



Obama backs same-sex marriage

by [GoPride.com News Staff](#)

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Washington, D.C. — President Obama on Wednesday became the first U.S. president to back the right of gay and lesbian couples to marry.

A reversal from his own views stated in the 2008 campaign, Obama Wednesday official endorsed the right of same-sex couples to marry.

Obama [told ABC News](#) that, after reflection, he had "concluded that for me personally it is important for me to go ahead and affirm that I think same sex couples should be able to get married."

The interview with ABC News' Robin Roberts to appear on ABC's "Good Morning America" Thursday. Excerpts of the interview will air tonight on ABC's "World News with Diane Sawyer."

Chicago and Illinois Reaction:

"The President's support for marriage equality will change the conversation on the topic," [Equality Illinois](#) CEO Bernard Cherkasov told ChicagoPride.com. "He has now affirmed that loving, committed gay and lesbian couples and their families deserve the same recognition as heterosexual couples. Nothing less - no lesser institution, no second class citizenship - will do."

"It's a great day for the LGBT community," State Rep. Sara Feigenholtz (D-Chicago) told ChicagoPride.com. "A long time coming. I'm just very happy! It's a day of sunshine!"

"I am overjoyed that President Obama has declared publicly that he supports full and unequivocal equality for LGBT people. It's a proud day to be an LGBT person, a proud day to be a Chicagoan and a proud day to be an American," [Center on Halsted](#) CEO Modesto Tico Valle said in a released statement.

"I'm proud to be an Illinoisan today," said Anthony Martinez, executive director of [The Civil Rights Agenda](#). "The State that promoted Abraham Lincoln may now also claim the President who will work to end government sanctioned discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. He understands that his legacy rests on the basic issues of civil rights. Like President Lincoln, President Obama knows this is what makes our country great."

"This is an amazing moment," said Rick Garcia, policy advisor for [The Civil Rights Agenda](#). "The President was a supporter of our issues since I worked with him in the Illinois Senate. Frankly, President Obama has been on record supporting gay marriage, when he ran for Senate. This just shows us that politically, LGBT issues are not the wedge issue they once were. We are in a new era and we must continue to build the momentum towards full and equal rights for all LGBT Americans. Now we just have to make sure LGBT folks get out and vote in this upcoming election."