

2001A Three Hierarchs Court
Champaign, IL 61820

kostasyfantis@gmail.com
(217) 840-6780

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Equal Marriage Illinois Champaign County
PO Box 632
Urbana, IL 61803-0632

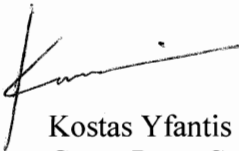
Dear Friends at Equal Marriage Illinois Champaign County,

Thank you for asking me to share my views with you on issues that affect so many people in our community. I believe that everyone should have access to the sacred institution of marriage regardless of sexual preference or gender history. The government should not be in the business of discriminating against people.

The Green Party supports equal marriage rights for all couples. As I indicate in my responses, our support is unequivocal and does not fluctuate based on public opinion. The right thing to do is simply right and our stances are not swayed by poll pressures or special interest groups.

I have typed my responses to your questions. Please let me know if you need me to clarify any points.

I wish you success with your worthy endeavor,



Kostas Yfantis
Green Party Candidate for
Champaign County Board District Seven (7)
<http://www.yfantis.org>

Kostas Yfantis for Champaign County Board District Seven (7)

Question 1: I oppose it.

Question 2: I believe that any question for which petitioners gather the amount of valid signatures that meet the statutory minimum required by Illinois law should be allowed to be placed on the ballot. If this particular question was placed on the ballot, I would campaign against it because I believe that marriage between same sex couples should be a union that is valid and fully recognized by the state.

Question 3: As a member of the Green Party, I share its ten key values. Two of these key values call people to respect diversity and to work towards social justice and equality. In harmony with these two values, the Green Party has a platform that unequivocally supports civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people including their right to marry and granting them the same legal protections and economic benefits that the state affords to couples of the opposite sex. While I work to expand the membership base of the Green Party I promote our key values and emphasize the importance of granting equal marriage rights to all couples including those of the same sex. This is my way of contributing to this noble cause.

Question 4: I am a member of the 'CU at the Altar' listserv and I participated in a few of the meetings of your organization this past summer. Unfortunately my campaign activities have increased sharply as the elections approach leaving me with little time to contribute more to your cause. I will continue to be a proponent of equal marriage in every opportunity I get. Last month, the News-Gazette sent me a candidate questionnaire asking me whether I support the county's decision to extend health and life benefits to domestic partners of county employees and to qualify my answer. Here's my response to their question:

Yes, I do support this decision. County government is a secular and inclusive institution and as such it should not be discriminating against people based on their sexual orientation. I value diversity and I understand that same-sex couples make our community stronger and richer by their hard work, their taxes and their participation in the same civic processes that opposite-sex couples engage in. Thus, they deserve equal rights.

Question 5: I have not been elected to public office (yet).

Question 6: Yes, I endorse the statement and I give you permission to publicize my name along with this statement including on materials and websites.

Question 7: Please read my letter.