

Table of Contents



I Commit Pledge	2
A reminder of the commitment you have made to be an informed voter	
Registered! Now What?	3
What to do once you have registered to vote	
Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Issues in Michigan.	4
Legislation that directly impacts members of the LGBT community in Michigan	
National Candidates	5
A list of the candidates running for national offices	
Michigan House Candidates.	6
A list of the candidates running for the Michigan House of Representatives	
Current Michigan Senators.	7
A list of your current Michigan Senators	
Voter Rights and Responsibilities	8
A comprehensive list from the Secretary of State of your rights and responsibilities as a Michigan voter	
Organizations	9
A list of National, State, and Local organizations where you may report discrimination	
Don't Change Yourself. Change the Law	10
Unity Michigan's call to action regarding equal rights in Michigan	
ENDA	11
Employment Non-Discrimination Act Fact Sheet	



THE **"i commit"** PLEDGE

I COMMIT TO
stay informed.

I COMMIT TO
understand THE **issues**
AND TO **ask questions**
WHEN SOMETHING DOES NOT
MAKE SENSE TO ME.

I COMMIT TO
hold accountable
MY ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE
FOR VOTING AGAINST EQUALITY.

I COMMIT TO
vote.

Registered! Now what?



1. Do you know where your polling place is?

Every neighborhood has a different place to vote. Your place to vote is found on the right of your Voter Identification Card. Your Voter Identification Card will come in the mail after you register, and you should bring this on election day (Tuesday, November 6th). If you lose your card, go anyway; you can still vote!

2. Do you know who your candidates are?

On November 6th, you can vote for one **U.S.** president; one **U.S.** Senator; one U.S. congressional representative; one **Michigan** congressional representative; **AND** one **Kalamazoo County** prosecuting attorney, sheriff, treasurer, clerk, drain commissioner, surveyor, and county commissioner. There will also be several proposals.

You may vote for only one candidate or office, or you may vote for all of them. It's your choice! Find your congressional and senate districts on the left of your Voter Identification Card so you can find out who is running in your district. All candidates are listed in this folder.

3. What do the candidates believe?

The people we elect decide the laws that govern us. For example, they decide how our taxes are spent, what laws can protect us from discrimination, and what rights we have as citizens. But everybody believes different things, so which candidates do you most agree with? Which candidates will likely decide what you believe? We have provided some information for you here.

4. Go Vote!

Polling places (precincts) in Michigan are open from 7am to 8pm. You should have photo identification (may include driver's license, state or school ID, or a work pass). **IFYOU DON'T HAVE PHOTO ID YOU CAN STILL VOTE!** Go to the polls and sign a form.

You may bring notes into the polls with you, and you can ask for help if you don't understand the ballot.



This legislation was passed by Michigan's elected officials.
What are your candidates' opinions about these issues?

House Bill 4770 Eliminates health care coverage for domestic partners of municipal public employees.

STATUS: Introduced by David Agema (Rep., 74th District); Passed and signed by Governor Snyder; Representatives from Southwest MI that voted in favor of HB 4770: Margaret O'Brien (Rep.), James 'Jase' Bolger (Rep.), Robert Genetski (Rep.), Kenneth Kurtz (Rep.); Representatives from Southwest MI that voted against HB 4770: Sean McCann (Dem.), Kate Segal (Dem.)

House Bill 4163 Requires school districts to adopt anti-bullying policies.

STATUS: Introduced by Phil Potvin (Rep., 102nd District); Passed and signed by Governor Snyder; Representatives from Southwest MI that voted in favor of HB 4163: Sean McCann (Dem.), Kate Segal (Dem.), Kenneth Kurtz (Rep.); Representatives from Southwest MI that voted against HB 4163: Margaret O'Brien (Rep.), James 'Jase' Bolger (Rep.), Robert Genetski (Rep.)

House Bill 4771 Prohibits collective bargaining agreements from including health care coverage for domestic partners of public employees.

STATUS: Introduced by David Agema (Rep., 74th District); Vetoed by Governor Snyder and referred to Committee on Government Operations; Representatives from Southwest MI that voted in favor of HB 4771: Margaret O'Brien (Rep.), James 'Jase' Bolger (Rep.), Robert Genetski (Rep.), Kenneth Kurtz (Rep.); Representatives from Southwest MI that voted against HB 4771: Sean McCann (Dem.), Kate Segal (Dem.)

House Bill 5039 Prohibits municipalities from adopting nondiscrimination ordinances that include gay and transgender residents.

STATUS: Introduced by Tom McMillin (Rep., 45th District)

House Bill 4889 Prohibits medically necessary sex reassignment surgery for some recipients of public health care services.

STATUS: Introduced by Thomas Hooker (Rep., 77th District)

House Bill 4249 / Senate Bill 167 Allows unmarried couples to jointly adopt children.

STATUS: HB 4249 was introduced by Jeff Irwin (Dem., 53rd District)

STATUS: SB 167 was introduced by Rebekah Warren (Dem., 18th District)

House Bill 5040 / Senate Bill 518 Requires university counseling, psychology and social work programs to violate national ethics standards by allowing students to refuse service to certain clients.

STATUS: HB 5040 was introduced by Joseph Haveman (Rep., 90th District) and approved by the House Education Committee; Representatives from Southwest MI that voted in favor of HB 5040: Margaret O'Brien (Rep.), James 'Jase' Bolger (Rep.), Robert Genetski (Rep.), Kenneth Kurtz (Rep.); Representatives from Southwest MI that voted against HB 5040: Sean McCann (Dem.), Kate Segal (Dem.)

STATUS: SB 518 was introduced by Tupac Hunter (Dem., 5th District)

National Candidates



Candidates for U.S. House of Representatives

Your district is marked on your voter identification card. You can vote for one U.S. REPRESENTATIVE in your district.

* Indicates incumbent/current official.

DISTRICT 6: (Kalamazoo, Van Buren, Cass, and St. Joseph Counties)

NAME: Fred Upton (Republican) *
WEB: <http://upton.house.gov/>

NAME: Mike O'Brien (Democrat)
WEB: <http://mikeobrienforcongress.com/>

NAME: Jack Hoogendyk (Rep.)
WEB: <http://www.jackformichigan.com/>

NAME: Jason Gatties (USTP)
WEB: <http://www.gatties.org/>

Candidates for U.S. Senate

Your senator represents the whole state, so every registered voter in Michigan can vote for one U.S. SENATOR from Michigan.

* Indicates incumbent/current official.

NAME: Debbie Stabenow (Dem.) *
WEB: <http://www.stabenow.senate.gov/>

NAME: Harley Mikkelson (Green)
WEB: <http://www.harleymikkelson.com/>

NAME: Gary Glenn (Rep.)
WEB: <http://garyglenn.us/>

NAME: Scotty Boman (Libertarian)
WEB: <http://boman12.org/>

NAME: Randy Hekman (Rep.)
WEB: <http://randyhekman2012.com/>

NAME: Richard Matikin (USTP)
WEB: —

NAME: Pete Hoekstra (Rep.)
WEB: <http://www.hoekstraforsenate.com/>

NAME: Clark Durant (Rep.)
WEB: <http://www.clarkdurant.com/landing/rebel-with-a-cause/>

NAME: Peter Konetchy (Rep.)
WEB: <http://www.peterkonetchy.com/>

Michigan House Candidates



Candidates for Michigan House of Representatives

Your district is marked on your voter identification card. You can vote for one STATE REPRESENTATIVE in your district.

* Indicates incumbent/current official.

DISTRICT 60: (Kalamazoo)

NAME: Sean McCann (Democrat) *
PHONE: (517) 373-1785
WEB: <http://060.housedems.com/>

NAME: Mike Perrin (Rep.)
PHONE: —
WEB: —

DISTRICT 80: (Van Buren County)

NAME: Bob Genetski (Rep.) *
PHONE: (517) 373-0836
WEB: www.voteforbobg.com/index.htm

NAME: Stuart Peet (Dem.)
PHONE: —
WEB: —

DISTRICT 61: (Portage)

NAME: Margaret O'Brien (Republican) *
PHONE: (517) 373-1774
WEB: www.gophouse.com/welcome.asp?District=061

NAME: Michael Martin (Dem.)
PHONE: (269) 327-3219
WEB: mOmartin@hotmail.com

DISTRICT 62: (Calhoun County)

NAME: Kate Segal (Dem.) *
PHONE: (517) 373-0555
WEB: <http://062.housedems.com/>

NAME: Mark Behnke (Rep.)
PHONE: —
WEB: —

DISTRICT 63: (Marshall)

NAME: James "Jase" Bolger (Rep.) *
PHONE: (517) 373-1787
WEB: www.gophouse.com/welcome.asp?District=063

NAME: Bill Farmer (Dem.)
PHONE: (269) 823-8855
WEB: bfarmer@miafscme.org

DISTRICT 58: (St. Joseph County)

NAME: Kenneth Kurtz (Rep.) *
PHONE: (517) 373-1794
WEB: www.gophouse.com/welcome.asp?District=058

NAME: Amaryllis Thomas (Dem.)
PHONE: —
WEB: <http://athomas4state.org/>

Current Michigan Senators



Michigan Senators are not up for election this election year.

These are your current senators:

DISTRICT 20: (Kalamazoo Country plus Paw Paw and Antwerp Townships in Van Buren Country)

NAME: Senator Tonya Shuitmaker
PHONE: (517) 373-0793
WEB: SenTShuitmaker@senate.michigan.gov

DISTRICT 21: (Van Buren and Berrien Counties)

NAME: Senator John Proos
PHONE: (517) 373-6960
WEB: SenJProos@senate.michigan.gov

DISTRICT 19: (Calhoun County)

NAME: Senator Mike Nofs
PHONE: (517) 373-2426
WEB: senmnofs@senate.michigan.gov

DISTRICT 16: (St. Joseph County)

NAME: Senator Bruce Caswell
PHONE: (517) 373-5932
WEB: SenBCaswell@senate.michigan.gov



Michigan Voter Rights and Responsibilities

RIGHTS:

As a Michigan voter, you have the right to:

- ★ Be treated with courtesy and respect by the election workers.
- ★ Vote in private free from interference or intimidation.
- ★ Review a sample ballot before voting.
- ★ Review a summary of the state and federal laws which govern voting.
- ★ Ask for and receive help from the election workers if you are unsure about anything related to casting a ballot.
- ★ Obtain a replacement ballot if you make a mistake when voting.
- ★ Obtain an absentee ballot if you are qualified to vote absentee.
- ★ Vote a provisional ballot if your name does not appear on the registration list and you assert, under oath, that 1) you registered to vote by the registration deadline and 2) you are a resident of the city or township where you are offering to vote.
- ★ Have your minor child (under age 18) accompany you in the voting station while you vote.
- ★ Obtain a ballot if in line when the polls close at 8 p.m.
- ★ Report illegal or fraudulent activity to the local clerk or the Michigan Department of State's Bureau of Elections.

RESPONSIBILITIES:

As a Michigan voter, you have a responsibility to:

- ★ Treat the election workers and other voters with courtesy and respect.
- ★ Respect the privacy and voting rights of other voters.
- ★ Satisfy Michigan's voter identification requirement by 1) showing a Michigan driver's license or state ID card 2) showing any other acceptable form of picture ID or 3) signing an affidavit attesting that you do not have acceptable picture ID or forgot to bring acceptable picture ID to the polls. (Other forms of acceptable picture ID include any of the following as long as it is current: a driver's license or state ID card issued by another state, federal or state government-issued photo ID, U.S. passport, military ID card with photo, student ID with photo from a high school or an accredited institution of higher education or tribal ID card with photo.)
- ★ Request instructions or assistance as needed if you do not know how to use the voting equipment or have other questions about casting a ballot.
- ★ Be informed about the candidates and proposals on the ballot.
- ★ Check your ballot to ensure that it accurately reflects your choices.
- ★ Read and follow all voting instructions.
- ★ Register at least 30 days before the election.
- ★ Keep your voter registration information up-to-date with your current address.
- ★ Follow all federal and state voting laws.
- ★ Vote in person if you 1) registered by mail and 2) have never previously voted in Michigan. (Does not apply to voters who are age 60 or older, disabled or eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.)
- ★ Satisfy a federal ID requirement before voting if you 1) registered by mail 2) have never previously voted in Michigan and 3) have not already satisfied the identification requirement. (Acceptable ID includes a current and valid photo ID or a paycheck stub, utility bill, bank statement or government document that lists your name and address. Requirement does not apply to voters who are disabled or eligible to vote under the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act.)
- ★ Refrain from campaigning or influencing voters in the polling place.

To learn more about voting, visit:
michigan.gov/vote



The Department of State is an equal opportunity employer and service provider. If you need an accommodation or have been denied service, telephone (517) 373-7159 or TTY (517) 241-4320.

SCS-409 (6/16) 10,000 copies, \$2,300.00 total cost, \$0.23 each.
Printed under authority of PA 116 of 1956.

Organizations



National Organizations

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force
www.thetaskforce.org

National Center for Lesbian Rights
www.nclrights.org

Human Rights Campaign
www.hrc.org

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)
www.aclu.org

The National Center
for Transgender Equality
www.transequality.org

Pride at Work
www.prideatwork.org

State Organizations

Unity Michigan
www.unitymichigan.org

Equality Michigan
www.equalitymi.org

American Civil Liberties Union
of Michigan
www.aclu.mich.org

Transgender Michigan
www.stransgendermichigan.org

KICK – The Agency for
LGBT African-Americans
www.e-kick.org

Ruth Ellis Center
www.ruthelliscenter.org

Affirmations
www.goaffirmations.org

OutCenter
www.outcenter.org

Michigan Voice
www.statevoices.org/states/michigan

Michigan Partnership
for Informed Public Policy
www.mpipp.org

Local Organizations

Kalamazoo Gay Lesbian
Resource Center
www.kglrc.org

Kalamazoo Alliance for Equality
www.kalamazooalliance.org

WMU Office of LGBT Student Services
www.wmich.edu/diversityandinclusion/lgbt/

Community AIDS Research
and Education Services
www.caresswm.org

Calhoun County Coalition for Inclusion
(3CI)
www.ppmsm3ci.org

YWCA of Kalamazoo
www.ywca.org

FIRE
www.thisisfire.com

Don't Change Yourself. Change the Law

Michigan is among 29 states in the union where you can still be fired on the spot just for being gay and 35 states if you're transgender. While employment laws (Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act) exist on the books to protect workers on the basis of race, gender and religion, no such protections exist for employees who are singled out for their sexual orientation and gender identity.

That means you can be fired if your boss (who doesn't like gay people) overhears water cooler chat about your weekend and who you spent it with. You could be canned if he draws conclusions about your personal life from Facebook. Or if he objects to the color of your shirt or music preferences. In other words, the problem goes beyond your sexual orientation or gender identity. **If you're even perceived to be gay or transgender, you could be out of a job.**

If you're reading this and thinking to yourself, "Really? That's nuts" -- well, you'd be right.

That's why the Unity Michigan Coalition developed the Don't Change Yourself, Change the Law campaign. At the end of the day, if you are great at your job, you should not have to change anything about yourself to keep it. The Unity Michigan Coalition works to ensure that all Michiganders are treated fairly in the workplace by advancing non-discrimination policies.

Visit www.DontChangeYourself.com/pride to join the campaign and learn more!

-Unity Michigan Coalition: ACLU of Michigan, Affirmations, Equality Michigan, KICK, Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion, and Ruth Ellis Center

PS: Are you an elected official, or know your local electeds? Check out our LEAD project: www.UnityMichigan.org/LEAD



www.DontChangeYourself.com/pride



NATIONAL CENTER FOR LESBIAN RIGHTS

ENDA FACT SHEET

The Employment Non-Discrimination Act: Bans Workplace Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity

What ENDA Does

- The Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA) is a federal bill that would prohibit discrimination in the workplace based on a person’s “sexual orientation” or “gender identity.”
- ENDA would make it illegal for employers to discriminate on those bases, including, for example, refusing to hire a person or firing an employee because they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or heterosexual.
- This legislation is modeled on the existing federal employment discrimination laws and therefore would cover private employers with 15 or more employees, as well as federal, state, and local governments, unions, and employment agencies. The U.S. military, as well as certain religious organizations, would be exempted.
- The bill defines sexual orientation as “homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality” and gender identity as “the gender-related identity, appearance, or mannerisms or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, with or without regard to the individual’s designated sex at birth.”

Why ENDA Is Needed

- Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people face a high risk of job discrimination and have no adequate remedy in federal law. This bill would provide critically needed job protections.
- Only twelve states and the District of Columbia have laws that specifically ban workplace discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Another eight have laws that ban discrimination based on sexual orientation, but not gender identity. This patchwork of laws is inadequate to prevent and remedy the serious discrimination against LGBT employees that takes place across the country.
- Right now there is no federal law that expressly protects people from job discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity.