

But that's only part of the reason the Lexus IS 250 was named best value in its class.



FIND A DEALER LEARN MORE Disclaimer

Log in | Register Now |

Search

Site Web Search powered by YAHOO! SEARCH

Mobile Edition | Archive Search | Customer Service

CONNPOST.com CONNECTICUTPOST

Home News Sports Features Entertainment Business Opinion Contents Health

Classifieds | Homes | Jobs | Cars | Rent

Contact Us

Local News

En Español

Brooks Newspapers

Death Notices

Legal Notices

News Columnists

Pet News

Police Log

Top News Headlines (AP)

Weather

Sports

Local Sports

High School Sports

High School Football

High School Basketball

The Week That Was

Bridgeport Bluefish

Bridgeport Sound Tigers

UConn

Sports Columnists

Girls & Sports Comics

Accent

Weddings

20-Something

Home & Garden

Horoscopes

Life Planning

Neighbor to Neighbor

Religion

Social Security

Technology Tidbits

Travel

Entertainment

Book Review

Calendar of Events

Contests

Crossword Puzzle

Get Out Blog

Horoscopes

In The Clubs

Movie Listings

Movie Review

Music Review

On Video/DVD

RSS» Police Log | News | Business | Sports

Marriage ruling not the end of debate in Conn.

By PAT EATON-ROBB Associated Press

Article Last Updated: 10/11/2008 07:10:04 PM EDT

HARTFORD -- Now that the Connecticut Supreme Court has ruled same-sex couples have the right to wed, opponents of gay marriage are pinning their hopes on an infrequent ballot question in a long-shot bid to block the unions.

Every 20 years, voters can force a convention during which delegates can rewrite the entire constitution. It's a long, painstaking process that could cost millions and, by coincidence, it's on the ballot this November.

"This is our one opportunity for the people to have a voice, for the people to be heard, for them to decide whether marriage will be protected as between a man and a woman," said Peter Wolfgang, executive director of the Family Institute of Connecticut.

On Friday, the state Supreme Court ruled that Connecticut would be the third state, after California and Massachusetts, to allow gay marriage. The court said Connecticut's 2005 civil union law doesn't give same-sex couples the same status as married heterosexual couples.

Unlike California, where next month's ballot referendum will decide whether to outlaw gay marriage, Connecticut voters are being asked to consider only if they want a constitutional convention. If so, convention delegates would be appointed by the state General Assembly, which is largely comprised of Democrats who are sympathetic to same-sex issues.

State Rep. Mike Lawlor, co-chairman of the legislature's Judiciary Committee, said he's not sure everyone understands the constitutional

convention process.

"It is a very elaborate, months-long process in which a group of people basically rewrite the whole state constitution," he said. "It costs millions of dollars and requires a special statewide election. If you just want to make a specific amendment to it, which it sounds like they are talking about, then there is a lot easier way to do it."

That would be the legislative amendment process, which typically requires a three-quarters vote of both General Assembly houses to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot.

There have been 30 amendments passed since 1965, the last time the state held a constitutional convention.

Wolfgang said his group has not ruled out seeking an amendment from lawmakers, but is focusing on getting out the "yes" votes in November.

"The real battle will be Election Day," he said. "Even in a state with a legislature as liberal as ours, we have defeated

Advertisement

Advertisement for Lexus ES 250. Text: "See what makes the Lexus ES the best value in its class." Includes image of the car and Lexus logo.

our opponents year after year through the legislative process. They could never have gotten same-sex marriage through the democratic process. Democracy is gay marriage's worst enemy."

Republican Gov. M. Jodi Rell, a gay marriage opponent who also supports amending the Constitution to allow for initiatives and referendum, said she is "firmly convinced that attempts to reverse this decision either legislatively or by amending the state constitution will not meet with success."

Andrew McDonald, the Judiciary Committee's Senate co-chairman, said he expects the General Assembly to take up gay

Yellow sidebar advertisement with text: "G M M for \$ Compare Used C edmu"

Business

- Zahn Building Business
- Financial Reports
- Top Business News (AP)

Opinion

- Editorials
- Letters to the Editor
- News Columnists
- Michael J. Daly
- Ken Dixon
- John Hourihan
- James H. Smith
- Peter Urban
- Stephen J. Winters
- Charles Walsh
- Hugh Bailey

marriage next year -- but only to codify the Supreme Court's ruling, and not to attempt to change the state's constitution.

"I continue to expect a bipartisan effort to eradicate any remaining vestiges of discrimination," he said.

Lawmakers will have some issues to discuss, such as what to do with state's civil unions law, which remains in effect. More than 1,500 civil unions have been granted since the General Assembly approved them in 2005.

Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said new marriage forms eventually will be needed, but in the interim, clerks can make them more gender neutral by simply crossing out references to man and woman or husband and wife on current forms.

The ruling does not mean churches or synagogues must perform same-sex marriages, but some are expected to embrace the new law.

"I think there is great rejoicing, although we are aware that for some people this is troubling and difficult," said. Rev. David Foy Crabtree, Connecticut conference minister for the United Church of Christ. "People come out all over the map on it, but among our clergy there is a very, very high percentage who will respond very favorably to this."

BOOKMARK Print Email Font Resize Return to Top

Tell us your breaking news! or call us at 1-800-423-8058

POST YOUR COMMENTS:
[Read all 7 comments »](#)

Type in your comments to post to the forum

Name
(appears on your post)

Comments

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:



Post Comment

Please note by clicking on "Post Comment" you acknowledge that you have read the [Terms of Service](#) and the comment you are posting is in compliance with such terms. **Be polite.** Inappropriate posts may be removed by the moderator. [Send us your feedback](#).

TODAYS ADS
IN LOVING MEMORY OF FLORENCE & PHILIP P. NAPOLITANO
ONLINE AD EXPIRES 10/23/2008
CONNECTICUT POST / OPEN HOUSE
ONLINE AD EXPIRES 10/24/2008
CINEMA DE LUX
ONLINE AD EXPIRES 10/22/2008
VIEW MORE >





Get the newspaper delivered to your home or business! [Subscribe Now!](#)

[Sitemap](#) | [Help/Feedback](#) | [Advertise With Us](#)



[Listen to Podcasts](#)



[Home](#) :: [Classifieds](#) :: [Homes](#) :: [Jobs](#) :: [Cars](#) :: [Rentals](#) :: [Place An Ad](#) :: [Subscriber Services](#) :: [Contact Us](#) ::
[Privacy Policy](#) :: [Terms of Service](#)

[Copyright © 2008 Hearst Communications Inc.](#)

HEARST *newspapers*