

## **Yes! On Equality Allies With Progressive Groups To Collect Signatures for the California Marriage Equality Act**

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SACRAMENTO – On Thursday March 19th, 2009 the Attorney General released the official title summary for Yes! on Equality to start gathering signatures. Yes! on Equality is uniting with statewide progressive organizations for a new marriage equality campaign.

Since January 2009 this initiative has served as a placeholder highlighting the need for a timely and thorough response to Proposition 8 if pending court challenges to Prop 8 do not succeed. Yes! On Equality is presently developing strategies with the LGBT community, allies, and professional entities to create an environment conducive to success. Extensive work is also being conducted at the grassroots level statewide to make sure that the movement and campaign is carried with attention to all parts of California. In the coming weeks the campaign and allied groups will begin to collect signatures statewide.

The initiative underlines how marriage equality in California does not threaten state schools or religious institutions. The proposed law reads as follows:

An act to repeal Section 7.5 of Article I of the California Constitution; therefore provisions to be repealed are printed in strike-through text.

Section 1.

This measure shall be known, and may cited, as the "California Marriage Equality Act."

Section 2. (a) Section 7.5 of Article I of the California Constitution shall be repealed, stricken, and removed as such:

~~Sec. 7.5 Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California~~

(b) This section is not intended to, and shall not be interpreted to, modify or change the curriculum in any school.

(c) This section is not intended to, and shall not be interpreted to, mandate or require clergy of any church to perform a service or duty incongruent with their faith.

By gathering signatures for the California Marriage Equality Act, Yes! On Equality aims to provide a timely, basic tool to advance equality in California. This campaign seeks to compliment existing grass-roots networks and long-standing community and public-service organizations in California that have struggled to ensure equality for all. The Yes! On Equality website [www.yesonequality.com](http://www.yesonequality.com) serves as a portal for coalition-building and information for volunteers and everyone interested in marriage equality in California. For more information contact the campaign at [media@yesonequality.com](mailto:media@yesonequality.com), (800) 778-2998 or (916) 273-4930.

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