

## INITIATIVE

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"Jobs are still in danger," Norman said. "What they're saying is that if no one knows, then it's not a job-related issue. Well, who will decide when it does become an issue?"

### Court challenges

In addition to the ACLU's impending challenge, the Oregon Gay and Lesbian Lawyers Association is likely to get involved, said Dom Vetri, University law professor. He anticipates working with OGLLA on the challenge.

Vetri said there are two ways of challenging any ordinance. If the law operates to someone's disadvantage, then that person can sue. "Declaratory relief action" is also possible, in which a law is challenged on the anticipation that it is so reprehensible it will foster abuses.

Lively said he expected the ordinance to be challenged, but hopes those who oppose it "will accept the will of the people and give the ordinance a chance to show what it really is."

### OCA and the opposition

Along with the win in Springfield, the OCA was dealt a defeat on election night. A similar measure in Corvallis went down by about a 2-to-1 margin. The Springfield measure passed 5,693 to 4,540.

The OCA is collecting signatures that would put a similar measure on the state ballot in November. To get on the ballot, 890,028 signatures would have to be gathered by July 3.

According to the Secretary of State's office, the measure reads: "Shall Constitution be amended to require that all (state) governments discourage homosexuality, other (behaviors) and not facilitate or recognize them?"

The summary is as follows:

"All governments in Oregon may not use money or property to promote, encourage or facilitate homosexuality, pedophilia, sadism or masochism. All levels of government, including the

public education system, assist in setting a standard for Oregon youth which recognizes that these (behaviors) are abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse and that they are to be discouraged and avoided.

"State may not recognize that conduct under sexual orientation, sexual preference, or through quotas, affirmative action ... or similar concepts."

Lively said he sees the victory in Springfield, and even the vote count in Corvallis, as a "vindication" of the group and its cause.

"It bodes well for our initiative in November," Lively said. "Based on the numbers in Springfield, we feel confident, especially considering that the opposition outspent us 10-to-1."

The opposition groups made a strong effort to enforce the perception of the OCA as a hate group. Lively said he believes this strategy was too extreme and backfired.

"The strategy of our opponents will work against them and will hurt them," he said. "We will only get a better response as we go along because we'll keep the same campaign strategy we've always had; while they'll be doing damage control."

Norman, from Campaign for a Hate-Free Oregon, said she believes Lively is exaggerating a bit, but a review of campaign tactics is in order.

"To say it's a vindication is a pretty astounding assessment to make based on winning a very small victory in a small town," she said, "especially with such a drubbing in Corvallis."

Norman said her group will now spend its time reassessing what worked, what didn't and why people voted the way they did.

"The public wants more than just dueling campaign slogans," Norman said. "As a state campaign, we need a message that will appeal to the masses. And that's where the OCA will have rough sledding."

"I'm very confident that Oregonians are up to discussing this in the coming months," she said. "They're becoming more and more sophisticated every time this issue comes up."



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