



**Poll: Nevada Voters Don't Support Gay Marriage, Think Domestic Partnerships have gone far enough**

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**Carson City** – Many Nevadan's support domestic partnerships, but that doesn't mean they are ok with calling it marriage. A new poll commissioned by the Coalition for the Protection of Marriage in Nevada found that the overwhelming majority of Nevada voters were against the idea of gay marriage, instead preferring the domestic partnership laws which Nevada already has in place.

The poll is the first of its kind in Nevada to specifically address the differences between marriage and domestic partnerships, with over 56% of Nevada calling the difference between the two as "significant" and only 20% indicating support for the term "gay marriage." The poll was conducted by Strategic National, a national polling firm with historical success in Nevada.

"This poll clearly shows that the voters in this state see a clear difference between current domestic partnership laws and how they view marriage," said Richard Ziser, State Director for the Coalition for the Protection of Marriage in Nevada. "Twice this state has voted to define marriage as between one man and one woman and this poll shows the overwhelming majority of Nevadan's clearly still feel this is the case."

The poll was commissioned as the legislature considers Senate Bill SJR13, which would overturn the constitutional amendment put in place by Nevada voters in 2000 and 2002 defining marriage as between one man and one woman. Over 53% of respondents felt that the Nevada Senate should leave the process alone and allow voters to decide on the definition of marriage as opposed to the 36.38% who were in support of the legislature circumventing the signature collecting process.

Over 50% of voters surveyed said they viewed marriage as a "sacred covenant" and not a "moral contract" and nearly 70% of voters stated that the issue of same sex marriage would be an important decision in how they vote, both in general and primary elections.

"The Nevada Senate should consider the repercussions of this bill should it move forward," stated Ziser. "Only one in five Nevada voters favor gay marriage and if the issue comes up again, it should be because voters collected the required signatures to get it on the ballot, not because the Senate decided to do it for them. Any Senator voting in favor of this bill is clearly violating the will of the voters themselves."



The poll from Strategic National was in line with several previous public polls relating to the gay marriage issue in Nevada. Three previous polls by Public Policy Polling in 2011 and 2012 also showed that despite support for some type of legal recognition for same sex couples, that more voters preferred the idea of civil unions or domestic partnerships when given the option over marriage.

“Same sex relationships are once again a relevant topic in Nevada and across America,” stated John Yob, CEO of Strategic National. “While being in favor of same sex couples engaging in domestic partnerships, the survey results reveal Nevada voters as a whole are not supportive of a revised definition of traditional marriage.”

Over the past week alone, the Coalition for the Protection of Marriage has spoken with thousands of voters from across the state who disagree with Senate Bill SJR13 and have urged them to contact their State Senator to voice their opinions. These views are in line with the poll’s findings, which shows that the majority of Republicans, Third Parties, and Independents affirm that marriage is indeed a sacred covenant between one man and one woman.

The poll was conducted with 765 registered Nevada voters between April 16-17 and has a margin of error of +/- 3.54%. Attached are the poll findings with crosstabs and an executive summary from Strategic National. Richard Ziser will be available for questions at the legislature on Friday and can be reached at the numbers below.

## Overview

Strategic National conducted a poll from April 16-17, 2013, to measure current Nevada voter opinion regarding same-sex marriage. A total of 765 registered voters participated with the IVR survey between the two nights. The gender breakdown is 52.03% Female, 47.97% Male. Partisan affiliation is 42.61% Democratic, 35.29% Republican, 14.12% Independent/Unaffiliated, and 7.97% Third Party. The Margin of Error is +/- 3.54% at a 95% Confidence Interval. The findings, along with select crosstabs, follow the Executive Summary.

## Executive Summary

The poll Findings provide insight into the current view of Nevada voters with regards to same-sex marriage. On the whole, Nevadans are extremely supportive of some form of legal recognition for same-sex couples, but with certain qualifications. Instead of grouping all same-sex unions into a single category, Strategic National subdivided various legal arrangements for the consideration of the survey sample. Only 20% of Nevada voters support the specific terminology of “marriage” for same-sex relationships, with nearly 50% preferring the term “domestic partnership,” underscoring a strong degree of support for maintaining the current domestic partnership system in Nevada without changes. Furthermore, a majority of Nevadans, 51.86%, view marriage as a sacred covenant between one man and one woman, while 56.76% say there is a significant difference between the terms “domestic partnership” and “marriage”. Additional study of the crosstabs reveals that a majority of those who identify as Republicans, Independents, and Third Party affiliated voters view marriage as a sacred covenant between one man and one woman.

The crosstabs also reveal that no single religious group, including “No Religion” and “Other”, had majority, or even plurality support for the “marriage” terminology when also given the opportunity to select “domestic partnership”. A majority of self-identified Evangelical Christians preferred neither “marriage” nor “domestic partnership”, as did a plurality of self-identified Mormons.

Also of note in the Findings are the responses of Nevadans to the question of whether same-sex relationships are a Federal or State issue. 53.54% say it is a State issue, while 38.19% say it is a Federal issue. The survey also inquired as to voters' feelings on the issue of amending the State Constitution. At issue is the appropriateness of intervention from the Nevada Legislature on ballot questions historically placed on the ballot by signature collection. Nevadans came down strongly against Legislative intervention by a margin of 53.04% to 38.19%.



“Same-sex relationships are once again a relevant topic in Nevada and across America,” said John Yob, CEO of Strategic National. “The survey results reveal that Nevada voters as a whole are not supportive of a revised definition of traditional marriage in Nevada, while at the same time being supportive of same-sex couples engaging in domestic partnerships.”

Strategic National has significant experience in Nevada campaigns, and in accurately polling the Silver State for various issues, trends, and ballot match-ups. Strategic National polling projected Sharron Angle’s victory in the 2010 Republican Primary, Senator Harry Reid’s victory in the General Election of 2010, and the 22 point victory by Carolyn Goodman in the 2011 Las Vegas Mayoral election (we predicted a 23 point margin of victory in our final May 2011 poll).

## Findings

With which of the following political parties do you most closely affiliate?

Republican	35.29%
Democratic	42.61%
Third Party	7.97%
Independent/Unaffiliated	14.12%
Total	100.00%

The issue of same-sex relationships has been in the news lately. Do you support the legal recognition of same-sex relationships, whether by domestic partnerships or by marriage?

Domestic Partnerships	47.06%
Marriage	20.00%
Neither	29.67%
Undecided	3.27%
Total	100.00%

Do you think there is significant, minor, or no difference between a domestic partnership and a marriage?

Significant Difference	56.76%
Minor Difference	25.68%
No Difference	17.57%
Total	100.00%

Many proponents of same-sex marriage argue that two consenting adults should not be denied the option to be joined in the marital relationship. Opponents of same-sex marriage argue that marriage is a moral covenant, not a contract, and therefore should not be re-defined as anything other than the historic definition of one man and one woman. Which of the following best describes the term “marriage” to you?

Private Contract	39.92%
Sacred Covenant	51.86%
Unsure	8.22%
Total	100.00%

Do you think the Supreme Court should make the issue of same-sex marriage a Federal government issue, or leave it to the individual states to decide?

Federal Issue	38.19%
State Issue	53.54%
Unsure	8.27%
Total	100.00%

In thinking about the issue of same-sex marriage at the state level, how important do you think this issue will be when you make the decision for whom to cast your vote, either in your Party’s Primary process, or in the General Election?

Unimportant	32.97%
Primary Election Importance	12.48%
General Election Importance	10.18%
Both Election Importance	44.37%
Total	100.00%

In 2002, Nevada voters passed a Nevada Constitutional Amendment, after the sponsoring committee collected over 120,000 signatures to get the Amendment on the statewide ballot. Regardless of whether you support or oppose same-sex marriage, do you think the Nevada Legislature should respect the decision of Nevada voters and require the same signature collection process, or should they put this issue back on the ballot without the process of collecting signatures?

On Ballot Without Signatures	36.38%
On Ballot With Signatures	53.04%
Unsure	10.58%
Total	100.00%

A few states now allow for same-sex marriage. This state recognition allows for children to be taught that homosexuality is a viable and healthy lifestyle alternative. Knowing this, should Nevada allow same-sex marriages?

Allow Same-Sex Marriage	39.79%
Prohibit Same-Sex Marriage	49.67%
Unsure	10.54%
Total	100.00%

With which religion do you most closely identify?

Protestant Christian	31.97%
Evangelical Christian	8.19%
Catholic	21.53%
Jewish	2.91%
Mormon	7.00%
Muslim	1.32%
No Religion	16.51%
Other	10.57%
Total	100.00%

## Are you male or female?

Male	47.97%
Female	52.03%
Total	100.00%

## What is your age?

18-35	9.28%
36-55	24.84%
56-65	26.80%
66+	39.08%
Total	100.00%



## Select Crosstabs

**Q:** The issue of same-sex relationships has been in the news lately. Do you support the legal recognition of same-sex relationships, whether by domestic partnerships or by marriage?

### Party Screen

	Republican	Democratic	Third Party	Independent/Unaffiliated
Domestic Partnerships	40.00%	53.07%	45.90%	47.22%
Marriage	8.52%	30.37%	16.39%	19.44%
Neither	48.89%	14.11%	34.43%	25.93%
Undecided	2.59%	2.45%	3.28%	7.41%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

### Religion

	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Jewish	Mormon	Muslim	No Religion	Other
Domestic Partnerships	52.89%	20.97%	44.79%	63.64%	37.74%	60.00%	56.00%	43.75%
Marriage	15.70%	14.52%	20.25%	22.73%	15.09%	10.00%	25.60%	32.50%
Neither	28.93%	62.90%	30.67%	13.64%	43.40%	20.00%	16.00%	17.50%
Undecided	2.48%	1.61%	4.29%	0.00%	3.77%	10.00%	2.40%	6.25%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

### Gender

	Male	Female
Domestic Partnerships	43.87%	50.00%
Marriage	21.25%	18.84%
Neither	31.06%	28.39%
Undecided	3.81%	2.76%
	100%	100%

### Age

	18-35	36-55	56-65	66+
Domestic Partnerships	33.80%	44.21%	53.17%	47.83%
Marriage	21.13%	21.05%	19.02%	19.73%
Neither	42.25%	31.05%	26.34%	28.09%
Undecided	2.82%	3.68%	1.46%	4.35%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Q:** Do you think there is significant, minor, or no difference between a domestic partnership and a marriage?

## Party Screen

	Republican	Democratic	Third Party	Independent/Unaffiliated
Significant Difference	67.06%	49.37%	59.02%	52.83%
Minor Difference	20.78%	29.56%	22.95%	27.36%
No Difference	12.16%	21.07%	18.03%	19.81%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

## Religion

	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Jewish	Mormon	Muslim	No Religion	Other
Significant Difference	62.93%	63.33%	58.97%	45.00%	60.38%	44.44%	44.35%	49.37%
Minor Difference	24.14%	20.00%	27.56%	40.00%	18.87%	11.11%	31.45%	26.58%
No Difference	12.93%	16.67%	13.46%	15.00%	20.75%	44.44%	24.19%	24.05%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## Gender

	Male	Female
Significant Difference	55.84%	57.58%
Minor Difference	24.79%	26.48%
No Difference	19.37%	15.94%
	100%	100%

## Age

	18-35	36-55	56-65	66+
Significant Difference	59.42%	55.74%	54.00%	58.68%
Minor Difference	26.09%	26.23%	25.00%	25.69%
No Difference	14.49%	18.03%	21.00%	15.63%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Q:** Many proponents of same-sex marriage argue that two consenting adults should not be denied the option to be joined in the marital relationship. Opponents of same-sex marriage argue that marriage is a moral covenant, not a contract, and therefore should not be re-defined as anything other than the historic definition of one man and one woman. Which of the following best describes the term “marriage” to you?

**Party Screen**

	Republican	Democratic	Third Party	Independent/Unaffiliated
Private Contract	15.47%	64.49%	24.59%	35.51%
Sacred Covenant	79.62%	27.41%	57.38%	53.27%
Unsure	4.91%	8.10%	18.03%	11.21%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Religion**

	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Jewish	Mormon	Muslim	No Religion	Other
Private Contract	34.03%	11.48%	34.38%	68.18%	24.53%	40.00%	64.00%	57.14%
Sacred Covenant	58.40%	80.33%	55.00%	22.73%	69.81%	40.00%	30.40%	33.77%
Unsure	7.56%	8.20%	10.63%	9.09%	5.66%	20.00%	5.60%	9.09%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Gender**

	Male	Female
Private Contract	37.57%	42.09%
Sacred Covenant	55.52%	48.47%
Unsure	6.91%	9.44%
	100%	100%

**Age**

	18-35	36-55	56-65	66+
Private Contract	34.78%	36.70%	46.77%	38.51%
Sacred Covenant	56.52%	53.72%	46.77%	53.04%
Unsure	8.70%	9.57%	6.47%	8.45%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Q:** Do you think the Supreme Court should make the issue of same-sex marriage a Federal government issue, or leave it to the individual states to decide?

## Party Screen

	Republican	Democratic	Third Party	Independent/Unaffiliated
Federal Issue	17.16%	58.90%	24.59%	35.51%
State Issue	76.87%	32.21%	65.57%	53.27%
Unsure	5.97%	8.90%	9.84%	11.21%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

## Religion

	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Jewish	Mormon	Muslim	No Religion	Other
Federal Issue	33.61%	31.15%	36.20%	50.00%	24.53%	50.00%	53.23%	46.25%
State Issue	59.34%	59.02%	55.83%	40.91%	64.15%	50.00%	40.32%	41.25%
Unsure	7.05%	9.84%	7.98%	9.09%	11.32%	0.00%	6.45%	12.50%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## Gender

	Male	Female
Federal Issue	37.81%	38.54%
State Issue	57.53%	49.87%
Unsure	4.66%	11.59%
	100%	100%

## Age

	18-35	36-55	56-65	66+
Federal Issue	38.03%	35.11%	40.98%	38.26%
State Issue	56.34%	58.51%	51.71%	51.01%
Unsure	5.63%	6.38%	7.32%	10.74%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

**Q:** In thinking about the issue of same-sex marriage at the state level, how important do you think this issue will be when you make the decision for whom to cast your vote, either in your Party's Primary process, or in the General Election?

## Party Screen

	Republican	Democratic	Third Party	Independent/Unaffiliated
Unimportant	30.35%	32.92%	44.83%	33.01%
Primary Election Importance	17.90%	10.97%	12.07%	3.88%
General Election Importance	9.73%	12.23%	6.90%	6.80%
Both Election Importance	42.02%	43.89%	36.21%	56.31%
	100%	100%	100%	100%

## Religion

	Protestant Christian	Evangelical Christian	Catholic	Jewish	Mormon	Muslim	No Religion	Other
Unimportant	33.05%	18.03%	36.13%	42.86%	30.00%	50.00%	37.40%	27.63%
Primary Election Importance	15.45%	18.03%	11.61%	9.52%	6.00%	10.00%	9.76%	9.21%
General Election Importance	11.59%	14.75%	10.32%	0.00%	8.00%	0.00%	8.94%	10.53%
Both Election Importance	39.91%	49.18%	41.94%	47.62%	56.00%	40.00%	43.90%	52.63%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

## Gender

	Male	Female
Unimportant	36.97%	29.21%
Primary Election Importance	12.32%	12.63%
General Election Importance	10.92%	9.47%
Both Election Importance	39.78%	48.68%
	100%	100%

**Age**

	18-35	36-55	56-65	66+
Unimportant	29.41%	30.98%	26.50%	39.65%
Primary				
Election	11.76%	16.30%	11.00%	11.23%
Importance				
General				
Election	5.88%	7.07%	12.00%	11.93%
Importance				
Both Election	52.94%	45.65%	50.50%	37.19%
Importance				
	100%	100%	100%	100%