

STATEMENT REGARDING EQUALITY CALIFORNIA'S DECISION TO WAIT UNTIL 2012

We are extremely disappointed, but not surprised, by Equality California's decision today to wait until 2012 to go back to the ballot for marriage equality in California, especially since every poll we conducted shows majority support within the LGBT community (including 70 percent of EQCA's own membership) to put a marriage equality initiative on the ballot next year.

Every indicator and every consultant we've met with (including those that ran Barack Obama's campaign and Winner Mandabach Campaigns, which has run more "yes" ballot initiatives than any other consultant or firm in the country) tells us we can win marriage equality back in 2010.

The latest poll figures show that support for gay marriage has gained two percentage points. The polling does not take into account additional provisions we will be including in the ballot language, which have shown to boost support well above 53 percent.

Grassroots support and momentum for a ballot measure in 2010 is extremely high. Equality California has raised \$1 million in three months and the Courage Campaign, which supports 2010, raised \$200,000 in just the past seven days.

We are confident some of our large donors, who are reluctant to support us right now, will be with us when we begin the campaign.

We already have submitted ballot language to the Attorney General's office for November 2010 and we are meeting on August 29 to begin planning strategy, a full seven months before any campaign strategy was developed to defeat Proposition 8 in 2008.

We are disappointed that Equality California will not be joining us, but the "Coalition for 2010" will be moving forward and will win back marriage equality next year.