

Council members,

We would like to urge the Long Beach City Council to remain neutral on Proposition 8.

We think that the Founding Fathers of this nation would be appalled that the judicial system that they set in place would be used as a tool to redefine the fundamental unit of our society...the family. Marriage was defined as a union between a man and a woman long before the founding of this nation. It is through this union that our society grows and is strengthened.

We do not see the need to change the traditional definition of marriage. The rights of same-gender couples currently are protected under California's domestic partnership law. If there are any rights that have not been addressed by this law, let those be addressed in other ways.

A NO Vote on Proposition 8 will have many negative implications on our society. Public schools will be teaching children that homosexual & heterosexual marriages are the same. This may create a clash between the agenda of the school and the rights of parents to teach their children traditional standards of morality. Why create such confusion in young children's minds and among parents?

A NO Vote on Proposition 8 will also pose a threat to religious freedom. There may be legal cases brought up to penalize churches for not performing or embracing same-gender marriages even though it goes against the teachings of the church & the personal convictions of its' members. Again, why create such confusion?

As stated in the memorandum to the City Council regarding this Agenda Item on Proposition 8, "whether one believes that same-gender marriage is right or wrong is a matter of personal conviction and should not be one of government interference." By redefining traditional marriage the government IS interfering. It is forcing same-gender marriage on our society by casting down California's majority vote on Proposition 22. It is disappointing as a voter to have that vote tossed aside in such a manner.

There are many other issues that should be considered before the City Council decides to support or oppose Proposition 8. As long-time residents of Long Beach, we thank you for your service to our City and ask that the Council remain neutral on Proposition 8.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Jared and Holly Thomson
Long Beach – 4th District