



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

Maine's Anti-Gay Ballot Measure Set to Go to Voters in Less Than Thirty Days

Portland, ME—While writing to the Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court while Colorado's Amendment 2 case is being heard probably would do little good, there is one situation where the Lesbian and Gay community nationwide is being asked to help.

In less than 30 days, Maine voters will decide the outcome of a statewide anti-Gay ballot measure, Ballot Measure One, that threatens Lesbian, Gay and Bisexual Americans everywhere.

Well-funded national anti-Gay groups of the Far Right are funneling resources into Maine to support the discriminatory measure. The initiative was specially designed by anti-Gay Right Wing extremists to resist the kind of court challenges currently facing Colorado's Amendment 2. If it passes, those of the Religious Right and their kind plan to clone it and bring it to states throughout the country.

The Gay community is being asked by Maine and national leaders to act to help defeat the anti-Gay initiative, which will appear on the state's ballot on November 7.

The initiative would single out Lesbian and Gay people for discrimination and exclude us from equal participation in the democratic process.

Portland is currently the only place in Maine that includes Gay people in its non-discrimination laws. Federal and Maine state civil rights laws do not protect people from being fired or otherwise being discriminated against merely for being Lesbian or Gay.

If passed, Measure One would overturn the law in Portland and prohibit Maine from ever including sexual orientation in its non-discrimination laws.

What happens this year in Maine will affect all Lesbian and Gay Americans.

Maine Won't Discriminate is the statewide coalition working to defeat the anti-Gay ballot measure, and it needs your help. Current polls show that the vote could go either way, so your support can make a difference.

Please Help

Make a contribution. Every penny will go directly toward defeating Measure One.

Call in your donation by Visa or MasterCard at (207) 761-1555, or make your check out to: Maine Won't Discriminate and send it to: Maine Won't Discriminate Action Funds, P.O. Box 11061, Portland, ME 04104.

Republican Party Gets \$5,000 from Human Rights Fund—And Keeps it

Washington, D.C.—Gay activists and House Republican campaign strategists managed to find common ground at their first meeting, on AIDS programs and corporate America's efforts to treat Gay and Lesbian employees fairly.

The activists from the Human Rights Fund (HRF) ended up contributing \$5,000 and, to the dismay of the religious right, the Republicans ended up keeping it.

When Republicans seized control of Congress, the conventional wisdom was that Gay and Lesbian Americans were doomed," said Elizabeth Birch, HRF's executive director.

Yet, she said, an AIDS care program vital to the Gay community is likely to be reauthorized with full funding and no anti-Gay amendments, and an employment non-discrimination act has more co-sponsors in this GOP Congress than the last Democratic one.

Sen. Bob Dole, (R-KS), made headlines when his presidential campaign solicited and then returned a contribution from Log Cabin Republicans.

It was a sobering setback for a fledgling group striving to prove it's feasible—in an age of Religious Right prominence in party affairs—to be both Gay and Republican. But there have been signs of encouragement as well.

When the group held a conference for major donors in June, speakers and Republican minglers included Massachusetts Gov. William Weld, Wyoming Sen. Alan Simpson and eight House members. Among them was Rep. Steve Gunderson, (R-WI), who is openly Gay, close to the House leadership, and increasingly outspoken as he approaches retirement next year.

Gunderson and the Log Cabin group embody what spokesman David Greer calls "the winning combination in American politics today," fiscally conservative and socially moderate.

MAP Hosts Forums to Seek Input and Advice on Improved Services, Future Directions



Hallowe'en Time—Milwaukee's Theatre X will present Marcie Hoffman and Flora Coker in the Jeffrey Jones classic "Witches of Hallowe'en" from October 11-29. (See related story on page 10)

U.S. Supreme Court Begins Hearing Colorado Amendment 2 Case

Washington, D.C.—The state attorney who will argue before the U.S. Supreme Court that Colorado's anti-Gay Amendment 2 should stand insists his personal opinion on the measure isn't important.

"My personal views are not relevant, and any discussion of them is distracting to our role in the case," said Tim Tymkovich, the state's solicitor general.

But the attorney who will present the case against the amendment in the hearing that began October 10, while good attorneys should be able to argue both sides of a case, she draws the line on this issue.

Jean Dubofsky, the first female justice on the Colorado Supreme Court, said she thinks the amendment, approved by Colorado voters in 1992, is "mean-spirited."

"I think it was promoted for...reasons of bias," Dubofsky said.

Amendment 2, sponsored by Colorado for Family Values, a Right Wing Religious group, prohibits laws offering legal relief for discrimination based on sexual orientation. It would void such laws already on the books in some Colorado communities.

However, the constitutional amendment has never taken effect because of legal challenges. Last year, the Colorado Supreme Court upheld a district court that found the measure unconstitutional on grounds that it violates the guarantee of equal protection under the law.

The state attorney general's office is appealing that decision, disputing that the amendment is unconstitutional. Attorney General Gale Norton has also said the voters' will should be honored.

In addition, the attorney general's job is to defend state officials who were sued by Gay advocates after Amendment 2 was approved.

Tymkovich, a Broomfield High School graduate, will argue the case.

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Coalition of Organizations Formed to Support the Same-Gender Freedom to Marry

New York, NY—Under the banner "Freedom to Marry," an unprecedented coalition of national, state and local organizations recently formed to mobilize public support for same-gender marriage.

In an October 2 tele-news conference with Gay and Lesbian press from across the country, four coalition representatives stressed the urgency and importance of a national, united mobilization effort and outlined strategies to win and keep the freedom to marry for same-gender couples.

"This is truly an historic occasion—it will take this kind of teamwork, supporting activists and other organizations across the country, for us to combat the Radical Right's well-organized attempts to deny us this basic human right—the ability to marry the one we love," said Evan

Milwaukee—As with any agency that plays an ever increasing role in our lives, the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) has been the subject of talk, both laudatory and critical. While some of the talk as been public, there have been rumors as well.

In its vigorous outreach to the Lesbian, Bisexual and Gay community, MAP and the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), have decided to hold two public fora to give everyone a chance to speak.

"We need direction from the Gay and Lesbian community as we work to meet the increasing demands of the AIDS epidemic that lie ahead," said ARCW Executive Director Doug Nelson.

"For ten years, through this disastrous epidemic, the community has never let us down. We deeply value the support we have received and we want to be sure that through these fora that there is a direct opportunity for constructive criticism and good advice so we can meet the needs of the Gay and Lesbian community."

"Basically," Nelson said, "we want to hear from the community how we can do a better job in delivering AIDS services."

The purpose of these two meetings is to give the community an opportunity to provide an assessment of ARCW's and MAP's current programs.

Members of the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community are being invited to share their opinions about everything, ranging from HIV care, prevention and education, to the research and advocacy programs offered by ARCW and MAP.

"We have had what we consider to be a very successful first ten years," said Neil Albrecht, Deputy Director of Programs. "Now as we shape our future, we want to hear what people have in mind for MAP and ARCW."

"Too often, we hear rumors about how people feel about the agency. We're expecting these fora will allow us to gather some first hand information."

The fora will be hosted by the leadership of ARCW/MAP. In attendance to receive the community's input will be executive director Doug Nelson; Albrecht; Paul Milakovich, deputy director for Administration and Chief Financial Officer; and deputy director for community relation, Lisa Wolter.

Also attending will be the Program Directors for client services, education and prevention, Gay outreach, drug trial research, and public policy advocacy.

Albrecht emphasized that the fora would be wide open to discussion and comment by the participants.

"We encourage people to come to the fora and bring their ideas, questions, suggestions and concerns," he said. "We're committed to hearing what people have to say and then using the information as we build and plan for the future."

The fora will be held Wednesday, November 1, 1995 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and on Thursday, November 2, 1995, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

The Wednesday forum will be held at the M&M Club, 124 N. Water Street.

The Thursday forum will be held at ARCW, 820 N. Plankinton Avenue. Snacks and beverages will be served.

Following the forum at ARCW, tours of the facility will be available.

"We want to give everyone the chance to be heard," Albrecht said.

For more information on the fora, call Andy Bagnall, Manager/Gay Outreach, at (414) 225-1502.

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