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Group Pushing for Marriage Vote

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The Family Policy Council of West Virginia is pushing for a popular vote to define marriage in West Virginia. Wednesday officials with that organization held a meeting to encourage discussion and support.

Jeremiah Dys is part of the Family Policy Council, he contends that as the laws read now, judges could potentially rule that marriage is something other than a union of a man and woman. He is leading a campaign to encourage state lawmakers to bring the issue up for popular vote.

During the meeting Wednesday evening many echoed Dys' sentiment.

Many argued that it is not the role of the judiciary branch of government to determine the definition of marriage and that the only way to settle the issue would be to let the people vote.

Others feared that by not voting on the issue now, a judge could potentially make a ruling that would allow same-sex couples to get married.

Those in favor of defining marriage as only between a man and woman say that marriage is the foundation of society and that interpreting the law to include same sex couples would compromise many aspects of life.

Organizers say that Rep. Barbara Evans Fleischauer and Rep. Carrie Webster were asked to attend the event. Neither were present. Attempts to contact Fleischauer by phone Wednesday night were unsuccessful.

Gov. Joe Manchin says that he is not in favor of a popular vote right now, but says that he supports the definition of marriage as only between a man and woman. Manchin says that he will only support a popular vote if a challenge is made to the current law.