

Resolve 3 – 12/13

Passage: 7-0 (Leeman absent, Donoghue out) 10-15-12

MICHAEL F. BRENNAN (MAYOR)
KEVIN J. DONOGHUE (1)
DAVID A. MARSHALL (2)
EDWARD J. SUSLOVIC (3)
CHERYL A. LEEMAN (4)

CITY OF PORTLAND
IN THE CITY COUNCIL

JOHN R. COYNE (5)
JOHN M. ANTON (A/L)
JILL C. DUSON (A/L)
NICHOLAS M. MAVODONES (A/L)

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING QUESTION ONE
ALLOWING SAME-SEX COUPLES THE FREEDOM TO MARRY**

WHEREAS, the City of Portland embraces equality and fair treatment for all residents including the freedom to marry for loving, committed couples, and

WHEREAS, it is vital in a fair society for everyone to have equal rights under the laws of the state and county; and

WHEREAS, the laws of the State of Maine currently do not allow same-sex couples to marry and in fact prohibit persons of the same sex from contracting a marriage; and

WHEREAS, an important legal distinction exists between the laws of the state, which are the product of secular, non-religious process and policy making, and the laws and tenets of religious organizations; and

WHEREAS, the referendum before the voters of the State of Maine this November protects religious freedom by recognizing and affirming the rights of religious organizations as the proposed law does not authorize any court or other state or local governmental body, entity, agency or commission to compel, prevent or interfere in any way with any religious institutions, religious doctrine, policy, teaching or solemnization of marriage within that particular religious faith's tradition as guaranteed by the Maine Constitution, Article 1, Section 3 or the First Amendment of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS all loving and committed couples should be able to get married, and to accept the responsibility, stability and happiness that go along with that decision; and

WHEREAS, the legal institution of marriage brings with it a host of legal rights and responsibilities that are designed to promote and support long-term relationships and families; and

WHEREAS, those rights and responsibilities are currently denied to the gay and lesbian citizens of the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, marriage equality ensures that the same dignity and recognition is bestowed upon all loving and committed couples living in the State of Maine; and

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of residents of the City of Portland have supported policies guaranteed to eliminate discrimination including the 2009 referendum which would have established marriage equality; and

WHEREAS, that conviction on the part of the citizens of Portland led the Portland City Council on May 11, 1992 to enact the first human rights ordinance in the State of Maine granting protection against discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment, housing, public accommodations, and credit availability; and

WHEREAS, Question 1 will further the march toward legal equality, protection and rights for all of Maine citizens;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the undersigned members of the Portland City Council strongly support the referendum question before Maine voters this November, which allows same sex couples the freedom to marry; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council encourages registered voters in the City of Portland to vote yes on Question 1 this November 6, 2012.
