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TURN OUT 2016: THE LGBTQ VOTE & BATTLEGROUND NEVADA

This November, a growing and highly engaged LGBTQ voting bloc in Nevada will play a pivotal role in the presidential, senatorial and other down-ballot races. Today, there are an estimated 81,300 LGBTQ¹ voters living in Nevada -- a substantial population given that the state was won in the last three presidential elections by an average of 69,731 votes.²

This November, there are 9.4 million LGBTQ voters 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, 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, MIKE PENCE, JOE HECK: NOT HELPING

Nevadans will see three anti-LGBTQ equality politicians in America on their ballots this fall: Donald Trump, Mike Pence and Joe Heck. Congressman Heck opposes marriage equality³ and has said he is looking to add more Antonin Scalias to the Supreme Court.⁴ He has refused to co-sponsor the Equality Act and would jeopardize all the progress made in the past 8 years, which is why the Human Rights Campaign endorsed Catherine Cortez Masto. A supporter of marriage equality, Masto will continue to fight for equal rights and protections for all, eliminating discrimination against LGBT Americans in public accommodation, jury service, and education, while Trump, Pence and Heck take us backwards. 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."
- 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.



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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.

While Nevada offers non-discrimination protections, most Americans are unaware that today, in a majority of states LGBTQ people are still at risk for being hired, fired, evicted or denied services because of who they are.⁶ [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. The nonpartisan Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI) found this year that [71 percent of Americans](#) and 74 percent of Nevadans 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, [62 percent](#) of Nevadans said small-business owners should not be able to discriminate based on their religious beliefs.

NEVADA
HAS ONE OF
THE LARGEST
PER-CAPITA
LGBT POPULATIONS
IN THE COUNTRY

ONLY **SIX STATES**
AND THE DISTRICT
OF COLUMBIA HAD
HIGHER CONCENTRATIONS.²



4.3%
OF SILVER STATE
RESIDENTS IDENTIFY
AS LESBIAN, GAY,
BISEXUAL OR
TRANSGENDER
ACCORDING TO A
GALLUP POLL

¹ 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.

² Average vote difference in Nevada presidential elections for [2012](#), [2008](#), and [2004](#).

³ <http://lasvegassun.com/news/2014/oct/08/where-candidates-major-nevada-races-stand-gay-marr/>

⁴ <http://www.ktnv.com/news/political/in-tight-nevada-senate-race-joe-heck-focuses-appeal-to-asian-americans>

⁵ <http://lasvegasweekly.com/intersection/2016/jul/20/nevada-lgbtq-population-ranks-seventh-nationally/>

⁶ http://www.hrc.org/state_maps