



**OTHER SPONSORS:**

*Join the Impact*

*Marriage Equality USA*



***“Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.”***

-- Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

***“The best way to get a bad law repealed is to enforce it strictly.”***

-- Abraham Lincoln.

**Engaging in the Marriage Counter  
Action:**

1. Have people meet out in front of the clerk's office. Bring the pre-made signs, banners, etc. Bring several pre-made red/pink heart signs stapled to popsicle sticks and have people use a big black marker to write in their names and information like "Frank + Joe – together 15 years."
2. Once you get your critical mass of people together at the clerk's office, or are ready to go in there by yourselves, leave your signs out front and walk in arm and arm. The important thing is to smile and be very polite, stand in line and try to engage others in conversations about why you are there – *“We have been together \_\_\_ years and we want to be married to receive the 1,400 rights and responsibilities of civil marriage.”*
  - a. See if you can get people around you to talk about marriage equality – see if they will take a sticker or postcard – don't get in any confrontational arguments with unsupportive people, just smile and walk away. You are an ambassador for the LGBTI community – we know this is painful – just remember we are making progress – so go in and leave with a friendly attitude and heads held high..



N a t i o n a l   E v e n t

**National Freedom to Marry**

[kyLGBT.org](http://kyLGBT.org)

***All people are pretty much alike. It is only that our differences are more susceptible to definition than our similarities.***

3. The couples politely line up at the clerk's office, tell the clerk about your family, and why you want to be married, explain how long you have been together.....and your fears about what could happen to you without having access to the rights of marriage.
  - a. Typically, the clerk explains that current law doesn't allow them to give you a license. Say something like this: *"Thank you for your time and for your support. We hope you will help us work to end marriage discrimination – we are prepared to assume the rights and responsibilities of marriage – we take that commitment seriously and we look forward to the day when all couples are treated equality. Thank you again for your time."* – then the same-sex couple – leaves the counter and sincerely congratulates the non-gay couples getting married and say *"We hope to join you soon – do you want a Marriage Equality Kentucky sticker – thanks for your support."*
  - b. Typically, each individual couple goes up and does this. The press are generally invited to witness and/or film this event but act as though you do not even see them there. Talk to them before and after the encounter – but at the counter itself – **stay focused on the clerk**. You can bring them flowers as a nice gesture.

### **Our Allies (straight couples, or single people):**

Please bring positive and supportive signs like *"Honk if you support marriage equality for all"* and *"I believe in marriage for same-sex couples, don't you?"*

- Just be friendly supporters and be ready to give the couples a hug – it is hard to be turned away – **thanks for your support**.

***Only in statistics and letters from the draft board do we look forward to rejection!***

### **Talking Points for Freedom to Marry Day Action**

1. **For Same-Sex Couples:**
  - a. "[insert your spouse's name] and I are just one of the hundreds of same-sex couples all over the country and the Commonwealth who are standing up for the dignity of our relationship by getting turned down for a marriage license today."
  - b. "What would you do if your government told you, you couldn't marry the person you loved and refused to give your partner access to any of the governmental protections afforded all other couples? Wouldn't you do something to try to protect your family too?"
  - c. "It is painful to be told that my government would allow me to legally marry some stranger off the street today, but that I cannot marry [insert spouse's name] – who I love with all my heart, who has been my life partner for \_\_\_\_\_. There is nothing fair or just about that."
  - d. "We aren't expecting county clerks to issue marriage licenses today, but we do want them to know that there are same-sex couples in \_\_\_\_\_ County that want to take on the financial, emotional, and cultural responsibilities of marriage and cannot because of unfair governmental discrimination."

- e. "We want the securities that different sex couples have; we want to be able to plan for our future, we want to have the security of knowing that our relationships are respected by the Commonwealth, and we will be protected equally."
- f. "We will keep coming back until we can finally get legally married. We all deserve the freedom to marry the person we love."

**Special Statement for Kentuckians:**

"We know that everyday more people are coming to our side and seeing that it is only fair and just for us to be able to access a civil marriage license like other families. We will see this change in our lifetime and are honored to play a small part in the civil rights movement for LGBTI equality across our great Commonwealth."

**2. Straight Allies / Everyone Talking Points:**

- a. "I believe in equal rights for all people – this is an issue of basic civil rights. I'm happy to be apart of this effort of ending marriage discrimination once and for all."
- b. "I am a straight ally in support of marriage equality for same-sex couples. I think that gay people should be able to marry too – they are a loving committed couple why should the government discriminate against them? It does not threaten my marriage at all - I am happy for them!"

**What is Your Story?**

Share your stories with us!

Visit [www.kyLGBT.org](http://www.kyLGBT.org) and share your story with us under the "Community Outreach" section!

---

Kentucky Equality Federation™ is the sponsor of Marriage Equality Kentucky™.

» Kentucky Equality Federation and Marriage Equality Kentucky are members organizations of Marriage Equality USA®.

» Kentucky Equality Federation is a voting member organization of the International Lesbian and Gay Association (ILGA) which lobbies the United Nations to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the International Declaration of Human Rights.

---

***"Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won, you earn it and win it in every generation. Homophobia is like racism and anti-Semitism and other forms of bigotry in that it seeks to dehumanize a large group of people, to deny their humanity, their dignity and personhood."***

*-- Coretta Scott King (author, activist, and widow of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.)*