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MOTSINGER TO SPEAK AT READINGS OF PLAY BY ACADEMY AWARD-WINNING SCREENWRITER

“8” CHRONICLES TRIAL DEALING WITH CALIFORNIA BAN ON SAME-SEX MARRIAGE

COMMUNITY DISCUSSIONS FOCUS ON RAMIFICATIONS OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT ONE

Elisabeth Motsinger, Democratic candidate for Representative in the 5th Congressional District, will speak Friday at a community discussion following the Winston-Salem Theatre Alliance’s staged reading of “8,” a new play about marriage equality.

Written by Academy award-winning screenwriter Dustin Lance Black (MILK, J. EDGAR), “8” chronicles the landmark trial of Perry v. Schwarzenegger, which challenged California’s Proposition 8 banning marriage for gay and lesbian couples.

The free readings will be presented at 6:30 and 9 p.m. on Friday, April 27 at 1047 Northwest Blvd. in Winston-Salem.

The readings take place amidst early voting for the May 8 Primary, in which North Carolinians will vote on Amendment One, which would amend the state constitution to read “that marriage between one man and one woman is the only domestic legal union that shall be valid or recognized in this State.” A community discussion following each reading will focus on the legal and social impact that NC Amendment One would have on North Carolina families and same sex couples.

Motsinger, who has spoken in opposition to Amendment One, said North Carolina voters should heed the lessons learned in California. “Those who do not learn from history are destined to repeat it,” she said. “I believe that it is time to move *forward* towards a day of full equality for all people.”

“8” is an unprecedented account of the Federal District Court trial in Perry v. Schwarzenegger (now Perry v. Brown), the case filed by the American Foundation for Equal Rights (AFER) to overturn Proposition 8, which stripped gay and lesbian Californians of the freedom to marry. Black based “8” on the actual words of the trial transcripts, first-hand observations of the courtroom drama and interviews with the plaintiffs and their families.

For information about the Theatre Alliance and its production of “8”, visit:

<http://www.wstheatrealiance.org/site/archives/1069>.

Elisabeth Motsinger is a physician’s assistant who has served on the Winston-Salem Forsyth County School Board since 2006. In 2010 she was re-elected to the school board, and was the only Democratic incumbent running county-wide in Forsyth to be re-elected, other than in nonpartisan judicial races. A well-known political activist, she is completing her Master of Arts in Bioethics at Wake Forest University. For information about Motsinger, please visit: <http://www.nc5th.us>.

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