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NATIONAL Fortune 500 Companies Favor Nondiscrimination

Equality Forum, a national and international gay rights organization, announced that 470, or 94 percent, of this year's Fortune 500 companies voluntarily include sexual orientation in their employment nondiscrimination policies. Equality Forum collaborates in this project with professors Louis Thomas of University of Pennsylvania and Ian Ayres of Yale Law School.

According to Gallup's Values and Beliefs Poll, conducted May 10 to 13, about 89 percent of U.S. citizens believe that gays and lesbians should have workplace discrimination protection. There is no federal workplace protection based on sexual orientation, and only 20 states include sexual orientation nondiscrimination in their workplace statutes.

"When 94 percent of the Fortune 500 companies and 89 percent of the public support workplace equality, Congress is derelict by its failure to include GLBT citizens in federal workplace discrimination protection," said Malcolm Lazin, executive director of Equality Forum.

Of the 30 Fortune 500 companies that are non-compliant, almost half are headquartered in Texas.

In fall 2003, when Equality Forum began contacting Fortune 500 companies, 64 percent of the companies provided sexual orientation protection. Equality Forum communicated with the 35.4 percent of chief executive officers and human relations directors of companies not offering that protection. By fall 2004, 81 percent of Fortune 500 companies included sexual orientation in workplace nondiscrimination policies.

For more information on the Fortune 500 Project, visit www.equalityforum.com/fortune500. The names of the Fortune 500 companies that are compliant and noncompliant are listed alphabetically and by revenue size, industry and the state in which they are headquartered.



House Minority Leader Christopher Rants, R-Iowa, said the brief gay marriages in his state indicate a need for a federal ban on same-sex marriage.

IDAHO Sex Scandal Brings Down Senator

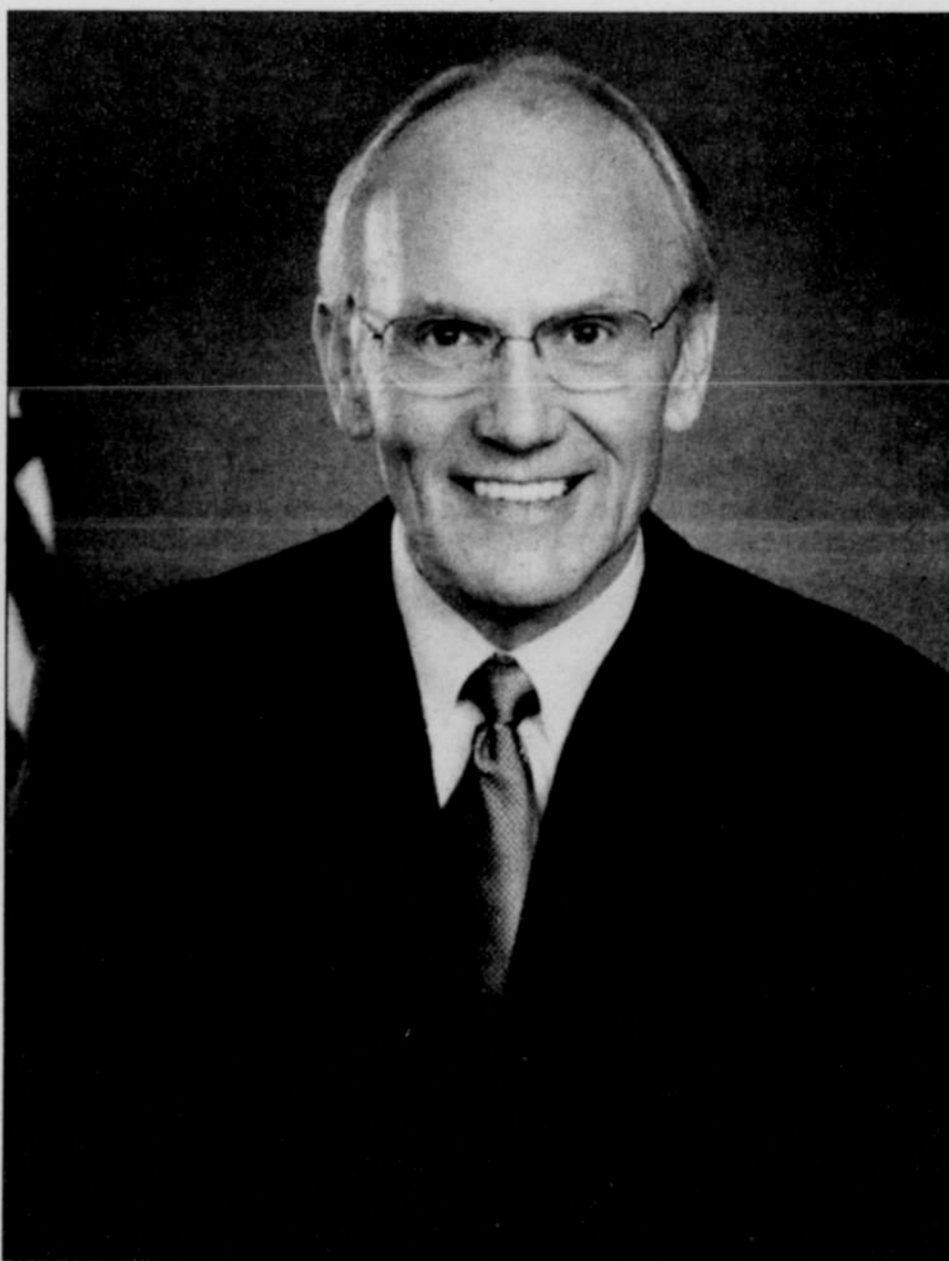
U.S. Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, announced Sept. 1 that he will resign at the end of the month, amid pressure from his party.

Craig, 62, made the announcement to a crowd of approximately 300 people, including his wife, Suzanne, and two of his three children.

Sixteen months remain in Craig's term, and Republican Gov. C. L. "Butch" Otter has reportedly not yet chosen a replacement. Top candidates include Republican Lt. Gov. Jim Risch and U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson, R-Idaho.

Craig admitted Aug. 27 that he plead guilty to misdemeanor disorderly conduct as part of an investigation by Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport police about lewd behavior in a men's restroom. That stems from a June 11 incident in which he allegedly tried to solicit an undercover officer.

Critics have called the incident "entrapment" and a "witch hunt." Craig maintains that he is not gay.



U.S. Sen. Larry Craig, R-Idaho, resigned over a gay sex scandal.

IOWA Marriages Brief for Iowans

Less than 24 hours after a county judge overrode Iowa's same-sex marriage ban, its first gay couple wed Aug. 30.

Later that day, Polk County Judge Robert Hanson expanded the rights for same-sex couples to apply for marriage licenses, calling the ban "unconstitutional." Dozens of couples lined up at the county register's office Aug. 31, waiting to obtain marriage licenses.

But the window of opportunity for gays to marry was brief. The judge agreed to stay his ruling until the appeal