

September 23, 2008

Board of Supervisors
County of Marin
San Rafael, CA 94903

Subject: Request to Oppose Proposition 8, "ELIMINATES RIGHT OF SAME-SEX COUPLES TO MARRY," on the November 4, 2008 statewide ballot

Dear Board Members:

Recommendation: It is recommended that your Board oppose Proposition 8, otherwise known as the "California Marriage Protection Act," the "Same-Sex Marriage Ban" or the "Limit on Marriage Amendment," on the November 4, 2008 statewide ballot. Adopt the attached resolution opposing the measure.

Summary: Proposition 8 would add a new constitutional amendment to the California Constitution that will have exactly the following text: "Only marriage between a man and a woman is valid or recognized in California."

The Legislative Analyst notes that, 'because marriage between individuals of the same sex is currently valid in California, there would likely be an increase in spending on weddings by same-sex couples in California over the next few years. This would result in increased revenue, primarily sales tax revenue, to state and local governments. By specifying that marriage between individuals of the same sex is not valid or recognized, Proposition 8 could result in revenue loss - mainly from sales taxes, to state and local governments. Over the next few years, this loss could potentially total in the several tens of millions of dollars. Over the long run, this measure would likely have little fiscal impact on state and local governments.'

Your Board's policy has consistently been in support of same-sex marriage, including support for the same rights and responsibilities for same-sex partners as are afforded opposite-sex partners. A poll released by the Public Policy Institute of California August 27th suggested that 54 percent of likely voters will say no to Proposition 8.

It is recommended that your Board indicate its opposition to Proposition 8 on the November 4, 2008 statewide ballot by adoption of the attached resolution.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Dan Eilerman of my staff.

Respectfully submitted,

Matthew Hymel
County Administrator