



PRESS ADVISORY - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MARRIAGE EQUALITY USA ANNOUNCES NATIONWIDE DAY OF DECISION EVENTS IN RESPONSE TO FEDERAL JUDGE WALKER'S OVERTURNING OF PROPOSITION 8

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San Francisco, California: Judge Walker found *"that Plaintiffs have demonstrated by overwhelming evidence that Proposition 8 violates their due process and equal protection rights and that they will continue to suffer these Constitutional violations until State officials cease enforcement...moreover California officials have chosen not to defend Proposition 8 in these proceedings."*

Judge Walker concluded, *"because California has no interest in discriminating against gay men and lesbians, and because Proposition 8 prevents California from fulfilling its Constitutional obligation to provide marriage on an equal basis, the court concludes that Proposition 8 is unconstitutional."* Judge Walker did not issue a stay although a motion is pending.

Marriage Equality supporters are hosting community gatherings across the state and around the nation in response to the Federal Judge Vaughn Walker's historic decision striking down Proposition 8 as unconstitutional. "We are anticipating a tremendous reaction from the community. The Court's decision will have an immediate and critical impact on real people's lives. Marriage equality is a reality in Massachusetts, Connecticut, Iowa, Vermont, New Hampshire, and Washington DC and many countries around the world. Last month, Argentina voted to legalize gay marriage - this is a worldwide issue and this decision keeps pace with our allies around the world. After careful consideration and a fair opportunity for both sides to submit all evidence, it is clear that there is no rational reason to deny same-sex couples the fundamental right of marriage. The community gatherings will provide an essential outlet for our joy at this important decision with national implications and provide an opportunity to discuss next steps for continuing this forward momentum," said Molly McKay, Marriage Equality USA Media Director.

"This decision echoes last week's federal court ruling striking down the challenged portions of the federal DOMA and heralds the beginning of the end for unfounded, unfair legalized discrimination against LGBT Americans, said McKay. "It reaffirms the well-established constitutional principle of equality and the court's role in protecting the minority against the tyranny and short-sighted prejudices of the majority. This decision reignites hope in the hearts of same-sex couples that their country will enforce and defend the American value of equal

protection for all people and that wedding bells will once again ring for all couples ready to make this important life commitment in honor of love."

"Proposition 8 has hurt thousands of families and has inserted an exception to California's equal protection clause in our state constitution. It is wrong to allow a ballot measure to strip same-sex couples of their fundamental right to marry and when Proposition 8 proponents were given an opportunity in court to present evidence and witnesses to justify snatching away the fundamental right of marriage from thousands of Californians, they had nothing. Even their sole defense witness admitted, 'we will become more American the day gays and lesbians can marry.' We look forward to the day when a child who is born gay can grow up in a world where they can dream of marrying the person they love and have their dreams come true." said Pamela Brown, Marriage Equality USA Policy Director.

Grassroots and civil rights organizations are collaborating across California and Nationally to co-host these Day of Decision community gatherings. Below is the current list of organized events at the bottom of this press release. For the most up-to-date information, go to www.prop8decision.com.

Founded in 1998, Marriage Equality USA is a national grassroots organization whose mission is to secure legally recognized civil marriage equality for all, at the federal and state level, without regard to gender identity or sexual orientation. For more information go to www.marriageequality.org

Federal Prop 8 Trial Day of Decision Events

Below is our current list for Day of Decision events. For the latest information, go to the Day of Decision website (www.prop8decision.com).

In California:

Contra Costa County – Concord at Todos Santos Plaza at Willow Pass and Grant at 6PM. Contact ca-contracosta@marriageequality.org.

Contra Costa County – Martinez at the County Clerk's Office at 822 Main Street at 6PM. Contact ca-contracosta@marriageequality.org.

Contra Costa County – Pittsburg at Community Presbyterian Church at 200 E. Leland Road at 7pm. Contact ca-contracosta@marriageequality.org.

Contra Costa County – Richmond at City Hall at 450 Civic Center Plaza at 6PM. Contact ca-contracosta@marriageequality.org.

Contra Costa County – Walnut Creek at City Hall on 1666 North Main Street at 6PM. Contact ca-contracosta@marriageequality.org.

Fresno County – City Hall at 2600 Fresno Street at 7:30pm. Contact ca-fresno@marriageequality.org.

Kern County – Bakersfield at the Outback corner of Stockdale and Village at 5pm. Contact ca-kern@marriageequality.org

Los Angeles County at 647 N. San Vicente Blvd, West Hollywood from 6-8pm.

Los Angeles County at Olivera Street Plaza, 845 N. Alameda Street in LA; a candlelight vigil from 8-10pm.

Mendocino County – Ukiah at Alex Thomas Plaza at 6 PM. Contact ca-mendocino@marriageequality.org

Orange County - Santa Ana at Sasser Park at 7 PM

Riverside County – Palm Springs at the County Courthouse at 7 PM.

Sacramento County – Two hours after the decision is released; a Sacramento press conference at the LGBT Center at 1927 L Street (off 20th Street). Contact ca-sacramento@marriageequality.org

Sacramento County – 6pm at McMartin Realty at 2031 K Street (corner of 21st Street) Contact ca-sacramento@marriageequality.org

San Bernardino County/Riverside County - Rancho Cucamonga at Day Creek and Foothill Blvd, 6 PM

Solano County on the Vallejo Waterfront at the Ferry Terminal at Mare Island Way and Georgia Street at 5:30-7 PM.

Sonoma County - 7:30pm, Santa Rosa City Hall at 100 Santa Rosa Ave. in Santa Rosa. Contact ca-sonoma@marriageequality.org

San Diego County – Gather at 6pm at 6th & University, march to The Center at 3909 Centre Street for a Town Hall from 7-8pm.

San Francisco County – San Francisco starting at Harvey Milk Plaza in the Castro at 5PM and ending with a march to Civic Center Plaza for a rally at 6:45PM. Contact media@marriageequality.org.

San Luis Obispo County at the Mission Plaza Amphitheater at 5:30pm. Contact ca-sanluisobispo@marriageequality.org.

San Mateo County/Mid-San Francisco Peninsula at the corner of 5th and El Camino Real in San Mateo from 6-8pm. Contact ca-sanmateo@marriageequality.org.

Santa Barbara County at Jill's Place, 632 Santa Barbara St at 7pm. Contact ca-santabarabara@marriageequality.org.

Santa Clara County - Mountain View CalTrain Station and City Hall at 6PM. Contact ca-santaclara@marriageequality.org.

Santa Clara County – San Jose at the Billy De Frank Community Center at 938 The Alameda at 6 PM. Contact ca-santaclara@marriageequality.org.

Tulare – Kings Counties- Porterville on sidewalk in front of SaveMart at Henderson and Port at 5PM. Contact ca-tulare@marriageequality.org.

Outside California:

Arizona – Cesar Chavez Plaza, Phoenix from 5:30-8pm. Contact events@equalityevents.ning.com

Colorado – Denver at the Colorado State Capitol Building at 6 PM. Contact colorado@marriageequality.org.

Colorado – Boulder County at 6:30pm at the boulder Pride House (2132 14th Street, Boulder).

Georgia – Midtown Atlanta at 6:30pm at the corner of Piedmont Ave and 10th Street.

Massachusetts – Boston at 6pm at Copley Plaza (outside the Copley T-Stop).

New York – Rochester rally is planned at 5pm downtown.

Rhode Island – Providence at 6:30pm at the Federal Courthouse.

Texas – Austin at City Hall at 5:30 PM.

Texas – Dallas at the Center Cedar Springs Road and Oak Lawn at 6 PM.

Texas – Denton at Courthouse Square at 5 PM.

Texas – Houston at City Hall at 5:30 PM.

Texas – San Antonio at City Hall at 6:30 PM.