

For Immediate Release  
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#### CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE JIM KELLER ANNOUNCES ENGAGEMENT

Congressional Candidate Jim Keller announced today in an online statement that he will be "marrying" his longtime companion, theatrical designer Christopher R Boltz, at an undetermined date in the summer of 2007.

"I've always said that a wedding is expensive and time-consuming, so I want to do it once and only once, and I want it to be legal (and forever) when I do so," said Keller in posts to several websites, including his LiveJournal, MySpace, and Facebook pages. "But, as life moves along, Chris and I have decided that substandard legal protection is better than no legal protection. After a long discussion on the subject, I asked him to 'domestic partner' me on Saturday."

California does not recognize same-sex marriages, but offers an institution called "domestic partnership" which offers same-sex couples and certain senior citizens all the responsibilities and many of the rights of marriage. However, Keller and Boltz consider their arrangement to be a marriage "in the eyes of God, if not in the eyes of the law."

Though a date has not been set, Pastor Joe McGowan of Altadena Community Church, where Keller and Boltz attend church, has agreed to perform the service.

Though he describes himself as "deliriously happy," Keller remains upset that his union will not enjoy the same legal protections as a state-sanctioned marriage. Domestic partnership does not allow couples to file joint tax returns in California, will not be recognized by most other states, and does not afford couples any of the rights granted to heterosexual married couples by the Federal government. The ACLU estimates that there are more than 1000 areas in which California domestic partnership is not equal to marriage.

"Hopefully when we achieve marriage equality our domestic partnership will just convert over to a marriage," Keller said in his posts, "but until then Chris and I will know in our hearts that we have found the person we want to spend eternity with."

Jim Keller is the Libertarian candidate for U.S. Congress representing California's 29th District (Pasadena - South Pasadena - Altadena - Alhambra - Burbank - Glendale - San Gabriel - Temple City), a seat currently held by Democratic incumbent Adam Schiff. Jim Keller and Christopher R Boltz have shared a residence since 1998. Additional information on Jim Keller can be found online at <http://www.votekeller.org/> .

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