

## **Abstract**

This bachelor thesis deals with same-sex marriage in California. In November 2008 Californian voters approved with small margin constitutional amendment called Proposition 8. This amendment defined marriage as union of one man and one woman. There was very intensive campaign by both opponents and supporters of this ballot initiative. In the first part this thesis analyzes the arguments used in the campaign and tries to clarify them using the previous court decisions and valid laws. The most important and used arguments are about upbringing and education of children, religion, civil rights and traditional marriage. The analysis shows that almost all the arguments that opponents of same-sex marriage are using, were rejected by courts in previous cases or the statements don't rely on facts and existing laws. The second part deals with public opinion polls before voting day and hypotheses, why Proposition 8 succeeded even though the polls indicated otherwise. The most probable explanation appears to be that majority of voters still opposed same-sex marriage. Only some of them didn't realized that if they are against same-sex marriage, they should vote for Proposition 8.