



Anti-gay marriage measure losing in Arizona

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PHOENIX -- Voters in Arizona were bucking a strong national trend Tuesday and rejecting a measure that would have created a constitutional ban on same-sex marriage.

If the results hold, Arizona would become the first state in the nation to reject a same-sex ban on the ballot. Twenty-seven states have approved bans, including seven on Tuesday.

With 95 percent of Arizona's precincts reporting Tuesday night, Proposition 107 was failing 51.5 percent to 48.5 percent.

"What we're seeing is that fear-mongering around same-sex marriage is fizzling out," said Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

The measure drew opposition from Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon, among others, because its restrictions also applied to men and women living together but not married.

Gordon and recently retired University of Arizona President Peter Likins went to court in an unsuccessful attempt to remove the measure from the ballot.

Foreman praised the anti-Proposition 107 campaign in Arizona for pointing out the broad implications of the measure.

"They did a fantastic job," he said.

Proposition 107 would have amended the Arizona Constitution to ban same-sex marriages, which are already illegal under state law. It also would have barred government entities _ such as the state, cities, counties, universities and school districts _ from recognizing any relationship similar to marriage, such as civil unions or domestic partnerships.

However, proponents weren't giving up late Tuesday night. They said they hoped their efforts to connect with early voters would pay off as a large number of early ballots remained uncounted Tuesday night.

"We still have a sliver of hope tonight that the early ballots could cut our way and we could turn this thing around," said Cathi Herrod, president of the Center for Arizona Policy, which is part of the coalition that backed the marriage proposal.