



BOB ZIEGELBAUER

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • TWENTY FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
2005-06 Issue Summary #4

October 4, 2006

“Definition of Marriage Amendment” **November 7, 2006 Constitutional Amendment Referendum**

Background Information:

Resolutions passed in the 2003-04 and 2005-06 Sessions created a statewide referendum. The question will appear on the ballot in this form:

Marriage. Shall section 13 of article XIII of the constitution be created to provide that only a marriage between one man and one woman shall be valid or recognized as a marriage in this state and that a legal status identical or substantially similar to that of marriage for unmarried individuals shall not be valid or recognized in this state?

(More information can be found from the Legislative Reference Bureau’s Wisconsin Brief 06-12, Constitutional Amendment and Advisory Referendum to be considered by WI Voters, 11-7-2006: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/pubs/wb/06wb12.pdf>)

Rep. Ziegelbauer’s View:

I support the constitutional amendment that would put the current definition of marriage into our State’s Constitution, and am convinced that an overwhelming majority of the people I represent do as well.

This is an issue that has been maligned and misrepresented by those who seem to want to change the legal definition of marriage without changing these laws in the conventional manner. The question before us is not whether or not to legalize same sex marriage, but whether we will take action to ensure that the law in Wisconsin will be determined by the people acting through their dually elected Legislature, or whether we will risk allowing outside un-elected agencies or courts in other States to change it.

This Constitutional amendment is an appropriate way of making it more unlikely that the law will be changed against the people’s wishes. It seems to me that the Legislature has a responsibility to try to prevent that from happening. Remember that the question before us is not whether or not to legally recognize same sex marriage. If it were, I would be opposed because I believe that such a change would seriously undermine an important social institution that we have relied on for thousands of years.

The people of our district do not support changing the definition of marriage and neither do I. In my view, proponents of changing the definition of marriage in Wisconsin who wish to defeat this amendment are attempting to muddy the waters of the debate by distorting what the proposed amendment would do, and whether it would interfere with various private contractual arrangements already in place. My research has convinced me that will not happen, and reflects a gross misrepresentation of the facts. A plain reading of the two sentences of the amendment bears that out.

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