

### **Information on Green Party Positions on Marriage Equality and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Rights, 2005**

The Green Party firmly believes that same-sex couples should have all of the same rights that heterosexual couples do and that the "Defense of Marriage Act" is a violation of civil rights. The rights of same-sex couples far outweighs the rights of what some people believe a married couple should be. In 2004 Jason West, the Mayor of New Paltz, N.Y. solemnized 24 same-sex weddings. Mr. West, a member of the Green Party, now faces prosecution for violating domestic relations law. When the California Supreme Court voided the thousands of same-sex marriage licenses issued by Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco in 2004, David Cobb, the Green Party candidate for that years' presidential election said this:

"The right to marry is an equal rights issue. Courts have historically been wrong and socially behind the times and the California Supreme Court is no exception. The Dred Scott decision said a black man was property and had no rights that a white man was bound to respect. In Plessy v. Ferguson, the Court upheld Jim Crow segregation laws. The Supreme Court also upheld state laws preventing women from voting until the Nineteenth Amendment was passed, superceding all those prohibitive state laws. Like these earlier decisions, the decision of the California Supreme Court is an affront to human rights and human dignity and will not stand the test of time."

The Green Party shares David Cobbs' stance and optimism on same-sex marriage.

In keeping with the Green Key Values of diversity, social justice and feminism, we support full legal and political equality for all persons, regardless of sex, gender, or sexual orientation.

- a. The Green Party affirms the rights of all individuals to freely choose intimate partners, regardless of their sex, gender, or sexual orientation.
- b. We support the recognition of equal rights of persons gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender to housing, jobs, civil marriage, medical benefits, child custody, and in all areas of life provided to all other citizens.
- c. We support the inclusion of language in state and federal anti-discrimination law that ensures the rights of intersex individuals and prohibits discrimination based on gender identity, characteristics, and expression. We are opposed to intersex genital mutilation.
- d. We support the right of all persons to self-determination with regard to gender identity and sex. We therefore support the right of intersex and transgender individuals to be free from coercion and involuntary assignment of gender or sex. We support access to medical and surgical treatment for assignment or reassignment of gender or sex, based on informed consent.
- e. We support legislation against all forms of hate crimes, including those directed against people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, and intersex.

For More Information:

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[http://www.lavendergreens.org/lavender\\_greens\\_035.htm](http://www.lavendergreens.org/lavender_greens_035.htm)

Ten Key Values: <http://gp.org/tenkey.shtml>

Platform: <http://gp.org/platform.shtml>

Press Releases: [http://gp.org/press\\_archive.shtml](http://gp.org/press_archive.shtml)