

nwnnews



Mayoral candidate Eileen Brady kicks off her campaign at Director Park September 8.

reports that advance ticket sales are strong.

"We're excited about enhancing the experience of all of our guests at this year's event through the new format and venue," he says.

BRO's biggest event of the year might have provided a near-perfect backdrop to announce a decision on whether or not to begin gathering signatures for a freedom to marry ballot initiative for 2012's general election. But on September 12, it was announced that BRO had convened a group of community leaders and campaign professionals to help determine whether to take that step.

Advice from the advisory group, along with input from the LGBT and allied community, will be used by BRO's board of directors to make a final decision in late October or early November.

In a statement, BRO executive director Jeana Frazzini said the decision is not one they're taking lightly, or making alone.

"This must be a shared responsibility between Basic Rights Oregon, our coalition partners and the community at large," she said. "We want to hear from the experts and leaders on the Advisory Group as well as from the larger LGBT and allied community, because we cannot move forward unless we have a viable ballot measure as well as a supportive and engaged base of support."

Unlike states such as Iowa and New York where the courts or legislatures have led the way, the only way to achieve the freedom to marry in Oregon is through a ballot measure. A victory could make Oregon the first state in the country to pass marriage equality legislation by a vote of the people—as well as the first state to overturn a constitutional amendment excluding same-gender couples from civil marriage.

The advisory group—which includes Victory Fund co-founder Terry Bean, Freedom to Marry president Evan Wolfson, Oregon State Representative Tina Kotek and QCenter executive director Barbara McCullough-Jones—will reconvene in late October to make a recommendation to BRO.

In the meantime, those interested in supporting BRO's efforts can do so during a benefit gala Saturday, September 17 at QCenter (4115 N. Mississippi Ave.) from 8 p.m. to 3 a.m. The event, "UNITED: A Gaylabration," includes a cabaret-style lineup of local artists performing songs centering on love and loss in relationships. All proceeds go to the BRO Education Fund. Tickets to the event are \$35,

\$55 for VIP.

Also offering a push in fundraising is Mayor Sam Adams, who on September 13 traveled to New York City to help raise money for the nonprofit.

For more information about BRO's "Ignite" gala, visit basicrights.org. For more information on UNITED: A Gaylabration, visit gaylabration.org.

Eileen Brady Officially Launches Mayoral Candidacy, Talks Gay Rights Issues

New Seasons Market co-founder Eileen Brady has officially launched her campaign to replace incumbent Sam Adams in the race for Portland's mayoral seat. Brady kicked off her campaign with a rally at Director Park in Downtown Portland September 8, followed by a march to City Hall where she filed her official candidacy paperwork.

Brady joins former Portland Commissioner Charlie Hales, State Representative Jefferson Smith and community college student Max Brumm in the race. Brady is running on a platform based on her successes as a businesswoman, a civic leader and a savvy innovator. You can also add civil rights advocate to that list.

Near the beginning of her launch speech, Brady related an aside regarding her daughter Caitlin's engagement to a woman as part of a larger nod to the support for and from her family throughout her career.

"[My husband Brian and I] raised our four amazing children, Sadie, Casey, Caitlin and Colin," said Brady during her speech. "We're excited to be adding Caitlin's fiancé, Emily, to our family. And if I have anything to say about it, it will be a legal wedding right here in Portland next year."

Brady spoke to *Just Out* just before press time, saying that her support for her daughters' relationships—her stepdaughter Casey, a lesbian, has also been in a same-sex relationship for 10 years—is unwavering, noting that there was no dramatic, coming-out process involved.

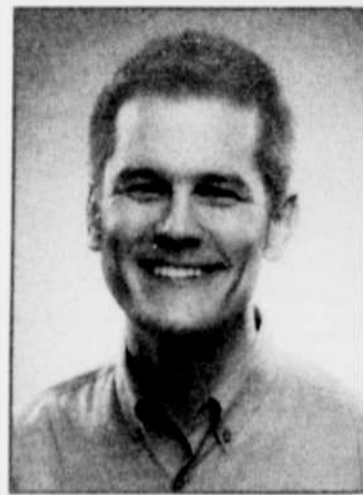
"[Casey] told me she first had a girlfriend about five years ago, and it was a fairly uneventful process in an open-minded family," Brady said. "She's grown up with straight and gay family members and role models."

Brady said that during her campaign, she

Still The Best
S·T·★·R·S
PORTLAND'S ANTIQUES MALLS
Portland's largest selection of antiques, collectibles & extraordinary items.
OPEN EVERYDAY: Mon.–Sat. 11am–6pm & Sunday Noon–5
www.starsantique.com
Along SE Milwaukie Ave. in Portland · (503) 235-5990

FANNO CREEK CLINIC

Don Valerio, MD Board Certified Internal Medicine



General Adult Healthcare
Wellness/Physical Exams
Preventive Medicine

New Patients are always Welcome!

2400 SW Vermont St. Portland 503.452.0915

Founded in 1911, Portland's very first veterinary hospital is celebrating its centennial this year. Our state-of-the-art medical facility and wonderful staff are eager to provide Portland's pets with another 100 years of quality care.

Rose City Veterinary Hospital
809 SE Powell Blvd
Modern Medicine, Old Fashioned Love
503.232.3105 www.rosecityvet.com

Take the TEST Take CONTROL Every Tuesday 5:30 - 7:15 pm
Just walk in Northeast Health Center 5329 NE MLK Jr. Blvd. 2nd Floor
Bring or mention this ad to get a FREE & ANONYMOUS or CONFIDENTIAL test for HIV!