

Wanted: queer activists/theorists who know that the personal is political: for involvement, possible long-term relationship. www.homosexualagenda.org

The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County, Santa Cruz' queer political organization, exists to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues are not overlooked or assimilated into mainstream issues, and that a queer voice is present in all issues. We advocate for the lgbt community's interests in electoral and legislative issues and matters of civil rights, and we carry out the homosexual agenda: full equality and respect.

If you're a member of, or ally to, the gblt community of Santa Cruz who is interested in and concerned about our political future, The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County is the place for you.

- Contact us by email: info@homosexualagenda.org or by phone: (831) 515-4101
- Log on to our website at www.homosexualagenda.org.
- Join our yahoogroup: GLBT_Alliance@yahoo.com
- Become a member of The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County via our website, (we take Paypal), or by mailing the form below-

The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County
PO Box 2605, Santa Cruz, CA 95063

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is \$_____ for annual membership dues to help defray the cost of the work of The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County. (\$20 individual/\$30 household is recommended).

I support the mission of The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County.
(signature)



Pride 2008

The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County, as we do every election year, sent questionnaires to candidates to ascertain their positions on issues of particular concern to the lgbt community. We then joined the People's Democratic Club, Santa Cruz Action Network, People Power and Live Oak Grange in hosting forums for candidates for the 27th Assembly District, Superior Court Judge, and County Supervisor for the 1st and 2nd Districts.

Following these forums, The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County voted to endorse:

- Emily Reilly** for State Assembly, 27th District
- Ariadne Symons** for Superior Court Judge, Office 1
- John Leopold** for County Supervisor, 1st District
- Ellen Pirie** for County Supervisor, 2nd District
- Mark Stone** for County Supervisor, 5th District
- Measure R** (library tax extension) - **Yes**
- Proposition 98** (eminent domain/end rent control) - **No**
- Proposition 99** (eminent domain) - **Yes**

Candidate responses to our questions can be found on our website at <http://www.homosexualagenda.org>.

Inside this issue:

- Saturday, June 7 - Marriage Q&A
- Saturday, June 21 - Community meeting to fight for All marriages
- Have a wedding resource? We want to know.

...and we're gonna get married!

On May 15, the California Supreme Court ruled that the state has no just reason to deny same-sex couples the same access to civil marriage enjoyed by opposite-sex couples; the Court also declared non-heterosexual people a suspect class, meaning that we join a classification of groups which meet a series of criteria suggesting they are likely the subject of discrimination. This, as much as the right to marry, is truly historic. Still, there are a lot of questions swirling around, so we'll be hosting a forum to answer those questions, and have including a few frequently asked questions in this newsletter.

The most-often-asked question is when we can get married; the answer, as of this writing, is (probably) Tuesday, June 17.

(The Alliance Defense Fund has filed a brief with the state Supreme Court, asking it to stay its decision until after the November election; the Court has until the end of the day on June 16 to rule so, barring anything unforeseen, marriages should begin on June 17. If that changes, we'll send an alert to our yahoogroup, which you can join via our website at www.homosexualagenda.org)

Marriage Q&A

Saturday, June 7, 5-7 pm

Diversity Center, 1117 Soquel Avenue, Santa Cruz

Join The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County,
The Diversity Center,
ACLU Santa Cruz, and
Morgan Taylor, Attorney-at-Law

for an evening of questions and answers about the recent Supreme Court ruling,
and what it means for us.

Do you have a business which supports marriage equality?

We've been getting questions from same-sex couples who want to know where they can marry, who can marry them, and much more. If you have a place you want to offer, if you're a marriage celebrant, if you specialize in planning weddings or decorating for weddings, or you plan honeymoon trips or bake wedding cakes, or many of the gazillion other things which can go into making a wedding, we'd like to let the queer community know that you're there for us. Send an email to info@homosexualagenda.org and we'll list you on our website.

Fight to protect ALL marriages

Community meeting

Saturday, June 21, 5-7 pm

Diversity Center, 1117 Soquel Avenue

Signatures have been submitted to put an amendment to the state Constitution prohibiting marriage equality on the November ballot.

ProtectMarriage.com announced April 21 that it had met its deadline to submit the required signatures, handing in about 1.1 million signatures, about 400,000 more than is necessary to qualify a Constitutional amendment initiative for the ballot. The amendment would add to the equal protection clause in Article I the following: Section 7.5. Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.

The Secretary of State has until late June to determine whether the initiative will qualify, but there doesn't appear to be much doubt, and a recent LA Times poll showed such an amendment passing 54-35%, with 11% undecided; a Field poll showed it losing, 51-42%; either way, we have a lot of work ahead of us.

We can, at this point, expect to be fighting a ballot campaign this summer and fall. While there is a statewide coalition, Equality for All, working across California, experience has shown us that local grassroots campaigns work best, as California has so many different communities. To that end, The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County will be leading a local campaign to help defeat this Constitutional amendment.

On Saturday, June 21, from 5-7 pm, The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County will be holding a community meeting at The Diversity Center, 1117 Soquel Avenue, to begin planning our campaign. It is our hope that the entire lgbt community and our allies will join our efforts to protect our right to marry.

To keep abreast of news and organizing, go to our website at www.homosexualagenda.org and join The GLBT Alliance of Santa Cruz County or, at least, add your email to our yahoogroup.