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## Oregon GOP Removes (Some) Anti-Gay Language from 2012 Party Platform

The Oregon Republican Party voted by a slim majority to remove some anti-gay language from its 2012 party platform following a push from younger delegates and a heated debate, *The Oregonian* first reported September 12.

According to one proponent of the change, 26-year-old Xavier Alameida, the following language was removed from the platform's "family" section:

"We concur with the Oregon Constitution that marriage is between one man and one woman. We do not consider 'same-sex marriage' to be 'marriage' nor 'civil unions' to have any equivalency nor right to legal standing. Nor do we believe 'same-sex marriage' or 'civil unions' worthy of legal standing for adoption or parenting purposes."

That portion of the party's platform now reads: "We believe marriage is between one man and one woman," which Alameida said is merely a reflection of the state's current constitution.

Despite that hard-won change to the bullet points, the preface to the section still establishes the heterosexual "traditional family" as "ordained by God" and "the optimum

the repeal of Measure 36 and the Defense of Marriage Act.

"There seems to have been some feeling that the ground shook or that there's some paradigm shift here. There's some perception out there that the Republican Party is not anti-gay," Calvo told *Just Out*. "That's really hard to reconcile."

To further the contrast, Calvo pointed out LGBTQ rights have received unanimous support at recent Democratic Party platform conventions. Despite vigorous debate on other action items, Calvo said that since 2006, no one has stood in opposition to including LGBTQ rights.

Still, she applauded Alameida's effort, even as she expressed skepticism about the spin.

"I'm glad that [Alameida's] really trying to move this party and I hope that he continues to do this," Calvo said. "But I don't think this is cause for celebration, this is cause for suspicion."

—ERIN ROOK

## BRO Heating Up for Ignite! Fundraiser Gala

With a new venue, new format and a new pocket-friendly admission price, Basic Rights Oregon's annual fundraising gala is gaining substantial pre-event buzz. "Ignite—

The Basic Rights Oregon Event" will be held Friday, October 7 at the Portland Art Museum's 9,000-square-foot Kridel Grand Ballroom (1219 SW Park Ave.), and will include dinner, dancing and live entertainment. All proceeds go directly to BRO's mission to educate Oregonians about marriage equality, and to advance trans and racial justice.

"We wanted to make the event affordable and accessible to the whole community as well as accommodate the increasing number of people who want to attend each year," explains Juan Martinez, BRO's development director.

Ticket prices have been cut in half from the 2010 gala to \$75 for the main "Ignite" event, but Martinez promises that the event highlights won't be downsized.

Prior to the main event, which begins at 7:30 p.m., a smaller, seated dinner will be held for BRO's corporate partners and major donors. Following that, hostess and Portland drag dynamo Bolivia Carmichaels takes the reins through an entertainment lineup set to feature folk songstress Laura Gibson, beats from DJ Lunch Lady, and many more speakers and entertainers to be announced as the event nears. Kate Kendell, executive director for the National Center for Lesbian Rights, has been confirmed as a special guest speaker.

While details are still being finalized, including food and drink menus, Martinez

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2011 Oregon Republican Party Platform

**Family**

The Oregon Republican Party believes that the traditional family is ordained by God our Creator and is the foundation of our society. A traditional family is formed through the marriage of one man and one woman. This is environment is the optimum for raising children into responsible, self-sufficient, productive citizens.

6.1 We believe that government intervention into matters regarding

for raising children into responsible, self-sufficient, productive citizens."

"I'd like to think that's progress," Alameida told *Just Out*. "I'd also like to point out that the Democratic Platform of Oregon makes zero mention to gays, lesbians, marriage or equal rights at all. Not even any mention to civil unions. In that regard, we're right in line with the Dems, except stating that we define marriage."

Not so fast, said Laura Calvo, treasurer for the Democratic Party of Oregon.

While there is no explicit mention of LGBTQ rights in the first portion of the DPO platform, Calvo pointed out that the party's legislative agenda and the included action items are a direct extension of the party platform, despite being presented online as a separate document.

And those items make clear the DPO's support of LGBTQ rights including the passage of non-discrimination legislation that is inclusive of sexual orientation and gender identity, full marriage equality and