



Marriage

Principle

Marriage, as the lifelong union between one man and one woman, is an institution of God and a foundation of civil society.

Why Marriage Matters

An abundance of social science shows us that men, women, and children benefit economically, physically, and emotionally from a stable, two-parent marriage and family. Society itself also benefits from marriage, as it promotes social order and provides a ve-



Public Opinion

- 18 states overwhelmingly passed constitutional amendments defining marriage as being between one man and one woman.¹
- 57% of Americans support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution protecting the definition of marriage.²

Policy Issues in Virginia

Homosexuality in Schools—Homosexual advocates are working through school curricula and student groups such as “Gay-Straight Alliances” to bring their message to children in Virginia. Legislation is needed to bar these groups from promoting risky sexual behavior in our public schools.

Divorce Reform—Virginia’s no-fault divorce laws make divorce too easy. These laws need to be tightened to encourage marriage counseling and to protect the best interest of children.

Domestic Partner Benefits—Homosexual advocates have worked to diminish the status of marriage by providing marriage benefits to any relationship. Already, private companies in Virginia can do so. Efforts are underway to expand this to state and local government.

Adoption—Although it has been shown that the most beneficial structure for a child to be raised in is a stable family with one mother and one father, homosexual advocates in Virginia have worked to allow adoption by homosexuals.

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¹Available at: <http://www.heritage.org/Research/Family/Marriage50States.cfm>

²Available at: <http://gallup.com/poll/content/login.aspx?ci=15889>