

# Gay Rights in Alaska

Amy Young


On January 19, 1993 the Anchorage Municipal Assembly passed into law the first gay rights bill in Alaska. The bill amends the municipal civil rights code to protect municipal employees and individuals working for private municipal contractors with over 35 employees from discrimination based on sexual orientation. The January 19 vote of 8-3 followed 5 weeks of heated public hearings and overrode a veto issued by the mayor of Anchorage the week before. This bill was a compromise bill; the original bill would have protected all Anchorage citizens.

Strong opposition to the amendment has been spearheaded by the religious right.


In response to the passage of the bill, a group calling itself "Citizens to Repeal the Homosexual Ordinance" circulated a petition and collected enough signatures to put the issue to a public vote in the April elections. Their campaign is designed to fan the flames of fear and hate with misleading information. Already Anchorage has experienced a rise in hate crimes. Most recently two gay men were attacked with baseball bats by a group of teenagers in the parking lot of a local restaurant.

At present gay activists and allies are preparing a campaign to defeat the referendum proposed by the religious right, but we need your help. The election is


April 20th so we need to act fast. However, since we exhausted many of our local resources attempting to pass the initial amendment protecting gays and lesbians in Anchorage, we are asking all our friends in the lower 48 for help. Please send donations to **Alaskans for Civil Rights, PO Box 20143, Anchorage, AK 99520** or for more information contact Kathleen Metcalf, campaign manager at (907) 258-3439. ▼



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## Where to Find OITM

### Bennington

Bennington Free Library  
Bennington College  
Bennington Library  
Record Rack  
Southern Vermont College

### Brattleboro

Brattleboro Food CoopCahoots  
Common Ground  
Everyone's Books

### Burlington

Burlington College  
Chassman & Bem  
Fletcher Free Library  
Partners in Recovery & Growth  
Peace & Justice Center  
Pearls  
Planned Parenthood

### Castleton

STEP Learning Center

### Chester

Misty Valley Books Chester

### Craftsbury

Craftsbury Public Library

### Center Rutland

Rutland Area Gay/Lesbian Connection

### East Barnet

Innwood Manor

### East Hardwick

Greenhope Farm

### Fair Haven

Fair Haven Free Library

### Hardwick

Buffalo Mountain Coop  
Galaxy Books

### Lyndonville

Jon's Automotive  
Project EXCEL, Lyndon State College

### Manchester Center

Northshire Bookstore

### Middlebury

Middlebury Natural Food Coop

### Montpelier

Bear Pond Books  
Horn of the Moon Cafe  
Rivendell Books  
Woman Centered

### Morrisville

Morristown Centennial Library

### Newfane

Moore Free Library

### Newport

Northeast Kingdom AIDS Coalition

### Northfield

Brown Public Library

### Norwich

Social Alternatives for Gay Men

### Plainfield

Woman's Study Program

### Putney

Putney Library

### Randolph

Kimball Public Library

### Rutland

PFLAG  
Rutland Free Library

### St. Johnsbury

LUNA/NEVGALR c/o Umbrella  
Natural Provisions  
Regional Library  
St. Johnsbury Athenaeum

### Stowe

Food for Thought

### White River Junction

WRJ Books  
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