

Because marriage is a basic human right and an individual personal choice, **RESOLVED**, the State should not interfere with same gender couples who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitments of civil marriage.

Use one form per person. Please use a separate form for additional endorsements.

NAME (Print) _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

OCCUPATION AND/OR TITLE _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

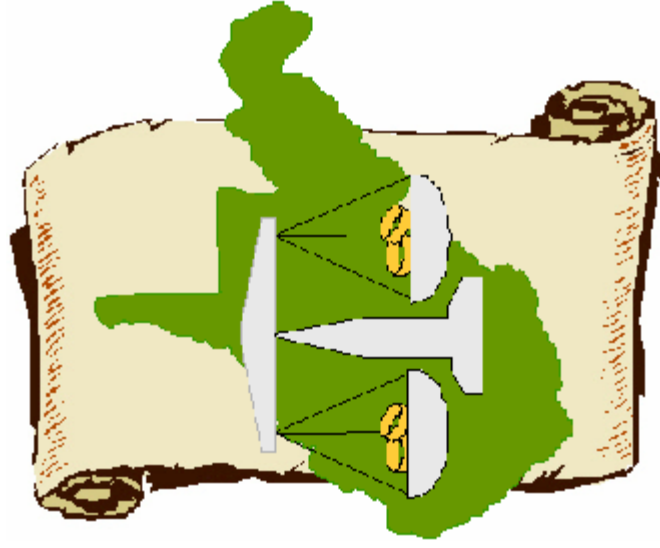
Endorsing the Resolution authorizes Lambda's Marriage Project and WV Marriage Equality to identify you as a supporter of equal marriage rights for same-gender couples and use your name on lists of such supporters that we make public.

____ Please check here if you do not wish to be contacted for additional involvement.

Please return this form to:
WV Marriage Equality
PO Box 5333, Charleston, WV 25361

Talking Points

- Marriage is a basic human right and an individual personal choice
- The State should not interfere with same-gender couples who choose to marry and share fully and equally in the rights, responsibilities, and commitment of civil marriage.
- No religious organization is being asked to sanction civil marriages by same gender couples. Some religious organizations routinely refuse to recognize, or bless civil marriages (i.e. remarriage after divorce or interfaith marriages, etc.) Until lesbian and gay couples have the freedom to marry, discrimination in civil marriage will remain a profound barrier to achieving complete equality.
- There is no good reason for denying lesbian and gay couples the commitment, protections, and responsibilities of civil marriage
- Civil unions do not go far enough. The Massachusetts Supreme Court set a clear precedent when they declared “The history of our nation has demonstrated that separate is seldom, if ever, equal.”



WV Marriage Equality
PO Box 5333
Charleston, WV 25361

www.wvmarriageequality.org

WV Marriage Equality is a grassroots coalition of persons working toward full access to Civil Marriage for all West Virginians.

Please copy and distribute



March 5, 2004

Patricia M. Link & Sheila A. Chambers, a same gender couple of 23 years, requested a marriage

license from Ms. Alma King, Kanawha County clerk. Patricia and Sheila were denied a license because they are a same gender couple.

March 22, 2004

Represented by Terri Baur & Roger Forman, Patricia and Sheila filed a brief asking the WV Supreme Court to order Ms. King to issue a marriage license making the claim that refusing to do so denies them 'equal protection of law' as guaranteed by the West Virginia Constitution.

April 1, 2004

By a vote of 3/2 the WV Supreme Court rejected our petition to get marriage licenses.

What's Next?

The struggle for equality will continue in West Virginia. Read on to learn what you can do.



Who are co-counsel?

Terri Baur
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How do I keep informed?

Follow the link on our web page to join the list serve.

My same gender partner and I would like to be married are you accepting additional plaintiffs?

Yes - go to your County Clerk (ask to speak directly to the clerk, record their name, and the date and time of your request) and ask for a marriage license. Report your experience to co-counsel.

What can I do to promote civil marriage equality for all West Virginians?

- **Attend an informational/organizational meeting.**
Follow the link on our web page to view the calendar of upcoming events. *Bring two friends.*

- **Write a Letter to the Editor** of your local paper stressing one or more of the talking points on the back of this brochure.

- **Talk** to your family, friends and neighbors about the inequality of refusing access to civil marriage by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender citizens.

- **Register to vote.** You may register at any time. To be eligible to vote in a specific election, you must register 20 days before that election. This issue will eventually be put before the people of West Virginia - Register To Vote Today.

- **Visit** www.wvmarriageequality.org and sign the family registry.

- **Visit** www.millionformarriage.org and sign the petition found there.

- **Contribute:** consider mailing a check for \$1 for each year of your relationship payable to: WV Marriage Equality, PO Box 5333, Charleston, WV 25361. WVME has not yet applied for tax exempt status of any kind; your donation is not tax deductible

