



Denomination or Movement	Religious Marriage	Civil Marriage
<p>Conservative</p>	<p>In 2006, the Committee on Jewish Law and Standards (CJLS) adopted new laws that paved the way for significant changes regarding the Conservative movement's policies regarding homosexuality. On December 6, 2006, The CJLS adopted three distinct <i>teshuvot</i> reflecting different approaches to the subject. The adoption of multiple opinions permits individual Conservative rabbis, & congregations to select which opinion to follow, & hence to choose individually whether to support or not, the admission of gay & lesbian candidates to seminary, same sex unions & the Biblical prohibition on anal sex.</p> <p>Each teshuvah addresses several topics, but in this document, only the stance on marriage is summarized. The teshuvah written by Dorff, Nevins & Reisner substantially liberalized Conservative Judaism's approach permitting the blessing of homosexual unions while setting aside for further study the questions of whether such unions reached the level of <i>kiddushin</i> or marriage & while still upholding the biblical prohibition on anal sex. http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/teshuvot/docs/20052010/dorff_nevins_reisner_dignity.pdf</p> <p>The Roth teshuvah maintained prohibitions against same-sex ceremonies. http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/teshuvot/docs/20052010/roth_revisited.pdf</p> <p>The Levy teshuvah also retained traditional prohibitions against same-sex ceremonies. http://www.rabbinicalassembly.org/teshuvot/docs/20052010/levy_ssa.pdf</p>	<p>In 2003, the United Synagogue for Conservative Judaism (USCJ) issued a statement for Equal Opportunity in the United States http://www.uscj.org/Equal_Opportunity_In6670.html),</p> <p>In 2006, this position was clarified in a Statement on the Marriage Amendment http://www.uscj.org/Statement_on_Marriag7019.html) and stated that the USCJ opposed any governmental action to define marriage and discriminate against gay and lesbians in regards to civil marriage.</p>
<p>Humanistic</p>	<p>In 2003, the Association of Humanistic Rabbis adopted a resolution that allowed and encouraged members to perform weddings and commitment ceremonies for same-gender couples. (http://elearning.huc.edu/jhvrc/upload/AHR%20Diverse%20Sexualities.pdf)</p>	<p>In 2003, the Association of Humanistic Rabbis adopted a resolution to allow and encourage members to sign marriage licenses and civil union registrations for same-gender couples. In 2004, the Society of Humanistic Judaism passed a resolution in support of Marriage Equality (http://www.shj.org/MarriageEquality.htm).</p>
<p>Orthodox</p>	<p>The Orthodox Movement has multiple branches within it but all consider homosexual behavior to be halachicly (by law) prohibited. Thus, same-gender religious marriage is not permitted. (http://www.ou.org/public_affairs/article/ou_resp_same_sex_marriage)</p>	<p>The Orthodox Movement has multiple branches within it but all consider homosexual behavior to be halachicly (by law) prohibited and so the movement does not support same-gender civil marriage. The Orthodox Union does support the Federal marriage amendment that defines marriage as between a man and a woman. http://www.ou.org/public_affairs/article/ou_resp_same_sex_marriage)</p>

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Jewish Denominational Perspectives on Marriage

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Reconstructionist	<p>In the 1993 Report of the Reconstructionist Commission on Homosexuality, they wrote, "Same-gender partnerships have the same potential for embodying these qualities as do heterosexual marriages. As we support the long-term commitment of heterosexual couples and acknowledge the kedushah of their marriages, so do we support long-term partnerships between gays or lesbians and affirm that kedushah resides in committed relationships between same-gender Jewish couples." (p. 37). (http://jrf.org/node/1742)</p> <p>The Reconstructionist Rabbinic Association (RRA) encourages their members to officiate at same-gender ceremonies, but does not mandate that they do so.</p>	<p>In 2004, the Reconstructionist movement passed the Resolution in Support of Civil Marriage for Same-Sex Couples, which endorsed the right of same-sex couples to marry in civil ceremonies and supported legislation and legal action to that end. (http://www.therra.org/resolution-Mar2004.htm)</p>
Reform	<p>In 2000, the Central Conference of American Rabbis (CCAR) issued a resolution on Same Gender Officiation (http://data.ccarnet.org/cgi-bin/resodisp.pl?file=gender&year=2000) that permitted rabbis to choose whether or not they will officiate religious same-sex unions and respects the choices that individuals make on this issue. However, the resolution also states that a relationship between two people of the same gender can serve as the foundation of stable Jewish families and is worthy of affirmation through appropriate Jewish ritual. As part of the resolution, the CCAR subsequently developed a kiddushin (marriage) ceremony and an affirmation ceremony for same sex couples. (http://elearning.huc.edu/jhvrc/upload/CCAR%20Union%20Services%20for%20Same%20Gender%20Couples.pdf)</p>	<p>In 1996, the CCAR issued a resolution in support of civil marriage for gay and lesbian couples and against a governmental ban on gay and lesbian marriages (http://data.ccarnet.org/cgi-bin/resodisp.pl?file=gl&year=1996). This issue was distinct from the question of rabbinic officiation, which was not decided upon until 2000.</p> <p>In 1997, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations (UAHC, now the Union for Reform Judaism, URJ) issued a resolution in support of civil marriage (http://urj.org/about/union/governance/reso/?syspage=article&item_id=2000).</p>
Renewal	<p>Jewish Renewal has long been known for their inclusion of LGBT people and families. Aleph, the Renewal Movement's denominational body responsible for creating resources, supporting communities, and developing leaders, affirms this commitment in its Statement of Principles (below) and as a result, religious marriages in the Jewish Renewal Movement have long been part of its practices.</p> <p>"We welcome and recognize the sanctity of every individual regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. We recognize respectful and mutual expressions of adult human sexuality as potentially sacred expressions of love and therefore we strive to welcome a variety of constellations of intimate relationships and family forms including gay, lesbian, and heterosexual relationships as well as people choosing to be single." (http://www.aleph.org/documents/AffirmationsFinal4-08.pdf)</p>	<p>In 2008, Ohalah, the Jewish Renewal Rabbinic Association, passed a right to marry resolution (http://www.ohalah.org/Ohalah-new/tikkunolam.html) urging Californians to legalize same-gender marriage, thus opposing Proposition 8, and calling on residents of other states to educate themselves and vote against ballot measures that define marriage as between a man and a woman.</p>