



# THINKHQ / METRO NEWS

## ALBERTA POLL - GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCES

JUNE 2017

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# RESEARCH METHODOLOGY



- Study fielded via online research panel
  - Field dates: May 15 to 21, 2017
  - Panel source: Voice of Alberta & Angus Reid Forum
- n=1195
- Weighted to reflect gender, age and region of Alberta population according to Stats Canada
- This online survey utilizes a representative but non-random sample, therefore margin of error is not applicable. However, a probability sample of this size would yield a margin of error of +/- 2.8 percentage points at a 95% confidence interval.
- Accuracy of sub-samples of the data decline based on sample sizes

# REGIONAL SAMPLE SIZES AND MARGINS OF ERROR



	Total Interviews (Unweighted) (n)	Total Interviews (Weighted) (n)	Margin of Error (Associated with a probability sample of this size)
ALBERTA TOTAL	1195	1195	+/- 2.8
Calgary	427	398	+/- 4.7
Edmonton	349	362	+/- 5.3
North	105	154	+/- 9.6
Central	158	143	+/- 7.8
South	156	137	+/- 7.9



# PUBLIC VIEWS ON GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCES IN ALBERTA

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# ALBERTANS' VIEWS ON GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCES

## -INTRODUCTION



Gay-Straight (GSAs) are student-run, teacher-supported peer support groups in Alberta Schools. The intent of these groups is to reduce marginalization of LGBTQ youth by creating a safe, inclusionary space for them and their friends. GSAs give students a confidential and non-judgmental place to discuss their feelings and experiences related to sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and other interests.

In Alberta, GSAs have also been a contentious public issue, and a political football which a succession of PC leaders have fumbled.

Our May survey asked Albertans their take on these important student organizations.



# ALBERTANS' VIEWS ON GAY-STRAIGHT ALLIANCES

## -KEY FINDINGS



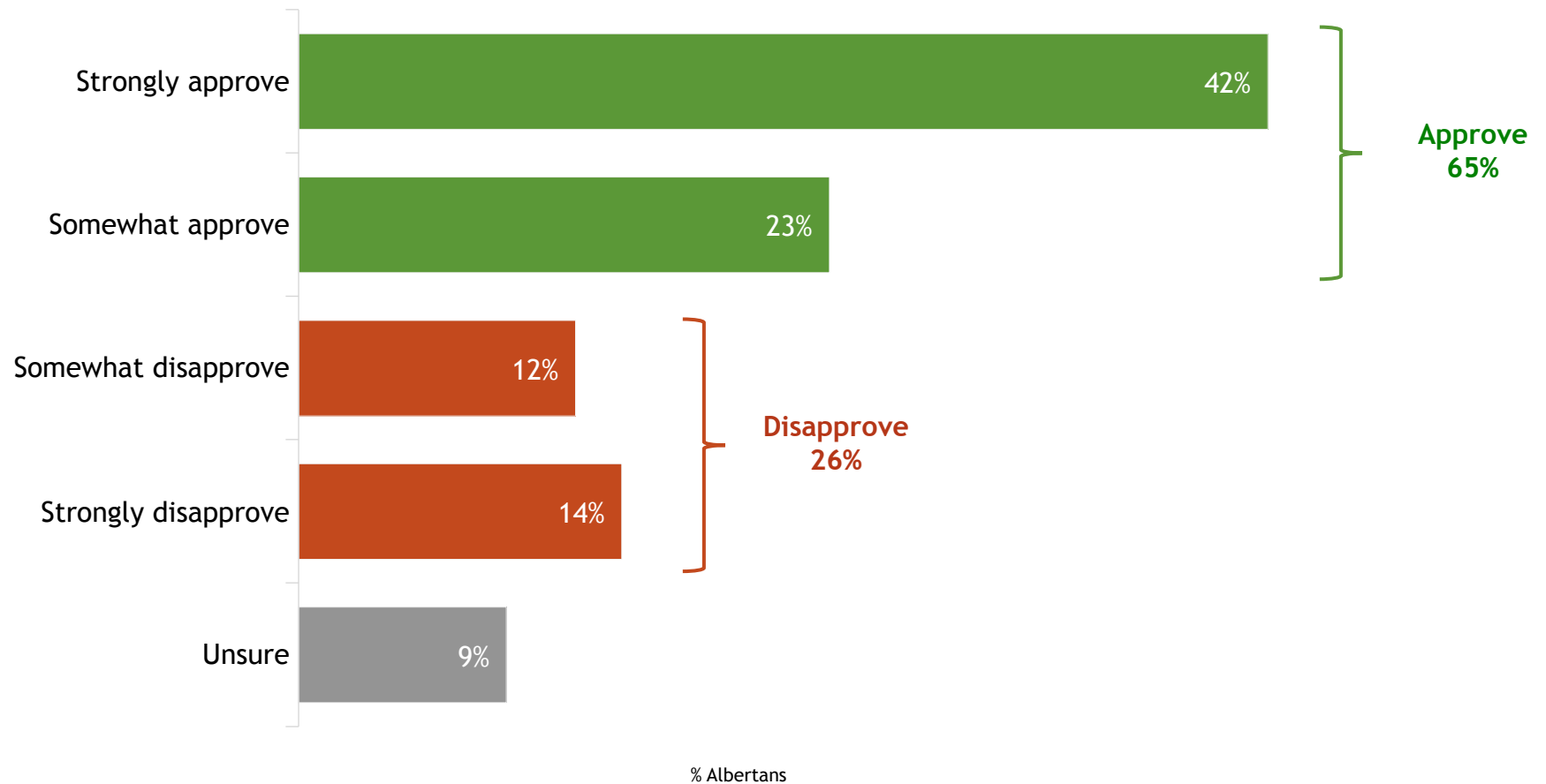
- Albertans support GSAs, with significant intensity. Almost two-thirds (65%) of Albertans favour the current policy for GSAs in schools, with 42% offering strong approval, compared to only 26% who disapprove
  - Support strongest is in urban areas, increases with education, declines with age, and is higher among women and those with young families
- When it comes to balancing rights related to GSAs, the public tilts in favour of students. Over one-half (56%) feel it should be up to students when/if they tell their parents about joining a GSA, while 31% say parents should be notified if their kids join a GSA. Only 5% feel it should be left up to individual school boards, administrators or teachers



# PUBLIC APPROVAL OF MANDATE ALLOWING GSAS AT STUDENT REQUEST



Since 2015, the Province of Alberta mandated that all school boards must allow GSAs if students request to form one. Overall, would you say that you personally approve or disapprove of the policy to allow GSAs at student request?



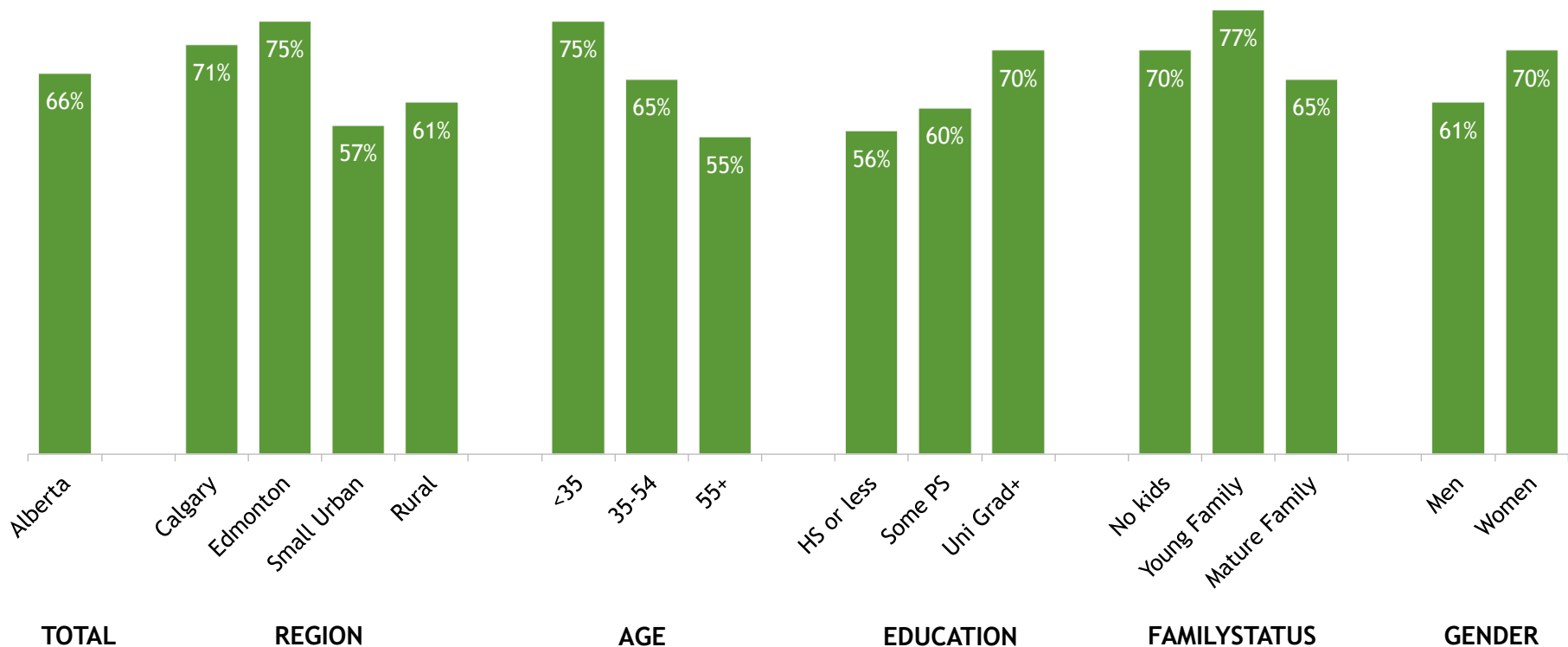
# PUBLIC APPROVAL OF MANDATE ALLOWING GSAs AT STUDENT REQUEST

## -BY KEY DEMOGRAPHICS



Since 2015, the Province of Alberta mandated that all school boards must allow GSAs if students request to form one. Overall, would you say that you personally approve or disapprove of the policy to allow GSAs at student request?

% Strongly/Somewhat Approve

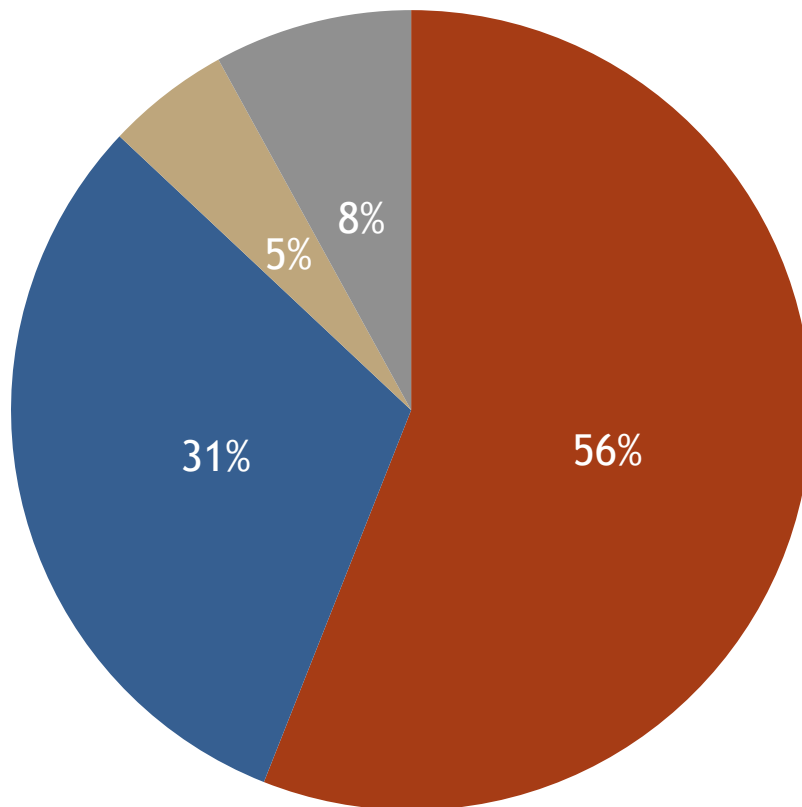




# PUBLIC VIEWS ON PARENT NOTIFICATION RE: GSAs



There has recently been some controversy about GSAs as they relate to parental notification - that is, when or if parents should be notified that their child has joined a GSA. Different people have different views on the subject. Which of the following broad points of view best represents your own feelings on the matter?



- **Students have a right to privacy**, and notifying parents is essentially “outing” some kids to their family which can lead to harmful, even unsafe, consequences. It should be **up to the students** when or if parents are informed.
- **Parents have a right to know** what their kids are doing at school, and the challenges they are facing. Schools shouldn’t be withholding information from them about their kids. Parents should be notified if their child joins a GSA.
- The decision to notify parents about their kids joining a GSA should be left up to the best judgment of **local school boards, principals and teachers**.
- **Unsure**

% Albertans



## Want to have your say about topics and issues that affect Albertans?

Voice of Alberta is a rapidly growing online community of Albertans who are interested in shaping the future of their community, province and nation. We bring current political, business and social issues to you and ask for your views. In return, we share the results in publications like the one you're reading now, through traditional and social media, and in member-exclusive newsletters.

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**For more information, contact:**  
Marc Henry, President  
ThinkHQ Public Affairs Inc.  
MLH@ThinkHQ.ca  
(587) 774-2395

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