

HUMAN
RIGHTS
CAMPAIGN®

BEYOND THE TOP LINES: STUDYING THE CROSS-TABS

NEW HRC POLL SHOWS AMERICANS OPPOSE DOMA AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

House Speaker John Boehner and the Republican leadership announced that the House would intervene to defend DOMA in court, following a Justice Department announcement that the administration believes section 3 of the law to be unconstitutional. At least nine cases are challenging DOMA spanning three appellate courts and four district courts in six states. The Speaker's announcement did not make clear if they will intervene in all of the cases, who will represent the House, how much the defense will cost, what their arguments for the law will be or other critical issues.

A new HRC/Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research survey released last week indicates that the decision is squarely at odds with a majority of Americans who oppose DOMA. Over the past week, an analysis of the cross-tabs has found that an array of diverse cross-sections of Americans believes that the federal government shouldn't discriminate against legal marriages. The data proves that fair-minded Americans are increasingly supporting equality.

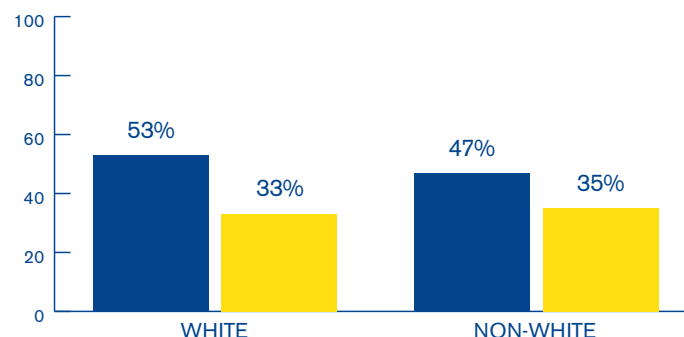
More background on DOMA and the unanswered questions is at www.hrc.org/DOMApoll2011.

AMERICANS SUPPORT EQUALITY, NOT DOMA

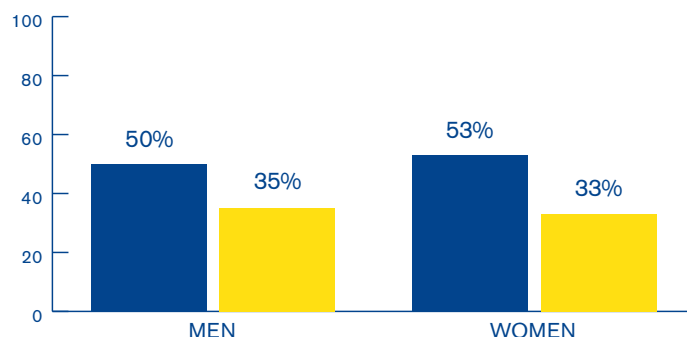
The Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) forbids the federal government from recognizing marriages between gay and lesbian couples legally performed in states where such marriages are legally permitted. 51% of those polled believe DOMA should be repealed and support for repeal crosses various demographic categories.

■ SUPPORT ■ OPPOSE

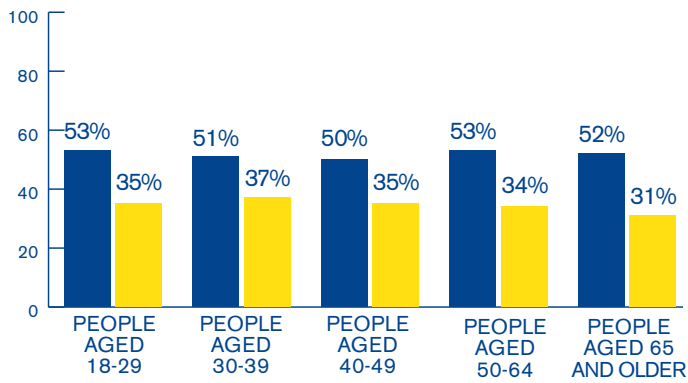
Both white and non-white likely voters oppose DOMA.



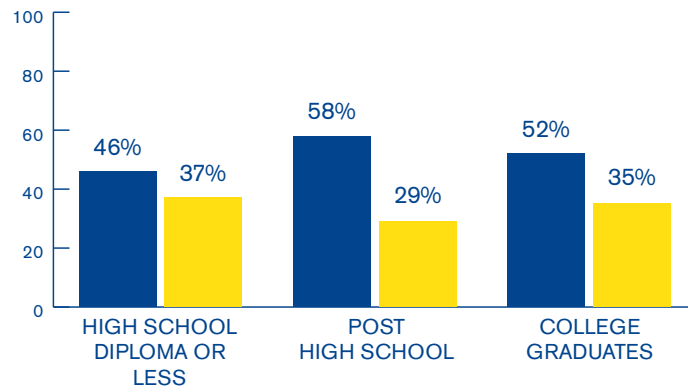
Majorities from both men and women oppose DOMA.



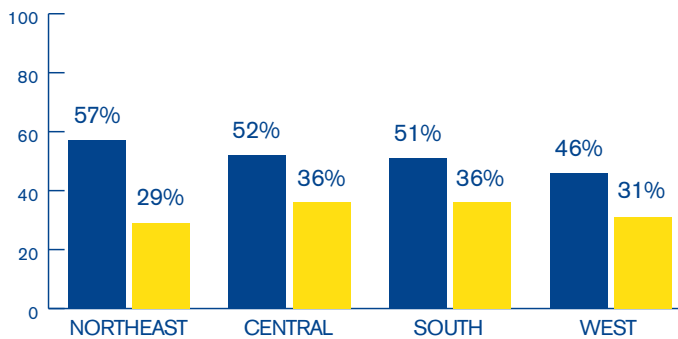
Majorities in every age group oppose DOMA.



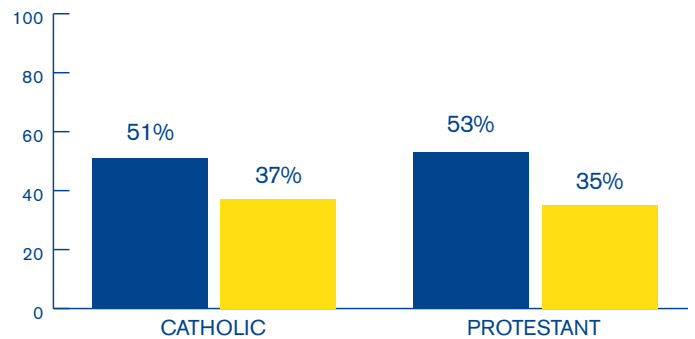
Pluralities from all educational backgrounds oppose DOMA.



Pluralities in every geographic region oppose DOMA, including the South.



Christians, whether Catholic or Protestant, oppose DOMA.

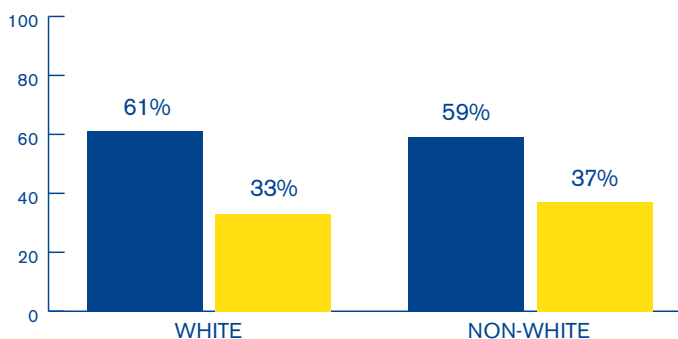


AMERICANS SUPPORT SOCIAL SECURITY SURVIVOR BENEFITS FOR LEGALLY MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES

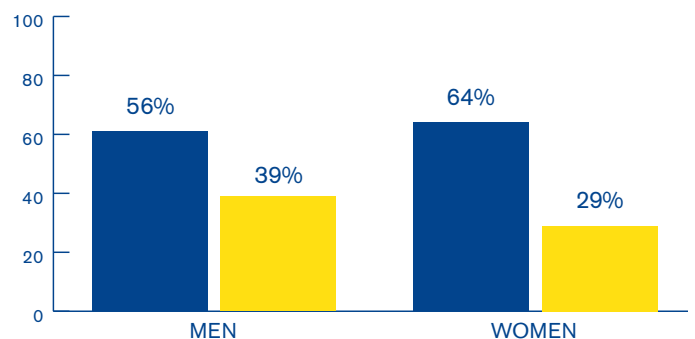
Opposite-sex married couples in this country enjoy Social Security survivor benefits under federal law. However, legally married same-sex couples are not eligible for the same benefits because of DOMA. 60% of those polled believe same-sex couples should have access to the same Social Security benefits as everyone else. Other cross-sections of Americans agree.

■ SUPPORT ■ OPPOSE

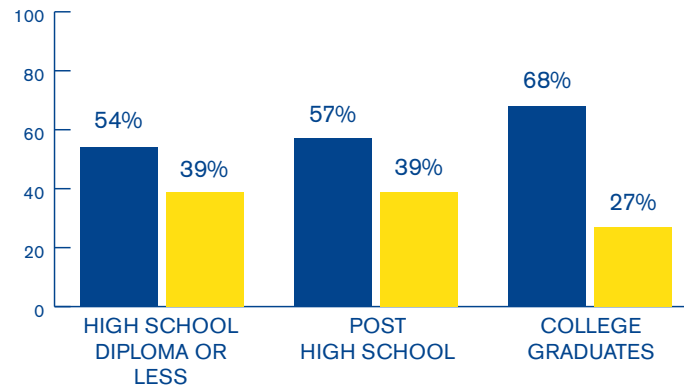
Both white and non-white likely voters support Social Security survivor benefits for legally married same-sex couples.



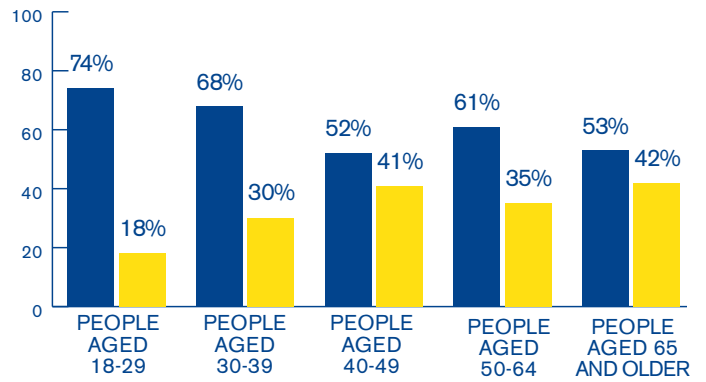
Majorities from both men and women support Social Security survivor benefits for legally married same-sex couples.



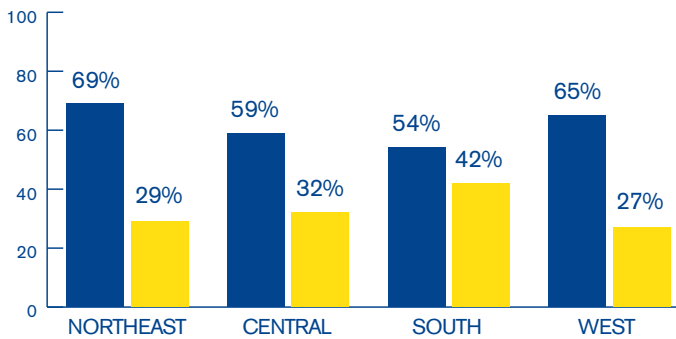
Majorities from all education backgrounds support Social Security survivor benefits for legally married same-sex couples.



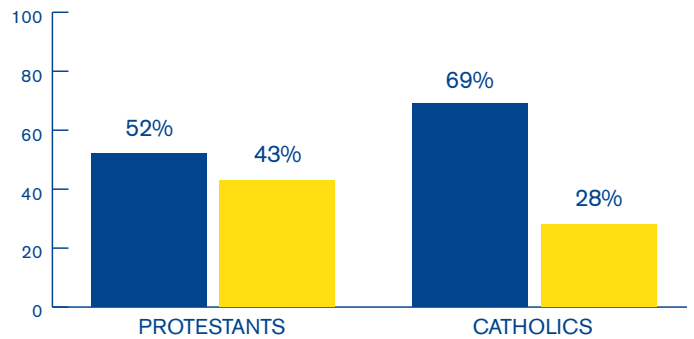
Majorities from every age group support Social Security survivor benefits for legally married same-sex couples.



Majorities in every geographic region support Social Security survivor benefits for legally married same-sex couples.



Christians, whether Catholic or Protestant, support Social Security survivor benefits for legally married same-sex couples.

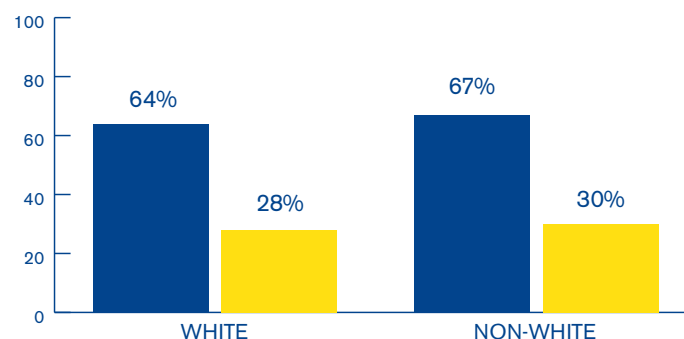


TAX BURDENS MAKE MEDICAL EMERGENCIES, DEATH HARDER FOR LEGALLY MARRIED SAME-SEX COUPLES

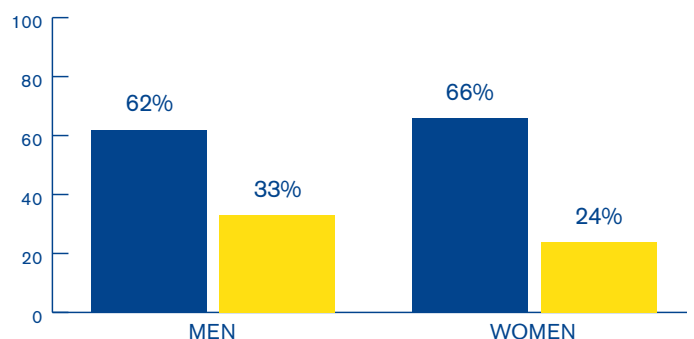
Under DOMA, men and women in legal same-sex marriages are subject to undue tax burdens that put them at risk of losing their home if something were to happen to their spouses. 64% of those polled believe ALL married couples should be protected from this harm. A variety of cross-sections of Americans agree.

■ SUPPORT ■ OPPOSE

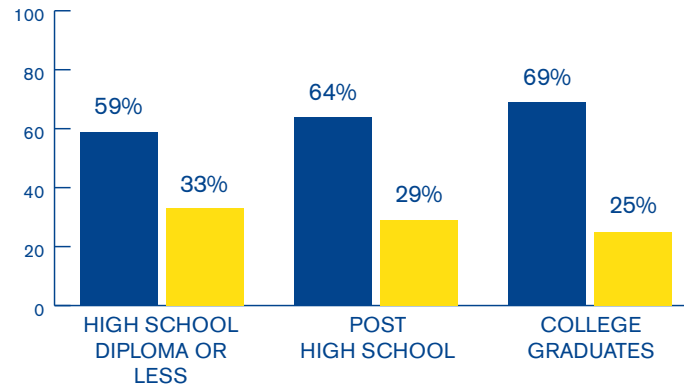
Both white and non-white likely voters support protecting spouses from losing their homes in cases of severe medical emergencies or death.



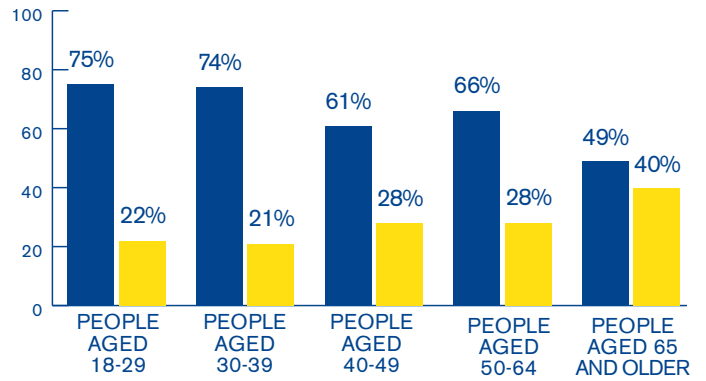
Majorities from both men and women support protecting spouses from losing their homes in cases of severe medical emergencies or death.



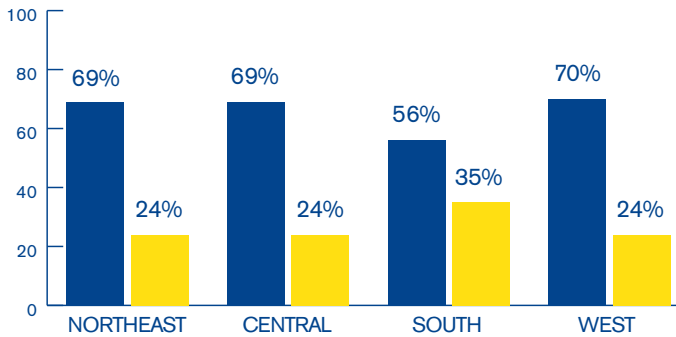
Majorities from all education backgrounds support protecting spouses from losing their homes in cases of severe medical emergencies or death.



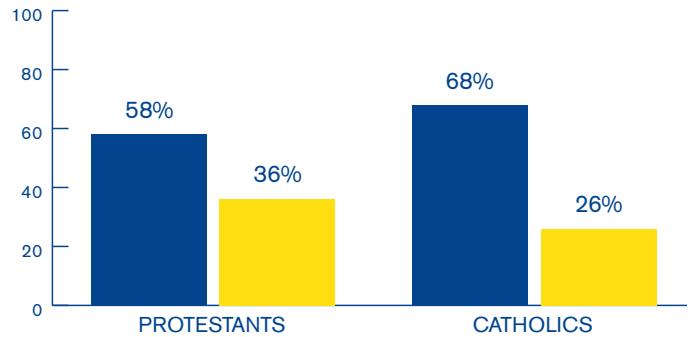
Pluralities from every age group support protecting spouses from losing their homes in cases of severe medical emergencies or death.



Majorities in every geographic region support protecting spouses from losing their homes in cases of severe medical emergencies or death.



Christians, whether Catholic or Protestant, support protecting spouses from losing their homes in cases of severe medical emergencies or death.

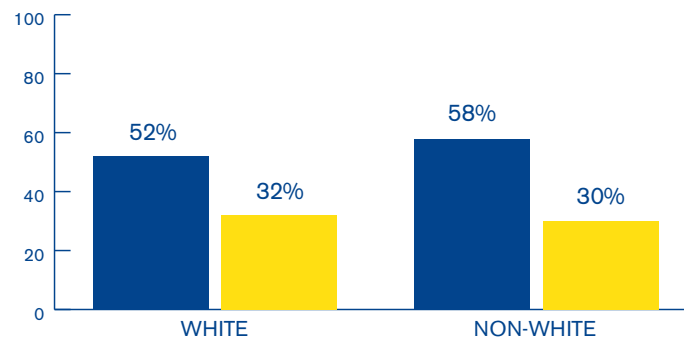


FOCUS SHOULD BE ON JOBS, NOT DOMA

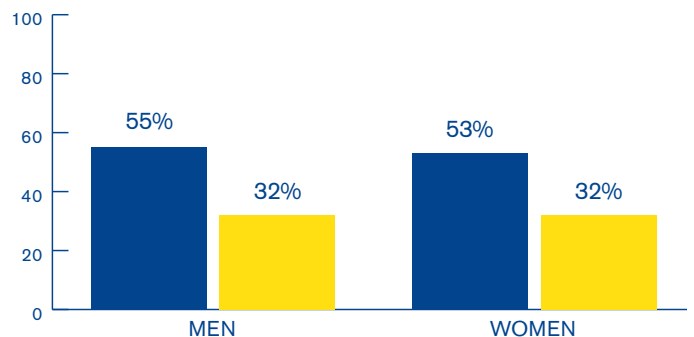
54% of Americans believe that the Republicans in Congress should focus on jobs, not DOMA. A variety of cross-sections of Americans agree.

■ JOBS ■ DOMA

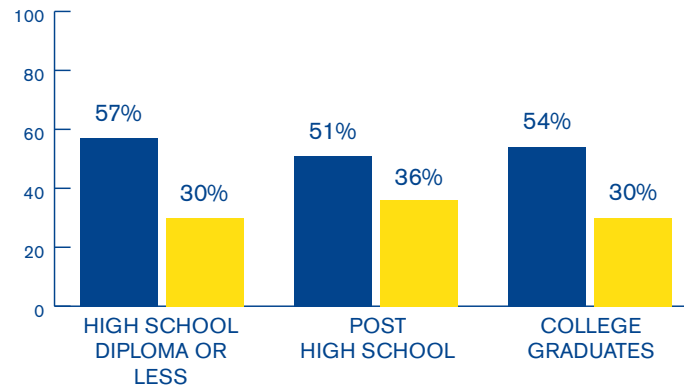
Both white and non-white likely voters believe that Congress should be focusing on jobs, not DOMA.



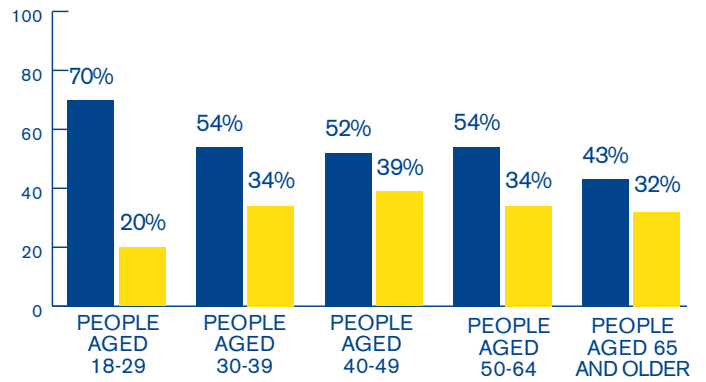
Majorities from both men and women believe that Congress should be focusing on jobs, not DOMA.



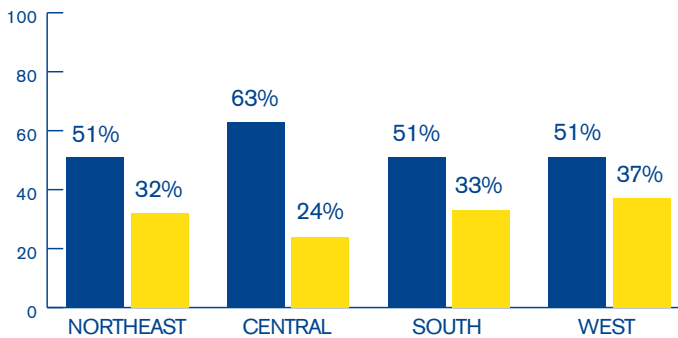
Majorities from all education backgrounds believe that Congress should be focusing on jobs, not DOMA.



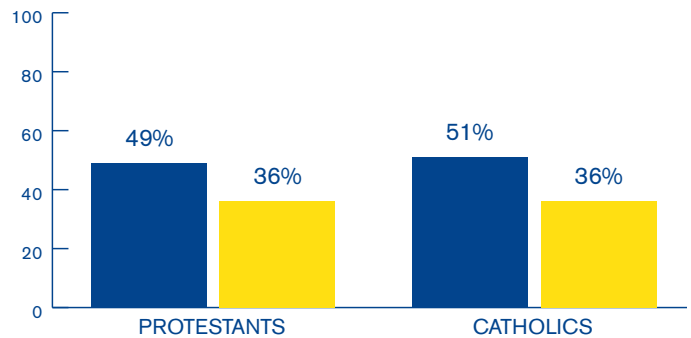
Pluralities from every age group believe that Congress should be focusing on jobs, not DOMA.



Majorities in every geographic region believe that Congress should be focusing on jobs, not DOMA.



Christians, whether Catholic or Protestant, believe that Congress should be focusing on jobs, not DOMA.



The HRC/GQRR telephone survey, including cell phones, was conducted 3/8/11 through 3/10/11 among 800 registered voters. It has a margin of error of +/- 3.46 percent. The results of the poll, including the questionnaire, a memo on the findings and charts, are available at: www.hrc.org/DOMApoll2011.