California Prop 8 banning same sex marriages overturned by federal judge

This is big news in the popular culture, and The Washington Post made it breaking news.

News Alert: Judge overturns California's same-sex marriage ban 04:43 PM EDT Wednesday, August 4, 2010

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A federal judge has ruled California's ban on same-sex marriages unconstitutional. U.S. District Judge Vaughn Walker overturned the voter-approved ban known as Proposition 8.

For more information, visit washingtonpost.com: <a href="http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/LI37JS/5C0379/0ORYE7/QCX5D9/Z5GJK/50/t">http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/LI37JS/5C0379/0ORYE7/QCX5D9/Z5GJK/50/t</a>

Search term: I tried a couple then I tried using only 'California.' It seemed clear that it would take several searches to catch the language that was being used. So I took California. It all seemed to be about overthrowing Prop 8. I will have to be careful about the point at which other elements enter.

First search: First search was 1500 messages and they were happening so fast it barely went back in the day. After I started the tweets have continued to come in. Archivist desktop has 7,000 in the first hour, and SocialPing is a little behind with 6,000.

Messages were produced very quickly. There were 50,000 in the first 10 hours; that was afternoon until midnight. By the next morning general messages about California started appearing sufficiently often that I stopped the search. I did not want to have to go through and sort out the relevant and irrelevant. So it is a one day search -- started on the 4th and ended on the 5th.

The Archivist desktop files are california.xml (which is the original xml file), california.txt (which is the exported file), and california.xlsx (which is the excel file -- though with some errors)

The SocialPing file awaits being able to export the full file.

The next breaking news -- court stays ban

News Alert: Court halts Calif. gay marriages pending appeal

07:12 PM EDT Monday, August 16, 2010

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A federal appeals court put same-sex weddings in California on hold indefinitely Monday while it considers the constitutionality of the state's gay marriage ban. The decision, issued by a three-judge panel of the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, trumps a lower court judge's order that would have allowed county clerks to begin issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples on Wednesday.

For more information, visit washingtonpost.com: <a href="http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/BZYGW4/HDDR2A/DK61TS/NO93WM/ASR48/1G/t">http://link.email.washingtonpost.com/r/BZYGW4/HDDR2A/DK61TS/NO93WM/ASR48/1G/t</a>

new search term: california will not do this time. I tried a variety of terms and it looks like marriage on hold gives me the biggest collection of tweets. The messages are divided between gay marriage and same sex marriage and I was losing one or the other in the search. So it becamd just marriage. But I have to watch what I am getting again.

first search: The first search produced 1500 tweets. About two-thirds of them were post the court decision. The first third were before the decision. The Post alert was at 7:12 edt. I have tweets going back to 5:49 that are after the court decision. This is not going to be nearly as big as the first announcement.

Marriage on hold down to a handful a day. The final count was 2490. The files are marriage on hold.xml and marriage on hold.txt

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