



**Global Strategy Group**

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**Empire State Pride Agenda**

**603 Interviews**

**March 2004**

**Project #8088-04-01**

**MoE:  $\pm$  4.0%**

(Note: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding)

**SCREENER**

1. Are you at least 18 years of age or older and registered to vote in New York?  
(**IF YES:**) With which political party are you registered to vote?

49% Democrat  
33% Republican  
16% Independent/Unaffiliated  
3% Other

To begin...

2. Would you say things in New York State are heading in the right direction or would you say things are pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

28% Right direction  
52% Wrong track  
16% Neither  
4% Don't know/refused

3. What would you say is the most important issue facing New York State today?

- 33% Jobs/Economy
- 15% Taxes
- 15% Schools/Education
- 6% Terrorism/Homeland Security
- 5% Healthcare (Medicare, Medicaid, prescriptions drugs, insurance)
- 4% Budget
- 2% Crime/Drugs
- 2% Environment
- 1% Gay rights/marriage/civil unions
- 15% Other
- 4% Don't know/Refused

### GAY MARRIAGE AND CIVIL UNIONS

I would now like to talk to you about some issues that have been in the news a lot lately.

4. Do you support or oppose allowing same-sex couples to marry, giving them the same legal rights as other married couples? (IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE:) Do you strongly [support/oppose] or somewhat [support/oppose]?

- |     |                      |                    |            |
|-----|----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 30% | Strongly support     | <b>NET SUPPORT</b> | <b>47%</b> |
| 17% | Somewhat support     |                    |            |
| 11% | Somewhat oppose      | <b>NET OPPOSE</b>  | <b>46%</b> |
| 35% | Strongly oppose      |                    |            |
| 8%  | Undecided/Don't know |                    |            |

5. Do you support or oppose allowing same-sex couples to form civil unions or domestic partnerships that are not marriages but would give similar legal protections in such areas as inheritance, taxes, health insurance and hospital visits? (IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE:) Do you strongly [support/oppose] or somewhat [support/oppose]?

- |     |                      |                    |            |
|-----|----------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 45% | Strongly support     | <b>NET SUPPORT</b> | <b>71%</b> |
| 27% | Somewhat support     |                    |            |
| 7%  | Somewhat oppose      | <b>NET OPPOSE</b>  | <b>23%</b> |
| 16% | Strongly oppose      |                    |            |
| 6%  | Undecided/Don't know |                    |            |

6. And of all the following, which comes closest to your position on this issue? Do you...

- 39% Support the right of same-sex couples to be legally married and enjoy all the rights granted to married couples.
- 36% Oppose same-sex marriage but support the right of same-sex couples to form civil unions or domestic partnerships that are not marriages but would give similar legal protections in such areas as inheritance, taxes, health insurance and hospital visits.
- 22% Oppose both same-sex marriage and civil unions.
- 5% Undecided/Don't know/Refused

As it stands today, heterosexuals who are married enjoy certain spousal rights and benefits. Supporters of same-sex marriage and civil unions want those same spousal rights and benefits extended to same-sex couples. I'm now going to read you a list of those rights and benefits, and for each one I read please tell me whether you think it is extremely important to extend that right to same-sex couples, very important, somewhat important, not too important, or not important at all to extend that right to same-sex couples. Here's the first one...

7. Hospital visitation rights

- |     |                      |                          |            |
|-----|----------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 45% | Extremely important  | <b>NET IMPORTANT</b>     | <b>85%</b> |
| 28% | Very important       |                          |            |
| 12% | Somewhat important   |                          |            |
| 4%  | Not too important    | <b>NET NOT IMPORTANT</b> | <b>14%</b> |
| 9%  | Not important at all |                          |            |
| 2%  | Don't know/Refused   |                          |            |

8. Pension benefits

- |     |                      |                          |            |
|-----|----------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 34% | Extremely important  | <b>NET IMPORTANT</b>     | <b>80%</b> |
| 29% | Very important       |                          |            |
| 18% | Somewhat important   |                          |            |
| 6%  | Not too important    | <b>NET NOT IMPORTANT</b> | <b>18%</b> |
| 12% | Not important at all |                          |            |
| 2%  | Don't know/Refused   |                          |            |

9. Health insurance

- |     |                      |                          |            |
|-----|----------------------|--------------------------|------------|
| 41% | Extremely important  | <b>NET IMPORTANT</b>     | <b>81%</b> |
| 29% | Very important       |                          |            |
| 11% | Somewhat important   |                          |            |
| 6%  | Not too important    | <b>NET NOT IMPORTANT</b> | <b>18%</b> |
| 12% | Not important at all |                          |            |
| 1%  | Don't know/Refused   |                          |            |

10.	Tax benefits			
	33%	Extremely important	<b>NET IMPORTANT</b>	<b>79%</b>
	27%	Very important		
	19%	Somewhat important		
	6%	Not too important	<b>NET NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>20%</b>
	14%	Not important at all		
	1%	Don't know/Refused		
11.	Inheritance rights			
	35%	Extremely important	<b>NET IMPORTANT</b>	<b>81%</b>
	28%	Very important		
	18%	Somewhat important		
	6%	Not too important	<b>NET NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>17%</b>
	12%	Not important at all		
	2%	Don't know/Refused		
12.	Medical decision-making			
	42%	Extremely important	<b>NET IMPORTANT</b>	<b>85%</b>
	29%	Very important		
	13%	Somewhat important		
	4%	Not too important	<b>NET NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>13%</b>
	9%	Not important at all		
	2%	Don't know/Refused		
13.	Child custody rights			
	36%	Extremely important	<b>NET IMPORTANT</b>	<b>74%</b>
	25%	Very important		
	14%	Somewhat important		
	7%	Not too important	<b>NET NOT IMPORTANT</b>	<b>23%</b>
	15%	Not important at all		
	4%	Don't know/Refused		

## CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS AND LAWS

And thinking about laws on this issue...

14. Do you support or oppose an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow marriage ONLY between a man and a woman, thus barring marriage between same-sex couples? (IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE:) Do you strongly [support/oppose] or somewhat [support/oppose]?

33%	Strongly support	<b>NET SUPPORT</b>	<b>39%</b>
7%	Somewhat support		
13%	Somewhat oppose	<b>NET OPPOSE</b>	<b>54%</b>
41%	Strongly oppose		
6%	Undecided/Don't Know		
1%	Refused		

15. Do you support or oppose the New York legislature passing a Defense of Marriage Act to define marriage as only between a man and a woman, thus barring marriage between same-sex couples? (IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE:) Do you strongly [support/oppose] or somewhat [support/oppose]?

35%	Strongly support	<b>NET SUPPORT</b>	<b>43%</b>
8%	Somewhat support		
13%	Somewhat oppose	<b>NET OPPOSE</b>	<b>51%</b>
38%	Strongly oppose		
6%	Undecided/Don't Know		
0%	Refused		

16. Typically, marriages performed outside New York are fully recognized in New York. Do you support or oppose New York State recognizing same-sex marriages that have been legally conducted in other states? (IF SUPPORT OR OPPOSE:) Do you strongly [support/oppose] or somewhat [support/oppose]?

38%	Strongly support	<b>NET SUPPORT</b>	<b>52%</b>
14%	Somewhat support		
10%	Somewhat oppose	<b>NET OPPOSE</b>	<b>42%</b>
32%	Strongly oppose		
6%	Undecided/Don't Know		
1%	Refused		

17. In general, do you think questions about same-sex marriage are best decided by the federal government in Washington or by the state government in Albany? (IF UNSURE/ UNDECIDED:) Toward which position do you lean at this time?

32%	Federal government	<b>NET FEDERAL</b>	<b>35%</b>
3%	Lean federal government		
37%	State government	<b>NET STATE</b>	<b>39%</b>
2%	Lean state government		
5%	Both		
11%	Neither		
9%	Undecided/Don't know		
1%	Refused		

18. And in general, do you think questions about same-sex marriage are best decided (ROTATE) by the courts or by the legislature? (IF UNSURE/ UNDECIDED:) Toward which position do you lean at this time?

35%	Courts	<b>NET COURTS</b>	<b>38%</b>
4%	Lean courts		
36%	Legislature	<b>NET LEGISLATURE</b>	<b>38%</b>
2%	Lean legislature		
5%	Both		
10%	Neither		
9%	Undecided/Don't know		

19. Now I'd like to read you two different statements. After I read both statements, please tell me which one you agree with most. (IF AGREE WITH A STATEMENT:) Do you agree with that statement strongly, or just somewhat?

**Statement A**

A majority of Americans opposes same-sex marriage and unelected judges have no right to make same-sex marriage legal against the will of the people. This is just another example of activist judges stepping over the line.

**Statement B**

Allowing same-sex couples to marry and enjoy the same privileges as heterosexual couples is a civil rights issue, and judges have a right and obligation to assert the rights of every American whether it's popular or not.

36%	Statement A – Strongly	<b>NET STATEMENT A</b>	<b>42%</b>
6%	Statement A - Somewhat		
14%	Statement B – Somewhat	<b>NET STATEMENT B</b>	<b>51%</b>
37%	Statement B - Strongly		
5%	Neither		
3%	Don't know		

## DEMOGRAPHICS

A. Gender

48% Male  
52% Female

B. Region

37% New York City  
24% Suburbs  
39% Upstate

C. What is your age please?

3% 18-24  
11% 25-34  
19% 35-44  
24% 45-54  
20% 55-64  
19% 65+  
2% Refused

D. What is the last grade of formal education you have completed?

4% Less than high school  
26% High school graduate  
24% Some college/vocational school  
28% College graduate  
17% Post graduate  
2% Refused

E. As far as you know, are any of your friends or family members gay, lesbian, or bisexual?

55% Yes  
41% No  
4% Don't know/Refused

F. Would you say that you live in an urban area, a suburban area, or a rural area?

36% Urban  
40% Suburban  
21% Rural  
4% Don't know/Refused

G. What is your religious affiliation?

36% Catholic  
30% Protestant  
10% Jewish  
13% None  
4% Other  
2% Don't know  
6% Refused

H. And how often would you say you attend religious services, say in a church, synagogue, or mosque, for example? Would you say daily, once a week, two or three times a month, once a month, a few times a year, or never?

3% Daily  
27% Once a week  
11% Two or three times a month  
7% Once a month  
30% Few times a year  
17% Never  
2% Don't know  
4% Refused

I. For statistical purposes only, could you please tell me your ethnic background?

73% White/Caucasian  
11% Black/African American  
9% Hispanic/Latino  
2% Asian American  
2% Other/specify  
3% Refused

J. And what would you say is your total household income before taxes?

16% Less than \$30,000  
20% \$30,001-\$50,000  
18% \$50,001-\$75,000  
13% \$75,001-\$100,000  
15% More than \$100,000  
19% Don't know/Refused