

October 28, 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

On November 4th of 2008 we will have an opportunity to vote on a variety of issues as well as for President. One issue that I believe requires special consideration is Proposition 8. Prop 8 reinstates the legal definition of marriage in California as only valid between a man and a woman. As you may know in 2000 61% of the California voters passed Proposition 22 which has the exact same wording as Proposition 8. However, four judges of the California Supreme Court overturned Proposition 22 earlier this year. That action has paved the way for same-sex marriages throughout the state. Proposition 8 protects marriage in a way that puts it beyond the reach of activist judges.

While every individual deserves protection from discrimination and is equal under the law, the institution of marriage and the families they create deserve special consideration and protection. Thanks to Massachusetts and other countries that have already legalized same-sex marriages, we can see the downstream impacts. These include:

- Children in public schools will be taught that same-sex marriage is just as good as traditional marriage.
- Churches may be sued if they refuse to allow same-sex marriage ceremonies in their religious buildings open to the public.
- Religious adoption agencies will be challenged by government agencies to give up their long-held right to place children only in homes with both a mother and a father.

These are not theoretical worst-case scenarios. These are real impacts of legalizing same-sex marriage. Legal experts on both sides of the Prop 8 question agree on one thing, failure to pass Prop 8 will lead to a decrease in religious freedom within California. The freedom to worship how, where or what we individually feel is right is key to the success and growth of our fine state and country.

I recognize that there are strong feelings on both sides of this campaign and assure you that despite what some may accuse, I "hate" no one. I welcome any discussion of ideas that can further our understanding of each other. I strongly believe that true tolerance is not a sameness of thought, but being friendly even when we disagree. If you'd like to discuss this or any issue with me please email me at jonmarct@gmail.com.

Thank you for making our neighborhood such a wonderful place to raise our family and for making Aliso Viejo a community I've been proud to be a member of for 13 years.

Sincerely,

Jon