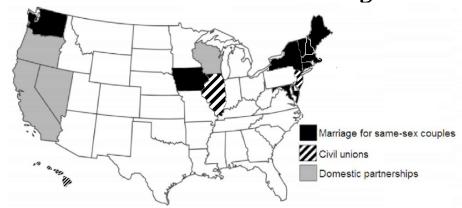
# HJR 6 topics for Discussion

What other states are doing ...



### What is the CURRENT situation for same-sex couples in Indiana?

Currently, Indiana has a law stating only a man can marry a woman and only a woman can marry a man. Therefore, even without amending the constitution, it is ILLEGAL for same-sex couples to get married. Couples to not have any option for legal recognition of their relationships. Some businesses and universities offer partner benefits (e.g. bereavement leave, insurance coverage for spouses and domestic partners).

#### What is HJR 6?

- HJR 6 stands for House Joint Resolution 6
- The exact wording of the proposed amendment is: "Only marriage between one (1) man and one (1) woman will be valid or recognized as a marriage in Indiana. A legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized."
- If enacted, this would change the Indiana state constitution (amend it) to do TWO things: (1) prohibit any future legislatures from passing a law that would allow samesex couples to legally marry and (2) prohibit any future legislatures from enacting a law that would allow any legal protections for any unmarried relationship that are similar to marriage (civil unions, domestic partnerships, for example).

#### What is the process for amending the Indiana State Constitution?



- 1. The proposed amendment must pass with identical language in both houses of 2 consecutive elected legislatures.
- 2. If this requirement is fulfilled, the proposed amendment is put on the November ballot to be voted on by the people of Indiana.

#### What's wrong with HJR 6?

The language is **vague**. What does "legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage" mean? Civil unions?—yes. Domestic partnerships?— probably. Health insurance coverage for domestic partners?— maybe. We don't really know. In other states with similar language in their constitutions, domestic partner benefits at state universities has been revoked. Some have argued that domestic violence laws cannot be enforced because that would be giving legal recognition to the unmarried partners (same-sex and heterosexual).

It would prohibit the extension of rights to a group of people, and it would put it in the Indiana state constitution's *Bill of Rights*. Somehow this just seems wrong!

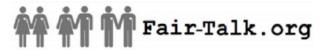
#### What is the status of HJR 6?

- This proposal passed the Indiana house & senate in 2011.
- The election this year (2012) will establish the 2nd consecutive elected legislature.
- It must be voted on again by this legislature and pass in the house and senate in either 2013 or 2014
- If it passes in 2013 or 2014, it will be on the ballot in November, 2014 for all Hoosiers to vote on.
- If it passes by popular vote, it will be added to the Indiana state constitution.
- Even if the proposal fails to pass, same-sex marriage will still be illegal in Indiana, & couples will have no legal protections. It just will not be written into the Indiana constitution.

This is a civil rights issue:

This is about permanently denying rights to a whole group of people, and doing it by arbitrarily changing our *constitution*.

This is about liberty and justice for all— We said it! Do we mean it? This is why should all vote "NO" on HJR 6.



Fostering discussions in diversity to promote fairness for all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

## **Take Action to Defeat HJR 6!**

- 1) Be sure you are registered to vote in Indiana and vote **NO** on HJR 6 if it comes to a popular vote (likely in fall 2014). Find out if/where you are registered at www.in.gov/sos/elections/2403.htm
- 2) Ask friends and family to **commit** to voting **NO** on HJR 6.
- 3) **Contact** your state representative and tell them what you think about HJR 6. Find them at www.in.gov//legislative/2345.htm
- 4) **Attend** or **host** a FairTalk workshop to practice having respectful conversations about relationship equality (contact us at www.fair-talk.org to learn more).
- 5) Check out our website www.fair-talk.org and contact us about volunteering, hosting a FairTalk workshop in your community (we're taking this fight statewide!), starting a FairTalk chapter, or holding a fundraiser in your community.
- 6) Like "FairTalk" on Facebook to follow outreach events.
- 7) Watch for us at your local PRIDE festivals and farmer's markets or volunteer to staff an outreach table in your community.
- 8) **Listen** to the BloomingOut radio show at WFHB 91.3 to hear our FairTalk updates and more about getting involved. Listen to past shows available at http://www.wfhb.org/news/bloomingout

FairTalk is a grassroots group made up of individuals engaged in community organizing and action. Our goal is to foster discussions in diversity to promote fairness for all people, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Our current focus is to defeat Indiana HJR 6 that would write relationship discrimination into the Bill of Rights of the Indiana Constitution. Our group members are diverse, consisting of gay, straight, parents, college students, younger and older, transgender and non-transgender, Christian, Agnostic, Jewish, etc. You get the picture; it's about all of us. Relationship discrimination affects ALL of us. You don't have to be gay to get on board with fairness.

We can achieve equality by working together!