

# Asked: Where do candidates for governor stand on gay marriage?

Andrea Hiland, Special for The Republic | [azcentral.com](http://azcentral.com) 3:30 p.m. MST August 22, 2014



(Photo: azcentral)

**Question from Lindsey:** Hi Andrea, How can we find out which candidates for governor support gay marriage, or where they stand on the issue at all? Thank you!

**Answer:** State politics reporter for the *Arizona Republic*, **Yvonne Wingett Sanchez**, has been covering this race very closely. She posed Lindsey's question to all of the candidates and requested a prompt response. Here is the question that was sent, and the responses that were received:

**Do you support gay marriage? Why or why not?**

**Frank Riggs:**

"I do not support gay marriage. I believe in the sacrament of marriage between one man as husband and one woman as wife. I also believe this institution is the foundation of the family and the basic building block of society and should therefore be protected in law as the only form of marriage that is sanctioned and recognized by government policy.

As a U.S. Congressman, I voted to defend traditional marriage - and for the Defense of Marriage Act - in 1996. I stand by my vote and will not support the legalization of same-sex unions in Arizona."

**Christine Jones:**

"I'm personally in favor of traditional marriage. I've been in a traditional marriage for 27 years—I highly recommend it. Importantly, the Constitution prohibits the state from enacting any law that interferes with the free expression of religion. Marriage is fundamentally a religious act and the state, therefore, is prohibited from directing the church in that regard."

**Doug Ducey:**

"The voters have spoken on this, and I respect their views both now and in the future. I believe in traditional marriage, as it is defined in our state's constitution. I realize reasonable people can disagree on this and neither side should be maligned for their beliefs. As governor, my administration will treat everyone with kindness, decency and respect."

**Fred DuVal:**

"I support marriage equality because everyone deserves the freedom to marry who they love. All of us know friends and family members who have been in decades-long committed relationships, but right now, they're denied the right to marry. That's wrong and it's unacceptable. As governor, I'll do everything in my power to make marriage equality a reality in Arizona."

**Barry Hess:**

"I support every individual's absolute right to associate with whomever they want, in any manner they choose, whatever they want to call it. What I do not support, is government (State or Federal) recognizing, or making any special provision for any Citizen as anything other than an individual; regardless of their personal contracts, or relationships. The moment we allow our servant government to see us as anything other than equal individuals, is the moment we all lose our individual rights, and that's why I support getting government completely out of the marriage business, period."

**John Lewis Mealer:**

"I am a strict Constitutionalist and as such I agree with the limits and mandates of the Constitution. The first ten words of the Bill of Rights are quite clear, "Congress shall make no law regarding an establishment of religion...." This being said, Congress (i.e. lawmakers) cannot make a decision one way or another on what any particular church does. There is no legal definition of marriage regardless of what people want. Bill of rights makes that quite clear. While a church may marry whomever they choose and the state must recognize that union of two consenting adults, any church may also choose not to marry any couple they deem unfit for their version of marriage. I agree that all people have the right to pursue happiness as long as it does not harm someone else."

**Andrew Thomas:**

Not only do I oppose same-sex marriage, which undermines the institution of marriage, I am the only candidate for Governor who supported SB 1062. Likewise, I am the only candidate who has run TV and radio ads across Arizona defending marriage and moral values against these attacks.

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