



# EGN



## Erie Gay News



Photo Mike Mahler

**IDENTITY AT EDINBORO HOMECOMING** On September 29, 2018, Edinboro University held their annual Homecoming Parade. The theme was Boro at the Beach. Identity, Edinboro's LGBTQIA+ student group marched in the parade with a group costume of "Dad's Hawaiian Vacation" with a contingent from NW PA Pride Alliance. Photo gallery at [eriegaynews.com](http://eriegaynews.com)

## LGBTQ seniors group features mobility, activity speaker Nov 11

*from Lake Erie Counseling*

The LGBTQ seniors group Over 40? So what? is pleased to announced that the group meeting in November will feature Jason Cardinale. Dr. Cardinale will discuss Mobility and Activity for seniors through Proactive Chiropractics. The group will meet Sunday, Nov 11 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at Lake Erie Counseling, 301 West 10th St., Erie. Info: 814-455-4009.

## Behrend group changes name

The Penn State Behrend LGBTQIA organization, formerly known as Trigon is now Gender and Sexuality Club (GASE). Info: 814) 898-7162. [mos5744@psu.edu](mailto:mos5744@psu.edu). FB: Gender and Sexuality Equality Club - Penn State Behrend

## Requests for Session Proposals for NW PA LGBTQA Summit

*from Tyler Titus*

On April 12 & 13, 2019, Erie, PA will host the region's first summit focused solely on engaging and empowering LGBTQ youth. The summit is organized by the local advocates and is open to all young LGBTQ youth, their families, and those who work with LGBTQ youth. The target age range of the youth will be 12 to 21 years old. This summit is designed to connect and engage LGBTQ youth, and those in their world, so that we can create a more supportive, safe, and empowered community. The submission deadling for requests for session proposals - workshop sessions is November 30, 2018, and notifications will begin January 4, 2019. For questions, please contact Tyler

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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.aaeriepa.org](http://www.aaeriepa.org).



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**Deadline for next issue: Nov 12; Folding and distribution is Tue, Nov 20 at Lake Erie Counseling, 301 W 10th.**

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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.

**Erie Gay News is now included in**  
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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.

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To Lake Erie Counseling Associates for hosting! Andrea, Audrey, Johauna, Kim, Rex Apps, Richard Guy, and Trish Catalano for folding; Andrea, Audrey, Jerry McCumber, Johauna, Kim, Rex Apps, Richard Guy, 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](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

# Community News

Titus at [TylerTitusLPC@gmail.com](mailto:TylerTitusLPC@gmail.com) or (814) 431-4553.  
[See the online version of this article for submission details  
[www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)]

The opening event will be Friday, April 12th at 6:00pm. We will gather to honor the National Day of Silence and for an evening of connection through games, snacks, and art. Saturday April 13th will begin with a keynote speaker, breakout sessions, lunch, followed by afternoon breakout sessions. The summit will come to a close with a social gathering filled with music, food, and community.

All session facilitators must arrive at least 15 minutes before their start time to be directed to their room. The E3 Planning Committee will work to make any possible noted accommodations in advance. Session facilitators are all invited to attend the full conference and social events.

More information on conference registration will be sent to those presenting. The E3 Planning Committee would be glad to answer any questions about the event and accommodations.

## Matthew Shepard to be Interred at Washington National Cathedral

*from Matthew Shepard Foundation*

Matthew Shepard, who was murdered at 21 years old in 1998 in an anti-gay hate crime, will be interred at Washington National Cathedral following a service of thanksgiving and remembrance on Friday, Oct. 26, at the request of the Shepard family. This past October 12 marked the 20th anniversary of Shepard's death. The service will celebrate and recall Shepard's life and will be followed by a private interment in the Cathedral crypt. The service will be presided over by the Right Rev. Mariann Edgar Budde, Episcopal Bishop of Washington, and the Right Rev. V. Gene Robinson, the first openly gay priest to be consecrated a bishop in the Episcopal Church.

Shepard will be one of approximately 200 people to have been interred in the Cathedral over the last century. Others interred at the Cathedral include President Woodrow Wilson; Bishop Thomas Claggett, Helen Keller and her teacher Anne Sullivan; and U.S. Navy Admiral George Dewey.

The service will be streamed live on Oct. 26 at 10am from Washington National Cathedral Channel at YouTube. Visit [matthewshepard.org](http://matthewshepard.org)

## Adrian Shanker confirmed to PA Human Relations Commission

ALLENTOWN, PA -- On October 1st, 2018, the Pennsylvania State Senate voted 49-0 to confirm Adrian Shanker, Executive Director of Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center, to serve as a Commissioner on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. Governor Tom Wolf nominated Shanker in June.

The Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission promotes equal opportunity for all and enforces Pennsylvania's civil rights laws that protect people from unlawful discrimination.

Shanker has previously served for three years on the Human Relations Commission of the City of Allentown (2009-2012), led the effort to establish the Human Relations Commission in the City of Bethlehem, and while serving as President of Equality Pennsylvania from 2011-2013, he worked with numerous municipal bodies in south east PA to assist them in passing their local human relations ordinances.

Shanker's appointment to PHRC is a voluntary



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# Community News

position, he continues his leadership as Executive Director of Bradbury-Sullivan LGBT Community Center. He also serves, at Governor Wolf's appointment, on the Pennsylvania Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, and in addition, he serves on the Board of Directors of the ACLU of Pennsylvania and on the Board of the Non-Profit & Business Partners Council of the Greater Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce.

## GEAE Hosts Promoting LGBTQ Health with Dr. Capriotti

*by Mike Mahler*

On Saturday, September 22, Greater Erie Alliance for Equality hosted a presentation at Calamari's Squid Row, 1317 State St, Erie PA, by Dr. Matthew Capriotti on promoting LGBTQ health: "Out of the Bars and Into the Data." The event included an informative presentation on blending community action and science to promote LGBTQ health, appetizers, and socializing.

Dr. Capriotti is part of a team of scientists who

are studying the social behaviors of LGBT people and the impact of social behavior on overall LGBT health. "Out of the Bar into the Data" refers to health analyses having to do with issues of consumption (alcohol, drugs, cigarettes), sexual practices and health, and psychological aspects of LGBT health too. We continue to see research that shows that the LGBT community continues to use/abuse alcohol and drugs at a higher rate than other demographics. This discussion provides some encouragement as to what measures we can take to promote better well-being among our community members.

Dr. Matthew Capriotti is a licensed clinical psychologist who holds positions as an Assistant Professor of Psychology at San Jose State University, and as a Research Associate in the Department of Medicine at University of California San Francisco. His educational presentation served to better inform LGBTQ communities about our health trends and unique needs.

Info: [greatereriealliance.com](http://greatereriealliance.com)



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# Calendar

Detailed calendar listings in our online calendar  
[www.eriegaynews.com](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

**Oct 26 (Fri) - The Celebration of Life and Interment of Matthew Shepard** Streamed live 10am on YouTube at Washington National Cathedral channel.

**Oct 26 (Fri) - "Rocky Horror Picture Show"** (Reg Lenna, Jamestown NY) 10PM. [reglenna.com](http://reglenna.com)

**Oct 27 (Sat) - Halloween Party: Bates Motel theme** (Zone, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 8 PM. FB: The Zone

**Oct 27 (Sat) - Halloween Party & Drag Show** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) (724) 602-8447. FB: M&J's Lounge

**Oct 28 (Sun) - 10th Annual Diversity Worship Service** (Community United Church, 1011 W 38th St, Erie, PA) 11AM [communityunited.church](http://communityunited.church).

**Oct 28 (Sun) - Unafraid: Tyler Titus** Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Hwy Erie PA) 10:30 AM "Tyler Titus won his Erie School Board seat to become the first openly transgender person

ever elected in Pennsylvania." [uuerie.org](http://uuerie.org)

**Oct 31 (Wed) - Halloqueen Ball and Rocky Horror Picture Show Screening** (Franklin G Pogue Student Center, Multi Purpose Room, 405 Scotland R.d, Edinboro, PA) Hosted by Identity. Movie at 7:30 PM, Halloqueen Costume Ball at 9:30. (814) 732-2813. FB: EUP Identity

**Nov 2 (Fri) - "Bohemian Rhapsody"(2018) national release** Celebration of British rock band Queen and the too-short life of frontman Freddie Mercury

**Nov 2 (Fri) - "Nutcracker and The Four Realms" (2018)** Disney's feminist take on The Nutcracker

**Nov 2 (Fri) - "Boy Erased" (2018) National release** Lucas Hedges, Nicole Kidman, Russell Crowe. Conversion therapy drama, based on the book of the same name. FB: Boy Erased

**Nov 2-24 - "Afterglow"** (Buffalo United Artists, 1 Curtain Up Alley, Buffalo NY) [buffalobua.org](http://buffalobua.org)

**Nov 6 (Tue) - General Election** Pennsylvania Polls open 7 AM - 8 PM. Please Tutn Out to Vote!

**Nov 8 (Thu) - Gender and Sexuality Club (GASE) - 12th Annual Drag Show** (Penn State Behrend, McGarvey Commons, Erie, PA) 7-9 PM. Hosted by Behrend student group (814) 898-7162. [mos5744@psu.edu](mailto:mos5744@psu.edu). FB: Gender and Sexuality Equality Club - Penn State Behrend

**Nov 9 - 17 (Fri - Sat) - Staged Reading: "HIR"** (Dramashop, 1001 State Street 2nd Floor, Erie, PA ) [dramashop.org](http://dramashop.org) FB: Dramashop

**Nov 10 (Sat) - Veronycas Showgirls 2018 Honorees Show** (Moose Lodge 201 W State St, Olean, NY) 10 PM. \$6 cover. FB: Veronycas Showgirls

**Nov 11 -(Sun) "Sally4Ever"** (HBO) #Sally4Ever

**Nov 11 (Sun) - "Cat on a Hot Tin Roof"** (Taylor Little Theatre, Erie) [Mercyhurst National Theatre Live](http://MercyhurstNationalTheatreLive.miac.mercyhurst.edu/)

**Nov 11 (Sun) - Second Annual HeART Show** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 7-10 PM. Fundraiser for NW PA Pride Alliance. Art auction consisting entirely of original works from the Erie region's LGBTQIA community. The donated works will be auctioned off with all proceeds going to make Pridefest even bigger and better. Free and open to the public, Venue is 21+, please have state-issued photo ID ready. Contact: Tony Gressley. (814) 314-9075. [agressley@nwpapride.org](mailto:agressley@nwpapride.org). [nwpapride.org](http://nwpapride.org).

**Nov 12 (Mon) - Deadline for Erie Gay News De-**

## ABC's of BUILDING BETTER LIVES

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# Calendar

**cember 2018 print edition** (Erie Gay News, 1115 W 7th St, Erie, PA) [info@eriegaynews.com](mailto:info@eriegaynews.com).

**Nov 13 (Tue) - Bears Do Dinner #65** (Arnie's Place Family Restaurant, 2605 Washington Ave, Erie, PA) 6:30 PM. "Join the Bears for a casual dinner of food and conversation! Dinner is on your own." Contact: Gary (814) 446-2327. [info@drenchedfur.com](mailto:info@drenchedfur.com). [www.drenchedfur.com](http://www.drenchedfur.com)

**Nov 14-18 (Wed-Sun) - Lake Erie Gala** (Wed - Sun) - (Bel-Aire Hotel and Conference Center, 2800 W 8th St, Erie, PA) Annual social weekend hosted by Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group. [neumanncindy@gmail.com](mailto:neumanncindy@gmail.com). [eriesisters.ning.com](http://eriesisters.ning.com) FB: Erie Sisters & Brothers Transgender Support Group.

**Nov 16 (Fri) - "The Bisexual"** (Hulu) new dramedy series written by and starring Desiree Akhavan, who directed The Miseducation of Cameron Post.

**Nov 16 (Fri) - "She-Ra and the Princesses of Power" Season 1** (Netflix) "The Netflix 'She-Ra' reboot is giving its most gay-iconic character two dads"~Hornet

**Nov 17 (Sat) - A Drag Queen Christmas** (Shea's

Performing Arts Center), Buffalo NY

**Nov 18 (Sun) - Whispering Lake Grove Rite of Thanksgiving** (Unitarian-Universalist Congregation of Erie, 7180 Perry Highway, Erie, PA) 6:00pm otluck after Contact: Rev. Christopher Temple. (814) 720-1560. [grollwynn72@hotmail.com](mailto:grollwynn72@hotmail.com).

**Nov 18 (Sun) - Tony G Roulette "The Hair Up Hoedown" FACE Drag Show** (Zone Dance Club, 133 W 18th, Erie, PA) 8 PM. FB: The Zone

**Nov 20 (Tue) - TransFamily of NWPAA Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigil** (Erie County Courthouse, 140 W 6th St, Erie, PA) 6 PM. Candlelight vigil on Courthouse steps. Contact: Caitlyn (814) 823-1969. [Caitlynxpress@gmail.com](mailto:Caitlynxpress@gmail.com)

**Nov 20 (Tue) - Full Spectrum Transgender Day of Remembrance** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 323 Wick, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM Candlelight vigil & speakers. [fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org](http://fullspectrumcommunityoutreach.org)

**Nov 20 (Tue) - Erie Gay News folding/distribution work party** (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th, Erie, PA) 7PM. All ages! Contact: Mike (814) 456-9833. Venue (814) 455-4009. [info@erie-gaynews.com](mailto:info@erie-gaynews.com)

**Nov 20 (Tue) - A Drag Queen Christmas** (Carnegie Library Music Hall, Munhall PA) [dragfans.com](http://dragfans.com)

**Nov 21 (Wed) - Thanksgiving Eve at The Zone** (133 W 18th St, Erie, PA) 8 PM - 2 AM. FB: The Zone

**Nov 22 (Thu) - Silver Fox Thanksgiving Celebration** (Old Country Buffet, 4401 Transit Rd, Buffalo, NY) Noon-2PM "Don't be alone this Thanksgiving, join us for a buffet. Attendees do not need to RSVP but, they are expected to pay for their own food. Look for us, we will be saving a table." Silver Pride is a LG-

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# Calendar

BTQ+ seniors group. silverprideproject@gmail.com

**Nov 28 (Wed) - A Drag Queen Christmas** (House of Blues, Cleveland OH) dragfans.com

**Nov 24 (Sat) - Drag Show and Disco Night** (M & J's Lounge, 124 Mercer St, Butler, PA) FB: M&J's Lounge

**Nov 30 (Fri) - Erie Awareness Outreach presents Blood Red Runway Affair** (Metropolitan Club, 144 W 13th St, Erie, PA) Doors open 7 PM, runway 8 PM "Awareness fashion event featuring urban style runway!" Reception with DJ Blackcat at 10 PM, runway 10:30 PM. (Performance and Sex Siren.) \$50 per category + pot (\$5 fee.) Style Code: Blood Red. \$5 at the door (state & college ID), 18 to party, 21 years for cocktails with state ID. FB: Erie Awareness Outreach

**Dec 1 (Sat) - Free World AIDS Day Dinner & Vigil** (First Unitarian Universalist Church of Youngstown OH, 1105 Elm St, Youngstown, OH) fullspectrum-communityoutreach.org

**Dec 1-2 (Sat - Sun) -North Coast Men's Chorus: Snowbound** (Hanna Theatre @ Playhouse Square, Cleveland) ncmenchorus.org

**Dec 1, 8, & 9 - Buffalo Gay Men's Chorus:** "Our Grown-Up Christmas List" (3 Buffalo venues) Features Buffalo AIDS quilt. buffalogaymenschorus.com

**Dec 4 (Tue) - Jane Lynch: "A Swingin' Little Christmas"** (Mary D'Angelo Performing Arts Center, Mercyhurst University, Erie PA) miac.mercyhurst.edu

**Dec 6 (Thu) - Randy Rainbow Live** (Carnegie Library Music Hall of Homestead, Munhall PA) librarymusic hall.com

**Dec 8 (Sat) - Renaissance City Choir: "Find Joy Together"** (East Liberty Presbyterian Church Sanctuary, Pittsburgh) rccpittsburgh.com

**Dec 16 (Sun) - Joan Jett & the Blackhearts** (Hard Rock Rocksino, Northfield, OH) joanjett.com

**Dec 18 (Tue) - "Relatable" premiere** (Netflix) Ellen Degeneres' standup special.

**Dec 21 (Fri) - "Marvel's Runaways" Season 2** (Hulu)

## UPCOMING

**"Can You Ever Forgive Me" (2018)** Now playing select cities; watch for it. Melissa McCarthy.

**Cher 2019 Tour** Appropriately called the "Here We Go Again Tour" will be in Cleveland in Feb., and Buffalo, Pittsburgh and Toronto in April. cher.com

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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.*

VIEW ONLINE at [eriegaynews.com](http://eriegaynews.com)

## 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](http://www.eriegaynews.com)

## US Senate

*Not Responding: Lou Barletta (R)*

### Anti-Discrimination

**ROBERT P CASEY JR (D-Incumbent)**

I am a co-sponsor of the Equality Act.

**NEAL GALE (Green)**

I believe it is critically important to support legislation such as the Equality Act, as long as people in our society face daily discrimination due to their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Throughout the country there is a lack of basic legal protections leaving people at risk regarding the basic areas of their lives including employment, housing, finances, education, access to federally funded programs, and jury duty, as well as their physical safety and that of their families.

Since the majority of LGBTQ Americans report having experienced discrimination in their lives, based on who they are as people, it is imperative that specific, federal legal protections be enacted. It is no longer acceptable for anyone to have to face harassment or discrimination, and the Equality Act would go a long way towards preventing that.

**DALE KERNS (Libertarian)**

Discrimination against people because of sexual orientation or gender identity has no place in our nation. I would strongly support adding LGBT+ people to those protected by the 1964 Civil Rights Act protections against government discrimination through legislation like the Equality Act. In addition, if any private businesses were to express that they refused to serve LGBT+ people or otherwise indicated that they were not welcoming to people of all identities or orientations, I would stand on the front lines, enthusiastically supporting and joining in any boycotts or protests against those businesses.

More→





# ☆☆☆ VOTERS GUIDE ☆☆☆

## “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.

### NEAL GALE (Green)

I do not support this proposed legislation. It supports a person's right to discriminate against another person, based on moral objections to that person's nature. And I draw a distinction between morality and ethics, which I believe must be observed here.

Morality is derived from one's own religious beliefs and is highly personal, and should not dictate legislation. Ethics has to do with the rules we have developed to govern our behavior in society, and while our ethical code may overlap with our moral bearings, they are not the same. Ethics keeps us united under a standard set of rules for living, codified into law, while morals may provide personal guidance, which might not be universal, and cannot be allowed to become justification for discrimination.

I am concerned that the basis for the First Amendment Defense Act could be extended to provide justification for an array of acts by citizens under the pretext of moral indignity. This is a dangerous, slippery slope.

### DALE KERNS (Libertarian)

I would not support the First Amendment Defense Act (FADA) because it grants special privileges to certain religious groups to discriminate. In addition, government officials never have the right to discriminate against people because of their status as members of the LGBT+ communities. This becomes particularly problematic when government has been made the sole or primary provider of certain goods or services, as it then allows elected officials and bureaucrats to refuse to perform their public services for people due to their

sexual orientations and gender identities.

## 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 Nitza 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 community 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.

### NEAL GALE (Green)

As U.S. Senator from Pennsylvania, I will support the tenets of the Green Party and work tirelessly for grass roots democracy for us all, social justice, peace over profits and environmental wisdom and stewardship. I will press forward with a progressive agenda to reform our society, with a wholistic approach. One that recognizes the connection between the survivability of our environment, the sustainability of our economic system, the justice we demand throughout our society and how fully we do or do not participate in our self-government.

I encourage everyone to take a close look at who your elected leaders are, what they are really doing and then take a look at my positions at [www.gale2018.com](http://www.gale2018.com). Please make a plan now to vote on November 6th, and vote for me for U.S. Senate.

# ☆☆☆ VOTERS GUIDE ☆☆☆

## DALE KERNS (Libertarian)

I am proud to be a member of the Libertarian Party, which since its formation in 1971 has strongly supported the rights of LGBT+ people. Those who are members of these communities have faced discrimination and hatred throughout the history of our nation, and still do to this day. From far before Stonewall to now after Obergefell, these Americans have shown that they can and will fight for what is right. While small steps have been taken to guarantee equality, there is still plenty of work to be done. In the U.S. Senate, I will be a fighter for LGBT+ Pennsylvanians and Americans, making sure that they receive all of the rights and privileges guaranteed to them as human beings.

## 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: Mike Kelly (R-Incumbent)**

### Anti-Discrimination

#### EBERT BEEMAN (Libertarian)

People, in a private capacity, have a right to believe whatever they like and to use their property however they want. I certainly hope they treat everyone fairly but putting a gun to someone's head isn't going to change their bigotry. If someone discriminates against LGBT individuals, they are losing those people as customers or tenants. Their bigotry should and will be called out and they will suffer financial reverses as a result.

I certainly oppose discrimination in employment, housing, and public buildings by the government. Government cannot discriminate and must treat all people equally. Any government employee found to be engaging in discriminatory actions should be fired

with the loss of all benefits and I would sponsor and support legislation to that effect.

#### 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.

### "Religious Freedom"

#### EBERT BEEMAN (Libertarian)

Again, people, in a private capacity, have a right to believe whatever they like. However, a government employee cannot deny providing goods and services to anyone, for any reason. When they are acting as a government employee they are an agent of the state. Government must treat all people equally. This is well-established law. If a government employee feels they can't do something, they can resign or assign the performance of their duty to another government employee. The so-called First Amendment Defense Act would violate the 14th Amendment. It's a typical example of politicians pandering to a base and in the process, violating their oath of office.

#### 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.

### Other

#### EBERT BEEMAN (Libertarian)

As a member of Congress, you can count on me to be a budget hawk and fiscal watchdog, just as I was publicly applauded for being when I was on County Council.

You can count on me to oppose the current foreign policy of military aggression. You can count on me to sponsor and support legislation to eliminate foreign aid to regimes that persecute the LGBT community.

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The Libertarian Party has stood up for the rights of the LGBT community since the parties founding in 1971. In 1972 the Libertarian Party ran an openly gay man for President at a time when doing so could have gotten him thrown in prison.

## 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.

## MIKE KELLY (R- Incumbent)

*[Editors Note: Rep. Kelly has never responded to our candidate surveys, but we 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) 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: Scott R Wagner (R)**

## Anti-Discrimination

### PAUL GLOVER (Green)

Yes. Every Pennsylvania resident, especially those traditionally disparaged, deserves legal protection from discrimination when decency does not suffice.

### KEN KRAWCHUK (Libertarian)

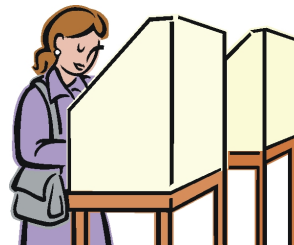
I believe that we should all be treated equally under the law, meaning no special favors for any group, nor any special handicaps for any group. I would oppose any law granting special protections or quotas for gays or heteros, women or men, minorities or majorities, businesses or individuals, or even politicians. Conversely, I would also oppose any law that denied anyone full enjoyment of all rights and privileges.

The reason is simple: Whenever the government creates special benefits for one class of citizen, whatever that class, they create a benefit that is not legally available to those outside that class. By lifting up one class of citizen over other citizens, in effect the law creates a second class citizenship consisting of those outside the protected class. I oppose second class citizenships and the laws that create them, such as the Equality Act. All must be equal in the eyes of the law.

### 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,

More→



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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.

## 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]*

## “Religious Freedom”

### PAUL GLOVER (Green)

No. I have already replied to two conservative questionnaires affirming the right of gay Pennsylvanians to receive services, whether wedding cakes or marriage licenses, regardless of narrow religious doctrine. Religions which proclaim love as their highest principle

### KEN KRAWCHUK (Libertarian)

Please see previous answer, which explains why I would oppose any law granting or denying anyone full enjoyment of all rights and privileges. The role of government is only to protect the lives and property of its citizens. Anything beyond that becomes a clash between competing special interests.

## 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

### PAUL GLOVER (Green)

As the Green Party candidate for Pennsylvania governor I endorse the platform of the Party, including the section on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, seen at <https://d3n8a8pro7vhmx.cloudfront.net/gpus/pages/4899/attachments/original/1490478605/2016-Green-Party-Platform-with-Index.pdf?1490478605>

In keeping with the Green Key Values of diversity, social justice and feminism, we support full legal and political equality for all persons, regardless of sex, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity, characteristics, and expression.

a. The Green Party affirms the rights of all individuals to freely choose intimate partners, regardless of their sex, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation.

b. The Green Party recognizes the equal rights of persons who identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, intersex, transsexual, queer, or transgender to housing, jobs, civil marriage, medical benefits, child custody, and in all areas of life including equal tax treatment.

c. The Green Party will be inclusive of language in local, state and federal anti-discrimination law that ensures the rights of intersex individuals and prohibits discrimination based on gender identity, characteristics, and expression as well as on sex, gender, or sexual orientation. We are opposed to intersex genital mutilation.

d. The Green Party affirms the right of all persons to self-determination with regard to gender identity and sex. We therefore support the right of inter sex and transgender individuals to be free from coercion and involuntary assignment of gender or sex. We affirm the right of access to medical and surgical treatment for assignment or reassignment of gender





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or sex, based on informed consent.

e. We will pursue legislation against all forms of hate crimes, including those directed against people who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, transgender, and intersex. Offenders must pay compensation to the LGBTIQ people who have suffered violence and injustice.

f. The Green Party will end all Federal military and civilian aid to national governments whose laws result in the imprisonment or otherwise bring harm to citizens and residents based on sexual orientation, or gender identity, characteristics, and expression.

g. The Green Party will enact a policy that the U.S. Government recognize all international marriages and legal equivalents, such as civil unions, in processing visitor and immigration visas. h. The Green Party would end security surveillance and covert infiltration of organizations that promote equal rights on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.

## **KEN KRAWCHUK (Libertarian)**

I must congratulate the LGBT community in Erie and across the country for finally receiving the recognition and respect that all people deserve. As with racial minorities, the journey toward acceptance of the LGBT community has been a long one, often a one-step-back/two-steps-forward situation. But acceptance is strengthening, and the long-term prospects are excellent. However, I would caution against overconfidence, especially in the realm of legal remedies. Asking for special privileges runs the risk of creating a backlash and undoing the achievements made to date. Equality is what we all seek, not supremacy. I wish you continued good fortune in your quest for equality.

## **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.



## **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 divisive 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)*

### **Anti-Discrimination**

#### **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”**

**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.

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## Other

**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)*



# Social & support groups

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## **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.aeriepa.org](http://www.aeriepa.org).

## **AGING**

**Nov 11 (Sun) – Over 40? So What?** meets (Lake Erie Counseling Associates, 301 W 10th St, Erie, PA) 4 – 6 PM. (814) 455-4009. [daleallgeier@outlook.com](mailto:daleallgeier@outlook.com).

## **GENERAL**

**Nov 13 (Tue) – Youngstown PFLAG meets** (St. John's Episcopal Church, 323 Wick Ave, Youngstown, OH ) 6:30 PM. [www.youngstownpflag.org](http://www.youngstownpflag.org).

## **RELIGION AND SPIRITUALITY**

**Nov 13 (Tue) – Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network meets** (Covenant Presbyterian Church, 230 E Jefferson St, Butler PA) 1 PM. FB: Butler LGBTQ Interfaith Network

## **SOCIAL**

**Nov 11 (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](mailto: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](mailto:ErieBeans@aol.com). FB: LBT Women of Erie

## **STUDENT & YOUTH**

**Gender and Sexuality Club (GASE).** LGBTQA group at Penn State Behrend. Info: (814) 898-7162. [mos5744@psu.edu](mailto:mos5744@psu.edu).

**Nov 6 & 20 (Tue) – P.E.A.R.S Teen Drop-In Center** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6-8PM. FB: Full Spectrum Community Outreach

**Nov 4 & 18 (Sat) – Prism LGBTQ youth group** meets 1st & 3rd Sat at the Downtown YMCA teen center, 31 W 10th St, Erie PA. from 2-4. Socializing and peer support. for teens 12-20 Rose Surma (814) 490-1971 [Rose.surma@gmail.com](mailto:Rose.surma@gmail.com) FB: TransFamily of NWPA

**Nov 20 (Tue) – Full Spectrum LGBT Teen Support** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6PM. Ages 14-19, under 14 with parental consent. FB: Full Spectrum Community Outreach

## **SUPPORT**

**Nov 11 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Sexuality Support** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 3-5PM.

**Nov 18 (Sun) – Parents Who Are LGBTQIA+ Support Group meets** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM.

## **TRANS**

**Nov 10 (Sat) – TransFamily of Meadville Transgender Support Group** (CHAPS Building, 1st floor, 944 Liberty St., Meadville, PA) 2-5 PM. Contact: Linda Thomas. [imhzwoman4586@msn.com](mailto:imhzwoman4586@msn.com). (814) 232-1778 FB: Transfamily of NWPA.

**Nov 11 (Sun) – Full Spectrum Transgender Support Group meets** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM. Also meets Jul 22 from 3-5PM.

**Nov 12 (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](mailto:kreeseamon@gmail.com). FB: Transfamily of NWPA.

**Nov 18 (Sun) – Parents and Partners of Gender Variant Individuals Support Group meets** (Full Spectrum Community Outreach Center, 5060 Youngstown Poland Rd, Youngstown, OH) 6 PM – 8 PM.

**Nov 24 (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](mailto:Caitlynxpress@gmail.com). FB: Transfamily of NWPA

**Nov 24 (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](http://eriesisters.ning.com)

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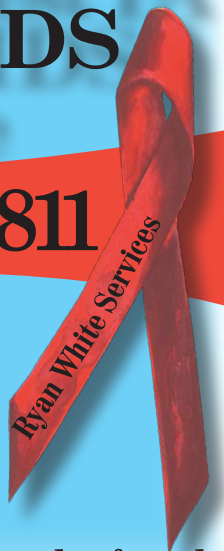


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