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## Family Affairs Newsletter Poll 2009-02-21

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Hi Everyone,

For those of you who have recently joined the mailing list, I occasionally send out polls to the readership. Most often these polls ask the readers about things connected with The FAN, sometimes they ask about more general GLBT community feelings. The email subject line for a poll always reads: ANOTHER FAN POLL. That way, if you're interested in looking at it you can, and if you're not, then you can just delete it without even opening it to read what it's about. This poll has to do with a combination of both FAN and general things, and I could use everyone's input on this.

This is NOT an election year (thank God), so there would normally be no "political" notices sent out by The FAN, either in the regular issues or in between them.

However, the community is clearly now in a political fight (whether we like it or not) over the "marriage equality" bill in the state legislature.

I am now getting requests from a variety of fronts in the GLBT community to be posting notices about this struggle: letter writing campaigns, email campaigns, meetings, calls for folks to step forward for the newspapers/legislators/media, requests for donations, etc. Many of these requests ask for "immediate" or "near future" responses ... the kinds of things that folks would need to see fairly quickly, not just every couple of weeks when The FAN gets sent out.

Personally, I am VERY ambivalent about this whole issue (for reasons which I don't need to go into here) and would be inclined to have as little about it in The FAN as possible. But since The FAN is supposed to be supportive of the GLBTI community as a whole, and since there are clearly folks in the community who are interested in fighting over this issue right now, I figure my personal ambivalence should *not* be the deciding factor ... but *your* feelings should be.

I could send these out in the same way that I send out special political notices during election years. In those cases, the notices that folks want sent around are forwarded to The FAN readership with the subject line: THIS IS A FAN POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENT. That way folks clearly know what kind of thing is in the email. If they're interested they can open it, if they're not, they can delete it without a closer look.

So the question for you folks is this:

**Are you willing to allow me to forward "marriage equality" notices to you, following the same restrictions that I apply to political notices in other years? YES or NO.**

You will have until Sunday evening, February 22 to respond to this poll. I know it's kind of short notice, but there is a notice for an event happening a week from today that some folks wanted forwarded around.

Yours,  
Jean Vermette  
[megress@gwi.net](mailto:megress@gwi.net)

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Well Folks,

From the fact that this email contains a political announcement, you can probably deduce how the poll came out ;-)

I must say, the responses to the poll were interesting for a variety of reasons:

1. They certainly ran to the extremes of both sides. On one end there was someone who never bothered to answer the question but who spent two paragraphs berating me for even asking it, implying that I must not be very educated or caring about the community if I couldn't understand how important this was. I took that to be a "yes". On the other end was someone who so much didn't want to receive these notices that they said if I was going to send them I should take them off the subscriber list. I have complied with that request.
2. I got more responses to this poll than to any other poll that I've ever done! Almost 18% of the subscribers responded ... pretty good, when the usual response rate is about 10%.
3. The "spread" between the yeas and nays was also quite convincing ... 7 to 1 in favor of allowing "marriage equality" political announcements to be forwarded (following the same guidelines that are used in election years for candidate political announcements).

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