



FIGHTING FOR THE LGBTQ COMMUNITY

Connecticut is a national leader when it comes to LGBTQ rights and inclusion. We were one of the first states to embrace marriage equality and legal protections against discrimination, and we recently moved to ban youth conversation therapy and require the Department of Corrections to treat transgender people according to their gender identities. But we still have immense work ahead of us. LGBTQ rights are under attack at the federal level, and Connecticut must keep moving forward to enshrine equality into law.

I have championed the rights of the LGBTQ community for years. I was one of the first statewide candidates to support marriage equality when I ran for the U.S. Senate in 2006. Tolerance alone is insufficient. We must continue to build on the progress we have made by working tirelessly to ensure that Connecticut embraces and safeguards the same rights and protections for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity and expression, and recognizes LGBTQ individuals as community leaders.

Members of the LGBTQ community — particularly those who are younger, older, or people of color — are especially vulnerable. LGBTQ individuals in our communities of color live at the intersection of multiple and overlapping forms of discrimination. Their experiences with homophobia and transphobia are compounded by opportunity gaps in education and employment, criminal injustice, immigration issues, and intolerable disparities in health outcomes, particularly with regard to HIV. LGBTQ teenagers and young adults are over-represented in the homeless population, more likely than their peers to face bullying and acts of aggression, and more likely to experience depression and to attempt suicide as a result. At the same time, Connecticut's aging population includes a significant number of elderly LGBTQ people who faced a lifetime of discrimination and are aging without proper community supports, living in poor health, experiencing financial insecurity, and encountering aging providers ill-equipped to meet their needs. We can and must do better to provide safety and support for all members of the LGBTQ community.

The Trump-Pence Administration's assault on the rights of LGBTQ Americans is an important reminder of the danger posed by an executive branch that is not committed to human rights. Their efforts to allow discrimination against LGBTQ people under the guise of protecting religious

liberty is a grave threat to the equality of rights we owe to all Americans. Bob Stefanowski and his Family Institute of Connecticut-endorsed running mate Joe Markley are Connecticut's Donald Trump and Mike Pence — and they're proud of it.

Unlike my Republican opponent, I will stand up for all of our residents against a hostile president and an increasingly radical Supreme Court. Rulings like *Masterpiece Cakeshop*, which allowed a baker to deny service to and openly discriminate against a gay couple, represent a real threat to equal rights. As Governor, I will promote and defend the rights and wellbeing of the LGBTQ community.

I pledge to:

- Counter any attempt by the Trump administration to roll back rights and protections for the LGBTQ community in health care, housing, education, or employment, including any proposal seeking to justify discrimination against the LGBTQ community on religious grounds.
- Strengthen and expand legal protections for the LGBTQ community in both the classroom and workplace.
- Expand LGBTQ representation in state government, especially in public safety agencies and on appointed boards, commissions, and panels, and encourage local leaders to do the same.
- Embrace and defend equality in Connecticut's foster care and adoption systems.
- Ensure resources to address homelessness account for the specific needs of LGBTQ youth.
- Work with schools to provide anti-bullying training that protects and empowers LGBTQ kids.
- Develop policies that account for the unique needs of LGBTQ elders and guard against discrimination against them in accessing critical services like health care and housing.
- Prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS, particularly among men of color, by establishing a PrEP Assistance Program modeled on successful efforts in other states and mandating insurance coverage of PrEP.
- Improve healthcare options for transgender residents by requiring trans-centered physician training in continuing medical education and removing obstacles transgender patients face to securing insurance.

