



Help Needed to Preserve California Win

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Same-sex marriage activists are anticipating a costly battle to preserve the decision of the California Supreme Court last week opening marriage to gay and lesbian couples. In June, the state will decide if enough valid signatures were filed to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot limiting marriage to man-woman couples. In 2000, California voters approved a statute to the same effect by a 61-39 margin in a referendum. Recent polls on voter attitudes toward same-sex marriage show it much closer to a 50-50 proposition.

Equality California, which has successfully lobbied two successive legislatures to pass a marriage equality bill only to have it vetoed by Republican Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, is issuing a clarion call for volunteer and financial support to fight the referendum. You can read more on how to help at www.ecqa.org.

Significantly, Schwarzenegger supports the court decision and opposes the referendum, but has said he does not expect to campaign against it.

When Matt Foreman left the leadership of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force earlier this year, he told Gay City News that fighting the referendum if it makes it to the November ballot could cost at least \$15-18 million.