

**TO: Interested Parties**  
**FROM: Hart Research Associates**  
**DATE: September 23, 2020**  
**RE: Findings from New Survey in Battleground States**

There are three key findings from a new batch of polls<sup>1\*</sup> conducted on behalf of the Human Rights Campaign among likely voters in key states—Arizona, Florida, Michigan, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin:

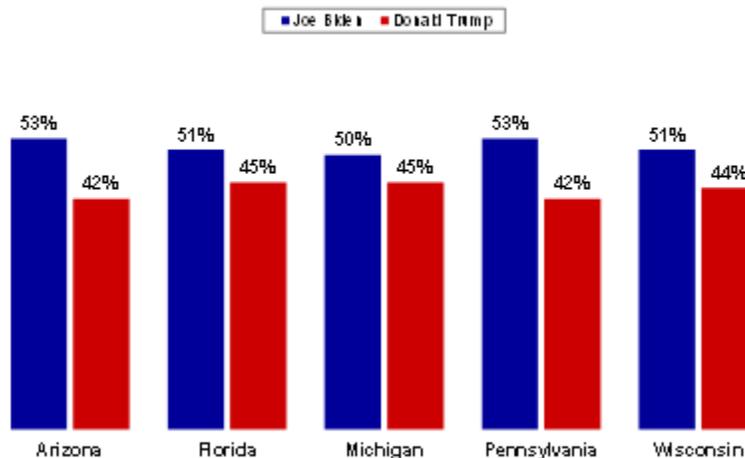
- 1) Joe Biden and Democratic Senate candidates, who are pro-equality, are in very strong positions heading into the campaign’s last five weeks.
- 2) Voters have clear and abiding support for LGBTQ equality across a host of issues.
- 3) Voters have no interest in seeing transgender people demonized or having basic rights for transgender people used as political footballs.

Details about each of these findings are outlined below.

### Pro-equality Democratic Candidates are Leading

In each of these presidential battleground states, Joe Biden has a lead—in some cases in the double digits—over Donald Trump.

### Joe Biden Leads in Each State



<sup>1\*</sup>A total of 400 likely voters were interviewed in each state from September 17 to 19, 2020. (Approximately 30% of interviews were completed on September 19, the day after the passing of Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg.) The margin of error in each state is  $\pm 4.9$  percentage points for the full sample, with higher tolerances for subgroups in each state.

## Hart Research Associates

In most of the states Biden’s lead is driven by two groups: self-identified independents and voters under age 40. Wisconsin is the one exception to the latter point—the race there is essentially tied among voters under 40, while Biden leads among those age 60 and older.

<b>Presidential Vote</b>				
	<b><u>18 to 39</u></b>	<b><u>40 to 59</u></b>	<b><u>60 and older</u></b>	<b><u>Independents</u></b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Arizona</b>	Trump: 37	Trump: 35	Trump: 51	Trump: 27
	Biden: 58	Biden: 60	Biden: 44	Biden: 54
<b>Florida</b>	Trump: 35	Trump: 50	Trump: 48	Trump: 28
	Biden: 62	Biden: 46	Biden: 46	Biden: 62
<b>Michigan</b>	Trump: 31	Trump: 51	Trump: 49	Trump: 37
	Biden: 61	Biden: 45	Biden: 47	Biden: 49
<b>Pennsylvania</b>	Trump: 33	Trump: 39	Trump: 51	Trump: 29
	Biden: 57	Biden: 57	Biden: 47	Biden: 47
<b>Wisconsin</b>	Trump: 47	Trump: 49	Trump: 41	Trump: 31
	Biden: 46	Biden: 47	Biden: 56	Biden: 53

Pro-equality Democratic Senate candidates in two of these states are also in excellent positions in the final stretches of their campaigns. In Arizona, Mark Kelly is leading Martha McSally by 12 points—55% to 43%. In Michigan, incumbent Gary Peters is besting John James by eight points—50% to 42%. Like Biden, Peters and Kelly benefit from substantial support from younger voters and independents.

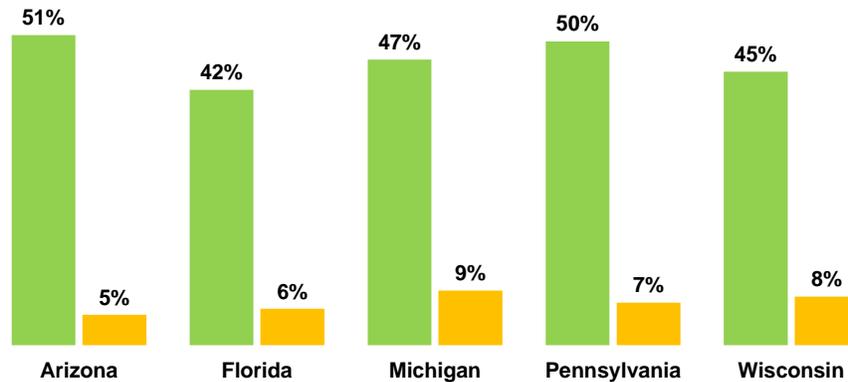
<b>Senate Vote</b>				
	<b><u>18 to 39</u></b>	<b><u>40 to 59</u></b>	<b><u>60 and older</u></b>	<b><u>Independents</u></b>
	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>Arizona</b>	McSally: 41	McSally: 38	McSally: 47	McSally: 31
	Kelly: 57	Kelly: 60	Kelly: 50	Kelly: 62
<b>Michigan</b>	Peters: 65	Peters: 44	Peters: 43	Peters: 51
	James: 26	James: 50	James: 49	James: 36

## Hart Research Associates

Moreover, voters in these states take a dim view of anti-LGBTQ positions in elected leaders. Pluralities, and in some cases majorities, of voters say that they would feel less favorable toward candidates who oppose LGBTQ equality.

### If I knew an elected official **OPPOSED** LGBTQ equality, this would make me:

■ LESS favorable toward them    ■ MORE favorable toward them



In each state, large majorities of Democrats and majorities or pluralities of independents say that they would feel less favorable toward an anti-LGBTQ rights candidate. Most Republicans say that it does not matter to them either way, but, among those Republicans who do register an opinion, far more say less favorable than more favorable. In other words, there is essentially ***no political upside to a candidate adopting anti-LGBTQ stances.***

### Republicans' Views of an Anti-LGBTQ Rights Candidate

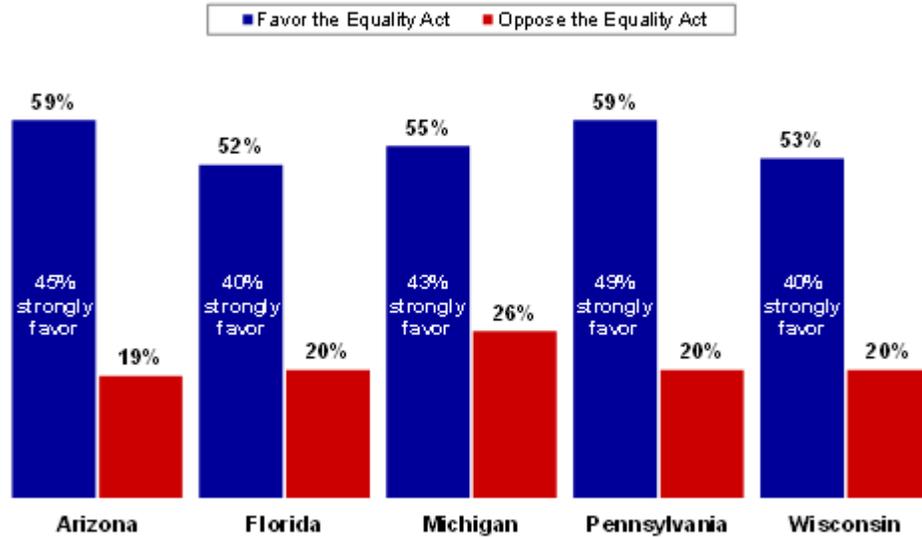
	Feel More Favorable %	Feel Less Favorable %	Makes No Difference %	Net Favorability +/-
<b>Republicans in Arizona</b>	6	32	60	-26
<b>Republicans in Florida</b>	8	22	66	-14
<b>Republicans in Michigan</b>	13	25	60	-12
<b>Republicans in Pennsylvania</b>	8	31	60	-23
<b>Republicans in Wisconsin</b>	7	27	62	-20

### Voters Express Wide Support for LGBTQ Rights and Protections

In 2019, the House of Representatives passed the **Equality Act**, which enshrines in law a number of basic rights and protections of LGBTQ people;

the Act has not been taken up by the Senate. Given the arc of public opinion, the GOP Senate’s failure to act on this legislation would seem to be a mistake, as large majorities of voters across the diverse group of states express support for it. Indeed, support outweighs opposition by more than two to one (in some cases three to one) in each state.

**Wide Support for the Federal Equality Act**



In Arizona, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin, Trump voters who support the Equality Act outnumber those who oppose it by about 10 percentage points. In Florida, 30% of Trump voters support it vs. 24% who oppose it, and in Michigan support and opposition are each at 36% among this group.

**Voters’ support extends to rights and protections for LGBTQ people** in several different areas, including adoption and marriage.

<b>% Who SUPPORT Specific LGBTQ Rights and Protections</b>					
	Arizona	Florida	Michigan	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin
Allowing LGBTQ people to legally adopt children	63%	59%	62%	67%	62%
Allowing same-sex couples to get legally married	61%	59%	59%	67%	59%

In each state, opposition to the policies above is in the mid- to low-20s.

## Hart Research Associates

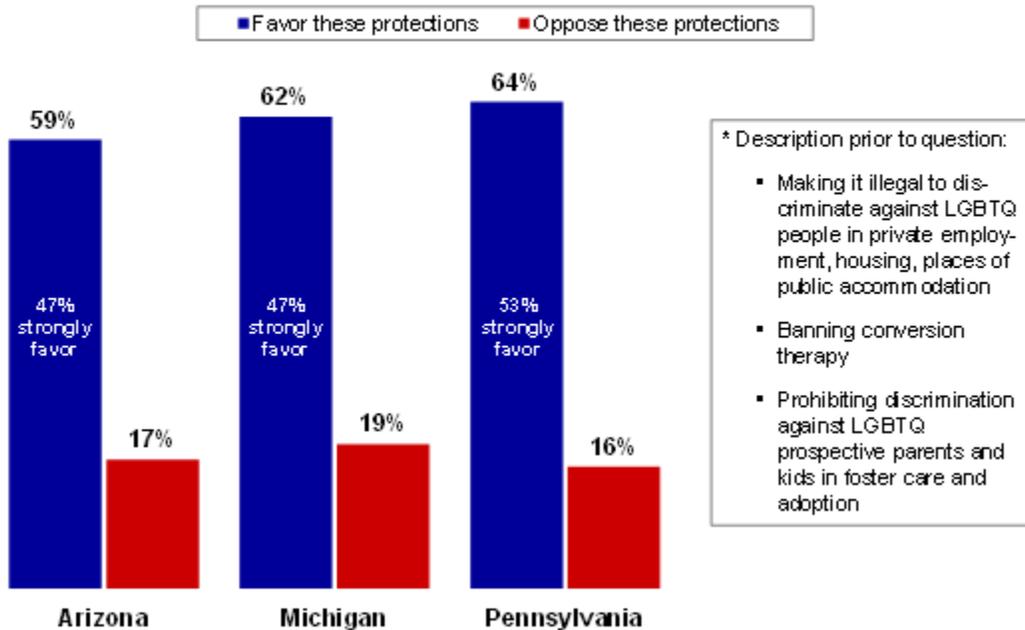
Similarly, majorities of voters **expressly oppose proposals to deny rights to LGBTQ people** on two fronts: receiving services from private businesses and transgender people’s service in the U.S. military.

% Who <b>OPPOSE</b> Specific Attacks on LGBTQ Rights					
	Arizona	Florida	Michigan	Pennsylvania	Wisconsin
Banning transgender people from serving in the U.S. armed forces	62%	56%	57%	61%	59%
Allowing business owners to deny services to LGBTQ people if they say doing so would violate their religious beliefs	54%	54%	53%	57%	58%

Support for these two proposals is under 30% in each state.

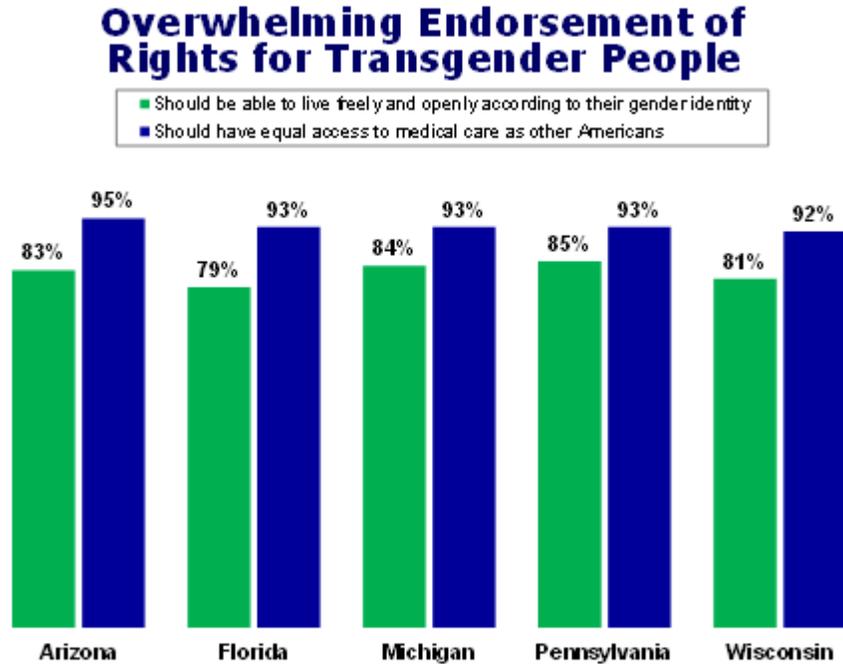
Additionally, in three of the states, there are proposals for state legislation that would provide protections to LGBTQ people in those states. Support for these state protections is similarly broad and deep across the board.

### Strong Support for State Protections\* for LGBTQ People



### Overwhelming Support for Transgender Equality

In a year during which voters on the left and right can find almost nothing to agree on, these polls find bipartisan endorsement of transgender people. In particular, voters' belief that transgender people should have equal access to medical care as other Americans is nearly unanimous.



In each state, 68% or more of Trump voters say transgender people should be able to live freely and openly, and 87% or more say transgender people should have equal access to medical care.

Their support for transgender people aside, voters in 2020 are not obsessing over transgender issues as they cast their votes. Early in the survey we read eight issues to respondents and asked which two would be most important to them in deciding their vote in November. Transgender people participating in sports came in dead last, with between 1% and 3% in each state saying this would be a top issue for them. By comparison, the top two issues were jobs and the economy (in the mid-40s) and healthcare (low- to mid-30s, with the exception of Florida where it is 26%).