

February 25, 2013

To: State Representative Greg Harris
From: Dave Fako, Fako & Associates, Inc.
Re: Opinions of Marriage Equality – IL RD 60

Democrats in the 60th District Favor Legalized Same-Sex Marriage in Illinois

Among all voters, 41% support legalizing same-sex marriage while 43% oppose it. The opposition is centered in Republicans (77% Oppose).

A majority (54%) of Democrats in the 60th District support legalizing same-sex marriage, while 29% of Democrats oppose the proposed law. Democratic women (57% Support, 26% Oppose) are solidly in favor of the proposal, while Democratic men (49% Support, 36% Oppose) lean strongly in favor of it. Democrats under age 50 (60% Support) and those age fifty and older (52% Support) are in favor of the proposed law.

Other sub-groups in favor of the law include women (45% Support, 37% Oppose), voters under age fifty (49% Support, 37% Oppose), particularly women under fifty (53% Support), Independents (49% Support, 35% Oppose), liberals (69% Support), moderate women (45% Support, 33% Oppose), and Hispanics (46% Support, 33% Oppose). All minorities are initially divided (40% Support, 42% Oppose), as are white voters (43% Support / Oppose).

Support of legalized same-sex marriage increases to 46% and opposition remains the same at 44% when informed *“...current Illinois law allows for civil unions between same-sex couples, allowing them many, but not all, of the same legal rights and protections of married couples such as deciding medical care for an ailing partner and hospital visitation rights.”*

Knowing the civil union information, support increases among women (to 50%, +5%) and voters under age fifty (to 53%, +4%), particularly voters aged 50-64 (to 58%, +9%) and men under fifty (to 50%, +6%). Women under age fifty (57% Support) remain solidly in favor of it knowing the civil union information, as do Democrats (58%). Support also increases among Independents (54%, +5%), moderates (51%, +10%), whites (49%, +6%), and minorities (45%, +5%).

Support of same-sex marriage would have a negligible impact on voting behavior. A majority (53%) said it would make no difference in how they would vote in the next election if Representative Mayfield supported legalizing same-sex marriage. Twelve percent (12%) would be more likely to vote for her and 23% would be less likely to vote for her. Support of the law would have a net positive impact on Democrats (19% More Likely, 12% Less Likely). Nearly half of the negative impact (Less Likely) is derived from Republicans and nearly two-thirds of this impact comes from conservatives.

Methodology: Illinois Unites for Marriage commissioned the survey. Fako & Associates, Inc., of Lisle, Illinois conducted the survey by telephone on February 21 – 24, 2013 using professional interviewers. F&A interviewed a random sample of 401 registered voters within Illinois' 60th State Representative District. A strict screening process was used to ensure that only registered voters participated in the survey. The interviews lasted an average of three (3) minutes. Scientific sampling techniques using a listing of registered voters were used to give all registered voters living in a telephone-equipped household within RD 60 an equal chance of being interviewed. Cellular phones were included within the sample and accounted for 71 (18%) of completed weighted interviews. The interviews were conducted in proportion to gender and regional shares of the vote based on known registration data and demographics. Weighting was applied to Age, Gender, and Race to bring these groups into closer proportion to known demographics. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.84% at the 95% level of confidence. This means that if the survey were replicated the results would be consistent for 95 out of 100 cases. The margin of error is higher among the various sub-groups.