THE FUTURE OF MARRIAGE EQUALITY IN CALIFORNIA

Same-sex unions are here to stay in our state.

By ERWIN CHERMERINSKY

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Same-sex marriage licenses are now available in California.

The California Supreme Court has ruled that marriage is defendable by state law, not federal. When the U.S. Supreme Court in June ruled that the official proponents of Proposition 8 lacked standing in federal court to defend marriage, their 11-member panel held that marriage is constitutionally regulated by the state, not local government officials.

In addition, the court held that same-sex marriage is a right protected by the federal constitution, and this right is enforceable by the people of California through their elected officials. This right is enforceable by the people of California through their elected officials.

The court also held that the people of California have a right to marry whom they choose, and that this right is enforceable by the people of California through their elected officials.

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