

2016:

# REPUBLICAN FACTS



## JEB BUSH: OPPOSES MARRIAGE EQUALITY



As governor of Florida, Jeb Bush consistently opposed marriage equality for LGBT Americans. And he showed a willingness to appoint staff and contribute money to causes that had strong anti-equality agendas.

**Marriage:** As governor, Bush said he believed marriage was between “one man” and “one woman” and eventually supported amending Florida’s constitution to oppose same-sex marriage. Under Bush, the #FLGOP spent thousands on the amendment.

**Discrimination:** When asked by a potential LGBT employee about his policy on hiring LGBT people, Bush suggested the employee should stay closeted. He has a history of opposing protections for LGBT Americans as “special legal rights,” and while he now says he believes in preventing discrimination based on sexual orientation, he has not said whether he supports ENDA.

**Executive Order:** Unclear

**Conversion Therapy:** Unclear

**Adoption:** Bush opposed allowing LGBT couples to adopt as governor. After it was made legal through a court decision, Bush said he respected the decision.

**Anti-Bullying:** Setup commission on bullying.

**Harmful Rhetoric:** Bush called marriage and partner benefits “special rights.”

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# BUSH'S NOTABLE QUOTES ON LGBT EQUALITY

**1994: Bush Said “Should Sodomy Be Elevated To The Same Constitutional Status As Race And Religion? My Answer Is No.”** In an editorial for the Miami Herald, Bush wrote, “The public policy question is whether homosexuals deserve special legal protection from otherwise legal, private acts of discrimination, which protections are not available to smokers, drinkers, children, redheads, Midwesterners, Democrats, veterans, nudists, etc. Or, to put it another way, should sodomy be elevated to the same constitutional status as race and religion? My answer is No. We have enough special categories, enough victims, without creating even more.” [\[BuzzFeed, 1/5/2015, Miami Herald, 6/22/1994\]](#)

**2014: Bush Spokesperson: “Gov. Bush Believes That Our Society Should Have A Culture Of Respect For All People, Regardless Of Their Differences, And That Begins With Preventing Discrimination, Including When It Comes To Sexual Orientation.”** After some of Bush's previous views from 1994 on LGBT anti-discrimination policies, including that it creates a new “special category” of victims, were published by BuzzFeed: “In a statement to BuzzFeed News, a spokeswoman for Bush said the governor no longer holds the views in the editorial and would not use the language today. ‘Gov. Bush believes that our society should have a culture of respect for all people, regardless of their differences, and that begins with preventing discrimination, including when it comes to sexual orientation,’ said Kristy Campbell, Bush's spokeswoman. ‘This opinion editorial from 20 years ago does not reflect Gov. Bush's views now, nor would he use this terminology today.’” [\[BuzzFeed, 1/5/2015, Miami Herald, 6/22/1994\]](#)

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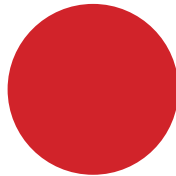
## BUSH ON THE ISSUES

### MARRIAGE EQUALITY:



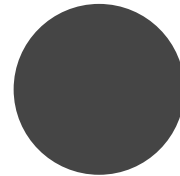
Opposed

### PROTECTING LGBT AMERICANS FROM DISCRIMINATION:



Opposed

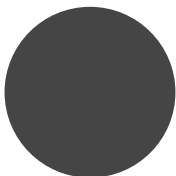
### PRESIDENT OBAMA'S EXECUTIVE ORDER:



Unclear

*President Obama's executive order bars federal agencies and contractors from discriminating against employees on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity... an order that applied to about 24,000 companies with an estimated 28 million workers.*

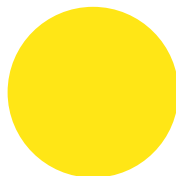
### BAN HARMFUL “CONVERSION THERAPY:”



Unclear

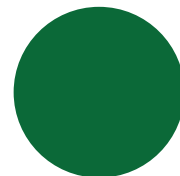
*Conversion therapy is a range of dangerous and discredited practices aimed at changing one's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Young LGBT people are at risk of being hurt by these practices, which have been linked to depression and suicide, among others.*

### LGBT ADOPTION:



Mixed

### ANTI-BULLYING:



Supported

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## SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY

- **DEFENDED FLORIDA'S BAN ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY**
- **TOLD GAY CONSTITUENT HE OPPOSED MARRIAGE EQUALITY BECAUSE MARRIAGE "NEEDED TO BE STRENGTHENED"**
- **SUPPORTED STATE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BANNING MARRIAGE EQUALITY AFTER EARLIER SAYING IT WAS UNNECESSARY BECAUSE FLORIDA ALREADY HAD A LAW ON THE BOOKS**
- **SPENT THOUSANDS IN SUPPORT OF FLORIDA'S SAME-SEX MARRIAGE BAN**
- **REFUSED TO OPPOSE DOMA**
- **THINKS MARRIAGE EQUALITY IS JUST A "DISTRACTION"**
- **SUPPORTS STATES INDIVIDUALLY DECIDING MARRIAGE ON THEIR OWN**
- **AFFIRMED OPPOSITION TO SAME-SEX MARRIAGE, BUT CALLED FOR RESPECT FOR "THE GOOD PEOPLE ON ALL SIDES" OF THE ISSUE, INCLUDING COUPLES MAKING "LIFETIME COMMITMENTS" AND "THOSE OF US" WHO "WANT TO SAFEGUARD RELIGIOUS LIBERTY"**

**2004: Bush Said In Constituent E-Mails: "I Do Not Support Gay Marriages Being Recognized In Florida...That Is The Law And It Will Stay That Way"** According to the Daily Beast, while same-sex marriage was being discussed during the presidential race in 2004: "Meanwhile, in Florida, Bush was flooded with questions about whether gay marriage could possibly come to the Sunshine State. His answer: Not on my watch. 'I do not support gay marriages being recognized in Florida,' he wrote Andrew Walther of Sanford. 'That is the law and it will stay that way.'" [\[The Daily Beast, 1/9/2015\]](#)

**2004: Bush Said In Constituent E-Mails Worried About Spread Of Same-Sex Marriage, “We Will Uphold The Law In Florida.”** According to the Daily Beast, while same-sex marriage was being discussed during the presidential race in 2004, Gov. Bush received an email: “Please, please do not permit this to happen here in Florida,” wrote Cris K. Smith of East Polk County. ‘We here in Florida do not want to be in the same boat as California. I believe that this is going to spread like wild fire. Let’s put out the fire before it has a chance to start.’ A few days later, Bush replied, ‘We will uphold the law in Florida.’ [\[The Daily Beast, 1/9/2015\]](#)

**2004: Bush Responded To Constituent Wishing To Marry Same-Sex Partner That “The Institution Of Marriage Is Under Attack In Our Society” And That His Relationship Could Be “Made More Permanent Through Contractual Obligations.”** The Daily Beast reported that Bush had received a letter from a constituent saying the push to ban same-sex marriage made him feel “particularly unequal.” According to the Daily Beast: “Bush responded about a month later. ‘Thank you for writing and I apologize for not responding earlier. The tyranny of the present has gotten me!’ Bush wrote. ‘I am sensitive to your point of view but respectfully disagree. If there is discrimination, there are remedies. The cases of violence against gay and lesbians are unconscionable and the laws in Florida exist to bring justice.’ Bush then suggested that Cortada and his partner could be ‘made more permanent through contractual obligations that set forth asset disposition and other issues’ but added that he did not believe their relationship ‘should be afforded the same status in the law as a man and a woman agreeing to marriage [sic].’ ‘The institution of marriage [sic] is under attack in our society and it needs to be strengthened,’ Bush wrote. ‘This does not have to be at the expense of other kinds of relationships but in support of the most important institution in our society.’” [\[The Daily Beast, 1/9/2015\]](#)

**2004: A Bush Spokesman Said, “We’ve Had A Law On The Books In Florida Since 1977 Banning Gay Marriage And The Governor Took An Oath Of Office To Uphold The Laws Of The State.”** According to the Associated Press: “Jacob DiPietre, a spokesman for Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, said the president’s brother stands behind the state law. Florida is among 38 states that prohibit same-sex unions. ‘We’ve had a law on the books in Florida since 1977 banning gay marriage and the governor took an oath of office to uphold the laws of the state,’ he said.” [\[Associated Press, 2/25/2004\]](#)

**2004: A Bush Spokesman Said, “The Governor Believes In The Sanctity Of Marriage. Marriage Is Between A Man And A Woman.”** According to the Florida Times Union: “Gov. Jeb Bush’s office said the governor supports his brother’s decision as well. ‘The governor believes in the sanctity of marriage,’ said spokesman Jacob DiPietre. ‘Marriage is between a man and a woman.’ DiPietre said the governor would comment on the specific amendment when one is submitted to Florida.” [\[Florida Times-Union, 2/25/2004\]](#)

**2004: Bush Questioned Whether A State Constitutional Amendment Banning Marriage Equality Was Necessary.** According to the Associated Press: “Florida Baptists unanimously gave their blessing Tuesday to a resolution calling for state constitutional ban on same-sex marriages. [...] Gov. Jeb Bush said there is no need for a constitutional amendment here because the federal Defense of Marriage Act already addresses the issue. ‘I’m not sure it’s necessary to do this in a pre-emptive fashion,’ he said. ‘I think we’re safe.’ [...] Bush said he is sure the Legislature would be enthusiastic about supporting a measure that would keep marriage between a man and a woman if the landscape changes and an amendment is needed.” [\[Associated Press, 11/9/04\]](#)

**2004: Bush Said His View That A Federal Amendment To Ban Same-Sex Marriage “Would Change If Someone Could Prove To Me That Our Law Is Vulnerable To Future Court Challenges.”** According to The Daily Beast: “Later in the year, Bush stopped short of backing his brother’s call for a constitutional amendment when asked what he was ‘hearing as it relates to a constitutional amendment on the defense of marriage:’ ‘I don’t think the amendment is necessary since gay marriages aren’t legal in our state,’ he wrote. ‘My view would change if someone could prove to me that that our law is vulnerable to future court challenges. I don’t see it.’ In a bit of foreshadowing, he repeated that opinion in November. ‘Our state already prohibits gay marriage,’ he wrote. ‘Unless there is a court decision that changes our law, we are OK.’” [\[The Daily Beast, 1/9/2015\]](#)

- **Bush: “If There Was Ever Indication That The Courts Were Going To Change And Therefore There Needed To Be Protection In The Constitution” He Would Support State Amendment Banning Same-Sex Marriage.** The Lakeland Ledger reported: “Gov. Jeb Bush seemed unconvinced of the need for an amendment. ‘If there was ever indication that the courts were going to change (the law) and therefore there needed to be protection in the Constitution, then I would support that initiative,’ Bush said during an appearance in Jacksonville. ‘Until such time as I can see that there is that threat looming, then I believe the Constitution shouldn’t be changed unless it is necessary.’” [\[Lakeland Ledger, 2/15/05\]](#)

- **Bush: “I Just Don’t Think These Things Necessarily Have To Be Embedded In Our [Florida’s] Constitution.”** According to the Florida Times Union: “Gov. Jeb Bush said Wednesday he is still opposed to an amendment against same-sex marriage because the state’s laws already prohibit the practice. ‘Like other things, I just don’t think these things necessarily have to be embedded in our constitution,’ Bush said. ‘There are state laws that ban gay marriages in our state, and I don’t see anything on the horizon that would create any kind of constitutional change. If there was, perhaps it would be necessary.’” [Florida Times Union, 9/22/05]

**2006: Jeb Bush Embraces State Constitutional Amendment Banning Marriage Equality, Citing Courts Overturning Bans, Said, “We May Be At That Point In Our State.”** According to the Orlando Sentinel: “Gov. Jeb Bush said Friday night he’s moving away from a longstanding position that there’s no need for a constitutional ban on same-sex marriages. At a fundraiser for the Florida Family Policy Council, a conservative group that backs such a ban, Bush said courts in other states overturning laws banning gay marriages have led him to the conclusion that a change to the Florida Constitution might be necessary. ‘We may be at that point in our state,’ he said.....It came as Florida’s Republican elite joined the group in honoring Bush at the dinner for his conservative stances with a new award named after state Sen. Daniel Webster. The Florida Family Policy Council is the same organization that pressed lawmakers and the courts last year to keep Terri Schiavo on a feeding tube and now is working toward giving voters a chance to decide whether a gay-marriage ban should be written into the Florida Constitution.” [\[Orlando Sentinel, 5/20/2006\]](#)

**Under Bush, The Republican Party Of Florida Donated \$300,000 To Group Supporting Florida’s Same-Sex Marriage Ban, Over 2/3rds Of Group’s Donations, In Policy Reversed By Crist.** According to the Orlando Sentinel, under Governor Bush, the Republican Party of Florida donated \$300,000 To Florida4Marriage. “The organization sponsoring the same-sex marriage ban, Florida4Marriage.org, has raised about \$430,000 for its campaign since it began collecting petitions two years ago. But more than two-thirds of that money came from the GOP, which wrote it a pair of \$150,000 checks.” Crist later said the donations were “probably not” something the Florida Republican Party should focus on. [\[Orlando Sentinel, 2/14/2007\]](#)

**2012: Bush Called Marriage Equality A “Distraction” From The Economy.** “Jeb Bush is on a three-day visit to Taiwan, and today the former Florida governor said the economy is the number one issue in the United States, calling same-sex marriage a ‘distraction’ in the presidential campaign. Bush made the comments at a question and answer session after giving a speech at a foreign ministry agency in Taipei, according to the Focus Taiwan News Channel.” [\[ABC News, 5/25/2012\]](#)

**Bush Said He Opposed Same-Sex Marriage But “Not At The Expense Of Discriminating In Other Forms Of Family Structure” And That “Wholesome Loving Family Life Ought To Be Kind Of The Organizing Principle In A Free Society.”** Asked by Charlie Rose if he supported same-sex marriage, Bush said, “No, I don’t. I don’t.” CHARLIE ROSE: ‘What’s your objection?’ JEB BUSH: ‘But I would be – I think traditional marriage is what should be sanctioned and not at the expense of discriminating in other forms of family structure. But so I don’t support it but I would say that wholesome loving family life ought to be kind of the organizing principle in a free society. If we don’t want to have government overwhelm us, then we have to be self-governing.’ CHARLIE ROSE: ‘Same-sex marriages can be loving and’ – JEB BUSH: ‘They can. And so I would say – I’m not passing judgment on this. I just – you asked me a question, I gave you an answer.’” [\[Charlie Rose, 6/6/2012, VIDEO\]](#)

**2012: Bush Said That While He Believes Marriage Is Between A Man And A Woman, “I Don’t Think People Need To Be Discriminated Against Because They Don’t Share My Belief....If People Love Their Children With All Their Heart And Soul...That Should Be Held Up As An Example For Others To Follow.”** During an interview with Charlie Rose, Jeb Bush said, “I don’t think people need to be discriminated against because they don’t share my belief on [marriage being between a man and a woman], and if people love their children with all their heart and soul and that’s what they do and that’s how they organize their life that should be held up as examples for others to follow because we need it....we desperately need it and that can take all sorts of forms. It doesn’t have to take the one that I think should be sanctioned under the law.” [\[Charlie Rose, 6/6/2012, VIDEO\]](#)

**2013: Bush Said That “I Would Prefer [Marriage] To Be A State-By-State Issue.”** According to Newsmax: “The day before the U.S. Supreme Court hears arguments on the constitutionality of gay marriage, former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush tells Newsmax TV in an exclusive interview that the issue should be decided by the states. ‘I would prefer it to be a state-by-state issue,’ Bush tells Newsmax. ‘That’s how we have dealt with a lot of issues in the United States. ‘Our federal system is a spectacular way to deal with changing mores – and states can take advantage of opportunities much better than federal government,’ Bush says. ‘This could be a place where the states play a role, as is the case right now.’” [[Newsmax, 3/25/2013, VIDEO](#)]

**Bush Spokeswoman Couldn’t Say Whether Bush Supported Repeal Of The Federal Defense Of Marriage Act.** The Tampa Tribune reported: “In recent interviews, Bush has called for the issue to be decided by states, not the federal government. A Bush spokeswoman couldn’t say whether that meant Bush would favor repeal of the federal Defense of Marriage Act.” [Tampa Tribune, 3/30/2013]

**2013: Bush Said On Marriage Equality: “We Ought To Talk About It, Recognizing There Is More Than One Point Of View, And We Should Talk About It In A Way That Is Not Judgmental.”** According to Newsmax: “‘I know for a fact that as it relates to gay marriage and other social issues there is growing divergence of opinion on this,’ Bush tells Newsmax. ‘When we talk about it, we ought to talk about it with a different tone – and we ought to talk about it recognizing that there is more than one point of view, and we should talk about it in a way that is not judgmental. If we can get to that point where people who have diverging points of view and express them in a civil way, the conservative coalition can stay intact.’” [[Newsmax, 3/25/2013, VIDEO](#)]

**2014: Bush On Same-Sex Marriage: “Regardless Of Our Disagreements, We Have To Respect The Rule Of Law.”** According to the New York Times: “As gay couples began to wed in Florida after a court ruling, Jeb Bush, the state’s former governor and long an opponent of same-sex marriages, struck a conciliatory note on Monday, telling The New York Times that ‘regardless of our disagreements, we have to respect the rule of law.’ The Times had asked a spokeswoman for Mr. Bush, among other things, if he supported challenging a state judge’s ruling Monday that allowed same-sex couples to start marrying in parts of Florida. Mr. Bush’s comments suggested a tepid acceptance of the new legal status, or at least an acknowledgment that there is little he can do to block it.” [[New York Times, 1/5/2015](#)]

**2014: Bush On Same-Sex Marriage: “It Ought To Be A Local Decision. I Mean, A State Decision. The State Decided. The People Of The State Decided. But It’s Be Overturned By The Courts, I Guess.”** According to the Miami Herald: “As he considers a presidential run, Jeb Bush is not offering encouraging words about same-sex marriages coming to his home state. ‘It ought to be a local decision. I mean, a state decision,’ the former governor said Sunday in a brief interview. ‘The state decided. The people of the state decided. But it’s been overturned by the courts, I guess.’ His comments to the Miami Herald after a round of golf in Coral Gables tracked past statements by the Republican, who has said the gay-marriage question should be decided at the state level. But with Miami-Dade County ready to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples as early as Monday if a judge approves – and the rest of the state following on Tuesday – the historic change is bound to bring even more attention to Bush’s somewhat guarded take on gay rights.” [Miami Herald, 1/4/2015]

**2014: Bush Said “I Hope That We Can Show Respect For The Good People On All Sides Of The Gay And Lesbian Marriage Issue—including Couple Making Lifetime Commitments To Each Other...And Those Of Us Who Believe Marriage Is A Sacrament And Want To Safeguard Religious Liberty.”** According to the New York Times: “‘We live in a democracy, and regardless of our disagreements, we have to respect the rule of law,’ Mr. Bush said in a statement. ‘I hope that we can show respect for the good people on all sides of the gay and lesbian marriage issue – including couples making lifetime commitments to each other who are seeking greater legal protections and those of us who believe marriage is a sacrament and want to safeguard religious liberty.’” [[New York Times, 1/5/2015](#)]

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# SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON DISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS FOR LGBT AMERICANS

- **OPPOSED ADDING SEXUAL ORIENTATION TO FLORIDA'S NON-DISCRIMINATION LAWS**
- **BUSH CALLED LGBT AMERICANS "ANOTHER CATEGORY OF VICTIMS"**
- **COMPARED LGBT AMERICANS TO DRUG DEALERS AND BANK ROBBERS, LATER APOLOGIZED FOR THE COMPARISON**
- **SUGGESTED THAT POTENTIAL EMPLOYEE SHOULD STAY CLOSETED AND FOLLOW "DON'T ASK, DON'T TELL"**
- **LATER SUGGESTED HE WOULD SUPPORT PROTECTIONS BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION**
- **SUPPORTED GIVING TAXPAYER FUNDING TO PRIVATE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS, EVEN IF THEY USE DISCRIMINATORY HIRING PRACTICES**

**1993: Bush Supported Legislation Denying LGBT People Civil Rights Protections, Telling A Lesbian Couple, "I Don't Believe We Need To Create Another Category Of Victims."** According to the Associated Press: "Jeb Bush, 40, doesn't have the luxury of no opposition enjoyed by his big brother; a handful of Florida Republicans are seeking the nomination, which is why the campaign has started so soon. [...] He opposes legalized abortion, and supports term limits and a ballot measure that would deny homosexuals specific protections under state civil rights laws. 'I don't believe we need to create another category of victims,' he said sternly to a lesbian couple that heckled him after one appearance." [\[Associated Press, 10/31/1993\]](#)

**1994: Bush: "We Have Enough Special Categories, Enough Victims, Without Creating Even More."** According to BuzzFeed: "During [Bush's] first and unsuccessful bid for governor in 1994, Bush argued in an editorial that LGBT people do not deserve special legal protection. 'We have enough special categories, enough victims, without creating even more,' he wrote." [\[BuzzFeed, 1/5/2015\]](#)

- **1994: Bush Said "I Do Not Believe That Government Should Create A New Class Of Citizens With Special Legal Rights."** In an editorial in the Miami Herald, Bush said, "Re: the June 20 Herald editorial Bigotry and its mouthpieces about the gubernatorial candidates' position on homosexuality and special legal rights for homosexuals: Homosexuality is wrong, but it is also wrong to discriminate against homosexuals in employment, housing, etc., solely on the basis of sexual preference. I have employed homosexuals and continue to

do so. Therefore, I take vigorous exception to your characterization of me as a bigot. However, I do not believe that government should create a new class of citizens with special legal rights." [\[BuzzFeed, 1/5/2015, Miami Herald, 6/22/1994\]](#)

- **1994: Bush On LGBT Discrimination: “Polluters, Pedophiles, Pornographers, Drunk Drivers, And Developers Receive—And Deserve—Precious Little Representation Or Defense From Their Governor. The Statement That The Governor Must Stand Up For All People On All Matters Is Just Silly!”** In an editorial in the Miami Herald on the lack of anti-discrimination policies for LGBT people in Florida, Bush wrote, “You imply that discrimination is always wrong, yet government and individual Floridians discriminate every day in innumerable ways. Government discriminates against bank robbers, drug dealers, litterbugs, and homeowners who repair their seawall without a permit, just to name a few. Yours is not a reasoned argument reflecting reality. The governor — and the government — do not defend the conduct of every Floridian with equal verve and enthusiasm. Polluters, pedophiles, pornographers, drunk drivers, and developers without proper permits receive — and deserve — precious little representation or defense from their governor. The statement that the governor must stand up for all people on all matters is just silly.” [\[BuzzFeed, 1/5/2015, Miami Herald, 6/22/1994\]](#)
- **1994: Bush Said, “Should Sodomy Be Elevated To The Same Constitutional Status As Race And Religion? My Answer Is No.”** In an editorial for the Miami Herald, Bush wrote, “The public policy question is whether homosexuals deserve special legal protection from otherwise legal, private acts of discrimination, which protections are not available to smokers, drinkers, children, redheads, Midwesterners, Democrats, veterans, nudists, etc. Or, to put it another way, should sodomy be elevated to the same constitutional status as race and religion? My answer is No. We have enough special categories, enough victims, without creating even more.” [\[BuzzFeed, 1/5/2015, Miami Herald, 6/22/1994\]](#)
- **2014: Bush Spokesperson: “Gov. Bush Believes That Our Society Should Have A Culture Of Respect For All People, Regardless Of Their Differences, And That Begins With Preventing Discrimination, Including When It Comes To Sexual Orientation.”** After some of Bush’s previous views from 1994 on LGBT anti-discrimination policies, including that it creates a new “special category” of victims, were published by BuzzFeed: “In a statement to BuzzFeed News, a spokeswoman for Bush said the governor no longer holds the views in the editorial and would not use the language today. ‘Gov. Bush believes that our society should have a culture of respect for all people, regardless of their differences, and that begins with preventing discrimination, including when it comes to sexual orientation,’ said Kristy Campbell, Bush’s spokeswoman. ‘This opinion editorial from 20 years ago does not reflect Gov. Bush’s views now, nor would he use this terminology today.’” [\[BuzzFeed, 1/5/2015, Miami Herald, 6/22/1994\]](#)

**2000: Bush Told Constituent Upset With His Appointment Of Openly LGBT Judge: “I Did Not Know She Was Openly Gay. Our Team Doesn’t Ask, Nor Should They Ask, Sexual Preferences In The Interview Process.”** According to the Wall Street Journal, in an e-mail, Bush wrote on Feb. 29, 2000 to a man upset about his appointment of a gay judge ‘with a perversion’ to a circuit court: “I did not know she was openly gay. Our team doesn’t ask, nor should they ask sexual preferences in the interview process. P.S. I appreciate your prayers.” [\[Wall Street Journal, Washington Wire, 12/26/2014\]](#)

**2004: Bush Suggested To Constituent Laws Existed In Florida To Remedy Violence And Discrimination Against LGBT People, But That He Did Not Think LGBT Relationships Deserved Same Status As Heterosexual Marriages.** The Daily Beast reported that Bush had received a letter from a constituent saying the push to ban same-sex marriage made him feel “particularly unequal.” According to the Daily Beast: “Bush responded about a month later. ‘Thank you for writing and I apologize for not responding earlier. The tyranny of the present has gotten me!’ Bush wrote. ‘I am sensitive to your point of view but respectfully disagree. If there is discrimination, there are remedies. The cases of violence against gay and lesbians are unconscionable and the laws in Florida exist to bring justice.’ Bush then suggested that Cortada and his partner could be ‘made more permanent through contractual obligations that set forth asset disposition and other issues’ but added that he did not believe their relationship ‘should be afforded the same status in the law as a man and a woman agreeing to marriage [sic]’. ‘The institution of marriage [sic] is under attack in our society and it needs to be strengthened,’ Bush wrote. ‘This does not have to be at the expense of other kinds of relationships but in support of the most important institution in our society.’” [\[The Daily Beast, 1/9/2015\]](#)



**2010: Bush's Foundation For Florida's Future Supported State Constitutional Amendment Repealing Ban On Taxpayer Financial Aid To Religious Institutions Over Objections It Would Give Organizations Taxpayer Funding to Discriminate.** According to the Associated Press: "A constitutional proposal designed to protect religious school vouchers and other state-funded faith-based programs from legal attack is being revived by the Florida Legislature two years after the state Supreme Court took a similar measure off the ballot. ....The proposal would repeal a ban on taxpayer financial aid to churches, sects and other religious institutions similar to provisions in most state constitutions across the nation. It would go a step farther than the previous proposal by prohibiting any other kind of ban on individuals, organizations or other entities 'participating in any public program because of religion'....Supporters include former Gov. Jeb Bush's Foundation for Florida's Future, the Florida Catholic Conference and Florida Chamber of Commerce. They argue it would support for religious freedom. Opponents, such as the American Civil Liberties Union, Florida Education Association, Florida PTA and Anti-Defamation League, contend it would open the public purse to parochial schools and other religious organizations at the expense of public schools. It would include those that discriminate in hiring and espouse bigotry and racism, they said." [Associated Press, 4/14/2010]

**Bush Suggested to Potential Employee That he Should Remain Closeted and Follow "Don't Ask, Don't Tell."** According to the New York Times, in an e-mail to a gay Floridian looking for a job in Bush's administration who asked if his sexual orientation would be a problem, Bush responded: "On the other stuff, don't ask, don't tell is fine with me; Mr. Bush responded, appropriating the terminology President Bill Clinton used regarding gays in the military. 'What you do in your private life is your business. If it crosses over into the public policy realm, then that is another matter. If you are comfortable with that, then we can proceed.'" [New York Times, 12/24/2014]

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## SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON RHETORIC AND INTOLERANCE

- **CALLED LGBT RIGHTS MOVEMENT "MODERN VICTIMS MOVEMENT"**
- **MADE CRUDE JOKE ABOUT LESBIANS DURING MISSING CHILD CASE**
- **CALLED MARRIAGE, ADOPTIONS AND PARTNER BENEFITS FOR LGBT AMERICANS "SPECIAL RIGHTS"**

**Bush Called The LGBT Rights Movement A "Modern Victims Movement!"** In his book, Bush wrote: "Since the 1960s, the politics of victimization has steadily intensified. Being a victim gives rise to certain entitlements, benefits, and preferences in society. The surest way to get something in today's society is to elevate one's status to that of the oppressed. Many of the modern victim movements – the gay rights movement, the feminist movement, the black empowerment movement – have attempted to get people to view themselves as part of a smaller group deserving of something from society. It is a major deviation from the society envisioned by Martin Luther King, who would have had people judged by the content of their character and not by the color of their skin – or sexual preference or gender or ethnicity. Eventually there will come a time when everybody will be able to claim some status as a victim of society, leaving few in society who will actually be considered the victimizers. Who, then, will be left to blame in a world in which it is victim against victim?" [Jeb Bush, Profiles in Character, p. 59-60, 1995]

**2002: Bush Mocked “Juicy Details” Of Missing Child Case By Implying Sisters Involved Were Actually Lesbians.** According to Salon, after two sisters were arrested for fraud in the disappearance of a six – year-old girl, “News of their arrest prompted Bush to tantalize GOP lawmakers at a Wednesday meeting with what he called ‘juicy details’ about the women – who he implied were not sisters at all, but rather a lesbian couple. ‘As [Geraldyn Graham] was being arrested,’ Bush told the Panhandle lawmakers, ‘she told her co-workers, ‘Tell my wife I’ve been arrested.’ The wife is the grandmother, and the aunt is the husband.’ Bush added gestures, using his fingers to make quotation marks as he emphasized the word ‘grandmother.’ ‘Bet you don’t get that in Pensacola,’ Bush added for flourish, apparently not realizing that a reporter with Gannett Regional Newspapers of Florida was in the room. His comments were first reported in Wednesday’s editions of the Pensacola News-Journal, and soon made the rounds of media across the state.” [\[Salon, 10/5/2002\]](#)

**2003: A Bush Spokeswoman Said, “The Governor Does Not Support Extending Special Rights To Specific Groups.** He Is Opposed To Same-Sex Marriages, Gay Adoptions And The Extension Of Domestic-Partners Benefits.” According to the Orlando Sentinel, “Florida Gov. Jeb Bush agrees with the Vatican’s stand on marriage and adoption by gays, a spokeswoman said. ‘The governor does not support extending special rights to specific groups. He is opposed to same-sex marriages, gay adoptions and the extension of domestic-partners benefits,’ spokeswoman Jill Bratina said.” [\[Orlando Sentinel, 10/1/2003\]](#)

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## SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON BULLYING AND ADOPTION

- **OPPOSED ADOPTION BY LGBT PARENTS**
- **SAID HE WOULDN’T SUPPORT SAME-SEX ADOPTION BECAUSE HE DID NOT WANT TO ENDORSE “THE LIFESTYLE”**
- **PRAISED RULING THAT KEPT LAW IN PLACE BANNING ADOPTIONS FROM LGBT COUPLES**
- **EXPRESSED GENERIC SUPPORT FOR “NONTRADITIONAL FAMILY”**
- **AFTER FLORIDA’S STATE BAN ON SAME-SEX ADOPTIONS WAS STRUCK DOWN, BUSH SAID HE RESPECTED THE SET UP COMMISSION ON BULLYING AFTER STUDENT COMMITTED SUICIDE**

**2003: A Bush Spokeswoman Said, “The Governor Does Not Support Extending Special Rights To Specific Groups....Gay Adoptions And The Extension Of Domestic-Partners Benefits!”** According to the Orlando Sentinel: “Florida Gov. Jeb Bush agrees with the Vatican’s stand on marriage and adoption by gays, a spokeswoman said. ‘The governor does not support extending special rights to specific groups. He is opposed to same-sex marriages, gay adoptions and the extension of domestic-partners benefits,’ spokeswoman Jill Bratina said.” [\[Orlando Sentinel, 10/1/2003\]](#)

**2004: Bush Praised Court Opinion Upholding Ban On Same-Sex Adoptions, Saying,“It Is In The Best Interest Of Adopted Children....To Be Placed In A Home Anchored Both By A Mother And Father:”** After a 2004 ruling by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals upholding Florida’s right to discriminate against same-sex couples wishing to adopt children, the Orlando Sentinel reported: “Gov. Jeb Bush praised the ruling, saying it ‘validates Florida’s conclusion that it is in the best interest of adopted children, many of whom come from troubled and unstable backgrounds, to be placed in a home anchored both by a mother and father.” [\[Orlando Sentinel, 1/29/2004\]](#)

**Bush Told Constituent That While He Has “Not Been A Vocal Opponent Of The Gay And Lesbian Lifestyle, I Am Not In Favor Of Lifting The Ban” On Same-Sex Adoption Because That Would Indicate Endorsement By The State Of “This Particular Lifestyle:”** According to ABC: “The emails show Bush dealing with the issue of gay adoption in the state. An aide drafts a response to a constituent over the issue, writing, ‘While I respect the great diversity of our state, and have not been a vocal opponent of the gay and lesbian lifestyle, I am not in favor of lifting the ban on gay and lesbian adoptions.’ The letter continues, saying, ‘I do not believe it is for the state to encourage or endorse this particular lifestyle. So long as it is within the bounds of the law, people may be free to do what they wish in their own private and personal affairs. However, when those activities require state approval and oversight, then that constitutes [sic] an explicit endorsement of the activity by the state,’ the letter ends with Bush saying he respects his constituents’ viewpoints, but he disagrees. He then forwards the letter to close aide Sally Bradshaw writing, ‘i need your opinion on this soon.” [\[ABC News, 12/31/2014\]](#)

**Bush: “Families Don’t Look All The Time Like They Used To, And That’s Okay. We Have To Be Supportive Of....The Nontraditional Family:”** At Faith and Freedom Coalition’s “Road to the Majority” Conference, Politico reported that during a discussion of immigration: “Bush also spoke about the importance of reclaiming the idea of ‘family’ — and recognizing that some families are ‘nontraditional.’onLet me remind you, families don’t look all the time like they used to, and that’s ok,’ he said. ‘We have to be supportive of a single mom or dad, or the grandmother taking care of young children, the nontraditional family.” [\[Politico, 6/14/2013\]](#)

**Bush: “A Loving Family Taking Care Of Their Children In A Traditional Marriage” Will Have Better Chance Of Getting Out Of Poverty Than Any Government Program.** According to the Associated Press: “Former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush and Wisconsin Rep. Paul Ryan courted some of Wall Street’s most powerful political benefactors on Monday, insisting that love, friendship and ‘traditional marriage’ can combat poverty better than government programs.....Bush, the son of one president and brother of another, called for more welcoming immigration policies, while offering his own poverty prescription: ‘A loving family taking care of their children in a traditional marriage will create the chance to break out of poverty far better, far better than any of the government programs that we can create.”n[Associated Press, 5/12/2014]

Bush Said That Though He Previously Opposed Same-Sex Adoption, “It Has Since Become The Law In Our State And I Respect That Decision.” According to the Tampa Bay Times: “Previously, I opposed gay adoption, but it has since become the law in our state and I respect that decision,”Bush said. For many activists on both sides, these statements will likely offer little comfort or quiet any controversy. Bush isn’t saying he supports either issue. But he’s not fighting them, either.” [\[Tampa Bay Times, The Buzz, 1/5/2015\]](#)

**Bush Responded To Mother Of Son Who Committed Suicide Due To Anti-LGBT Cyber-Bullying And Received Immediate Response And Commission Set Up By The Weekend.** After Jeff Johnston committed suicide following anti-LGBT cyber bullying, According to the Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel: “[Jeff’s Mom] and school officials tried everything to stop it — talking to the bully, his family, the authorities — but they continually ran into a brick wall: Cyberbullying wasn’t a crime, and bullying wasn’t taken seriously.....It was only when then-Gov. Jeb Bush heard Jeff’s story, and saw firsthand the bully’s all-too-open blog of hate, that Florida began to adopt a new attitude on bullying. In a fit of rage on a sleepless night, Johnston wrote the governor an email. She was surprised to receive an almost-immediate response from the man himself, who by the end of the weekend had engaged his education commissioner in a campaign to put a stop to such ugliness.” [\[Fort Lauderdale Sun-Sentinel, 9/18/2011\]](#)