

said, who cannot afford a lawyer to establish partial protections for their families.

Foreman had flown in to see firsthand the campaign to which NGLTF donated nearly \$800,000 of the \$2.8 million raised, as well as a dozen staff members. He was more than pleased with what he saw.

"We've already won here in Oregon," he said. "People are having a conversation about marriage that is deeper and broader than anywhere else in the country."

Foreman counseled supporters of marriage equality to take pride in their accomplishments regardless of the election outcome. He praised the No on 36 campaign for being the only one of its kind in the nation to directly talk about same-sex marriage.

"Four years ago, civil unions were a radical idea," Foreman said. He urged the queer community to remember that "our movement is only 35 years old. We've accomplished more in that time span than any other civil rights movement in history."

Foreman says having marriage equality in the United States will only be a matter of time.

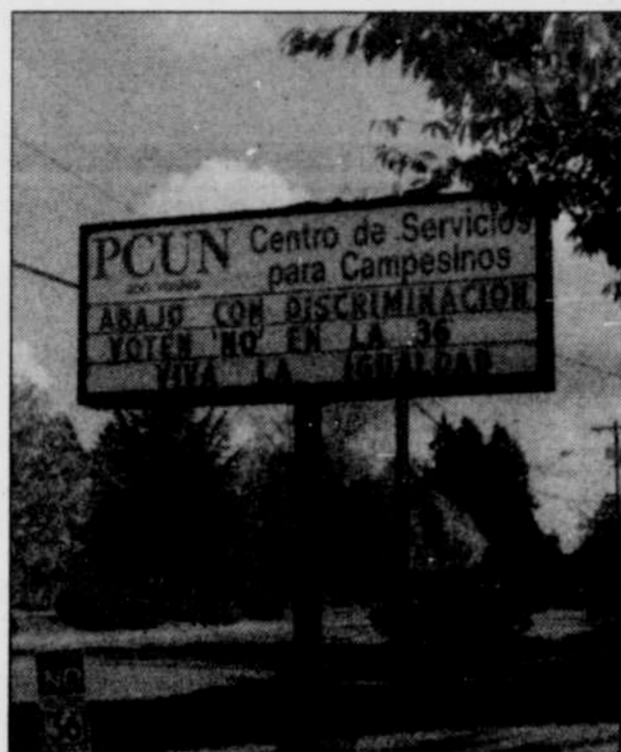
"Ultimately, marriage equality will be decided by the Supreme Court," he said. "And they won't give a damn about state constitutions... [the Supreme Court] will rule in our favor in the foreseeable future."

Their campaign of lies and scare tactics

Meanwhile, lacking justice in their corner, Measure 36 supporters resorted to misleading claims and scare tactics to influence voters. One notably inflammatory direct mail piece by Right to Life Oregon sent the week of Oct. 18 claimed:

- "In Holland, same-sex marriage has led to increases in divorce, single parenting and, yes, abortion."
- "As marriage becomes more about 'two

Massachusetts economist Lee Badgett found that same-sex partnership rights in Scandinavia and the Netherlands have not changed previously existing trends in marriage, divorce, cohabitation or out-of-wedlock childbearing. She found that marriage rights remained the same or increased slightly, divorce rates remained the same, and most families are still headed by married parents.



Pineros y Campesinos Unidos del Noroeste in Woodburn opposed Measure 36

"In the end, the Scandinavian and Dutch experience suggests that there is little reason to worry that heterosexual couples will flee marriage if gay and lesbian couples get the same rights," said Badgett.

In addition to misleading printed materials, the Defense of Marriage Coalition contacted tens of thousands of Oregonians with an automated push poll that made dire predictions about what would happen if the measure was defeated.

The call claimed that "in Massachusetts, where gay marriage is legal now, public school teachers are teaching a pro-gay lifestyle to children starting in kindergarten" and explicit gay sex starting in middle school. In reality, Massachusetts has made no changes in any of its official education curriculum to discuss same-sex marriage or any other topics related to homosexuality.

"I'm very concerned about [these] fear-based tactics designed to scare and mislead parents," said Susan Castillo, Oregon superintendent of public instruction. "Constitutional Amendment 36 has

nothing to do with Oregon's sex education laws and will not impact what is taught in schools in any way."

The long road to equality continues

Many questions were left unanswered at press time as to what is next in the fight for



Li vs. Oregon plaintiff Katie Potter congratulates her dad, "PFLAG Mayor" Tom Potter

marriage equality and how marriages recorded in Oregon will be affected by the new amendment.

The Oregon Supreme Court will hear oral arguments Nov. 17 in *Li vs. Oregon*—the lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of Basic Rights Oregon and a number of same-sex couples who challenged the constitutionality of the state's marriage law.

According to BRO, the issue of what happens to the status of the more than 3,000 same-sex marriages in Oregon is likely to be addressed as part of that lawsuit. BRO expects the Defense of Marriage Coalition to file a motion to dismiss part or all of the case.

Kassell said BRO would publish updated information on the court case and the ramifications of Measure 36 at www.basicrights.org. She urged queers and marriage equality supporters to channel their energy into upcoming challenges and battles.

"If we ever took for granted that this couldn't happen here in Oregon, now we know better," she said. "The best thing we can do is take what we built here and use it to move forward."

Next on the agenda is preparing for the upcoming legislative session. If you want to help BRO pass a statewide nondiscrimination bill, call 503-222-6151.

A gay day in Portland!

There was a silver lining to elections on the local front. Gay and queer-friendly candidates took the city by storm. Incoming "PFLAG Mayor" Tom Potter won out over Jim

Francesconi 61 percent to 38 percent.

When Potter's victory was announced on KOIN-TV at 8:05 on election night, the No on 36 room at the convention center erupted in cheers. Even louder were the cheers at the Melody Ballroom when Potter made his acceptance speech and invited his family up on stage. Unlike certain vice presidents, Potter was proud to include his lesbian daughter, her partner and their kids in the limelight.

"I'm proud to be a PFLAG dad," Potter told *Just Out*. "And I am so proud of our gay and lesbian community—you are so strong and so good. I don't know why everyone else can't see how beautiful you are."

City Council candidate Sam Adams beat opponent Nick Fish by approximately 4 points to become Portland's first openly gay commissioner. He spoke Nov. 3 at a post-election "LGBT Town Hall" hosted by the Portland Gay Men's Chorus.

"You can count on us," he said, referring to himself and Potter, "to make sure lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer people have every legal right possible in the city of Portland."

Other good news included a win by Multnomah County Commissioner Lisa Naito, whose seat was challenged because of her role in forwarding marriage equality in Oregon. In regional government, openly gay environmentalist Robert Liberty won a seat on Metro Council, beating out incumbent Rod Monroe. **J**

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Sam Adams receives a congratulatory hug from Multnomah County Commissioner Maria Rojo de Steffey

adults wanting benefits' and less about 'a husband and wife raising a family,' the value placed on children will suffer. Abortion totally devalues the life of an unborn child. Without Measure 36, the importance of children in marriage will be devalued, too."

Statements such as these are called into question by a July report for the Council on Contemporary Families in which University of

Family Values Are Under Attack!

Three Critical Reasons Pro-Lifers Should Vote Yes on Measure 36

1 Same-Sex Marriage Is Another Dangerous Assault on Oregon Families.

No one imagined 11 years ago that Boy v. Wade would be a death sentence to over \$5,000,000 unborn babies. Not even the justices who wrote the decision. Court-ordered same-sex marriage could hold the same unforeseen consequences. In Holland, same-sex marriage has led to increases in divorce, single parenting and yes, abortion. (www.fatherhood.org/news/04/06/077_06)

2 Doesn't Anyone Think About Children?

Why is Planned Parenthood Fighting Traditional Marriage?

If same-sex marriage has no effect on abortion, why is Planned Parenthood, the nation's largest abortion provider, listed as a key financial supporter for the campaign opposed to Measure 36? (The Oregonian, 9/1/04)

3 Measure 36 Is Our One Chance To Save Marriage.

Clinton (D-VT) had a chance to win the 2000 US Presidential election (she even came to the hands of the US Supreme Court) but she had no vote at all. Measure 36 takes this critical decision out of the hands of judges and gives Oregonians the opportunity to have their say.

Right to Life Oregon sent this mailer to voters claiming links between same-sex marriage and increased abortion rates

PHOTO BY MARTY DAVIS

PHOTO BY BRYAN GRIMES