

The ERA Campaign Network

A NATIONWIDE NETWORK OF PEOPLE WORKING TO ACHIEVE
THE ADDITION OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT TO THE US CONSTITUTION

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A Member of the National Council of Women's Organizations (NCWO)

NATIONWIDE SURVEY SHOWS THAT AMERICANS WANT A CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE OF EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

INTRODUCTION:

Seeing the need for valid and reliable information on the views of the American people on equal rights for men and women, and on a potential Constitutional guarantee of those rights, the ERA Campaign Network, in 2001, commissioned a nationwide survey on those subjects.

The survey was conducted for the ERA Campaign Network by Opinion Research Corporation (ORC) CARAVAN Services in July 2001. It involved telephone interviews among a national probability sample of 1,002 adults, comprising 500 men and 502 women 18 years of age and older, living in private households in the continental United States. ORC's CARAVAN surveys are conducted using the most advanced and reliable methodologies and technologies available. The margin of error is plus or minus 3% for the sample as a whole, and plus or minus 4% for statistics based only on men or only on women, at the 95% confidence level. Note: Opinion Research Corporation, headquartered with its parent corporation ORC International in Princeton, New Jersey, has been known and respected for its high quality opinion and attitude research since its founding in 1938.

FINDINGS:

Overwhelmingly, Americans agree that male and female citizens should have equal rights, and the vast majority of Americans want those rights guaranteed by the US Constitution. Most, however, mistakenly assume that the Constitution *already* guarantees those rights.

Those overall findings held true for both men and women, and for all the other demographic categories examined, by region, age, education, household income, race, and household makeup.

Following are all the actual questions asked, with the tables showing the distribution of responses for the survey respondents as a whole, and for men and women separately. In those instances in which there are statistically significant differences in the responses of men vs. women, that is so indicated. (If not indicated, any observed differences are not statistically significant.)

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1. “In your opinion, should male and female citizens of the United States have equal rights?”

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>
YES	96%	95%	97%
NO	3%	4%	2%
Don't know	1%	1%	1%

In all demographic categories studied, between 93% and 99% agree that male and female citizens should have equal rights.

2. “As far as you know, does the Constitution of the United States make it clear that male and female citizens are SUPPOSED to have equal rights?”

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>
YES (or I think so)	72%	75%	69%
NO (or don't think so)	18%	16%*	21%*
Have no idea (or don't know)	10%	9%	10%

* Statistically significant difference between men and women: Somewhat more women than men are aware that the Constitution does not make it clear.

In all other demographic categories studied, between 60% and 80% think the Constitution makes it clear that male and female citizens are supposed to have equal rights, while only between 13% and 25% think it does not. Younger people are somewhat more knowledgeable than older people in this regard: 22% of those in the 18-34 age range are aware that the Constitution does not make it clear, while only 15% of those 55 and up are aware – a statistically significant difference.

3. “In your opinion, SHOULD the Constitution make it clear that male and female citizens are supposed to have equal rights?”

	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>MEN</u>	<u>WOMEN</u>
YES	88%	85%*	91%*
NO	9%	11%*	6%*
Don't know	3%	4%	3%

* Statistically significant differences between men and women: Somewhat more women than men believe the Constitution should make it clear.

In all other demographic categories studied, between 83% and 94% believe the Constitution should make it clear that male and female citizens are supposed to have equal rights.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION :

For additional information on the survey, or on the current campaign to add the Equal Rights Amendment to the US Constitution as soon as possible, check the ERA Campaign Network web site, www.ERACampaign.net, and/or contact National Coordinator Dr. Jennifer S. Macleod, e-mail ERACampaign@aol.com, telephone 609-799-0378, address 4 Canoe Brook Drive, Princeton Junction NJ 08550. Requests to be added to the distribution list for the free e-mail newsletter, *The ERA Campaigner*, are welcomed – as are contributions to help ERA Campaign Network cover its growing out-of-pocket expenses and expand its ERA activism.
