

TAKE THE VOTE. PASS MARRIAGE EQUALITY



EQIL INSIDER SCOOP NOVEMBER 2013

In the November EQIL Insider Scoop:

| AFFECTING YOU NOW | UP NEXT | JUST HAPPENED |
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| Marriage Report Last Steps The Time is Now Statewide Marriage Poll Picture This ENDA Debate Ending Passing the Bucks | First Friday Holiday Wine Tasting Vote Naked Fashion Show Musical Celebration of Equality What the Future Holds Save the Date for the 2014 Gala | March on Springfield Rita and Carol at the March Night of 100 Drag Queens |

MARRIAGE REPORT = We are less than a week away from the end of the fall legislative session, and all signs point to building momentum for a vote in the Illinois House for the freedom to marry.



We've marched for marriage equality, released a poll showing a historic 12-point majority in support of the freedom to marry, sent tens of thousands of messages to legislators, rallied hundreds of clergy and business supporters, secured newspaper endorsements from every corner of Illinois. The national momentum continues with the addition of New Jersey to the marriage rolls, and Hawaii is holding a special legislative session to consider the issue.

But nothing is certain, no commitment is locked in, until the vote is taken in the House. **WE CANNOT AFFORD TO LET UP NOW.** Every House member—supporters, fence-sitters or even those who say they'll vote 'no'—needs to hear from their constituents, **FROM YOU**, one more time. Even House members in the 'yes' column need to know that Illinois can't wait any longer for the freedom to marry. We'll help you find your lawmaker with these links:

EMAIL - <http://ilunites.org/callthebill>

CALL - <http://ilunites.org/call>

And please keep up the chatter on Facebook, Twitter, and other social media.

Use **#IL4M** and **#ILCantWait**. This is the last week and we cannot leave any stone unturned.

Equality Illinois advocates will be in Springfield all week to keep you up to date through emails and postings on Facebook and Twitter.

THE TIME IS NOW = In a disappointing moment we all remember that on May 31, state Rep. Greg Harris, chief House sponsor of the marriage bill, held off action at the request of some of his colleagues, who promised him they would return in November ready to vote for the freedom to marry. [In this powerful new video released yesterday](#), Harris's commitment is recalled as couples throughout Illinois relate to 'The Time is Now' to pass the measure. [Take a look.](#)



**MARRIAGE
EQUALITY**



**NEW EQUALITY ILLINOIS
STATEWIDE POLL SHOWS THE
FREEDOM TO MARRY IS
SUPPORTED BY:**

- 52 percent of all Illinoisans
- 61 percent of Catholics
- 63 percent of Hispanics
- 55 percent of African Americans
- 57 percent of women
- 63 percent of voters under 50 and 78 percent of voters under 25

MARRIAGE POLL = As lawmakers returned to Springfield on Oct. 22, they were greeted by a statewide poll commissioned by Equality Illinois that showed that a strong majority of 52 percent of Illinois voters support legalizing marriage for gay and lesbian couples. The figure grew to 54 percent support when pollsters shared information about the summer's U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned federal restrictions against recognizing same-sex

marriages.

Some of the most notable majorities were among women, minority voters, Catholic voters and younger voters. Voters who identified as Catholic favored the freedom to marry by a 2-to-1 margin, and actually offered more support for marriage equality when told that some public figures, including Catholic bishops, oppose marriage between same-sex couples. [Read the comprehensive EQIL Marriage Poll Report here.](#)

"With Illinois same-sex couples suffering because they cannot access federal benefits available to married couples, the time is now in the fall legislative session for the House to complete its unfinished business on the marriage bill," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois.

"With these poll results, there is certainly no political reason why representatives shouldn't pass it in overwhelming numbers," Cherkasov continued. "There are simply no excuses left. We expect every House member who has expressed support publicly or privately for marriage equality or who has been leaning in favor of it to vote 'aye.'"

"This is the time for courage and leadership, and not political calculations. And those who stand in the way of the clear majority of Illinoisans will be held accountable by their constituents," Cherkasov said.

PICTURE THIS = There are new images for this final push to pass the freedom to marry, such as the one at the top of this EQIL Insider. You can download each one right from this page and use them to print out as posters at home, work, school and car and for social media sites. Upload them to your Facebook and Twitter accounts. **Just *right* click on the image you want below and save.**

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PASSING THE BUCKS = Education, Advocacy, and Elections. Those are the three major pillars of the Equality Illinois strategy on marriage equality and many other issues affecting LGBT Illinoisans. Elections fall under the purview of the Equality Illinois PAC. In the marriage campaign, the EQIL PAC is donating this fall to those candidates sponsoring the marriage bill who need our support the most, according to Randy Hannig, Director of Public Policy of Equality Illinois. [Read a Windy City Times article explaining the EQIL PAC campaign in more detail.](#) The EQIL PAC is funded by events

such as First Friday.



FIRST FRIDAY = Join Equality Illinois PAC, tonight, Friday, November 1 for the always popular and fun monthly social. Tonight we welcome the Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles, whose upcoming concert on Saturday, Nov. 9 will benefit Equality Illinois. (See concert details below.)

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, November 1, 6–8pm @ Sidetrack, 3349 North Halsted Street in Chicago (21+ with ID). Find out more on [Facebook](#).

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.

ENDA DEBATE ENDING = The end is in sight for the endless U.S. Senate debate over ENDA and whether LGBT employees can be discriminated against in the workplace. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid has set a key procedural vote for Monday afternoon on whether the Senate will consider the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. If the motion receives 60 votes, the bill will be up for a debate with a vote expected on Wednesday. The last time the full Senate took up the measure was in 1996, when it failed by one vote. The transgender-inclusive measure has the support of Illinois U.S. Senators Dick Durbin (D) and Mark Kirk (R). Kirk is one of only two Republicans to sign on as cosponsors.

**HOLIDAY
SEASON
WINE
TASTING
PARTY**
BENEFITTING
EQUALITY ILLINOIS PAC



WEDNESDAY, NOV. 6

VIP EARLY TASTING 5:30-6:30

General admission: 6:30-9pm

sample more than

99
wines
from around the world

**TICKETS
STRICTLY
LIMITED**



BOTTLES & CASES OF WINE WILL ALSO BE **AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE** SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY & PRIOR SALE

Purchase your ticket today and join Equality Illinois at Sidetrack (3349 N. Halsted St. Chicago) on Wednesday, November 6th from 6:30:00pm. For just a \$20 donation to Equality Illinois PAC, you will get to enjoy light bites and wines that cater to all palates and budgets. funds raised support our efforts to elect pro-equality lawmakers across the state. Tickets are available for purchase here now!

Please note that due to the nature of PAC events, each attendee must register and pay individually. A phone number is required to complete your online registration, but will ONLY be used as an identifier at the door at Sidetrack.

²aid 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, www.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.

THE MENZ ROOM SALON & EQUALITY ILLINOIS
PRESENT:



★ VOTE NAKED ★

2013 HAIR & FASHION SHOW

THE EVENING OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8TH

HYDRATE NIGHTCLUB | 8PM

\$10 HOSTED BAR 8PM – 9PM

Come join the fun at the 'Vote Naked 2013 Hair & Fashion Show' and benefit the mission of Equality Illinois at the same time.

The evening features hair styles by Menz Room Salon, runway looks by Cram Fashion and a performance by Branden James of "America's Got Talent."



PRESENTS

STAND UP! A Musical Celebration of Equality

A PORTION OF THE PROCEEDS FROM ALL
TICKET SALES FOR THIS CONCERT BENEFIT
EQUALITY ILLINOIS.



TICKETS ON SALE NOW ONLINE!

Saturday, Nov. 9 @ 7:00 p.m.
Nettelhorst School Auditorium, 3252 N. Broadway, Chicago

WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS = Calendar of Upcoming Events

NOVEMBER 2013

1 NOVEMBER – First Friday – 6 pm @ Sidetrack (3349 N. Halsted St., Chicago)

5-7 NOVEMBER – Illinois House in session @ Illinois State Capitol (Springfield)

6 NOVEMBER – Fall Wine Tasting – 6 pm @ Sidetrack (3349 N. Halsted St., Chicago)

8 NOVEMBER – Vote Naked Fashion Show – 8 pm @ Hydrate (3458 N. Halsted St., Chicago)

9 NOVEMBER – Lakeside Pride Music Ensembles – 7 pm @ Nettelhorst School (3252 N. Broadway, Chicago)

DECEMBER 2013

6 DECEMBER – Big Gay Gathering – Networking event for high schoolers – 4 pm @ Emhurst College

6 DECEMBER – First Friday – 6 pm @ Sidetrack (3349 N. Halsted St., Chicago)

Thousands of Illinoisans joined the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality on October 22, the day the legislature reopens for its fall session, and thousands more around the state watched a [video stream](#) of the event.

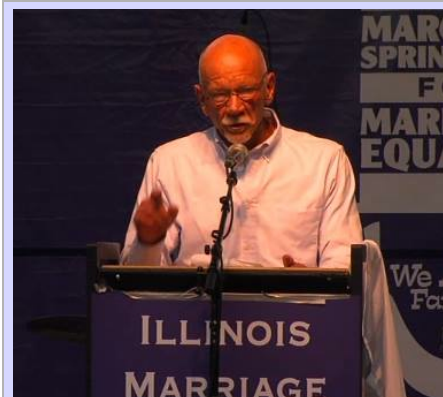
The day included an Equality Illinois press conference inside the Capitol rotunda.



A steady day-long rain did not dampen the enthusiasm of the marriage equality supporters, who were inspired by songs and speeches. [Relive the day in a photo gallery](#), courtesy of Alyssa Eisenstein.



The Equality Illinois press conference included Gov. Pat Quinn (on left), U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin (on right), Atty. Gen. Lisa Madigan, Comptroller Judy Baar Topinka, marriage bill sponsor Rep. Greg Harris (center), and numerous legislative supporters.



Among the many profound arguments offered during the March on Springfield was the perspective offered by Equality Illinois co-founder Art Johnston, who said it was time for Illinois to lead again. [Please read his remarks here.](#)



RITA AND CAROL = The send offs around the state to the March on Springfield for Marriage Equality were almost as much fun as the rally itself. Outside Chicago Recycling Center on Halsted, TV crews from Channel 2 (CBS), Channel 5 (NBC), Channel 32 (FOX) and Channel 32 (FOX) huddled in the morning chill to capture the day and talk to such participants as Rita Battles and Carol Hedin (seen here talking to WGN's Tonya Francisco), who made the trip on their 31st anniversary aboard the EQIL buses.

[Watch the WGN report here.](#)



Night of 100 Drag Queens was a great success. Thanks to all who joined the fun and to Sidetrack for hosting the benefit, with proceeds going to help our mission at Equality Illinois.

A lot of fun photos were taken over the two nights, and you can see the highlights [HERE](#).

We look forward to seeing you next year!



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.