

Illinoisans back gay marriage 50-29

Most Illinois residents want the Legislature to legalize same-sex marriage in the state, according to the latest results of the Crain's/Ipsos Illinois Poll.

The survey of 600 adults found that 50 percent support the gay-marriage bill that cleared the state Senate last week and now awaits action in the House. That's considerably more than the 29 percent who oppose it, with 20 percent saying they don't know or have mixed feelings on the matter.

As expected, support is strongest in Chicago, with 56 percent backing passage. A majority of 52 percent of suburban residents supports approval, but support drops to a plurality of 48 percent downstate.

February 19, 2013. Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/crainspoll>



Support Grows For Gay Marriage In Illinois

As state lawmakers consider legalizing gay marriage in Illinois, a new poll shows increasing support for the idea.

The poll, taken by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, shows that in the past three years, support has grown sharply, from 33.6 percent in 2010 to 45.5 percent today.

Those who said gay and lesbian couples should be allowed to legally marry were a plurality of all respondents at 45.5 percent. Also this year, 29.7 percent supported civil unions.

When combined, 79.2 percent of registered Illinois voters favor some sort of legal recognition of the relationship between gay and lesbian couples. There are 20 percent who want no legal recognition of the relationship.

“People are moving their support for civil unions to support for full marriage,” said Charles Leonard, a visiting professor at the Institute and the director of the poll.

Question: Which of the following three statements comes closest to your position on the legal rights of gay and lesbian couples in Illinois?

	2010	2012	2013
Should be allowed to legally marry	33.6%	43.6%	45.5%
Should be allowed to form civil unions but not to legally marry	33.9%	31.8%	29.7%
There should be no legal recognition of relationships between gay and lesbian couples.	26.5%	20.2%	20.0%
Other/Don't know	6.0%	4.8%	4.8%

February 14, 2013. Read more: <http://tinyurl.com/simonpoll>