

LAW & JUSTICE

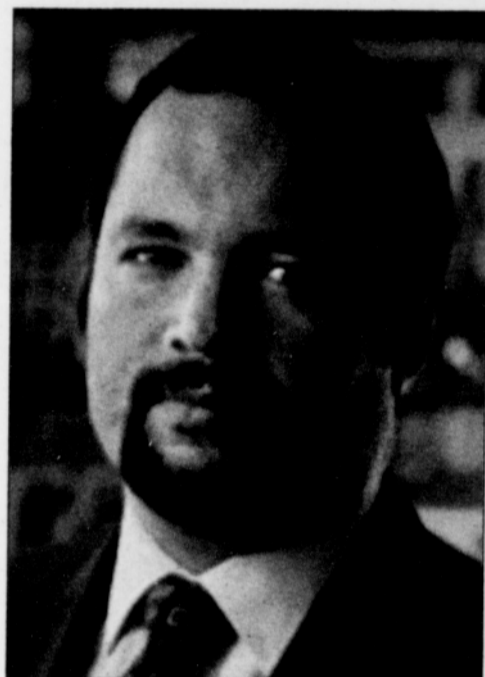
NAACP Endorses Marriage Equality

Activists stand against same-sex discrimination

(AP)---NAACP President Benjamin Jealous said Monday he hopes the group's resolution supporting same-sex marriage will encourage blacks to support marriage equality as a civil right.

At a meeting of the 103-year-old civil rights group's board of directors on Saturday, the organization voted to support marriage equality as a continuation of its historic commitment to equal protection under the law. The resolution was approved about two weeks after President Barack Obama announced his support for gay marriage.

"I hope this will be a game-changer," Jealous told The Associated Press in an interview. "There is a game being played right now to enshrine discrimination into state constitutions across the country, and if we can change that game and



Benjamin Jealous

help ensure that our country's more recent tradition of using federal and state constitutions to expand rights continues, we will be very proud of our work."

Jealous struggled to speak while recalling how his white father and black mother confronted marriage laws that forced them to marry in Washington, D.C., in 1966 because interracial marriage was illegal in Maryland and his mother's home-

town of Baltimore until 1967. Jealous noted that the civil rights organization has opposed laws barring gay marriage in the past.

"What has changed is that this is the first time that we have made a full statement on marriage equality that goes beyond the circumstances of any one proposed law or

any one state," Jealous said.

Roslyn Brock, who chairs the NAACP board of directors, emphasized that the resolution focused on marriage equality in the eyes of government, not religion.

"As the nation's leading and oldest civil rights organization, it is not our role, nor our intent, to express

how any place of worship should act in its own house," Brock said.

Same-sex marriage is legal in six states and the District of Columbia, but 31 states have passed amendments to ban it in their constitutions. The federal government also doesn't recognize gay marriages under the Defense of Marriage Act.

Upholstery Cleaning • Sofa/Loveseat • Pet Stains • Flood Restorations

Aregon
CARPET CLEANING & STEAMER
503-705-2587

2 Rooms + Hall
Extra rooms \$10 each with coupon.
\$49.95
Expires 5/31/12

Complete House
Up to 2200sq feet with coupon.
\$79.95
With Free Deodorizer
Expires 5/31/12

10 Years of References Available
Licensed • Bonded • Insured
Carpet Cleaning LLC
Spot/Stain Removal • 24 Hour Flood Service
Upholstery Cleaning • Area Rug Cleaning
Dry Time 2-4 Hours • Free Estimates • Available Weekends

Census Shows Racial Changes

For the first time, majority born are non-white

(AP) -- For the first time, racial and ethnic minorities make up more than half the children born in the U.S., capping decades of heady immigration growth that is now slowing.

New 2011 census estimates highlight sweeping changes in the nation's racial makeup and the prolonged impact of a weak economy, which is now resulting in fewer Hispanics entering the U.S.

"This is an important landmark," said Roderick Harrison, a former chief of racial statistics at the Census Bureau who is now a sociologist at Howard University. "This generation is growing up much more accustomed to diversity than its elders."

The report comes as the Supreme Court prepares to rule on the legality of Arizona's strict immigration law, with many states weighing similar get-tough measures.

"We remain in a dangerous period where those appealing to anti-immigration elements are fueling a divisiveness and hostility that

might take decades to overcome," Harrison said.

As a whole, the nation's minority population continues to rise, following a higher-than-expected Hispanic count in the 2010 census. Minorities increased 1.9 percent to 114.1 million, or 36.6 percent of the total U.S. population, lifted by prior waves of immigration that brought in young families and boosted the number of Hispanic women in their prime childbearing years.

But a recent slowdown in the growth of the Hispanic and Asian populations is shifting notions on when the tipping point in U.S. diversity will come — the time when non-Hispanic whites become a minority. After 2010 census results suggested a cross-over as early as 2040, demographers now believe the pivotal moment may be pushed back several years when new projections are released in December.

The annual growth rates for Hispanics and Asians fell sharply last year to just over 2 percent, roughly half the rates in 2000 and the lowest in more than a decade. The black growth rate stayed flat at 1 percent.

Minorities made up roughly 2.02 million, or 50.4 percent of U.S. births in the 12-month period ending July 2011. That compares with 37 percent in 1990.

IRONWORKER APPRENTICESHIP

EARN WHILE YOU LEARN

Your education is paid for
Obtain quality training

Provide health care for a family

Have a Professional Career
with Family wages

Becoming an Ironworker
begins with an apprenticeship

Scan to visit our website.

www.ironworkers29.org

Ironworkers Local 29 Apprenticeship
11620 NE Ainsworth Circle Suite 100
Portland, OR 97220
(503)775-0877