



Pride month proposed

By [Greta Mart](#), Staff Reporter
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Contra Costa County's two leading organizations serving the gay and lesbian community will be joining other community members at today's Board of Supervisors meeting to support a proposal that would declare June 2010 as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer and Questioning Pride Month.

According to the 2000 Census, Contra Costa is ranked as the 10th largest among California's 58 counties with the most same-sex couples. Last year marked the first time in Contra Costa County history to acknowledge its LGBTQQ residents. Community advocates, organizers, and allies hope the Board of Supervisors will do it again this year.

Those interested in showing their support for the county's LGBTQQ community are urged to appear in Board Chambers at 651 Pine Street at approximately 9:30 a.m.

"We have seen significant improvement in health and mental health services for the LGBTQQ community since the Board of Supervisors issued their proclamation last year, including the formation of two county task-forces working to reduce health disparities among LGBTQQ residents. The Rainbow Community Center of Contra Costa County commends the Board of Supervisors for their support and leadership on these issues," says Ben-David Barr, RCC's Executive Director.

"RYSE is inspired by the cross-county commitment and growing partnership to meaningfully support our diverse LGBTQQ communities. It is inspirational to see our young people, LGBTQQ youth and allies, taking leadership and role-modeling partnership and solidarity," comments Kimberly Aceves and Kanwarpal Dhaliwal, Co-Executive Directors of RYSE.

Supervisor John Gioia, who had introduced the proclamation, has been a strong supporter of the community, led efforts to create the RYSE Center, and was a strong opponent of the passage of Proposition 8, the highly divisive anti-gay marriage constitutional amendment.

"This is a matter of equality, acceptance, and pride for all Contra Costa County residents regardless of age, race, and sexual orientation," said Supervisor Gioia. "My family and I believe in justice for everyone. Discrimination of any type is unacceptable."

Following Contra Costa County's lead, the City of Richmond will be considering a similar proclamation at its June 1 City Council meeting.

Other events planned for Gay Pride month in Contra Costa County include the third annual Pride Picnic in Heather Farms Park on June 13th, a youth Pride Prom event in West County sponsored by RYSE, and a multi-organization contingent that will be marching in the San Francisco Pride Parade with Youth from RCC and RYSE programs, the county's employee Pride Network, representatives from local PFLAG chapters, and LGBTQQ affirming churches. People interested in marching with the contingent should contact the RCC at 925.692.0090 for more information.