



No banners. No pop-ups. No kidding.™

[home](#) | [my pag](#)

news | [home](#) | [top](#) | [world](#) | [intl](#) | [natl](#) | [op](#) | [pol](#) | [govt](#) | [business](#) | [tech](#) | [sci](#) | [entertain](#) | [sports](#) | [health](#) | [odd](#) | [sources](#)
[AP](#) • [Reuters](#) • [New York Times](#) • [CBS](#) • [MSNBC](#) • [USA TODAY](#) • [FOX News](#) • [Poll](#) • [Photos](#)

Anti-Gay Marriage Amendment Fails in House

[Email this story](#)

Sep 30, 7:13 PM (ET)

By Thomas Ferraro

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - The U.S. House of Representatives failed on Thursday to muster the two-thirds majority needed to pass a proposed constitutional amendment backed by President Bush to ban gay marriage.

The largely party-line vote in the Republican-led House was 227-186, 49 votes short of what was required for approval.

In July, Democratic-led foes blocked a similar measure in the 100-member Senate where proponents failed to get even a simple majority against a procedural hurdle.

Backers of the proposed amendment predicted the twin setbacks would help showcase the issue in 2 congressional elections.

"This is going to be huge," said House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, a Texas Republican, promising to bring the proposal back up for a vote next year. "The American people need to know where their representatives stand."

Democrats charged that Republicans have pushed the measure, along with other doomed "wedge" measures, merely to divide voters and rally social conservatives.

"This is a partisan exercise to distract the American people from the (congressional) Republicans' failure," said House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat.

Polls show most Americans oppose gay marriage but are split on whether a constitutional amendment is needed. Surveys also find voters consider many other issues far more important.

For a proposed constitutional amendment to become law, it must be approved by two-thirds of the House and Senate and then ratified by 38 of the 50 states.

LEAVE IT UP TO STATES?

Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry and his vice presidential running mate, Sen. John Edwards of North Carolina, oppose gay marriage. Yet like most fellow Democrats in Congress, they favor leaving the matter to individual states.

Vice President Dick Cheney, who has a lesbian daughter, has said he also believes states should decide whether to sanction same-sex marriages, but that Bush sets the administration's positions.

Google sponsored

[Our Congress in 2004](#)
 Undemocratic & not representative? It's Our Congress, vote to change it.
www.OurCongress.org

[George W. Bush](#) - Vote against George W. Bush today for America's future.
bush.peel.com

Bush and other proponents of a constitutional amendment argue that gay marriages devalue tradit marriages, and should be banned for the sake of children.

They also contend that a constitutional amendment would prevent "activist" judges and local officia defying the will of the people by permitting same-sex marriages.

Bush in February called on Congress to approve an amendment to outlaw gay marriage after Mass: highest court ruled gay couples had a right to wed and San Francisco began issuing marriage licens: same-sex couples.

This helped trigger a wave of lawsuits, some challenging the right of one state to refuse to recogni: sex marriage that was licensed in another.

Shortly before the House vote, Rep. Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat and an acknowledge homosexual, spoke against the proposal, telling colleagues: "We feel love. We feel it in a different y you."

Why, Frank asked, is gay marriage "an assault on you?" Said Frank, "What is it you are protecting against? How do we threaten you?"

DeLay replied: "I have utmost respect for the gentleman from Massachusetts and I respect his feel

"But what this amendment is about is children," DeLay said, "having children, raising children and t of marriage between one man and one woman."

(Additional reporting by Susan Cornwell and Anna Willard)

Google sponsored links

[Support the RNC Today](http://www.offeredby.net/hst/rnc) - We need your help to advance the responsible Bush/Republican agenda.
www.offeredby.net/hst/rnc

[Bush or Kerry?](http://registration.winsweepstakes.net) - Who would make a better President? Vote for your chance to win \$1000
registration.winsweepstakes.net

[Heinz or W? You Decide](http://www.wketchup.com) - Heinz has 57 foreign factories. W Ketchup has one, in America.
www.wketchup.com

other top news

- [U.S. Forces Storm Iraqi Town, Say 109 Rebels Killed](#)
- [Kerry, Bush Head for Swing States After Debate](#)
- [Zawahri Tape Urges Muslims to Hit U.S. Allies' Interests](#)
- [Diplomats: UN Plans Visit to Suspected Iran Nuke Site](#)
- [Ex-Boeing Exec Sentenced on Conspiracy](#)
- [Heart Surgery Successful for British PM Blair](#)
- [Atlantic City Casinos Struck by 10,000 Workers](#)
- [British Guantanamo Detainee Alleges Abuse from Jail](#)
- [Freed Italian Hostage Says Iraq Rebels 'Justified'](#)
- [Israel Expands Gaza Strike, Kills 8 Palestinians](#)