

## **Same-sex marriages will help city's coffers**

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Same-sex marriages in San Francisco have been joyous occasions for a host of couples so far this summer, and a report issued late Wednesday indicates they also should bring cheer to people who rely on city services.

An analysis from the City Controller found that weddings will bring \$19.8 million into the city economy by the end of July 2010, and the city budget will benefit with \$1.7 million in extra money.

That means an extra \$1.1 million for this fiscal year's budget, which has drastic cuts to many social and health programs to close a projected \$338 million deficit.

"That's huge," said Supervisor Carmen Chu, who requested the analysis. "I think this is really good news at this point in time."

The controller's analysis estimates that 6,762 same-sex couples will marry in San Francisco by the end of June 2010, spending an average of \$9,180.

More than half of those same-sex couples, 3,791, are expected to be from San Francisco while the rest are anticipated to come from other parts of California and the country.

By law, some of the money that flows into the city coffers will go to services like the Municipal Railway, which could receive about \$100,000, and children's services, which are anticipated to take in about \$43,000.

If the remaining money is spent in a lump sum, it would be enough to build a new playground or fund nearly 200,000 hours of in-home care for seniors, Chu said.

Nathan Ballard, spokesman for Mayor Gavin Newsom, welcomed the news from the report.

"It looks like this major civil rights breakthrough will also help us to fill potholes," Ballard said.

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