



BISC LGBTQ+ Rights Research Toplines (2024)

Target campaign states: AZ, CA, CO, FL, ME, MI, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, OH, OR, and WA
Panel size was 6,090 voters

Key Takeaways

ON SUPPORT FOR LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

Voters overwhelmingly express support for marriage equality.

- Overall, voters strongly support marriage equality, with just 24 points on average being allocated to the statement that same-sex couples should not have the freedom to marry. This is only untrue for Republican voters, who are split on the issue; however, they allocate more points towards supporting it than opposing it at the moment (49 vs. 44 points).
- Support for marriage equality is significantly more passionate compared to the opposition, with nearly 7 in 10 voters (69%) allocating 60 or more points to believe all couples should have the freedom to marry compared to just 18% who say the same about opposing same-sex marriage.
- Nearly all of BISC's states allocate more than 70 points towards believing all couples should have the freedom to marry; Florida, Missouri, Montana, and Nevada have average allocations in the 60s and Mississippi sits at the bottom of the list at 54. However, average allocations for opposing same-sex marriage never rise above 35 points (Nevada, Mississippi).

Voters strongly advocate against government intervention in gender-affirming care.

- Voters are most likely to think that government agencies should not intervene in gender-affirming care regardless of age, allocating an average of 61 points to that option. Among the two answer options in favor of intervention, voters allocated more points towards supporting intervention for minors than for adults (23 vs. 9 points). Half of voters (53%) feel very strongly (80-100 points) that the government should not intervene with these types of medical decisions.
- Voters in Michigan are most likely to believe the government should not intervene, while Mississippi and Nebraska voters have the most mixed views. Florida, Missouri, Montana, and Mississippi voters allocate the greatest number of points on average to believing in intervention for minors.

Voters are moderately concerned about potential state legislation restricting access to gender-affirming care.

- Asked to rate their concern about their state legislature enacting new laws restricting access to gender-affirming care on a scale of 0-100, Democrats (73) and Black (67) voters are the most concerned, while Latinx (31) and Republican (27) voters are the least concerned. Only about 1 in 10 voters (10-12%) falls in the true middle of the scale, meaning most voters are either very concerned or they're not concerned at all.
- While most state averages fall within 5 points of the baseline average, average concern among Oregon and Nevada voters is significantly lower (37 and 33, respectively).

Across all 14 states surveyed, voters express a strong belief in the importance of parental autonomy in medical decisions concerning their children.

- Voters across all 14 states believe it is very important for parents to have the final say when it comes to medical care for their children (84 out of 100, on average). While Democrats and Black voters under the age of 45 are less likely to agree compared to the overall average, their average rating of this importance is still very high (76, 76, and 79, respectively).
- Among the states, the lowest overall average numbers come from Nebraska (71) and Nevada (73), while the highest rating comes from Mississippi (92).

Voter sentiment on transgender student participation in high school athletics varies and indicates a lack of consensus.

- Voters have mixed feelings about transgender student participation in high school athletics, with the average voter splitting their points fairly evenly across all three answer options. With less than one-quarter of voters (20-23%) allocating 80 or more points towards any one option, there is no clear answer right now for voters in these states when it comes to this issue. However, voters mostly believe that transgender students should be able to participate in some capacity when considering the average allocations for those two answer options together outweigh completely prohibiting participation about 2:1.
- Nevada voters are the most likely to agree that transgender students should be allowed to participate in high school athletics without restrictions, while voters in Missouri and Montana are the most likely to believe these students should be completely prohibited from participating.

(BISC research is provided in partnership with Trendency - a research platform that convenes online panels of registered voters on behalf of BISC.)

BISC's Approach to Research

BISC's mission is to strengthen democracy by implementing a national progressive strategy for ballot measures rooted in building state-based power. We center the following principles when approaching our research program:

1. We conduct comprehensive research that includes quantitative and qualitative methodologies.
2. We collect data that gives us insight to a snapshot in time (like most traditional polling and focus groups) and we collect longitudinal data to give us insight over time through our Trendency panels.
3. We conduct research in the multi-modal ways that people access data, including text messaging, social media and online methodologies for gauging opinions.
4. We conduct research that allows for more complexity and nuance, utilizing scale - seeing participants as multi-dimensional, rather than binary beings.
5. We conduct research that helps us disrupt “monolith” narratives and strategies for BIPOC, immigrant and youth communities, to understand in more depth what is important to these traditionally underrepresented people -- the people we center in our long-term, movement-building work.

For more information, or if you have any questions, please contact Adam Snipes, BISC's Director of Strategic Partnerships at adam@ballot.org.