

# Shocker! Same-sex couples marry; sky does NOT fall

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EJ Montini, columnist | [azcentral.com](http://azcentral.com)

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(Photo: EJ Montini)

The sky did not fall.

The economy did not collapse.

The government did not dissolve.

There was no chaos in the streets.

No fire. No brimstone.

No fissures in the Earth swallowed houses, neighborhood, cities, states.

Arizona is still Arizona.

And yet, something monumental happened.

People who previously were not allowed to get married got married.

It doesn't seem like much when you put into a sentence like that. And it won't seem like much a generation from now. They'll wonder instead what took us so long.

And, sure, there are those among us, like Gov. Jan Brewer, who believe that Federal Judge John Sedwick disrupted the natural order of the world on Friday when he struck down Arizona's ban on same-sex marriage.

In fact he did just the opposite. He created a measure of equilibrium. A balance. A symmetry.

Shawn Aiken, a lawyer representing seven Arizona couples who were challenging the law in court, said afterwards, "These couples from across Arizona bravely stood for equality for themselves, their families, and over 21,000 other gay and lesbian couples living in Arizona today."

The judge had given the state until Thursday to come up with an argument to convince him otherwise.

But there is no good argument.

There has been no good argument against same-sex marriage.

Arizona Attorney General Tom Horne decided not to challenge the ruling.

Gov. Brewer, speaking from some dark place out of the past, said, "In 2008, Arizona voters approved a state constitutional amendment to define marriage as a union of one man and one woman. Now, with their rulings, the federal courts have again thwarted the will of the people and further eroded the authority of states to regulate and uphold our laws. It is not only disappointing, but also deeply troubling, that unelected federal judges can dictate the laws of individual states, create rights based on their personal policy preferences and supplant the will of the people in an area traditionally left to the states for more than two hundred years."

Again, just the opposite is true.

Courts have been making decisions exactly like this -- when a law is unconstitutional -- for more than 200 years.

The governor can look it up.

For now, however, Arizona ACLU Executive Director Alessandra Soler, said of the court's decision, "Today's ruling brings security to thousands of families in Arizona. It's a moment to be celebrated. Equal protection of the law is one of the fundamental principles that allows our country to thrive and evolve. Dismantling this discriminatory ban brings our state and nation closer to our founding ideals of fairness, justice and liberty. We will continue to fight for equality for all Arizonans and oppose any efforts to unravel today's historic victory."

It should not be considered "historic" when people decide to do the right thing. But doing the right thing isn't easy sometimes. And it's not always obvious. And it can take a really long time for us to figure out what it is.

This was the right thing to do.

It was the only thing to do.

In Arizona on Friday the earth did not stand still. Traffic flowed. Children went to school. Restaurants served food. Mail was delivered. A blanket of clouds pulled itself over the Valley in the early morning hours, but then the sun broke through.

And some people who couldn't get married before, got married.

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