

# Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey State of Tennessee



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Lt. Governor Ramsey urges Attorney General Cooper to join suit opposing same-sex marriage**

*Federal court decision could lead to same-sex marriage in Tennessee*

(Nashville) – **Lt. Governor Ron Ramsey (R-Blountville)** today urged Attorney General Bob Cooper to join 14 other states in opposing a federal court decision overturning California’s ban on same-sex marriage. If upheld, the decision could be used to overturn Tennessee’s constitutional amendment defining marriage as between one man and one woman.

“Tennessee has a direct interest in the outcome of this case,” said Lt. Governor Ramsey. “If upheld, it will be used to allow same-sex marriage in Tennessee. Over 80% of Tennessee voters chose to define marriage in our constitution as the union of one man and one woman. Tennessee has an important interest in protecting the ability of our state to define marriage and I strongly urge Attorney General Cooper to join other states fighting for that same right.”

In 2008, California voters passed a measure very similar to Tennessee’s constitutional amendment defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman. A federal district court overturned the will of the voters in August of this year, calling the measure unconstitutional. The appeal is set to be heard December 6th by the 9<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco.

On the web:

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