

# The Courier-Journal Metro

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**Editor:** Jean Porter  
jporter@courier-journal.com

**Phone:** 582-4691 / **Fax:** 582-4200

## Gay-rights backers want broader ordinance

### They say city law should match county's

By RICK McDONOUGH  
The Courier-Journal

Gay-rights supporters on the Louisville Board of Aldermen are launching a new effort today to gain approval of a gay-rights ordinance that matches Jefferson County's.

Supporters need just one

more alderman for a majority, but finding that extra vote will not be easy.

Six of the 12 aldermen oppose gay rights. And in interviews yesterday, none of the six sounded willing to support an expansion of the current law, the so-called Fairness Ordinance, which bans discrimination based on sexual orientation in employment.

The county law also bans discrimination in housing and public accommodations.

At noon today, the aldermen's Fairness Committee will

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**"We plan to pass this legislation at our first opportunity."**

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Alderwoman Tina Ward-Pugh

meet at City Hall to discuss a new gay-rights ordinance to be introduced next week. It matches the county's.

No date for a vote has been scheduled, but Alderwoman Tina Ward-Pugh said it could

come up soon.

In an effort to win over opponents, Ward-Pugh said, leaders of the Fairness Campaign are going to talk at today's meeting about specific cases of discrimination experi-

enced by gays and lesbians.

"We've invited fairness leaders to bring us their best, most compelling evidence," she said.

If they can't find another vote for gay rights, supporters acknowledge that they could adopt an expanded Fairness Ordinance with just six votes — if they wait until one of the opponents goes on vacation. That's how they approved the controversial ordinance for civilian review of police last year on a 6-5 vote.

"We plan to pass this legis-

lation at our first opportunity," Ward-Pugh said.

"I'm optimistic we're going to pass it," Alderman Bill Allison agreed.

Allison said supporters want the city and county laws to be the same before government merger in January 2003 because identical ordinances will have a better chance of being readopted by the new council.

Under the merger law approved by voters last fall, the

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