

Protecting Equal Marriage Rights in Massachusetts

5 Ways YOU Can Make a Difference

1. Write Letters to the Editor.

Whether you're gay or straight, have recently been married or not, you have an important story to tell and important points to make. Letters to the editor are one of the most read sections of the newspaper and people are interested in knowing what their neighbors think. Letters to the editor help create community standards and are read by elected officials, opinion leaders, and the media.

- Send letters to your local paper as well as larger papers.
- Write from a personal perspective such as having just attended a wedding.

Messaging Points

- Equal marriage rights strengthen all families.
- It would be profoundly wrong to amend the constitution to deny same-sex couples equal marriage rights.
- The parade of horrors predicted by the radical right in Massachusetts if same-sex couples could marry has not come true.
- Civil unions are separate and unequal.
- In Massachusetts the general public has quickly accepted equal marriage rights.
- It's a wonderful thing that today in Massachusetts, children being raised by same-sex couples have the protections afforded by legal marriage.
- It's a wonderful thing that aging same-sex couples have the protections of marriage.

2. Talk to Your Friends and Family.

Let them know that you support equal marriage rights and the *Goodridge* decision. Let your friends, family, and co-workers know that you oppose the anti-gay constitutional amendment and make sure those you speak to understand that Civil Unions are separate and unequal and do not provide the wide range of protections marriage confers. Ask your friends to speak to their friends as well.

3. Communicate with Your Legislators.

The legislative session doesn't begin until January, but now is a great time to build a relationship with your State Representative and State Senator. By contacting your legislators, now they will know that you really care about equality and family and that will leave a lasting impression on legislators as they prepare for the next constitutional convention.

How to Contact Your State Senator and State Representative

Mail: Legislator Name (Rep. or Sen., State House, Boston, MA 02133)

Phone: State House Switchboard 617.722.2000

Email Addresses: visit www.EqualMarriage.org

Here are a few ideas:

- Send your State Representative and State Senator a Holiday Card:
 - If they voted against the anti-gay amendment, thank them.
 - If you've gotten married or have attended a wedding recently, take a moment to write to your legislators and tell them about how wonderful the experience was, and how good it is that the Commonwealth is now treating gays and lesbians as equal citizens of the Commonwealth.

4. Make the Most of your Holiday Gatherings and Greeting Cards.

At holiday parties and meals offer a toast to equal marriage rights. Thank those who have helped in this historic civil rights struggle and invite others to join us as we work to defeat the anti-gay constitutional amendment. From our website you can print out fact sheets and other materials that you can distribute. Consider asking your friends and family to sign a holiday card that you can send to your State Senator and State Representative. In your holiday cards make mention of how wonderful that in the past year same-sex couples were able to start marrying in Massachusetts and perhaps mention that in the coming year a priority for you will be preserving this historic civil rights milestone.

5. Contribute.

National anti-gay organizations are bankrolling an enormous campaign in Massachusetts. We believe we can win, but only with your support. Please make a donation at www.EqualMarriage.org or send a check.* Your money will directly pay for organizing and mobilizing in support of equality.

*Donations can be sent to the Freedom to Marry Coalition, 11 Beacon Street, Suite 1125, Boston, MA 02108-3011. Thank you!

For more information call us at 617.482.1600, email us at info@equalmarriage.org, or visit our web site www.EqualMarriage.org