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Kathy's Lesbian Life Blog

By [Kathy Belge](#), About.com Guide to Lesbian Life since 2003

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Gay Marriage Now Legal in Iowa

Friday April 3, 2009



Add Iowa to the states where gays and lesbians can marry! In an unanimous decision, the Iowa Supreme Court ruled that denying gays and lesbians the right to marry is unconstitutional. Beginning April 24th, same-sex couples can marry in Iowa. There is no residency requirement for marriage in Iowa, so same-sex couples can travel there to get married from other states.

Rea Carey, Executive Director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force issued this statement:

This ruling marks another watershed moment in the struggle for full equality. No longer will same-sex couples have their relationships treated as less than equal by the state. The court rightly affirmed that no loving committed couple should be denied marriage and the critical protections only marriage can provide. This ruling also affirms our common humanity by providing same-sex couples with the opportunity to participate in the shared hopes and dreams of making a public commitment to the person they love. We are thrilled that equality has come to Iowa!

Tom Head, About.com's guide to [Civil Liberties](#) has an excellent article interpreting the Iowa ruling and explaining why same-sex marriage will most likely be legal in Iowa for at least three and a half years. What do you think? Would you travel to Iowa to get married? Did you ever think Iowa would be ahead of states like New York and California when it comes to gay rights? [Prev](#) [Next](#)

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Comments

(1) Salty says:

April 3, 2009 at 5:34 pm

Hi Kathy. I've been saying all the time that denying gay Americans the right to get legally married is unconstitutional. Getting married is a Civil Right that our federal government allowed to be taken from us state-by-state. I am an adult, and my neighbor should never have been given the right to make a law that deny me the Civil Right to marry another adult. For an eye-blink gay citizens could get legally married in California. Maybe the air is less-polluted in Iowa and they think more clearly. Go Iowa!!

(2) Audrey says:

April 3, 2009 at 7:18 pm

Makes me proud to be an Iowan!

(3) susan says:

April 4, 2009 at 4:54 pm

i am so glad for them i think if one state says its ok for gay marriages all states should do the same.maybe one day flordia will

(4) Stephfanee says:

April 5, 2009 at 12:52 am

This is so exciting! If Iowa can do it then hopefully Nebraska can step up. They are fighting for their right to own a gun and I'm wrong for fighting for my legal rights!

(5) Julia says:

April 5, 2009 at 4:45 am

Marriage rights, gun rights ... I see no difference in that all citizens should be afforded both constitutional rights and human rights. Wake up America and truly become the land of the free!

(6) JD says:

April 5, 2009 at 10:06 pm

I literally cried when I found out about this (from a strange Pro Family email that somehow got in my inbox talking about how 'horrible' it is o.O) This is yet another huge step forward for equality. Cheers, Iowa. You're brilliant.

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