

10 REASONS TO VOTE AGAINST DISCRIMINATION IN OUR CONSTITUTION

1. For 102 years the NAACP's mission has always been to "ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons." We have always opposed any custom, tradition, practice, law or constitutional amendment that denies any rights, privileges, or opportunities to any person which can legally be extended to others. We should never codify discrimination, division and hate into our Constitution. All people have a right to equal protection under the law.

2. Many civic and faith organizations have membership qualifications. But every person in North Carolina and the nation are protected by Constitutions that allow no racial, religious, or gender tests.

*Whether You Agree or Disagree With Same Sex Marriage because of Your Personal, Religious, or Moral Beliefs, You Should Vote **Against** this Amendment that Strips some North Carolina Families of their Human Rights.*

- Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II
President, N.C. NAACP

3. North Carolina should not reverse its proud history of expanding the rights of all persons in its constitutional amendments by now promoting an amendment that restricts the rights of some.

4. When the People of North Carolina are asked to put an amendment in our Constitution prohibiting some people from making a highly personal choice, it places a matter of conscience and personal belief in the hands of the Government, not our churches and other faith communities. We support the constitutional right of faith communities to determine whom they will and will not marry.

5. The NAACP does not take a position in support of or in opposition to same sex marriage. We recognize the issue of marriage rights for same-sex couples is a difficult and sensitive one. People of goodwill have heartfelt differences of opinion about it.

6. When most of us consider issues of marriage and family, we are guided by our religious and spiritual beliefs. The NAACP respects the diverse religious beliefs our churches regarding family life.



7. **Same sex marriage is already illegal in NC.**

8. Placing several sentences in our most important state document that deny rights to some persons, but which are extended to others, is dangerous and unnecessary, and will not resolve the disagreements.

9. The current legislative leadership proved earlier this year that they are not committed to obeying the Constitution as much as they are to pursuing their aggressive and regressive ideology when their budget was found to deny our poor and minority preschoolers their constitutional right to a sound, basic education.

10. **The marriage we should be concerned about is the marriage of corporate money and politics. Ultra-conservative corporations have tied the knot with an ugly set of anti-public policies that undermine public education, voter protection, workers rights, protection from payday lenders, health care reform and other programs established for the public good.**

DID YOU KNOW?

"I will go on record, Tim, in saying [Barack Obama] has been the worst president this country has ever had."
Tony Perkins, Family Research Council ¹

The Family Research Council and the American Family Association are represented in the leadership of the forces promoting this discriminatory Amendment. They are affiliated with national organizations recognized as hate groups by the Southern Poverty Law Center .

DID YOU KNOW?

Many of the legislators who are sponsoring this Amendment are the same Tea Party-backed, extremists who have campaigned against our voting rights, equal protection under the law, the Racial Justice Act, healthcare for all and jobs for African-Americans and the poor.

DID YOU KNOW?

This Discriminatory Amendment could:

- Take away domestic violence protections for all unmarried women in North Carolina. In Ohio, a similar amendment set domestic abusers free, putting their unmarried partners at risk.
- Strip legal recognition and protection from all unmarried couples.² It could leave such families with no basic healthcare and no hospital visitation rights.³
- Cause children of unmarried parents to lose their health and prescription drug coverage.⁴ It could be used to take a child away from a loving parent, threatening existing custody and visitation rights.⁵

¹ <http://www.rightwingwatch.org/content/perkins-obama-worst-president-county-has-ever-had>. July 19, 2011 ² Maxine Eichner, et al., "Potential Legal Impact of the Proposed Domestic Legal Union Amendment to the North Carolina Constitution," 1, (2011) ³ Id. at 2. ⁴ Id. at 16. ⁵ Id. at 22.

**VOTE
AGAINST
AMENDMENT
ONE**

May 8
Regular Voting Day
and
April 19 – May 5
One-Stop Early
Voting and
Same-Day
Registration.