

2016:

REPUBLICAN FACTS



TED CRUZ:

NOT A FAN OF
PRIDE PARADES



Whether the issue is marriage or protection from discrimination, Sen. Ted Cruz has consistently opposed equality for LGBT Americans. And he's gone even further, attacking fellow Republicans for marching in pride parades, and using his opposition to marriage to win his first Senate campaign.

Marriage: Ted Cruz led the charge to deny Texas couples marriage equality. In the Senate, he has supported a constitutional amendment that would prevent the federal government from recognizing marriage equality.

Discrimination: Cruz has consistently opposed granting protections to LGBT Americans. Cruz has opposed both local ordinances in Texas that would protect LGBT Americans, and ENDA's explicit federal workplace protections.

Executive Order: Unclear

Conversion Therapy: Cruz has refused to speak out against "conversion therapy" that coerces minors into "treatment" that can lead to depression and suicide.

Harmful Rhetoric: Cruz has no problem about using equality as a wedge issue against fellow Republicans – he's attacked Republicans for appearing in pride parades and suggested that he believes being gay is a "choice." He even bragged about intervening in a case to stop a civil union.

Adoption: Unclear

Anti-bullying: Unclear

CRUZ'S NOTABLE QUOTES ON LGBT EQUALITY

Cruz: "When A Mayor Of A City Chooses Twice To March In A Parade Celebrating Pride, That's A Statement – And It's Not A Statement I Agree With!" "Cruz: What I am saying is that when a mayor of a city chooses twice to march in a parade celebrating gay pride, that's a statement - and it's not a statement I agree with." [KERA, [2/22/12](#); VIDEO]

Cruz: "I Believe That Engaging In Homosexual Conduct Is A Choice!" "On to Cruz, the former state solicitor general who prides himself on tough talk but ignored the question I e-mailed in favor of the one he wanted to answer: 'I believe that engaging in homosexual conduct is a choice, and I do not believe that unelected judges should force States to adopt gay marriage, against the wishes of the people. Marriage is a fundamental building block of our society, and I have a proven record of standing and fighting to protect traditional marriage between one man and one woman.'" [San Antonio Express-News, [3/4/12](#)]

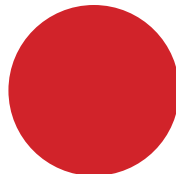
CRUZ ON THE ISSUES

MARRIAGE EQUALITY:



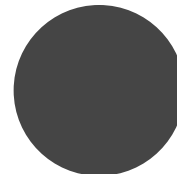
Opposed

PROTECTING LGBT AMERICANS FROM DISCRIMINATION:



Opposed

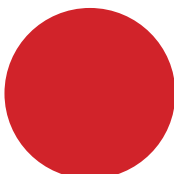
PRESIDENT OBAMA'S LGBT EXECUTIVE ORDER:



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.

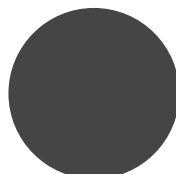
BAN HARMFUL "CONVERSION THERAPY:"



Opposed

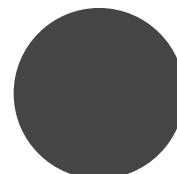
Conversion therapy is a range of dangerous and discredited practices aimed at changing one's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. Young LGBT people are at risk of being hurt by these practices, which have been linked to depression and suicide, among others.

LGBT ADOPTION:



Unclear

ANTI-BULLYING:



Unclear

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON MARRIAGE EQUALITY

- **SAYS MARRIAGE IS BETWEEN “ONE MAN AND ONE WOMAN”**
- **PLEGGED TO INTRODUCE FEDERAL CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT OPPOSING MARRIAGE EQUALITY**
- **INTRODUCED THE STATE MARRIAGE DEFENSE ACT (TWICE) WHICH WOULD CEDE DEFINITION OF MARRIAGE TO STATES FOR FEDERAL PURPOSES**
- **OPPOSED PROPOSITION 8 RULING**
- **RAN FOR SENATE BASED ON HIS OPPOSITION TO MARRIAGE EQUALITY**
- **BRAGGED ABOUT INTERVENING TO PREVENT RECOGNITION OF CIVIL UNION**
- **SAID PEOPLE CAN “VOTE WITH THEIR FEET” IF THEY DON’T LIKE LIVING IN A STATE WITHOUT MARRIAGE EQUALITY**

2013: Cruz: “I Support Marriage Between One Man And One Woman. But I Also Think It’s A Question For The States.” According to The Tonight Show: “Cruz also touched on a pair of hot-button social issues that have crowded the headlines throughout 2013, standing by his opposition to same-sex marriage and universal background checks for gun buyers. ‘I support marriage between one man and one woman,’ he said. ‘But I also think it’s a question for the states. Some states have made decisions one way on gay marriage. Some states have made decisions the other way. And that’s the great thing about our Constitution, is different states can make different decisions depending on the values of their citizens.’” [“The Tonight Show,” NBC, [11/9/13](#); VIDEO]

Cruz: “I Don’t Think The Federal Government Should Be Trying To Force The States To Adopt Gay Marriage In All 50 States. If The Citizens Of The State Make That Decision, They Have The Constitutional Authority To Do That.” According to BuzzFeed, at the New Hampshire Freedom Summit: “Cruz was sharper in his call to promote ‘a culture of life’ in the country – he avoided the word ‘abortion’ but on marriage, he didn’t go any further than Paul. ‘We have 50 states with different values, with different mores, and we would expect different states to adopt different laws. I don’t think the federal government should be trying to force the states to adopt gay marriage in all 50 states. If the citizens of the state make that decision, they have the Constitutional authority to do that.’” [BuzzFeed, [4/13/2014](#)]

Ted Cruz Introduced the State Marriage Defense Act, Which Would Cede Definition of Marriage to States For Federal Purposes In Order to Reverse Gains Made By Striking Down of Defense of Marriage Act. According to the Washington Post: “Republican Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Mike Lee of Utah introduced the ‘State Marriage Defense Act’ on Wednesday... If passed, the bill would cede marriage definition to states for federal purposes, which would effectively reverse the gains same-sex couples made after the Defense of Marriage Act was overturned by the Supreme Court in the summer. In a statement released Thursday, Cruz said, ‘I support traditional marriage. Under President Obama, the federal government has tried to re-define marriage, and to undermine the constitutional authority of each state to define marriage consistent with the values of its citizens. The Obama Administration should not be trying to force gay marriage on all 50 states.’” [Washington Post, [2/13/14](#)]

Cruz On President Obama: “The President Of The United States Has Officially Declared Himself An Enemy Of Traditional Marriage.” According to PBS: “Cruz: For the first time in centuries the president of the United States has officially declared himself an enemy of traditional marriage between one man and one woman.” [“Moyers and Company,” PBS, [8/31/12](#); VIDEO]

Cruz: “Faith And Freedom Are Under Assault Right Now. This President Is The First President In Modern History To Put The Stamp Of The Presidency Behind Gay Marriage.” According to the Dallas Morning News : “‘Faith and freedom are under assault right now,’ Cruz said, preaching to the choir. ‘This president is the first president in modern history to put the stamp of the presidency behind gay marriage,’ he said, then added the health care law, government spending and the mandate that religiously affiliated institutions provide contraception in employee insurance plans to his list of President Barack Obama’s political sins.” [Dallas Morning News, [8/26/12](#)]

Cruz Called The Obama White House “The Most Hostile-To-Traditional-Marriage Administration This Country Has Ever Seen.” According to Politico: “Sen. Ted Cruz says President Barack Obama’s administration is “hostile” to traditional marriage, calling it the most hostile White House in history. The Texas Republican has been plugging his State Marriage Defense Act, a bill he introduced with Sen. Mike Lee (R-Utah) to require the federal government to respect state laws defining marriage between a man and a woman, on a tour of conservative radio. On Monday, Cruz told David Barton and Rick Warren’s ‘Wallbuilders Live’ that there’s been a ‘sad trend’ in recent years of advocacy groups using courts to challenge traditional marriage laws. ‘But it’s also manifested from the federal government, with the Obama administration,’ Cruz said. “This administration is the most hostile-to-traditional-marriage administration this country has ever seen.”a [Politico, [2/18/14](#); AUDIO]

- **Cruz: “The Administration Has Been Using The Authority Of The Federal Government To Try To Force Federal Recognition Of Marriages That State Law Prohibits.”** According to Politico: “Cruz cited the administration’s decision to recognize same-sex marriages performed in Utah before a Supreme Court order halted gay marriage in the state once more. ‘The administration has been using the authority of the federal government to try to force states, to force federal recognition of marriages that state law prohibits,’ Cruz said. ‘The Obama administration came into Utah and said, ‘We’re not going to listen to what the U.S. Supreme Court said. We, the federal government, are going to recognize marriages in the state of Utah and Utah state law explicitly does not recognize as marriage’ and that was really, in my view, an abuse of power.”d [Politico, [2/18/14](#); AUDIO]

Cruz: “We’re Facing An Assault On Marriage.” According to Right Wind Watch: “Cruz: On marriage there is no issue in which we need to be more on our knees because the momentum is with the opponents of traditional marriage. We saw a decision from the U.S. Supreme Court, a decision that some have heralded, even some conservatives have heralded, I think that decision was an abject demonstration of judicial activism. Five unelected judges saying we are going to set aside the policy preference of the state of California, the citizens not of some crazy right-wing state—California. The citizens of California went to vote and they voted and said in the state of California we want marriage to be the traditional union of one man and one woman, and the US Supreme Court, as a result of its decision said you have no right to define marriage in your state, we know better. We’re facing an assault on marriage. As pastors, each of you has a special responsibility and a special ability to speak to your congregations and to mobilize the people, and mobilize them more than anything to pray.” [Right Wing Watch, [7/26/13](#); VIDEO]

Cruz Accused “Advocacy Groups” of Using “Brute Power” to “Subvert Our Democratic System” And It’s “Heartbreaking.” Speaking to conservative radio host Janet Mefferd, Cruz said, “It is a consistent assault, and it’s an assault that really comes from the use of power to subvert our democratic system. It is from advocacy groups that don’t have the patience to actually win an argument with the people and make the case to the American people. If they want to advocate for their views, the First Amendment gives them the right to advocate. But they don’t want to wait for that. Instead, they want to use brute power to force the states to take down marriage laws that have been in place for centuries, and that’s inconsistent with the Constitution, and it’s not right, and it’s heartbreaking. Because you and I both know that the best environment for children to be raised is a loving home with a mother and father.” [Janet Mefferd Show, [2/17/14](#), AUDIO]

Ted Cruz Said Marriage is “Under Assault In a Way That Is Pervasive” Due to Proposition 8 Ruling.

According to the New Yorker, speaking at a Defense of Texas Marriage Amendment rally: “Marriage is under assault... It is under assault in a way that is pervasive. We’re seeing marriage under assault in the courts, including, sadly, the Supreme Court of the United States. It struck down the California marriage laws. California had a referendum. They asked the voters of California, ‘Do you want marriage to be a traditional marriage between one man and one woman?’ And the voters of California—those crazy right-wing kooks—said, ‘Yes, now that you mention it, we like marriage to be between one man and one woman!’ Went to the U.S. Supreme Court, and the U.S. Supreme Court said, ‘You can’t say that,’ and struck it down. You want to know what judicial activism is? Judicial activism is judges imposing their policy preferences on the words of the Constitution.” [New Yorker, [6/30/14](#)]

Ted Cruz Said, “If Ever There Was An Issue On Which We Should Come To Our Knees to God About, It Is Preserving Marriage Of One Man And One Woman.”

According to the New Yorker: Speaking at a Defense of Texas Marriage Amendment rally, Cruz said, “I’m going to encourage three very simple things. No. 1, I’m going to encourage each and every man and woman here to pray. If ever there was an issue on which we should come to our knees to God about, it is preserving marriage of one man and one woman. And this is an issue on which we need as many praying warriors as possible to turn back the tide... We need to stand and defend marriage, and we need to defend the prerogative of the citizens of Texas to determine what marriage means in the state of Texas.” [New Yorker, [6/30/14](#)]

Cruz Said His “Heart Weeps For the Damage to Traditional Marriage That Has Been Done” By Pro-Same-Sex Marriage Supreme Court Rulings.

According to Mediaite: “Cruz appeared on Washington Week, a radio show hosted by the conservative Family Research Council’s Tony Perkins, to explain his stance on the issue. ‘Our heart weeps for the damage to traditional marriage that has been done,’ Cruz said. He described the ‘best environment for a child’ with both a mother and father – as being ‘under attack.’ We need to stand up I believe, and defend traditional marriage,’ he continued, ‘and especially do everything we can to prevent the federal government from forcing a different definition of marriage that is contrary to the views to the citizens of each state.’” [Mediaite, [2/14/14](#), AUDIO]

Cruz Said President Obama Was Putting Marriage “Under Assault In A Way That Is Pervasive And Unrelenting.”

According to the Texas Observer, at an event for Conservative Republicans of Texas, Cruz said that marriage is ‘under assault in a way that is pervasive and unrelenting;’ and the assault was emanating, first, from President Obama. Three things needed to be done to beat him back, Cruz said. Prayer was one. Legislation to protect state laws on marriage was another. And the third was to win elections, including the presidential election in 2016.” [Texas Observer, [6/6/14](#)]

Cruz Ran For Senate On His Opposition To Same-Sex Marriage.

According to the Austin American Statesman: “Cruz, a former state solicitor general, repeatedly suggested that he has the best record of fighting for conservative principles. He pointed the audience to his website, which touts his record of defending lawsuit restrictions, the state’s marriage laws and Republicans’ 2003 congressional redistricting plan in court. ‘I have spent my entire professional life defending the U.S. Constitution,’ he said.” [Austin American Statesman, [6/8/11](#)]

Cruz: “There Are Some Who Say The Republican Party Should No Longer Stand For Traditional Marriage. I Don’t Agree With Them.”

According to the Des Moines Register: “U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas believes Republicans must continue making the fight against abortion and same-sex marriage a campaign priority, a position that separates him from Rand Paul, potentially a main rival in the 2016 presidential sweepstakes. [...] Cruz, in an interview with The Des Moines Register on Tuesday, said that Republicans ‘should continue to defend life and that we should continue to defend traditional marriage.’ [...] On Tuesday, the anniversary of the national GOP’s post-election report examining its failings in the 2012 election cycle, the Register asked Cruz whether Paul is right about how to be more welcoming. ‘Look, I am a conservative,’ Cruz answered. ‘I’m a fiscal conservative. I’m a social conservative. I think we’ve seen that in order for the Republican Party to succeed, we need to be a big tent. ... There are some who say the Republican Party should no longer stand for life. I don’t agree with that. There are some who say the Republican Party should no longer stand for traditional marriage. I don’t agree with them, either.’” [Des Moines Register, [3/19/14](#)]

• Cruz: “How Do We Win? We Defend The Values That Are American Values. We Stand For Life. We Stand For Marriage. We Stand For Israel.”

According to the Associated Press: “Cruz, an evangelical favorite who overwhelmingly won last year’s Values Voter presidential straw poll, drew applause for chastising those in the GOP who encourage Republican candidates to downplay ‘family values.’ ‘How do we win? We defend the values that are American values,’ Cruz said. ‘We stand for life. We stand for marriage. We stand for Israel.’” [Associated Press, [9/27/14](#)]

Cruz’s Spokesman: “Ted’s Opposition To Gay Marriage -- And His Proven Record Fighting To Defend Traditional Marriage -- Is Clear And Unwavering.”

According to the Dallas Morning News: “Cruz, in his bid for attorney general, which he abandoned to run for Senate, accepted \$250,000 from Peter Thiel, a gay activist and

businessman who is fighting efforts in California to outlaw gay marriage. 'Ted's opposition to gay marriage -- and his proven record fighting to defend traditional marriage -- is clear and unwavering,' Bernsen said. 'Over 13,000 donors have contributed to Ted's campaign and not every donor agreed with Ted on every issue.'" [Dallas Morning News, [3/15/12](#)]

2014: Cruz Called A Supreme Court Ruling Allowing Lower Court Rulings In Favor Of Marriage Equality To Stand "Tragic And Indefensible." "U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, today issued the following statement regarding the Supreme Court's decision to reject requests from five States to review state laws that prohibit same-sex marriage. 'The Supreme Court's decision to let rulings by lower court judges stand that redefine marriage is both tragic and indefensible,' said Sen. Cruz. 'By refusing to rule if the States can define marriage, the Supreme Court is abdicating its duty to uphold the Constitution. The fact that the Supreme Court Justices, without providing any explanation whatsoever, have permitted lower courts to strike down so many state marriage laws is astonishing. This is judicial activism at its worst. The Constitution entrusts state legislatures, elected by the People, to define marriage consistent with the values and mores of their citizens. Unelected judges should not be imposing their policy preferences to subvert the considered judgments of democratically elected legislatures.'" [Ted Cruz Press Release, [10/6/14](#)]

- **Cruz Pledged To Introduce A Constitutional Amendment To Prevent The Federal Government From Striking Down State Marriage Laws.** In a press release, Cruz said, "Marriage is a question for the States. That is why I have introduced legislation, S. 2024, to protect the authority of state legislatures to define marriage. And that is why, when Congress returns to session, I will be introducing a constitutional amendment to prevent the federal government or the courts from attacking or striking down state marriage laws." [Ted Cruz Press Release, [10/6/14](#)]
- **Cruz: "We Should Remain Faithful To Our Moral Heritage And Never Hesitate To Defend It!"** In a press release, Cruz said, "Traditional marriage is an institution whose integrity and vitality are critical to the health of any society. We should remain faithful to our moral heritage and never hesitate to defend it." [Ted Cruz Press Release, [10/6/14](#)]

2014: Cruz Introduced Legislation To Effectively Reinstate Parts Of DOMA By Ceding The Definition Of Marriage To The States. According to the Washington Post: "Republican Sens. Ted Cruz of Texas and Mike Lee of Utah introduced the 'State Marriage Defense Act' Ron Wednesday. Rep. Randy Weber (R-Tex.) introduced similar legislation in the House in early January. If passed, the bill would cede marriage definition to states for federal purposes, which would effectively reverse the gains same-sex couples made after the Defense of Marriage Act was overturned by the Supreme Court in the summer." [Washington Post, [2/13/14](#)]

- **Cruz: "This Bill Will Safeguard The Ability Of States To Preserve Traditional Marriage For Its Residents"** In a press release, Cruz said, «I support traditional marriage. Under President Obama, the federal government has tried to re-define marriage, and to undermine the constitutional authority of each state to define marriage consistent with the values of its citizens,' said Sen. Cruz. 'The Obama Administration should not be trying to force gay marriage on all 50 states. We should respect the states, and the definition of marriage should be left to democratically elected legislatures, not dictated from Washington. This bill will safeguard the ability of states to preserve traditional marriage for its residents.'a [Ted Cruz Press Release, [2/13/14](#)]

2014: Cruz Believes Marriage Is "A Question For The States" And Attacked Federal Judges For "Imposing Their Own Policy Preferences." According to The Hill: "Cruz said that marriage is a 'question for the states' because of the country's federalist system. 'This is something we've seen over and over again, which is the federal government and federal courts deciding they don't trust the people,' Cruz said. 'They look down on the people, they don't trust us to make judgments about our own lives, so the federal government and federal courts are going to step in and impose their own policy preferences.'" [The Hill, [10/30/14](#); VIDEO]

2014: Cruz Dismissed A Federal Court Ruling That Texas's Same-Sex Marriage Ban Is Unconstitutional As "A Troubling Display Of Judicial Activism." In a press release, Cruz said, "Today's ruling by a federal judge invalidating Texas' ban on same-sex marriage, is a troubling display of judicial activism. Our Constitution leaves it to the States to define marriage, and unelected judges should not be substituting their own policy views for the reasoned judgments of the citizens of Texas, who adopted our marriage law directly by referendum. The court's decision undermines the institution of marriage, and I applaud Attorney General Abbott's decision to appeal this ruling to the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals." [Ted Cruz Press Release, [2/26/14](#)]

Cruz Said People Can "Vote With Their Feet" If They Don't Like Living In A State Without Marriage Equality. "Cruz: Now, it is perfectly normal in a fifty-state nation that the values and policy judgments in one state would differ from those in another. That's part of the genius of federalism, that the citizens of California are going to make different decisions than the citizens of Texas or the citizens of New York or the citizens of Illinois or Florida or

Vermont. And people can vote with their feet. They can choose to live in a state that most closely reflects their values. I don't think the federal courts should be stripping away the rights of each of the fifty states to decide marriage laws for their citizens." [FlashReport, [6/23/13](#)]

2013: Cruz Attacked The Supreme Court For "Imposing Their Own Policy Agenda" By Overturning Proposition 8 And Portions of DOMA. In a press release, Cruz said, "Today's Supreme Court decisions on marriage are a regrettable overreach against the will of the people as expressed through large, bipartisan majorities in Congress and directly through referendum in California – a markedly blue state. Nothing in the Constitution compelled this result, and, once again, the Court has chosen to substitute its own views of public policy for the democratically expressed will of the voters. The family is the fundamental building block of society, and I strongly support traditional marriage between one man and one woman. The voters of California made that same choice, until the courts improperly substituted their preferences for those of the people. Our Federalism allows different states to make different policy judgments based on the values and mores of their citizens. Federal courts should respect that diversity and uphold that popular sovereignty, not impose their own policy agenda." [Ted Cruz Press Release, [6/26/13](#)]

2013: Cruz: "I Do Not Think It Is The Role Of The Courts To Be Tearing Down Traditional Marriage!" According to FlashReport: "Cruz: I support traditional marriage between one man and one woman. I do not think it is the role of the courts to be tearing down traditional marriage and in particular, the case before the US Supreme Court right now. I hope that the Supreme Court does not set aside the preferences of California voters who went to the polls and expressed their judgment as to what should be the marriage laws in the State of California." [FlashReport, [6/23/13](#)]

2013: Cruz: "The Constitution Leaves It To The States To Decide Upon Marriage, And I Hope The Supreme Court Respects Centuries Of Tradition!" According to the Dallas Morning News: "Sen. Ted Cruz said Tuesday that he was against same-sex marriage and hoped the U.S. Supreme Court would continue to let individual states grapple with the issue. 'I support traditional marriage between one man and one woman,' Cruz said after speaking to the Richardson Chamber of Commerce. 'The Constitution leaves it to the states to decide upon marriage and I hope the Supreme Court respects centuries of tradition and doesn't step into the process of setting aside state laws that make the definition of marriage.'s[Dallas Morning News, [3/26/13](#)]

Cruz Bragged On His Campaign Website About Intervening in Divorce Proceedings To Prevent Couple in Legal Civil Union From Being Recognized in Texas. According to his campaign website: "Ted Cruz has worked hard in defense of traditional marriage, including his intervention in a case protecting Texas marriage laws... When a Beaumont state court granted a divorce to two homosexual men who had gotten a civil union in Vermont, Cruz, under the leadership of Attorney General Greg Abbott, intervened in defense of the marriage laws of the State of Texas, which successfully led to the court judgment being vacated." [Ted Cruz.org, Accessed [7/11/14](#)]

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON DISCRIMINATION PROTECTIONS FOR LGBT AMERICANS

- **VOTED AGAINST ENDA IN THE U.S. SENATE**
- **OPPOSED LOCAL NON-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE IN TEXAS**

Cruz Voted Against ENDA, Citing a Lack of Protections for Religious Liberty and That It Would Result in Abusive Lawsuits. Cruz voted against the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) that would explicitly prohibit workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. "A one-size-fits-all federal

statutory right, which would invite abusive lawsuits and which contains insufficient protections for religious liberties, is the wrong approach," [Cruz Spokesman Sean] Rushton said. [Dallas Morning News, [11/5/13](#)]

Cruz Opposed ENDA: "The Decision Whether Or Not To Make Sexual Orientation A Protected Legal Class Is A Choice Best Left To The States." In a press release, Cruz said, "The decision whether or not to make sexual orientation a protected legal class is a choice best left to the states, and elected legislatures in all 50 states have reached different conclusions on that question. A one-size-fits-all federal statutory right, which would invite abusive lawsuits and which contains insufficient protections for religious liberties, is the wrong approach." [Ted Cruz Press Release, [11/7/13](#)]

Cruz Opposed A Municipal Non-Discrimination Ordinance In San Antonio. According to the Texas Tribune: "A proposal to include sexual orientation and gender identity in San Antonio's non-discrimination policy has turned the city into a new gay rights battleground. [...] U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz also weighed in on the issue earlier this month. 'Any attempt to bar an individual from public service based on a personal religious conviction is contrary to the liberties guaranteed us under our constitution and should be emphatically opposed,' Cruz said in a statement. 'It is encouraging to see so many Texans standing up to defend their religious freedoms in light of the misguided proposal put forth by the local city council.'" [Texas Tribune, [8/26/13](#)]

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON DANGEROUS "CONVERSION THERAPY"

- **DID NOT OPPOSE TEXAS REPUBLICANS ADDING CONVERSION THERAPY TO PLATFORM**

Cruz Did Not Oppose Proposal For The Texas GOP To Endorse "Ex-Gay" Therapy. "The Texas Republican Party would endorse psychological treatment that seeks to turn gay people straight under a new platform partly aimed at rebuking laws in California and New Jersey that ban so-called "reparative therapy" on minors. A push to include the new anti-gay language survived a key vote late Thursday in Fort Worth at the Texas Republican Convention where, across the street, tea party star U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz fired up attendees at a rally to defend marriage as between a man and a woman. [...] Cruz ducked a question about his state party's platform on gays, saying he would leave it up to the 'grass roots at the convention.'" [Associated Press, [6/6/14](#)]

SIGNIFICANT FINDINGS ON RHETORIC AND INTOLERANCE

- **THINKS “HOMOSEXUAL CONDUCT” IS A CHOICE**
- **ATTACKED FELLOW REPUBLICAN FOR MARCHING IN GAY PRIDE PARADES**
- **BRAGGED ABOUT INTERVENING TO PREVENT RECOGNITION OF CIVIL UNION**

Cruz: “I Believe That Engaging In Homosexual Conduct Is A Choice.” According to the San Antonio Express-News: “On to Cruz, the former state solicitor general who prides himself on tough talk but ignored the question I e-mailed in favor of the one he wanted to answer: ‘I believe that engaging in homosexual conduct is a choice, and I do not believe that unelected judges should force States to adopt gay marriage, against the wishes of the people. Marriage is a fundamental building block of our society, and I have a proven record of standing and fighting to protect traditional marriage between one man and one woman.’”[San Antonio Express-News, [3/4/12](#)]

In Response To Tim Cook Coming Out, Cruz Repeatedly Cited “Personal Choices.” According to The Hill: “Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) on Thursday responded to Apple CEO Tim Cook coming out as gay by saying that was Cook’s ‘personal decision.’ Cruz, who opposes gay marriage, switched to the larger issue when asked on CNBC on Thursday about a piece by Cook in Bloomberg Businessweek in which Cook came out. ‘Those are his personal choices. I’ll tell you, I love my iPhone,’ Cruz said. ‘Listen, Tim Cook makes his personal decisions, and that is his life. My focus is on the constitutional question of who has the authority to make decisions,’ he later added.” [The Hill, [10/30/14](#); VIDEO]

Cruz Attacked His Primary Opponent For Marching in Pride Parades. According to Mother Jones: “During the primary, Cruz used his opposition to gay rights as a wedge against lesser opponents like former Dallas mayor Tom Leppert, noting that his opponent had marched in not one but two pride parades. ‘When the mayor of a city chooses twice to march in a parade celebrating gay pride, that’s a statement. It’s not a statement I believe in!’ [Mother Jones, [8/1/12](#), VIDEO]

Cruz Attacked A Republican Rival In His 2012 Primary For Marching In A Pride Parade. According to the Dallas Morning News: “Republican Senate hopeful Ted Cruz assailed rival Republican Tom Leppert over the weekend as hypocritical for suggesting that as Dallas mayor he held firm against the ‘agenda’ of gay rights activists and advocates for undocumented immigrants. [...] ‘You know, just a moment ago Tom Leppert told you how he used the office of mayor to stand against the gay rights agenda,’ said Cruz, a former top aide to Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott. ‘Somehow, he forgot to mention that he marched twice in the gay pride parade.’” [Dallas Morning News, [1/31/12](#); VIDEO]

- **Cruz: “When A Mayor Of A City Chooses Twice To March In A Parade Celebrating Pride, That’s A Statement – And It’s Not A Statement I Agree With.”** According to KERA: “Cruz: What I am saying is that when a mayor of a city chooses twice to march in a parade celebrating gay pride, that’s a statement - and it’s not a statement I agree with.” [KERA, [2/22/12](#); VIDEO]

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