

# The Daily Tribune News

[Daily Tribune News](#)[Local News](#)[Sports](#)[Death Notices](#)[Opinion](#)[Lifestyles](#)[Classifieds](#)[Log In](#)

---

## First same-sex marriage takes place in Bartow

**SEARCH**

27 Jun 2015 | Written by Brandon Davis | Published in News |

font size | [Print](#) | [Email](#) |

[Like](#) [Share](#) 877 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

Editor's Note: Due to a request for privacy by the couple in this story,

The Daily Tribune News has omitted their names.

Following the Supreme Court's ruling in the Obergefell v. Hodges case that legalized same-sex marriage nationwide on Friday, two Bartow County women were wed on the steps of the Bartow County Courthouse on Saturday.

The court's decision was reached by a 5-4 vote and guarantees that United States citizens have a right to same-sex marriage under the Constitution.

As of Saturday afternoon, the couple was, unofficially, the first same-sex pair to be married in Bartow County. They had originally planned to be married later this year in another state. However, when the ruling was announced, their plans changed quickly.



SKIP BUTLER/The Daily Tribune News A Bartow County same-sex couple is married Saturday on the grounds of the Bartow County 1903 Courthouse. Bartow County Juvenile Court Judge Velma Tilley performed the ceremony in front of the couple's invited guests.

After applying for a marriage license on Friday, the two women arranged an impromptu ceremony that took place the next day. The couple was married by Judge Velma Tilley of the Juvenile Court of Bartow County.

Tilley said she was enthusiastic about officiating the marriage after what proved to be a day of stunned reflection following the ruling. "I was so excited when I got the message that this ruling had come down favorably that I just almost couldn't think for the rest of the day. I couldn't get a cohesive thought in my head. And I'm so happy for couples who have waited so long for this ruling, for what this means and for the fact that we've had people already at the courthouse getting marriage licenses. [It] just tells you what this means to people who have been denied this for so long," she said.

The couple collectively expressed that they want to continue to be normal members of the community but also living representations of what was once not — but is now — possible.

"It's not like we're total strangers or anything. We grew up in this community, as well. And we've been here ... We're going to be here," said one of the women. "We want to be respectful of people's beliefs and we want to get married. And we want to be any gay couple in

Find us on Facebook

Buy photo

View album

View gallery

The Daily  
Tribune  
News

Cartersville Daily Tribune

Like You like this.

The Daily  
Tribune  
News

Cartersville Daily Tribune

shared a link.

Yesterday at 3:55pm

## Davis, Mosby and Tobin reunite at Chatt Tech

The Cartersville High boys basketball team went 54-5, won two region championships and three state play games between the 2012-13 and 2013-14 seasons.

DAILY-TRIBUNE.COM | BY JASON G

2 Likes

Facebook social plugin

Cartersville that wants to get married today; we're getting married ... for them right now."

"We understand it's a very big pill to swallow. We're not trying to shove things down people's throats because I would not want that to happen to me," she added. "That's the example that we want to set is, we are like everyone else. We're going to act like everyone else, and we're going to live like everyone else."

The other individual echoed her partner's sentiment.

"We put our pants on just like everybody else. We have bills. We have yard work and children, and we clean," she stated.

Despite the expressed desire for this kind of normalcy, the immediate social implications of the ruling for same-sex couples are of primary concern to Tilley.

"I hope that there's not a backlash of hatred, but of course, that's something I fear. But I'm not going to let that worry me. We're going to go forward with joy for the folks that have wanted this for so long," she explained.

Several local officials have already expressed their disagreement with the ruling. David Franklin, associational missionary of the Bartow Baptist Association, said the organization cannot support the ruling due to what it believes is a contradiction of the biblical definition of marriage.

"The Bartow Baptist Association is disappointed and saddened by the Supreme Court's recent ruling on marriage," said Franklin via email.

"This ruling contradicts the biblical definition of marriage as found in Genesis 2:24: 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh.' God is the one who created and defined marriage and now the court has sought to redefine it. We are committed to follow Christ[']s] commands and will continue to love everyone and share the good news of God's love through Jesus Christ with all."

U.S. House Rep. Barry Loudermilk (R-GA), who represents the 11th Congressional District, joined the conversation on Friday via a press release, denouncing the ruling as a violation of states' rights as

defined by the Constitution.

He stated that “the Supreme Court has ignored the foundational intentions of the Constitution. Marriage has always been recognized in this nation as a religious institution, which the founders recognized is outside the realm of the federal government. Therefore, any recognition or licensing of marriage by government was left within the power of the states. In this decision, the Supreme Court fully stepped upon the principle of Federalism and the rights and will of the states regarding social and religious issues. Once again the courts have overstepped their boundaries and have engaged in social engineering by violating the basic premise of separation of powers and the will of the people.”

Prior to the ruling, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures' website, at least 37 states and the District of Columbia had recognized same-sex marriage.

Like Share 877 people like this. Be the first of your friends.

*Last modified on Sunday, 28 June 2015 00:26*

Rate this item (18 votes)

Tagged under Top Story

---

Tweet 0 g+1

## Related items

- Transportation Funding Act: prices will rise but still remain lower than 2014
- Cartersville doctors challenge state health care law
- Feds bite city twice
- Safety tips for Lake Allatoona for upcoming 4th of July
- Fireworks law, effective today, sparks concerns

More in this category: « 16 high school girls learn construction skills during MAGIC camp Bartow Winds concert celebrates Fourth of July »

[back to top](#)

## What Do You Think?

How many cups of coffee do you ge  
drink per day?

- 0
- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5+

Submit



---

[Privacy Policy](#)

Copyright -

Daily Tribune News - All rights reserved

