

For Immediate Release

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Californians Now Support Same-Sex Marriage, According to Field Poll

Yes! on Equality Says the Time is Right to Win Back Marriage Equality in California in 2010

Sacramento, CA – The latest Field Poll, which shows growing support for same-sex marriage in California, underscores the position of many within the LGBT community that the fight to win back marriage equality in California can be successful in 2010, according to Yes! on Equality, one of the statewide LGBT organizations spearheading the effort to get a marriage equality initiative on the ballot in 2010.

“I couldn’t be more encouraged by the results of the latest poll,” said Chaz Lowe, founder of Yes! on Equality. “There is momentum and growing support in California and around the nation for marriage equality and an urgent need within the LGBT community in this state to win back our civil rights sooner, rather than later.”

The Field Poll, released today, shows support for gay marriage is now favored by 49 percent of Californians and opposed by 44 percent.

“The poll doesn’t even take into account some of the provisions we will be including in our ballot language, which we believe will increase our numbers,” said Lowe.

A number of straw polls, conducted by statewide LGBT leaders show that the majority of those within the lesbian and gay community favor going back to the ballot in 2010.

Lowe said waiting until 2012 to go back to the ballot, as some within the LGBT community have advocated, could be problematic.

“There are too many variables and too many unknowns to wait three long years to win back equal rights for our community,” he said. “We know what the political landscape looks like next year and we need to take advantage of the tremendous momentum and desire within our community and among our supporters to move now.”

This Sunday, a diverse array of groups and individuals from around the state will meet in Los Angeles to begin planning for a ballot initiative campaign.

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Yes! on Equality is a statewide LGBT organization, launched in Sacramento, CA by civil rights leaders in the wake of Proposition 8. Yes! on Equality has filed the only 2010 initiatives to repeal Proposition 8 and has received approval from the Attorney General’s office. The organization’s mission is to repeal Proposition 8 and make marriage accessible for any two consenting adults regardless of gender, race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, disability, medical condition, marital status, sexual orientation and gender identity.