

# *Same Sex Marriage*

**Marcello Di Bello**

*Lehman College CUNY*

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## *Marriage License*

State of Washington, County of King

To any person legally authorized to solemnize marriages:  
The following named individuals have applied for a marriage license in accordance  
with R.C.W. Chapter 26.04, and you are hereby authorized to solemnize the marriage of:

JANE ABBOTT LIGHTLY

LORETTA VERONICA PETERSEN

December 26, 2012

February 26, 2013

(Date to be married)

(Date to be married)

Solemnization is not authorized unless it occurs between these dates.  
We are required by law to return the Washington State Department of Health Certificate of Marriage  
form to King County within thirty days after solemnizing the marriage.

License is not valid outside the State of Washington.

Dow Constantine  
King County Executive

King County  
NOTARY SEAL

2012DN70000  
Notary Public  
State of Washington

# Two Questions

(1) Should same sex marriage be allowed (e.g. in the US)?

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(2) Should same sex couples be allowed to adopt?

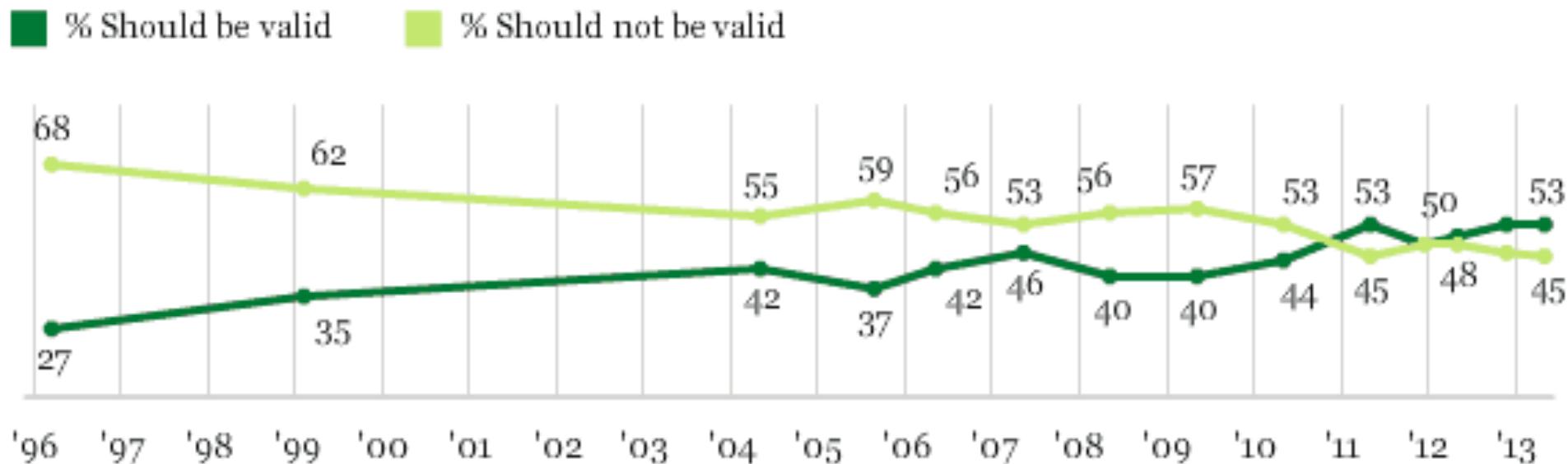


*Let's take a poll!*  
[www.polleverywhere.com](http://www.polleverywhere.com)

We'll Focus on the First Question for Today

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*Do you think marriages between same-sex couples should or should not be recognized by the law as valid, with the same rights as traditional marriages?*



Note: Trend shown for polls in which same-sex marriage question followed questions on gay/lesbian rights and relations

1996-2005 wording: "Do you think marriages between homosexuals ... "

GALLUP®

## What Americans Think About Same Sex Marriage

# Same Sex Marriage in the World

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This infographics gives you a sense of where same sex marriage is legal and where homosexuality is a crime, even punishable with the death penalty.

<http://neomam.com/infographics/the-gay-marriage-world-map/>

*The infographics was released on December 2013. The information about the US and Europe is not up to date.*

# The Battle for Gay Marriage in the United States

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The LA Times has a dynamic chronology that shows when same sex marriage was legalized, in which states it is now legal, and when legal challenges were raised against the legalization.

<http://graphics.latimes.com/usmap-gay-marriage-chronology/>

# Recent News From the US Supreme Court

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On 6 October, the Court turned away appeals from five states with same sex marriage bans—i.e. Indiana, Oklahoma, Utah, Virginia and Wisconsin. These appeals challenged lower court rulings overturning the same sex marriage bans.

Those who challenged the same sex marriage bans in lower courts relied on a 2013 Supreme Court ruling in the case of *United States v Windsor*.

In that case, the Supreme Court overturned the 1996 federal Defense of Marriage Act (*DOMA*), which barred the federal government from recognizing same sex marriages.

# Let's Turn to Arguments Now!

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# Arguments in Favor of Same Sex Marriage

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- There is nothing wrong with homosexuality
- It is not the business of the state to tell us whom to marry
- Prohibiting same sex marriage is discriminatory
- Marriage gives financial benefits, tax breaks, inheritance rights etc. to married couples. Why deny this to same sex couples?
- Banning same sex marriage perpetrates a stigma against homosexuals

# What If Someone Told you that Real Marriage is ONLY Between a Man and a Woman?

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A response can be found in  
“The Best Argument Against  
Gay Marriage. And Why It  
Fails” by By Kenji Yoshino,  
December 2010, *Slate*

But...

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# Some Gay People Oppose Same Sex Marriage (1)

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*"I am torn. As an atheist gay who regards marriage as part of the baggage of heterosexual society which I have come to respect but can never fully share, I am tempted to say a plague on both your houses"*

Historian David Starkey

From BBC on-line article  
"The people who oppose the gay marriage law"  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-26634214>

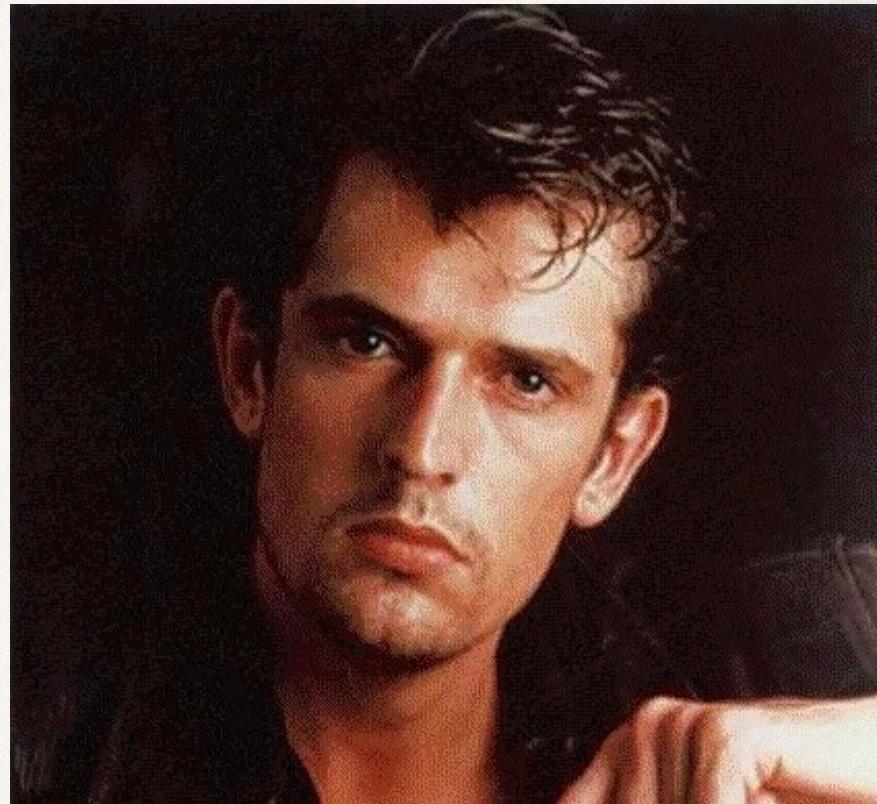
# Some Gay People Oppose Same Sex Marriage (2)

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*"I loathe heterosexual weddings. The wedding cake, the party, the champagne, the inevitable divorce two years later.*

*It's just a waste of time in the heterosexual world, and in the homosexual world I find it personally beyond tragic that we want to ape this institution that is so clearly a disaster."*

Actor Rupert Everett



From BBC on-line article

"The people who oppose the gay marriage law"  
<http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-26634214>