

“DON’T ASK, DON’T TELL”

# Two-Thirds of Americans Ready to Discard “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” Policy

*Republicans are divided on whether gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals should serve openly in the U.S. military.*

[NEW YORK – Feb. 11, 2010] – Just days after President Barack Obama pledged to repeal the controversial “Don’t ask, don’t tell” policy, a large majority of Americans voice support for the proposed change, a new Angus Reid Public Opinion poll has found.

In the online survey of a representative national sample of 1,004 American adults, 66 per cent of respondents agree with allowing gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military.

One-in-four respondents (25%) disagree with this proposal, and nine per cent are undecided.

Large majorities of Democrats (75%) and Independents (70%) agree with the proposed change, but Republicans are almost evenly divided (48% agree with allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military, while 45% disagree).

The level of agreement with the proposed change is high across both genders (64% for Men, 68% for Women) and three age groups (70% for respondents aged 18 to 34, 61% for respondents aged 35 to 54, and 68% for respondents over the age of 55).

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## KEY FINDINGS

- **66% agree with allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military**

Full topline results are at the end of this release.

*From February 9 to February 10, 2010, Angus Reid Public Opinion conducted an online survey among 1,004 American adults who are Springboard America panelists. The margin of error—which measures sampling variability—is +/- 3.1%. The results have been statistically weighted according to the most current education, age, gender and region Census data to ensure a sample representative of the entire adult population of the United States.*

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## CONTACT:

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**“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”**

Do you agree or disagree with allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military?

	Party ID			
	Total	Democrat	Republican	Independent
<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>41%</b>
<b>Moderately agree</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>29%</b>
<b>Moderately disagree</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>8%</b>
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>9%</b>

**“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”**

Do you agree or disagree with allowing gay, lesbian, and bisexual individuals to serve openly in the U.S. military?

	Gender			Age		
	Total	Men	Women	18-34	35-54	55+
<b>Strongly agree</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>35%</b>	<b>42%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>40%</b>
<b>Moderately agree</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Moderately disagree</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>7%</b>
<b>Strongly disagree</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>12%</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>17%</b>
<b>Not sure</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>8%</b>

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*Angus Reid Public Opinion is a practice of Vision Critical—a global research and technology company specializing in custom online panels, private communities, and innovative online methods. Vision Critical is a leader in the use of the Internet and rich media technology to collect high-quality, in-depth insights for a wide array of clients. Dr. Angus Reid and the Angus Reid Public Opinion team are pioneers in online research methodologies, and have been conducting online surveys since 1995*

*Vision Critical is now one of the largest market research enterprises in the world. In addition to its five offices in Canada—located in Vancouver, Calgary, Regina, Toronto, and Montreal—the firm also has offices in San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris and Sydney. Its team of specialists provides solutions across every type and sector of research, and currently serves over 200 international clients.*

*Angus Reid Public Opinion polls are conducted using the Angus Reid Forum ([www.angusreidforum.com](http://www.angusreidforum.com)), Springboard America ([www.springboardamerica.com](http://www.springboardamerica.com)) and Springboard UK ([www.springboarduk.com](http://www.springboarduk.com)) online panels, which are carefully recruited to ensure representation across all demographic and psychographic segments of these populations. Panel members pass through rigorous screening and a double opt-in process ensuring highly motivated and responsive members. These premier online survey platforms present respondents with highly visual, interactive, and engaging surveys, ensuring that panel members provide thoughtful and reliable responses. Each survey is actively sampled and weighted to model that characteristics of the universe required and employs the latest in quality control techniques to ensure data validity.*

*Since 2006, Angus Reid has covered eight provincial elections in Canada—more than any other pollster in the country—and the results have accurately predicted the outcome of each of these democratic processes.*

*Angus Reid, the only public opinion firm to exclusively use online methods to follow the views of the electorate during the 2008 federal campaign, offered the most accurate prediction of the results of Canada's 40th election. More information on our electoral record can be found at:*  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/record-of-accuracy>

*More information on the way Angus Reid conducts public opinion research can be found at*  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/what-we-do/practices/angus-reid-public-opinion/>

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**For more information, please contact  
our spokesperson listed in the footnote.**

**Copies of this poll are available on our website:**  
<http://www.visioncritical.com/category/global-opinions-and-trends>

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