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Can the Amendment Be Stopped?

Action Wisconsin, Center Advocates and others are working to defeat the proposed constitutional amendment banning gay marriage in Wisconsin. What is their strategy and will it work?

Editor's Note: This story begins Q Life's commitment to provide our readers in-depth and ongoing coverage of the proposed amendment which would ban gay marriage and civil unions in Wisconsin. Every month, Q Life will focus on a different aspect of this important issue.

By William Attewell

In November 2006, Wisconsin will be at ground zero in the battle for civil rights for gays and lesbians when a proposed state constitutional amendment banning gay marriage and civil unions is slated to go before the voters.

Wisconsin's largest LGBT political advocacy organizations — Action Wisconsin and Milwaukee's Center Advocates — have teamed up to work closely on the campaign. The two groups are strategizing and coordinating their efforts to defeat the ban with the support of faith-based coalitions, non-gay civil rights advocates and supportive organizations from across the country.

The groups are preparing for a fight they say they didn't pick but were forced into by the political agenda of Republican state legislators and the religious right.

Opponents of the marriage ban also say that it would jeopardize domestic partnership benefits in the state as well as ban same-sex marriage.

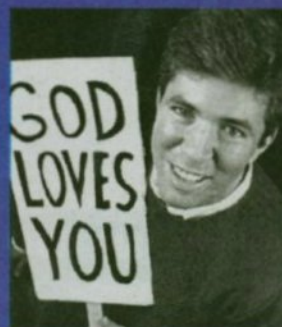
On the other side of the amendment fight is

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Local Lutheran Is National Ally

"... Jennifer Thomas is a strong local pastor whose advocacy on our behalf is making a national difference."

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Homophobe Watch

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