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# TURN OUT 2016: THE LGBTQ VOTE & BATTLEGROUND NEW HAMPSHIRE

**This November, a growing and highly engaged LGBTQ voting bloc in New Hampshire will play a pivotal role in the presidential, senatorial and other down-ballot races. Today, there are more than 39,000 LGBTQ<sup>1</sup> voters living in New Hampshire — a substantial population given that the state was won in the last three presidential elections by an average of 39,196 votes.<sup>2</sup>**

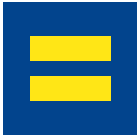
This November, there are 9.4 million LGBTQ people of voting age in the United States. Turnout among LGBTQ voters is also reliably high. This bloc was a crucial piece of the puzzle for President Obama's victory: in the last election, President Obama received 76 percent of all LGB votes,<sup>3</sup> according to national exit polls. In total, roughly 6 million LGB voters cast a ballot in 2012 -- an election President Obama won by just under 5 million votes. Polling this year showed Secretary Clinton's support among LGBTQ voters is running even higher than President Obama at 84 percent.

## DONALD TRUMP, KELLY AYOTTE AND MIKE PENCE: NOT HELPING

New Hampshirans will see three anti-LGBTQ politicians in America on their ballots this fall: Donald Trump, Mike Pence and Kelly Ayotte. HRC was proud to endorse Governor Maggie Hassan in her race against Kelly Ayotte.

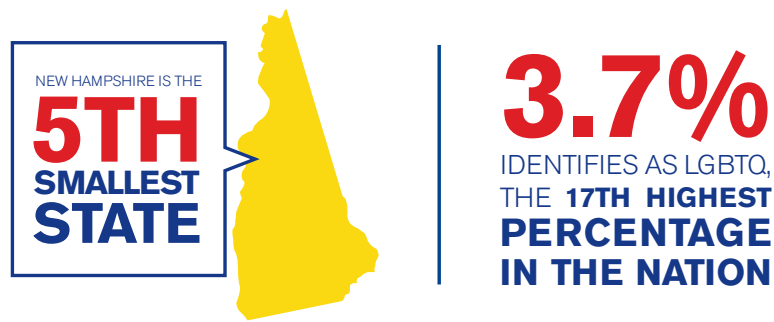
New Hampshire has been ahead of the curve when it comes to marriage equality. Yet, in 2010, Ayotte called New Hampshire's pre-Obergefell law granting marriage equality "unfortunate," supported repealing it, and backed the continuation of DOMA that would have allowed New Hampshire marriages to go unrecognized in other states. Governor Hassan, on the other hand, has always fought for the rights of all citizens to participate fully in the civic and economic life of their communities. Earlier this year, she took a bold and historic step by issuing an executive order extending vitally important non-discrimination protections to transgender people in New Hampshire with respect to government employment, contracts and programs. Hassan also supports a ban on the dangerous and abusive practice of so-called "conversion therapy."<sup>4</sup> Ayotte, on the other hand, thinks Donald Trump could be a role model for children. Beyond their anti-equality stance on marriage, here's how Trump and Pence have committed to rolling back LGBTQ equality.

- Vowing to roll back nationwide marriage equality by appointing Supreme Court justices willing to help overturn Obergefell.
- Pledging to sign the so-called "First Amendment Defense Act," or FADA, legislation that would enable taxpayer-funded discrimination against LGBTQ people in the federal government.
- Backing Pence's right to discriminate bill, which intended to allow Indiana businesses to discriminate and deny services to LGBTQ people because of who they are or whom they love.
- Pence's effort to divert HIV funding to promote the abusive practice of so-called "conversion therapy."



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- Undermining the U.S. global efforts to advance LGBTQ equality through our foreign policy.
- Opposing Department of Education guidance on transgender students' right to access bathrooms consistent with their gender identity.



## HILLARY CLINTON AND TIM KAINE: KNOWN CHAMPIONS FOR EQUALITY

LGBTQ and pro-equality voters are also looking to the top of the ticket for an ally who will keep building on the progress of the last 8 years, and crucially, sign the Equality Act into law. Hillary Clinton has laid out the most robust plan for advancing LGBTQ equality of any presidential candidate ever -- from championing the Equality Act, to wiping out HIV, to addressing hate violence and more.

In September, Tim Kaine addressed more than 3,600 LGBTQ advocates and allies at [HRC's National Dinner](#). There, he shared his and Hillary Clinton's devotion to LGBTQ equality and rebuked Trump's attempts to pander to the LGBTQ community -- pandering that started in the wake of the tragedy in Orlando. Unlike Trump, when Kaine was in Orlando recently, he paid tribute to the 49 LGBTQ people and allies who died at Pulse nightclub. That evening, just before the presidential debate, Kaine joined HRC supporters at a debate party where he spoke strongly in favor of LGBTQ rights and working for full federal equality.

Most Americans are unaware that today, in 31 states -- including New Hampshire -- LGBTQ people are lack fully inclusive LGBTQ nondiscrimination protections, leaving them at risk for being hired, fired, evicted or denied services because of who they are. [The Equality Act](#), a top priority for LGBTQ voters, would rectify that by adding these protections for LGBTQ people into our longstanding civil rights laws. This law has bipartisan backing in Congress and the support of more than 80 leading companies -- and the nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) found this year that [71 percent of Americans](#) and 79% of New Hampshirans favor such a bill. In fact, 84 percent of all voters already believe it's a law we already have on the books.

What's more, there is little support for North Carolina's HB2-style discriminatory laws nationally. PRRI's August poll found [64 percent of voters nationally oppose HB2-style laws](#), while only 35 percent of Americans support them. In addition, 71 percent of New Hampshirans<sup>5</sup> said small-business owners should not be able to discriminate based on their religious beliefs.

<sup>1</sup> Derived from state by state analysis on percentage of LGBT population released by Gallup and compared with overall state population. Gallup report (<http://www.gallup.com/poll/160517/lgbt-percentage-highest-lowest-north-dakota.aspx>) is co-authored by Gary J. Gates, a national expert in LGBT demographics, and the Williams Distinguished Scholar at the Williams Institute, UCLA School of Law.

<sup>2</sup> Average of vote difference in Florida general election results for [2004](#), [2008](#), and [2012](#).

<sup>4</sup> Exit polls did not ask demographic information to identify transgender voters.

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.washingtonblade.com/2016/05/13/n-h-senate-approvals-bill-to-ban-conversion-therapy/>

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.prrri.org/research/beyond-same-sex-marriage-attitudes-on-lgbt-nondiscrimination-and-religious-exemptions-from-the-2015-american-values-atlas/#.Vs-4nt-rSvM>