

**THE 2007 HUNTER COLLEGE POLL**

**NATIONAL SURVEY OF LESBIANS, GAYS AND BISEXUALS  
NOVEMBER 15-26, 2007  
N = 768**

**Demographics**

	% of LGBs		% of LGBs
<b>SEXUAL ORIENTATION</b>		<b>PARTY IDENTIFICATION</b>	
Gay, lesbian, homosexual	51.1	Strong Democrat	33.3
Bisexual	48.9	Not strong Democrat	22.1
		Lean Democrat	28.0
		Independent/Undecided /Other	3.0
<b>GENDER</b>		Lean Republican	5.7
Female	51.2	Not strong Republican	5.7
Male	48.8	Strong Republican	2.2
<b>AGE</b>		<b>POLITICAL VIEWS</b>	
18-29	30.2	Extremely liberal	15.3
30-44	32.2	Liberal	32.1
45-59	28.6	Slightly liberal	13.9
60+	8.9	Moderate	27.9
		Slightly conservative	3.9
<b>EDUCATION</b>		Conservative	2.3
Less than high school	10.2	Extremely conservative	2.0
High school	23.7	DK/refused	2.6
Some college	32.4		
Bachelor's degree or higher	33.7		
<b>HOUSEHOLD INCOME</b>			
less than \$10,000	14.0		
\$10,000-\$24,999	19.1		
\$25,000-\$49,999	29.8		
\$50,000-\$74,999	17.5		
\$75,000 or more	19.6		
<b>RACE/ETHNICITY</b>			
White, not Hispanic	68.7		
Black, not Hispanic	9.8		
Other, not Hispanic	1.8		
Hispanic	15.6		
2 or more races indicated	4.1		

**Campaign 2008**

(includes only those respondents saying they would "definitely" or "probably" vote in the 2008 primaries/caucuses) (N = 579)

**VOTE IN DEMOCRATIC OR REPUBLICAN PRIMARY**

Next year, are you more likely to vote in a Democratic presidential primary or caucus, or a Republican primary or caucus?

% of LGBs

plan to vote in...	% of LGB likely voters
Democratic primary/caucus	86.9
Republican primary/caucus	13.1

**INTENDED VOTE IN PRIMARY/CAUCUS**

If the 2008 {Democratic/Republican} presidential primary or caucus in your state were being held today, and the candidates were: ROTATE: {(if plan to vote in Democratic primary) Hillary Clinton, John Edwards, Barack Obama, Bill Richardson, Joe Biden, Chris Dodd, Dennis Kucinich or Mike Gravel} {(if plan to vote in Republican primary) Rudy Giuliani, John McCain, Mitt Romney, Mike Huckabee, Duncan Hunter, Tom Tancredo, Ron Paul or Fred Thompson} for whom would you vote?

Democratic Primary Preference	% of LGB Democratic likely voters	Republican Primary Preference	% of LGB Republican likely voters
Hillary Clinton	62.8	Rudy Giuliani	50.0
Barack Obama	22.3	John McCain	23.0
John Edwards	6.5	Mitt Romney	11.3
Dennis Kucinich	4.5	Fred Thompson	10.0
Bill Richardson	1.2	Mike Huckabee	3.8
Chris Dodd	1.1	Ron Paul	1.0
Joe Biden	1.0	Tom Tancredo	0.6
Refused	0.6	Refused	0.3
	(N = 501)		(N = 78)

**CANDIDATE FAVORABILITY RATINGS**

Do you have a favorable or unfavorable impression of...

% of LGB likely voters

	very favorable	favorable	unfavorable	very unfavorable	don't know enough to rate
Hillary Clinton	47.5	34.3	4.3	7.4	6.5
Barack Obama	25.7	47.1	8.0	7.7	11.5
John Edwards	14.0	48.8	12.1	4.0	21.1
Dennis Kucinich	9.3	18.7	10.4	4.8	56.8
Rudy Giuliani	3.5	24.2	28.7	26	17.6
John McCain	3.0	26.5	27.9	16.6	26.1
Bill Richardson	2.7	21.2	12.8	5.9	57.3
Ron Paul	2.4	10.2	12.1	7.0	68.3
Mike Huckabee	1.8	6.3	17.1	8.8	66.1
Fred Thompson	1.5	11.1	22.3	19.9	45.1
Mitt Romney	1.2	10.3	20.9	23.7	43.9

**PERCEIVED CANDIDATE SUPPORT FOR GAY AND LESBIAN RIGHTS**

How strong a supporter or opponent of gay and lesbian rights would you say each candidate is?

% of LGB likely voters

	strong supporter	supporter	opponent	strong opponent	don't know enough to rate
Hillary Clinton	22.3	49.5	2.1	2	24.1
Dennis Kucinich	16.3	10.9	3.1	1.7	68.1
Barack Obama	12.6	39	10.1	1.2	37.2
John Edwards	5.4	35.5	13.4	6.4	39.2
Bill Richardson	2.5	16.8	7.1	4	69.6
John McCain	1.8	10.0	21.2	16.6	40.4

John McCain	1.8	10.9	21.5	16.6	49.4
Ron Paul	1.5	7.5	7.1	4	79.9
Rudy Giuliani	1.2	35.7	15.2	7.9	40.1
Fred Thompson	0.2	6.1	10.9	22.6	60.1
Mike Huckabee	0.1	2.1	10.1	13.8	74
Mitt Romney	0	3.9	13.7	29	53.4

**INTENDED VOTE IN GENERAL ELECTION**

SPLIT SAMPLE:

If the 2008 presidential election were being held today and the candidates were ROTATE: Rudy Giuliani, the Republican and Hillary Clinton, the Democrat, for whom would you probably vote?

If the 2008 election for president were being held today, would you probably vote for the ROTATE: Republican candidate or would you probably vote for the Democratic candidate?

	% of likely LGB voters		% of likely LGB voters
Hillary Clinton	88.4	The Democratic candidate	90.8
Rudy Giuliani	11.0	The Republican candidate	7.9

**ISSUE MATTERING MOST TO 2008 VOTE**

In deciding which presidential candidate to support in 2008, which of the following issues is most important to you? [ROTATE RESPONSES]

Earlier you told us that the most important issue to you in deciding which presidential candidate to vote for in 2008 is [RESPONSE TO PREVIOUS QUESTION]. If the list had also included "lesbian, gay and bisexual rights," would you have chosen that instead?

issue mattering most to 2008 vote	% of LGB likely voters	
	when provided list of issues <u>without</u> LGB rights	when provided list of issues <u>with</u> LGB rights
the economy and jobs	23.2	18.5
health care	22.6	16.3
Iraq	21.9	14.3
the environment and global warming	11.1	10.7
taxes and government spending	11.0	10.3
terrorism and national security	6.6	5.6
immigration	3.1	2.9
LGB rights		20.9

**Coming Out, Civic Engagement, and Priorities for the LGB Movement**  
(all respondents)

**AGE OF "COMING OUT" EXPERIENCES**

Please tell us the age at which the following experiences occurred. If these things didn't happen to you, just say "this doesn't apply to me."

How old were you when you first thought you might be a {lesbian/gay/bisexual /other term chosen by R}?

How old were you when you decided for sure that you were a {lesbian/gay /bisexual/other term chosen by R}?

How old were you when you first told someone that you were {lesbian/gay /bisexual/other term chosen by R}?

How old were you the first time you had sex with another {same sex as R}?

age at which...	LGB	LGB
	males	females
first thought I might be LGB	14	16
decided for sure I was LGB	18	21
first told someone I was LGB	20	21
had first sexual experience with another {male/female}	17	21

**CONSEQUENCES OF "COMING OUT"**

We are particularly interested in the period between when you said you were between {EARLIEST} years old when you {EARLIEST COMING OUT EXPERIENCE} and {LATEST} years old when you {LATEST COMING OUT EXPERIENCE}. Here are things that some {lesbian/gay/bisexual/other term chosen by R} people say happened to them at this time. Please tell us how well these statements describe you. [RANDOMIZE QUESTION ORDER]

*responses reported here are collapsed from a seven-point scale*

In terms of your RELIGION between {EARLIEST AGE} and {LATEST AGE}:

	% of LGBs
I became more religious	15.7
no change	53.3
I became less religious	27.4

In terms of your POLITICAL VIEWS between {EARLIEST AGE} and {LATEST AGE}:

	% of LGBs
I became more conservative	7.3
no change	56.3
I became more liberal	33.2

In terms of your INTEREST IN POLITICS between {EARLIEST AGE} and {LATEST AGE}:

	% of LGBs
I became less interested in politics	4.2
no change	56.2
I became more interested in politics	36.2

In terms of your RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR FAMILY between {EARLIEST AGE} and {LATEST AGE}:

	% of LGBs
I became more distant from my family	34.6
no change	48.1
I became closer with my family	14.2

In terms of your FEELINGS TOWARD PEOPLE OF OTHER RACES between {EARLIEST AGE} and {LATEST AGE}:

	% of LGBs
I felt closer to people of other races	27.9
no change	63.2
I felt more distant from people of other races	5.1

**INTEREST IN POLITICS**

In general, how interested are you in politics and public affairs?

	% of LGBs	% of general population
very interested	32.9	22.1
somewhat interested	32.5	37.0
slightly interested	18.8	26.1
not at all interested	15.8	14.5

**CONTACTING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS**

People may also be involved in civic and political activities. In the past 12 months, have you... [Contacted a government official]

	% of LGBs	% of general population
Yes	22.7	15.5
No	75.6	84.5

**PRIORITIES FOR THE LGB RIGHTS MOVEMENT**

On a scale from 1 to 7, with 1 meaning not at all important and 7 meaning extremely important, how important do you think each of the following issues is to lesbians, gays and bisexuals as a whole? [RANDOMIZE ISSUES]

	7 (Extremely important)	6	5	4	3	2	1 (Not at all important)
workplace discrimination protections	59.2	13.1	10.4	11.3	0.7	0.6	2.1
protections from bias crimes	58.5	12.5	7.5	11.8	2.0	0.3	3.8
securing federal spousal benefits	57.7	15.9	7.8	11.8	0.9	0.5	2.2
parenting rights, including adoption	55.9	12.4	10.2	12.9	2.2	0.5	3.0
AIDS funding	53.0	13.9	13.1	12.7	1.6	0.7	1.1
civil marriage	50.2	15.3	8.8	15.8	2.3	1.5	3.1
rights of transgendered people	36.4	14.9	19.1	18.3	4.4	1.4	2.8
ending military ban on being openly gay	36.2	15.0	15.2	22.1	3.3	0.7	4.4

**THE EMPLOYMENT NON-DISCRIMINATION ACT (ENDA)**

**Knowledge of lack of protections**

Now we have a few questions concerning lesbian, gay and bisexual rights in the United States. We want to see how much information about this topic gets out to the public from television, newspapers and the like...

...Is there a national law making it illegal to fire someone for being gay, lesbian or bisexual?

	% of LGBs
Yes	40.1
No (correct answer)	59.3

*Opinion on inclusion of protections for transgendered people in the bill*

A bill is currently pending before Congress that would make it illegal to discriminate against lesbians, gays, and bisexuals in employment. The bill originally included protections for transgendered people, but these protections were removed in the interest of getting enough votes to pass the bill this year.

Which one of the following positions comes closest to your view? [RANDOMIZE RESPONSE ORDER]

	% of LGBs
It was right to remove the protections for transgendered people from this bill in order for it to pass this year	37.2

for it to pass this year.

It was wrong to remove the protections for transgendered people even if this makes it easier for the bill to pass this year)

60.5

## METHODOLOGY OF STUDY

**METHODOLOGY.** This survey was conducted using the web-enabled KnowledgePanelSM, a probability-based Panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Initially, participants are chosen scientifically by a random selection of telephone numbers. Persons in selected households are then invited by telephone to participate in the web-enabled KnowledgePanelSM. For those who agree to participate, but do not already have Internet access, Knowledge Networks provides at no cost an Internet appliance and Internet service connection. People who already have computers and Internet service are permitted to participate using their own equipment. Panelists then receive unique log-in information for accessing surveys online, and then are sent emails three to four times a month inviting them to participate in research. More technical information is available at <http://www.knowledgenetworks.com/qanp/reviewer-info.html>.

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