



Family VOICE[®]

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Marriage: Society's Taproot

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Marriage at a Crossroads



“This is now bigger than San Francisco.” This was San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom’s jubilant reaction to the California Supreme Court’s decision earlier in the year that struck down California’s Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA), also known as Proposition 22. Incredibly, Newsom, the self-proclaimed progressive Democrat, celebrated the court’s overreaching decision to overturn the will of the people and the destruction of marriage between one man and one woman in

his state. Newsom wasn’t finished with his gloating, however, and his words were chilling: “as goes California so goes the nation.”

Homosexual activists are convinced that a state-by-state judicial strategy is their best opportunity to foist same-sex “marriage” on the rest of the country.

Thankfully, pro-family groups like Concerned Women for America (CWA) continue to meet the challenge head-on by promoting marriage

amendments to state constitutions. This year, there are marriage amendments on the ballot in three states: Arizona, California, and Florida. If pro-family forces prevail in all three, we will have brought the number of states with marriage protection from twenty seven to thirty. Only five states have neither a statute nor a constitutional provision prohibiting same-sex “marriage”: Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York and Rhode Island.

States like Arizona, California, and Florida have Defense of Marriage statutes, but with the recent California case, clearly that is not enough. Without marriage protection in the state’s constitution, these statutes are no match for activist judges bent on reshaping state law.

Of the three initiatives, Florida’s ballot language is by far superior:

“In as much as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized.”

Neither Arizona’s nor California’s language shuts the door entirely on the state legislature enacting laws to allow civil unions, domestic partnerships and other attempts to create counterfeit alternatives to marriage. As proponents of the strongest language protecting marriage possible, CWA supports all three ballot initiatives as the only defense against activist judicial rulings like the one we saw in California earlier this year.

In short, California changed everything. Already the effects from their tragic ruling have reached to other states. Soon after the California ruling came down, New York Governor David Paterson (D) forced the state to recognize as valid homosexual marriages performed in other states. Paterson, who has been a proponent of so-called

“gay marriage” for some time, with a stroke of a pen affected over 1,300 regulations and statutes and circumvented the legislature.

Most governors and state legislatures across the country are awaiting the results of California’s Proposition 8 this November before taking further action. Still to be decided is what happens to the thousands of same-sex “marriages” preformed in California over the last few months. Will other states be sued until they recognize same-sex “marriages” performed in California? Will other governors surrender — or worse, see it like New York’s Paterson, as an opportunity to force same-sex “marriage” on their state? All eyes will be on Arizona, California and Florida as they become ground zero in the fight to preserve marriage between one man and one woman. ■

Mike Mears, Director of State Legislative Relations for Concerned Women for America Legislative Action Committee

PRAY

For traditional marriage in Arizona, California and Florida and that the people will speak once and for all in the form of a constitutional amendment protecting marriage.

PRAISE

God for the 27 states that have placed marriage protection in their state constitutions.

ACT

Urge your friends and family in Arizona, California, and Florida to do everything they can to protect traditional marriage in their states and invite them to visit these sites:

Arizona: <http://yesformarriage.com>

California: www.protectmarriage.com

Florida: www.yes2marriage.org