

## Poll: Majority of N.J. voters favor putting gay marriage on ballot

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By



Enlarge

Tony Kurdzuk/The Star-Ledger

Steven Goldstein of Garden State Equality (left) joyfully hugs Senator Loretta Weinberg (D-Bergen), sponsor of the gay marriage bill, after the bill passed in the Senate at the Statehouse this afternoon. Trenton, NJ 2/13/12 (Tony Kurdzuk/The Star-Ledger) To purchase a copy of this photo call The Star-Ledger photo library at 973-392-1530

[Gay Marriage Bill Passes Vote In Senate 2-13-12](#) gallery (11 photos)

**TRENTON** — One day after the state Senate voted to give same-sex couples the right to marry, a new poll shows the majority of New Jersey voters support gay marriage but also think it should be put on the ballot for voters to decide.

A newly-released **Rutgers-Eagleton** poll of 914 registered voters found 54 percent favor gay marriage, while 35 percent oppose it.

But almost the exact same number — 53 percent — supports Gov. Chris Christie's call to put it on the ballot.

"It's surprising that so many of those who support same-sex marriage are also in favor of a referendum," said pollster David Redlawsk. "It may be that given several polls showing majority support among voters, supporters of same-sex marriage think it would win in November. But in the face of a likely intensive campaign from opponents, this could be wishful thinking."

The poll also found the public does not put a high priority on gay marriage, even though Senate and Assembly Democrats put it at the

top of their agenda this year. Just 3 percent of respondents called it the most important issue facing New Jersey, while 19 percent said it was very important, 36 percent said it was somewhat important and 41 percent it was not important at all.

The poll was conducted from Feb 9. to Feb. 11 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

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- [Gay marriage bill to be voted on by N.J. Senate](#)
- [Optimism on gay nuptials in N.J., despite a likely veto from Gov. Christie](#)
- [Proposal for gay marriage referendum moves forward; Sen. Sweeney vows to block it](#)

### Republican Senators explain their votes for and against gay marriage bill

The State Senate passed a bill legalizing gay marriage this afternoon by a vote of 24-16. Senator Diane Allen, was one of two Republican to vote yes on the bill. Allen felt that she was working for the people who have found themselves being discriminated against and that this vote was a way to right a wrong. Republican Senator Christopher Bateman voted against the bill and would like to see this issue put on the ballot and voted on by the people of New Jersey. (Video by Andre Malok / The Star-Ledger)