



## Study Debunks Myth About Racial Role in Prop. 8 Passage

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**Ideology, church attendance and age were the driving factors behind the passage of California's same-sex marriage ban, but race and ethnicity did not play a significant role, according to a new study released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.** According to the study, support for Proposition 8 was not higher among Blacks and Latinos than other groups when the frequency of church attendance was taken into account.

The study also disputes Election Day reports that 70 percent of Blacks voted for Prop. 8. After conducting a precinct-by-precinct analysis, the study's authors determined that Black support for the ban was no more than 59 percent.

The study concluded that four factors played a major role in Prop. 8's passage--party identification, ideology, frequency of church attendance and age. More than 70 percent of voters who were Republican, identified themselves as conservative or who attended religious services at least once a week supported the ban. However, more than 70 percent of voters who were Democrats, identified themselves as liberal or rarely attended church opposed the measure. A majority of people over the age of 65 voted yes on Prop 8, while a majority of those younger than 65 voted no.

The study also found that support for same-sex marriage has increased by 9 percent since 2000, with support increasing among all racial and ethnic groups as well as among Protestants, Catholics and Jews. Support did not increase among Republicans, conservatives and people 65 and older.