



**API EQUALITY-LA**

Asian and Pacific Islanders for Marriage Equality

## FACT SHEET

# “ELIMINATES RIGHT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES TO MARRY” INITIATIVE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (PROPOSITION 8)

### WHAT IS PROP 8?

- The California Constitution now guarantees marriage equality for gay and lesbian couples. Prop 8 would change the Constitution so that: “Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California.” Thus, Prop 8 would amend the California Constitution to eliminate the right of same-sex couples to marry.

### WHY IS PROP 8 IMPORTANT?

- **Civil rights** – If Prop 8 passes, discrimination would be written into our state constitution, by mandating that government treat same-sex couples differently from other couples.
- **Fiscal** – If Prop 8 passes, it could result in millions of dollars of lost revenue to the state, counties and local businesses, through lost sales taxes and lost revenue tied to weddings (site rental, catering, invitations, gifts, etc.).

### WHY SHOULD ASIAN AMERICANS CARE ABOUT PROP 8?

- **Within the Asian American community, there are many lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender (LGBT) members and many are in gay or lesbian relationships.** More than 13,000 AAPIs in California are in gay or lesbian relationships. More than a third of AAPIs in a gay or lesbian relationship in the US live in California. About one in ten gay or lesbian couples in California includes an AAPI.
- **Asian Americans share a history of marriage discrimination with gays and lesbians.** As recently as the mid-1900s, anti-miscegenation laws prohibited interracial marriages and California laws specifically targeted Asians. The US government punished white women who violated anti-miscegenation laws – if a white woman married someone ineligible for US citizenship (namely, an Asian man), she lost her US citizenship.

### WHAT ROLE HAVE ASIAN AMERICANS PLAYED IN SUPPORT OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY?

- **Plaintiffs** – In many marriage equality lawsuits, including in California, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (including Chinese, Filipina, Chamorro, and Indian Americans as well as biracial Asian Americans) have been plaintiffs.
- **Judges** – Asian American judges in California (including state Supreme Court Justice Joyce Kennard), New York and Hawaii have ruled in favor of marriage equality.
- **Civil rights leaders** – In 1994, the Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) became the first non-LGBT group after the ACLU to support marriage equality and, in doing so, paved the way for other civil rights groups to publicly support marriage equality.
- **Elected officials** – Asian American elected officials who have publicly supported marriage equality include John Chiang (state Controller), Judy Chu (state Board of Equalization), Warren Furutani (state Assembly), Ted Lieu (state Assembly), and Norman Mineta (former US Secretary of Transportation).
- **Community leaders** – In September 2007, 63 Asian American groups endorsed an Asian American amicus brief in support of marriage equality. 35 of them were from Southern California and included the nation's largest and most prominent Asian American civil rights advocates, bar associations, social service organizations, and community groups.

## Who opposes Prop 8? (Partial List)

### **ASIAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER (API) ORGANIZATIONS**

API Equality  
API Equality—Los Angeles  
API Equality—San Francisco  
American Immigration Lawyers Association, Santa Clara Chptr  
Asian American Drug Abuse Program  
Asian American Queer Women Activists  
Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area  
Asian Law Caucus  
Asian Pacific AIDS Intervention Team  
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Los Angeles County  
Asian Pacific American Dispute Resolution Center  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Health Forum  
Asian and Pacific Islander Family Pride  
Asian & Pacific Islander Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Network  
Asian Pacific Islander Pride Council  
Asian Pacific Islander Wellness Center  
Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council  
Bay Area Immigrant Rights Coalition  
Chinese for Affirmative Action  
Chinese Progressive Association  
Chinese Progressive Association—San Gabriel Valley  
Chinese Rainbow Association  
Gay Asian Pacific Alliance  
Gay Asian Pacific Support Network  
Japanese American Bar Association  
Japanese American Citizens League  
Japanese American Citizens League, Pacific Southwest District  
Korean American Bar Association of Northern California  
Korean American Bar Association of Southern California  
Korean Resource Center  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, Los Angeles  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium  
Network on Religion & Justice for Asian & Pacific Islander LGBT  
Nikkei for Civil Rights & Redress  
Orange County Asian & Pacific Islander Community Alliance  
Organization of Chinese Americans—Greater Los Angeles  
Organization of Chinese Americans—Orange County  
PANA Institute  
Philippine American Bar Association  
Satrang  
South Asian Bar Association of Southern California  
South Asian Bar Association of Northern California  
Southeast Asian Community Alliance  
Trikone San Francisco Bay Area  
Vietnamese American Bar Association of Northern California

### **NON-API ORGANIZATIONS**

ACLU of Northern California  
ACLU of San Diego and Imperial Counties  
ACLU of Southern California  
Anti-Defamation League  
Bienestar  
California NAACP  
California NOW  
Equality California  
Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation  
Human Rights Campaign  
Los Angeles Gay & Lesbian Center  
Lambda Legal  
Log Cabin Republicans-California  
Love, Honor, Cherish  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Gay & Lesbian Task Force  
PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays)  
Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California

### **INDIVIDUALS**

Garvey School District Board Member Henry Lo  
California Assemblymember Ted Lieu  
California Assemblymember Mike Eng  
California Assemblymember Warren Furutani  
California State Controller John Chiang  
Chair of California State Board of Equalization Judy Chu

### **COMPANIES**

Google  
Levi Strauss & Co.  
AT&T  
Pacific Bell

## Who supports Prop 8? (Partial List)

Brigham Young University  
California Catholic Conference of Bishops  
Capitol Resource Institute  
National Organization for Marriage  
Family Research Council  
Focus on the Family  
Knights of Columbus  
Proposition 22 Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Traditional Family Coalition  
Traditional Values Coalition