

Educate the Community

Here are things you can do right now to educate people about the need for equal rights in marriage.

- Talk to your friends and family members about the importance of marriage for same-sex couples and their children. Recent polls of the LGBT community show that many have not yet talked with parents, siblings, and other family members about the discrimination we face. However, nothing moves the hearts and minds of potential straight allies more than hearing the stories of someone they know who is lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender.
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper saying why you support legal marriages for same-sex couples and why a constitutional amendment against that is a bad idea.
- Speak up the next time you hear someone say marriage is only meant for heterosexual couples! If you hear this on a radio program, call in. If you hear it on TV, call or send an e-mail. If it comes up in conversation, state your views clearly and forcefully.
- Host a house party at which you can educate friends and family about marriage equality and raise funds for groups working on the cause. Invite a diverse group. Promote discussion and answer questions. Encourage them to write letters to Congress and to state government officials about the issue. To organize an ACLU house party, contact field@aclu-wa.org.
- Meet with clergy and other opinion leaders in your community and ask them to join you in speaking out in support of marriage equality and against the Federal Marriage Amendment.
- Make a financial contribution to support the ACLU and other organizations working to achieve legal equality and legal marriage.

Prepared by the ACLU in collaboration with Discrimination Free Washington, Human Rights Campaign, Lambda Legal, Legal Marriage Alliance of Washington, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, PFLAG, and the Seattle LGBT Community Center.