

Legislature splits over gay marriage

Massachusetts lawmakers appear to have split into three camps on the issue of gay marriage, based on a Globe analysis of the four major roll call votes during this week's constitutional convention.

THE THREE CAMPS

93 Oppose gay marriage and oppose — or don't insist on — civil unions

This group captures a majority in the House and is stronger among legislators who are male, Roman Catholic or other Christian faiths, have only an undergraduate degree or no degree, are married, are from rural or outlying fast-growing communities, are under age 50, or are Republicans.

44 Oppose gay marriage and insist on civil unions

This group, the smallest, didn't prevail among any demographic segment, but finds its strength in the Senate and among Jewish legislators, those with graduate degrees, and those in rural and suburban districts.

55 Support gay marriage

This group prevails in the Senate and among legislators who are female, Jewish, or unmarried; it is stronger among legislators with graduate degrees, in suburban districts, who are Democrats, or age 50 or older. The age split may be surprising, but younger legislators tend to be more Republican, male, from rural areas, and less well educated.

PERCENTAGE OF LAWMAKERS

Who oppose gay marriage...

...and oppose or don't insist on civil unions.

...and insist on civil unions.

Who support gay marriage



Percentages may not add to 100% because of rounding.

OVERALL VOTE (199 legislators)

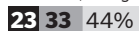


BY CHAMBER

House (159 legislators)

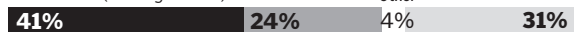


Senate (39 legislators)



BY PARTY

Democrat (170 legislators)



Republican (28 legislators)



BY COMMUNITY

Urban (89 legislators)



Suburban (71 legislators)



Other (38 legislators)



SOURCE: Boston Globe analysis of Associated Press roll call vote records

GLOBE STAFF CHART / BILL DEDMAN and SEAN McNAUGHTON