



**City of Long Beach**  
Working Together to Serve

**Office of Gerrie Schipske**  
**Councilwoman, Fifth District**  
**Memorandum**  
**NB-40**

Date: August 19, 2008

To: HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL

From: Council Member Bonnie Lowenthal, First District *BL*  
Councilwoman Gerrie Schipske, Fifth District *GS*  
Councilmember Tonia Reyes-Uranga, Seventh District *TRU*

Subject: AGENDA ITEM: Resolution in Opposition of Proposition 8

**Background:**

Earlier this summer, the California Supreme Court overturned Proposition 22, which was previously approved by the majority of voters. The Supreme Court overturned the proposition on the basis that while denying the rights of same-gender couples to marry may be popular, it is in fact unconstitutional. The Supreme Court affirmed that whether one believes that same-gender marriage is right or wrong is a matter of personal conviction and should not be one of government interference.

This November, Proposition 8 is on the state ballot and if enacted would re-write our state constitution to deny the fundamental right of two people to marry. Moreover, it would void the thousands of marriages that have been performed since the Supreme Court ruled that they were legal.

In a free society, two people in a committed, trusting and loving relationship expect the freedom to marry and the honor and support that come with marriage. We should not support any attempt to make their marriage illegal.

On June 17, 2008, the Los Angeles Times published the following editorial that eloquently sums up this issue:

*"Civil rights are commonly hard-won, and not the result of widespread consensus. Whites in the South vehemently rejected the 1954 Supreme Court decision to desegregate schools. For that matter, Californians have accused the state Supreme Court of obstructing the people's will on marriage before – in 1948, when it struck down a ban on interracial marriages.*

*"Fundamental rights are exactly that. They should neither wait for popular acceptance, nor be revoked because it is lacking."*

**Recommendation:**

It is respectfully recommended that the Long Beach City Council should take a position against Proposition 8 and that it request the City Attorney to draft a resolution expressing its opposition to Proposition 8 on the basis that this Council stands for justice and equality and that it re-affirms our support for the marriage of same gender couples.