



VICTORY  
INSTITUTE

 **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](https://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/](https://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.

**986**

**known out LGBTQ  
elected officials  
in the U.S.**

**0.19%**

**of U.S. elected  
officials are LGBTQ**

**5.6%**

**of adult U.S.  
population is LGBTQ\***

**28,116**

**more LGBTQ people  
must be elected to  
achieve equitable  
representation\*\***

## Between June 2020 and June 2021:

- LGBTQ elected officials increased by 17 percent, with 986 currently serving;
- LGBTQ 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.

\*According to Gallup.

\*\* There are 519,682 U.S. elected positions, according to *Becoming a Candidate*, Jennifer L. Lawless.



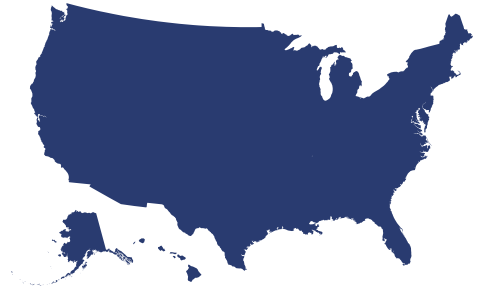
# State of LGBTQ Representation

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.



Robert Garcia, Mayor of  
Long Beach, California



Pennsylvania State Representative  
Malcolm Kenyatta



Oregon Governor Kate Brown



A large rainbow flag is shown waving in the foreground, with the dome of the United States Capitol building visible in the background under a clear blue sky.

**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

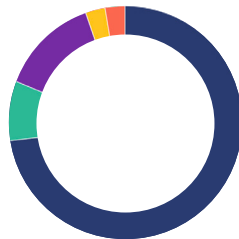
**Transgender women** state legislators (4 to 8).

## LGBTQ Elected Official Demographics 2021

986 LGBTQ ELECTED OFFICIALS CURRENTLY SERVING

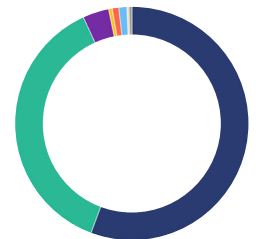
### Party Affiliation

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



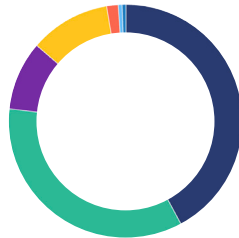
### Gender/Gender Identity

- 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%)



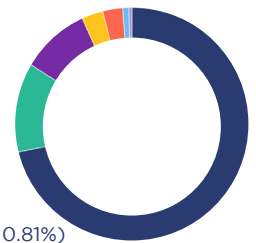
### Sexual Orientation

- 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

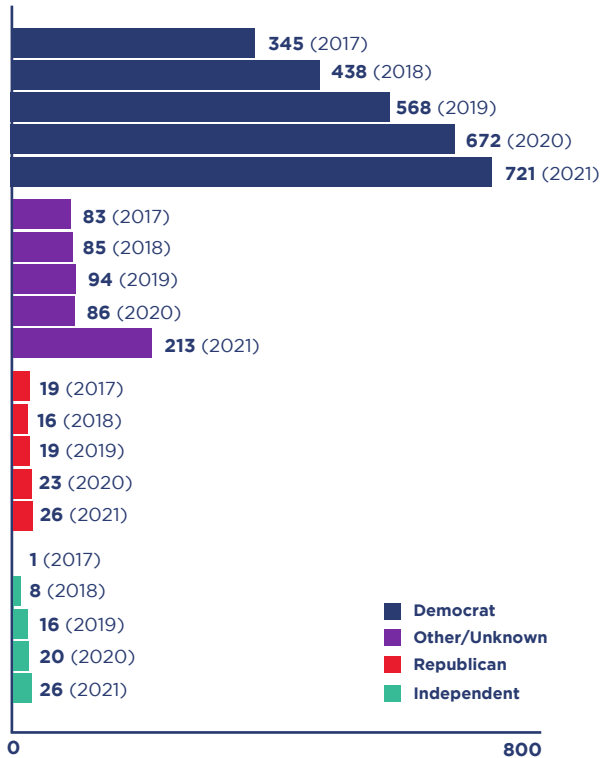
- White/Caucasian (709 / 71.91%)
- Latinx/Hispanic (120 / 12.17%)
- Black/African American/Afro-Caribbean (91 / 9.23%)
- Multiracial (28 / 2.84%)
- Asian/Pacific Islander (26 / 2.64%)
- Native American / Alaska Native (8 / 0.81%)
- Middle Eastern / Arab American (4 / 0.41%)



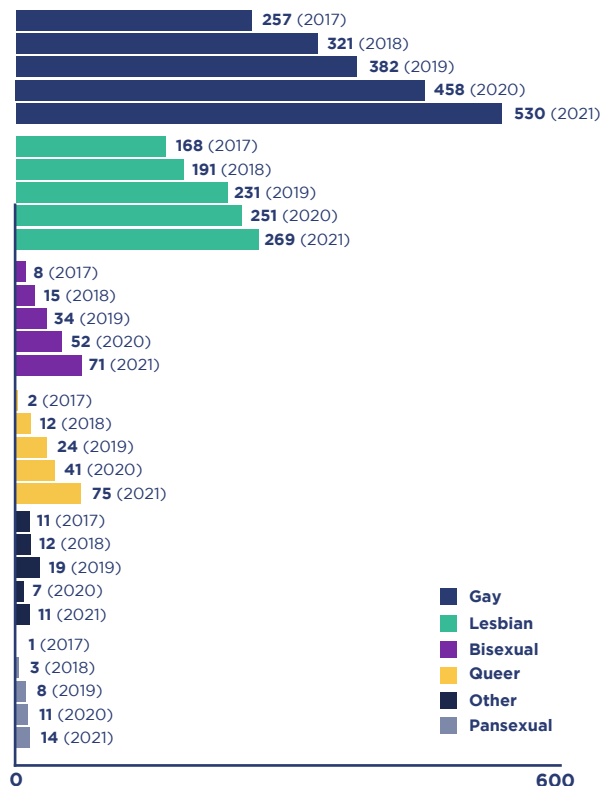
\*LGBTQ elected officials who are nonpartisan or not identified with the Democratic, Republican or Independent parties. Most judicial positions are nonpartisan.

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.

## Party Affiliation

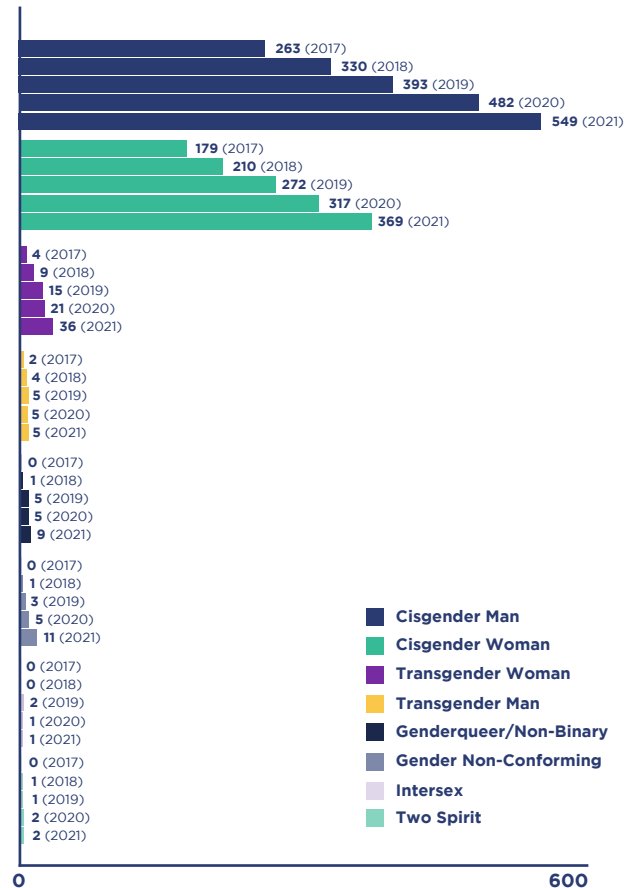


## Sexual Orientation

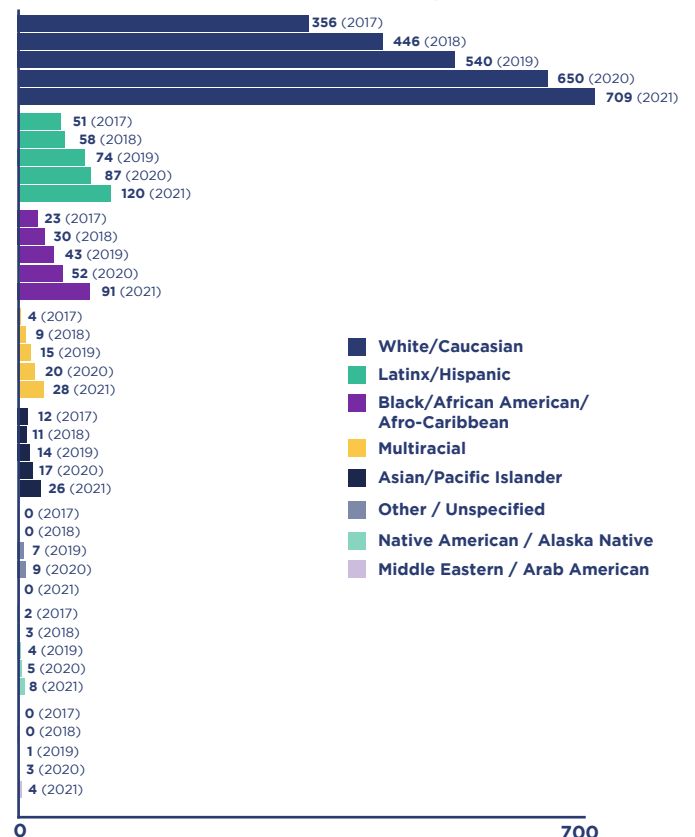


# Five Years of Growth

## Gender/Gender Identity



## Race/Ethnicity







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Visit

[victoryinstitute.org/out-for-america-2021](https://victoryinstitute.org/out-for-america-2021)

to access the full findings of the  
Out for America 2021 report.

San Diego Mayor  
Todd Gloria



Minneapolis City Council  
Vice President Andrea Jenkins



Georgia State Representative  
Sam Park



U.S. Senator  
Tammy Baldwin



Michigan Attorney  
General Dana Nessel

