

Monday Marriage Message from Freedom to Marry  
Issue #4 | April 23, 2007

To view the online HTML version of the Monday Marriage Message, click here -

<http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/eupdate/mmm4.html>

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1) The Message

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Winning Marriage Equality on Our Terms

Even in states with anti-gay constitutional amendments, we can move on measures to protect

family relationships, change the climate, and overcome the obstacles to achieve marriage

equality.

\* In states where we so far lost the ballot-measure campaigns, we can now have the real

campaigns to change hearts, minds, and the law, on our terms. We can talk about real people,

and make use of the powerful shared vocabulary of love, commitment, dedication, family, and

caring that comes with marriage. People who were stampeded to write discrimination into state

constitutions before they had time to think it all through will now hear personal, local

stories, and buyers' remorse will set in.

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2) The Report

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The Money behind the 2004 Marriage Amendments  
(The Institute on Money in State Politics)  
January 27, 2006

LINK:

\*The Report: <http://www.followthemoney.org/press/Reports/200601271.pdf>

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3) The Resource

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The Time is Now to Fight for the Freedom to Marry  
Freedom to Marry

LINK:  
\*The Resource: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/images/pdfs/TimeisNow.pdf>

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4) The Number

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Over \$40,000, the amount Family Pride raised with the Kevin Bacon Challenge

LINK:  
\*The Number: <http://www.familypride.org/sixdegrees.html>

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5) The Map

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State Prohibitions on Marriage for Same-Sex Couples (HRC)

LINK:  
\*HRC:  
<http://hrc.org/Template.cfm?Section=Center&CONTENTID=28225&TEMPLATE=/ContentManagement/ContentDisplay.cfm>

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6) The spotlight: Oregon

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Basic Rights Oregon

Just two and a half years after marriage discrimination was written into the Oregon constitution, measures toward marriage are now moving forward in the state's legislature.

According to the interim director of Basic Rights Oregon, Aisling Coghlan, "[After the constitutional amendment passed in 2004], as a community, everyone said, 'we are not stopping here! we are going to get the biggest package of rights possible.'"

Last week, the resilience paid off. House bill 2007, establishing domestic partnerships, passed

the House and now moves to a Senate Committee, with Senate approval expected and signature by

Governor Kulongoski promised. The marriage momentum also propelled passage of a statewide

non-discrimination law, the nation's 18th. Oregon's perseverance and rapid advance in

overcoming even a constitutional attack on equality is an example of what happens when we stick

with the engagement necessary to give people the information they need and the time to absorb

it.

LINK:

\*<http://www.basicrights.org/>

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#### 7) The News

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#### National

Some Say Civil Unions Dropping Off  
USA Today; April 20, 2007

As more states move closer to legalizing civil unions, many gay and lesbian couples continue to

hold out for marriage.

Marriage Still Overcoming Past  
Examiner; April 19, 2007

The reality is that marriage has always been an evolving institution. Consider: In Colonial

Maryland, marriage was limited to couples complying with the mandates and liturgy of the Church

of England.

#### Regional

N.H. Governor Says He'll OK Civil Unions  
New York Times; April 20, 2007

Gov. John Lynch said Thursday he will sign legislation establishing civil unions for gay

couples in New Hampshire.

150 Clergy Members Rally for Marriage Equality  
New Haven Register; April 20, 2007

Pro-LGBT clergy members gather at the Connecticut State Capitol to support marriage equality.

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LINKS:

\*Some say civil unions dropping off:

[http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-04-19-civil-unions\\_N.htm?csp=34](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2007-04-19-civil-unions_N.htm?csp=34)

\*Marriage still overcoming past:

[http://www.examiner.com/a-682580~Janet\\_Hostetler\\_\\_Marriage\\_still\\_overcoming\\_past.htm](http://www.examiner.com/a-682580~Janet_Hostetler__Marriage_still_overcoming_past.htm)

\*N.H. Governor Says He'll OK Civil Unions:

[http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-NH-Civil-Unions.html?\\_r=2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin](http://www.nytimes.com/aponline/us/AP-NH-Civil-Unions.html?_r=2&oref=slogin&oref=slogin)

\*150 clergy members rally for gay marriage:

[http://www.nhregister.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18237790&BRD=1281&PAG=461&dept\\_id=31007&rfi=6](http://www.nhregister.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=18237790&BRD=1281&PAG=461&dept_id=31007&rfi=6)

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OTHER POINTS OF INTEREST:

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The Must Sees

View one of MTV's Choose or lose campaign ads from 2004.

Listen to Evan Wolfson interviewed on Wisconsin Public Radio April 11, 2007

LINKS:

\*Commercial Closet:

<http://www.commercialcloset.org/cgi-bin/iowa/portrayals.html?record=2043>

\*Freedom to Marry's homepage: <http://www.freedomtomarry.org/>

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The Opposition

"This legislation [Oregon domestic partnership] will lock religious people inside their church

buildings and let perversion occupy the rest of the landscape!"

-Oregon Constitution Party Chairman Jack Brown

Faith leaders across Oregon disagree.

LINKS:

\*Basic Rights Oregon: <http://www.basicrights.org/news/newsitem.asp?ID=228>

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The Quote

"While this domestic partnership bill is a huge step in the right direction and will truly

benefit the lives of gay Oregonians, let's be clear: This is not equality. Not even



