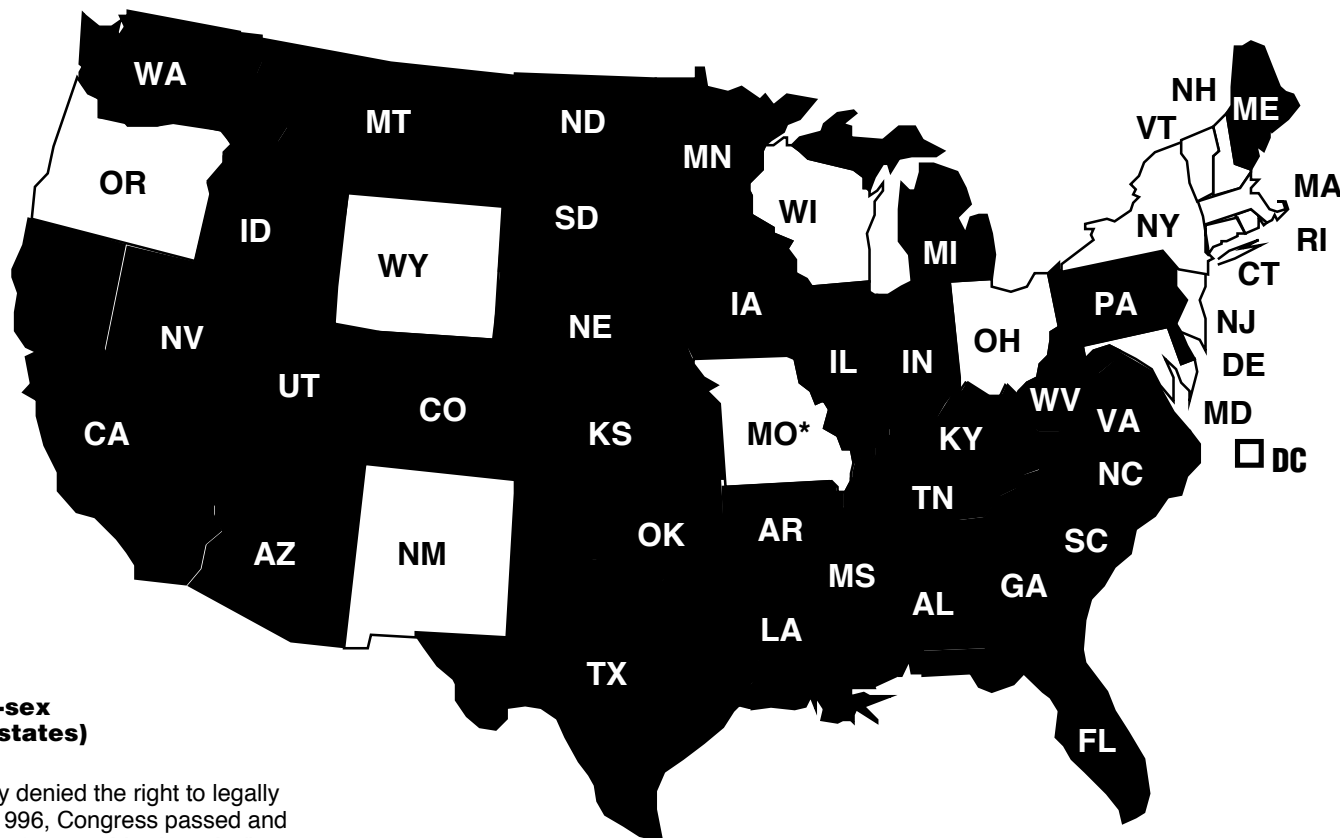




NGLTF

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Specific Anti-Same-Sex Marriage Laws in the U.S.

(This information has required no update since November 2002.)



Specific anti-same-sex marriage laws (36 states)

Same sex couples are currently denied the right to legally marry anywhere in the US. In 1996, Congress passed and President Clinton signed the "Defense of Marriage Act" (DOMA). It limits the federal definition of marriage to exclude same gender couples and bars legally married same gender couples from receiving the federal economic protections and recognition afforded opposite gender couples.

A Chronology of Specific Anti-Same Sex Marriage Bans by year of implementation:

1973 - Texas; 1995 - Utah; 1996 - Alaska, Arizona, Delaware, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee; 1997 - Arkansas, Florida, Indiana, Maine, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, North Dakota, Virginia; 1998 - Alabama, Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Kentucky, Washington; 1999 - Louisiana; 2000 - California, Colorado, West Virginia; 2002 - Nevada .

* In 1998, the Missouri Supreme Court overturned the 1996 law.

Of recent note: On November 5, 2002, voters in Nevada approved a ballot initiative that amends the state constitution to limit marriage to "a male and a female person."