

• CONGRESSIONAL WORKSHOP •
Topic # 25
Const. Amendment to Prohibit Same-Sex Marriage?

Overview

Questions to ponder: What constitutes marriage? Who has the authority to “define” it: courts, legislatures, or the people? Is this more of a states rights issue? Is a Constitutional Amendment the easiest method to accomplish this end? Have you kept up on the recent events in California surrounding this issue? What is the difference between marriage and civil unions or domestic partnership agreements? How many states (other than Massachusetts) recognize same sex unions or domestic partnerships? Is this a religious issue or a civil rights issue? Have you researched the Defense of Marriage Act? Is this a key campaign ‘08 issue?

Background references

- http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_marr_menu.htm
- <http://www.newsweek.com/id/137302>
- http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Federal_Marriage_Amendment
- <http://law-library.rutgers.edu/SSM.html>
- <http://www.ncsl.org/programs/cyf/samesex.htm>
- <http://pewforum.org/gay-marriage/>
- www.thenation.com/blogs/thebeat/321256/california_decision_makes_same_sex_marriage_a_2008_issue

Citations supporting the affirmative

- <http://www.nogaymarriage.com/information.asp>
- <http://www.allianceformarriage.org/site/c.jjZlGmWLwG/b.2002891/k.BDF9/Home.htm>
- <http://www.manwomanmarriage.org/jrm/>
- <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2004/02/20040224-2.html>
- <http://catholiceducation.org/articles/homosexuality/ho0063.html>
- <http://www.bidstrup.com/marriage.htm>

Citations supporting the negative

- <http://www.aclu.org/getequal/rela/index.html>
- http://www.huffingtonpost.com/karen-ocamb/california-supreme-court_b_102019.html
- <http://www.secular.org/issues/marriage/?view=summary>
- http://www.religioustolerance.org/hom_marwhy.htm
- <http://www.buddybuddy.com/civil-01.html>
- <http://www.hrc.org/issues/marriage.asp>

Additional Magazine References

- U.S. News & World Report, March 17, 2008, pg 31, “Reigniting the Fight Over Gay Marriage”
- Time, June 2, 2008, pg 16, “A Brief History of: Gay Marriage”