

Flowchart for Conversations

How do you feel about the marriage amendment?

Opposes the amendment

Ask WHY they oppose the amendment and get them to make it personal.

“You’re voting no? Great, me too! Tell me why. Is there someone in your life who would be affected by this amendment?”

Connect your own story, values, or experience to theirs.

Ask them to sign a pledge to vote no and join you in having conversations.

When a conversation results in a pledge to vote NO, submit that to the campaign at mnunited.org/pledge or by mailing the pledge form to MN United, 1821 University Ave., St. Paul, MN, 55104.

Undecided or supports the amendment

Ask what concerns them about marriage for same-sex couples.

Get them to talk about what marriage means to them and their experience with gay people.

“Why did you choose to get married?”
“Why do you think people get married?”
“Do you know any gay people? Are any of them in long-term, committed relationships? Do you think they would ever want to be?”

Share what marriage means to you and talk about your own experience with gay people, highlighting similarities.

“You got married because you were in love and wanted to start a family? Me too. For me, that’s really what marriage is about.”
“The gay people I know are loving, committed couples who want to get married for similar reasons you described.”

Ask if it makes sense to keep gay couples from being able to get married.

Conversation Starters

“I’ve been thinking a lot lately about the marriage amendment we’ll be voting on in November. Have you heard about it?”

“I’ve been volunteering with the campaign that’s working to defeat the marriage amendment. Have you heard about it?”

“I’ve been meaning to talk to you about something and I’m a little nervous to bring it up. But you’re important to me so I want to have the conversation. Have you heard about the marriage amendment?”

“A group of us at church have been talking about the marriage amendment we’ll be voting on in November. Have you heard about it?”

Responding to Religious Concerns

“Many people of good faith are on both sides of this issue. Just so you’re aware, congregations of different faiths have the freedom to choose who they will marry. Some faith traditions, like the United Church of Christ, have chosen to marry same-sex couples, while others, like the Catholic Church, have chosen not to. No church will ever be forced to conduct a marriage they don’t recognize. Does that ease any of your concerns?”

Responding to Civil Unions

“When you really love someone, there’s no substitute for marriage. Nothing else provides the same protections or clearly says ‘we’ve made a lifetime commitment to each other’ in the same way. What do you think about that?”

“I know that I would never trade my marriage for something called a civil union. Would you? Why is it important to you that gay and lesbian couples have something different?”

“Have you ever been excluded from something other people were part of? What was that like for you?”

“Many people feel strongly that singling out same-sex couples and calling their partnerships something other than marriage tells those couples that their love and commitment is somehow less real or valuable. How do you feel about that?”