OUT FOR AMERICA 2021

A Census of Out LGBTQ Elected Officials Nationwide
“LGBTQ Victory Institute is excited to present you with the 2021 Out for America report – our annual analysis of LGBTQ elected representation in the United States. Over the past year, we’ve seen an incredible jump in the number of LGBTQ people elected to public office — and they are becoming more representative of our entire community as well. These public servants are leading the way in passing conversion therapy bans in city councils, fighting anti-trans bills in state legislatures and in passing the Equality Act in the U.S. House. Yet we still must elect 28,116 more LGBTQ people to public office before equitable representation is achieved and we must ensure those leaders are as diverse as our community. This report shows you where we are and how we get there — I hope you enjoy it.”

Mayor Annise Parker
President & CEO, LGBTQ Victory Institute

June 2021

**About Victory Institute**

Victory Institute works to increase the number of LGBTQ people in public office by providing leadership development, trainings and a professional network for LGBTQ leaders who pursue careers in the public sector.

**About Out for America**

The Out for America report is an annual analysis of LGBTQ elected representation in government based on Victory Institute’s LGBTQ elected officials database—the largest and most comprehensive listing available. The Out for America map at [outforamerica.org](http://outforamerica.org) provides continuously updated information about every known LGBTQ elected official in the United States.

A more detailed version of the Out for America report can be found at [victoryinstitute.org/out-for-america-2021/](http://victoryinstitute.org/out-for-america-2021/).
Key Findings

LGBTQ Victory Institute’s Out for America report is an annual snapshot of the number of known out LGBTQ elected officials in the United States and their demographics. The Out for America 2021 report — released in July 2021 — reviews LGBTQ elected representation as of June 2021.

**Between June 2020 and June 2021:**

- LGBTQ elected officials increased by 17 percent, with 986 currently serving;
- LGBQ cisgender women state legislators surpassed the number of GBQ cisgender men state legislators for the first time;
- White LGBTQ elected officials grew dramatically slower than all other racial and ethnic groups, with Black LGBTQ elected officials growing at the fastest pace;
- Queer elected officials grew faster than all other sexual orientations, with an 83 percent increase;
- Non-cisgender elected officials grew faster than cisgender elected officials, with genderqueer/non-binary and trans women elected officials increasing the most; and
- Neither trans men nor intersex people saw an increase in elected representation.

**Currently:**

- LGBTQ people are severely underrepresented among elected officials, needing to elect 28,116 more to achieve equitable representation;
- LGBTQ elected officials are significantly more racially and ethnically diverse than the overall elected official population, but are less diverse than the U.S. population;
- 23 states have transgender elected officials serving and 29 states have non-cisgender elected officials;
- LGBTQ people are equitably represented among mayors of top 100 cities for the first time (with six), but are underrepresented among mayors overall and in all other public positions;
- 84 percent of LGBTQ elected officials are Democrats and just three percent are Republicans;
- Mississippi is the only state in the nation with zero known out LGBTQ elected officials serving.

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*According to Gallup.

** There are 519,682 U.S. elected positions, according to Becoming a Candidate, Jennifer L. Lawless.
State of LGBTQ Representation

LGBTQ people are severely underrepresented at every level of government — federal, state and local — however they do have equitable representation among mayors of top 100 cities. There are currently six out LGBTQ mayors in top 100 cities.

**U.S. SENATORS**

2 of 100 (2.1%)

**U.S. REPRESENTATIVES**

9 of 435 (2%)

**GOVERNORS**

2 of 50 (4%)

**STATE LEGISLATORS***

189 of 7383 (2.6%)

**STATEWIDE EXECUTIVES***

6 of 296 (2%)

**MAYORS**

56

**LOCAL OFFICIALS (EXCLUDING MAYORS)**

601

**JUDICIAL OFFICIALS**

121

* Statewide executives include two territory-wide elected officials in Guam and state legislators include one senator in the U.S. Virgin Islands and another in Puerto Rico.
America needs to elect 28,116 MORE LGBTQ elected officials before equitable representation in government is achieved.

To achieve equitable representation in key positions, America would need to elect:

1 MORE GOVERNOR (TOTAL OF 3)

4 MORE U.S. SENATORS (TOTAL OF 6)

15 MORE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES (TOTAL OF 24)

224 MORE STATE LEGISLATORS (TOTAL OF 413)

13 MORE STATEWIDE EXECUTIVES (TOTAL OF 19)

72 MORE MAYORS OF CITIES W/ 30,000+ POPULATION (TOTAL OF 91)

Columbus City Council President Shannon Hardin
Demographic Data & Trends

From June 2020 – June 2021, LGBTQ elected officials of color grew at a significantly greater rate than white LGBTQ elected officials, yet white LGBTQ elected officials remain overrepresented among LGBTQ elected officials. For the first time, cisgender LGBQ women state legislators outnumber cisgender GBQ men state legislators.

- **↑ 75%**
  INCREASE IN Black, African American, and/or Afro-Caribbean LGBTQ elected officials (43 to 91).

- **↑ 83%**
  INCREASE IN Queer elected officials (41 to 75).

- **↑ 53%**
  INCREASE IN Asian and Pacific Islander LGBTQ elected officials (17 to 26).

- **↑ 71%**
  INCREASE IN Transgender women elected officials (21 to 36).

- **↑ 37%**
  INCREASE IN Bisexual elected officials (52 to 71).

- **↑ 100%**
  INCREASE IN Transgender women state legislators (4 to 8).

LGBTQ Elected Official Demographics 2021

986 LGBTQ ELECTED OFFICIALS CURRENTLY SERVING

**Party Affiliation**
- Democrat (721 / 73.12%)
- Other (81 / 8.22%)
- Republican (26 / 2.64%)
- Independent (26 / 2.64%)
- Unknown* (132 / 13.39%)

**Gender/Gender Identity**
- Cisgender Man (549 / 56.68%)
- Cisgender Woman (369 / 37.42%)
- Transgender Woman (36 / 3.65%)
- Transgender Man (5 / 0.51%)
- Genderqueer/Non-Binary (9 / 0.91%)
- Gender Non-Conforming (11 / 1.12%)
- Intersex (1 / 0.1%)
- Two Spirit (2 / 0.2%)
- Other (4 / 0.41%)

**Sexual Orientation**
- Gay (530 / 53.81%)
- Lesbian (269 / 27.31%)
- Bisexual (71/ 7.21%)
- Queer (75 / 7.61%)
- Other (6 / 0.61%)
- Pansexual (14 / 1.42%)
- Unknown (16 / 1.62%)
- Same-Gender Loving (3 / 0.3%)
- Heterosexual (1 / 0.1%)

**Race/Ethnicity**
- White/Caucasian (709 / 71.91%)
- Latinx/Hispanic (120 / 12.17%)
- Black/African American/Afro-Caribbean (91 / 9.23%)
- Multiracial (28 / 2.84%)
- Asian/Pacific Islander (26 / 2.64%)
- Native American / Alaska Native (8 / 0.81%)
- Middle Eastern / Arab American (4 / 0.41%)

*LGBTQ elected officials who are nonpartisan or not identified with the Democratic, Republican or Independent parties. Most judicial positions are nonpartisan.
Since the first Out for America report was released in 2017, LGBTQ representation in elected office has increased between 17 percent and 25 percent each year — a strong pace. Yet LGBTQ people remain extremely underrepresented in elected office, holding just 0.19 percent of elected positions in the United States.
Visit victoryinstitute.org/out-for-america-2021 to access the full findings of the Out for America 2021 report.