



# JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE /

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **THE JACL JOINS MARRIAGE EQUALITY CAMPAIGN**

The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) has joined the “No on Prop 8 Equality for All” Campaign in support of marriage equality in the state of California. This campaign is an effort to defeat Proposition 8 in November which, if enacted, would not recognize any marriage that is not between a man and a woman.

The JACL has been an advocate of marriage equality for years, being one of the first non-LGBT organizations in the nation to support this issue. When the California Supreme Court overturned the ban on gay marriage in May, JACL National President Larry Oda stated, “The JACL commends the California Supreme Court for its decision regarding marriage equality for all Californians. We feel all people should have the right to marry whom they choose. This proposition would blatantly deny a specific group of people the respect and dignity of equal treatment under the law. We will continue our work to support similar efforts in states across our nation.”

Several JACL Chapters have already made statements against California’s Proposition 8 and an organized effort to defeat this proposition in support of gay rights is already under way.

"We are proud to work with the Japanese American Citizens League on the NO on Prop 8 campaign to ensure that no Californian is treated differently under the laws of our state," said Steve Smith, senior strategist for NO on Prop 8. "Gay and lesbian people are our neighbors, our friends, our coworkers and our family members. We should not hurt gay and lesbian couples in California by voting to eliminate their freedom to marry the person they love. Together we will work to ensure that no one is singled out for unfair treatment under our constitution."

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The Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) is commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the Civil Liberties Act of 1988 and the Redress Movement. The National JACL Gala Event in Washington, D.C. will be held on Thursday, September 25, 2008. For information on the JACL or to join, please visit the website at [www.jacl.org](http://www.jacl.org).