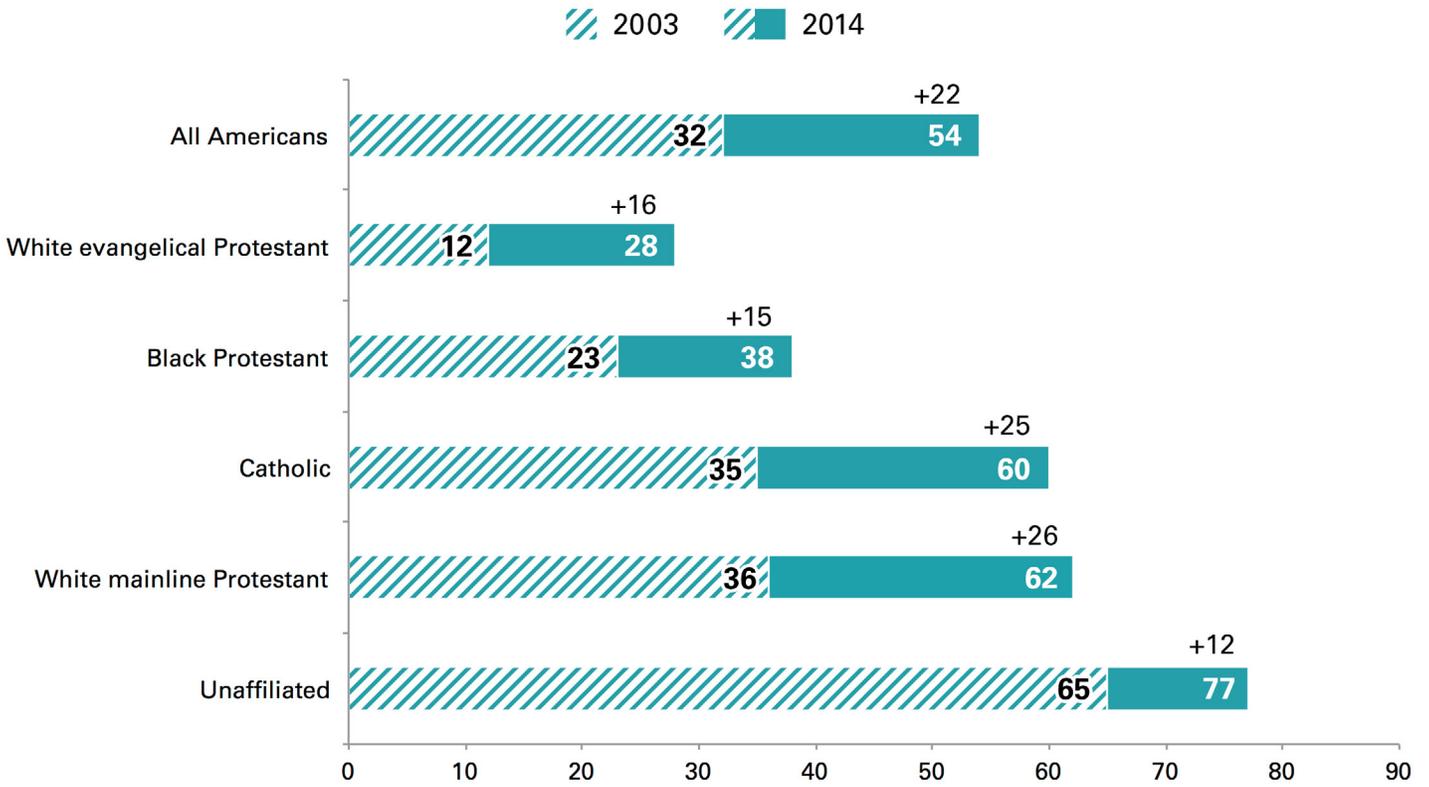
Part II: New Findings from the American Values Atlas on Same-sex Marriage

Attitudes on Same-sex Marriage by Religious Affiliation and Denominational Family

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't Know/ Refused	N
Do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?						
All Americans	25	29	18	20	8=100	40,571
White evangelical Protestant	10	18	27	39	6=100	7,938
<i>White evangelical Baptists</i>	8	15	28	44	5=100	2,934
<i>White evangelical Methodists</i>	11	20	30	32	6=100	888
<i>White evangelical Lutherans</i>	16	29	23	25	7=100	574
<i>White evangelical Presbyterians</i>	10	29	26	29	6=100	372
<i>White evangelical Church of Christ/DOC</i>	8	18	25	44	5=100	401
White mainline Protestant	28	34	16	14	8=100	5,981
<i>White mainline Baptists</i>	20	33	18	21	7=100	798
<i>White mainline Methodists</i>	30	37	15	10	8=100	1,178
<i>White mainline Lutherans</i>	29	35	18	11	7=100	986
<i>White mainline Presbyterians</i>	31	38	15	9	7=100	607
<i>White mainline Church of Christ/DOC</i>	21	29	19	20	11=100	246
<i>White Episcopalian</i>	33	35	15	10	8=100	601
<i>White Congregational/UCC</i>	34	34	17	8	7=100	303
Black Protestant	13	25	24	30	9=100	3,913
Hispanic Protestant	13	22	30	28	7=100	1,198
Other non-white Protestant	16	25	20	27	11=100	990
Unitarian/Universalist*	74	20	2	4	0=100	90
Mormon	8	19	28	40	6=100	688
Jehovah's Witness	6	6	31	44	12=100	275
Catholic	23	37	17	13	9=100	8,529
<i>White Catholic</i>	26	35	17	14	8=100	5,628
<i>Hispanic Catholic</i>	18	42	18	13	10=100	2,236
<i>Other non-white Catholic</i>	26	34	16	16	9=100	665
Orthodox Christian	24	32	15	20	8=100	230
Jewish	47	30	9	9	5=100	724
Muslim	21	21	18	33	7=100	297
Buddhist	48	36	6	8	2=100	241
Hindu	19	36	18	12	14=100	204
Other religion	52	23	8	9	8=100	323
Unaffiliated	45	32	10	8	6=100	8,008

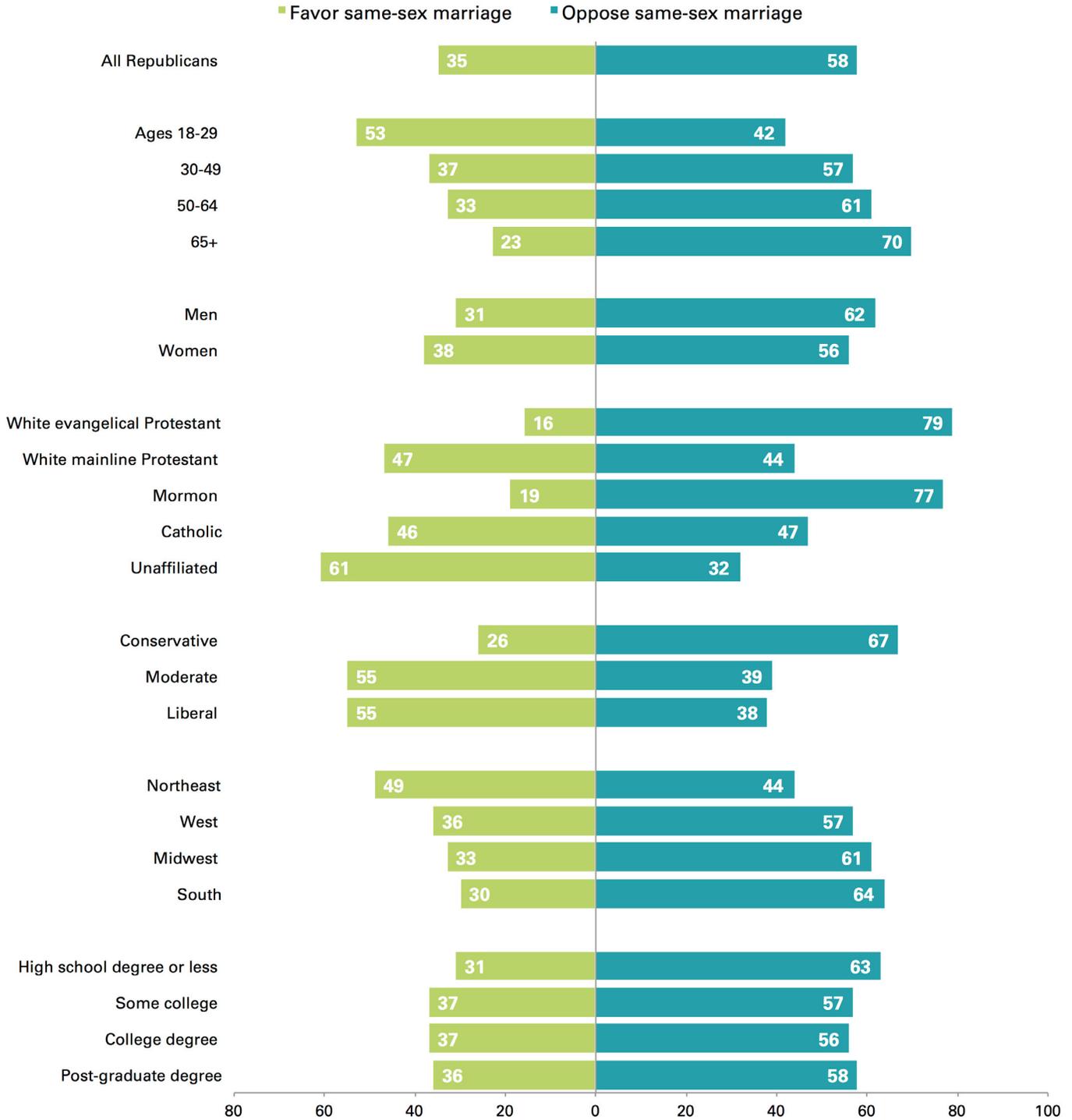
* Sample size is less than 100. Results should be interpreted with caution.
Source: PRRI, American Values Atlas, 2014

Change in Support for Same-sex Marriage by Religious Affiliation

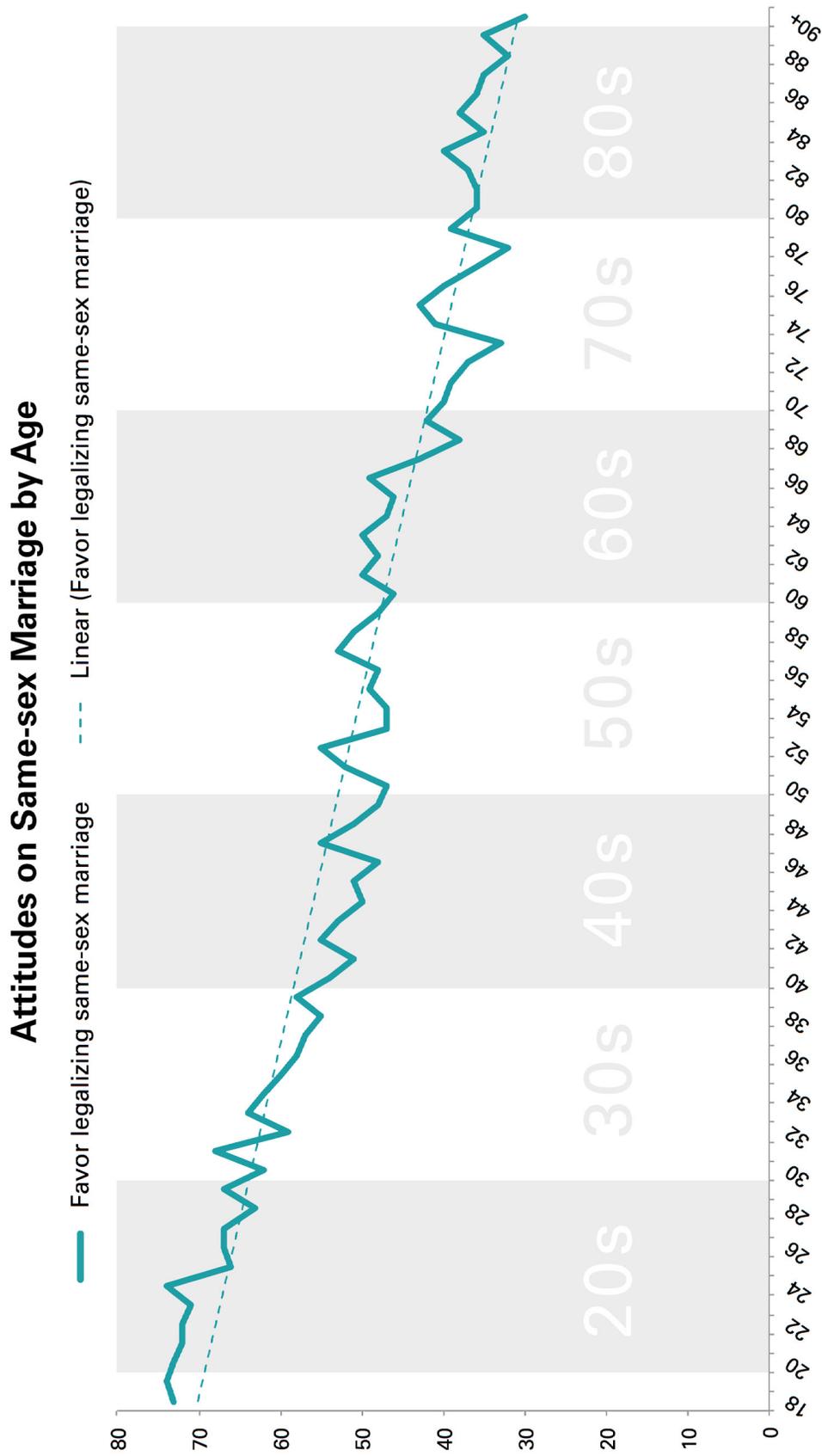


Sources: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press/Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, News

Attitudes on Same-sex Marriage by Republican Subgroup

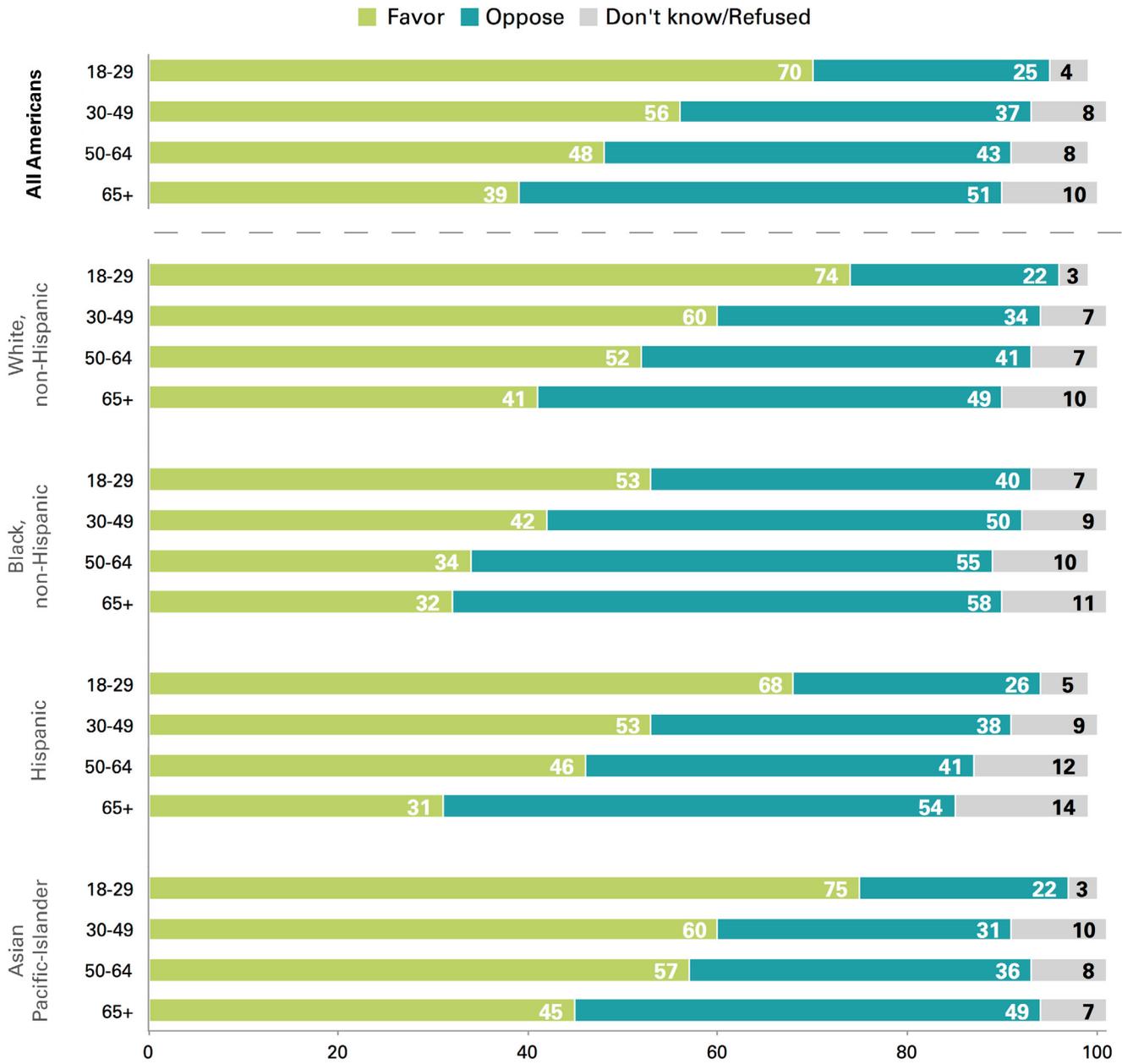


Source: PRRI, American Values Atlas, 2014.



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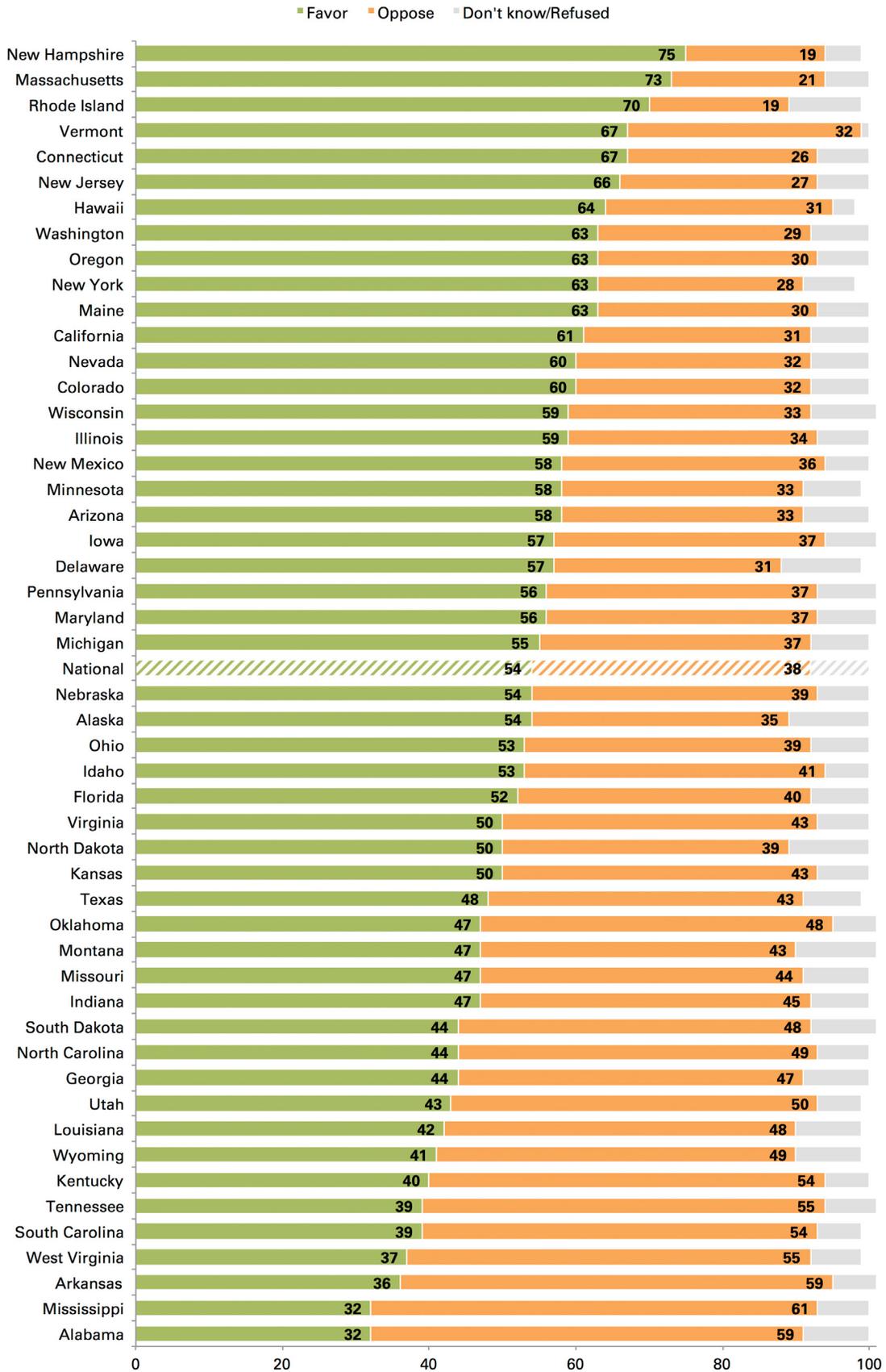
Attitudes on Same-sex Marriage by Age and Race



Source: PRRI, American Values Atlas, 2014.

Attitudes on Same-sex Marriage by State

Do you favor or oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?





All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose, or strongly oppose allowing gay and lesbian couples to marry legally?

	Strongly favor	Favor	Oppose	Strongly oppose	Don't know/ Refused
National	25	29	18	20	8
Alabama	14	18	26	33	9
Alaska	23	31	13	22	11
Arizona	27	31	16	17	9
Arkansas	14	22	26	33	6
California	30	31	17	14	8
Colorado	29	31	19	13	8
Connecticut	32	35	12	14	7
Delaware	32	25	14	17	11
Florida	24	28	21	19	8
Georgia	18	26	22	25	9
Hawaii	30	34	12	19	3
Idaho	20	33	20	21	6
Illinois	26	33	18	16	7
Indiana	19	28	21	24	8
Iowa	26	31	16	21	7
Kansas	21	29	22	21	7
Kentucky	18	22	23	31	6
Louisiana	16	26	21	27	9
Maine	26	37	14	16	7
Maryland	26	30	17	20	8
Massachusetts	41	32	12	9	6
Michigan	26	29	18	19	8
Minnesota	30	28	16	17	8
Mississippi	14	18	25	36	7
Missouri	23	24	21	23	9
Montana	18	29	24	19	11
Nebraska	25	29	16	23	7
Nevada	32	28	18	14	8
New Hampshire	39	36	13	6	5
New Jersey	30	36	14	13	7
New Mexico	27	31	16	20	6
New York	30	33	14	14	7
North Carolina	19	25	22	27	7
North Dakota	23	27	14	25	11
Ohio	26	27	18	21	8
Oklahoma	23	24	21	27	6
Oregon	36	27	18	12	7
Pennsylvania	26	30	18	19	8
Rhode Island	34	36	11	8	10
South Carolina	16	23	22	32	6
South Dakota	20	24	21	27	9
Tennessee	17	22	22	33	7
Texas	20	28	20	23	8
Utah	20	23	19	31	6
Vermont	39	28	14	18	1
Virginia	24	26	19	24	7
Washington	33	30	13	16	8
West Virginia	13	24	22	33	7
Wisconsin	25	34	15	18	9
Wyoming	21	20	31	18	9

Source: PRRI, American Values Atlas, 2014 | ava.publicreligion.org



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