



# ALICE B. TOKLAS

LESBIAN • GAY • BISEXUAL • TRANSGENDER

# DEMOCRATIC CLUB

## **Alice B Toklas LGBT Democratic Club Endorses an Initiative to Repeal Proposition 8 in 2012**

After reviewing data from the polling coalition's statewide survey, and examining the potential challenges and pitfalls, the Board of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club has decided to endorse moving forward toward repeal of Proposition 8 in 2012. While we understand the strong arguments in favor of placing a measure on the 2010 ballot, we are virtually unanimous in feeling that the gains the LGBT community and our allies need to collectively achieve are more suited to a slightly longer timetable. We believe that our ability to do the groundwork critical to success, and not our outrage over the passage of Prop. 8, should drive the decision. However, we are confident that if the community elects to place a measure on the ballot in 2010, our members will be on the front lines, fighting to ensure that marriage equality is victorious at the ballot box

We have reviewed the commentaries of several other organizations. Love Honor Cherish, a marriage equality group, [points out a number of compelling arguments](#) in favor of 2010. They argue, quite correctly, that, in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., justice delayed is justice denied. Our defeat in 2008 was, indeed, a devastating loss, and the fervor we feel to act now reflects this sentiment. We take seriously the internal membership polling by groups such as Equality California and the Courage Campaign showing large super-majorities in favor of 2010. The excitement and motivation is clearly there. We agree that we must harness that determination now and build a winning campaign.

However, we also understand that winning a positive initiative campaign in California is exceedingly difficult. As a number of groups wrote in the ["Prepare to Prevail" Letter](#), it requires vast sums of money, huge numbers of voter contacts, a broad coalition and an organizational structure that is set up to succeed. While all of this may be possible for 2010, it would require a rush that could possibly cause our community to take shortcuts, miss important messages and fail to make critical connections. If we set the vote for 2010, we essentially need to net 1,000 voters per day, a theoretically achievable but extraordinarily ambitious goal. By moving forward toward 2012, we provide ourselves a more realistic schedule to build the critical infrastructure and coalitions that we never quite realized in 2008.

In the end, we simply believe that 2012 offers the better strategic opportunity to pass a repeal of Prop 8. However, whether the LGBT community chooses 2010 or 2012 for the vote, the Alice B Toklas LGBT Democratic Club will work tirelessly to ensure that the stain of inequality left in our state constitution by Proposition 8 is removed once and for all.

### **About The Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club**

The Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club is the oldest LGBT focused Democratic Club in the nation, having originally formed in 1972. Since that time, Alice has been a consistent and vocal advocate for LGBT rights at the local, state, and federal levels. The Club is among the most active and effective political organizations in California, and is known for its field and mail campaigns in support of candidates and campaigns which the Club has endorsed. More information can be found at the Club's website, <http://www.alicebtoklas.org>.