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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gays, lesbians, people, portland, oregon, voters, state, amendment, ordinance, called, measure, rural communities, community, ballot measure, supported, colorado voters, colorado, anti gay rights, kevin, discrimination

SPEAKERS

Kay Harper, Larry Bensky, Greg Gordon, Jeff Mackey



00:01

Glickman blames voter confusion and the campaign Kayden and others lead for the repeal of the ordinance language. She says some people who supported the ordinance voted yes, not realizing that a positive vote was actually a vote against the protection for gays and lesbians. Although Glickman sees the repeal as a backlash against the gay community in Tampa, she predicts the vote will serve as a wake up call to those people who didn't actively fight it during this election.



00:26

I think that people who have been complacent are going to be gravely concerned by this effort, which has clearly stated it is now legal to discriminate against gays there is no recourse for them under the current set of laws,



00:41

but the American family associations David Kayden says he's ready for any attempt to reverse the Tampa vote



00:47

if the homosexual community tries to do something again, given the fact that the voters of Tampa have clearly and resoundingly rejected anti discrimination laws to protect sexual behavior. We believe it would be misfeasance on the part of any public official at this point in time to even consider the adoption of an ordinance and reverse what the voters have demanded to be done. And we would do a voter recall on those city council members immediately



01:18

for this way out, I'm Susan gage in Tallahassee.



L Larry Bensky 01:22

A different result in the other municipality considering gay rights legislation, Portland, Maine, where the city council proposed and the voters have ratified a gay rights ordinance. One of the city council members who proposed that ordinance is Peter O'Donnell, you are not a member of the gay and lesbian community yourself, but you undertook to represent them in this case. Why?



01:46

Well, I think of this issue was making sure that we protect every member of our community. And clearly what this did is this protected this ordinance said that we won't charge any person regardless of their sexual orientation, or their sexual orientation. What we said is we want people to have a fair and equal playing field. We want to be able to judge you on the contributions you bring to the public sector. After you go out of your house. Every day we want to judge you based on that contribution. Portland people have always stood up against discrimination.



L Larry Bensky 02:21

Peter O'Donnell, Portland, Maine city council member explaining the vote first by the City Council to pass a gay rights ordinance passed by an overwhelming margin by the voters of Portland, Maine 57% to 43%.



G Greg Gordon 02:34

That report by Larry Bensky



02:38

for the first time since 1964, a majority of Colorado voters supported a Democrat for president. They're also sending the first Native American in 50 years Ben Nighthorse Campbell to the Senate, but by a margin of 53% to 47%. Colorado voters have forbidden state and local governments from banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. Amendment to repeals existing gay rights laws in Denver Boulder and Aspen. epoch is the equal protection campaign which oppose the measure. They attributed passage to fear of gays and lesbians among voters inspired by last minute television ads by the amendment sponsor, Colorado for family values. The ads displayed X rated images from gay pride parades and warnings about the potential influence of gays and lesbians on children. epoch spokesperson Bobby McCallum calls

amendment two's passage, a temporary setback, a certain number of Colorado voters once they heard the no special rights slogan, we're comfortable voting for this amendment. Whereas if you ask Colorado voters how they feel about discrimination, they overwhelmingly say they oppose it. So I think that Colorado for family values gave some people a comfortable place in which to hang their hat and pretend they were voting for something different than they were really voting for. Governor Romer says he has a constitutional duty to enforce the anti gay rights amendment, but he'll seek to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination by using existing provisions of the US Constitution. Denver Mayor Wellington Webb said the city would file a legal challenge claiming the amendment violates State Home Rule provisions giving some cities authority to make their own laws. The Boulder City Council will consider joining the lawsuit. Gay and Lesbian organizations are already boycotting the state's important tourism industry and action the anti gay amendment sponsors call a preposterous threat. I'm Scott Schlegel in Boulder,

G

Greg Gordon 04:47

the American Association that Physicians for Human Rights and the gay and lesbian Victory Fund have already cancelled conferences scheduled to take place in Colorado next year. There's at least one exception to the lesbian and gay boycott of Colorado. Most Activists are urging attendance at the 16th annual Aspen gay ski week in January. Typically a week of skiing and parties. Gay ski week has been by design more of a social than a political event, but Aspen resident Robert Aikens, the former head of the city's equal protection campaign says not this January

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05:17

what we'd like people who do is go ahead and Boycott Colorado. Be here during gay ski week everyone calm and be loud. We will show not only Colorado but we will show the country that this amendment is wrong.

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05:32

Most pre election media and money seem to be focused on the most extreme of the ballot battles measure nine in the state of Oregon. Barbara Bernstein prepared this report.

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05:44

On November 3 1500, opponents of ballot measure nine Oregon's anti gay initiative gathered together to await the election returns. Shortly after 9pm It became apparent that ballot measure nine was going down to defeat

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05:56

now the numbers that we have at this moment with 30% of the vote in show us at 57% to 43%. We are declaring that we have won this measure that no on nine has won this measure.



06:16

This is not the first time and anti gay initiative has been brought before Oregon voters in 1988. The Oregon Citizens Alliance sponsors a ballot measure nine succeeded in passing measure eight which rescinded the Governor's executive order banning discrimination against lesbians and gays. It passed by a six point margin and was narrowly defeated in only seven primarily urban counties. In rural counties it passed by huge margins. This year's measure nine was far more extreme and would have amended the state constitution to declare that homosexuality was abnormal, wrong, unnatural and perverse. The demographics this year were very different from four years ago,



06:53

even though we we did not take a lot of counties what we saw was a lot of races being very, very close. And we won in counties which we didn't win in in 1988.



07:03

Linda Shirley is a lesbian activist in Portland through the work of the rural



07:07

organizing out of the Oregon Democracy Project. And the human decency groups that sprung up, they really were a force to be reckoned with.



07:14

I started to hear what had happened four years ago when the thing that everybody was saying was while we lost it in the rural areas,



07:21

Spike Livermore lives in Hood River about 60 miles east of Portland. I live in a rural area.



07:26

And it became obvious that if I was committed to seeing this thing go down, I had to do something in my rural area.



07:35

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The statewide no online campaign was dominated by Portlanders only familiar with mainstream political campaigns. They organized exclusively around Portland ignoring the rest of the state. Meanwhile, the Oregon Citizens Alliance had mounted a statewide grassroots campaign, building their base of support in small towns with depressed economies. People in Columbia County or rural community bordering Portland, had come together in 1991. To fight the Oregon citizens alliances effort to teach creationism in the public schools. A grassroots group, Columbia County citizens for human dignity evolved out of his struggle. They began to build coalitions in their community to fight against the agenda of the Christian right, especially ballot measure nine, its founder Marcy Westerling works with the battered women's movement statewide. Through this network, Marcy traveled to other rural communities in Oregon, meeting with small groups of potential activists to share her organizing experience. Out of these meetings, human dignity alliances were formed in almost every county in Oregon.



08:37

What I've found in my own community and in communities across the state is there are just tons of good, well intentioned people. Some of them are very politically aware. But what's happening is they're sitting in their homes feeling isolated, feeling disenfranchised, from their community, feeling very at risk. What I'm doing is I'm bringing people together, giving voice to the values that really are very inner woven into these communities and not allowing some of these fringe groups to be the only voice in their community.



09:06

In the wake of ballot measure nines defeat, the state is still divided, particularly in places like Grants Pass in Southern Oregon. They're a group of Oregon Citizens Alliance supporters picketed the local newspaper because it had presented lesbians and gays in a positive light and written editorials opposing measure nine,



09:23

the extreme left to New World Order to New Age people, the environmentalists, the peaceniks, and all those people want to push their values down my throat, and I have to live under their rules and regulations. I'm not going to do that. You see. And of course, we're doing the same thing. We're pushing our moral values on them and they don't like it either. So it has to be a split.



09:43

You don't think there's any way that we could all come together and try to live in this world together and find some kind of compromise?



09:48

Yes, there is. The compromise is going to be you come on our side because we're not coming on. There's



09:52

43% of Oregonians think that lesbians and gays are unnatural, perverse and abnormal. and should be denied and what I consider to be non negotiable fundamental constitutional rights.



10:04

Linda Shirley, Portland lesbian activist,



10:07

we need to talk about what gays and lesbians are about who we are to ensure victory in the coming years.



10:14

Spike Livermore is organizing and Hood River County against ballot measure nine paid off his county which in 1988, supported ballot measure 8221 defeated measure nine by a 10 point margin during the



10:26

process. A lot of us in the rural communities really had the opportunity to do what was important for us or certainly what was important for me, which was to come out and be out in my community.



10:39

Oregon Citizens Alliance director Ion may Vaughn is already talking about filing a milder anti gay rights initiative in January modeled after Colorado's successful amendment to he believes that a majority of Oregonians still support his position,



10:53

we pretty much stood alone against the whole establishment of the state, the editorial pages of the daily papers, most of the associations and organizations and I think that it has shown the strength of a segment of our population that probably hasn't been represented as much as they wanted to be or should be.



11:11

Many of the ballot measure nine opponents that may bond refers to agree on few if any other issues. This coalition spanned a political and social spectrum that ranged from queer nation to the Oregon Catholic conference. It included every major religious denomination, labor union, professional organization, newspapers, civic group, even Portland's NBA team, the trailblazers. But as Linda Shirley notes, the most important component of this movement, were the individuals who joined together from every corner of the state.

11:43

There were a lot of lesbians and gays involved. But there were a lot of just regular people whose political analysis was really very simple. This is wrong. These counties and these human dignity groups are going to keep doing the work. We need to really work with the Rural organizers and the rural communities. And I think that that will lead us to our final success.

12:05

For this way out, this is Barbara Bernstein in Portland Oregon.

12:25

Thanks for choosing this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week Cindy Friedman, Brian Nunez, Kevin Lerner, Graham Underhill, Wendy Monroe, Susan Gage. Padina, Don Scott Schlegel and Barbara Bernstein contributed program material. Thanks also to Pacifica network news and feather and Finn productions,

Greg Gordon 12:44

Barbara Bernstein and really an alum perform some of the music you heard and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.

12:51

This way. It is brought to you each week by a staff of community volunteers and is sustained by financial support from the community. Special thanks this week to the country faggot and KMU de Garberville wirelend of WX PN Philadelphia's gay dreams and Alan black of W AI F Cincinnati's alternating currents,

Greg Gordon 13:10

all your cassettes of this way our programs are available by mail individually or by subscription. And if you'd like to details our addresses coming right up,



13:17

because we'd also like to hear from you with any comments, suggestions or questions you might have or just to let us know that you're out there listening, the addresses post office box 38327, Los Angeles, California 90038. And please be sure to include the call letters of the station. This way I was produced by Alicia Chapelle and Greg Gordon and we thank you for listening on WR fg Atlanta K u n m Albuquerque and to yb Wellington, among many others and for supporting this local community radio station Stay



13:48

tuned



Kay Harper 13:57

and that was Madonna from her new album erotica. And the name of that cut was where life begins. Just something to think about.



Jeff Mackey 14:11

Yes, yes, it certainly is. Food for thought.



Kay Harper 14:20

Yes, so coming up Elton John and the simple life actually no, it's just called simple life.



14:32

Definition



14:33

equal rights. Oh, I'm definitely for it. I always have equal I carry it in my purse. I think that it's a very good product. It's certainly a better than a Sweet and Low and much better than sugar twin that's kind of gritty. Yeah, I'm Oh, I always have the blue packet.



Kay Harper 14:58

Oh, Well, we thought to go with Madonna's song and and I'm all for equal rights. Well, I kind of prefer the pink packet myself. There have been better studies about Sacra and I mean, just causes cancer if you eat way too much of it equal does really weird things to your system. But anyway, let's be in safe six song. Oh, good. We had the CD and I just couldn't resist anybody else out there I have to explain that to

J Jeff Mackey 15:41

remember girls, when you're in the mood from now on, just

K Kay Harper 15:45

dammit, Janet.

J Jeff Mackey 15:49

has been safe sex song from the 70s for the 90s.

K Kay Harper 15:52

Yes. Well, you know, everything's being reworked and redone. That's right.

J Jeff Mackey 15:57

That takes me back.

K Kay Harper 15:59

Yes, this man knew every single word, all the little gestures. It was really kind of interesting.
Yes.

J Jeff Mackey 16:06

It takes me back to the days when I wanted to be Susan Sarandon. Right.

K Kay Harper 16:11

Well, yes. Although I would have picked a different movie. More more the hunger. wouldn't
have minded being Susan Sarandon in that one at all. And but anyway,

J Jeff Mackey 16:25

yes, yes. Yes. Um,

K Kay Harper 16:27

we wanted to talk about what happens on December one. Oh, yes. Do you know what happens on December one

J Jeff Mackey 16:36

is totally blank at this point. No, no, it is a day without art. Yeah,

K Kay Harper 16:41

some museums actually will have blank walls. Yes. I don't know that. What specifically is going on in the Houston Community for that day? I know there's some stuff going on.

J Jeff Mackey 16:53

This is like the third or fourth year I think of this. Yeah. And usually several of the galleries and probably not museums, several of the galleries in town will observe it in various ways. Yeah. Remembering

K Kay Harper 17:14

the losses to the art world because of AIDS. And one of the things that one of the more recent things that have come out of the AIDS benefits and such. There's a new album out in town called Voices for life, which is a celebration of Houston music benefiting H charities. And it's I mean, it's got everybody from Mickey blue to Scott Gardner to little Joey luff, Amelia. To Kevin black.

J Jeff Mackey 17:47

Yes, I'm back. Clint, blacks brother. He probably hates being tagged like that all the time. But

K Kay Harper 17:52

actually, Kevin black used to appear at the BRB, I believe.

J Jeff Mackey 17:57

I remember his two brothers and I don't remember one of

K Kay Harper 18:00

them did. Yeah I think it was Kevin I think musicians of the Houston Symphonv It's quite a

them did. Yeah, I think it was review of the musicians of the Houston Symphony. It's quite a quite a compilation album.

J Jeff Mackey 18:08

Yeah, it's a wide range of music. There's some cabaret performers or a rock and rollers or blues artists or just practically everything on there.

K Kay Harper 18:15

Yeah, a little bit of everything. And one of the ones that we wanted to play for you is by Little Joe de la familia and it's called always my hero nice

18:28

oh yeah. Well, that's the best No, no, actually prime is the best and then your top choice and then select cuts and then utility cuts. Yeah. You want to avoid that utility cuts though because that's beaks and feet and entrails and all that stuff. They put in winners. Yeah. So Prime is your best cut of beef but choices right there. So I'm definitely pro choice.

19:01

Definition

19:02

mutual orgasm.

19:04

My husband and I just choose not to have it. We have always been with Allstate. We think it's a good company. Oh, those mutual of orgasm people. We don't like them. Their show is way too violent. That what's it called? Wild Kingdom with Marlin Perkins. He and Jim are always wrestling those animals to the ground. We just believe we're in good hands with that other company.