

Poll: N.J. voters overwhelmingly support minimum wage increase, gay marriage

Patti Sapone/The Star-Ledger



Members of Garden State Equality marched in Trenton in 2009 to support gay marriage legislation. A new poll shows both that New Jersey voters want to put it on the ballot, and would support it.

TRENTON — By a large margin, New Jersey voters want to raise the minimum wage and allow gay couples to get married.

A Rutgers-Eagleton poll released today found 77 percent of voters support a ballot question in November that would raise the minimum wage to \$8.25 an hour and then increase it every year based on the Consumer Price Index. Only 18 percent oppose it.

“Unless something changes rather dramatically over the next few months, there seems little doubt of the amendment passing,” said Redlawsk. “Even if Democratic turnout is lower than normal, or if an unusually high number vote for Christie, approval of the measure seems likely. However, a strong campaign against the increase could conceivably have some effect.”

Democrats put the question on the ballot despite Christie’s opposition after he vetoed a bill to raise the wage, instead suggesting gradually phasing in an increase in and striking the provision that tied it to the Consumer Price Index.

On the other hand, Democrats have refused to put a question on the ballot that would legalize gay marriage in New Jersey. Christie had called for that after he vetoed legislation that would have allowed it.

According to the poll, two-thirds of voters want the chance to vote on gay marriage. If they could vote on it, 59 percent said they’d favor it while 30 percent would oppose it.

The poll of 888 registered voters was conducted from June 3 to June 9 and has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

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