



Florida Family Action ACTION ALERT

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FLORIDA4MARRIAGE.ORG
FLORIDA COALITION TO PROTECT MARRIAGE

4 South Florida newspapers report blatantly inaccurate and false information on status of petition effort.

Papers run a one month old news story that Florida4Marriage.org made the signature goal when we are actually 22,000 petitions away from making the goal.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: (Orlando, FL) Friday January 18, 2008. In an stunning display of journalistic confusion, no less than four daily newspapers tied to the EW Scripps Treasure Coast Newspaper Company printed a one month old (and therefore inaccurate) story about the status of the Florida Marriage Protection Amendment. The papers associated with the Scripps Newspaper Group include *The Stuart News*, *The Port St. Lucie News*, *The Fort Pierce/PSL Tribune* and *The Vero Beach Press Journal*. The story also appeared on the homepage of www.TCPalm.com and was reported by morning news anchors of the NBC affiliate WPTV News Channel 5 in West Palm. The news paper story carried the headline which originally appeared one month earlier in the Sun Sentinel on December 18, 2007, announced "Proposed constitutional ban on gay marriage in Fla. headed to ballot" and reported that "*the proposed constitutional ban on same sex marriage is headed directly to the November ballot... [because]...the group has collected more than the 611,009 petition signatures needed to place the amendment on the ballot.*" This misguided story borrowed from old quotes and facts related to a December 13, 2007 press conference. These stories *totally missed* the breaking news that was all over the state this week that Florida4Marriage.org needs an additional 22,000 petitions to qualify for the ballot after an unprecedented audit was ordered by the state.

While it appears to be a legitimate and embarrassing mistake, the effects of this mistake in this time of crisis and emergency make it that much more egregious to the effort.

For the record: Florida4Marriage.org is still collecting petitions and we continue to do so without stopping all the way till the deadline of Tuesday January 29, 2008. All petitions must be in the Florida4Marriage.org office no later than 5:00pm on January 29, 2008. (4853 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando FL 32806). For more information visit: www.Florida4Marriage.org

Correct and latest news stories on the amendment can be found here:

Corrected Story Online by the News Agency Making the Mistake:

<http://www.tcpalm.com/news/2008/jan/18/counting-mistake-has-same-sex-marriage-ban-propone/>

Early Story that broke this week: Ballot Short on Signatures

<http://www.floridatoday.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20080114/BREAKINGNEWS/80114087/1086>

ACTION STEPS:

- 1) PRAY: THERE IS MAJOR CONFUSION AND WE NEED THE TRUTH KNOWN
- 2) COLLECT NEW PETITIONS [HERE](#):
- 3) CONTRIBUTE BY MAKING A GIFT TO THIS EMERGENCY EFFORT [HERE](#):

UPDATED: Frequently Asked Questions, January 18, 2008

How do I find out if I have already signed the petition?

The only way to know for sure if you have already signed the petition for the Florida Marriage Amendment is to contact your county's Supervisor of Elections. *Please be patient when you call them* as they are really busy right now. You can get the contact information for all 67 county offices [HERE](#).

What is the deadline for submitting or mailing petitions?

In order for us to get all petitions into the 67 county offices we need to have all petitions physically in our offices at 4853 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando, FL 32806 by close of business on **Tuesday January 29, 2008** (the Presidential Primary election day) If you are mailing petitions, to ensure they get to us in time we recommend mailing them no later than Friday January 25, 2008. After that time, express or overnight delivery is recommended to get them in on time.

Why can't you sign the petition online or FAX or email the petition?

The petition for the Florida Marriage Amendment is an official legal document and by law requires an original signature from the registered Florida voter on a paper hard-copy of the petition. The petition may not be faxed or emailed to Florida4Marriage.org. It must be mailed to us due to the original signature requirement.

I have seen 2 addresses. Which address do I send in the petitions to?

The PO Box in Longwood and the Orange Ave. street address are both receiving the Marriage Amendment petitions. However we prefer for you to send the petitions to Florida4Marriage.org...4853 S. Orange Avenue, Orlando FL 32806 to speed up the process. **PLEASE DO NOT CHANGE THE PO BOX ADDRESS ON THE PETITION FORM OR ALTER THE PETITION FORM IN ANY WAY.**

Can I mail several petitions in together?

Yes. You can bundle together the petitions that you collect and send them to us in one envelope or package.

