

MEMORANDUM

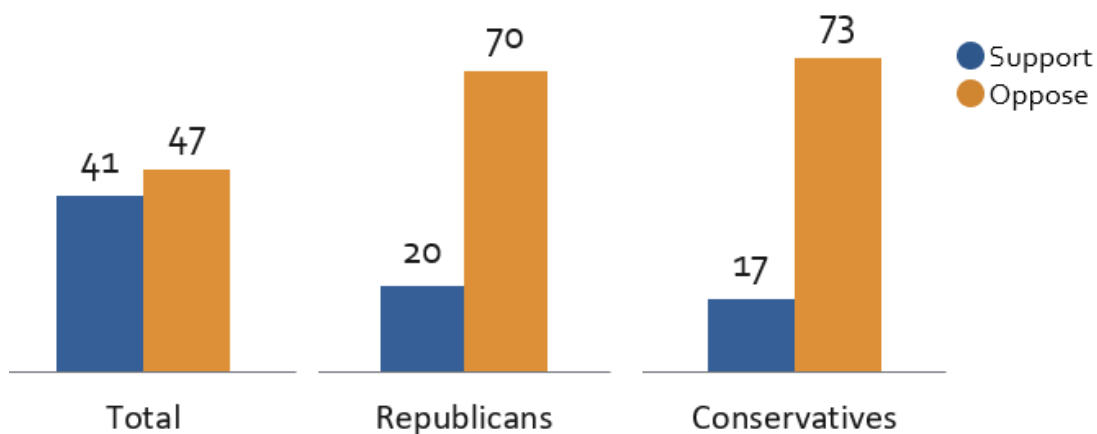
**To:** Heritage Leadership  
**From:** Wes Anderson  
**Date:** November 22, 2022  
**Re:** Five State Survey – Key Findings

We recently fielded a survey of five states and the results show that conservative voters' support for the questionably named Respect for Marriage Act is significantly lower than the national media coverage would have you believe. On top of this, when voters are given more information of the impacts of the bill, support slips even further. This survey consists of 400 likely voters each in Indiana, Iowa, Utah, West Virginia, and Wyoming for a total sample of 2,000. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.90% for each state and +/-2.19 for the full sample.

### Conservative Opposition

We asked respondents whether they support or oppose the Respect for Marriage Act, which could have a negative impact on religious organizations, and a plurality of voters in these states (47%) oppose the bill compared to only 41% who support it. This includes strong majorities in several states. When we look at Republicans in these states it becomes clear that the GOP base strongly opposes this bill with a full 70% of GOP voters as well as 73% of self-identified conservatives in opposition.

### Respect for Marriage Act

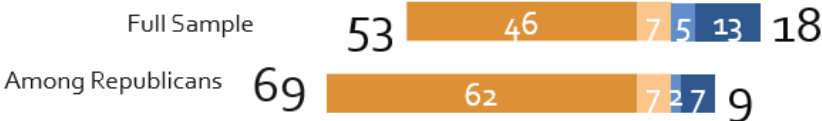


# Religious Liberty Messaging

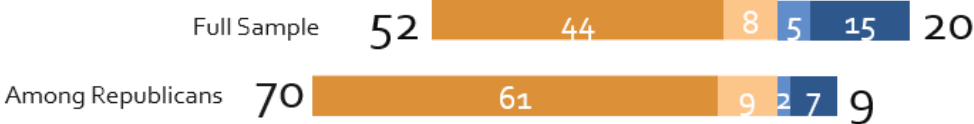
We then informed voters about the impacts the bill would have on religious liberty and opposition only solidified. When informed that this bill would encourage lawsuits against religious organizations for not participating in gay marriages, 53% of respondents said this would make them less likely to support the bill, including 46% who said it made them much less likely to support. In fact, for every message tested in this survey, a majority of respondents said they were less likely to support the bill given the information.

If you knew the following were true about the Respect for Marriage Act would you be more likely or less likely to support it?

This law would allow religious organizations to be sued for refusing to perform gay marriages, forcing them to defend their first amendment rights in court, costing hundreds of thousands of dollars



This bill would punish faith-based organizations. For example, religious adoption agencies could lose their non-profit status and be forced to close if they refuse to recognize same sex marriage in their operations.



This bill could weaponize the IRS against faith-based organizations, including religious schools, by threatening their nonprofit status for not recognizing same sex marriage.



● Much Less Likely ● Somewhat Less Likely ● Somewhat More Likely ● Much More Likely

## Conclusion

These results show that voters’ opinions of the Respect for Marriage Act in these five states is not what is being reported. Voters in these conservative states oppose the bill and this opposition only grows when more information is given. It is clear that it will take more than a naming misdirect to convince the GOP base that this bill is not a threat to their religious liberty.

## METHODOLOGY

The following survey was conducted by OnMessage Inc. in IA, IN, UT, WV and WY. Telephone interviews were conducted on November 14-15, 2022. This survey consists of 400 likely voters per state for a total of 2000 interviews. This survey was stratified to reflect historical turnout and the margin of error for this survey is +/- 4.90% per state and +/-2.19% for the full sample.

## OUR RECORD

*Wes Anderson is a leading GOP pollster with 25 years of experience in opinion research. As a founding partner, Wes now leads the polling divisions of OnMessage Inc. and OnMessage Sports, providing political and corporate clients with a full spectrum of quantitative and qualitative opinion research products. For his stellar work in the 2018 election cycle Wes Anderson was named as the 2019 American Association of Political Consultants (AAPC) "Pollster of the Year." You can read more about Wes Anderson at [onmessageinc.com](http://onmessageinc.com).*