

REGISTER TO VOTE



Interested in making your voice heard in the upcoming presidential election? Be forewarned: On the gay issues, you'll probably be rolling your eyes a lot. The overview: No one supports gay marriage, everyone supports some form of domestic partnerships, two Republican front-runners are more gay-friendly than many Democrats (but are sensibly pretending they're not, now that they're serious candidates), and Hillary Rodham Clinton claims she's very pleased to share her initials with the Human Rights Campaign. Stop that, or your eyes will stick that way.

The good news: While deciding whom to vote for is the hard part, registration is easy. In California you must register at least 15 days before the election. Request the forms by calling 800/345-VOTE or visiting www.ss.ca.gov/elections. You must be a U.S. citizen at least 18 years old by the day of the election who lives in California, and cannot currently be serving time in prison (or on parole) for a felony.

Earlier this year, California moved its presidential primary up to Feb. 5 in an effort to gain more influence. So the major parties will be choosing their candidates four months earlier than usual. In the meantime, don't forget your local elections. Dates vary by district, and are listed on the Secretary of State's Web site, noted above. —MATTHEW C. POE

WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT US

Hillary Clinton

"We want to make sure that all Americans in committed relationships have equal benefits, from health insurance and life insurance to Social Security and property rights and more." *Source: CNN.com.*

Barack Obama

"What we can do is form civil unions that provide all the civil rights that marriage entails to same-sex couples. And that is something that I have consistently been in favor of. And I think that the vast majority of Americans don't want to see gay and lesbian couples discriminated against, when it comes to hospital visitations and so on." *Source: CNN.*

John Edwards

"Civil unions? Yes. Partnership benefits? Yes. But it's a jump for me to get to gay marriage. I haven't yet got across that bridge." *Source: Gay.com.*

Rudy Giuliani

Rudy Giuliani believes marriage is between a man and a woman. He does not—and has never—supported gay marriage. But he believes in equal rights under law for all Americans. That's why he supports domestic partnerships that provide stability for committed partners in important legal and personal matters, while preserving the sanctity of marriage between a man and a woman. *Source: www.joinrudy2008.com.*

Mitt Romney

"The issue of gay marriage came up. In the 2002 campaign, I was asked for my view on the matter, and I gave it—I was then, and remain today, opposed to gay marriages and civil unions." *Source: CBN News.*