

# OITM Roundup: State, National and World News Briefs

compiled by Kip M. Roberson  
OITM Staff

## Anti-gay referendum fails in Maine

**PORTLAND, ME** -- Maine's anti-gay rights referendum was rejected on Tuesday, November 7, by a 53 to 47 percent margin, leaving opponents of the measure overjoyed and referendum supporters defiant and disbelieving. Question 1, the only anti-gay measure on a state ballot last year, was the first such initiative to appear on a state ballot east of the Rocky Mountains. In 1994, voters in Idaho and Oregon rejected anti-gay measures.

The rejection of Question 1 keeps intact gay rights ordinances in Portland and Long Island. It also keeps gay people on the list of those protected under the state's hate crimes law. The defeat of Question 1 left existing laws unchanged.

Carolyn Crosby, the Portland housewife who spearheaded the anti-gay rights referendum as head of Concerned Maine Families, was defiant in her defeat. "If they win, so what? After all, look at what they had to work with," she said of Maine Won't Discriminate, which raised more than \$1 million, about ten times more than the pro-referendum camps.

"Common sense and decency triumphed over extremism. Today's vote here in Maine is in keeping with the national trend. Americans are rejecting extremism," according to Human Rights Campaign executive director Elizabeth Birch. But Alan Stearns, a gay rights advocate from Portland, warned, "We're going to have a long fight ahead of us. These people will be back. These people don't go away." (*Gannett Communications/HRC*)

## Domestic partners ordinance overturned

**NORTHAMPTON, MA** -- Northampton's domestic partner ordinance, which was passed 8-0 by the City Council last May, was overturned on November 7, by a razor-thin margin of 87 votes out of almost 9,500 cast -- less than one percent of the total.

For opponents, organized in a group called Northampton for Traditional Values (NTV), the vote was a vindication of their crusade against what they called an immoral redefinition of family according to a "homosexual agenda." But for supporters, the outcome showed that despite its large lesbian population -- which has attracted national publicity and brought Northampton the nickname "Lesbianville" -- the city has a long way to go toward true acceptance of gay relationships.

Both sides agreed the domestic partner ordinance was largely symbolic: it allowed unmarried straight and gay couples to obtain a registration certificate at City Hall; enjoy partner visitation rights at city-owned jails and hospitals, neither of which the city currently

owns; and arrange for a partner who is not a legal parent to pick up the couple's dependent child at school, which previously was informally allowed. (*Washington Blade*)

## NH group to support civil rights bill

**CONCORD, NH** -- The Coalition to End Discrimination (CED) will support the introduction of a bill in the New Hampshire Senate to amend civil rights legislation to include 'sexual orientation.' Currently, New Hampshire citizens can lose their jobs, housing or be refused service based solely on their sexual orientation. This new bill is similar to the bill which was introduced two years ago, but will not have the restrictive amendments which were added during the legislative process.

CED believes this is the proper time to introduce the legislation. The attempts to limit free speech in Merrimack and Bedford, and to ban books in New Ipswich, are drawing national attention. In addition, some positive steps have been taken around the country -- including Rhode Island becoming the ninth state to protect the rights of lesbians and gays. New Hampshire and Maine are now the only New England states that do not have this legislation. (*Breathing Space*)

## Health Resources

### AIDS HOTLINES:

Vermont	800-882-2437
New Hampshire	800-752-2437
New York State	800-541-2437
Massachusetts	617-522-4090
Maine	800-851-2437
National	800-342-2437
Canadian	613-563-2437

### AIDS Community Awareness Project (ACAP)

PO Box 608  
St. Johnsbury, VT 05819  
(802) 748-1149

### AIDS Community Resource Network (ACoRN)

PO Box 2057  
Lebanon, NH 03766  
(603) 448-2220

### Bennington Area AIDS Project

PO Box 1066  
Bennington, VT 05201  
(802) 442-4481 or 1-800-845-2437

### Brattleboro AIDS Project

PO Box 1486  
Brattleboro, VT 05302  
(802) 254-4444 (Helpline)  
(802) 254-8263 (Office)

### Franklin-Grand Isle

**AIDS Task Force**  
P. O. Box 241, St.  
Albans, VT 05478  
(800) 524-7742 • (802) 638-7834

### Gay/Lesbian Alcoholics

**Anonymous**  
GLAA, P.O. Box 5653  
Burlington, VT 05402  
(802) 658-4221

### Lesbian Cancer Support Group (802)

660-8386

### North Star (Holistic Health Care)

RR2 Box 3255  
Morrisville, VT 05661  
(802) 888-2858

### Vermont AIDS Council

PO Box 275  
Montpelier VT 05601  
(802) 229-2557

### Vermont C.A.R.E.S.

**(Committee for AIDS Resources, Education, and Services)**  
PO Box 5248 • 37 Elmwood Ave., Burlington, VT 05401  
(802) 863-2437 (Burlington)  
1-800-649-2437 (VT)

### Vermont Department of Health

1-800-882-2437 (AIDS Hotline)  
or (802) 863-7245  
(AIDS Program office)

### VT PWA Coalition

PO Box 11  
Montpelier, VT 05452  
1-800-69-VT-PWA or (802) 229-5754

### Vermont Women's

**Health Center**  
336 North Avenue  
Burlington, VT 05401  
(802) 863-1386

**Don't forget your rubbers.**

You don't get it from toilet seats. You don't get it from coffee cups. You don't get it from desk tops in a school room. It doesn't fly through the air or swim around in hot tubs. You don't catch it from shaking hands, kissing, sneezing, wrestling or dancing. According to the Surgeon General, your best protection against AIDS, barring abstinence, is use of a condom. For the facts about AIDS, call the Vermont AIDS Hotline.

**VERMONT AIDS HOTLINE: 1-800-882-AIDS**

©1987, State Department of Health, Division of Epidemiology,  
60 Main Street, P.O. Box 70, Burlington, Vermont 05402