



## **ATTITUDES ABOUT GAY RIGHTS IN INDIANA**

**Results from the 2005 Indiana Poll  
11/11/05 through 12/27/05**

**By Ellen Ann Andersen, Ph.D.**

## **OVERVIEW**

Indiana Equality commissioned the Indiana University Center for Survey Research to survey the attitudes of Indiana citizens on four issues affecting lesbian and gay Hoosiers: hospital visitation rights, inheritance rights, civil rights protections, and hate crimes legislation. Questions pertaining to those issues were included in the 2005 Indiana Poll, a semi-annual survey of Indiana residents probing attitudes about a wide range of social, economic, and political topics. In all areas, majorities favored equality, often by substantial margins.

## **METHODOLOGY**

A sample of 504 adult Indiana residents was obtained through a random-digit-dialing procedure and surveyed in the weeks from November 11, 2005 through December 27, 2005. (In the case of multiple adult households, one adult was selected randomly to be interviewed). The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.0 percent.

The questions in the survey were developed by IUPUI political science professor Ellen Ann Andersen in consultation with the Indiana University Center for Survey Research and Indiana Equality.

## **ABOUT THE POLLSTERS:**

The Indiana University Center for Survey Research conducts surveys for Indiana University faculty and administration, federal, state, and local government agencies, media, and nonprofit organizations. It is located on the Bloomington campus. For more information about the Center for Survey Research, contact the Center's Director, John Kennedy via email at [kennedyj@indiana.edu](mailto:kennedyj@indiana.edu) or phone at (812) 855-2573.

Ellen Ann Andersen is an associate professor of political science at IUPUI. She has written extensively on matters related to the legal and political aspects of gay rights. Dr. Andersen may be contacted via email at [eanderse@iupui.edu](mailto:eanderse@iupui.edu) or phone at (317) 490-9317.

## **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

### **RIGHTS FOR GAY AND LESBIAN COUPLES**

- The survey asked voters about two specific rights for gay and lesbian couples: hospital visitation and inheritance. Nearly three-fourths (74 percent) of the respondents indicated that they support hospital visitation rights for same-sex couples. Slightly over half (53 percent) support inheritance rights.
- Support for hospital visitation rights was strong across all categories. Even among respondents over the age of 65 and respondents living in rural areas, supermajorities favor visitation rights. Seventy-two percent of Republicans favor visitation rights, as do 71 percent of Independents and 83 percent of Democrats.
- Respondents were more divided about inheritance rights for same-sex couples. Women and younger respondents are more likely to support inheritance rights, as are those living in urban and suburban areas. The majority of Democrats (65 percent) and Independents (54 percent) support inheritance rights, while 58 percent of Republicans oppose them.

### **CIVIL RIGHTS**

- The survey found respondents overwhelmingly agree (79 percent) that gay and lesbian Hoosiers should have the same civil rights protections as others. Support for equal treatment is bipartisan: Eighty-six percent of Democrats, 75 percent of Republicans, and 82 percent of Independents support civil rights protections for gay and lesbians. Clear majorities support such protections in urban, suburban, small town, and rural areas, and across all age and educational attainment groups.
- Respondents also overwhelmingly favor hate crimes legislation (77 percent). Moreover, of those who favor hate crimes legislation, the vast majority (85 percent) believe that crimes based on sexual orientation should be included. There is no measurable difference in attitudes among Democrats, Independents, and Republicans on this issue.

**GAY RIGHTS QUESTIONS INCLUDED ON THE 2005 INDIANA POLL**  
**November 11 – December 27, 2005**

1. Do you favor or oppose legislation granting hospital visitation rights to same-sex couples?
  - Support 74%
  - Oppose 26%
  
2. Do you favor or oppose legislation giving inheritance rights to same-sex couples?
  - Support 53%
  - Oppose 48%
  
3. Agree or disagree: Gay/lesbian Hoosiers should have the same civil rights protections as others?
  - Agree 79%
  - Disagree 21%
  
4. Do you favor or oppose hate crimes legislation?
  - Support 77%
  - Oppose 23%
  
5. [If respondent favors hate crimes legislation] Yes/no: Sexual orientation should be included in hate crimes legislation.
  - Yes 85%
  - No 16%

## ISSUES CROSSTABS: BY GENDER, MARITAL STATUS, AGE, EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT, COMMUNITY, AND PARTY IDENTIFICATION

Question: Do you favor or oppose legislation granting hospital visitation rights to same-sex couples?

	Favor	Oppose
<b>Overall</b>	74%	26%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	69%	31%
Female	79%	21%
<b>Marriage Status</b>		
Married	73%	27%
Unmarried	77%	23%
<b>Age</b>		
18-29	84%	16%
30-44	76%	25%
45-64	75%	25%
>65	65%	35%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Completed High School	70%	31%
Some College	75%	25%
College or greater	81%	19%
<b>Community</b>		
City	84%	17%
Suburban area	79%	21%
Small town	70%	30%
Rural area	68%	32%
<b>Party Identification</b>		
Democrat	83%	17%
Republican	72%	28%
Independent	71%	29%

**Question: Do you favor or oppose legislation giving inheritance rights to same-sex couples?**

	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>Overall</b>	53%	48%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	46%	54%
Female	57%	43%
<b>Marriage Status</b>		
Married	48%	52%
Unmarried	61%	39%
<b>Age</b>		
18-29	65%	36%
30-44	54%	46%
45-64	49%	51%
>65	50%	51%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Completed High School	48%	52%
Some College	48%	52%
College or greater	60%	40%
<b>Community</b>		
City	68%	32%
Suburban area	57%	43%
Small town	46%	54%
Rural area	40%	60%
<b>Party Identification</b>		
Democrat	65%	35%
Republican	43%	58%
Independent	54%	46%

**Question: Agree or disagree: Gay/lesbian Hoosiers should have the same civil rights protections as others?**

	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>Overall</b>	79%	21%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	76%	24%
Female	82%	18%
<b>Marriage Status</b>		
Married	78%	22%
Unmarried	81%	19%
<b>Age</b>		
18-29	87%	13%
30-44	75%	25%
45-64	84%	16%
>65	70%	30%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Completed High School	76%	24%
Some College	77%	23%
College or greater	84%	16%
<b>Community</b>		
City	81%	19%
Suburban area	85%	15%
Small town	77%	23%
Rural area	75%	26%
<b>Party Identification</b>		
Democrat	86%	14%
Republican	75%	25%
Independent	82%	18%

**Question: Do you favor or oppose hate crimes legislation?**

	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>Overall</b>	77%	23%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	76%	24%
Female	77%	23%
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	77%	23%
Unmarried	76%	24%
<b>Age</b>		
18-29	89%	11%
30-44	84%	16%
45-64	77%	23%
>65	58%	42%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Completed High School	71%	29%
Some College	79%	21%
College or greater	83%	17%
<b>Community</b>		
City	77%	24%
Suburban area	73%	27%
Small town	76%	24%
Rural area	73%	27%
<b>Party Identification</b>		
Democrat	77%	24%
Republican	75%	25%
Independent	79%	21%

**[If respondent favors hate crimes legislation] Yes/no: Sexual orientation should be included in hate crimes legislation?**

	<b>Favor</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
<b>Overall</b>	85%	18%
<b>Gender</b>		
Male	82%	14%
Female	87%	14%
<b>Marital Status</b>		
Married	85%	15%
Unmarried	85%	15%
<b>Age</b>		
18-29	96%	4%
30-44	85%	15%
45-64	83%	17%
>65	74%	26%
<b>Educational Attainment</b>		
Completed High School	80%	20%
Some College	88%	12%
College or greater	88%	12%
<b>Community</b>		
City	87%	13%
Suburban area	86%	14%
Small town	82%	18%
Rural area	86%	14%
<b>Party Identification</b>		
Democrat	82%	18%
Republican	87%	13%
Independent	87%	13%



## INDIANA EQUALITY

A statewide coalition fighting for equality and justice  
for LGBT Hoosiers!

### WHO WE ARE

**Indiana Equality is a coalition of organizations** that have come together to secure basic human rights for Indiana's LGBT citizens. Participating statewide organizations currently include:

- Indiana Transgender Rights Advocacy Alliance
- Indianapolis Rainbow Chamber of Commerce
- Interfaith Coalition on Nondiscrimination
- Justice, Inc.
- HRC Indianapolis Steering Committee
- Indiana Action Network
- Indiana PFLAG Alliance
- National Association of Social Workers (Indiana Chapter, GLBT Committee)
- Northeast Indiana AIDS Memorial

To ensure widespread participation, **Indiana Equality is working with civil rights groups, LGBT organizations, and allies** to form regional steering committees across the state. These regional committees, representing their community on the IE board of directors, are operating in the following areas:

- North Central (South Bend/Mishawaka/Elkhart area) – IE Region 2 Steering Committee
- Northeast (Fort Wayne area) – LGBT Coordinating Committee – Fort Wayne
- Western (Lafayette area) – Citizens for Civil Rights – Greater Lafayette
- Central (Greater Indianapolis area) – IE Region 8 Steering Committee
- South Central (Bloomington/Columbus/Seymour area) – IE Region 9 Steering Committee
- Southwest (Evansville area) – Southern Indiana Dedicated to Equality

### WHAT WE DO

**Indiana Equality has two primary objectives:**

- **Amending Indiana's Civil Rights law** to protect against discrimination based on either sexual orientation or gender identity
- **Ensuring that relationships protections** for LGBT couples and families are not outlawed by an amendment to the State Constitution.

**INDIANA EQUALITY**  
PO Box 20621  
Indianapolis, IN 46220-0621  
ie@indianaequality.org  
www.indianaequality.org