

**WATSONVILLE-SANTA CRUZ CHAPTER  
JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE  
P.O. Box 163, Watsonville, CA 95077-0163**

October 1, 2008



**Board of Directors**

Marcia Hashimoto,  
President  
Paul Kaneko,  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Mas Hashimoto,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
Joe Bowes  
April Goral  
Jeanette Hager  
David Kadotani  
Carol Kaneko  
Kimi Kimura  
Victor Kimura  
Cindy Hirokawa Mine  
Gary Mine  
Bobbi Jo Palmer  
Philip Shima  
Iwao Yamashita

Dear Santa Cruz County Voter:

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz chapter of the National Japanese American Citizens League (JACL) has joined the “No on Prop. 8” campaign in support of marriage equality in the state of California.

As a civil rights organization with nearly a 75-year history of advocating for the fair treatment of all people, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL reaffirms its stance first taken in 1994 by the National JACL to support marriage equality and the right to choose one’s partner. JACL encourages every voter to oppose Proposition 8, which would amend the California Constitution to restrict the civil and human rights of thousands by recognizing marriage as valid only between a man and a woman.

When the California Supreme Court overturned the ban on gay marriage on May 18th of this year, National JACL President Larry Oda stated, “The JACL commends the California Supreme Court for its decision regarding marriage equality for all Californians. We believe all people should have the right to marry whom they choose.” Proposition 8 “would blatantly deny a specific group of people the respect and dignity of equal treatment under the law,” Oda added.

Domestic partnerships limit the rights of couples, while marriage equality protects the rights of all couples.

Civil rights organizations that are part of the anti-Proposition 8 coalition include (a partial list) Asian and Pacific Islander Equality (Los Angeles and San Francisco), Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California and Chinese for Affirmative Action (San Francisco).

Regardless of how you feel about this issue, please help guarantee the same fundamental rights and equality of every Californian.

Join us in voting “No on Prop. 8” on November 4<sup>th</sup>.

Sincerely,

Marcia Hashimoto, President  
Watsonville-Santa Cruz JACL