

Ithaca Mayor Carolyn Peterson announced March 1 that the city would fully recognize marriages of same-sex couples performed elsewhere and accord them the same rights as all other marriages within the jurisdiction.

"Same-sex couples deserve the equal protection of the law, the same as any other couple," she said. "They deserve to be able to bring their families out of the status of second-class citizenship and into the full array of rights and responsibilities that are available to married couples."

Peterson also told same-sex couples that the city would accept their applications and forward them to the New York State Department of Health for its determination rather than having Ithaca make a decision about whether to issue a license. She hopes this will secure their legal position should they wish to challenge Albany's decision.

"The mayor's decision...makes for a stronger community where all families in Ithaca are treated equally by their government," said Ross Levi, Empire State Pride Agenda public policy and government affairs director. "There are same-sex couples right now in Ithaca who are 100 percent legally married."



Carolyn Peterson

"I think the actions of the president are, in my opinion, the most vile and hateful words ever spoken by a sitting president," O'Donnell told *Good Morning America*. "I am stunned and I'm horrified. I find this proposed amendment very, very, very shocking. And immoral. And, you know, if civil disobedience is the way to go about change, then I think a lot of people will be going to San Francisco. And I hope they put more people on the steps to marry as many people as show up. And I hope everyone shows up."

ILLINOIS

The Chicago Commission on Human Relations unanimously adopted a resolution Feb. 18 taking a stand against marriage amendments to the Illinois and U.S. Constitutions.

"These proposed amendments would codify one religious view of marriage to the exclusion of others," the resolution stated. "Legally preferring only one religious view in civil marriage laws threatens the freedom of religion and church-state separation guaranteed by the...First Amendment."

The resolution originated with the commission's Advisory Council on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues, which also approved the measure unanimously.

"The right to legal protection including marriage should not be limited," commission chairman Clarence N. Wood said. "The time has come for fair-minded persons to step up and uphold everyone's right to fully and equally participate in society."

NATIONAL

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, told reporters Feb. 19 in Tennessee that he thinks same-sex marriage will be a "central" issue in the upcoming presidential election. "Americans have been tolerant of homosexuality for years, but now it's being stuffed down their throats and they don't like it," he said.

"It is now clear that Tom DeLay has joined President Bush and Karl Rove in deciding that attacks against gay and lesbian families will be this year's election strategy," said Eric J. Stern, Democratic National Committee queer outreach director. "President Bush and Tom DeLay would rather promote divisive policies instead of confronting the realities of 43 million Americans living without health insurance, millions of children left behind by an underfunded education policy and 2.9 million jobs lost during this administration." □

Compiled by News Editor JIM RADOSTA, who can be reached at jim@justout.com.

OHIO

Cleveland Heights City Councilman Jimmie Hicks Jr. filed a lawsuit Feb. 19 seeking to shut down the nation's first voter-approved domestic partner registry.

Since the registry opened Jan. 26, 56 unmarried couples have signed up. The suit alleges that the registry violates the Ohio Constitution.

Last summer Hicks said he would let the voters decide whether they wanted to create the registry. It passed in November with 55 percent of the 14,222 votes cast.

"It looks like all of that sloganeering about 'let the people vote' was just a smoke screen from the start," said David Caldwell of Heights Families for Equality, which campaigned for the registry. "It was an attempt to hide Rev. Hicks' anti-gay agenda behind a dishonest, populist pander. That didn't work, so now he's going to try something else."

Although the registry has no listed legal benefits, it does offer same-sex couples a way of formalizing their relationships. Supporters hope it will make it easier for couples to share employment benefits, inherit property or get hospital visiting rights.

"The people of Cleveland Heights asked for and voted for a simple registry, which allows same-sex couples no more benefits than a public decree," said Camilla Taylor of Lambda Legal. "While this registry doesn't give committed, loving couples any government benefits, it lets them prove they are more than legal strangers. A city councilman is attacking his own voters in a senseless attempt to repeal the registry. This shows how far the anti-gay movement is willing to go to banish all respect for gay and lesbian families."

CALIFORNIA

Former talk show host Rosie O'Donnell married her longtime girlfriend, Kelli Carpenter, Feb. 26 in San Francisco. Earlier that day she said President Bush's call for the Federal Marriage Amendment inspired her to take "a proud stand" for gay rights.



Rosie O'Donnell (right) and Kelli Carpenter receive thunderous applause from hundreds of spectators who came to witness San Francisco's first celebrity same-sex wedding Feb. 26

LOCALLY OWNED & OPERATED
Home Delivered
FRESH LOCAL ORGANIC PRODUCE

Organics to You
HOME DELIVERY OF ORGANIC GOODS

New Location
2019 SE Belmont
WITH RETAIL SPACE

(503)236-6496
www.organicstoyou.org

It's a you parade.

Herzog-Meier

D. Fulps/George Kettner
503-644-9121 • cars@herzogmeier.com

Drivers wanted.

**They got theirs.
Now get yours!**

first-timers welcome • \$0 down loans
all credit loan types • free consultation

Helping people
buy homes,
every day.

Rose City
Mortgage Specialists

Apply at www.RoseCityMtg.com or call **503.768.4248**

The Finest Collision Repair.

Ferguson
AUTOBODY
503-232-3600

2454 E. Burnside • Portland, OR 97214
www.fergusonauto.com
Family Owned & Operated Since 1952
Proudly Serving the GLBT Community for 51 Years

- Collision Repair Problems Solved
- Wheel Alignment
- Tires
- Oil Changes
- Break-in Repairs

Don Valerio, MD
Internal Medicine
Fanno Creek Clinic • 2400 SW Vermont • Portland

Sports Injury Hepatitis Immunization
HIV Testing/Care Skin Problems
Cancer Screening Anxiety/Depression
Smoking Cessation STD Testing
Physical Exams General Adult Healthcare

Appointments are now available. New patients welcome.
(503) 452-0915
Board Certified. Most insurance plans accepted.