

NOTE



VICTORY
INSTITUTE

 **OUT**
FOR AMERICA

2022

A Census of Out LGBTQ
Elected Officials Natiowide

For the first time in history, we're pleased to report that over 1,000 out LGBTQ people hold public office in the U.S.

LGBTQ elected officials are on the front lines of defending our rights and freedoms, which are under threat at every level of government. Despite the fact the LGBTQ community has never had equitable representation in government – and we still have a long way to go – there are clear signs of progress. LGBTQ elected officials represent the strength and diversity of not only who we are as a society now, but also the America we aspire to build for future generations.



Mayor Annise Parker
President & CEO, LGBTQ Victory Institute



JUNE 2022

About LGBTQ Victory Institute

LGBTQ 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 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-2022/.

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 August 2022 — reviews LGBTQ elected representation as of June 2022.

1,043

known out LGBTQ
elected officials
in the U.S.

0.2%

of U.S. elected
officials are LGBTQ

7.1%

of U.S. population is
LGBTQ*

35,854

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

Between 2021 and 2022:

- LGBTQ elected officials increased by 5.8 percent, with 1043 currently serving;
- LGBTQ elected officials of color increased by 12.3 percent, compared to just 1.3 percent for white LGBTQ elected officials;
- LGBTQ Asian-Pacific Islander elected officials increased by 19.2 percent (from 26 to 31), among the highest among racial/ethnic groups;
- Non-cisgender elected officials have increased more than tenfold in last five years (from 6 in 2017 to 77 in 2022);
- Non-binary/genderqueer elected officials increased by one-third (from 9 to 12);
- Transgender elected officials grew by 9.8 percent (from 41 to 45);
- Bisexual elected officials increased by 26.8 percent (from 71 to 90) while the number of lesbian elected officials decreased by 2.2 percent (from 269 to 263); and
- 10 states have fewer LGBTQ elected officials than they did in 2021, while 22 states have more.

Currently:

- LGBTQ people are severely underrepresented among elected officials, needing to elect 35,854 more to achieve equitable representation;
- Alaska, Louisiana, Mississippi and South Dakota are the only states with zero known LGBTQ state legislators;
- 75.1 percent of LGBTQ elected officials are Democrats and just three percent are Republicans;
- 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; and a
- 24 states have transgender elected officials serving and 32 states have non-cisgender elected officials.

* According to Gallup.

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

Elected Positions

LGBTQ people are severely underrepresented at every level of government and in every public position in the United States.



U.S. SENATORS

2

The U.S. must elect **5 more U.S. senators** for equitable representation (a total of 7 out of 100 U.S. senators).

U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

9

The U.S. must elect **22 more U.S. representatives** for equitable representation (a total of 31 out of 435 U.S. representatives).



GOVERNORS

2

The U.S. must elect **2 more governors** for equitable representation (a total of 4 out of 50 governors).

STATEWIDE EXECUTIVES*

6

The U.S. must elect **17 more statewide executives** for equitable representation (a total of 23 out of 325 state- and territory-wide executives).

STATE LEGISLATORS*

192

States, territories, and D.C. must elect **346 more state legislators** for equitable representation (a total of 538 out of 7,572 state legislators).

MAYORS

57

96 more for equitable representation

LOCAL OFFICIALS (EXCLUDING MAYORS)

651

15,000+ more for equitable representation

JUDICIAL OFFICIALS

123

Thousands more for equitable representation

* 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

35,854 MORE

LGBTQ elected officials before equitable representation in government is achieved.

Photo credit: The Washington Post

To achieve equitable representation in key positions, states, territories, and the District of Columbia would need to elect:

2

MORE GOVERNORS

(TOTAL OF 4 OUT OF 05)

5

MORE U.S. SENATORS

(TOTAL OF 7 OUT OF 100)

22

MORE U.S. REPRESENTATIVES

(TOTAL OF 31 OUT OF 435)

346

MORE STATE LEGISLATORS

(TOTAL OF 538 OUT OF 7,572)

17

MORE STATEWIDE EXECUTIVES

(TOTAL OF 23 OUT OF 325)

96

MORE MAYORS OF CITIES W/ 30,000+ POPULATION

(TOTAL OF 115 OUT OF 1,621)



Oklahoma State Representative
Mauree Turner

Demographic Data & Trends

From June 2021 – June 2022, 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.

↑ **17.6%**

INCREASE IN

Black, African American, and/or Afro-Caribbean LGBTQ elected officials

↑ **19.2%**

INCREASE IN

Asian & Pacific Islander LGBTQ elected officials

↑ **25%**

INCREASE IN

Native American/Alaskan Native LGBTQ elected officials

↑ **9.8%**

INCREASE IN

transgender elected officials

↑ **26.8%**

INCREASE IN

Bisexual elected officials

↑ **33.3%**

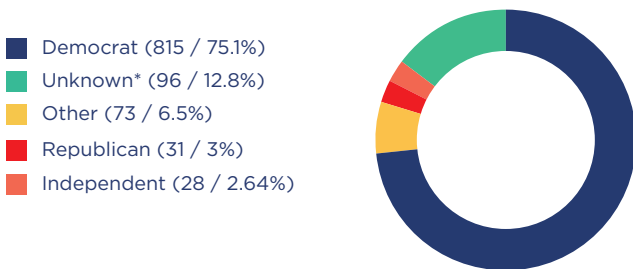
INCREASE IN

non-binary/genderqueer elected officials

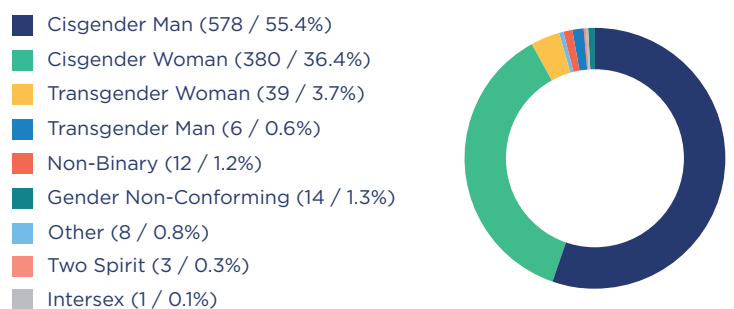
LGBTQ Elected Official Demographics 2022

1,043 LGBTQ ELECTED OFFICIALS CURRENTLY SERVING

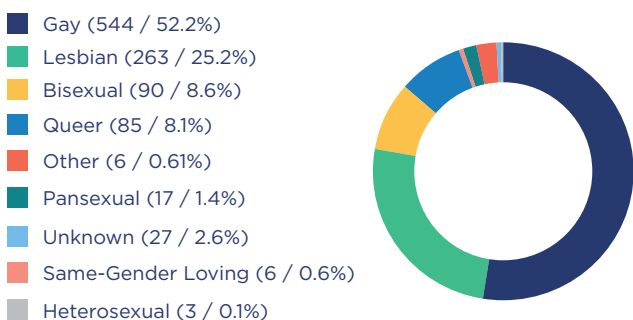
Party Affiliation



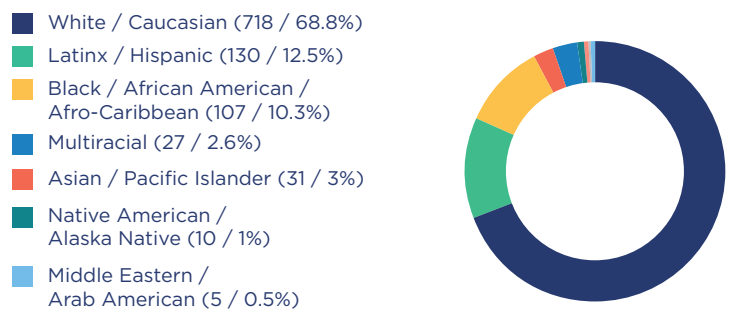
Gender/Gender Identity



Sexual Orientation



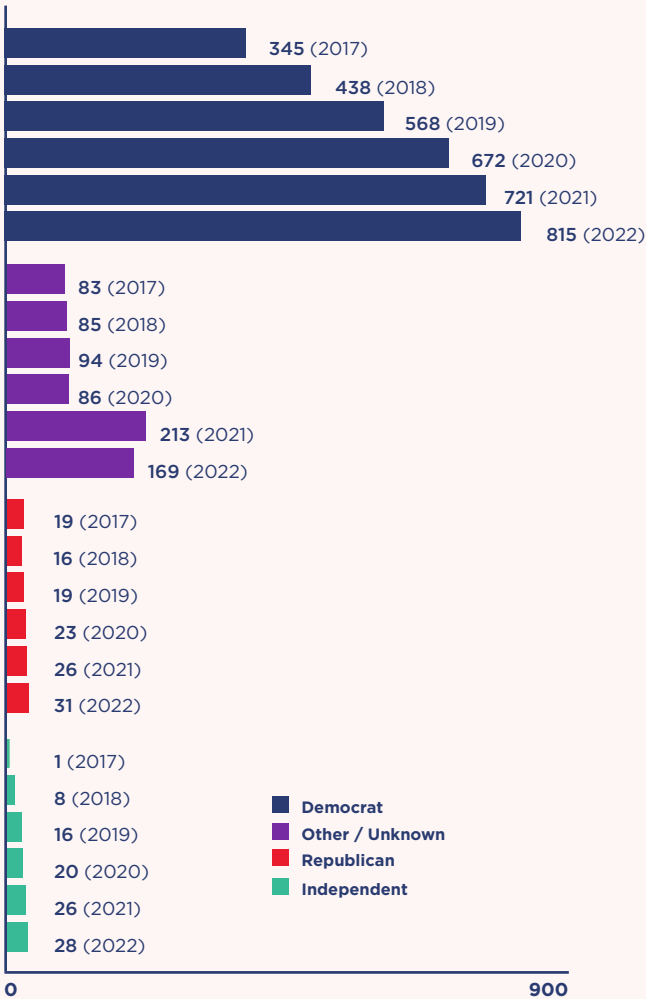
Race/Ethnicity



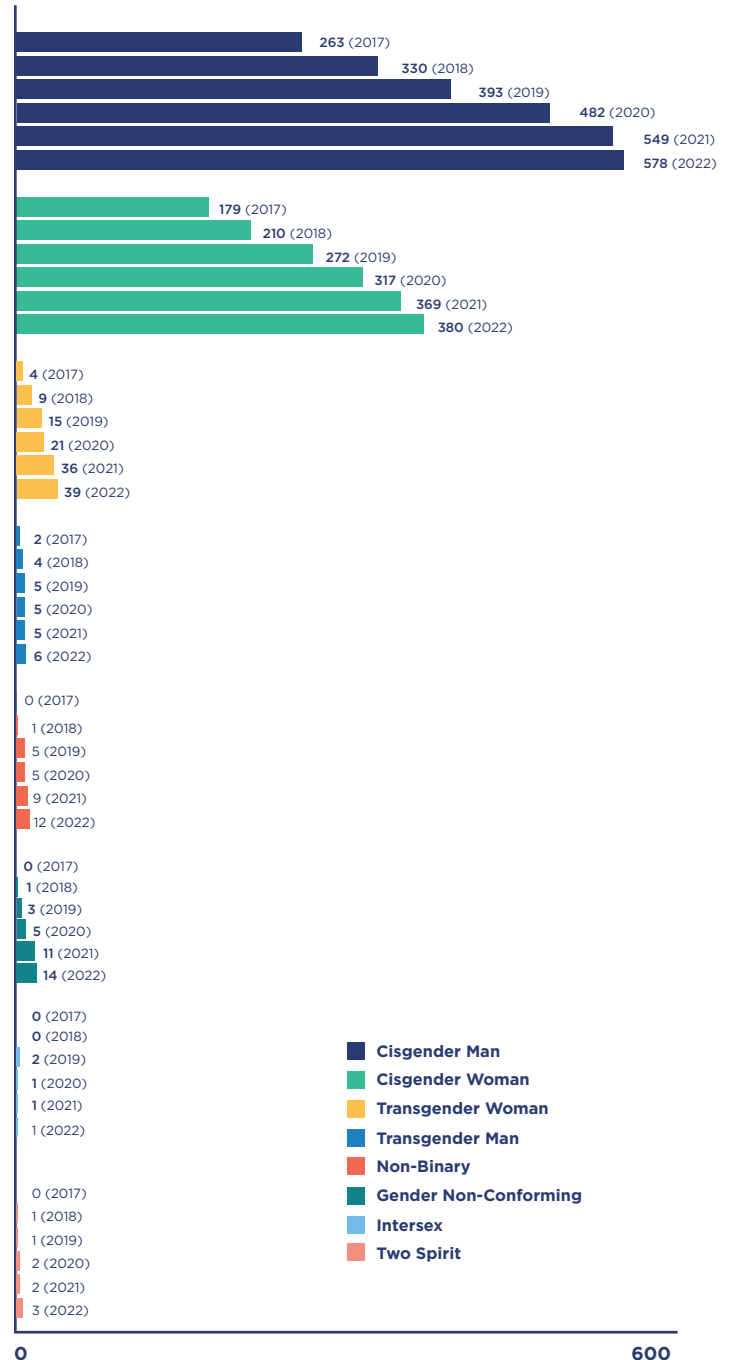
Five Years of Growth

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. However, LGBTQ people continue to be underrepresented in elected office, holding just 0.19 percent of elected positions in the United States.

Party Affiliation



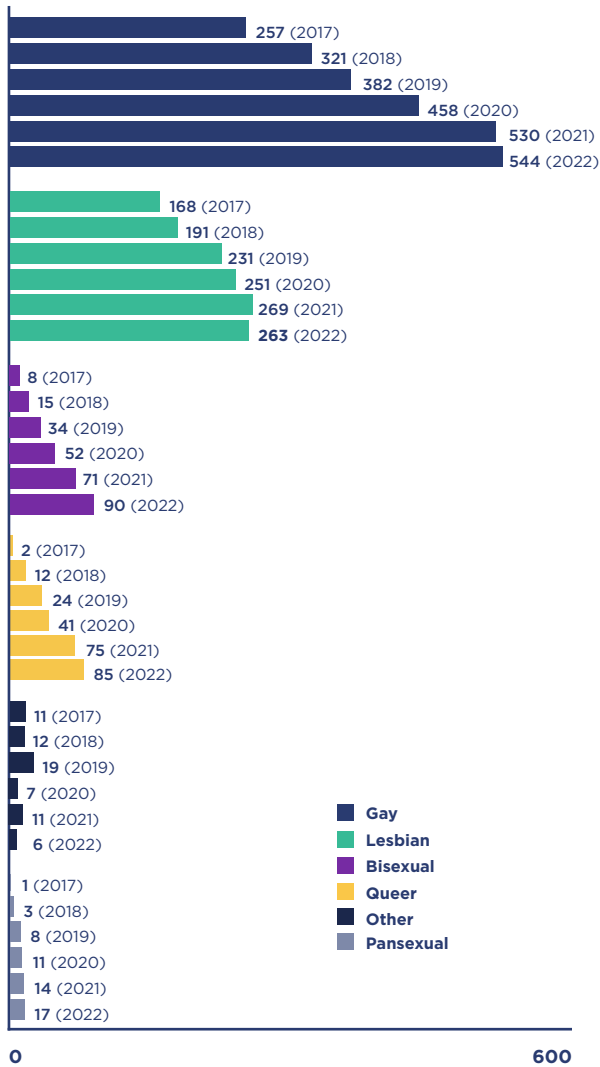
Gender/Gender Identity



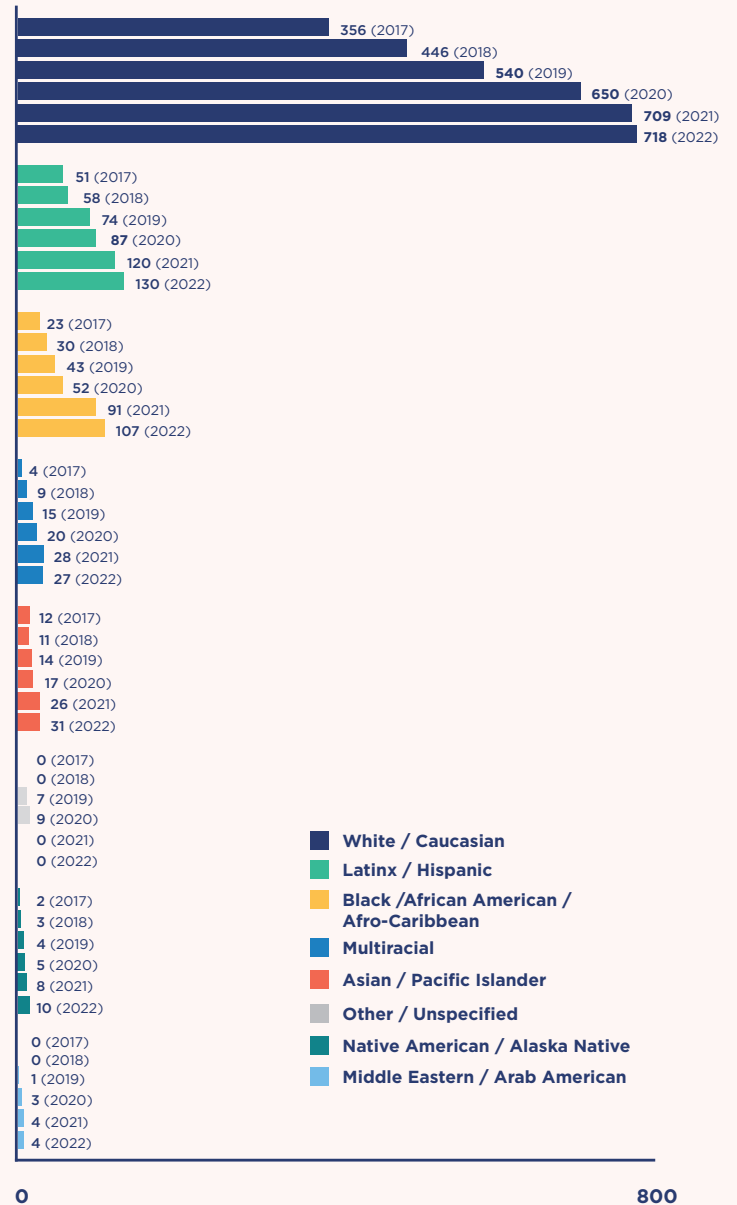
Five Years of Growth

DATA CHARTS CONTINUED

Sexual Orientation



Race/Ethnicity





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www.victoryinstitute.org

Visit

victoryinstitute.org/out-for-america-2022

to access the full findings of the
OUT FOR AMERICA 2022 report.

Florida State Representative
Carlos Guillermo Smith

Texas State Representative
Jolanda Jones

U.S. Representative
Sharice Davids

Virginia State Delegate
Danica Roem

