



TURN OUT 2016: THE LGBTQ VOTE & BATTLEGROUND OHIO

This November, a growing and highly engaged LGBTQ voting bloc in Ohio will play a pivotal role in helping to elect Hillary Clinton. Today, there are an estimated 323,500 LGBTQ voters¹ living in Ohio — a substantial population given that the state was won in the last three presidential elections by an average of 181,257 votes.²

This November, there are 9.4 million LGBTQ voters in the United States. Looking back, 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 voters, according to national exit polls³. In total, roughly 6 million LGB voters cast a ballot in 2012 -- an election President Obama won by just under 5 million votes⁴.

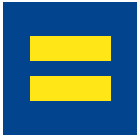
MARRIAGE EQUALITY, OHIO AND THE LGBTQ VOTE

More than a year after the Supreme Court ruled in favor of nationwide marriage equality, the public has responded with broad support for LGBTQ equality. Gallup, which has tracked the issue of marriage equality for more than a decade, found a record 61 percent of Americans supported marriage equality in a May 2016 survey. What's more, HRC's polling has found that a 55 percent majority of Americans say they would be less likely to vote for a candidate opposed to marriage equality.

Donald Trump and Mike Pence, who both still oppose marriage equality, have also committed to appointing Supreme Court justices who would overturn the landmark case. Their opposition to marriage equality is a huge liability in Ohio, which played an especially profound role in the fight for nationwide marriage equality. Ohio's Jim Obergefell was a named plaintiff in the Supreme court's case that eventually led to marriage equality becoming the law of the land. Like the Human Rights Campaign, Obergefell was an early endorser of Hillary Clinton, who strongly supports marriage equality and has pledged to defend it in office.

"We have fought to not only change laws, but to change hearts, and now we need a President who will help us fight to eliminate the injustices that occur regularly in our community, and the best person to do that is Hillary Clinton." — **Jim Obergefell**

"While Donald Trump and Mike Pence fight to take us backwards, Hillary Clinton is fighting to advance LGBT equality across our nation and throughout the world. We are proud to endorse Hillary Clinton for president, and believe that she is the champion we can count on in November — and every day she occupies the Oval Office." — **HRC President Chad Griffin**



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DONALD TRUMP AND MIKE PENCE: NOT HELPING

The prospect of a Trump/Pence administration is disgraceful all around when it comes to LGBTQ equality. 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."
- A full-throated endorsement of vile, hateful laws like HB2 in North Carolina, which leaves LGBTQ people without protections, cities without the right to pass protections and has cost the state millions in economic damage.
- 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.
- Campaigning with anti-LGBTQ hate groups.
- Pence's votes against federal employment protections, vote against the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" and vote against the Matthew Shepard/James Byrd Jr. hate crimes law, calling it a "radical social agenda"

PROMISES BROKEN

LGBTQ and pro-equality voters everywhere are rightly skeptical of Donald Trump's shallow claims to be a "friend to the gays." In fact, [84% of Ohioans](#) mistakenly believe that LGBTQ Ohioans are protected from employment and housing discrimination when they are not. Governor John Kasich has repeatedly said that he does not think further legislation to protect the rights of LGBTQ people [are necessary](#).

Donald Trump has said that states should decide, even if that means passing laws like [North Carolina's HB2](#), or failing to pass laws to protect LGBT Ohioans from housing and employment discrimination. In Donald Trump's America, Governor's like John Kasich would be free to strip transgender residents of their rights -- even if doing so runs counter to federal civil rights laws. [Trump](#) and [Kasich](#) have both come out against historic guidance that ensures transgender students are treated with dignity and able to use the facilities that match their gender identity.

STRONG SUPPORT FOR LGBTQ EQUALITY IN OHIO

53%

OF OHIOANS SUPPORT
MARRIAGE EQUALITY
TO 40 PERCENT

58%

OF OHIOANS OPPOSE
ALLOWING SMALL
BUSINESSES TO
DENY SERVICE TO
LGBT CUSTOMERS

69%

OF OHIOANS SUPPORT
THE EQUALITY ACT
TO 26 PERCENT

88

OF THE TOP 90 OHIO
BUSINESSES HAVE
ADOPTED INCLUSIVE
ANTI-DISCRIMINATION
POLICIES



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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.

Most Americans are unaware that today, in a majority of states -- including Ohio -- LGBTQ people are still at risk for being hired, fired, evicted or denied services because of who they are. [The Equality Act](#), a top priority for LGBTQ voters and supported by Clinton and Kaine, 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](#) favor such a bill. In fact, 84 percent⁵ of all voters already believe it's a law we already have on the books. What's more, there is little support for HB2-style laws nationally. PRRI's August poll found [64 percent of voters nationally oppose HB2-style laws](#), while only 35 percent support them.

THE CHOICE FOR PRO-EQUALITY VOTERS IS CLEAR AND, IN OHIO, THEIR VOTES WILL MAKE THE WINNING DIFFERENCE.

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 of vote difference in North Carolina [general election results](#) for 2004, 2008, and 2012.

³ Exit polls did not ask demographic information to identify transgender voters.

⁴ The 2012 NEP reported that 5% (<http://elections.nytimes.com/2012/results/president/exit-polls>) of the 129,085,403 voters (<http://www.presidency.ucsb.edu/data/turnout.php>) in that election identified as gay, lesbian, or bisexual, which means that approximately 6,454,270 voters identified as LGB. According to the Williams Institute (<http://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/wp-content/uploads/Gates-How-Many-People-LGBT-Apr-2011.pdf>), there are about 8 million LGB adults in the United States. 2012 LGB voters then participated at a rate of 81% compared to the LGB voting-age-population.

⁵ Greenberg Quinlan Rosner for Human Rights Campaign: January 25-31, 2015