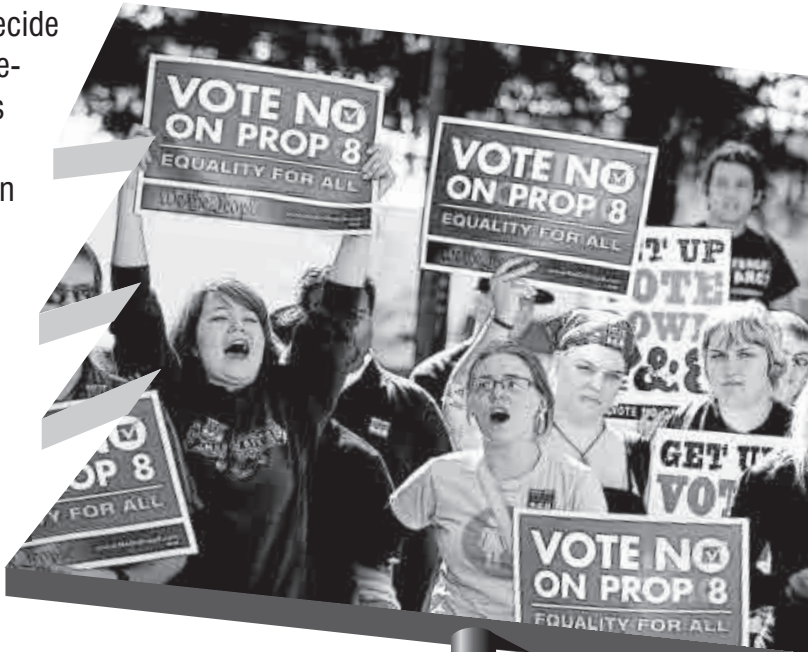
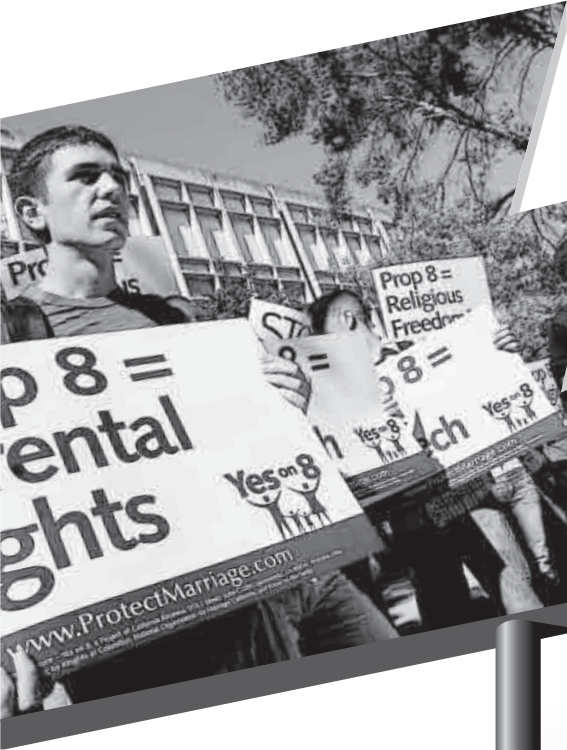


# PROPOSITION 8

## SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BAN

Voters will decide whether same-sex marriages should continue in California.



### WHAT IT DOES

- Changes the state constitution to ban same-sex couples from marrying.
- Provides that only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.

### HISTORY

By a more than 3-to-2 ratio, voters in 2000 approved Proposition 22 to ban same-sex marriage in California law. But the statute was challenged in court, and in May the California Supreme Court ruled that it violated the equal protection clause of the state constitution. The result: California joined Massachusetts as the only two states where same-sex marriage is legal. In November, Connecticut will become the third state to allow same-sex marriages. Inserting the ban into California's Constitution via Proposition 8 would negate the court decision, and same-sex marriages would be halted here. An estimated 11,500 same-sex couples have been married in California since the court decision. The legal status of those unions remains unclear should Proposition 8 pass. Meanwhile, the Legislature in the past several years has passed laws that extend virtually all the civil rights of marriage to same-sex couples. Proposition 8 would not change that.

### WHAT IT COSTS

If same-sex marriages are halted in California, the Legislative Analyst's Office says state and local governments could lose millions in potential sales taxes and other revenues over the next few years. Over the long run, however, the measure would have little fiscal effect on state and local governments, according to the analyst's office.

### MONEY WATCH

Total fundraising in the Proposition 11 campaign has surpassed \$60 million, far more than any other measure on the ballot. Each side can claim six- and seven-figure donations from individuals and institutions as well as smaller contributions from thousands of donors.

**SUPPORTERS** have raised \$27.7 million, including \$1.4 million from the Connecticut-based Knights of Columbus; \$1.1 million from Irvine-based Fieldstead and Co. owned by financier Howard Ahmanson; \$900,000 from retired pediatric surgeon John Templeton Jr. of Bryn Mawr, Pa., whose foundation applies scientific methodology to the study of religious issues; and \$500,000 from the Mississippi-based American Family Association.

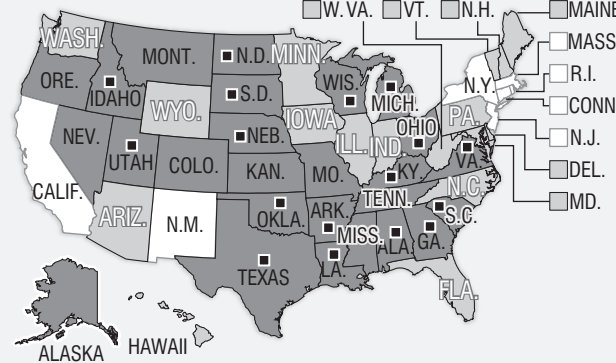
**OPPONENTS** have raised \$29.3 million, including \$1.3 million from the California Teachers Association, \$1.2 million from Brooklyn philanthropist Robert W. Wilson, \$1.1 million from Beverly Hills lawyer David Bohnett, and \$1.1 million from Cleveland businessman David Maltz.

### THE STATE OF MARRIAGE IN THE UNITED STATES

In 2004, Massachusetts became the first state to allow same-sex couples to marry. The battle has raged for years across the country. Here's a state-by-state look at the state of marriage, civil unions and prohibitions.

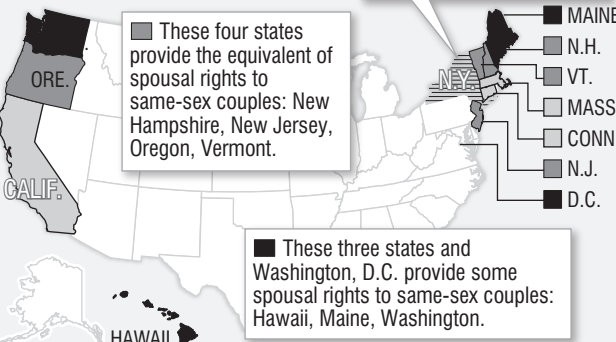
#### MARRIAGE PROHIBITIONS

- Twenty-six states have constitutional amendments restricting marriage to one man and one woman.
- Seventeen states have laws restricting marriage to one man and one woman.
- In 17 states, the amendments or laws have language that does, or may, affect other relationships, such as civil unions or domestic partnerships.



#### RELATIONSHIP RECOGNITION

- On June 17, California joined Massachusetts as the second state to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. In November, Connecticut will become the third.
- These four states provide the equivalent of spousal rights to same-sex couples: New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Vermont.
- New York recognizes legal marriages between same-sex couples entered into in another jurisdiction.
- These three states and Washington, D.C. provide some spousal rights to same-sex couples: Hawaii, Maine, Washington.



### SUPPORTERS

- Traditional-family groups such as Focus on the Family, the Colorado Springs, Colo., group headed by evangelist James Dobson, and the Campaign for California Families
- The Knights of Columbus, a Connecticut-based Catholic organization
- National Organization for Marriage, a Mormon group with a branch in California
- California Republican Party

### WHAT THEY SAY

- Proposition 8 would protect marriage as an essential institution of society and restore the definition of marriage to what California voters have already approved and history has understood it to be.
- The measure would overturn the decision of four activist state Supreme Court justices.
- It would protect children from being taught in public schools that same-sex marriage is the same as traditional marriage.

### OPPONENTS

- Gay rights groups such as Equality California and the Washington, D.C.-based Human Rights Campaign
- Public employee unions such as the California Teachers Association and California State Council of Service Employees
- Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger
- California Democratic Party

### WHAT THEY SAY

- The state constitution should guarantee the same freedoms and rights to everyone, and the freedom to marry is a fundamental right.
- Marriage and domestic partnerships aren't the same, and marriage provides certainty and security to same-sex couples, especially in emergency situations.
- No child can be forced against the will of their parents to be taught anything in school about health and family issues.

### MULTIMEDIA

Supporters' Web site: [protectmarriage.com](http://protectmarriage.com)  
Opponents' Web site: [noonprop8.com](http://noonprop8.com)  
Read previous installments in 2008 Ballot Watch: [sacbee.com/ballotwatch](http://sacbee.com/ballotwatch)

Sources: California secretary of state; Human Rights Campaign; Legislative Analyst's Office; The Associated Press; McClatchy Tribune graphic; Associated Press photographs