



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
FOUNDATION



CMI Community Marketing & Insights

Leaders in LGBTQ Research since 1992

POWERED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION



MARRIAGE EQUALITY AND THE SUPREME COURT

Findings from the 2025 Annual LGBTQ+ Community Survey

Last updated: November 5, 2025

Public Support for Marriage Equality and the Obergefell Decision

In the month leading up to the Supreme Court's conference to consider Kim Davis's petition to overturn the landmark *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision, a clear majority of U.S. adults—**65.8%**—continue to support keeping the decision in place, protecting the right to same-sex marriage.

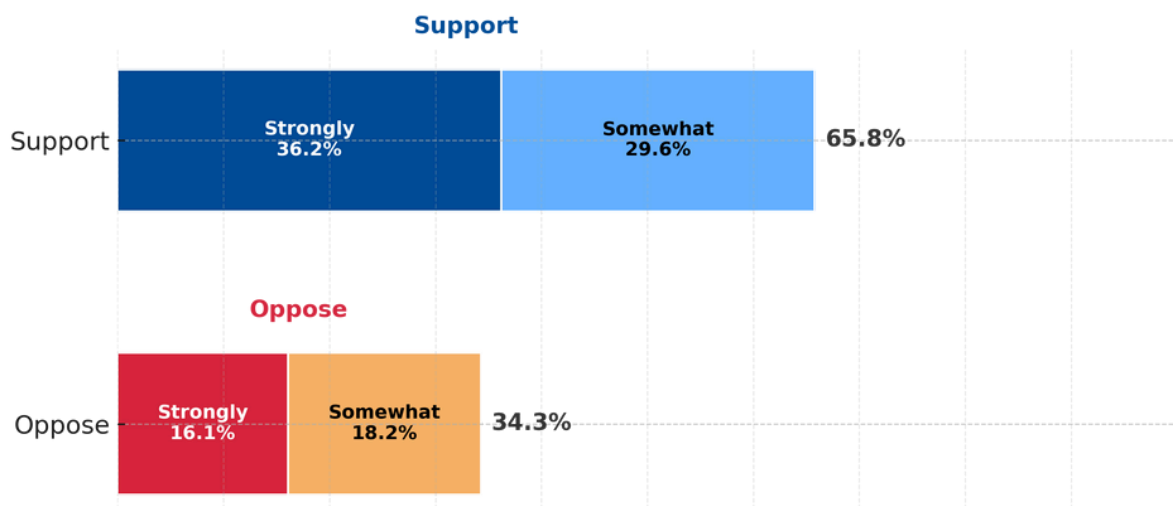
These findings mirror other recent national polls—such as Gallup's May 2025 estimate of 68% support for same-sex marriage—but this survey represents one of the first to explicitly reference *Obergefell* and the possibility of its reversal by the Supreme Court. The phrasing thus captures how Americans view protecting an existing right rather than granting a new one.

Respondents were asked:

"Kim Davis, a former Kentucky clerk who refused to issue marriage licenses to a gay couple, filed an appeal to overturn the Supreme Court's 2015 Obergefell v. Hodges decision that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide. Do you support or oppose protecting the right to same-sex marriage nationwide by keeping the Obergefell v. Hodges decision in place?"

Majority of Americans Support Protecting Same-Sex Marriage Rights

% of U.S. Adults by Strength of Support or Opposition to Keeping the Obergefell v. Hodges Decision





HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
FOUNDATION



CMI Community Marketing & Insights

Leaders in LGBTQ Research since 1992

POWERED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION

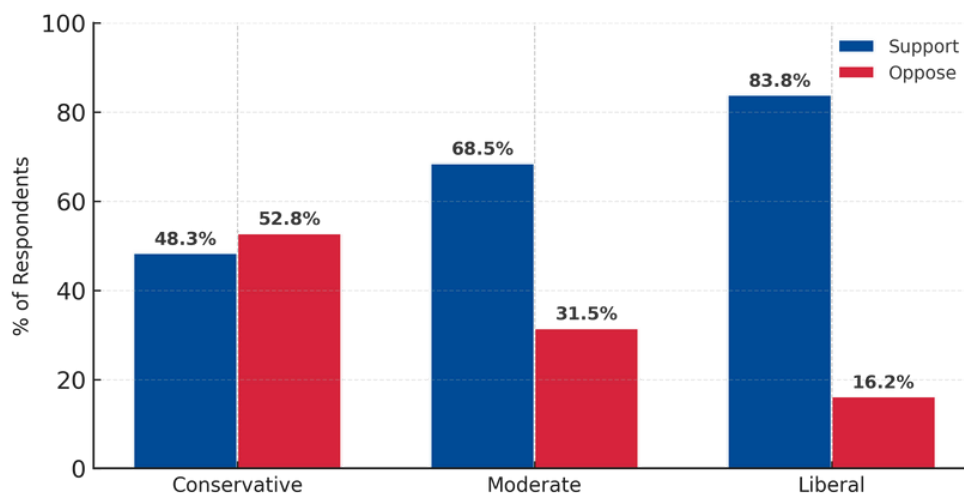


Factors Predicting Attitudes Towards Same-Sex Marriage

Among non-LGBTQ+ adults, knowing an LGBTQ+ person roughly **doubles** the likelihood of supporting same-sex marriage. This is a powerful, but unexamined data point for the last decade of polling. While demographics, ideology, and partisanship are a significant focus of polls, the impact of knowing an LGBTQ+ person on support for same-sex marriage rights reveals that connection and interaction between people is still a critical part in how hearts and minds change on topics where people may be divided.

Political ideology, however, remains the most significant predictor of attitudes toward marriage equality, with more moderates and liberal individuals supporting same-sex marriage on average.

Support for Same-Sex Marriage by Political Ideology (September-October 2025)



“ I am very fearful of what the Supreme Court will do next. I believe they will at least try to strike down marriage equality and then on to equal rights in general.

– 66-year-old gay man from New Mexico

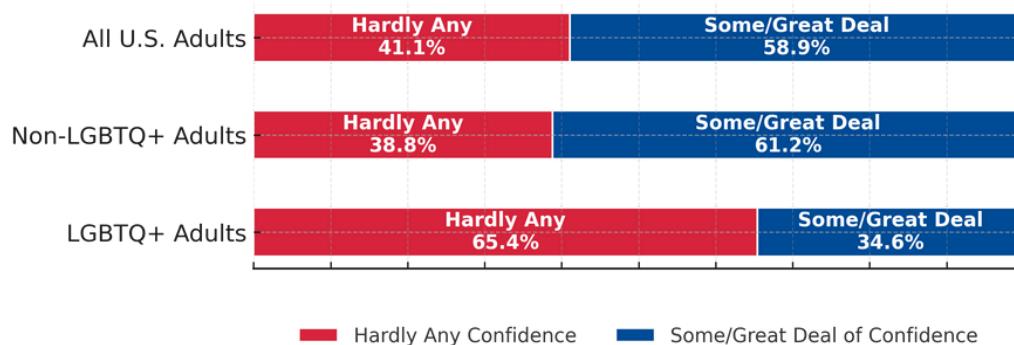


HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
FOUNDATION

Confidence in the U.S. Supreme Court

The 2025 Annual LGBTQ+ Community Survey (ALCS) also asked respondents how much confidence they have in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Confidence in SCOTUS Among U.S. Adults 18+ (September–October 2025)



Confidence was substantially lower among LGBTQ+ respondents—**65.4%** reported ***hardly any confidence in the Supreme Court*** compared to only **38.8%** of non-LGBTQ+ respondents. This represents a striking gap of more than 20 percentage points compared with the general public.

These findings parallel a 2025 study by NORC at the University of Chicago, which found that while overall confidence in the Supreme Court had modestly improved since 2023, public skepticism about the Court's power and legitimacy remains high.

According to NORC's AmeriSpeak survey, **58%** of U.S. adults said they had at least some confidence in the Court—closely mirroring the **57%** found in the ALCS—but many expressed concerns about the Court overstepping its authority.

In open-ended responses, many LGBTQ+ participants voiced deep concerns about the possibility of the Court revisiting or overturning *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the landmark decision guaranteeing nationwide marriage equality. One respondent summarized this anxiety succinctly:

I am very fearful of what the Supreme Court will do next. I believe they will at least try to strike down marriage equality and then on to equal rights in general.

– 66-year-old gay man from New Mexico

Together, these findings suggest that while overall confidence in the Court remains moderate, **LGBTQ+ Americans express profound distrust—driven by fears that fundamental rights could be rolled back.**



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
FOUNDATION



CMI Community Marketing & Insights

Leaders in LGBTQ Research since 1992

POWERED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION



Methodology

The Human Rights Campaign Foundation's 2025 Annual LGBTQ+ Community Survey (ALCS) provides robust data on the experiences, attitudes, and well-being of LGBTQ+ adults in the United States. The 2025 ALCS version included a supplemental comparison sample of non-LGBTQ+ adults.

Data were collected online from September 29 to October 27, 2025, among U.S. adults aged 18 and older. The LGBTQ+ sample, which includes nearly 10,000 LGBTQ+ adults, was drawn through the HRC Foundation's Community Marketing & Insights research panel of LGBTQ+ adults as well as from participants recruited from community organizations, while the non-LGBTQ+ sample (approximately N = 5,000) was fielded by [PSB Insights](#) during the same period. To ensure demographic representativeness, PSB used quotas for respondents' race, age, geography, education, and gender.

Post-survey weighting was applied to correct for non-probability sampling bias and align the dataset with external benchmarks. Due to sample size, same-sex marriage estimates are design-based proportions. Other estimates are odds-ratios and predicted probabilities from logistic regression with robust standard errors.

AmeriSpeak and Gallup polls are not direct comparisons due to differences in survey mode and questionnaire design. AmeriSpeak relies on both web and telephone surveys, while ALCS is purely a web-based survey. Additionally, Gallup's question about same-sex marriage is worded differently than ALCS.

See the [methodology for this brief and the full data tables here](#).

See the [complete ALCS methodology and data quality report here](#).

For press inquiries: Press@HRC.org

For research inquiries: Research@HRC.org

Authors

Tari Hanneman, Senior Director, Research & Education, Human Rights Campaign Foundation

Charleigh Flohr, Associate Director, Research, Human Rights Campaign Foundation



HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN
FOUNDATION



CMI Community Marketing & Insights

Leaders in LGBTQ Research since 1992

POWERED BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN FOUNDATION



References

Doherty, Carroll, Jocelyn Kiley & Rachel Weisel (June 2015). "Support for Same-Sex Marriage at Record High, but Key Segments Remain Opposed." Pew Research Center: [6-8-15-Same-sex-marriage-release1.pdf](#) (Accessed: November 5, 2025).

National Opinion Research Center (July 2025). "Confidence in the Supreme Court is Increasing, but so Are Concerns Over its Power." University of Chicago: [Confidence in the Supreme Court is increasing, but so are concerns over its power - AP-NORC](#) (Accessed: November 5, 2025).

Brenan, Megan (May 2025). "Record Party Divide 10 Years After Same-Sex Marriage Ruling." Gallup: [Record Party Divide 10 Years After Same-Sex Marriage Ruling](#) (Accessed: November 5, 2025).