



## PROPOSITION 8 REVIEW

*Featuring Maggie Gallagher, President, National Organization for Marriage*

One of the most important ballot initiatives facing California in recent years, Proposition 8, the California Marriage Initiative, will be in the national spotlight in the November election as both an issue of judicial activism and the ongoing attack on

traditional marriage. The controversial measure was recently targeted by California Attorney General Jerry Brown, who changed the ballot description in favor of those opposed to the initiative. NOM and other groups have challenged Brown in court seeking a return to the previous neutral language.

Recently featured as a speaker at Lincoln Clubs chapter meetings, Maggie Gallagher is Founder and President of the National Organization for Marriage (NOM), and is one of the nation's leading proponents of the protection of traditional marriage between a man and a woman. She is a nationally syndicated columnist, the author of three books on marriage, an editor of the *Princeton Principles of Marriage* and has written for the *New York Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Weekly Standard*, *National Review* and other influential media. NOMCalifornia.org helped raised nearly \$1 million and helped gather more than 1 million signatures this spring to put the California marriage amendment on the ballot in time to respond to the California Supreme Court ruling. A recognized expert on

marriage, she was named to *National Journal's* list of the "most influential" voices in the same-sex marriage debate.

Maggie's five most important points on the issue are listed below for your use.

1. Four state judges have no right to overturn the decision of 4.5 million Californians who voted in 2000 to protect marriage as the union of one man and one woman.
2. Prop 8 is not a radical idea; 27 states from Oregon to Wisconsin have put amendments protecting marriage as the union of husband and wife into their state constitutions.
3. Bans against interracial marriage were about keeping two races separate, so that one race could oppress the other, and that was bad. Marriage is about bringing together the two great halves of humanity – male and female – so that children can love and be loved by their own mother and father, and that's good.
4. Activist judges have no right to say that our marriage traditions are rooted in hate and bigotry – and if we fail to repudiate their decision, traditional faith communities are going to be treated by courts like racists because we believe marriage is the union of husband and wife – and that's wrong.
5. People do have a right to live as they choose, they don't have the right to define marriage for the rest of us.



## PRE NATIONAL CONVENTION MUSINGS

*By Los Angeles County Lincoln Clubs Secretary*

*and Republican National Committeeman-Elect Shawn Steel*

Conventional political wisdom says John McCain has made every mistake possible. How can he get elected President when 70% of Americans oppose the war? Last year, his famous statement that he would rather America wins the war

than get elected seemed to many to be his destiny. His low point could have been at the California Republican Party Convention last summer in Palm Desert. He had run out of money, most of his staff deserted him and his polling numbers were in the basement. Most Republican leaders assumed he was too wounded to run effectively through the primary season. CRP delegates were invited to take pictures with McCain and many declined.

McCain never worried about his message. After 26 years in politics he had heard and seen it all. He was going to be John McCain no matter what. Sure some conservatives considered him a hostile witness. His own McCain-Feingold legislation was helping his enemies, forcing massive unaccountable spending underground by liberal 527's. McCain seldom admitted he was wrong but stood erect and marched ahead.

Given the worldwide massive celebrity status anointed Barack H. Obama, he should be ahead in the polls by 20 points. Historically, Democrats do well during the Presidential election summer months. Carter lead Reagan, Dukakis was ahead of Bush the Elder. Both Gore and Kerry had commanding numbers against W. But this year both candidates are tied.

Obama's campaign spending may reach one billion dollars [including 527's]. John McCain will have to do with his \$85,000,000 from the federal government.

Americans seem to be concerned with Obama's shallowness. Voters know John McCain is good for his word. They may not like everything he stands for but at least he is decisive and clear. Obama appears elitist, naive, indecisive and somewhat incomprehensible. Two things that conservative voters will remember when voting this fall is that John McCain is probably the best potential war time commander since Lincoln. And, he will appoint good Supreme Court Justices. That's 80% of their pie.

Michelle and I are looking forward to attending the Convention. We will get back to you in the next Report with insights from this fascinating event.