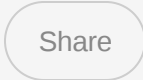
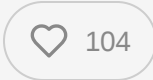


California Republicans To Try Anti-Trans Ballot Initiatives - Prop 8 All Over Again?

In what may bring back memories of Proposition 8, the ill-fated initiative banning gay marriage that was ruled unconstitutional, California may see anti-trans ballot initiatives introduced soon.



ERIN REED
AUG 28, 2023

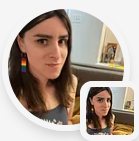


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Voters in California may remember **Proposition 8**, a ballot initiative that sought to ban gay marriage by defining marriage as between a man and a woman. The initiative, which passed by popular vote in 2008, stood as one of the final victories for anti-gay campaigners until it was ultimately rolled back in 2010 as unconstitutionally



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le and Erin Friday are rget in mind: transgender

lloot initiatives targeting 24 general election. To get 1 for a straightforward; such numbers is a g transgender people from today's political climate rervative voices are) states have already

- **Forced outing of transgender youth** to their parents, ensuring that trans kids cannot have safety or privacy in schools if they are not ready to come out to family. Often these policies also include violations of privacy for the student when they discuss their gender identity with school counselors.
- **Banning of transgender youth from sports** that match their gender identity, stigmatizing them and often forcing them out of sports altogether. Notably, these provisions typically fail to differentiate between high-stakes elite competitions and casual middle school teams. They also generally don't provide for pathways to

participation like hormone therapy, a method that has been researched and employed to address concerns of potential "unfair advantages" in competitions. California, which allows youth to access gender affirming care, will have youth who never underwent the puberty of their assigned sex at birth who would also be banned under this provision.

- **Banning gender affirming care for trans youth** shown to be lifesaving. Gender affirming care is associated with a **73% reduction** in suicidality and **over 50 studies** assembled by Cornell University show its benefits. California is one of several states that has recently moved to protect transgender youth and their medical care, and such a restriction would impact a large number of transgender kids in the state.

The initiatives were published in a **press release** from the organization seen here:

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Justin@CaporussoCommunications.com**MEDIA ADVISORY**

WHO: Protect Kids California
Jonathan Zachreson, Students First California President
Jay Reed, Students First California Board Member

Impacted Individuals
Erin Friday, Parent, Our Duty
Sophia Lorey, former NAIA Athlete
Chloe Cole, Detransitioner

Assemblyman Bill Essayli and Assemblyman Joe Patterson will also be in attendance.

WHAT: The founders of Students First California have created a special committee called Protect Kids California to advance three statewide initiatives. Protect Kids California will be submitting these initiatives to the State Attorney General for the November 2024 General Election.

The initiatives seek to:

- Require schools notify parents when a child requests the school to treat them as transgender;
- Protect girls' sports and spaces by preventing biological boys from competing against biological girls; and,
- Prevent the sterilization of children by prohibiting the use of puberty blockers, cross sex hormones, and genital surgeries for minors.
- Visit www.ProtectKidsCA.com for more information.

WHEN: August 28, 2023 (Monday)
3:00 p.m.

WHERE: State Capitol; West Steps

-###-

[Press release on attempt to collect anti-trans signatures.](#)

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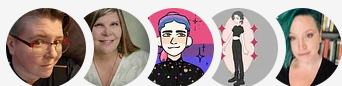
Securing the necessary signatures will be difficult. Since 2010, **only 12%** of all ballot initiatives have been certified. Once the initiatives are announced, they'll be forwarded to the California Attorney General's Office for review. Subsequently, they will draft descriptions of the ballot measures. Collection of signatures is slated to begin on October 26th, as reported by the **Sacramento Bee**. The deadline to gather the required signatures is May 9th, 2024.

California has long been a significant battleground for LGBTQ+ rights using ballot initiatives. In the lead-up to 2008's Proposition 8, **30 states** had already inscribed bans on gay marriage in their constitutions. Although California was perceived as largely supportive of LGBTQ+ rights, that image took a hit when Proposition 8, which defined marriage exclusively as a union between a man and a woman, passed with 52% of the vote in November 2008. While this marked a major triumph for opponents of gay marriage, it proved to be one of their final successes. By 2010, Proposition 8 was invalidated in federal court. Subsequent years saw the dismantling of state-level gay marriage bans, culminating in the 2015 **Obergefell** decision, which secured the right to marry for all LGBTQ+ individuals.

Senator Scott Wiener, author of California's safe-state law, **similarly commented** on the initiative by comparing it to an initiative filed 45 years ago. **California proposition 6**, which was voted on in 1978, would have banned gay teachers from teaching in the state. Famous gay rights campaigner Harvey Milk was instrumental in its defeat.

While most anti-LGBTQ+ laws have taken root in states dominated by Republican legislators, eyes will now turn to California to discern whether anti-trans campaigns can find footing there. Even though polls indicate that the majority of Americans **don't rank transgender issues** as a top concern, this situation will serve as a crucial test to determine if Republicans can use prejudice against transgender individuals as a dividing issue during a significant election cycle.

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11 Comments



Miriam 8 hrs ago

None of us will be safe anywhere if a Republican wins the White House in 24.

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Lori Waters Writes Mama Loveshine's Horoscopes of ... 8 hrs ago

As a Californian, I greatly appreciate you letting us know that this attempt to put hate on the ballot is happening. I would hope we can organize and get in front of this to kill it in the signing stage. I'll be contacting my local pride center and I suggest other Californians do as well. Let's find a way to get the word out so no one signs this atrocity.

♡ LIKE (17) 💬 REPLY ⋮

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