



SAMPLE NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

With Governor Chris Gregoire's signature on Monday, February 13th, Washington joined six other states and the District of Columbia in allowing same-sex couples to marry.

But the fight for marriage equality is far from over; and, it needs your help.

Opponents of the new law -- fueled by conservative churches and deep-pocket out of state donors -- are now gathering signatures to place a referendum on the November statewide ballot that would ask voters to approve or reject the law.

The opponents have until June 6 to gather 120,577 signatures for what will be called "Referendum 74." With such a relatively small number of signatures to gather, it's almost certain we'll see R-74 on the November ballot. Anti-equality clergy and politicians are already urging their constituencies to sign referendum petitions.

In response, a large, diverse and growing coalition of organizations called **Washington United for Marriage** is gearing up to wage a strong, well-funded campaign to protect the freedom to marry.

A committed staff of campaign professionals is already hard at work across the state. A robust advertising campaign, press and field efforts will educate voters and get a million of them out to vote (by mail) next fall. The opposition's scare tactics and deceptions will be met head on: rapidly, forcefully, and effectively.

But, the campaign to approve R-74 will only be successful with the money, time and voice of people like you. Money is particularly important -- right now -- to secure advertising on radio and TV in what will be the biggest and costliest election season ever.

Join the fight for marriage equality today by visiting the campaign's website at www.waunited.org and click "Get Involved" at the top of the page.

Here in (*your city, county or region*), Washington United for Marriage is organizing supporters for voter contact, fundraising and sharing the marriage fairness message with your neighbors. Contact (local person or organization) at (phone and email) to get involved.

One last note: referendums are sometimes confusing, which opponents will probably try to exploit. Just remember: a "referendum" simply *refers* a law passed by the legislature to the voters for approval or rejection. **If you support marriage equality for all of Washington's families, vote to approve Referendum 74.**