

EGN

Erie Gay News



Social media-mugging at March 27 International Transgender Day of Visibility at Blasco Library. Photo by Mike Mahler

Gender Discussion

From Rose/TranFamily of NW PA

On Tuesday, March 27, 2018, TranFamily of NWPA held a community discussion on gender at the Blasco library.

To recognize International Transgender Day of Visibility, the library also had a display filled with books with trans topics and memoirs available to patrons. Tyler Titus shared his personal experiences, including poetry. Two youth, Jewels and Eli also moved the audience with their stories. About 25 people were in attendance.

ACLU of NW PA Annual Meeting: “Civil Liberties at State Capitol in the Era of The Resistance”

Join the ACLU of Pennsylvania’s Legislative Director Liz Randol for a round-up of the General Assembly’s latest legislative session and what’s ahead. Learn more about the legislative session and how it affects civil liberties in PA. Hot topics will be discussed, including transgender equality, immigration, reproductive rights, and criminal justice reform.

The event is at La bella Restaurant and Catering, 802 W 18th St, Erie, PA, Sunday, May 6, 3 PM - 5 PM, and is free and open to the public. Light Refreshments will be provided. RSVP is requested to RSVP call 877-424-2258 or send an email to northwestchapter@aclupa.org and include your name and number of seats requested.

More info www.aclupa.org/chapters/northwestpa FB: ACLU of Pennsylvania

Gov. Wolf, Legislative Dems Announce Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Protections

Information from Gov. Tom Wolf

On April 5, Governor TomWolf joined House and Senate Democrats to announce a package of reforms to strengthen protections against sexual harassment and discrimination for employees, provide new legal options for victims and hold those who are responsible accountable for their actions.

These steps build on Governor Wolf’s efforts to combat sexual harassment and assault, including the nation’s first state-based ‘It’s On Us’ campaign to combat sexual assault on campuses, which includes grants to higher education institutions and a bipartisan legislative package.

The steps include: The sexual harassment and
(Continued on page 3)

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AA Meeting Live & Let Live is an LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting that meets every Sunday, at 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 West 38th St., Erie, PA. For more information, visit www.aeriepa.org.



Erie Gay News

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The *Erie Gay News* is published monthly as a source of news, events, information, and support for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender people (GLBTs), their families, friends, and supporters in the Erie PA area.

We welcome and encourage all readers to submit timely news, comments, and opinions of interest to local GLBTs for publication in these pages. Please include your contact information with any piece you submit.

EGN Rates & Data

QUARTER PAGE	FULL PAGE	HALF PAGE VERTICAL
HALF PAGE HORIZONTAL	EIGHTH PAGE	

AD SIZE	PRICE/ISSUE	DIMENSIONS
EIGHTH	\$40 - \$36 Prepaid	1 5/8" high X 2 7/8" wide
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FULL PAGE	\$200 - \$180 Prepaid	7 1/2" high X 6" wide

Camera ready art or manuscript and/or photos, illustrations and logos must be received by the 15th of the month.

Photos and Illustrations should be PDF or TIFF and HIRES.

All hardcopy ads submitted will be reproduced as close as possible.

Erie Gay News is now included in **The EBSCO *LGBT Life***® with Full Text Index & Six LGBT Archives **WORLDWIDE!**

THANKS

From Your Friends at Erie Gay News

To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea, Audrey, Johauna, Kim, Rex Apps, Richard Guy, Tom Widdowson, and Trish Catalano for folding; Audrey, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Kim, Rex Apps, Tom Widdowson, and Trish Catalano for distribution; Mike Lipiec for ad layout & etc. If you're interested in helping out, contact Michael Mahler at (814) 456-9833 or info@eriegaynews.com.

Community News

discrimination protections: Ban mandatory non-disclosure agreement Protect more workers, Work-place training, and passage of “PA Fairness Act”
 Legal System Reforms: Extend statute of limitations, Right to a Jury Trial, Punitive Damages, Payment of Attorney Fees. State Government Reforms include: Creation of Sexual Harassment Prevention Task Force, Invest in Investigations (Human Relations Commission), and Standards for Lobbyists

The “PA Fairness Act” would prohibit discrimination based on an individual’s sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. Legislation proposed by Sens. Browne and Farnese and Rep. Frankel.

The Governor’s original press release contains more details about the proposed steps, and can be linked to from www.eriegaynews.com, or from www.governor.pa.gov > “Press Releases”

**Check out
 EGN Voters Guide pages 11-15!**



TESTING AT DRENCHED FUR: On April 13-14, Erie County Department of Health and Community Health Net as member agencies of Erie County HIV Task Force provided free HIV & STI testing at Drenched Fur 14, held at the Bel-Air Clarion Hotel, 2800 W 8th St. This is the third year that testing has been provided.
 Photo submitted by Erie County Department of Health



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For an application to be listed (no charge), current editions, and prices, mailing labels, etc. please send a self-addressed stamped envelope to Renaissance House, PO Box 533-EGN, Village Station, New York, NY 10014 646-213-0263 or email gyppages@gmail.com

<http://gayyellowpages.com>

ABC’s of BUILDING BETTER LIVES

Mary Lynn Rote, LPC, CADC | Sarah McGill, LPC
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 Ashley Gleason, LPC | Darcey Locke, LCSW
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Community News

Equality Pennsylvania 2018 endorsements

Equality PA has released its 2018 endorsements.

These include:

- Governor: Tom Wolf
- Lt. Governor: John Fetterman
- US Senator: Bob Casey, Jr.
- PA House of Representatives District 2: Jay Breneman
- PA House of Representatives District 8 : Lisa Boeving-Learned

View complete list at equalitypa.org

Equality Pennsylvania is the leading state-wide advocacy organization in the Commonwealth dedicated to achieving equality for all LGBT Pennsylvanians. The Erie Gay News Voters Guide (p. 11) is separate project focused on Erie area races.

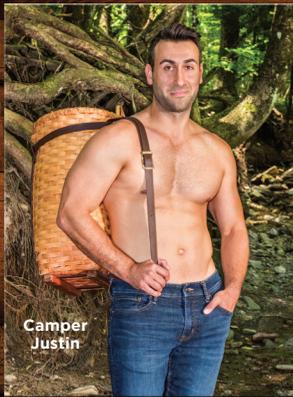
Rachel Levine appointed to Gov. Wolf's cabinet

On March 20, Rachel Levine was confirmed by the Pennsylvania Senate as Governor Tom Wolf's Secretary of Health. She will remain the state Physician General. Three other women were approved: Secretary of Human Services Teresa Miller, Secretary of the Department of Drug and Alcohol Programs Jennifer Smith and Insurance Commissioner Jessica Altman. The appointment makes Rachel Levine the highest ranking transgender government official in Pennsylvania.

From the Pennsylvania Department of Health website: "As Physician General, Dr. Levine has made significant strides combating the opioid epidemic and

DEADLINE
for next issue of EGN
May 14

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Community News

advocating on behalf of the LGBTQ population. She spearheaded the efforts to establish opioid prescribing guidelines and establish opioid prescribing education for medical students. She has also led an LGBTQ workgroup for the governor's office which has worked to create programs and processes that are fair and inclusive in healthcare, insurance, and many other areas. In addition to being Secretary of Health and Physician General, she is professor of Pediatrics and Psychiatry at the Penn State College of Medicine.

Cynthia Nixon announces run for New York governor

Cynthia Nixon announced March 19 that she would be running for New York governor, challenging Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo in this year's Democratic primary. The 51-year-old actress has never served in office before, and will be running against an established incumbent. She is running as a progressive. Cynthia is married to longtime education organizer Christine Marinoni..



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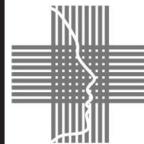
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KNOWLEDGE IS POWER

Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar

www.eriegaynews.com

Apr 28 (Sat) - Drag Show ((M&J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) FB: M&J's Lounge

Apr 28 (Sat) - PJs and Long Johns Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) (724) 637-2402. info@campdavispa.com. campdavispa.com/.

Apr 30 (Sun) - Rachael Sage, Todd Burge at Rolling Hills Radio (Shawbucks 212 W 2nd St. Jamestown, NY) at 6:30 PM rachaelsage.com rollinghillsradio.org

Apr 30 (Mon) - Art for Change: The Auction to Benefit Persad Center (Westin Convention Center Pittsburgh, 1000 Penn Ave, Pittsburgh, PA) Proceeds benefit Persad the nation's second oldest licensed counseling center specifically created to serve LGBT community. www.persadcenter.org

May 2-5 - We're Funny That Way Performance Festival (Alumnae Theatre, Toronto ON) (Bring passport or passport equivalent for border crossing) werefunnythatway.org

May 4 (Fri) - "Dear White People" Season 2 Netflix @DearWhitePeople

May 4 - 6 (Fri - Sun) - Kentucky Derby Opening Weekend (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) www.jonespond.com.

May 5 (Sat) - Play With a Maypole Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) campdavispa.com/

May 6 (Sun) - ACLU of PA Northwest Chapter Annual Meeting: Civil Liberties at the State Capitol in the Era of The Resistance (La bella Restaurant and Catering, 802 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 3-5 PM. "Join

the ACLU of Pennsylvania's Legislative Director Liz Randol for a round-up of the General Assembly's latest legislative session and what's ahead. Topics include: transgender equality, immigration, reproductive rights, and criminal justice reform. Free, open to public, light refreshments provided. RSVP is requested, to RSVP call 877-424-2258 or send an email to northwestchapter@aclupa.org and include your name and number of seats requested. FB: ACLU of Pennsylvania

May 6 (Sun) - "Vida" premiere 5PM Starz " 'Vida' tells the American story from 'Latinx, queer' perspective" ~USA Today FB: Vida

May 6 (Sun) - Whispering Lake Grove Beltaine (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) Ritual 6pm potluck after. grollwynn72@hotmail.com. www.wlg-adf.org

May 8 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner #59 (Ricardo's Restaurant, 2112 East Lake Road, Erie, PA 16511) 6:30 PM. Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own.

May 11 - 13 (Fri - Sun) - Pajama Party Weekend(Jones



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Calendar

Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY www.jonespond.com.

May 12 (Sat) - Studio54/Disco Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) campdavispa.com

May 12 (Sat) - Veronyca's Showgirls Presents Ladies Night (Loyal Order of the Moose Lodges, 201 W. State St., Olean, NY) 10 PM. . \$6 Cover/\$5 COLORS Member FB: Veronyca's Showgirls

May 14 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News Jun 2018 print edition

May 15 (Tue) - Pennsylvania Primary Election 7 AM - 8 PM. This election is for State and Federal offices, including US Congress, US Senate, PA Governor, and PA State Representatives.

May 18-20 - Coronation 28 (Various venues, Buffalo NY) imperialcourtofbuffalo.com FB: Imperial Court of Buffalo

May 18-20 - BGMC: "Summer State of Mind" (several venues, Buffalo area) buffalogaymenschorus.com

May 18 - 20 (Fri - Sun) - Disco Weekend - Burn Baby Burn! (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica,

NY) www.jonespond.com.

May 19 (Sat) - Chix in the Stix Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) campdavispa.com

May 19 (Sat) - Colors Family Affair Show w/VS (Loyal Order of Moose Lodges, Olean NY) Family event. 3pm \$3 single/\$5 couple, under 18 free. RSVP with how many attending at FB: Veronyca's Showgirls

May 20 (Sun) - Michelle Michaels presents FACE Drag Show (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 11 PM. "All of your favorite drag queens, new drag queens and special guests." TheZoneDanceClub@aol.com. FB: The Zone

May 22 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 7 PM. All ages welcome! Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. Venue Phone: (814) 455-4009. info@eriegaynews.com. www.eriegaynews.com.

May 25 - 28 (Fri - Mon) - Memorial Day Weekend (Jones Pond, 9835 Old State Rd, Angelica, NY) www.jonespond.com.

May 26 (Sat) - Drag Show & STI /Hep C Testing ((M&J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) "Testing is free. Dr. Lane will be there to answer and questions.

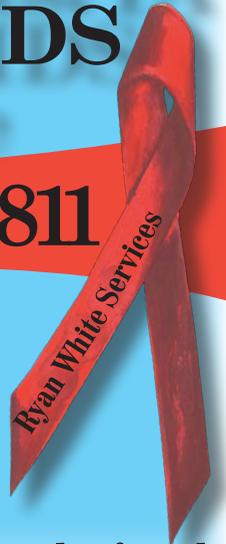
Northwest PA Rural AIDS Alliance

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Upcoming Awareness Days

Apr 26 (Thu) - Lesbian Visibility Day

Apr 27 (Fri) - Day of Silence www.glsen.org/dayofsilence.

May 6 (Sun) - International Family Equality Day (IFED) Cinternationalfamilyequalityday.org/.

May 17 (Thu) - Gender Pride Day

May 18 (Fri) - HIV Vaccine Awareness Day www.niaid.nih.gov/.

May 18 (Fri) - International Day Against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia

May 19 (Sat) - National Asian & Pacific Islander HIV/AIDS Awareness Day www.banyantreeproject.org/

May 22 (Tue) - Harvey Milk Day www.harvey-milkday.co/.

May 24 (Thu) - Pansexual and Panromantic Awareness and Visibility Day

Calendar

PrEP saves lives. Get information on this prescription”
FB: M&J’s Lounge

May 26 (Sat) - Camo Military Weekend (Camp Davis, 311 Redbrush Rd, Boyers, PA) campdavispa.com

May 30 - “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt” Season premiere Netflix FB Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt

Jun 2 - Pride in the CLE (Cleveland OH) Organized by LGBT Community Center of Greater Cleveland lgbtcleveland.org

Jun 3 - “Pose” premieres 9PM FX Ryan Murphy drama set in 1980s New York said to feature the largest cast of transgender series regulars in US TV history

Jun 8 - “Alex Strangelove” Netflix.7pm, streaming. Coming-of-age rom com.

Jun 9 - Cleveland GIFT Cruise \$25, no online tickets, \$30 gate, if available. www.clevelandgift.org

Jun 9-10 Pittsburgh PrideFest & Equality March PrideFest 6/9, March 6/10 www.pittsburghpride.org

Jun 10 (Sun) - Afternoon for Equality (La Rue Dix, 21 E 10th, Erie PA) 3-7PM FB: Greater Erie Alliance for Equality

Jun 10 - Peoples Pride March 2k18 Freedom Corner Pittsburgh FB: SisTers PGH @sistersPGH

Jun 16 & 17 - North Coast Men’s Chorus: “It’s About Time” (Hannah Theatre at PlayhouseSq, Cleveland OH) ncmchorus.org/

Jun 22 (Fri) - Janis Ian and Susan Werner (Cain Park, Evans Amphitheatre, Cleveland Heights OH) janisian.com susanwerner.com

Jun 30 (Sat) - Erie Pride Fest (Perry Square Erie PA) 1-4PM www.nwpapride.org

UPCOMING

Jul 1 - Melissa Etheridge in concert (Hard Rock Live, Northfield OH) www.melissaetheridge.com

Jul 21 - Youngstown Pride Festival FB: Youngstown Pride Festival

Aug 3 - “Amy Schumer and Friends” (Northwest Arena Jamestown NY) nationalcomedycenter.org

Aug 4 - “An Evening with Lily Tomlin” (Reg Lenna Center for the Arts, Jamestown NY) nationalcomedycenter.org



Vote

Karen MOSKI

DEMOCRATIC STATE COMMITTEE

Social & support groups

ADDICTION & RECOVERY

AA Meeting Live & Let Live LGBTQA-friendly AA meeting every Sun. 7PM, at Community United Church, 1011 W.38th St., Erie, PA. www.aaeriepa.org.

AGING

May 13 (Sun) - Over 40? So What? meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 4 - 6 PM. Formerly Aging With Pride. (814) 455-4009. daleallgeier@outlook.com.

GENERAL

May 8 (Tue) - Youngstown PFLAG meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6:30 PM. www.youngstownpflag.org.

May 10 (Thu) - PFLAG Butler meets (Butler Area Public Library, 218 N McKean St, Butler, PA) 5 PM - 7 PM. www.pflagbutler.com

May 15 (Tue) - Crawford Area LGBT+ meets (Unitarian Universalist Church of Meadville, 346 Chestnut St, Meadville, PA) 7 PM. Contact: Randy Herbert-Weed. (814) 724-6736. crawfordarealgbt@gmail.com. FB: Crawford LGBT+ Public Page

RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY

May 8 (Tue) - Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA, PA1) 1 PM. FB: Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network

SOCIAL

May 4 (Fri) G2H2/ERIE - "May We Please Start Summer" Get-Together (Room 33 Speakeasy & Cafe, 1033 State St, Erie, PA 16501) 6-8PM Social group. FB: G2H2/Erie

May 6 (Sun) - LBT Women of Erie meets (Brew Ha Ha at the Colony, 2612 W 8th St, Erie, PA) 12 PM. Contact: Kim (814) 490-3994. ErieBeans@aol.com. FB: LBT Women of Erie

LBT Women of Erie Various events and venues.: Contact: Kim Conti. (814) 490-3994. ErieBeans@aol.com. FB: LBT Women of Erie

STUDENT & YOUTH

May 10 (Thu) - Full Spectrum LGBT Teen Support Group (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6-8 PM. Ages 14-18. (330) 333-1658. www.fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org/.

Erie Regional GSA for youth ages 12-20 is meeting regularly for social events, networking, and training.

Email Margo with any questions or transportation issues-- erieregionalgsa@gmail.com.

TRANS

Apr 28 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 2 - 5 PM. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969. Caitlynxpress@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA

Apr 28 (Sat) - TransFamily of Titusville Transgender Support Group meets (YWCA Activities Building, 212 N. Franklin St, Titusville, PA) 3 - 6 PM. Contact: Caitlyn Strohmeier. (814) 823-1969. caitlynxpress@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA

Apr 28 (Sat) - Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group meets (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy, Erie, PA) 7 PM. Discussion followed by restaurant dinner and dancing at The Zone (440) 265-8191. eriesisters.ning.com

May 13 (Sun) - Full Spectrum Transgender Support Group meets (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM - 8 PM.

May 14 (Mon) - TransFamily of Warren Transgender Support Group meets (Jefferson DeFrees Family Center - Hawke Room, 207 2nd Ave, Warren, PA) 6 - 8 PM. Contact: Kingsley Reese (814) 688-5574. kreeseamon@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA.

Apr 14 (Sat) - TransFamily of Meadville Transgender Support Group (CHAPS Building, first floor, 944 Liberty St., Meadville, PA) 2-5 PM. Contact: Linda Thomas. imhwoman4586@msn.com. (814) 232-1778 FB: Transfamily of NWPA.

Apr 28 (Sat) - TransFamily of NWPA (Erie) Transgender Support Group meets (Crime Victim Center of Erie County, 125 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 2 - 5 PM. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969. Caitlynxpress@gmail.com. FB: Transfamily of NWPA

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☆☆☆ VOTERS GUIDE ☆☆☆

Candidates for US Senate, US Congress PA-16, PA Governor, and PA State House were asked about their positions on GLBT issues. Their responses appear on the next few pages.

US Senate

Not Responding: Lou Barletta (R), James J Christiana III (R)

Anti-Discrimination

ROBERT P CASEY JR (D-Incumbent) I am a co-sponsor of the Equality Act.

“Religious Freedom”

ROBERT P CASEY JR (D-Incumbent) No. While we are a nation that was founded on the rights of individuals to worship as they choose, it is unacceptable to discriminate against individuals or a minority group. Places which provide services to the public should accommodate LGBTQ individuals just as they serve every other person.

For example, I signed an amicus brief to the Supreme Court in support of this position, as it relates to the Masterpiece Cakeshop, Ltd. v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission. This case deals with this issue directly.

Other

ROBERT P CASEY JR (D-Incumbent) I have long been a supporter of the LGBTQ community going back to my days as Pennsylvania’s Auditor General, where I instituted the state government’s first anti-discrimination policy that covered gender identity. I also called for the end of Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell, the Defense of Marriage Act, and publicly supported marriage equality before Obergefell vs. Hodges established that same-sex couples had the fundamental right to marry..

One of my proudest moments as a Senator is when I recommended Judge Nitzza Quinones Alejandro to serve as a federal judge in the Eastern District of PA. Judge Quinones Alejandro made history as the first LGBTQ Latina to serve on a federal bench. I will continue to actively seek diversity in appointments, in not only gender and race, but also look towards promoting qualified members of the LGBTQ community to positions where they can further enrich our communities.

During my time in office, the LGBTQ commu-

These were the questions for all candidates:

Anti-Discrimination

Do you support the passage of legislation such as the Equality Act, which would protect LGBT individuals from discrimination in employment, housing, and public accommodation? Please explain.

“Religious Freedom”

Do you support legislation such as the so-called First Amendment Defense Act (introduced in the US Senate in March of 2018) that would allow individuals, government officials or government agencies to deny providing goods and services to LGBT individuals because of religious beliefs. Please explain.

Other

What would you like to let the Erie area LGBT community to know?

Compiled by Michael Mahler

All candidates in a race are asked the same questions. Responses are entered as received, without any changes, including correction for typographical errors. Pertinent information that does not come directly from the candidate will use reliable and verifiable sources, and appears in italics with “Editors’ note” preceding the quote.

This guide also appears on www.eriegaynews.com

☆☆☆ VOTERS GUIDE ☆☆☆

nity has been a strong partner in fighting bullying in schools, cracking down on hate crimes, and pushing for non-discrimination legislation. I'd be honored to have the support of the Northwest PA LGBTQ community as we continue the work of securing civil rights for every Pennsylvanian.

LOU BARLETTA (R) *[Editors Note: We received no response from Mr Barletta, but are sharing his remarks about marriage equality: "the Supreme Court has no business redefining the basic definition of what marriage truly is. This ruling undermines the ability of states to govern themselves, and imposes fundamental beliefs from one state onto another." (quoted in PennLive.com June 26, 2015)]*

US Congress PA-16

Not Responding: Robert Multari (D), Mike Kelly (R-Incumbent)

Anti-Discrimination

RON DINICOLA (D) Yes, I do support passage of the Equality Act. I also believe that all members of the LGBTQ+ community deserve equal treatment and I support the right to Constitutional right to marry as decided by the US Supreme Court in Obergefell v Hodges, the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, the Safe Schools Improvement Act, the Student Non-Discrimination Act, the Tyler Clementi Education Anti-Harassment Act, and the Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act.

CHRIS RIEGER (D) I would wholeheartedly support and co-sponsor the Equality Act, adding sexual orientation and gender identity as protected classifications under the Civil Rights Act. Business owners, landlords, employers, and proprietors of places of public accommodation should not be granted license to discriminate merely because the law is currently silent. The law should be amended to reflect advances we have made in the push for full equality.

"Religious Freedom"

RON DINICOLA (D) No, I do not support the First Amendment Defense Act. This act is attempt to override the Obergefell v Hodges decision and would discriminate against LGBTQ+ people.

CHRIS RIEGER (D) I would not endorse or sponsor such legislation that would allow discrimination under the guise of religious belief and practice. The First Amendment prohibits government infringing on the free exercise of one's religious beliefs. It does not allow private citizens to use their religious beliefs to prejudice others in places of public accommodation.

Other

RON DINICOLA (D) I want the Erie LGBTQ+ community to know that I will always fight against and oppose any policies and laws which try to roll back or restrict their rights. When I was the Chairman of the Erie County Democratic Party, I was one of the first public leaders to call for enactment of the Erie County Human Relations Commission.

CHRIS RIEGER (D) Our nation has made remarkable strides in the last 25 years in the push for equality for the LGBT community. Progress, however, has been slow in other areas, such as adoption rights, the moral repulsion of conversion therapy, and dealing with the tragic state of suicide among members of the community. If elected, the Erie LGBT community will always have a voice in Washington.

MIKE KELLY (R- Incumbent) *[Editors Note: Rep. Kelly has never responded to our candidate surveys, but we would have provided information on his positions and remarks. In this guide we provide this excerpt from the Human Rights Campaign, regarding legislation which Kelly has introduced: "The Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act was introduced in the House of Representative by Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA), and in the Senate by Sen. Mike Enzi (R-WY)]*

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on April 4, 2017... There are no such safeguards against discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status.

"In the absence of such federal protections, the door has been left open for adoption or foster care providers to deny adoption or foster care placements with qualified, LGBTQ individuals or same-sex couples on the basis of their personal religious objections. The Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act would exacerbate this problem and deny LGBTQ people the few protections they have in states that have prohibited anti-LGBTQ discrimination in state funded child welfare programs and adoption and foster placement."~From "What is the Child Welfare Provider Inclusion Act? " Human Rights Campaign, Last Updated: April 20, 2017)

PA Governor

Not Responding: Laura Ellsworth (R), Paul Mango (R), Scott R Wagner (R)

Anti-Discrimination

PAUL MANGO (R) [Ed. note: Paul Mango is characterizing Sen. Scott Wagner's support of the antidiscrimination Senate Bill 1307 as Wagner's "bathroom bill". One of Mango's TV ads asserts "Wagner's bill puts our children's safety and privacy in jeopardy."]

SCOTT R WAGNER (R) [Ed. Note: Scott Wagner is a co-sponsor of Senate Bill 1307, which would have amended the state's Human Relations Act to include sexual orientation, gender identity/expression to the list of prohibited forms of discrimination in terms of housing and employment]

THOMAS W WOLF (D-Incumbent) Pennsylvania remains one of the only states in the country that does not protect the LGBTQ community from discrimination. From my first days in office, I've urged the General Assembly to pass the PA Fairness Act. This act would add protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people to existing bans on discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodation.

Despite broad, bipartisan support for the PA Fairness Act, the bills have been blocked from a vote in the General Assembly. In the face of this stalled legislation, I took matters into my own hands by signing two executive orders that prohibit any agency under my jurisdiction, or any entity that receives grants or contracts from the commonwealth from discriminating on the basis of sexual orientation, gender expression, and identity, and gender identity and expression, among other areas.

I also recognize that the LGBTQ community deserves equal benefits and the same state services as everyone else, which is why I have fought to expand state health care benefits for LGBTQ employees. These protections and benefits will greatly expand the economic and social well being of the LGBTQ community.

I will continue to push for passage of the PA Fairness Act and will explore all other potential avenues to further protect the rights of the LGBTQ community.

"Religious Freedom"

THOMAS W WOLF (D-Incumbent) I do not support the First Amendment Defense Act. LGBTQ people have a fundamental right to be protected from discrimination in all areas of life. I am committed to continuing my fight for these protections and I will oppose any legislation that threatens the rights of the LGBTQ community.

Other

THOMAS W WOLF (D-Incumbent) Long before I was Governor, I stood up for full marriage equality because I strongly believe that government should not be in the businesses of denying two people who love each other the right to enter into a marriage and enjoy the love and benefits that come with it.



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PA State House District 1

Anti-Discrimination

PAT HARKINS (D-Incumbent) I have always supported equal rights for all and proudly co sponsored and will vote for passage of HB 300 when it comes before the house for a vote.

“Religious Freedom”

PAT HARKINS (D-Incumbent) While that is a federal piece of legislation and I have no vote on it at this time, I would oppose it if something similar were to land in the Pa house. In my opinion these kinds of legislation are devisive and simply add to more discrimination in society.

Other

PAT HARKINS (D-Incumbent) In my twelve years in the legislature I have worked tirelessly, introduced legislation, held hearings and co sponsored legislation dealing with workers rights, anti bullying and fairness for all. Going forward I will continue to advocate for issues that impact everyone in a positive way in society. I have always been a supporter of LGBT and will continue to be.

PA State House District 2

Not Responding: Timothy P Kuzma (R), Laban A Marsh (R)

Anti-Discrimination

JAY BRENEMAN (D) Yes, but more than this I will sponsor and vigorously support and defend every piece of legislation that will secure justice and equity for our LGBTQIAP+ citizens in all aspects of life and livelihood.

RICK FILIPPI (D) I completely support the Equality Act and other similar legislation which would protect the LGBT community in the areas

of employment, housing and public accommodations. Further, I support civil unions and the right for people to be free to live their lives without prejudice and discrimination, particularly in the areas where the government has an interest in protecting our citizens.

BOB MERSKI (D) Yes. Equality is a right, not a privilege. No one should be denied housing, employment, or access to basic necessities because of their sexual or gender identity.

“Religious Freedom”

JAY BRENEMAN (D) Absolutely not. I will use every resource at my disposal to protect the rights and humanity of all our citizens in all realms including the market place and when accessing government services. Anything less would be a denial of equality.

RICK FILIPPI (D) I would totally and completely oppose any legislation such as the so-called “First Amendment Defense Act.” It is nothing more than government sanctioned discrimination against our citizens.

BOB MERSKI (D) No. The First Amendment was designed to protect the people from tyranny and governmental action; it is not a tool for discrimination.

Other

JAY BRENEMAN (D) I have been and always will be an ally who will go to any lengths to secure protections, fairness, and equality. I am not just looking for your support or your vote, I am asking for you to work with me in the years ahead so that we can tackle substantive and lasting change. You can learn more about me by going to www.JayBreneman.org or by calling or texting me at 814-580-VOTE. Together we will give Erie a true progressive voice in Harrisburg.

RICK FILIPPI (D) Many of you know me. As Mayor of the City of Erie I worked to end entrenched discrimination at City Hall. Against many odds, I fought to modernize the civil service testing

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system for the City's police and Fire Departments to obtain even a small amount of diversity. We were unfortunately unsuccessful and the problem remains as appalling as ever with disgraceful numbers of minorities in both Departments. As a lawyer, I have handled many civil rights cases resulting from primarily employment discrimination. As your state legislator in the 2nd District, I will continue the advocacy of all of our citizens' rights to equal protection under the law.

BOB MERSKI (D) My wife and I strive to be allies to the LGBT community and to all communities that have historically been marginalized.

PA State House District 3

Anti-Discrimination

RYAN BIZZARRO (D-Incumbent) Yes, I would support legislation like the Equality Act. People's sexual orientation and gender identity should not be discriminated against in housing, employment, nor public accommodation. Gender and sexuality unfold in each person naturally. That there is a diversity of sexual orientations and gender identities is something to be celebrated and responsibly nurtured. In a free society, like ours, laws should enumerate what the Constitution enshrines: that all people are created equal, each with inalienable human rights. As a country we have not always lived into our stated ideals of liberty and equality. The historic discrimination of LGBT people is a tragic part of our nation's story. But our movement towards full equality is a testament to the best of what we can be, together.

"Religious Freedom"

RYAN BIZZARRO (D-Incumbent) I do not support legislation like the First Amendment Defense Act. The United States Constitution enshrines freedom of belief, not absolute accommodation of personal conscience. That is an important distinction. When personal conscience is exercised in such a way that it harms or discriminates against others in

the public square, it violates who we are as American citizens. In truth, there is a reason we distinguish between public and private organizations. In public spaces, we all agree to pursue equality not by religious laws or doctrines, but by the principles of the Constitution. Very specifically, that means we do not impose our religious or philosophical beliefs (or standards) on others when providing goods or services to the public. Faith communities are free to believe and practice what they do within their sacred spaces. But when theology becomes civil law, we become the very thing democracy resists: theocracy and tyranny.

Other

RYAN BIZZARRO (D-Incumbent) I want the greater Erie region to know that I support full equality for LGBT people. As I talk to people throughout the Commonwealth, it strikes me that many people just assume that LGBT people have equal protection under the law. That, we know, is not true. In order to move equality measures forward, Pennsylvania needs to elect more LGBT-supporting people to every branch of government. So long as LGBT-friendly elected officials are in the minority, like in the House and Senate, our advocacy and voting efforts do not make it into civil law. It is for that reason, that I not only humbly ask for your support, but I also ask that we work together to change the face of government in its entirety. Pennsylvania can and should be a place of full equality for LGBT people. Only by getting out the vote will we make that happen.

PA State House District 4

Not Responding: Curt Sonney (R-Incumbent)

PA State House District 5

Not Responding: Brad Roae (R-Incumbent)

2018 PRIDE PARADE & PRIDEFEST SATURDAY, JUNE 30 11 AM - 5 PM

- * PARADE ASSEMBLY FROM 11-12 AT ZONE DANCE CLUB
- * MARCH TO PERRY SQUARE STEPS OFF AT 12
- * PRIDEFEST AT 1 PM FEATURING DRAG PERFORMERS, BANDS & OTHER PERFORMERS
- * INFO TABLES, VENDORS AND FREE HIV&STI TESTING PROVIDED BY THE ERIE HIV TASK FORCE
- * FREE TO ATTEND, ALL AGES, FAMILY FRIENDLY, AND SMOKE FREE THANKS TO OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ERIE COUNTY HEALTH DEPT.

NWPAPRIDE.ORG - FACEBOOK.COM/NWPAPRIDE - TWITTER.COM/NWPAPRIDE

**REMEMBER THE PAST
CREATE THE FUTURE**