

Minnesota Rabbinical Association

Says Vote No to Proposed Marriage Amendment

The Minnesota Rabbinical Association (MRA), made up of 35 rabbis and 15 synagogues and institutions representing the majority of the Jewish population of the state of Minnesota, adopted a statement on January 18, 2012, opposing the proposed amendment to the Minnesota constitution which would recognize marriage only as a union between a man and a woman.

The amendment initiative is slated to be on the ballot on November 6, 2012.

The MRA's decision to oppose this amendment is based on two principles within Jewish text: *Kavod HaBriyot* and *Lo ta-amod al dam rei-echa*.

Kavod HaBriyot is the concept of individual honor or human dignity. As rabbis, we believe that all human beings are created in the image of God and deserve to be treated with dignity and respect.

The Minnesota state constitution attempts to protect the rights of our citizens rather than to deny

Below is the proposed amendment to the Minnesota Constitution that would only recognize marriage as a union between one man and one woman.

LAWS of MINNESOTA for 2011 Ch. 88
CHAPTER 88-S.F.No. 1308

An act proposing an amendment to the Minnesota Constitution; adding a section to article XIII; recognizing marriage as only a union between one man and one woman.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSED.

An amendment to the Minnesota Constitution is proposed to the people. If the amendment is adopted, a section shall be added to article XIII, to read:

Sec. 13. Only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota.

Sec. 2. SUBMISSION TO VOTERS.

(a) The proposed amendment must be submitted to the people at the 2012 general election. The question submitted must be:

"Shall the Minnesota Constitution be amended to provide that only a union of one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in Minnesota?"

Yes
No

(b) The title required under Minnesota Statutes, section 204D.15, subdivision 1, for the question submitted to the people under paragraph (a) shall be "Recognition of Marriage Solely Between One Man and One Woman."

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community has faced discrimination, and therefore we will not stand by while others are targeted. As it says in Lev. 19:16 *Lo ta-amod al dam rei-echa*: Do not stand idly by as your neighbor bleeds.

The MRA cannot condone using the constitution to deny civil rights. As rabbis, we embrace the diversity of God's creation. The MRA unanimously opposes this amendment and urges all Minnesotans of conscience and faith to **Vote No** on November 6, 2012.

Questions? Please contact one of the three co-chairs of the MRA committee:

them. By contrast, the proposed marriage amendment seeks to continue the practice of leaving individual families within the LGBT community vulnerable and unprotected by the law. To honor an individual is to fight against discrimination in society for any reason, including race, religion, natural origin, gender, age or sexual orientation. Throughout history the Jewish

Rabbi Lynn Liberman
(651-452-2226)
learn@beth-jacob.org
Rabbi Marcia Zimmerman
(612-374-0316)
mzimmerman@templeisrael.com
Rabbi Avram Etedgui
(732- 545-8800)
avrame@aol.com