



February 13, 2011

## Rapid Response: Banning same-sex marriage spurs readers to take sides

*Question: What is your opinion about the proposed amendment to the Indiana Constitution banning same-sex marriages?*

- It is ridiculous! As a gay man, admittedly, I am unclear where I stand on gay marriage. However, I don't believe it's anyone's responsibility to take that away from someone who believes it should be their right. I'd prefer those I helped elect focus on real issues.

Michael Behrens

Lafayette

- No matter what you personally feel or think about same-sex marriages, it should not be a constitutional amendment.

Nola Gentry

West Lafayette

- I fully support this amendment to the Indiana Constitution.

Carl V. Covely Jr.

Sheffield Township

- Marriage equality is the fair, reasonable, loving and forgiving way to go. I'll go along with a restriction that only two people (and corporations are not people) can marry, but it should not be defined by gender, race, etc.

Linda Swihart

West Lafayette

- I propose an alternative. "The state of marriage shall have no legal effect within the state of Indiana." That way, everyone can have the communal arrangement of their choosing without tax implications in favor or against it.

Manny A. Paulet

Lafayette

- It's about time! We've been wanting this for many years and we're behind other states who've gone before us. May it happen this year!

Margie Haley

Burrows

- As a gay man in a committed relationship, I see my future in Indiana becoming less and less of a reality when the state in which I was born is telling me that I am a second-class citizen. Frankly, it is appalling and sad.

Keith McDermott

West Lafayette

- Our state Constitution should ensure equal rights for all citizens; it should not deny rights to any group of people. Adding this amendment to our Constitution would be wrong, a mistake not easily remedied.

Jo Ann Mullen

Lafayette

- I oppose codifying discrimination in our state Constitution. My heart aches for the couples and families this will affect. Must we continue to be among the most backward states in the nation when it comes to human rights?

Noemi Ybarra

Lafayette

- I believe it is pathetic to have to make an amendment to the Indiana Constitution to ban an open crime against God and man in this country.

Thomas W. Anderson

Lafayette

- Banning same-sex marriage is essential if we are serious about supporting an institution for the purpose of helping to generate and raise the next generation. If this is no longer of concern, then eliminate marriage as a legal institution entirely and do away with this vexing question.

Gerry J. Dail

West Lafayette

- Is this issue more important than funding public education under Mitch Daniels or putting people back to work? I view this as one of those issues politicians use to distract constituents from issues that matter. Let people decide what they want to do with their lives and leave them alone.

Frank W. James

Wolcott

- If people of the same sex want to live together, so be it. Marriage, however, is a different thing. I don't think they should be able to get married. I don't understand the need to publicly go against society. Just live together, and stop the controversy.

Jon Sexson

Lafayette

- Trying to add a discriminatory amendment to the state Constitution is an obscene waste of time when so many vital issues need the attention of legislators. It's also a shameful and divisive slap in the face to the tens of thousands of gay and lesbian Hoosiers.

Donalee Attardo

West Lafayette

- I agree with the amendment because marriage is a sacrament from God, intended for one man with one woman. If this were to change, the state would open a can of worms, such as why not three people, to say nothing of the judgment of God on the state.

Carolyn Foust

Lafayette

- Our state has financial problems, our infrastructure is crumbling, and we're about to ruin our educational system with schemes we know don't work. So why not focus on denying some of our neighbors the equal protection of the laws? It's easier than governing!

Gordon H. Clark

West Lafayette

- Since the beginning of civilization, marriage has meant a man and woman coming together to make a family. Any variation does not meet the fundamental simplicity without others involved. If it takes an amendment to maintain this simple definition -- well, it works for me.

Fred Phillips

Lafayette

- I think the legislature has more important things to do. The federal courts ruled that such discrimination is unconstitutional, so the amendment is a waste of time. Rather than be harmed, the institution of marriage would be strengthened by gay marriages, creating loving families.

Jerry Hirschinger

West Lafayette

- Marriage is not a human invention, it is the creation of God. It did not originate in the mind of man, but in the mind of God. So man cannot change the definition or purpose of marriage to suit himself. Man has no jurisdiction over marriage.

Kurt Fiech

Lafayette

- Marriage is a function given to the church. The state has no sound marital standards to promote. The only time the state cares is at tax time and divorce court, both of which are fiascoes. True marriage is much more than a license or an amendment.

Jon Held

Lafayette

- The legislature sees a problem that doesn't fit into a neat box, and they throw a constitutional amendment at it. Marriage is a relationship between two people, so how does it hurt society? It's the right of those against same-sex marriage to argue against it but not stop it.

Bill Cochran

Lafayette

- The government should not be in the marriage business since it is a covenant between God and the couple taking vows. Why does anyone need a marriage license from the state to get married in the first place? It must be for the money and control over our lives.

Diana Vice

Rossville

- Waste of time by our elected elite. It is already codified in state law. We will remember this waste on Election Day. Quit trying to legislate morality and pay attention to the economy and the budget. That's their real job.

Don Wood

West Lafayette

- I feel we need to before the liberals in Washington, in our schools and in Hollywood desensitize our youth.

Mark Acles

Lafayette

- If Indiana passes an amendment banning same-sex marriage, history will eventually view its passage in a similar light as it does the infamous "exclusion laws" Indiana passed in the 1800s designed to make African-American settlement in the state difficult if not impossible.

Frank Arnold

Lafayette

- Until two same-sex people have a baby without outside help to perpetuate the species, I am against same-sex marriage. Being gay is a choice. The natural order of human species is it takes one male and one female to conceive a child.

Dennis Donoho

Sedalia

- With all the problems Indiana has, I think this is a non-issue, or should be. Beyond which, I don't give a fig who marries whom any more than I'm interested in what goes on in someone else's bedroom.

Bob Folkner

West Lafayette

- Our politicians have again avoided the "issues" we have a real need to deal with and are appealing to the religious right instead. This issue is one 80 percent of the voters don't care about. But that 80 percent would sure like to see jobs and educational issues dealt with.

Bud Wang

Lafayette

- Indiana's shameless Republicans are obsessed with wedge issues and trying to turn back the hands of time, rather than face the real issues of our day. It marks us politically as part of the deep South with its backward social mores and sick fixation on other people's sex lives.

Brian Capouch

Monon

- What a stupid waste of time and money. As if the government doesn't have enough on their plates without having to deal with this drivel. Besides, we already have something at the federal level that covers this, it starts with "all men are created equal."

Mike Dudgeon

West Lafayette

- It would do a fine job of cementing our status as a third world state.

Jason Dufair

West Lafayette

- I support such an amendment despite conventional wisdom, which by my experience is neither.

Eric Schlene

West Lafayette

- People should read it: "Only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Indiana. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized." I'm out of words now.

Roger William Bennett

Lafayette

- Rack that one up beside miscegenation, Jim Crow laws, and the other legal detritus of an evolving society.

Ed Posey

West Lafayette

- It seems to me, if procreation is impossible due to gender shortage there should be no marriage. The next step is, "I love my dog, we want to get married." After all, who are we hurting.

E. Lloyd Wells

Lafayette

- I don't think that the state should recognize same-sex marriage. If they choose to live together, that is their decision, but I shouldn't have to support some of their benefits through my tax dollars. Because my belief is: Marriage is the union of a man and a woman.

Terry Smith

Shadeland

- God answered this issue when he said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18) Then he "fashioned into a woman the rib which he had taken from the man." (Genesis 2:22)

Mark Legler

Remington

- Gay marriage is already against the law in Indiana. This amendment would add discrimination to the Indiana Constitution and offer absolutely no economic or practical benefits to the state. Debating it (again) would be a waste of valuable time better spent helping Hoosiers by creating jobs.

Sue Render

Lafayette

- At one time, the majority of Americans supported laws prohibiting interracial marriages, laws that segregated our schools, and laws that denied basic rights to Indians, Jews, Catholics and immigrants. What would have happened if these laws had been placed into our Constitution? Do not hide behind the majority.

Tim Delworth

West Lafayette

- It appears to be an effort to drive a stake into the heart of an issue that just won't seem to die.

Mike VanOuse

Lafayette

- School vouchers is doublespeak for privatizing education. Economy is tanked. Indiana owes the federal government approximately \$2 billion. Jobs are No. 1. And the Legislature is worried over civil unions? Give me a break.

Furman A. Powell

Lafayette

- Do it. To quote singer Aaron Tippin, "You've gotta stand for something or you'll fall for anything."

Dennis Schluttenhofer

Lafayette

- I think government needs to stay out of people's personal lives. As long as they have to pay the marriage penalty tax like the rest of us, I see nothing wrong with it.

Tony Priest

Battle Ground

- It is the wrong thing to do. "Big Brother" doesn't belong in the bedroom, same-sex or not. It's that simple. If it makes them happy and doesn't hurt anyone else, the government should stay out if it. Consenting adults should have the right to marry whomever they want.

Scott Schnarr

Rossville

- I do not seek a ban on same-sex marriages. I prefer that marriage be defined as the legal binding of one man and one woman.

Carol Sikler

Lafayette

- Must we go through this again? It would be nice if they work on education, jobs, infrastructure and a host of other measures that will help Indiana move forward instead of backwards.

Jesse Washburn

Lafayette

- Discrimination in any form should not be part of the Indiana Constitution.

Vicki Bower

West Lafayette

- I believe it is a misguided response rooted in fear, bigotry and ignorance. Sexual orientation, like other genetic factors, is determined at birth and is not a choice. Not allowing same sex couples the same benefits afforded by a committed union recognized by the government is a civil rights injustice.

Kris Taylor

Lafayette

- I enthusiastically support it! Marriage is designed for a man and woman to express their exclusive and unconditional lifelong commitment to and love for each other and to produce children. Any other attempt to redefine marriage will inevitably produce societal deterioration and moral decay.

Bert Chapman

Lafayette

- How does two people of the same sex entering into a committed relationship hurt me or anyone? If Indiana follows through with such short-sighted legislation, future generations will view it much the same way as last century's laws in many states banning interracial marriage are now viewed.

Randy Myer

Lafayette

- I don't think this kind of discrimination should be happening at all, much less be written into the Constitution. History will mark this as a low point for sure.

John Frigo

Lafayette

- I would be horrified and ashamed if my state excluded same-sex couples from the same benefits of marriage as heterosexual couples. It's time for Indiana to recognize that all people, regardless of their sexual preference, are equal and can form positive unions and families.

Jerri Parks

Lafayette

- I think we have enough on our plate already as we try to find ways to discriminate against Hispanics and break the teachers union.

Rich Trent

Lafayette

- The Marriage Discrimination Amendment placed at the end of the Indiana Bill of Rights would make Indiana one of the last states to enact and confirm discrimination against our gay and lesbian neighbors, coworkers, family and friends.

Randy Studt

Lafayette

- If the state Constitution does not stipulate what constitutes a marriage, then changing it to ban same-sex marriages is an infringement on the personal choices of individuals. That said, while I don't agree with same-sex "marriage," I am against this proposed amendment.

Cindy Salazar

Lafayette

- I am going to claim my right to say that I do not approve of same-sex marriage. I have plenty of reasons for this statement.

Shelby Branstetter

Lafayette

- This is a civil rights issue. The denial of rights to this year's scapegoat does not belong in our Constitution. Heaven forbid it would be you or me that is targeted next.

Meredith Richmond

Battle Ground

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