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BuzzFeed NEWS BUZZ LIFE

POLL: INDIANA DOESN'T LIKE LGBT DISCRIMINATION, GOVERNOR

Indianathema



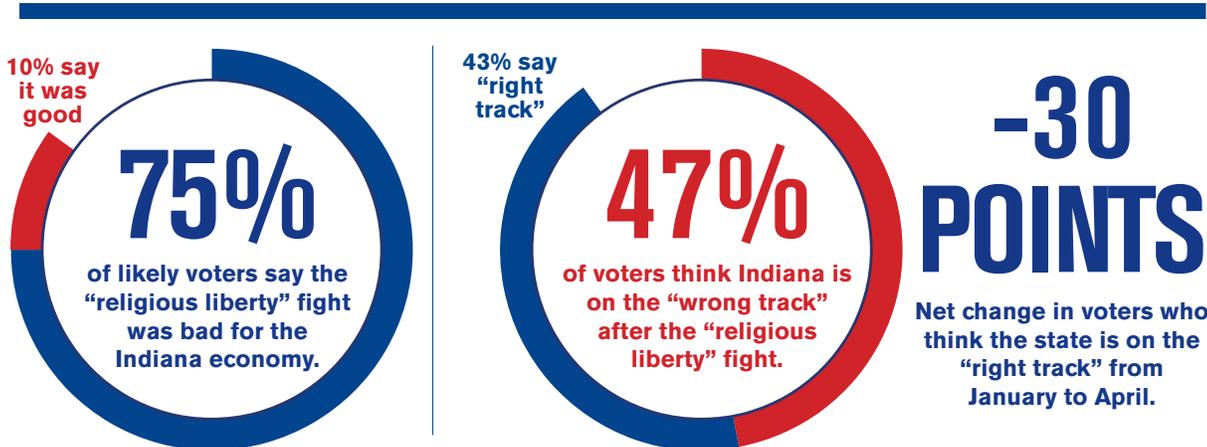
INDIANA: A CASE STUDY IN POLITICAL MALPRACTICE

The Human Rights Campaign commissioned Greenberg Quinlan Rosner Research to survey likely voters in the wake of Gov. Mike Pence's backing of a so-called "religious liberty" bill that would put LGBT Hoosiers at risk of discrimination.

One key takeaway from weeks of high-profile debate: voters believe that this debate deeply damaged the Indiana economy. 75 percent of likely voters said the "religious liberty" debate has been bad for Indiana businesses and the local economy. The findings were strong across party lines. Independent voters felt the fight was damaging by 72-12, while Republicans said by a margin of 64-13 that the controversy damaged Indiana's economy.

Compared to a January survey conducted by Public Opinion Strategies, voters reported a sharp decline in confidence that the state of Indiana was on the right track. 47 percent of voters think Indiana is on the "wrong track" compared to only 43 who think it's on the "right track" – a major reversal in just a few short months. In January, 57 percent of voters thought the state was on the "right track."

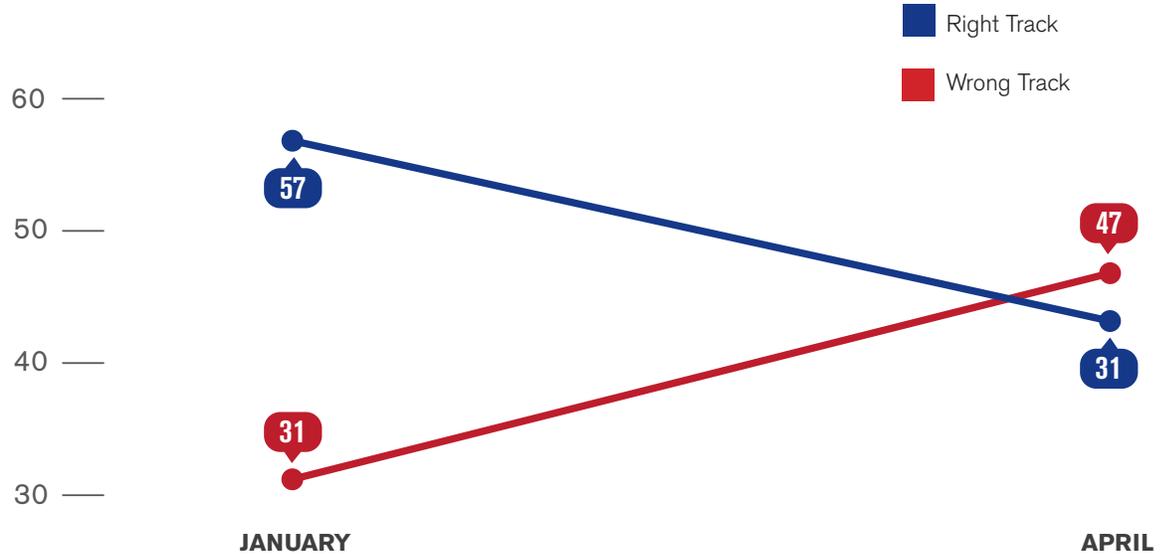
VOTERS BELIEVE THIS DEBATE DEEPLY DAMAGED THE INDIANA ECONOMY.





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▶ **Would you say things in Indiana are generally headed in the right direction or would you say things are off on the wrong track?**



Source: April Survey: Statewide telephone survey of 500 likely 2016 voters in the state of Indiana, involving both land-line and cell-phone calling. The survey was conducted April 7-9, 2015 and carries a margin of error of +/- 4.38. January Survey: Public Opinion Strategies conducted a survey of 500 registered voters in Indiana. The survey was conducted January 6-8, 2015, and has a margin of error of +4.38%

TIME

“The business and civic leaders were telling legislators yesterday that the financial impact to the city of Indy would be similar to Katrina,” said one Indiana business leader on Tuesday. “Today, they are saying it’s more like Pompeii.”

- 4/2/15

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RFRA passage cost Indiana \$1.5 billion

“The convention, tourism, entertainment and hospitality industries there employ 100,000 people. “I talked to some of the industry professionals just to get the facts and figures so I didn’t just pull them out of thin air,” said Ind. Rep. Terri Austin, (D) Anderson. Convention and meetings, the net present value, the loss to the state is \$1.5 billion, meetings and conventions.”

- 4/3/15

Bloomberg View

“At stake are losses for manufacturing (\$95.4 billion in annual state output), finance (\$44 billion) and tourism (\$10.3 billion) -- not to mention reputational harm. Arizona adopted a similar religious-freedom bill last year, but “opposition from the state’s business interests led Republican Governor Jan Brewer to veto it.”

- 3/31/15

USA TODAY

“The RFRA controversy was serious enough for the credit rating company Moody’s to call it a “negative credit development” for the finances of Indiana and Indianapolis. The city faces “increased risk to its hospitality-related revenues” due to a possible downturn in tourism and convention business, Moody’s said in its weekly credit outlook report.”

- 4/3/15

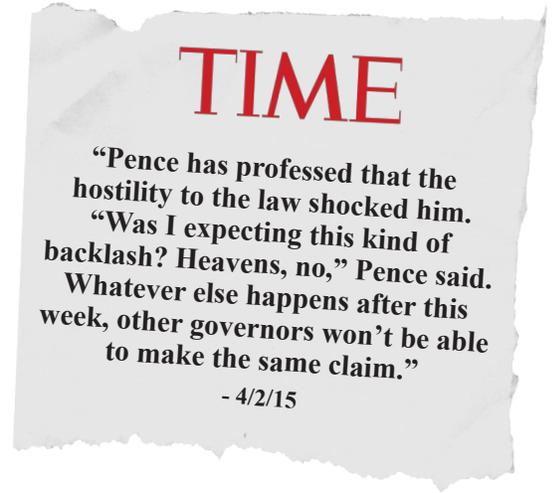


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PENCE IN PERIL

Republican Mike Pence finds himself deeply damaged following the fight over Indiana's religious refusal bill that put LGBT Hoosiers at risk for discrimination, according to a brand new HRC poll of Hoosiers. In a warning sign to governors in other states where similar anti-LGBT bills are pending, a stunning 75 percent of Hoosiers report that Pence's push for the so-called religious refusal bill has damaged Indiana's business climate.

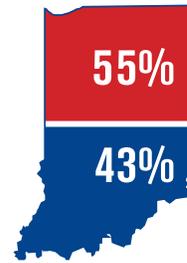
In a state that President Obama lost to Mitt Romney by 10 points in 2012, HRC's new poll finds Pence tied 47-47 in a potential matchup with Democrat John Gregg. The findings show a stunning fall for Pence, who showed high public approval ratings as recently as January and February.



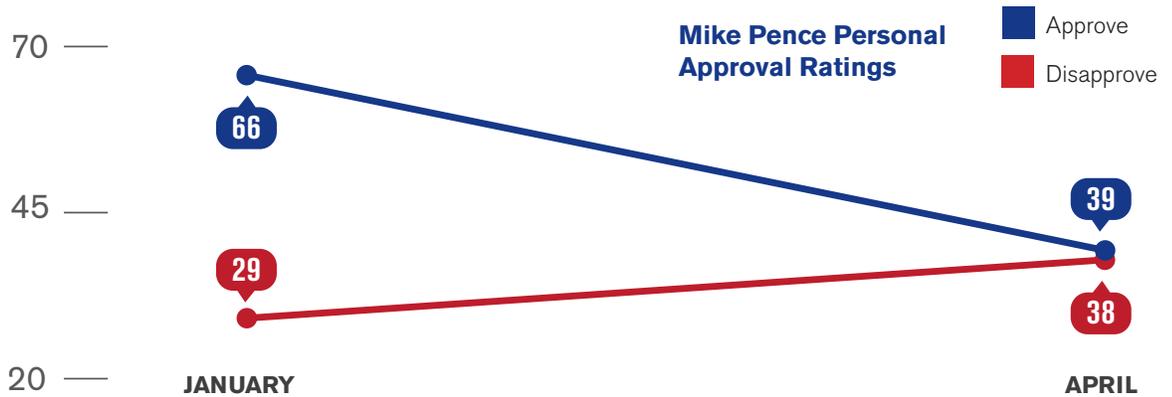
53%

of likely voters said the religious refusal fight left them with a **LESS FAVORABLE OPINION** of Gov. Mike Pence.

After RFRA fight, Pence has negative job approval ratings.



55% of Hoosiers **DISAPPROVE** of the job Mike Pence is doing as governor.
43% of Hoosiers **APPROVE** of the job Mike Pence is doing as governor.



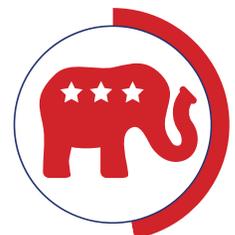
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Thinking about the election for Governor in 2016, if the election were held today, would you be voting for Democrat John Gregg or Republican Mike Pence?



47%
JOHN GREGG

47%
MIKE PENCE





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ACROSS THE COUNTRY, A WAVE OF POLLING SHOWS NO SUPPORT FOR LAWS THAT ALLOW BUSINESSES TO DISCRIMINATE AGAINST LGBT AMERICANS

In Indiana....

A poll of likely voters in Indiana conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for the Human Rights Campaign shows that even after weeks of high-profile debate on the issue of “religious liberty,” Gov. Mike Pence and his allies failed to convince Hoosiers that the “religious liberty” bill was good public policy. According to the poll, 70 percent of likely voters said that businesses should not be allowed to refuse service to customers because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. This finding is consistent with national polling on the subject. These findings crossed partisan lines. A majority of Republican voters (58 to 36) said that businesses should not be allowed to discriminate.



70%
of likely voters said that businesses **SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO REFUSE SERVICE** because of a customers sexual orientation or gender identity.



“In the wake of the controversy over religious freedom laws in Indiana and Arkansas, most Americans say that a business owner should treat gays and lesbians as they would other customers, even if homosexuality violates that business owner’s religious beliefs...”

“63% of Americans say business owners should be required to provide products or services to individuals who are gay or lesbian,

while 37% say the business owner should be allowed to refuse if homosexuality is against their religious beliefs... Across all ages and races, Americans say a business must serve gays and lesbians no matter the owner’s religious beliefs.... When asked if a wedding-related business, such as a caterer or photographer, should be required to provide products or services to same-sex couples, 52% said they should provide services, while 48% said they should be allowed to refuse.”

- 4/9/15



“A majority of Americans believe businesses should not be allowed to refuse services based on their religious beliefs in the wake of controversies in Indiana and Arkansas over gay rights and religious freedom, a Reuters/Ipsos poll found on Thursday. The survey results suggest a split over the issue between Americans and some of the politicians who represent them... The poll found solid opposition to allowing businesses to refuse services or refuse to hire people or groups based on religious beliefs.

Fifty-four percent said it was wrong for businesses to refuse services, while 28 percent said they should have that right.... And 55 percent said businesses should not have the right to refuse to hire certain people or groups based on the employer’s religious beliefs, while 27 percent said businesses should have the right.”

- 4/9/15



said businesses **SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO REFUSE SERVICE** to gays and lesbians.



said even if a business says homosexuality violates the owner’s religious beliefs, they **SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO REFUSE SERVICE** to LGBT customers.

- 3/20/14



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AMERICA'S BUSINESS LEADERS SHOW PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR NON-DISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS

In the wake of Indiana, more than 100 technology industry leaders and counting have joined in an unprecedented statement to legislators calling for the addition of non-discrimination protections for LGBT people to civil rights laws. Launched in response to a host of anti-LGBT bills pending or signed into law in states around the country, technology leaders from coast to coast continue to sign on with their support in this historic call to action.

The wave of support from the business community for ensuring LGBT Americans are protected from discrimination is consistent with public polling on the issue. A recent national survey conducted by Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for the Human Rights Campaign, found that likely voters support a federal non-discrimination law by an overwhelming margin: 69 percent to 27 percent, support that exceeds even marriage equality and crosses partisan and demographic lines. Republicans supported it 51 percent to 43 percent, Independents supported it 72 percent to 23 percent and Democrats supported it 80 percent to 18 percent.

TIME

“Even as Indiana scrambled to amend the law, the Human Rights Campaign diligently worked its corporate contacts. The group released a statement on Tuesday signed by American Airlines, Microsoft, Wells Fargo and six other major businesses that denounced similar efforts around the country.”

- 4/2/15

100+

TECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY LEADERS AND COUNTING HAVE JOINED IN AN UNPRECEDENTED STATEMENT TO LEGISLATORS CALLING FOR THE ADDITION OF NON-DISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS FOR LGBT PEOPLE TO CIVIL RIGHTS LAWS

JOINT STATEMENT FROM TECH INDUSTRY LEADERS

The values of diversity, fairness and equality are central to our industry. These values fuel creativity and inspiration, and those in turn make the U.S. technology sector the most admired in the world today.

We believe it is critically important to speak out about proposed bills and existing laws that would put the rights of minorities at risk. The transparent and open economy of the future depends on it, and the values of this great nation are at stake.

Religious freedom, inclusion, and diversity can co-exist and everyone including LGBT people and people of faith should be protected under their states' civil rights laws. No person should have to fear losing their job or be denied service or housing because of who they are or whom they love.

However, right now those values are being called into question in states across the country. In more than twenty states, legislatures are considering legislation that could empower individuals or businesses to discriminate against LGBT people by denying them service if it they felt it violated their religious beliefs.

To ensure no one faces discrimination and ensure everyone preserves their right to live out their faith, we call on all legislatures to add sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classes to their civil rights laws and to explicitly forbid discrimination or denial of services to anyone.

Anything less will only serve to place barriers between people, create hurdles to creativity and inclusion, and smother the kind of open and transparent society that is necessary to create the jobs of the future. Discrimination is bad for business and that's why we've taken the time to join this joint statement.