

Will our Government ever Recognize Same-Sex Relationships? Read on. You can help make history in Milwaukee.

We can Pass Milwaukee's Domestic Partnership Registry Ordinance!

What can I do to pass the Domestic Partnership Registry? Call your alderperson at 286-2221. Ask him or her to support the Domestic Partnership Registry and leave your name and address. If you don't know who your alderperson is, the receptionist can help you. You can also call Mayor Norquist at 286-2200 to ask for his support.

What is the Domestic Partnership Registry Ordinance? The Domestic Partnership Registry Ordinance would allow same-sex couples who met strict criteria to publicly pledge their commitment to each other by voluntarily registering their relationship with Milwaukee's City Clerk. The Domestic Partnership Registry Ordinance would encourage private, non-religious businesses to treat same-sex couples the same way as married couples. For example, a health club or video store would be encouraged to offer the same rate to married and same-sex couples.

Does the Domestic Partnership Registry Ordinance create new legal standing? City governments are limited by state law as to what they can regulate. While the Milwaukee Registry does not do much to create new rights or responsibilities -- it wouldn't give one partner the right to the other's health insurance, for example -- it does support committed, stable same-sex couples.

Will the Domestic Partnership Registry Ordinance encourage domestic partner policies by employers? Absolutely. By establishing a common, verifiable definition of domestic partnership and creating awareness of diverse family types, the Registry encourages companies to voluntarily adopt domestic partnership policies that include same-sex partners for bereavement leave, health insurance and other benefits.

How would the Registry work? Under the measure, a same-sex couple would go to the City Clerk's office, complete an application form, show proof of their relationship, such as a shared residence; and pay a \$30 registration fee. The City Clerk would be notified by either partner if there was a change in domestic partnership status. A partner would not be allowed to register a new domestic partnership until 12 months had passed, unless the previous partnership had dissolved due to the death of one of the partners. According to Milwaukee's Legislative Reference Bureau, more than 50 cities, including Madison, WI; St. Louis, MO; and Oak Park, IL; offer domestic partner registries to their citizens.

Who supports the Domestic Partnership Registry?

- Sponsored by Ald. Mike D'Amato
- Cosponsored by Aids. George Butler and Paul Henningsen (as of printing)
- Equal Rights Commission, Milwaukee's official civil rights organization, which called for Milwaukee to create a domestic partnership registry at its March 16, 1999 meeting.
- The Domestic Partnership Task Force, a coalition of neighborhood and civil rights organizations that as of printing included:
 - ☞ Milwaukee LGBT Community Center ☞ the Black Gay and Lesbian Task Force ☞ Action Wisconsin ☞ Lesbian Alliance of Metro Milwaukee ☞ HRL ☞ Pride Milwaukee ☞ Sherman Park Rainbow Association ☞ Riverwest Rainbow Association.

What will the Domestic Partnership Registry cost the City? Absolutely nothing. The cost of keeping a Registry would be covered by a \$30 registration fee.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT THE DOMESTIC PARTNERSHIP TASK FORCE AT 225-1621.
Domestic Partnership Task Force, 170 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee WI 53204**