

EXHIBIT 9
DATE 1/17/05
HB 259
January 17, 2005

Chairwoman Rice
& Committee members

Good morning, my name is Patti Kanduch and I'm a chapter leader for Concerned Women for America here in Montana. Concerned Women for America is the nations largest women's public policy organization, with over 500,000 members. I'm here today to oppose House Bill 259, which would give gays and Lesbians many of the same legal benefits of marriage currently afforded to married heterosexual couples.

Montana took a pole Dec. 13 and 14 for or against civil unions for gays and lesbians. It was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling and Research, Inc. of Washington, D.C. for Lee Newspapers of Montana. Of the 625 registered Montana voters from around the state, a full 62 percent of the respondents said they opposed civil unions. Only 34 percent of those surveyed said they supported civil unions. Four percent were undecided. Men rejected the idea of civil unions more than women, with 66 percent of men compared to 58 percent of women.

Montana has clearly spoken on this issue. Montanans oppose civil unions for gays and lesbians.

Thank You
Patti Kanduch

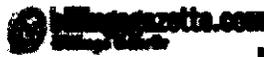
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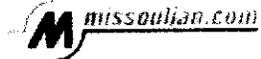
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Montanans oppose civil unions for gays, lesbians

Posted Dec 28, 2004 - 12:07 PM

By JENNIFER McKEE
Lee State Bureau



POLITICS & ELECTIONS

HELENA - Montana

voters give a decisive thumbs down to granting civil unions to gay and lesbian couples and for allowing wide-open, Vegas-style gambling, a new Lee Newspapers poll shows.

A full 62 percent of respondents said they opposed civil unions, which would give gays and lesbians many of the same legal benefits of marriage currently afforded to married heterosexual couples.

The poll asked 625 registered Montana voters from around the state their stance on a variety of issues facing the upcoming 2005 Legislature. It was conducted Dec. 13 and 14 by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc., of Washington, D.C., for Lee Newspapers of Montana. It has a margin of error of plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Two-thirds of Montanans voted in November to change the state constitution to forbid marriage between same-sex couples. However, civil unions, which afford many of the same legal rights of marriage, but have no religious implications, would still be legal under the ban. Montana

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