

Committee on the Status of Women

447 WEST HILLVIEW CIRCLE - MESA, ARIZONA 85201 - 602-271-4002

President

POLL SHOWS PEOPLE OPPOSE ERA

Representative Donna Carlson
Arizona Legislature

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Vice President
Senator Joan Gubbins
Indiana Legislature

A new national Public Opinion Poll proves that the American people oppose the Equal Rights Amendment by a decisive margin.

Representative Norma C. Russell
South Carolina Legislature

This poll, completed last week by a most highly respected national public opinion research organization, Decision Making Information of California, shows the following results:

Delegate Eva Scott
Virginia House of Delegates

1. By a margin of almost 2 to 1 (61% to 35%), the American people oppose sending draft-age women into military combat just like men.

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State Treasurer Melba Till Allen,
Alabama

2. By a margin of almost 3 to 1 (65% to 23%), the American people oppose transferring final power over marriage, divorce and child custody from the states to the Federal Government.

Commissioner Ruth Bateman,
Illinois

3. By a margin of 51% to 44%, the American people oppose making every school and college, including all their activities, coed.

Senator Trudy Camping,
Arizona

4. By a margin of far more than 2 to 1 (66% to 28%), the American people oppose giving homosexuals the right to get marriage licenses and to teach in the schools.

Councilman Beulah Coughenour,
Indiana

Questions 1, 3 and 4 relate to the effects of Section 1 of ERA. Question 2 relates to the effects of Section 2 of ERA.

Senator Mary Gant,
Missouri

Representative Lillian Jordan,
Arizona

This is the first national in-depth scientific poll on the meaningful consequences of ERA. It reflects the growing momentum against ratification.

Senator Anne Lindeman,
Arizona

Representative Georgia Peterson,
Utah

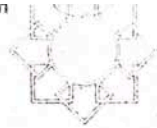
Representative Penny Pullen,
Illinois

Representative Pat Wright,
Arizona

Kathleen Teague, Exec. Director
*American Legislative
Exchange Council*

ERA has been defeated in 8 states this year despite heavy White House lobbying. In the last two years, only one state has ratified ERA (Indiana), but that was balanced off by another state's recission (Idaho).

Several states may not even vote on ERA this year because support has shrunk so low that there is no point in taking the time of the Legislatures.



Results of National Survey:
Equal Rights Amendment-Related Questions

I'd like to now talk for a minute or two about a proposed amendment to the United States Constitution called the Equal Rights Amendment or ERA. It reads as follows: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex." Some favor it while others oppose it, but for different reasons.

1. If the ERA means that if a war were to occur, draft age women will be sent into military combat just like men, would you favor or oppose the Equal Rights Amendment?

	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	35
Oppose	61
Not Sure	4

2. If the ERA means that final power over marriage, divorce and child custody will be transferred from the States to the federal government, would you favor or oppose the Equal Rights Amendment?

	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	23
Oppose	65
Not Sure	12

3. If the ERA means that every school and college, including all their activities, must be coed, would you favor or oppose the Equal Rights Amendment?

	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	44
Oppose	51
Not Sure	5

4. If the ERA means that homosexuals will be able to get marriage licenses and teach in schools, would you favor or oppose the Equal Rights Amendment?

	<u>Percent</u>
Favor	23
Oppose	66
Not Sure	6

This national probability survey was conducted between March 26 and April 3, 1977, by Decision Making Information of Santa Ana, California. The study contains the results of 1,201 telephone interviews with adults (18 years and over) within the continental United States. The sample was drawn from the universe of households with telephones. All forty-eight states were included in the randomly selected sample. In general, random samples such as this yield results projectable to the entire universe of the adult population in the United States within ± 2.9 percentage points in 95 out of 100 cases.

Any release to the public of these results should include all of the above reporting minima along with the exact wording of the questions asked.