



***EQIL INSIDER SCOOP
JANUARY 2013***

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM EQUALITY ILLINOIS!!!

AFFECTING YOU NOW:
[MARRIAGE EQUALITY VOTE](#)

UP NEXT:
[SPECIAL FIRST FRIDAY FOR THE FREEDOM TO MARRY](#)
[WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY](#)
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[JUSTICE FOR ALL GALA](#)
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MARRIAGE EQUALITY VOTE = This is the year. THIS IS THE WEEK!!!



From the moment the civil unions bill was passed two years ago in the General Assembly, the Equality Illinois team went to work to create a fertile ground for the freedom to marry in Illinois. The momentum and support for passage of marriage equality has been building in every part of the state.

There are only a few more days to have your voices heard. Even if you think your representative and senator support the freedom to marry, you should let them know "the time is now" for a vote.

Here is what you can do: Call or email your legislator. Have your friends and family members contact them. You can find their Springfield office numbers and email them [HERE](#).

So much wonderful support has been pouring in; it's heartfelt, but it's not accidental that it is coming during this crucial period as Illinois lawmakers are returning to Springfield. Here's what's happening:

1. Equality Illinois is a founding member of the [Illinois Unites for Marriage](#) coalition, along with Lambda Legal and ACLU of Illinois. Scores of other organizations have come on board. Together we are making the case for the freedom to marry.

2. Just this morning, [African-American leaders released a letter in support of the freedom to marry.](#)

3. Also this morning, [an opinion column in Crain's Chicago Business said marriage equality is good for business.](#)

4. Another significant development was releasing the names of more than 260 supportive members of the clergy who signed a [letter](#) supporting marriage equality and saying it can be accomplished while protecting religions to decide for themselves whether to consecrate same-sex marriages. The long list of endorsers was the result of years of hard work by Caroline Staerk, Equality Illinois' Field Director and her team, who held innumerable meetings and conversations with clergy, faith leaders and their congregations.

5. Equality Illinois also released an updated [Religious Case for Marriage Equality.](#)

6. President Barack Obama [issued an important endorsement](#) of the legislation.



7. We are contacting thousands of names in our list of supporters, and adding thousands more, and urging them to write [Letters to the Editor](#) and to [contact their Illinois House and Senate members.](#) Field organizers and volunteers are staffing phone banks in Chicago and our suburban and state capital offices to make sure the voices of our community and our allies are heard in Springfield.

8. Another outgrowth of the coalition, as reported in the Sunday Tribune, is a [letter of support](#) to be released this week by Illinois business leaders.

9. Equality Illinois also released the [Business Case for Marriage Equality.](#)

10. Our CEO Bernard Cherkasov and Public Policy Director Randy Hannig have been working closely with the bill's sponsors, Rep. Greg Harris and Sen. Heather Steans, and the coalition while tapping relationships built over the years to reach out to legislators and opinion leaders throughout Illinois. They are in Springfield now for the final push.

11. It's important for our members to be informed about the developments. We've kept you posted with regular Marriage Update emails and [web page](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) (@EqualityIll) postings and will continue to do that through the final vote.

FIRST FRIDAY = This month's First Friday **supports the campaign for the freedom to marry.** Join us and our Illinois Unites for Marriage coalition partners, Lambda Legal and ACLU of Illinois, on Friday, January 4 for the always popular and fun monthly social at Sidetrack! You can learn how you can be involved in achieving marriage equality in Illinois.

This First Friday, which benefits Equality Illinois PAC, falls at a special moment. The legislature will be in session, and we want House and Senate members in Springfield to hear our voices loud and clear all the way from Chicago that the time is now for marriage equality. Learn more on [Facebook](#).

A big crowd always joins us for First Friday, so please come by for the fun, cocktails, and



prize drawings. For a \$10 donation to the Equality Illinois PAC, you receive two drink tickets and a ticket for a door prize drawing. Friday, Dec. 7, 6–8pm @ Sidetrack, 3349 North Halsted Street in Chicago (21+ with ID).

Contributions support Equality Illinois PAC. Paid for by Equality Illinois PAC. Contributions are not tax deductible. A copy of our report filed with the State Board of Elections is (or will be) available on the Board's official website, elections.il.gov, or for purchase from the State Board of Elections, Springfield, Illinois. State law requires that we report the occupation and name of the employer of any individual who contributes over \$500.00.

WOMEN'S WEDNESDAY = What are you doing Wednesday nights? The next Equality Illinois Women's Wednesday is 7 pm on January 9 at Mary's Attic in Andersonville (5400 N. Clark St., Chicago). The monthly social gathering will feature live entertainment, 10% off food specials, two drinks for \$10, door prizes, Mary-oke sing-along, and much more. [RSVP and spread the word to your friends on Facebook here.](#)

Don't miss it! Bring a friend, grab a drink, and banish the mid-week blues, all while supporting our important work on marriage equality and LGBT rights in Illinois.

TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SOCIAL = Join Equality Illinois for one of our favorite winter events! Our 2013 Transgender Community Social will be at Mayne Stage (1328 W. Morse, Chicago) from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturday, January 19th. The event has a suggested \$10 donation and will include great light bites, drink specials, and great raffle giveaways. If you are planning to join us, RSVP to info@egil.org or here on our [Facebook](#) page. Be sure to spread the word to your friends!



GALA = The **Equality Illinois 2013 Gala: *Justice for All*** will take place on **Saturday, February 9, 2013**, starting at 6:00 pm. Come see and be seen at the most elegant and fun LGBT event of the year. With well over 1,000 guests in attendance, including elected officials, candidates, and other VIPs, the Gala is one of the most impactful ways to support full equality for LGBT people. Many tables have been reserved but there are plenty of individual and group tickets available. [Learn more and purchase your tickets today HERE](#), or call [773-477-7173](tel:773-477-7173).

As always, Gala night will feature a glamorous Silent Auction, where you'll be able to bid for trips, spa treatments, art, wine, entertainment and sporting events and many other items. You get the benefit of winning an auction item, and Equality Illinois benefits so it can do its work all year long.

We look forward to seeing you at the Hilton Chicago!

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS = Calendar of Upcoming Events

JANUARY 2013

2 JAN – Legislature returns to Springfield

4 JAN – First Friday – Rally for Marriage – 6-8 pm @ Sidetrack (3349 North Halsted Street, Chicago)

9 JAN – Women's Wednesday – 7 pm @ Mary's Attic (5400 N. Clark, Chicago)

19 JAN – Transgender Community Social – Noon-3 pm @ Mayne Stage (1328 W. Morse, Chicago)

FEBRUARY 2013

1 FEB – First Friday – Sidetrack (3349 North Halsted Street, Chicago)

9 FEB – Justice for All Gala – 6 pm-Midnight @ Chicago Hilton

13 FEB – Women's Wednesday – 7 pm @ Mary's Attic (5400 N. Clark, Chicago)

If you would like an Equality Illinois speaker at your event at work, a local civic organization, on campus, a union meeting, your religious group, a home EQIL fundraiser, or wherever, please contact us at info@eqil.org or call [773-477-7173](tel:773-477-7173).

Stay informed of LGBT-equality matters by visiting us at www.eqil.org. Also, please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

We can only succeed in our mission if you stand with us, so please [make a financial contribution](#) today.