



# We Are Family

Issue Number 5

Date: June, 2009

## **With veto override, domestic partners bill becomes law**

### **Nevada becomes 17th state to recognize gay relationships**

By [Cy Ryan](#) Sun, May 31, 2009  
*Las Vegas Sun*

**To learn more**  
[www.wearefamilylv.org](http://www.wearefamilylv.org)

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[volunteer@wearefamilylv.org](mailto:volunteer@wearefamilylv.org)

#### **Board Members**

Tara Newberry  
Brian Eagan

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CARSON CITY – In what supporters are calling a historic moment, the Assembly on Sunday night overrode the veto of Gov. Jim Gibbons on a bill giving legal rights to domestic partners.

Tod Story, a member of the board of the Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Southern Nevada, said "Nevadans can stand proud."

Story said Nevada has become the 17th state to recognize the relationships of gay and lesbian couples under state law.

The law takes effect Oct. 1.

The vote Sunday night was 28-14, the bare minimum needed to overturn the decision of the governor. It follows the 14-7 vote in the Senate Saturday and puts the bill into law.

Gary Peck, executive director of the ACLU in Nevada, said "this is a proud day in Nevada's history. With its override, our Legislature has put our state on the right side of a growing movement to honor this country's promise that every one of us is entitled to equal treatment under the law."

Assemblywoman Sheila Leslie, D-Reno, who gave the only speech on the floor, called this a "historic vote for equality and justice."

"This is the most important civil rights legislation we've had in all my years here and I am so happy and honored to be a part of it."

She said she knew it was "a struggle" for many legislators.

She said domestic partners "are not asking us to approve of their lives or how they live but they are asking us for respect. As citizens of this great state, they are asking that their government give them the ability to choose who they will live with and who they will love."

Senate Bill 283 provides domestic partners the same rights in such things as community property responsibility for debt to third parties and the right to seek financial support if they split up.

The bill specifically states that a domestic partnership is not a marriage as outlined in the 2002 constitutional amendment that says a marriage can only be between a man and a woman.

The partners, whether of the same or opposite sex, would register with the Secretary of State's Office for legal recognition. And if they split, they would file dissolution of the registration.

The bill says domestic partners have the same rights, protections and benefits that are ranged or imposed upon spouses. The governor, in his veto message, said the voters in 2002 felt "the right of marriage should apply only to married couples, only the voters should determine whether those rights should equally apply to domestic partners."



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## **Upcoming June Events** **Children's Discovery Trail** **and Picnic**

**When:** Sunday, June 7, 8:00am  
**Where:** Red Rock Canyon,  
Children's Discovery Trail  
**Why:** Good Exercise and Good  
Company  
**Who:** All members, including  
children  
**RSVP:** For more info please  
email [adele@wearefamilylv.org](mailto:adele@wearefamilylv.org).

**Who:** All Members with Children  
**RSVP:** For more info email  
[adele@wearefamilylv.org](mailto:adele@wearefamilylv.org).

## **Check the Website Out!** **[www.WeAreFamilyLV.org](http://www.WeAreFamilyLV.org)**

Learn about:

- ✓ Calendar of Events
- ✓ Community Links
- ✓ Workshop Information
- ✓ Bio's of Members
- ✓ Past and Present Newsletters

**To learn more**  
[www.wearefamilylv.org](http://www.wearefamilylv.org)

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## **Make Dad a** **Father's Day Gift**

**When:** Sunday, June 13, 4:00 –  
6:00pm  
**Where:** The Gay and Lesbian  
Center  
**Why:** Create some fathers days  
gifts Dads  
**Who:** Fathers and their children  
**RSVP:** For more please email  
[adele@wearefamilylv.org](mailto:adele@wearefamilylv.org).  
**Costs:** \$5 per child

## **BBQ/Potluck**

**When:** Sunday, June 20, TBD  
**Where:** Address will be in the E-  
vite  
**Why:** Allow those members of  
the community who are looking to  
start a family to learn from each  
other in a social environment.  
**Who:** Gay couples looking to  
start a family  
**RSVP:** For more please email  
[adele@wearefamilylv.org](mailto:adele@wearefamilylv.org).

## **Pump it Up!**

**When:** Sunday, June 28, TBD  
**Where:** The Inflatable Party Zone  
**Why:** Fun for all ages

## **Research Study**

**Parenting Study:** Are you in a committed  
same-sex relationship? Are you and your  
partner adopting your first child? If so, we  
need your help! We are conducting a long-  
overdue study of the transition to adoptive  
parenthood. You will be interviewed before  
and after the adoption to find out your  
experiences during this important life  
transition. For more information, please  
contact: Abbie Goldberg, Ph.D. Department of  
Psychology, Clark University, by phone: 508-  
793-7289 or by email: [agoldberg@clarku.edu](mailto:agoldberg@clarku.edu).  
Read about this study and Dr. Goldberg's  
other research on her faculty website:  
[www.clarku.edu/faculty/goldberg](http://www.clarku.edu/faculty/goldberg).

## **Resources**

Clark County Family Services  
[www.accessclarkcounty.com](http://www.accessclarkcounty.com)

The Gay and Lesbian Center of  
Southern Nevada  
[www.thecenterlv.com](http://www.thecenterlv.com)

PFLAG  
[pflag@viawest.net](mailto:pflag@viawest.net)  
or (702) 738-7838

Passage Groups - Custody Disputes  
[www.passagegroup.us](http://www.passagegroup.us)