

The Prop 8 vote was always complicated

January 7, 2009
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Better Jennifer than me. Writing about the Proposition 8 vote and race is tiring because some people have weak reading comprehension skills. Ever since marriage rights were taken away in California, I've "learned" the following about myself: 1) I hate whites, 2) I think all white gays are racist, and 3) I'm an excuse maker when it comes to homophobia in the black community.

None of those truthiness ditties are true, but they have been thrown out here in the 365 neighborhood because I've questioned CNN's exit poll that 70 percent of black California residents voted yes on Prop 8. Others have also pointed to the poll's flaws, from numbers guru Nate Silver at 538.com to political analyst David Binder (who did polling for President-elect Barack Obama's campaign). Ahh, but to point to these perspectives is just excuse making. My "brothers and sisters" (who knew Ma was so busy!) screwed gays over. I'm a racist whose character is questionable. Meh.

Yesterday's released study by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Policy Institute, written by Patrick J. Egan and Kenneth Sherrill, points out that a yes vote on Proposition 8 was mostly pushed by age, faith, and political perspective. The study mirrored Binder's unofficial numbers that black support for Prop 8 was between 57-59 percent. This high support however makes sense when religion is factored in.

"...Controlling for frequency of religious attendance helps explain why African Americans supported Proposition 8 at higher levels than the population as a whole. Among Californians who attend worship at least weekly, support for Proposition 8 was nearly uniform across all racial and ethnic groups."

This new study gives no one a pass. This new study gives no one a pass. Let the choir hear this for the last time from me: *this new study gives no one a pass*. Homophobia, no matter who espouses it, needs to be exposed for what it is: prejudice. However, we really can't fight our enemies if we don't know who they are or how to counteract their rhetoric. And yes Virginia there are going to be people with black faces who are anti-same sex marriage. Get over it and stop being shocked (shocked!) that some blacks sound like those whites back in the day wringing their hands over interracial marriage.