

about us



ABOUT THE FAMILY INSTITUTE

The Marriage Definition Initiative is a joint project of the Family Institute of Connecticut, Family Institute of Connecticut Action, and Family Institute of Connecticut Action Committee. The Family Institute of Connecticut is a 501(c)(3) educational organization. Since 1989, our mission has been to encourage and strengthen the family as the foundation of society and to promote sound ethical and moral values in our culture and government. Family Institute of Connecticut Action is our lobbying arm and is a registered 501 (c)4 social awareness organization. Family Institute of Connecticut Action Committee is a state registered political action committee, committed to electing pro-family candidates to our legislature.

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values



voice
heard

presents

**MARRIAGE
DEFINITION
INITIATIVE**

THE CONNECTICUT DEFENSE OF MARRIAGE INITIATIVE

BACKGROUND

We find ourselves in a pivotal time for Connecticut families: perhaps the most pivotal time in a generation. Against a backdrop of the state legislature's action last year legitimizing same sex unions, and pending court cases seeking to extend and cement same-sex "marriage", marriage is under assault.

2006 also brings a unique opportunity, however, as Connecticut state law provides for an automatic constitutional review and amendment process every twenty years. With Connecticut's leading constitutional scholar on our side, we believe 2006 is that year. If we are successful, this November, Connecticut voters will be asked whether the state should have a Constitutional Convention to consider changes to the Connecticut Constitution. If the Secretary of State will not let the people vote in 2006, we will pursue legal action. Regardless of the outcome, all agree the convention has to be no later than 2008.

Capitalizing on the solid majority of Connecticut residents who oppose same-sex "marriage", the Marriage Definition Initiative is a bold long-term campaign to turn the tide in Connecticut in favor of the family and to advance the pro-family agenda with the people, in the legislature, and in the Constitution.

WHY NOW?

Across the country, and here in Connecticut, marriage is under attack. Twenty states have successfully turned to their own constitutions to protect marriage from activist judges and well-funded interest groups. The Marriage Definition Initiative is designed to lead an effort here in Connecticut to protect marriage at this critical time.

To turn the political tide in favor of the family, we seek to elect pro-family legislators to the State Legislature. To raise awareness and understanding on key issues, we seek to reach out and educate the public. To increase the influence and effectiveness of the pro-family agenda, we seek to develop a broad grassroots coalition. Most importantly, to truly protect marriage in Connecticut at all levels, we believe that the best opportunity for protecting the definition of marriage is passage of an amendment to the state constitution. Unfortunately, unlike many other states, Connecticut does not have a popular referendum process. Sadly, our state legislature is also extremely unlikely to ever act on this issue, and may even make things worse. And clearly courts around the country and here in Connecticut have proven hurtful to the cause of the family. That is why we believe this is a crucial time to act.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Because 2006 is a critical year and a decisive moment in Connecticut, we believe we must make every effort to win this fight. Opposition groups across the nation are well-funded and committed to their agenda. Our initial fundraising goal is one million five hundred thousand dollars. This money will be devoted to developing and distributing significant amounts of educational materials, supporting substantial media buys through radio, television, and the Internet, and to support grassroots events and efforts around Connecticut to rally support and momentum for the cause. We realize this is an ambitious goal, but believe that, because of the high stakes, we must be bold and aggressive in this effort.

Make no mistake, marriage and families will be impacted this year, whether through the intervention of activist courts, an unaccountable legislature, outside liberal interest groups, or through our efforts and those of like-minded groups throughout Connecticut. The Family Institute stands on the side of marriage, of values, and of morality. Stand with us, in whatever way you can, as we seek to protect marriage once and for all in Connecticut.

**"TO SIT BY IN SILENCE WHEN
THEY SHOULD PROTEST
MAKES COWARDS OF MEN"**

ABRAHAM LINCOLN



stand with us

OUR GOAL

The Marriage Definition Initiative has seven principal goals:

1. Educate the public on these critical issues to raise awareness and build support for the pro-family agenda.
2. Through extensive candidate support and voter education elect pro-family legislators to the Connecticut General Assembly and State Senate.
3. Develop and lead a broad grassroots coalition to increase the influence and effectiveness of the pro-family agenda.
4. Fight to insure the question of a Constitutional Convention is on the ballot for Connecticut Voters this November.
5. Obtain a majority "yes" vote for a constitutional convention.
6. Through the Constitutional Convention, secure an amendment to the Connecticut State Constitution defining marriage as a union between one man and one woman.
7. Obtain a majority "yes" vote for the Marriage Defining Amendment when it goes before the people of Connecticut.

OUR APPROACH

We will seek to:

Educate

Reach out to the public and educate the public on issues like the status of marriage in the state, opportunities to have their voices heard, voting records of legislators and candidates, available resources and efforts, and opportunities to participate.

Motivate

Based on the outreach and education, convince people that the definition of marriage should be between one man and one woman, that the broader pro-family agenda is the right course for Connecticut, and motivate them to act accordingly.

Activate

Provide opportunities to participate, communicate, and contribute through petitions, sharing information, financial contribution, contacting their legislator, attending events, or volunteering.