Give the Power Back to the People

Civic Leadership

Resolution In Support of

A Citizens' Initiative on the Definition of Marriage in the District of Columbia

For 2010 Election Ballot for Voice of the People

I. Whereas, citizens of the District of Columbia have not had an opportunity to address or vet the issue of changing the definition of marriage to include same-sex marriage and most were not aware it was an issue before Council;

II. Whereas, Advisory Neighborhood Commissioners, which provide great weight on D.C. issues, policies and law have a constituency of at least 2000 residents, were not consulted on legislation regarding the definition of marriage, nor were civic groups, community leaders, the faith community, business leaders, or other groups;

III. Whereas, the Council of the District of Columbia, the Mayor, and the D.C. Delegate to Congress support legislation passed to recognize same-sex marriage; however, there was no public hearing on changing the definition of marriage to gauge pros and cons or public/taxpayer opinion and Congress chose not to intervene on this local issue;

IV. Whereas, the D.C. Council is expected to introduce legislation in Fall 2009 to change the definition of marriage to permit same-sex marriages to be performed in the District of Columbia while recent legislation allowed such marriages to be recognized from other jurisdictions;

V. Whereas, the District of Columbia is the Nation's Capital, America's First City with nearly 600,000 residents (more residents than a few states) and is considered the international seat of democracy in the Free World and symbolically D.C. policies may have far reaching impact and set the tone and direction for jurisdictions to follow;

VI. Whereas, nothing in the D.C. Human Rights Act should prevent the people of D.C. from being heard on this important public policy matter of changing the definition of marriage or other public policy issues;

VII. Whereas, the District of Columbia and a multitude of states allow for ballot measures in the form of a referendum/initiative to create, affirm, or reject legislation;

VIII. Whereas, the people of the District of Columbia should decide the critical issue of the definition of marriage and same-sex marriage, not the thirteen members of the D.C. Council, the Mayor, and the D.C. Delegate to Congress;

_____ Initial here before signing final page

Therefore be it resolved that the undersigned supports having a citizens' initiative (according to the procedures outlined by the D.C. Board of Elections and Ethics and the laws of the District of Columbia) on the ballot in the 2010 General Election (or the appropriate election when the ballot measure process is completed) for D.C. voters to decide whether or not the definition of marriage in the District of Columbia shall include same-sex marriage,

Be it further resolved that District of Columbia registered voters (Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Statehood/Green Party) should be able to vote "for" or "against", "yea" or "nay" on the ballot measure, thus giving power back to the people in the Nation's Capital and taking the matter beyond elected officials to determine once and for all the will of the people.

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A Citizens' Initiative on Definition of Marriage in the District of Columbia

For 2010 Election Ballot for Voice of the People

_____
Date

_____
Print Name

_____
Signature

_____
Organization Name and Position

_____
Address

_____
Email Address

_____
Telephone Number

Mail your signed resolution to:
P.O. Box 41131
Washington, D.C. 20018
Or email to **grassrootsdc@gmail.com**