



Colorado Pulse of Equality
*A Snapshot of Colorado Perspectives on Gay and Transgender
People and Policies*

Prepared for:

Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD)

Presented by

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Background, Objectives, Sample, Methodology & Report Structure

- GLAAD commissioned Harris Interactive to conduct a survey among adults 18+ residing in Colorado.
- The objective of this study was to understand public opinion on LGBT people and LGBT-related policy issues.
- Total sample includes 502 adults ages 18+ residing in Colorado.
- Interviewing was conducted by telephone using random digit dialing (RDD) Nov 10-17, 2008.
- Results were weighted as needed using age, sex, race/ethnicity, education, region, number in household, and household income to be representative of the population of adults 18+ residing in Colorado.
- The questionnaire was approximately 15 minutes in length.
- Results from this study are intended for public release.
- In reviewing this report, please note that percentages may not add up to 100% due to rounding, the acceptance of multiple responses or the exclusion of any “not sure” or “decline to answer” responses.

Terms and Definitions

- The following are subgroups or segments analyzed throughout this report:
 - Gender
 - Age (18-44, 45-64, 65+)
 - Presence of children under 18 in household (Yes, No)
 - Religion
 - Mainline Christians = those who identified as Protestant, Mormon or Other Christian but do not consider themselves born-again Christians
 - Catholics
 - Evangelical Christians = those who identified as Protestant, Mormon or Other Christian and consider themselves born-again Christians
 - Other religions (e.g., Jewish, Muslim) had sample sizes too small to report on separately.
 - Political Party Affiliation (Q715: *In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or Independent or Unaffiliated?*)
 - Democrats
 - Independents/Unaffiliateds
 - Republicans
- Other terms used in this report
 - LGBT = lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender
 - Don't Ask, Don't Tell = policy that bans gay military personnel from serving in the armed forces

Executive Summary

Executive Summary:

Strong Support for Gay and Transgender-Related Policy Issues in CO

- **Sizeable majorities of Colorado adults support key policy proposals that affect gay and transgender people.**
 - **Marriage and Relationship Recognition**
 - Eight out of 10 (83%) CO adults believe gay and lesbian couples should either be able to marry, have all of the same rights as marriage, or be able to form domestic partnerships. Only 15% say there should be no legal recognition.
 - A slight majority of CO adults (51%) favor allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally marry.
 - **Don't Ask, Don't Tell**
 - Two-thirds (66%) of CO adults favor allowing openly gay military personnel to serve in the armed forces.
 - **Hate Crimes Laws**
 - Almost two-thirds (63%) of CO adults favor expanding hate crime laws to cover gay and transgender people.
 - **Non-Discrimination Laws**
 - A majority of CO adults (56%) favor employment, housing, and public accommodations non-discrimination laws for gay and transgender people. This result is significantly higher than for U.S. adults (51%).
 - **Adoption**
 - Nearly three out of four CO adults (73%) oppose laws that would ban qualified gay and lesbian couples from adopting children.

Executive Summary:

Support Varies by Demographics, Religion and Political Party

- **Significant differences in support were evident across the LGBT- related policy issues with respect to demographics, religion and political party affiliation.**
 - Age and Gender
 - Those under 45 were often among the most supportive of the groups analyzed while those age 65 or older were often among the least supportive of the groups analyzed.
 - Women were generally more supportive than men.
 - Religion
 - Catholics and Mainline Christians generally expressed more support than Evangelical Christians. Catholics were among the most supportive of all of the segments analyzed on adoption with 78% opposed to laws that would ban qualified gay and lesbian couples from adopting children.
 - Political Party Affiliation
 - Democrats and Independents/Unaffiliateds were generally more supportive than Republicans. Democrats showed the highest levels of support and Republicans showed the lowest levels of support among all segments analyzed for almost every policy issue.

Executive Summary:

Growing Acceptance of Gays and Lesbians in CO

- **Greater acceptance of gays and lesbians in CO over past five years.**
 - Approximately two in 10 CO adults (21%) report their feelings towards gays and lesbians have become more favorable over the past five years. Among those who say they have become more favorable toward gays and lesbians in the past five years, contributing factors include:
 - Knowing someone who is gay or lesbian (70%),
 - Opinions of family or friends (42%), and religious leaders (18%),
 - News coverage of gay and lesbian issues (41%),
 - Seeing gay or lesbian characters on television (33%) and in movies (26%), and
 - The fact that laws have been passed that protect gays and lesbians (24%). *Note this is significantly lower than the 50% for U.S. adults.*
 - Nearly three out of four CO adults (74%) personally know or work with a gay or transgender person.
 - Half of those who know or work with a gay or transgender person know six or more gay or transgender people.

Detailed Findings

- ▶ Attitudes Toward LGBT-Related Policy Issues
 - ▶ Marriage and Relationship Recognition for Gay and Lesbian Couples
 - ▶ Adoption by Qualified Gay and Lesbian Couples
 - ▶ Don't Ask, Don't Tell
 - ▶ Gay- and Transgender-Inclusive Hate Crimes Laws
 - ▶ Non-Discrimination Laws
 - ▶ Bi-National Gay Couples
- ▶ Feelings Towards, Personal Relationships with, and Beliefs about Gay and Transgender People

Attitudes Toward LGBT-Related Policy Issues



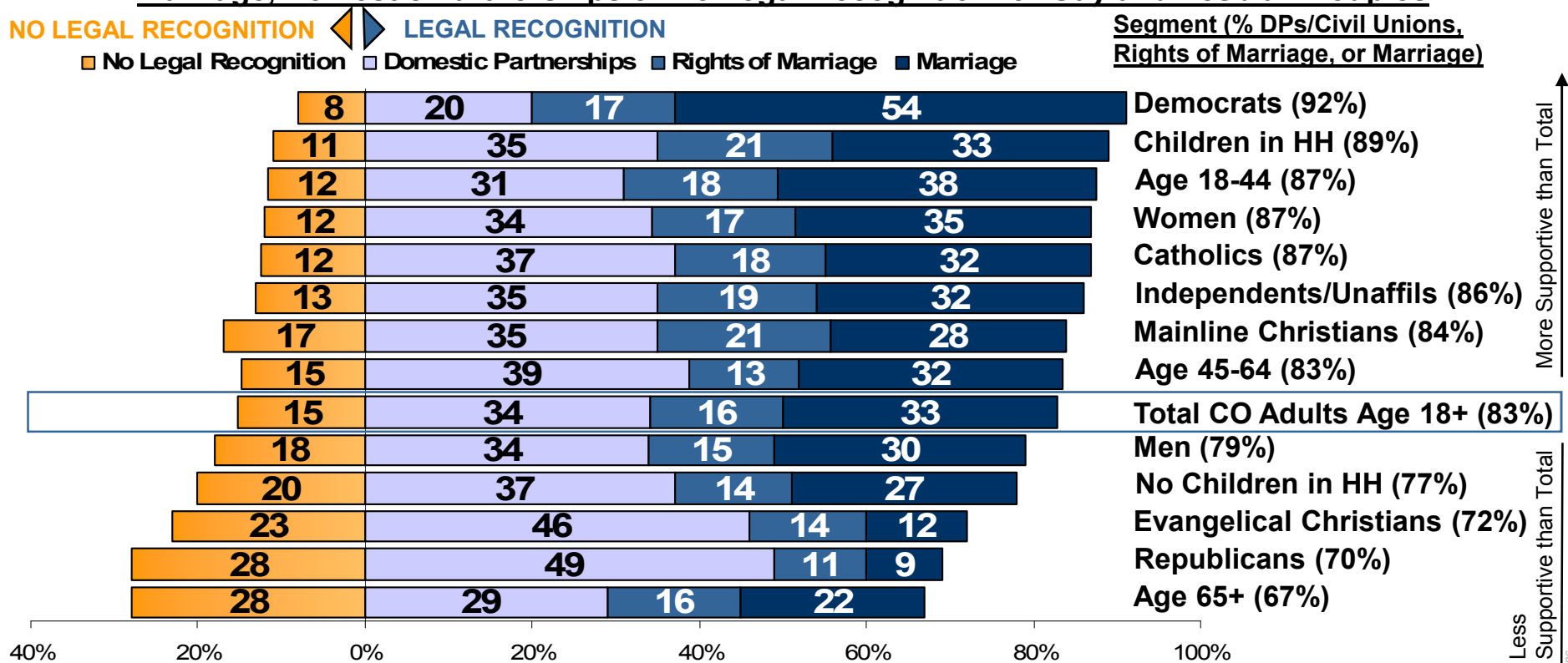
Marriage and Relationship Recognition

Eight out of 10 (83%) Colorado adults believe gay and lesbian couples should either be able to marry, have all of the same rights as marriage, or be able to form domestic partnerships.

Democrats, Independents/ Unaffiliateds, those with children in the household, those under 65, women, Catholics, and Mainline Christians are the segments most likely to favor legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples' relationships. Those age 65+, Republicans, and Evangelical Christians are the most likely among the groups analyzed to think there should be no legal recognition (though two-thirds or more of them support legal recognition).

National results*: 75% legal recognition (38% marriage, 38% dps) and 22% no legal recognition.

Marriage, Domestic Partnerships or No Legal Recognition for Gay and Lesbian Couples



Q630: Which of the following three statements do you most agree with when it comes to the issues of gay couples? Gay and lesbian couples should have the same legal right to marry as do a man and a woman. Gay and lesbian couples should have the same legal rights as married couples do, but it should not be called marriage. Marriage under the law should only be between a man and a woman, but there should be domestic partnerships or some legal rights for gay couples. There should be no legal recognition of a relationship between gay or lesbian couples.

Base: Colorado adults 18+ (n=502)

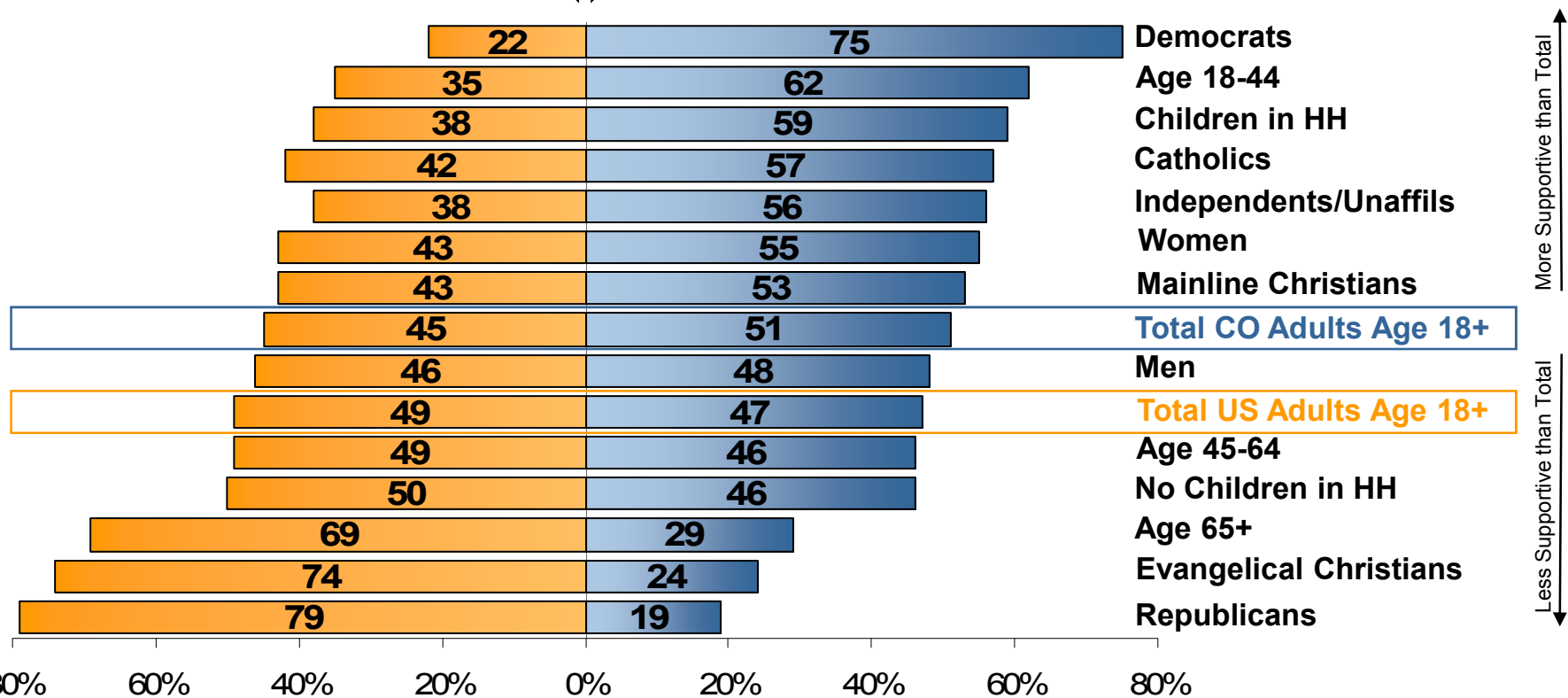
* **Q630:** Which of the following three statements comes closest to your view? Gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to legally marry. Gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to form domestic partnerships or civil unions, but not legally marry. There should be no legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples' relationships. Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=2,008)

A slight majority of CO adults (51%) favor marriage for gay and lesbian couples whereas U.S. adults are more evenly split.

More than half of Democrats, Independents/Unaffiliateds, those under age 45, those with children in the household, women, Catholics, and Mainline Christians favor marriage. Those age 65+, Evangelical Christians, and Republicans are most likely among the groups analyzed to oppose.

Marriage for Gay and Lesbian Couples

OPPOSE ◀▶ FAVOR



Q625: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally marry.

Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

Support for marriage for gay and lesbian couples is negatively correlated with age. Mainline Christians and Catholics are significantly more likely than Evangelical Christians, Democrats and Independents/Unaffiliated are significantly more likely than Republicans, and those with children are significantly more likely than those without children in the HH to favor marriage. No statistically significant differences by gender.

% Who Favor/Oppose Marriage for Gay and Lesbian Couples by Demographics, Religion, and Political Party Affiliation

	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	51	45
Gender		
Women	55	43
Men	48	46
Age		
18-44	62	35
45-64	46	49
65 or older	29	69
Presence of Children Under 18 in Household		
Yes	59	38
No	46	50

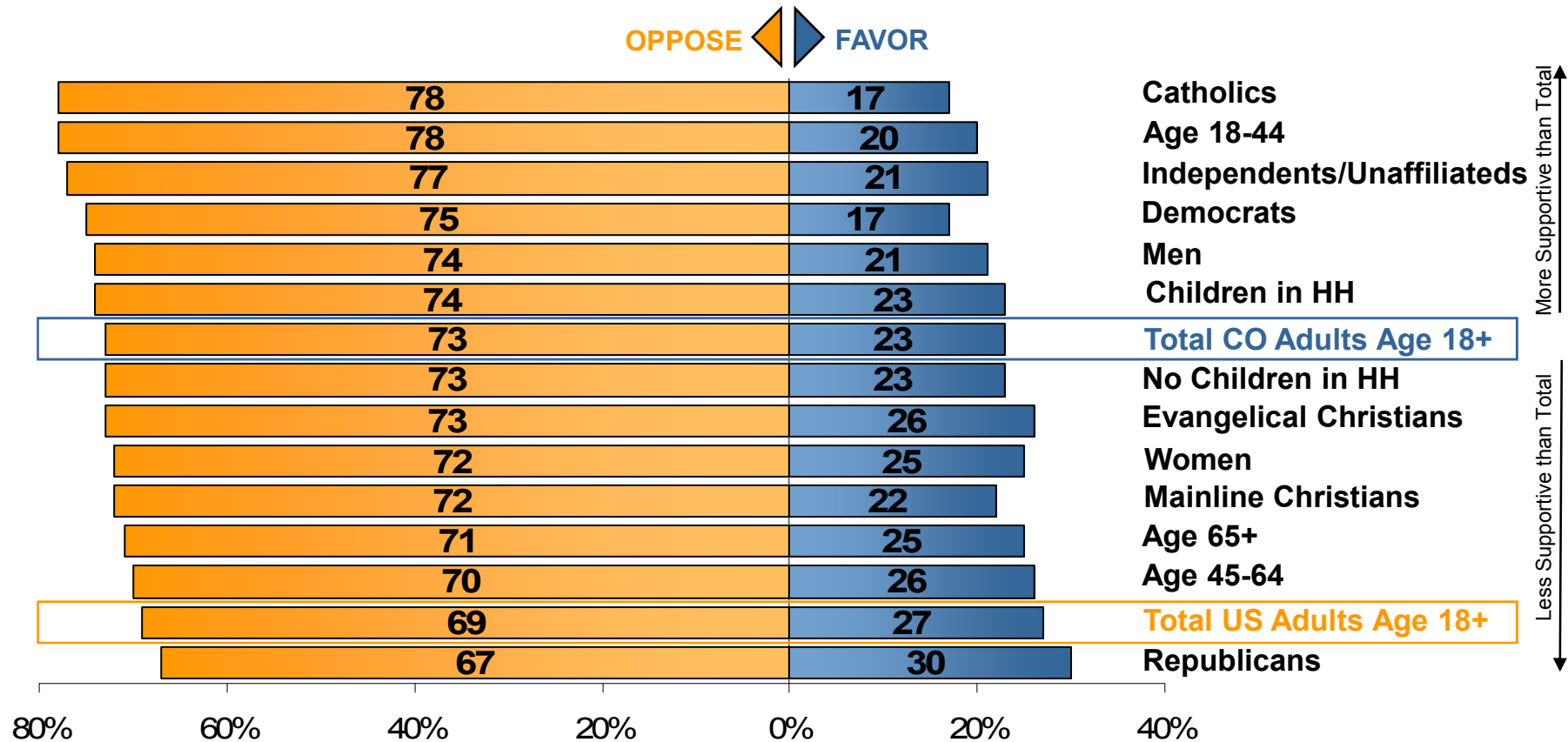
	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	51	45
Political Party Affiliation		
Democrat	75	22
Republican	19	79
Independent/Unaffiliated	56	38
Religion		
Mainline Christians	53	43
Catholics	57	42
Evangelical Christians	24	74

Q625: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Allowing gay and lesbian couples to legally marry.
 Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

Adoption by Qualified Gay and Lesbian Couples

Strong support for adoption. Nearly three out of four Colorado adults (73%) oppose laws that would ban qualified gay and lesbian couples from adopting children. More than three in four Catholics (78%), those under age 45 (78%), and Independents/Unaffiliateds (77%) oppose banning adoption for qualified gay and lesbian couples as do even two out of three (67%) Republicans.

Laws that Would Ban Qualified Gay and Lesbian Couples from Adopting Children



Q645: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Laws that would ban qualified gay and lesbian couples from adopting children.
 Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

Attitudes toward adoption for qualified gay and lesbian couples did not vary by demographics or other characteristics analyzed. No statistically significant differences by gender, age, presence of children, political party, or religion.

% Who Favor/Oppose Laws that Would Ban Qualified Gay and Lesbian Couples from Adopting Children by Demographics, Religion, and Political Party Affiliation

	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	23	73
Gender		
Women	25	72
Men	21	74
Age		
18-44	20	78
45-64	26	70
65 or older	25	71
Presence of Children Under 18 in Household		
Yes	23	74
No	23	73

	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	23	73
Political Party Affiliation		
Democrat	17	75
Republican	30	67
Independent/Unaffiliated	21	77
Religion		
Mainline Christians	22	72
Catholics	17	78
Evangelical Christians	26	73

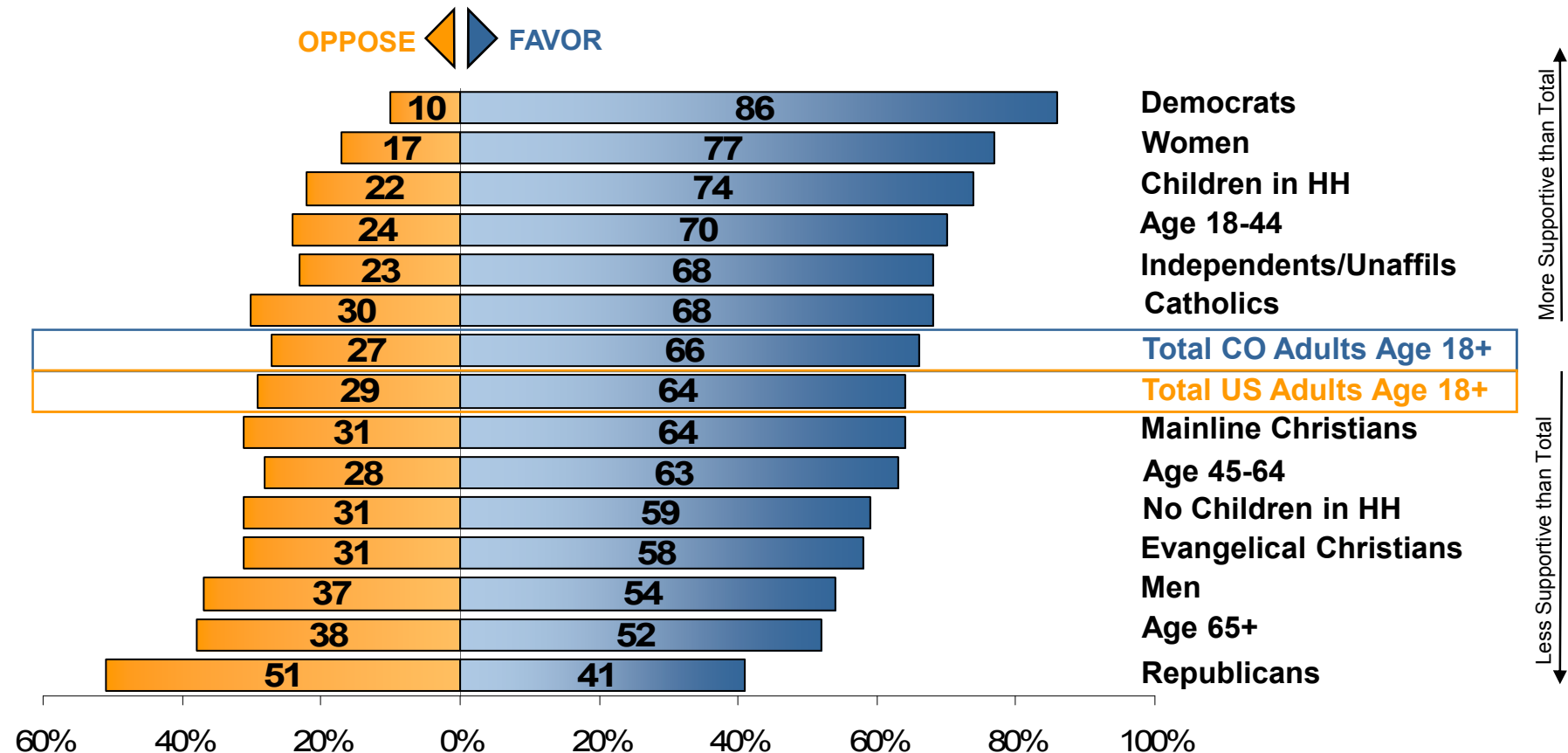
Q645: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Laws that would ban qualified gay and lesbian couples from adopting children.
 Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)



Don't Ask, Don't Tell

Two-thirds (66%) of Colorado adults believe openly gay military personnel should be allowed to serve in the armed forces. Democrats, women, and those with children in the household are more supportive while men, those age 65+, and Republicans are more likely to oppose.

Allowing Openly Gay Military Personnel to Serve in the Armed Forces



Q625: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Allowing openly gay military personnel to serve in the armed forces.

Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=2,008)

Women are more likely than men, those under 45 are more likely than those 65+, those with children are more likely than those without, Democrats are more likely than Independents and Republicans, and Independents are more likely than Republicans to favor allowing open gay military personnel to serve in the armed forces.

% Who Favor/Oppose Allowing Openly Gay Military Personnel to Serve in the Armed Forces by Demographics, Religion, and Political Party Affiliation

	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	66	27
Gender		
Women	77	17
Men	54	37
Age		
18-44	70	24
45-64	63	28
65 or older	52	38
Presence of Children Under 18 in Household		
Yes	74	22
No	59	31

	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	66	27
Political Party Affiliation		
Democrat	86	10
Republican	41	51
Independent/Unaffiliated	68	23
Religion		
Mainline Christians	64	31
Catholics	68	30
Evangelical Christians	58	31

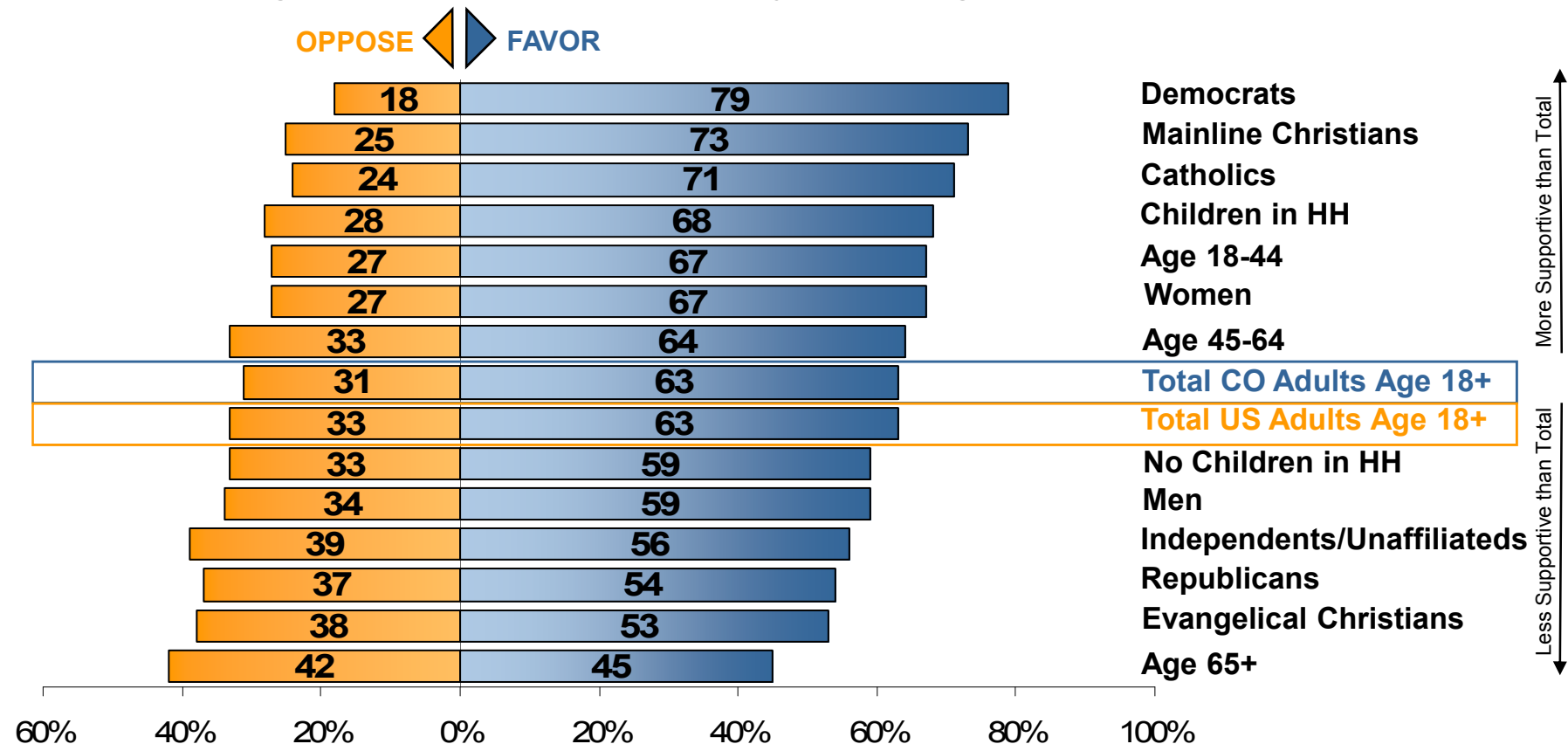
Q625: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Allowing openly gay military personnel to serve in the armed forces. Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

Gay- and Transgender-Inclusive Hate Crimes Laws

Almost two-thirds (63%) of Colorado adults favor expanding hate crime laws to cover gay and transgender people.

More than seven in 10 Democrats (79%), Mainline Christians (73%), and Catholics (71%) favor this proposal. Age 65+ is the only group analyzed for which less than a majority is in favor.

Expanding Hate Crimes Laws to Cover Gay and Transgender People



Q625: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Expanding existing hate crimes laws -- which currently cover violent crimes committed against someone because of their race, religion, color, or national origin -- to include violent crimes against someone because they are gay or transgender. Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

Women are more likely than men, those under 65 are more likely than those 65+, those with children are more likely than those with no children in the household, Democrats are more likely than Independents and Republicans, and Mainline Christians and Catholics are more likely than Evangelical Christians to favor expanding hate crimes laws to cover gay and transgender people.

% Who Favor/Oppose Expanding Hate Crimes Laws to Cover Gay and Transgender People by Demographics, Religion, and Political Party Affiliation

	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	63	31
Gender		
Women	67	27
Men	59	34
Age		
18-44	67	27
45-64	64	33
65 or older	45	42
Presence of Children Under 18 in Household		
Yes	68	28
No	59	33

	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	63	31
Political Party Affiliation		
Democrat	79	18
Republican	54	37
Independent/Unaffiliated	56	39
Religion		
Mainline Christians	73	25
Catholics	71	24
Evangelical Christians	53	38

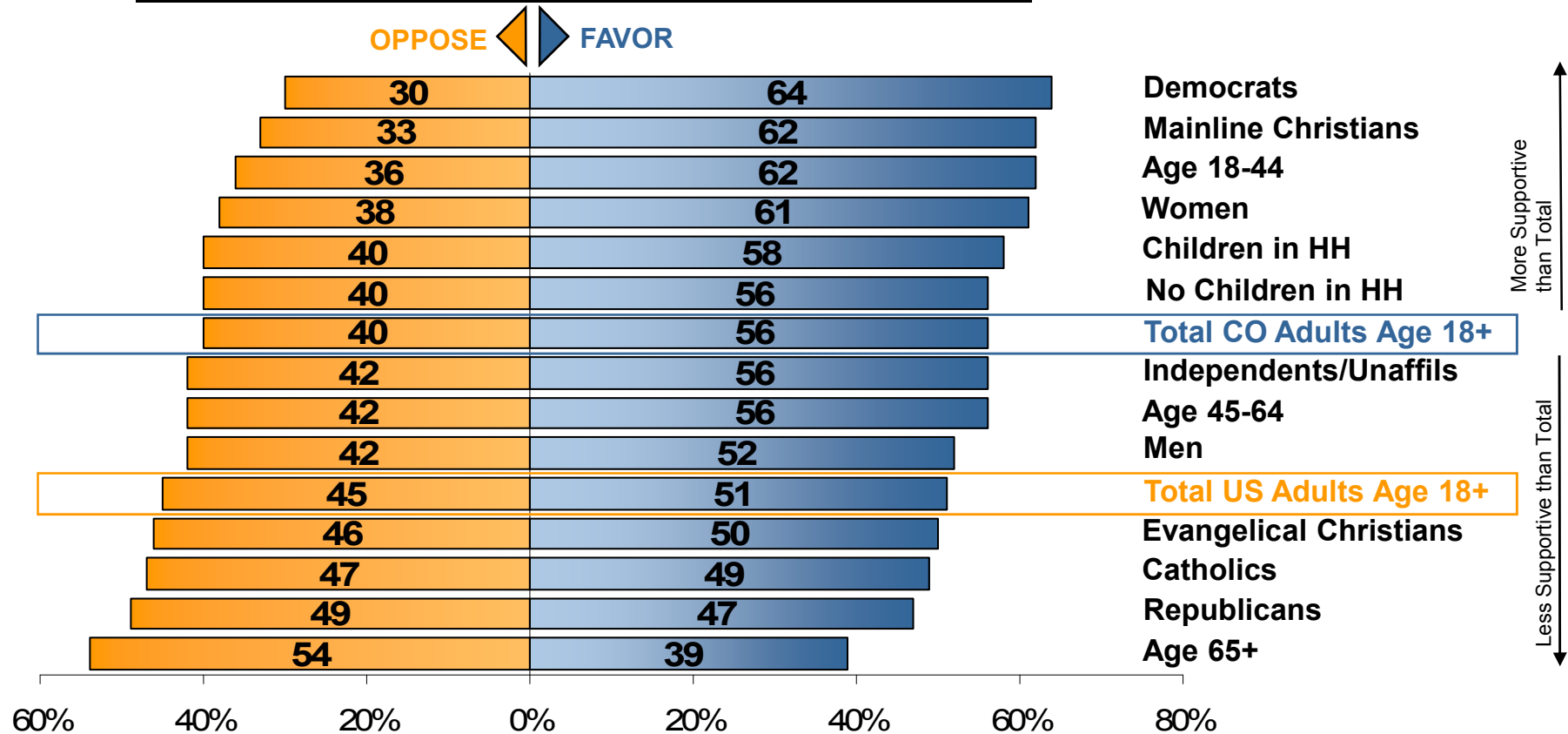
Q625: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Expanding existing hate crimes laws -- which currently cover violent crimes committed against someone because of their race, religion, color, or national origin -- to include violent crimes against someone because they are gay or transgender. Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

Non-Discrimination Laws

A majority of Colorado adults (56%) favor employment, housing, and public accommodations non-discrimination laws for gay and transgender people. This result is significantly higher than for U.S. adults (51%).

Democrats, Mainline Christians, those under age 35, and women are the most likely out of the groups analyzed to favor these laws. The 65+ age segment is the only one of the groups analyzed to have a majority oppose these laws.

**Employment, Housing and Public Accommodations
Non-Discrimination Laws for Gay and Transgender People**



Q625: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Modifying current employment law to make it illegal to fire someone from their job or deny someone housing or public accommodations solely because they are gay or transgender. Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

Those under 65 are more likely than those 65+ and Democrats are more likely than Republicans to favor non-discrimination laws covering gay and transgender people. No statistically significant differences by gender, presence of children, or religion.

% Who Favor/Oppose Employment, Housing and Public Accommodations Non-Discrimination Laws for Gay and Transgender People by Demographics, Religion, and Political Party Affiliation

	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	56	40
Gender		
Women	61	38
Men	52	42
Age		
18-44	62	36
45-64	56	42
65 or older	39	54
Presence of Children Under 18 in Household		
Yes	58	40
No	56	40

	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	56	40
Political Party Affiliation		
Democrat	64	30
Republican	47	49
Independent/Unaffiliated	56	42
Religion		
Mainline Christians	62	33
Catholics	49	47
Evangelical Christians	50	46

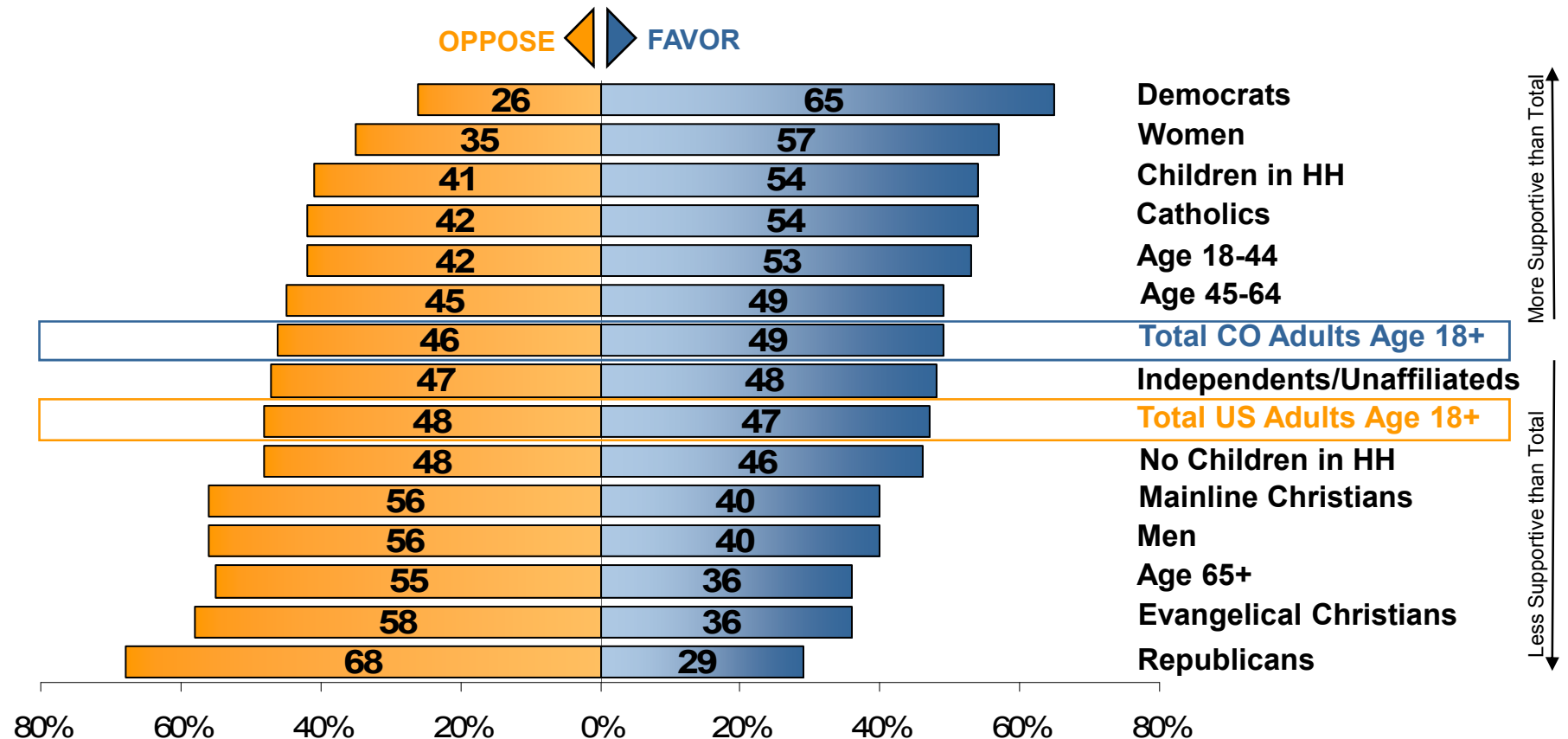
Q625: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Modifying current employment law to make it illegal to fire someone from their job or deny someone housing or public accommodations solely because they are gay or transgender. Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

Bi-National Gay Couples

Colorado adults, like U.S. adults, are evenly split on immigration equality for bi-national gay couples.

More than half of Democrats (65%), women (57%), those with children (54%), Catholics (54%), and those under 45 (53%) favor this while about than three in 10 (29%) Republicans do.

Allowing Gay Americans to Sponsor Their Non-American Life Partners to Become Residents of the U.S.



Q645: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Allowing gay Americans to sponsor their non-American life partners to become residents of the United States.
 Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

Women are more likely than men, those younger than 65 are more likely than those 65+, Catholics are more likely than Mainline and Evangelical Christians, and Democrats are more likely than Independents and Republicans to favor immigration equality for bi-national gay couples. No statistically significant differences by presence of children in HH.

% Who Favor/Oppose Immigration Equality for Gay Americans by Demographics, Religion, and Political Party Affiliation

	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	49	46
Gender		
Women	57	35
Men	40	56
Age		
18-44	53	42
45-64	49	45
65 or older	37	55
Presence of Children Under 18 in Household		
Yes	54	41
No	46	48

	% Favor	% Oppose
Coloradans Age 18+	49	46
Political Party Affiliation		
Democrat	65	26
Republican	29	68
Independent/Unaffiliated	48	47
Religion		
Mainline Christians	40	56
Catholics	54	42
Evangelical Christians	36	58

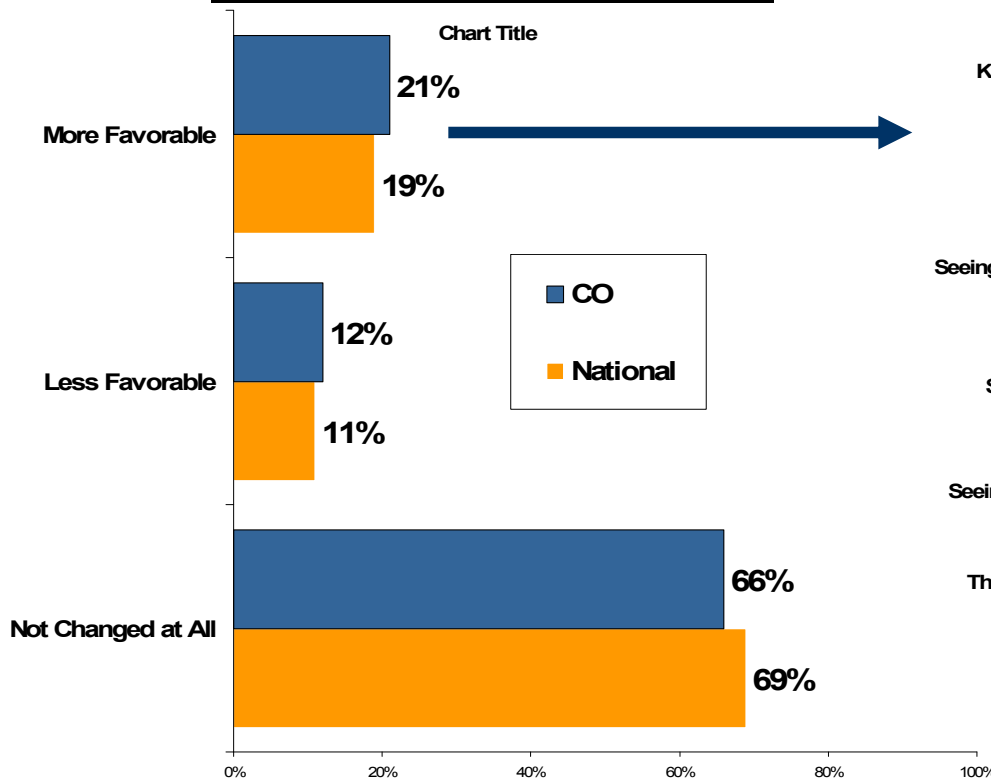
Q645: Do you favor or oppose the following proposals? Allowing gay Americans to sponsor their non-American life partners to become residents of the United States.
 Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

Feelings Towards, Personal Relationships with, and Beliefs About Gay and Transgender People

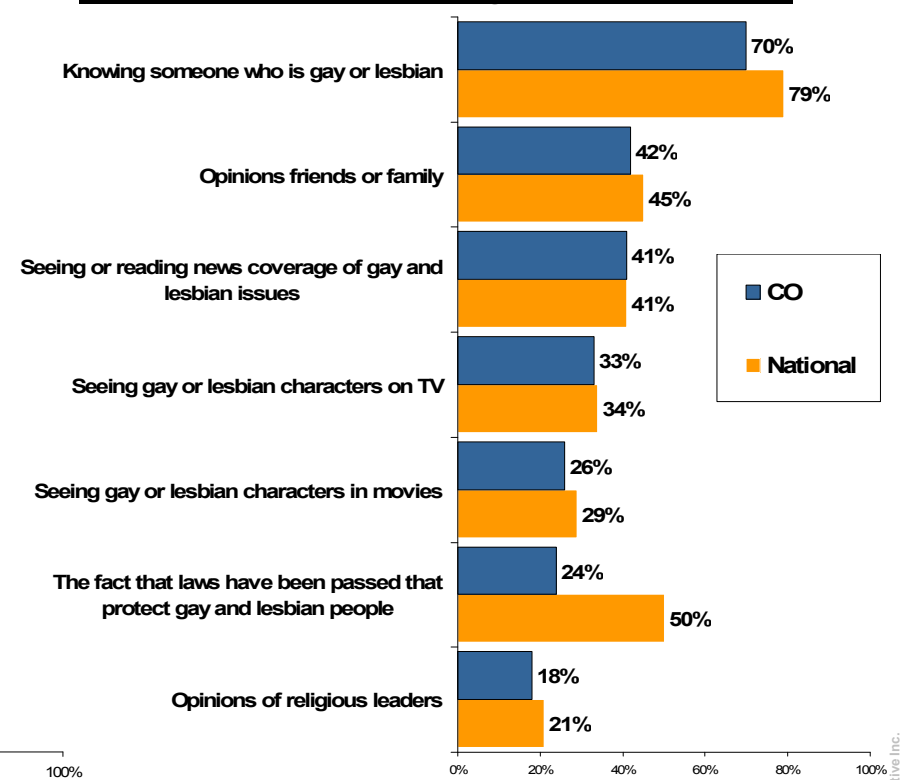
Since 2003, two in 10 (22%) Colorado adults say their feelings towards gays and lesbians have become more favorable while about 1 in 10 (12%) have become less favorable.

Knowing someone who is gay or lesbian was a contributing factor for seven in 10 Colorado adults whose feelings became more favorable. Relative to U.S. adults, a significantly lower percentage of Coloradans said the fact that laws have been passed that protect gay and lesbian people contributed to their feelings becoming more favorable.

Change in Feelings Towards Gays and Lesbians Over Past 5 Years



Contributing Factors to Feelings Towards Gays and Lesbians Becoming More Favorable

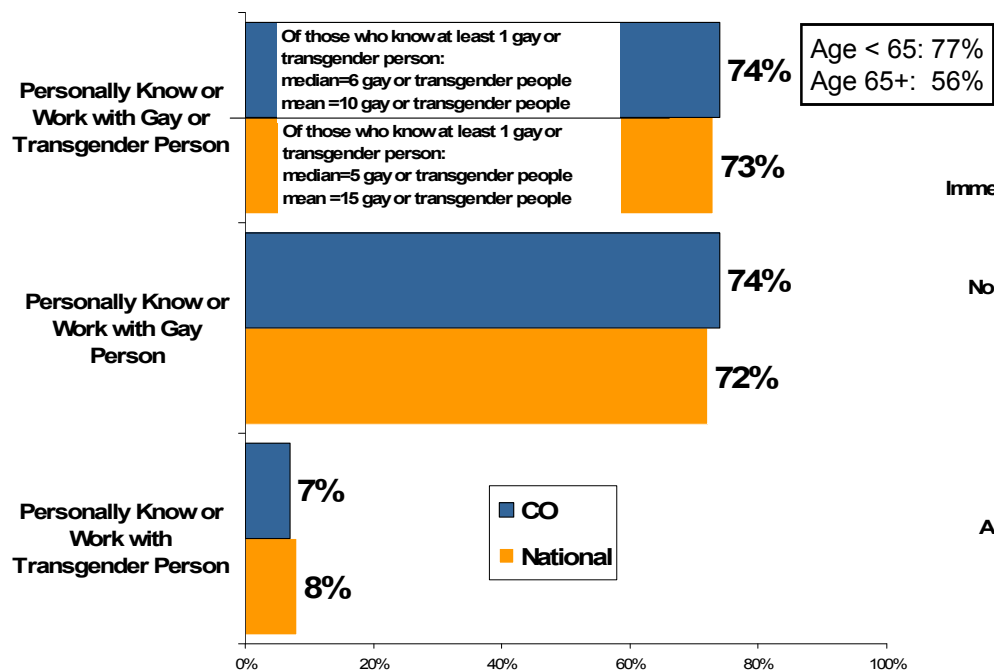


Q610: Over the past five years, would you say your feelings towards gays and lesbians have become much more favorable, somewhat more favorable, somewhat less favorable, much less favorable or not changed at all? Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

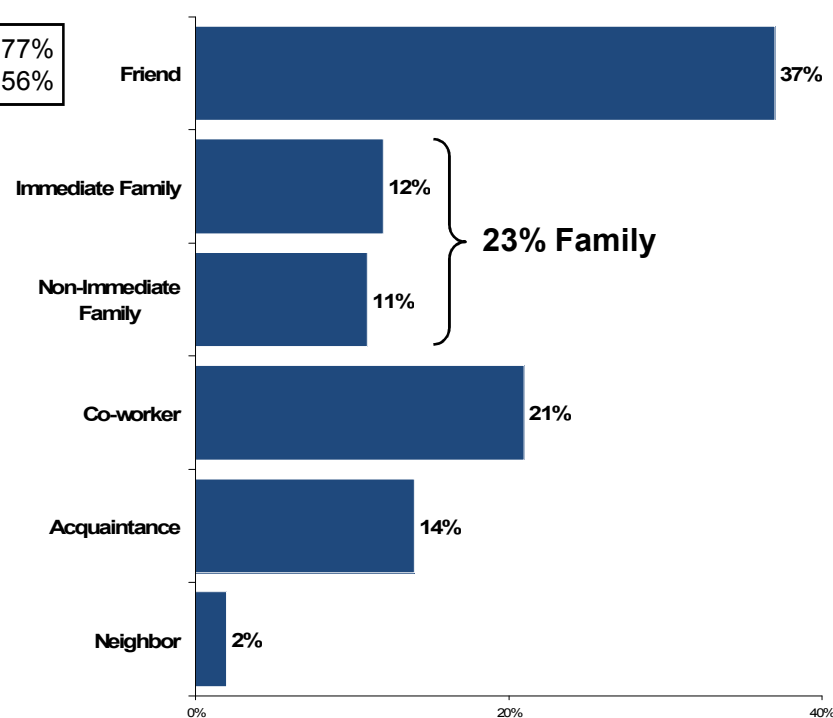
Q615: Which of the following do you believe contributed to your feelings becoming more favorable? Please tell me all that contributed. Multiple responses accepted. Base: Respondents whose feelings have become more favorable (n=93)

Nearly three out of four (74%) Colorado adults personally know or work with a gay or transgender person. Of those who know/work with at least one, half know/work with six or more gay or transgender people, and six in 10 say the gay or lesbian person they've felt closest to is a family member or friend.

Do you Personally Know or Work with a Gay or Transgender Person?



Relationship of Gay or Lesbian Person Felt Closest To*



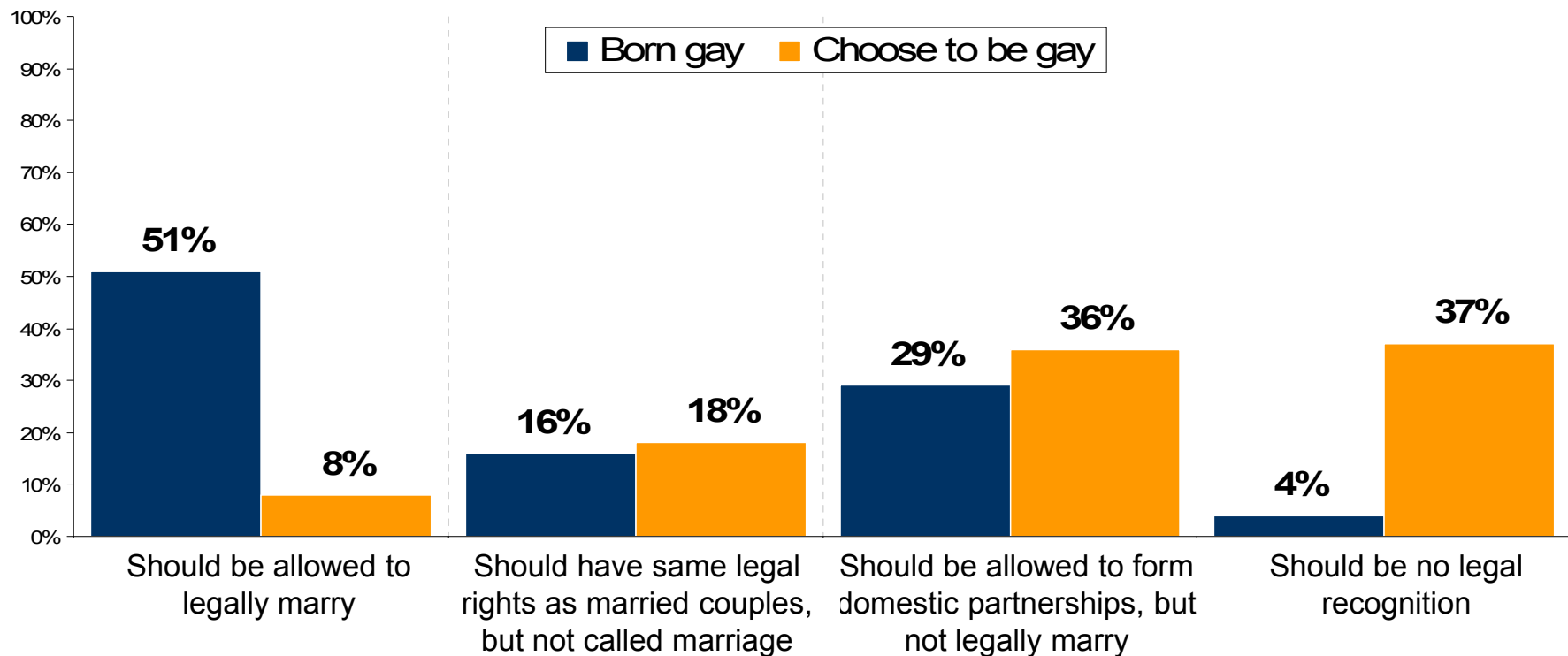
Q655: Do you personally know or work with someone who is gay or lesbian? Q670: Do you personally know or work with a transgender person? Base: U.S. adults 18+ (n=502)

Q660: Thinking of the gay or lesbian person you've felt closest to, what is your relationship to him or her? Is that person yourself or is he or she a member of your family, your non-immediate family a friend, a coworker, a neighbor, or an acquaintance? Base: Respondents who know someone who is gay or lesbian (n=381)

* The relationship of the transgender person to the respondent was also asked but the sample size was insufficient to report out separately.

Those who believe people are born gay are significantly more likely to believe gay and lesbian couples should be able to legally marry. Those who believe people choose to be gay are significantly more likely to think there should be no legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples' relationships.

Attitudes Towards Marriage, Domestic Partnerships/Civil Unions, and No Legal Recognition for Gay and Lesbian Couples by Beliefs about Born vs. Choose to be Gay



Q630: Which of the following three statements do you most agree with when it comes to the issues of gay couples? Gay and lesbian couples should have the same legal right to marry as do a man and a woman. Gay and lesbian couples should have the same legal rights as married couples do, but it should not be called marriage. Marriage under the law should only be between a man and a woman, but there should be domestic partnerships or some legal rights for gay couples. There should be no legal recognition of a relationship between gay or lesbian couples.

Base: Colorado adults 18+ (n=502)

Q650: Do you think gay people are born gay or choose to be gay? Note: Half of sample heard "choose to be gay" first and half the sample heard "born gay" first. Base: Colorado adults 18+ (n=502)

Demographic Profile of Respondents

Gender, Age, Urbanicity, Race/Ethnicity, Employment Status, Marital Status, and Political Party Affiliation

	Total
Gender	%
Male	50
Female	50
Age	%
18-44	48
45-64	36
65+	14
Urbanicity	%
Urban	30
Suburban	55
Rural	15
Race/Ethnicity	%
White Non-Hispanic	78
Hispanic	15
Black/African American Non-Hispanic	3
Other race	3
Decline to answer	2

	Total
Employment Status	%
Employed (net)	65
Employed full time	51
Employed part time	14
Retired	18
Not employed	16
Marital Status	%
Married/Living with partner (net)	63
Married	59
Living with partner	4
Single, never married	21
Divorced/Widowed/Separated (net)	15
Divorced	8
Widowed	5
Separated	2
Political Party Affiliation	%
Independent	38
Democrat	32
Republican	28

Education, Income, Number of People in Household, and Children in Household

	Total
Education	%
Less than high school	1
Completed some high school	8
High school graduate or equivalent	27
Completed some college, but no degree	20
Associate's degree	8
College (e.g., B.A., B.S.)	24
Postgraduate degree	11
Refused/No response	1
People in Household	%
1	14
2	36
3+	49
Refused/No response	1
Have Children Under 18 in Household	%
Yes	41
No	57
Refused/No response	2

	Total
Income	%
Less than \$25,000 (net)	13
Less than \$15,000	6
\$15,000 to \$24,999	7
Less than \$25,000 (unspecified)	0
\$25,000 or More (net)	76
\$25,000 to \$34,999	7
\$35,000 to \$49,999	11
\$50,000 to \$74,999	17
\$75,000 to \$99,999	11
\$100,000 or more	24
\$25,000 or more (unspecified)	6
Refused/No response	11