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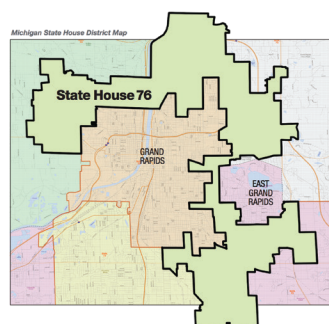
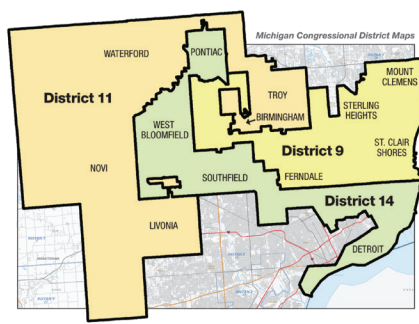
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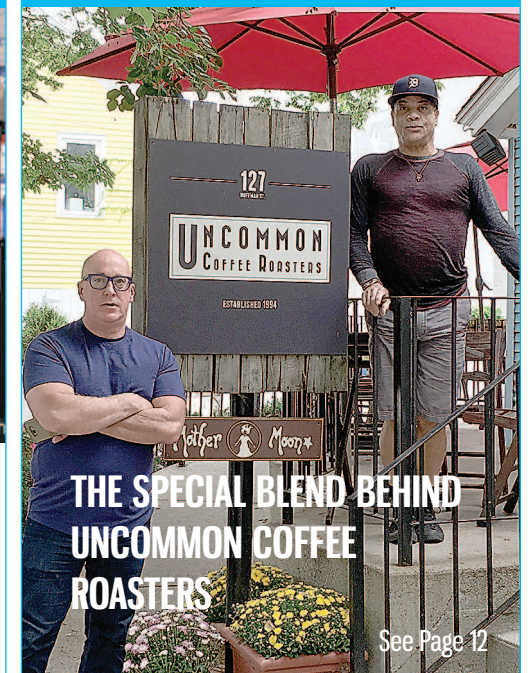
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# Outrage Over Report of Sweeping Trump Administration Anti-Trans Plan

BY CHRIS JOHNSON

Transgender advocates were vocal in their indignation Sunday over a report in the New York Times about a sweeping anti-transgender plan within the Trump administration to limit the definition of “sex” in U.S. government policies to biological gender.

According to the New York Times, the Department of Health & Human Services is set to spearhead the initiative with the proposed rule that has been drafted and circulating since last spring and will be presented to the Justice Department by the end of the year. In the words of the New York Times, the proposal would amount to “defining transgender out of existence.”

Stan Sloan, CEO of the pro-LGBT Family Equality Council, said in a statement the proposed rule is “a cruel, unnecessary attack on transgender Americans and their families that flies in the face of science, medical best practices and the law.”

“LGBTQ people and their families deserve to be protected from discrimination, yet this administration is signaling once again that it prioritizes extremist, religious anti-LGBTQ dogma over ensuring equal protection for all Americans under the law,” Sloan said.

According to the Times, the proposal asserts Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which bars sex discrimination in schools, doesn’t apply to transgender people and calls for government agencies to adopt an explicit and uniform definition of sex “on a biological basis that is clear, grounded in science, objective and administrable.”

The New York Times reports the proposed definition would define sex as either male or female, immutable and determined by an individual’s genitals at the time of birth. A dispute about one’s sex, the New York Times reports, would have to be clarified using genetic testing.

“Sex means a person’s status as male or female based on immutable biological traits identifiable by or before birth,” the memo reportedly says. “The sex listed on a person’s birth certificate, as originally issued, shall constitute definitive proof of a person’s sex unless rebutted by reliable genetic evidence.”

Such a move would be consistent with other anti-transgender actions within the Trump administration, such as the transgender military ban, reversal of Obama-era guidance requiring schools to allow transgender kids to use the restroom consistent with their gender identity and the legal position federal civil rights against sex discrimination in the workforce don’t apply to LGBT people.

Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, said in a statement the proposal would be “setting a destructive precedent” for transgender people and would congressional

action in response.

“Defining ‘sex’ in this narrow language tailored to the talking points of anti-equality extremists is part of a deliberate strategy to eliminate federal protections for LGBTQ people,” Griffin said. This is a direct attack on the fundamental equality of LGBTQ people and, if this administration refuses to reverse course, Congress must immediately take action by advancing the Equality Act to ensure that LGBTQ people are explicitly protected by our nation’s civil rights laws.”



The Trump administration is planning an anti-trans rule to define sex as biological gender. Washington Blade photo: Michael Key

The New York Times reports Roger Severino, the director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health & Human Services, didn’t respond to questions on the proposal, although other officials at HHS confirmed a push to limit the reading of civil rights laws to exclude transgender discrimination.

Severino came to the HHS last year after working as a scholar at the anti-LGBT Heritage Foundation, where he promulgated anti-trans ideas, including support for North Carolina’s anti-trans bathroom law House Bill 2.

The New York Times reports HHS called on the “Big Four” departments within the executive branch — the Departments of Education, Justice, Health & Human Services and Labor — to adopt the restrictive definition of sex in their enforcement of Title IX.

That definition of sex discrimination would impact federal initiatives down the road. According to the New York Times, they include a proposed rule at the Education Department on complaints of sex discrimination at schools and colleges receiving federal assistance and a proposed rule from HHS on health programs and activities that also receive federal assistance.

Both regulations are expected to be made public this fall and would then be open for public comment, the New York Times reports.

According to the New York Times, civil rights groups have been meeting with federal officials in recent weeks to argue against the proposed anti-trans definition of sex. Some U.S. officials, the New York Times reports, are hopeful the extreme parts will be reined in, such as the requirement for genetic testing.

Mara Keisling, executive director for the National Center for Transgender Equality,

mine. But this administration is also staffed by inexperienced amateurs overplaying their hand by taking extreme positions that ignore law, medicine and basic human decency.”

For some time, a proposed rule has been expected from the Trump administration reversing the Obama administration’s interpretation of Section 1557 in the Affordable Care Act, which bars sex discrimination in health care, to include transgender people. It wasn’t immediately clear based on the New York Times article whether the reported proposal was that initiative, although the reported proposal seems considerably broader.

An HHS spokesperson told the Washington Blade over the weekend the department has no comment based on the New York Times article based a policy over not commenting on alleged leaked documents.

The proposal appears to be based on a decision from U.S. District Judge Reed O’Connor in Texas against the Obama-era rule affirming transgender protections in Obamacare. That decision and the nationwide injunction against the policy — which stands in contrast to many court decisions affirming transgender rights under federal law — still stands as a result of the Justice Department under U.S. Attorney General Jeff Sessions refusing to appeal the ruling.

Severino, in a statement to the Blade responding to the New York Times article, referenced that decision from O’Connor and the nationwide injunction as he asserted the issue remains under consideration at HHS.

“A federal court has blocked HHS’s rule on gender identity and termination of pregnancy as contrary to law and infringing the rights of healthcare providers across the country,” Severino said. “The court order remains in full force and effect today and HHS is abiding by it as we continue to review the issue.”

Laura Durso, vice president of the LGBT Research & Communications Project at the Center for American Progress, said in a statement the HHS proposal could contribute to violence and harassment of transgender people.

“While guidance is historically used to ensure agency practices are in line with the law, the Trump-Pence administration is using guidance to instruct agencies to ignore the consensus of courts around the country and decades of progress on civil rights protections,” Durso said. “This denigration of the transgender community signals to federal contractors and grantees that they can contribute to the harassment and violence transgender people regularly experience—and the administration will turn a blind eye.”

said in a statement the proposal would have a disastrous impact on millions of transgender Americans.

“This proposal is an attempt to put heartless restraints on the lives of 2 million people, effectively abandoning our right to equal access to health care, to housing, to education or to fair treatment under the law,” Keisling said. “This administration is willing to disregard the established medical and legal view of our rights and ourselves to solidify an archaic, dogmatic and frightening view of the world. This transparent political attack will not succeed administratively, legally or morally.”

Keisling added despite the interpretation of the law within the Trump administration, the consensus among the courts is transgender people are included in civil rights law and the medical community has recognized the need for transition-related care.

“To transgender people: I know you are frightened,” Keisling added. “I know you are horrified to see your existence treated in such an inhumane and flippant manner. What this administration is trying to do is an abomination, a reckless attack on your life and

*This article first appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Gay Media Association.*

# Local Activists Speak Out Against Sweeping Trump Administration Anti-Trans Plan

BY BTL STAFF

“The Trans/GNC/NB community and our allies have been a political punching bag for the extreme right for a long, long time. Let’s be clear, this is about basic human rights and civil rights protections, liberty, justice and freedom. In my heart of hearts, I hope the memo leaked to The New York Times serves as an alarm to every person in this country who believes our government should never be allowed to determine who is and isn’t deserving of protection under the law. I think it would be wise for each member of our community, as well as our family, friends, and allies, especially those who have so far insulated themselves behind the privileges of race and economic status, to look deeper – much deeper – into their conscience and ask: ‘What am I willing to sacrifice?’”

**Charin Davenport, a longtime advocate for environmental protections, public education and human rights and Green Party Candidate for Lieutenant Governor of Michigan**

“The administration is making a big mistake in underestimating the strength and resilience of the trans and non-binary community. They cannot define trans people out of existence because our existence is already the redefinition. To all the trans and non-binary people who are feeling scared and angry and just exhausted, know that you are fierce and a force that cannot be erased. To our allies and loved ones: we need you to fight with us.”

**Jay Maddock, former executive director of OutFront Kalamazoo and trans activist**

“This is not a surprise. I was telling people as a senior in high school why Trump should not be president because he is going to try and take away my rights ... We’ve gotten to a point where Trump has been very open about taking away our civil rights. He’s not hiding that, bringing America 10 steps backwards. It’s not a good situation. The biggest thing right now is that we need people to vote. As an oppressed group of people we can try and fight back, but that won’t do much if we don’t have a voice. We need people with voices, the people we’re voting for, to stand up and do something. Our allies have the biggest voice right now. People not in our community can raise our community up, listen and understand that we are fighting for our right to exist.”

**Hunter Keith, trans activist**

“Personally, for me, my hope and my trust is not in this administration. The dismissiveness and disrespect and erasing of trans people is already in effect. What he’s doing now is just making it more official and more concrete

for the people who believe the way he does. It’s not shocking. It’s not surprising. It did not hit me so hard because we’re already navigating through this institutionalized oppression right now. It’s another notch under the discrimination that my population faces. This just empowers me and encourages me to continue to show up, to continue to walk in spaces outside LGBTQ spaces and lend my voice to whatever challenge that parallels with mine. It’s the norm and that’s the real issue. This feeling and this sense of being on the edge is normal for me as a trans person everyday. We’ve been persevering. We’ve been protesting. This is what we should continue to do, not worry about how we’re going to fall apart.”

**Jey’nce Mizrahi Poindexter, trans victims advocate for Equality Michigan**

“It’s all a part of erasing what Obama did. That’s what Trump’s goal really is, to erase everything. I think it would be devastating for the community. We need to act all together. We need to act as a community. It really isn’t anything new. Trump has really been saying this for awhile. Instead he’s making it official right now. I would tell people not to panic. You know what would make a difference? Vote. There’s no excuse not to vote. A vote is stronger than any rally or more powerful than any community conversation. If we all vote, we can make a difference. This election really is the most important in a long time. I cannot overemphasize this. We need to send Trump a strong message that what he is doing is not okay. The best way to do that is to win elections and we can if everyone votes.”

**Rachel Crandall-Crocker, co-founder of Transgender Michigan**

“The Trump Administration’s effort to rewrite sex discrimination laws so that they virtually erase the existence of transgender people is both hateful and a cynical political ploy. Transgender people’s lives are real and transgender lives have meaning. This attack on the very lives of transgender people will not go unchallenged. If the administration moves forward with these hateful and hurtful policies we will see them in court. More and more courts are seeing that policies attacking transgender people have no place in our country. We continue to seek full equality for transgender and nonbinary people. To quote a former Obama Administration official, the proposed administration policy, ‘simply negates the humanity of people.’”

**Jay Kaplan, staff attorney for the ACLU of Michigan’s LGBT Project**

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# Michigan Faith Leaders Petition Congress to Protect LGBTQ Constituents

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

At a press conference Friday, Oct. 19 that capped off the daylong Faith, LGBTQ Inclusion and Human Rights conference at Metropolitan Community Church – Detroit in Clawson, faith leaders from across Michigan came together to announce plans to petition members of Congress to protect their LGBTQ constituents from discrimination. The initiative is sponsored by Inclusive Justice, a statewide, faith-based coalition, in partnership with Freedom for All Americans, an LGBTQ activism organization.

“Over the course of the next year, we will work to train and empower faith leaders from across Michigan to speak out with federal lawmakers in Michigan about non-discrimination protections,” said Adam Polaski, Freedom’s senior director of online programs and partnerships. “We don’t have any specific meetings set up just yet, but we’ll be working toward them in the coming weeks, empowering faith leaders themselves to arrange meetings with representatives, senators and their staff members in congressional offices here in Michigan.”

Just a couple weeks before the midterm elections, faith leaders issued a bold call to action to people of faith in Michigan working toward LGBTQ protections in the state and nationwide.

“There is no sacred text that does not declare that every human being is a magnificent creation of the divine,” said Rev. Ed Rowe, pastor emeritus of Central United Methodist



Faith leaders present at the press conference included Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow of Metropolitan Community Church – Detroit, Rev. Joe Summers, pastor of the Episcopal Church of the Incarnation in Ann Arbor and co-chair of Inclusive Justice, Rev. Alicia Skillman of Third New Hope Baptist Church in Detroit, Rev. Ed Rowe, pastor emeritus of Central United Methodist Church in Detroit, Julie Nemecek, an ordained Baptist minister and Judy Lewis, a faith leader at Temple Emmanuel in Oak Park. (BTL photo: Jason A. Michael)

Church in Detroit and a longtime civil rights activist. “The struggle to protect the rights of LGBT people is a struggle for all of us. It is a struggle to be faithful to our God, faithful to our vows, faithful to what God has called us to be and do. We cannot be silent without being complicit, and we cannot be complicit

without being held accountable for being part of the problem.”

Judy Lewis is a faith leader at Temple Emmanuel in Oak Park.

“I believe that no one should face discrimination because of who they are or who they love,” Lewis said. “I know that the lesbian,

gay, bisexual and transgender people who are our friends, our neighbors, our children, our parents and our fellow congregants ... should have the same opportunities as any American to earn a living, to have a safe place to live and to have access to the same opportunities in business and social situations.”

A minister at Third New Hope Baptist Church in Detroit, Rev. Alicia Skillman is also the former executive director of the Triangle Foundation. She spoke at the event, too.

“During that time, I heard hundreds of stories about the way discrimination shatters the lives and spirits of our people,” Skillman said. “People are often surprised that in 2018, even with marriage equality, we are still being discriminated against and it makes no sense. [But] what makes sense is that you show up on Nov. 6 and vote for people who know what inclusion looks like, and vote for people who know what equality looks like. ... That’s what we’re asking for today, that all faith-based leaders stand up and show up and their families and friends stand up and show up for equality.”

Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow is the senior pastor and teacher at MCC-D.

“In Michigan, our lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender neighbors are left vulnerable to discrimination because of a lack of explicit protections at the state and federal levels, and as a Christian, I know that this gap in the law is unacceptable,” Stringfellow said.

“We look forward to meeting with Michigan’s elected officials in the coming year to explain the need for a federal law protecting LGBTQ residents once and for all.”

## LGBTQ STEAM Leaders Needed

BY JASON A. MICHAEL

According to Dr. Truman Hudson everyone starts life with a “blank canvas.”

“Which oftentimes is shaped by the decisions that others have made for us,” he said.

He is a lecturer of multiculturalism at the University of Michigan – Dearborn. Hudson, who won is 2018 Ford Fund Community Corps award, is currently conducting a class, EDA 515 – Communities and Schools: Building and Sustaining Partnerships, that will require students to work with LGBT Detroit and Ford GLOBE to codesign a leadership development supplementary educational curriculum. The effort is called the Blank Canvas Project and aims to encourage young leaders to rise up and include others.

“By valuing the voices of young leaders, it is our intent with the Blank Canvas Project to wipe the slate clean and engage youth in identifying ways in which to build new leaders in the fields of science, engineering, technology, arts and mathematics (STEAM),” he said.

“Specifically in metropolitan Detroit’s African-American LGBT community.”

The course is grounded in the student-centered philosophy and will serve as a bridge between theory and practice. The course will address four core tenets of the U of M-Dearborn’s metropolitan mission including empowering student learning through broad and deep interaction with the liberal arts and sciences, professional studies and cutting-edge research; applying innovative pedagogies to advanced teaching and learning; building the knowledge and skills essential for personal transformation, professional success and advancing the common good; and creating and sharing knowledge through pioneering research and maximizing our partnerships with diverse sectors of our community.

### Where are Tomorrow’s LGBTQ STEAM Leaders?

The course was created in part by the difficulty Hudson had finding and identifying future black LGBTQ STEAM leaders. Hudson

asked a series of questions in developing the course including: Who are the leaders of color in the STEAM fields? Where are the LGBTQ leaders of color in the STEAM fields? How are young people from the black LGBTQ community being developed to go into the STEAM fields?

“The aforementioned questions have guided several of my conversations with Curtis Lipscomb, executive director with LGBT Detroit, and other thought leaders in our metropolitan region,” Hudson said. “In processing those conversations, two concerns emerged: We could not identify black LGBT Leaders in the STEAM fields; and while we were able to identify several programs that focused on developing youth to go into the STEAM fields, we noted that few of the programs were successful in moving youth from secondary education into leadership roles in STEAM careers.

“Building on my initial inquiry and the data from the field, while careers in the STEAM fields have grown, the number of blacks and blacks who identify as LGBT continue to be

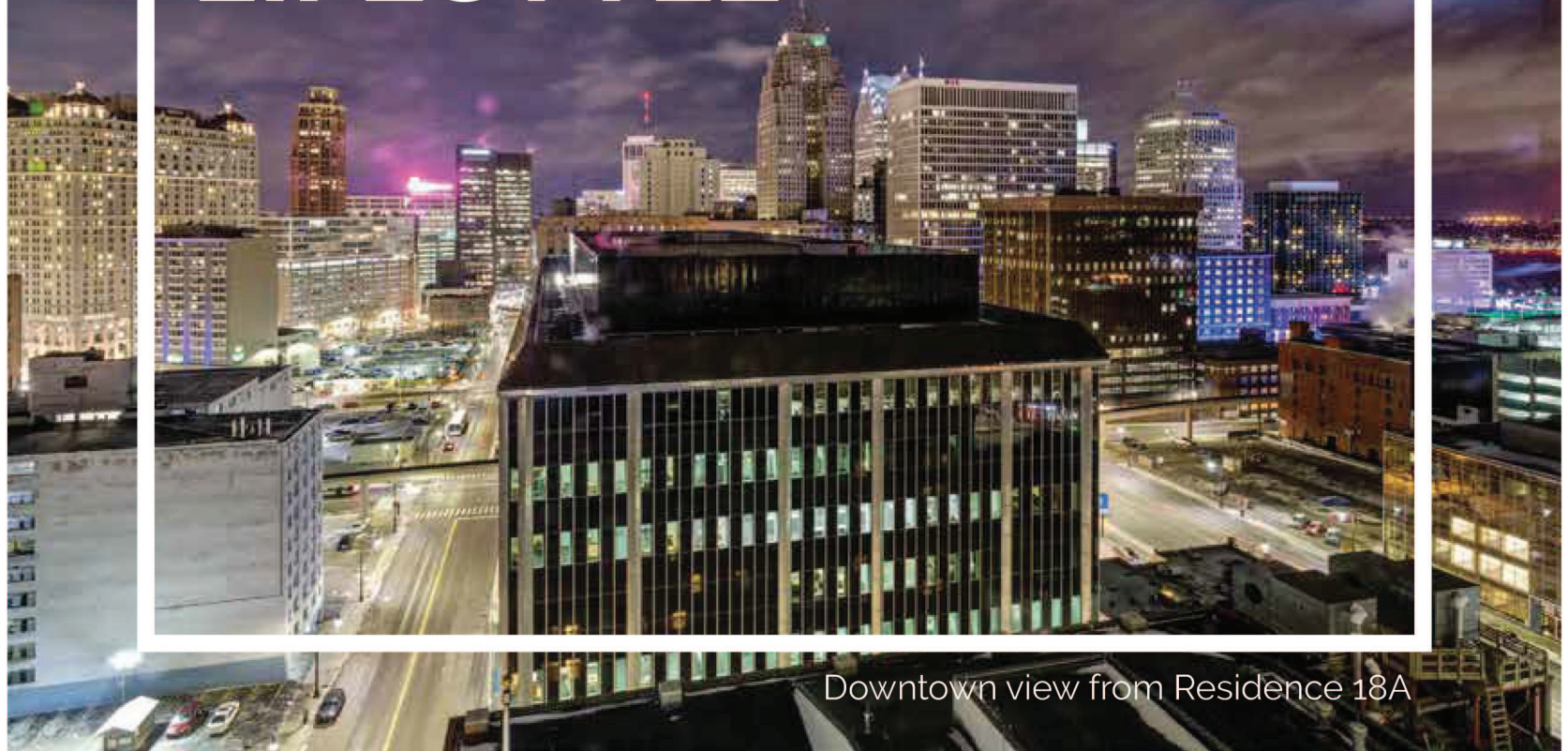
underrepresented,” Hudson continued. “When extending the research to the leadership ranks, the numbers are abysmal at best.”

So Hudson and Lipscomb continued their talks and came up with a plan of action to reach out to Detroit’s black LGBTQ youth and encourage them to participate. During the Fall 2018, the research team from EDA 515 class will partner with student and adult leaders from LGBT Detroit, Detroit Cass Technical High, Triangle Society and Izzie to make deeper impacts in local schools.

Students will collect data and co-design the Blank Canvas curriculum. The research team will present the final curriculum at a close out event on Dec. 18.

“LGBT Detroit is very happy to be a part of this unique partnership,” Lipscomb said. “Ford GLOBE is a very important affinity group in the metro Detroit area and we’re very happy they chose to support Dr. Hudson’s effort to educate teenage LGBT students in the work of STEAM. I congratulate Dr. Hudson on his continued work to improve the quality of life for young people.”

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# Freedom House Detroit Celebrates 35 Years

BY KATE OPALEWSKI

On Friday, Oct. 19, Freedom House Detroit hosted its annual Voices of Freedom event at the MotorCity Casino Hotel with hundreds in attendance, including some Freedom House residents. To help celebrate 35 years of welcoming those “yearning to breathe free” were notable speakers like the night’s keynote, John Prendergast of The Enough Project, Mistress of Ceremonies and Fox2 News reporter and anchor Amy Lange, and Deborah Drennan, executive director of the Freedom House.

“Here we are 35 years later, honoring Freedom House Detroit and the over three decades of saving lives and keeping families together,” Drennan said.

She echoed what has been their clarion call since their founding.

“Asylum seekers are our brothers and sisters and, as such, it is our obligation to welcome them, treat them with dignity and with the right support and services. Empowering them to live their lives out of exile and become members of this wonderful nation.”

Drennan expressed to many longtime supporters of the Freedom House, and newcomers, how proud she is to be the CEO working side by side with her “peace-building” staff, board of directors, volunteers and partners. She also gave a nod to her predecessors Father Tim McCabe, Janet Ray and Sister Gloria Rivera.

The night was about uplifting and paying tribute to Freedom House Detroit and those they serve – over 170 men, women and children annually, helping lead them towards freedom, independence and self-sufficiency.

In attendance at the event were some elected officials like Mariana Martinez, chief of staff for council member Raquel Castañeda-López in Detroit’s District 6; State Rep. Stephanie Chang for the 6th House District; Susan

DeClercq, chief of the Civil Rights Unit for the U.S. Attorney’s Office Eastern District; and congressional candidate Rashida Tlaib.

A special thanks was given to U.S. Senators

this evening, our countless community partners and generous donors, Freedom House Detroit would not be able to succeed in its mission,” said Lange before introducing Prendergast, a



At the Freedom House Detroit Voice of Freedom event on Friday, Oct. 19 at MotorCity Casino Hotel John Prendergast of The Enough Project discusses “violent kleptocracies,” their destructive impact on parts of Africa and how they can be dismantled. Facebook photo.

Debbie Stabenow and Gary Peters, U.S. Rep. Brenda Lawrence (D-Southfield), and State Reps. Robert Wittenberg (D-Huntington Woods) and Jeremy Moss (D-Southfield). They could not attend the event, but sent letters of support and congratulations to the Freedom House.

“Without the ongoing support of these individuals and those of you in attendance

lifelong human rights activist and New York Times best-selling author who has focused on peace in Africa for over 30 years. Also, he is the founding director of The Enough Project, an initiative to end genocide and crimes against humanity. He is also the co-founder of The Sentry, a new investigative initiative focused on dismantling the networks financing conflict and atrocities.

“It’s hard to imagine a more compelling cause at this moment in our history, here in our own country and around the world where the numbers of refugees displaced and asylum seekers are exploding in an unprecedented way – millions and millions and millions of human lives, people driven from their homes because of war, because of violence, because of persecution or other human rights violations,” he said. “Those that show up at the door of the Freedom House are at the end of the line. Without this place, they would literally have nowhere to go. The services provided are essential, indispensable, lifesaving and, most importantly, hope-giving.”

Among other speakers, the recipient of Freedom House’s inaugural Volunteer Award was Dr. Vidya Ramanathan, a pediatrician and human rights advocate who has volunteered at the Freedom House since 2006. In her address to the audience she spoke about her personal connection to the asylum seekers with whom she has worked.

“Those who knock at the doors of the Freedom House are the bravest, strongest and brightest individuals from around the world,” Ramanathan said. “Perhaps a little weary from their struggles, but no less determined with the same spark in their eyes and fire in their hearts.”

Other awardees were the ACLU of Michigan, recipient of the Voice of Freedom Award; and Beaumont Hospital Grosse Pointe, recipient of the Community Partner Award.

Freedom House Detroit is a temporary home for indigent survivors of persecution from around the world who are seeking asylum in the U.S. and Canada from places like Rwanda, Cameroon, Guinea, Uganda, Republic of Congo and Democratic Republic of Congo.

*To support Freedom House or for more information, visit [freedomhousedetroit.org](http://freedomhousedetroit.org).*

## State Senate Garnet Lewis Campaign Team Releases TV Ad

BY BTL STAFF

On Friday, Oct. 19, the campaign team behind Garnet Lewis for Michigan State Senate, District 26, released a TV advertisement called “Getting Things Done.”

The lighthearted advertisement was written, directed, audio taped and cast entirely by volunteers for the campaign, and features Lewis herself promoting her message. The production team, Good Fruit Video of Lansing, shot and edited the advertisement.

Lewis, narrating the scenes in the ad, asks a series of “What if?” questions, culminating in the question, “What if your Michigan State Senator worked for you?”

“The ad supports the campaign’s messaging that focuses on Lewis’s intention as State Senator to never make empty promises, but work hard to get things done for Michigan’s



people,” said Lewis’ campaign team. “As a career educator, not a career politician, her focus is on restoring Michigan’s public education system to competitive levels, better research and answers for protecting our waters, making healthcare accessible, rebuilding Michigan’s infrastructure as the four drivers of economic growth for the state.”

The ad offers a contrast with opponent Aric Nesbitt’s campaign in terms of its funding and support.

Lewis’ campaign team says that all of Lewis’ campaign advertisements and materials in this race have been paid for by individual donors, not by corporate and special interest PACs.

*Follow Lewis’ campaign at [garnetlewisforstatesenate.com](http://garnetlewisforstatesenate.com) and on Facebook at [facebook.com/GarnetLewisforStateSenate](https://facebook.com/GarnetLewisforStateSenate).*





Ferndale Pride Chair Julia Music poses with representatives from four of the five honored charities Affirmations (upper left), Gender-Identity Network Alliance (upper right), Transgender Michigan (lower left) and Matrix Human Services. Photos courtesy of Julia Music

## Ferndale Pride Gives Back \$21,000 to Local LGBTQ Charities

BY DREW HOWARD

Ferndale Pride organizers are giving back in a big way to local LGBTQ charities following the festival's biggest year yet.

On Monday, Oct. 22, Ferndale Pride chair Julia Music attended a Ferndale City Council meeting to present \$21,000 in checks to five local LGBTQ charities. Since its establishment in 2011, Ferndale Pride has distributed more than \$145,000 in unrestricted grants to local charities.

Music presented the first check of the night to the Ferndale Community Foundation for \$11,000. As the festival's sponsoring organization, Music said FCF's team was crucial in the behind-the-scenes work that made Ferndale Pride possible.

"The Community Foundation is our fiduciary, they are the ones who sign over all the paperwork for Ferndale Pride," Music said. "Greg Pawlica volunteers a ridiculous amount of hours to make sure all the finances are done for Ferndale Pride, all the bills are paid, and is also there to support me when I have my many freak-outs."

Ferndale Pride also honored LGBTQ charities Affirmations, Gender-Identity Network Alliance, Matrix Human Services MAC Health and Transgender Michigan with \$2,500 checks apiece.

Ferndale Pride 2018 proved to be the festival's biggest year yet with a record 25,000 people who visited the city in celebration. It also marked the event's biggest footprint, as festivities ran all the way from Woodward to Livernois.

At the podium, Music asked everyone in the audience who volunteered for Ferndale Pride to stand up.

"I want to recognize some of our volunteers," Music said. "As many of you know, almost everybody who works on Ferndale Pride is a volunteer, and many volunteers give anywhere from 20 to 100 hours. Many of the people you were just looking at are more at the 100-hour end of the spectrum."

City councilmember and FCF chair Daniel Martin took a moment to thank Music and her volunteers for their hard work on Ferndale Pride.

"To all the volunteers, but especially Julia, you have just knocked it out of the ballpark year after year after year with this event," Martin said. "We could not be prouder to be affiliated with you. You are a wonderful leader, and you've done tremendous work here, so thank you very much."

Ferndale Pride 2019 is already scheduled to take place on Saturday, June 1. In the meantime, Music said Ferndale Pride is looking to co-host a rally "early next week" around transgender visibility. While details are still in the works, Music hinted the event will respond to recent developments around the Trump administration's anti-transgender plan.

"We're trying to send some messages that transgender people can't be erased from our community," Music said.

*For more information about Ferndale Pride, please visit [ferndalepride.com](http://ferndalepride.com) or their Facebook page.*

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## Parting Glances

BY CHARLES ALEXANDER

### A beard in time ...

There are shared similarities between high-visibility personalities Pastor Joel Osteen and Republican Vice President Mike Pence.

First off, each shepherds a flock of religious followers. Mike's, however, is basically evangelical and/or fundamentalist. Osteen's tends to be New Age, Power of Positive Thinking, Prosperity Gospel and devotees of his seven bestseller books, read by a goodly number of his weekly 7 million American TV followers.

Osteen's Lakewood Church attendees average 45,000 each Sunday. Twenty million viewers in 200 countries see his TV programs monthly. His worth: \$56,508,500 (Pence: \$2,000,000).

Needless to say, Pence's followers number millions more than Osteen's, but whether or not many of Pence's "lost sheep," so to speak, can read is another question. After all, 81 percent of evangelicals voted for Trump.

Another similarity been Pence and Osteen is that each is rarely, if ever, to be seen in public without his respective — overly attentive, smiling wholeheartedly — hand-holding, back-patting, supportive wife.

See Mike or see Joel, Karen or Victoria can't be far behind (usually without said gluteus medius ever being shown in public).

Joel and his wife and Lakewood co-pastor Victoria have been married since 1987, with two children. Mike and Karen, since 1985, three grown children.

Looks are everything as the saying goes. (There are exceptions: Trump, Mitch "Droopy Face" McConnell.) And as far as male looks go, Pence and Osteen in their youth must have been real beauties. Stunning, in gay lingo.

Having seen my fair share of such good looks among the young in my day, I think I'm qualified to speak on the topic. I, too, was a "looker" as a teenager. A few even thought I just might be gay!

In our looks conscious culture if you're attractive you're bound to get hit on, and if your looks are slightly effeminate, overly pretty, in no way butch, or football hero type, you're likely to be considered, well, you know where this is headed ...

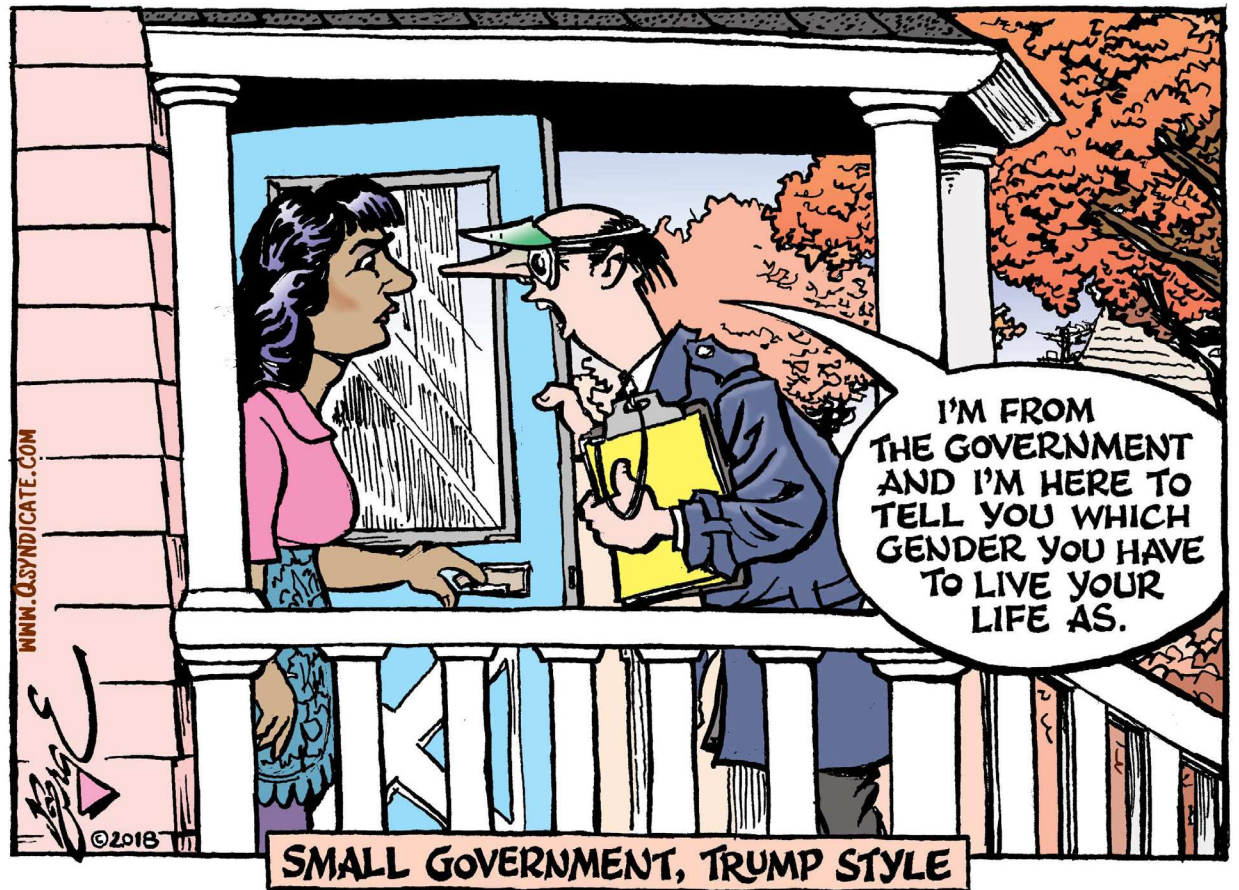
I'm not saying either Mike Pence or Joel is gay. Bi, perhaps. That is: they like Catholics as well as Protestants. It's just that each probably had to deal with that suspected gay possibility as they grew into manhood, and felt a need to reassure others and — perhaps, more importantly — themselves that they were, that they are, straight.

There are several sites to Google on Mikey Pence, and the possibility that he went through varying, unfortunately media questionable sessions of reparative therapy to eliminate his purported homosexual tendencies. Where there's a hint of political patchouli, there's a strongly scented possibility.

Getting hit on again and again, either overtly or covertly, by innuendo or insult, might have contributive to a perceived need on Pence's and Joel's part for public reassurance. A need to deflect the opinions of others.

Hey! See my wife! She's with me 24/7. Doesn't that tell you

See **Parting Glances**, continued on next page



BY REV. DR. ROLAND STRINGFELLOW

## 50-50

## Viewpoint

### MCC-Detroit's Stringfellow Reflects on Legacy of Queer Spirituality

1968 was indeed a year that had a profound impact upon this country — the assassinations of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, protests of the Vietnam War and racial inequality — most notably during the Democratic Convention in Chicago and the fist raised during the Olympic ceremony by two black athletes. And 1968 saw winners — Richard Nixon won the White House and the Detroit Tigers won the World Series! The year also saw the birth of the Metropolitan Community Churches (MCC), and yours truly was born in December of that year.

The more things change, the more they stay the same — this is a well-worn saying, but it still has a ring of truth to it. Fifty years later, we are still grappling with many of the same issues plaguing our country: deep political divisions within our society, racist events like what took place in Charlottesville, South Carolina, and the revitalization of the Poor Peoples

Movement to address the same issues our nation faced in 1968. There were key people who worked to transform our nation to what they believed to be our better selves. Clearly, King and Kennedy accomplished much, yet there was another person by the name of Troy Perry who had a vision in 1968. He believed the Christian church could become better by welcoming ALL of God's children, particularly those who identify as LGBTQ. It was on Oct. 6, 1968, that this former Pentecostal preacher living in Huntington Park, California — a suburb of Los Angeles — was shamed out of his church for being gay and welcomed gay and lesbian Christians to his apartment for a worship service. What began as a gathering of 12 people who were intent on keeping their faith despite being rejected from the church, has grown into a worldwide fellowship of churches

See **Viewpoint**, continued on next page

**Fifty years later, we are still grappling with many of the same issues plaguing our country: deep political divisions within our society, racist events like what took place in Charlottesville, South Carolina, and the revitalization of the Poor Peoples Movement to address the same issues our nation faced in 1968.**

## ► Viewpoint

Continued from p. 10

in 33 countries.

Perry had several choices when he was rejected by the church. He could have kept quiet to avoid the rejection within a denomination that would not support him. Or, he could have left organized religion altogether and found an alternative way to express his spirituality. Instead, he chose to create another option, an inclusive congregation that encouraged full participation in all levels of the ministry — from being an usher to being the pastor.

Perry knew that the lives and contributions of LGBTQ people were ignored at best and suppressed at worse by the church. This was evident by the way the church responded, or did not respond, to those living and dying from HIV and AIDS. It was during the 1980's that MCC churches saw their greatest population increase. During that time, people needed a community that was willing to provide pastoral care and bury with dignity those who had succumbed to the virus.

MCC is not the only church that provides spiritual care and dignity to LGBTQ people. When I came out of the closet after

being a pastor in the Baptist church for 10 years, I tested and tried many mainline denominational churches to see if I would be fully welcomed as an African-American gay Christian. Many of these churches had no problem if I held my partner's hand during a service, yet I did not find a church that was willing to address my spiritual violence of shaming and rejection. I wanted to discover how to love the Biblical text as well as my identity. I found what I was looking for in the MCC. I discovered how to live into the Biblical text and became a sacred activist. This is the example and legacy of Troy Perry, who stood against oppression and helped others become their better selves while being unapologetically queer and Christian. MCC has ongoing work as an inclusive church, but our role providing dignity and social justice for LGBTQ and ALL people will continue for another half-century at least!

---

*Rev. Dr. Roland Stringfellow is the Senior Pastor and Teacher of MCC-Detroit and celebrated 13 years of his ordination as a MCC pastor on Oct. 15.*

prerequisite. After all, celibacy means there's no wife to inherit a priest's property, title or spiritual insurance for the afterlife.

Unlike both Mike Pence and Joel Osteen! Their present-day, respective spouses, Karen and Vicky — unless they divorce — stand to inherit thousands and thousands of dollars, as well as astronomical valuable property collateral.

That's what the Prosperity Gospel's all about. (Jesus comes in tax-free dollars from thousands and thousands of religious viewers and readers with no pence, er, common sense.)

---

*Charles Alexander is prolific both as a BTL columnist (700-plus columns) and as a well-known LGBT community artist (1000 Facebook images). He is a Spirit of Detroit Award recipient and an Affirmations LGBT CENTER Jan Stevenson awardee. Connect with him at Charles@pridesource.com.*

## ► Parting Glances

Continued from p. 10

I'm straight? 24/7!

It's a variation of what was once called the Beard Syndrome: a woman whose regular public appearance with a man — an important business executive, a movie star (say Rock Hudson), a flamboyant TV musician (Liberace) — served to squelch rumors about the guy in question's sexuality.

And, just in passing, perhaps it's no stretch of the imagination to say that the biggest beard of all time — up until these troubled and costly times for the Roman Catholic Church — is the BVM, Blessed Virgin Mary!

Many a gay man has gone into the priesthood, because marriage is not an RC

# Creep Of The Week

## The Trump Administration

BY D'ANNE WITKOWSKI

**T**ransgender rights are human rights. Full stop. Transgender people are human beings. Full stop. These things are not negotiable.

Unfortunately, the people who are leading this country, people who represent literally the worst of America (hateful, racist, sexist, uninterested, anti-science, spiteful, petty, violent ... the list goes on and on) are in charge of every branch of the federal government right now. And the people defining the rules want to define transgender people right out of existence.

Granted, that is not how language works. You can't just say, "Oh, this means something different now" and said thing ceases to exist. For example, if the federal government wanted to declare that the term "Halloween candy" ONLY refers to candy corn, that doesn't mean Resse's Peanut Butter Pumpkins no longer exist. It does mean, however, that any statues that, say, protect Halloween candy from discrimination would only protect candy corn, all other candy be damned.

So when I say the Trump administration wants to define trans folks out of existence, that's not technically true, because trans people will still exist as they always have.

According to the New York Times, "The Trump administration is considering narrowly defining gender as a biological, immutable condition determined by genitalia at birth, the most drastic move yet in a governmentwide effort to roll back recognition and protections of transgender people under federal civil rights law."

This, of course, is not surprising considering how vocally anti-trans Trump has been. Remember when Trump Tweeted out that trans troops were no longer welcome to serve in the military? Republicans across the country have been similarly hostile, feverishly crafting legislation to keep trans folks from using public restrooms.

"The Department of Health and Human Services is spearheading an effort to establish a legal definition of sex under Title IX," the Times continued. "The federal civil rights law that bans gender discrimination in education programs that receive government financial assistance."

If you'll recall, when Obama, a decent human being with a moral compass, was president the "legal concept" of gender was "loosened." According to the Times, "recognizing gender largely as an individual's choice and not determined by the sex assigned at birth."

This helped transgender and gender non-conforming folks secure some much-

needed protections. Much-needed because transgender people are some of the most vulnerable people in our society. They are the object of ridicule, scorn, hate and violence.

"The new definition would essentially eradicate federal recognition of the estimated 1.4 million Americans who have opted to recognize themselves — surgically or otherwise — as a gender other than the one they were born into," The Times continued.

So if the Trump administration does this, Trans people will be stripped of any protections they have received because they are no longer included in the very definition of gender. Poof. Trans folks are gone into a semantic abyss.

Only the genitals you're born with and the sex assigned at birth would "count." As the Times reported, "Any dispute about one's sex would have to be clarified using genetic testing."

This is terrible in all sorts of ways. For one thing, it also erases intersex people who are born with ambiguous genitalia. Not to mention the fact that chromosomes do not necessarily correspond with what's between your legs.

The Trump Administration is basically calling for a penis/vagina registry.

There has been backlash against the Trump administration's plan. "We must not give up the fight," "Orange Is The New Black" actress Laverne Cox tweeted. "But in the face of this affront on my existence and the existence of my community I choose love not fear. We exist and always have."

Cox continued, "Trans people have been under attack by this administration from day 1 and in state legislatures for years now," Cox said. "Let's join together American and assert #TransRightsAreHumanRights."

Cisgender folks, if there ever was a time to shout from the rooftops that you support trans people, this is it. Because make no mistake, the Trump administration will not stop at defining gender to exclude trans people. Eventually they'll decide who "counts" as a woman or a man and make the laws accordingly. I've read "The Handmaid's Tale." I've seen the rampant misogyny supported by Trump and his Republicans. This isn't headed anywhere good.

So yes, as Cox advises, choose love not fear. But make sure the thing you love the most is voting, because the only way to turn back the tide of hate is to vote the haters out of office.

---

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# Stephen Keye and Guy Darienzo: The Special Blend Behind Uncommon Coffee Roasters

BY ELLEN SHANNA KNOPPOW

## Uncommon Beginnings

Back in the early '90s, when Guy Darienzo and Stephen Keye were still a couple, they fell in love with Saugatuck, Michigan, and decided to relocate from Chicago to open a bed-and-breakfast. It was a big leap for Darienzo, an engineer, and Keye, who worked in a fashion boutique. But their dreams were dashed when the woman running a workshop on innkeeping advised them to reconsider. As Darienzo recalls, she suggested that as two gay men they might have trouble attracting enough clients to sustain a business — even in famously LGBTQ-friendly Saugatuck.

Not only that, Keye said his enthusiasm about the venture diminished.

“My romantic notion of making homemade pancakes and having everyone love them just kind of went away after the class,” he said. “I was like, ‘Oh, OK, you don’t get away from it!’”

Plan B: A coffee shop. Thus, Uncommon Grounds was born.

Uncommon Grounds — later renamed Uncommon Coffee Roasters for trademark reasons — opened in 1994, and this year will celebrate a quarter of a century in business. However, its success was not ensured without a great deal of research and planning. A trip to Italy to learn from the best, with regard to espresso machines, European coffee culture and more, represented the underpinnings of what UCR was to become.

“I wanted that impression on the café, rather than the sort of McDonaldization of it,” said Keye, in reference to what was the trend in Seattle at the time.

## Dynamic Duo

Although Keye and Darienzo haven’t been a couple for 10 years, they remain a powerful force as partners in business. What each of them loves about the work reflects their personalities and where they’ve found a particular niche in a business with so many moving parts.

“For me, first of all, I like meeting people and talking with people and having fun,” said Keye, who also mentioned baking and roasting, too, though he developed an allergy to the burlap bags and had to give that up. “Those were the things that I really clicked with and found happiness doing.”

Darienzo, on the other hand, finds his greatest happiness connecting with the farmers and finding ways to give back.

“In the last couple years, I’ve been to Ethiopia, Kenya and Peru, Ecuador, Columbia, Guatemala,” he said. “I love the travel to meet the farmers. We all learn from each other.”

But if you ask the two of them why their little shop in downtown Saugatuck has so many fans, the answer is unanimous: the coffee.



Guy Darienzo (left) and Stephen Keye outside of their Uncommon COffee Roasters shop in Saugatuck. BTL photos: Ellen Knoppow

“We try not to have it personality-driven,” Keye said. “And I’ll say that to customers who say, ‘Stephen, you know if you weren’t here, it would be different,’ and I say, ‘No, we’re very, very product-driven. I don’t need to be here.’”

Darienzo concurred.

“Our whole focus is the coffee,” he said, adding that people appreciate their dedication to farmers.

“That, and people just like the ambience,” Keye said. “People who are into the metaphysical world say that this is like a portal. That people are drawn here.”

## Farm to Cup

From the beginning, working closely with the coffee producers has been part and parcel of Darienzo and Keye’s philosophy and business ethic. UCR sources green coffee globally and its owners travel to the origin whenever possible.

“That whole concept, from the garden or the farm to the table is an old American tradition that has come back,” Keye said. “And that is part of our mission, from the farm to the cup. And through that, we’re able to give back.”

As an example, Darienzo described how they support a day care in Costa Rica for the children of the farmers’ coffee pickers. When made aware



of the need, not only did they begin donating a portion of the proceeds from bags of coffee sold in the shop, they went a step further and funded the bilingual private school education of one of the coffee farmer’s daughters.

Just as they build relationships with the farmers, Darienzo and Keye give back locally, too. A dollar from sales of their Pride Blend (“Earthy, Fruity, Chocolate”) is donated to area LGBTQ centers in Holland and Benton Harbor, but that’s just the beginning.

UCR has a project in the works that would benefit the Ruth Ellis Center, which serves the needs of homeless and at-risk LGBTQ youth in Southeast Michigan. That concept is based on one that’s about to launch in New York.

After helping a friend of Bea Arthur open a Golden Girls-themed café in Manhattan which sells UCR’s products, they put their heads together and decided to donate to the

Ali Forney Center from sales of their coffee sold at several retailers in New York City.

“When Bea Arthur died she put aside money for LGBT youths, homeless youths,” Darienzo said. “So for every skid that we send to the Fairway Market, \$100 gets to be earmarked to feeding [them]. So I want to do the same thing with the Ruth Ellis Center.”

That project, still in the planning stages, would be based on sales of the cold brew coffee line that Kroger has agreed to pick up in 75 locations in Michigan.

## How They’ve Grown

From coffee drinks like their popular iced coffee mocktails to freshly-baked treats, as well as numerous varieties of bagged coffee and “Roasted With Pride” T-shirts that feature rainbow coffee beans, Uncommon Coffee Roasters as a brick-and-mortar coffee shop is just part of Darienzo and Keye’s business enterprise.

A small-batch specialty coffee roaster, UCR began roasting its own beans in 2000. The demand was so great that in 2010 they opened a wholesale business in neighboring Douglas.

“People would come in, and they’d see me standing there roasting,” Keye said. “And they’d say, ‘Oh my God, you roast your coffee. I have a bed-and-breakfast in Mount Pleasant, can we buy some coffee from you?’ Yes, yes! So, brick by brick, we built the wholesale that way.”

After that, a roaster in Chicago who was closing her business pitched her clients to Darienzo and Keye, as she didn’t want them to disperse to some of the bigger names in the industry. With that, the number of companies they roasted for quadrupled and it was

time to hire a team of salespeople to make cold calls and pound the pavement.

Since then, it’s been “a natural evolution,” Keye said.

UCR now provides services to more than 200 small businesses and large corporations throughout the Midwest, including Michigan giants Whirlpool and Herman Miller, and they have a thriving online operation as well.

Lately UCR is focused on wider distribution of their immensely popular cold brew coffee, which they’ve been producing for 10 years — by popular demand, it’s available by the keg. Made with organic ingredients including grass-fed dairy, buyers will find the ready-to-drink products under the Cultivo label in stores throughout Michigan, the east coast and Florida, sold in earth-friendly, dairy-style containers.

Environmental sustainability doesn't stop with cardboard coffee cartons, though. At UCR, the cups, sleeves and even the single-serve, K-cups for sale are compostable, which means they won't end up in a landfill. Not only that, instead of discarding tons of coffee grounds as a by product from the cold brew process, they're donated and repurposed into a chemical-free growing medium at a worm farm in Sturgis through their Grounds to Grounds Initiative.

## An Uncommon Space

Pieced together to create a sort of cozy labyrinth, the building itself has a story to tell, too.

The front was once a dental office, but that's hardly the interesting part. Following a fire that devastated the lumbering town of Singapore in the 1870's, the back portion is part of one of the houses brought down the frozen Kalamazoo River on wooden logs to save them from being buried under the shifting sand dunes.

At one point, the building became apartments, "So we've had customers over the years walk into the coffee shop and say, "This was our living room.' It has a lot of history," Darienzo said.

Behind the building is a garden patio that one might call coffee paradise: more seating, greenery that includes an herb garden, plus a water fountain that plays an accompaniment to the goings-on outside. The space is also utilized

for community events, such as a meet and greet with state Senate candidate Garnet Lewis and State Rep. Jon Hoadley.

Product, people, ethics or atmosphere? In the end, the appeal of Uncommon Coffee Roasters — what has earned Darienzo and Keye rave reviews and loyal customers for 25 years — doesn't come from a single origin: It's a special blend.

For more information about the coffee shop and its owners, visit [uncommoncoffee.com](http://uncommoncoffee.com).



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A caravan of upwards of 4,000 migrants left San Pedro Sula, Honduras, on Oct. 14, 2018, with hopes of entering the U.S. Sources in Honduras have told the Washington Blade that some of the migrants are LGBTI. A human rights observer watches over a group of migrants who left San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

## New Migrant Caravan Hopes to Reach US

BY MIKE LAVERS

**T**housands of migrants who are trying to reach the U.S. left Honduras on Oct. 14.

Reports indicate the migrant caravan, which left from the Honduran city of San Pedro Sula, reached the Guatemala-Mexico border on Oct. 19.

Activists in San Pedro Sula and in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa with whom the Washington Blade spoke last week said upwards of 4,000 migrants are part of the caravan. The activists also said some of the migrants are LGBTI.

The Blade's attempts to speak with LGBTI migrants who are part of the caravan have thus far proven unsuccessful.

President Trump has threatened to cut U.S. aid to Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador if their governments did not stop the migrants from leaving their countries.

"We have today informed the countries of Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador that if they allow their citizens, or others, to journey through their borders and up to the United States, with the intention of entering our country illegally, all payments made to them will STOP (END)," he proclaimed on Oct. 16 in a tweet.

Trump on Oct. 18 said he would "call up the U.S. military and close our southern border" if the Mexican government did not "stop this onslaught." He has also described the migrants as a "large flow of people, including many criminals."

The Mexican government has begun to process migrants who have entered the country from Guatemala. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Oct. 18 in a statement said the U.S. welcomes the Mexican government's announcement that it will work with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees "to address immigration issues in the region, including the influx of people arriving in Mexico."

Pompeo on Oct. 19 spoke further about the migrants during a press conference with Mexican Foreign Secretary Luis Videgaray in Mexico City.

"The challenge related to securing our southern border is also a challenge for American sovereignty," said Pompeo. "We've got to fix U.S. laws in order to handle this properly as well. That is an American burden, a uniquely American burden, and as President Trump has said, it's something that we need to address inside of our country to make sure that we do this well. If we get it right, we will improve the relationship between our two countries materially as well."

Pompeo later told reporters before he left Mexico City that outgoing Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto deployed 500 federal police officers to his country's border with Guatemala. Pompeo also noted four of them were reported injured on Friday during clashes with migrants who were trying to enter Mexico.

"We understand that to be accurate,"

said Pompeo. "We don't know the severity of those injuries, but I want to express my sympathy to those four policemen. That's evidence of what this really is. This is a group, a large group of people; they are putting women and children in front of the caravan to use as shields as they make their way through. This is an organized effort to come through and violate the sovereignty of Mexico, and so we're prepared to do all that we can to support the decisions that Mexico makes about how they're going to address this very serious and important issue to their country."

### Caravan becomes midterm election issue

The caravan left Honduras less than a month before the U.S. midterm elections.

Honduran President Juan Orlando Hernández and Salvadoran Vice President Óscar Ortiz on Oct. 11 reiterated their governments' concerns over separation of migrant children from their parents under Trump's "zero tolerance" immigration policy when they spoke at a conference at the State Department that focused on prosperity and security in Central America. Vice President Pence, who spoke at the conference alongside Pompeo, again urged countries in the Northern Triangle — Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador — to stem the flow of migrants.

“The leaders in the room, the governments that you represent, should tell your people don’t put your families at risk by taking the dangerous journey north to attempt to enter the United States illegally,” said Pence. “The truth is your message can probably be summed up by telling them that if they can’t come to the United States legally, they shouldn’t come at all. Say it with strength and say it with compassion as neighbors and as friends because it’s the truth.”

The Honduran government in an Oct. 16 press release said the caravan “was organized by political sectors with false promises of receiving a humanitarian visa that (would allow migrants) to pass through Mexican territory and seek refuge as an asylum seeker in the United States.”

Activists in Honduras with whom the Blade has spoken over the last year say the Honduran government has not done enough to address violence, discrimination and a lack of economic opportunities they have said prompts LGBTI people to leave the country. The activists also noted more than 30 people died in violent protests that took place across Honduras last November after Hernández’s disputed reelection.

The Honduran government in its press

## Trans woman who died in U.S. custody was part of earlier caravan

The migrants that left San Pedro Sula on Oct. 14 are part of the latest migrant caravan from the region in recent years.

Roxana Hernández, a transgender Honduran with HIV who was taken into custody by U.S. Customs and Border Protection on May 9 when she asked for asylum at the San Ysidro Port of Entry near San Diego, was part of a 300-person caravan that traveled to the U.S. border. Hernández died at a New Mexico hospital a few weeks later while in the custody of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

A group of 16 trans and gay migrants from Nicaragua, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico who called themselves the Trans Gay Migrant Caravan asked for asylum in Nogales, Ariz., on Aug. 10, 2017.

Anti-LGBTI violence remains commonplace in Central America’s Northern Triangle. Discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, poverty and a lack of access to education and health care are among the myriad



A picture of Roxana Hernández, a transgender Honduran woman with HIV who died in ICE custody in May, hangs on a wall inside the offices of Colectivo Unidad Color Rosa, an LGBTI advocacy group in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, on July 11, 2018. (Washington Blade photo by Michael K. Lavers)

release urges migrants “not to put their lives and those of their children at risk,” noting hunger and human trafficking are among the risks they face. The Honduran government also said it “will continue to provide assistance (to migrants) to return to their communities.”

More than 10,000 Salvadorans currently live in D.C.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser in January criticized the Trump administration’s decision to end the Temporary Protected Status program for Salvadorans, which has allowed up to 200,000 of them to receive temporary residency permits that have allowed them to stay in the U.S. Bowser traveled to El Salvador in August and reiterated her administration will continue to help migrants who are living in D.C.

issues the region’s LGBTI community also face.

LGBTI Salvadorans, Hondurans and Guatemalans are among the more than 225,000 migrants who have tried to enter the U.S. over the last year, even through advocates in the three countries have told the Blade the Trump administration’s immigration policy continues to spark fear throughout the Northern Triangle.

Current U.S. immigration policy has also prompted LGBTI migrants from Central America to remain in Mexico and seek asylum there.

*This article first appeared in the Washington Blade and is made available in partnership with the National Gay Media Association.*

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# Vox of an Angel

## 'American Idol' Queen Ada Vox to perform at Necto Nov. 16

BY EVE KUCHARSKI

Whether belting out a classic like “House of the Rising Sun,” putting her own spin on Radiohead’s “Creep” or performing a standing ovation-worthy “Wicked” duet with stars like Lea Michele, Ada Vox is bringing it. But Vox isn’t an average drag queen. As a true testament to her stage name, there’s no lip-syncing when she’s performing; her vox is the real deal. Real enough that it got her to the Top 10 on season 16 of “American Idol.”

But even if Vox seems like she came out of the blue onto the “Idol” stage and into the public eye, it should be made known that that definitely isn’t the case. There’s a high chance that fans of the show saw the San Antonio-based Vox perform out of drag as Adam Sanders in previous auditions. After all, though this is the first time that Sanders’ alter ego Ada Vox has graced the stage, Sanders himself auditioned 13 times over eight years in total.

However, even though Vox’s debut didn’t get her to the final spot on the TV show, that hasn’t stopped her from using the exposure to develop her music career. Just last August, Vox dropped a brand-new single called “Because of You” that was produced by Bimbo Jones who has worked with the likes of Lady Gaga and Rihanna, and now is in the midst of a national tour spanning from Hawaii to Alabama. Vox will make her way to a Michigan stage on Friday, Nov. 16 when she visits Necto Nightclub in Ann Arbor. In advance of her performance, Vox chatted with BTL about her takeaways from “Idol,” how she’s grown as a performer during her career and what it’s like touring with her fiancé.

### When did you first learn that you had musical talent?

I’ve always been musical; I’ve always sung. I started taking singing seriously like, “Oh, this is what I want to do,” at quite a young age. I was 8 years old when that happened. I had this turning point the first season that “American Idol” aired. I was also at the hospital at the moment, recovering from brain surgery, and when I was in that recovery and going through that very difficult year, my mother would sing to me while I was in the hospital or when I was at home just to help ease the pain as much as she could. That’s all she really

could do at the time. It gave me this sense of healing and fulfillment that I wasn’t super familiar with at the time. That was really what granted me peace of mind. So, through that, I started singing more, knowing that that was something I wanted to do for other people, provide that peace of mind, that healing, that sense of being.

### What did you do to get involved in music at such a young age?

Starting middle school, I joined the band and I was a clarinet player. I played clarinet all through middle school and high school as well as attended university as a clarinet major. I liked lots of types of music. I was in the marching band, I ended up being the drum leader and the section leader in the marching band and then symphonic band. I was a lead vocalist and guitarist ... I was an alto sax player in our jazz band. So, I kind of dabbled in everything.

### Part of your signature performance now is your drag persona. How did you first become aware of drag, and what made you decide to become a drag performer?

I was kind of a late bloomer in the LGBT thing. What happened was that I was kind of thrown into it. After my first time on idol on season 12 I was invited to perform at our local pride festival and I was completely unaware that we had a pride festival. I didn’t know that this whole community was this big celebrated thing. I went to it and was like, “Wow, this is weird!” (Laughs) At first it was all kinds of shock. But it was all thanks to my friend Josh “Jada” (Davila) who I was on the show with. He made it a round or two further than me on that season as well. ... That was the first time I ever saw a drag queen in person. I was completely unaware!

### It must have been total culture shock. What stuck out to you the most about the drag queens you saw?

What I was thinking was, “Look at this, this is so different! They’re lip-syncing, they’re dancing, they’re wearing costumes, all this crazy stuff I hadn’t seen before, hadn’t been aware of.” I said, “You know what? I look kind of like a lesbian already, I’m pretty sure I could be a decent-looking drag queen.” So that was a bit of a change, but I said, “Let’s give this a try, and maybe this will work for me.” Because I had been told so many times that I needed an edge, something to make me a little different. So I went ahead and started doing drag, and as soon as I started performing in drag, everything changed. I started getting crazy attention that I was



never getting before, I felt appreciated as an artist and as an entertainer, and, from there, I just kind of kept it going. I still auditioned for “Idol” three times after I started drag just as a boy, as Adam.

### After having performed so many times on the “American Idol” stage, what’s the biggest lesson you’ve learned from your time there?

You know, it’s interesting that one of the biggest things I took out of it was that no matter what you look like, no matter what you feel like you have to go through sometimes to be successful, you always have to remember that your talent has, and always will, speak for itself. No matter what you present yourself as. ... It’s just a matter of sometimes having to put on the costume for (other) people to see and understand your passion and your talent, but don’t ever let that belittle your abilities and your heart.

### That brings us to the versatility of your skill. You just released “Because of You,” a song written by “X Factor” contestant Janice Robinson. You’ve mentioned before that it’s not in a genre you normally favor, but you still recorded it. Why choose that song?

Yeah. It’s not at all, that’s just not what I do. However, the song itself spoke to me. ... When I heard it before it had a really nice, throwback, ‘90s feel to it, but what really spoke to me were the lyrics ... and the message that comes with it. The whole song’s message is about being thankful to the people who stood by you, and the people who have loved

you, helped you to get through your hardest times.

### What’s your favorite style of music? And are you working on anything now that’s in that style?

I actually recorded a new single that I wrote — and I like an R&B feel, an old-school Alicia Keys-type feel. There are a lot of songs that are old-school by Usher and just have that late ‘90s, early 2000s feel when music still said something (laughs). That’s what I like.

### What’s it been like getting used to touring so extensively? Had you ever toured to that degree before this year?

I’ve actually been a professional singer for 12 years. I was working with a band being a wedding singer, performing at festivals and things like that. Smaller things, but I had never done anything like this tour before. ... This aspect of it is new, but all the work I’ve done in the past really helped with “Idol” and touring and everything else. The little tips and tricks that you learn along

the way really make a difference. I believe honestly that if I hadn’t been touring for so long, that I’m not sure I would have been ready for it because it happened so suddenly. I’m glad it took me a while.

### And it must help that your fiancé travels with you, too.

Having my fiancé it really does help. He also is a drag performer, so he understands what I’m doing, you know? He understands the art of it and everything that goes into it. ... People don’t understand drag and think you want to be a woman, but no, it’s an art form, it’s a stage persona. There’s a lot that goes into it and it’s really helpful to have someone who understands that. He will travel with me like a road manager and assistant. He helps carry my bags around with me and whatnot, and helps to get me dressed. ... It takes a lot of stress off of me so I can focus on my onstage performance.

### You once said that you weren’t going to audition for this last season of “Idol.” Did you expect it to go this well?

It was going to be the first season I sat out and I said, “I’m not going to audition again unless they come to my hometown.” And, lo and behold, they did (laughs). It feels like fate at the end of it.

To find out more visit [officialadavox.com](http://officialadavox.com). Vox will be at Necto nightclub in Ann Arbor on Friday, Nov. 16 at 9 p.m. Tickets start at \$25. More information at [necto.com](http://necto.com).





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**Michigan's 2018**

**Progressive Voter Guide**

**YOUR PRO-LGBT, WOMAN, ENVIRONMENT & LABOR GUIDE TO THE ELECTION**

# Guide To the Guide

Between The Lines presents the Progressive Voters Guide for Michigan, which includes endorsement information from four key progressive sectors of the electorate – LGBT Issues, Women's Rights, Labor and the Environment. All in one place, voters can see which candidates would support fairness and equality on a host of issues. The Guide also provides right wing, conservative endorsements so voters can see which candidates, if elected, would actively work against progressive values in Michigan.

Here is a key to each of the organizations that have endorsements included in this Progressive Voter Guide:

## LGBT Issues

**BTL** – Between The Lines is Michigan's weekly newspaper serving the LGBT community in Michigan. BTL has produced a LGBT Voter Guide every other year since 1996. Endorsements are based on responses to questionnaires, incumbents voting records and candidates public positions on LGBT issues including workplace fairness, access to health-care, adoption and family rights, marriage and safety, including their positions on bullying. [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)

**EQMI** – The Equality Michigan Pride PAC is an independent Political Action Committee that evaluates and endorses candidates based on their responses to a questionnaire that is sent to every candidate running for public office. [www.eqmipridepac.com](http://www.eqmipridepac.com)

**HRC** – The Human Rights Campaign represents a force of more than 3 million members and supporters nationwide. As the largest national LGBTQ civil rights organization, HRC will endorse

a candidate based upon these criteria; support for issues of concern to the LGBTQ community, demonstrated leadership on HRC's issues, and viability. [www.hrc.org](http://www.hrc.org)

**LAHR PAC** – The Lansing Association for Human Rights Political Action Committee sends questionnaires to all candidates running for office in the Ingham County/Lansing area. They do not endorse candidates, but do rank the candidates responses on a scale from Extremely Positive to Extremely Negative, and indicate the candidates who ignored their questionnaire. <http://lahronline.org/PoliticalAction.htm>

## Women's Rights

**WOMEN'S GROUPS** – Three women's groups' endorsements are included within one column of this Guide; Emily's List, Michigan NOW and the Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan. Federal races include Emily's List endorsements. Michigan state legislative races

include the endorsements from all three groups. Local races include endorsements from the Progressive Women's Alliance of West Michigan. Emily's List is a national PAC committed to electing pro-choice Democratic women to office. Michigan NOW is a chapter of the National Organization for Women dedicated to bringing women into full participation in the mainstream of American Society. The Progressive Women's Alliance is committed to influencing public policy through the election of candidates and the advocacy of progressive values.

**PLAN'D P'HOOD** – Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan is a 501©(4) nonprofit focused on fundraising to endorse pro-choice candidates and electoral work in Michigan. <http://mi-plannedparenthood.org>

## Environmental Groups

**SIERRA CLUB** - The Sierra Club's Michigan Political Committee is responsible for electing environmentally-minded officials and lobbying in Lansing. They

also created a 2014 legislative scorecard for both the Michigan House and Senate. [www.michigan.sierraclub.org](http://www.michigan.sierraclub.org)

**MLCV** – Michigan League of Conservation Voters is the leading non-partisan political voice for protecting Michigan's land, air, and water. We use our power to elect and hold accountable public officials to ensure the right policies are enacted to protect our families' - and future generations' - health, economic well-being, and ability to enjoy the pure beauty of our state.

## Labor

**AFL-CIO** – The American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations is a national trade union center made up of 56 national and international unions representing over 11 million people worldwide. They endorse candidates and initiatives that support collective bargaining and workers rights. <http://www.miafclcio.org/>

**UAW** – United Auto Worker's Community Action Program (CAP) endorsements are based upon membership input and leadership ratification. Decisions are made after examining the voting records of incumbents and previous officeholders or the stated positions and pledges of new candidates. Members often get to grill candidates directly on important issues facing workers.

## Right-Wing

**CTV** – Citizens for Traditional Values political action committee supports candidates that are anti-LGBT, anti-choice, support teaching creationism in schools and want the government to reflect Judeo Christian values. <http://www.ctvmichigan.org>

**MI-RTL** – Michigan Right to Life political action committee endorses candidates who support a federal Human Life Amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would outlaw all abortions, even in cases of rape, incest or to protect the mother's life.

## U.S. Congressional Districts - Michigan

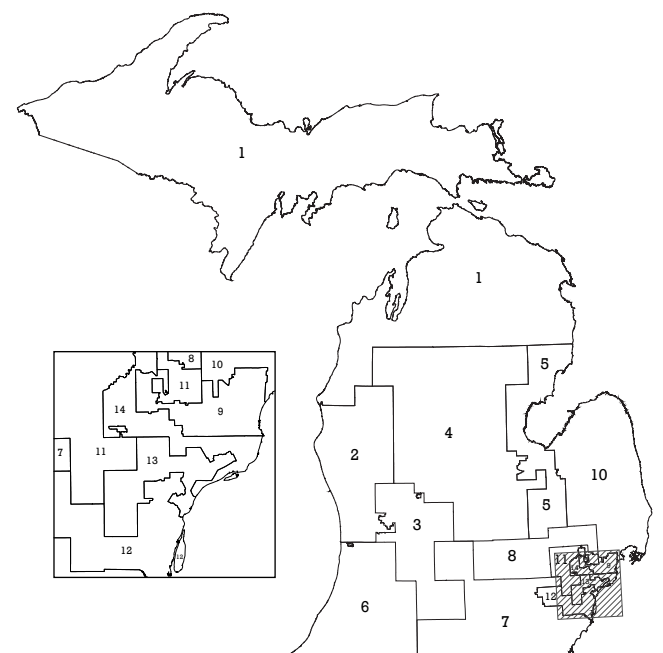
Use this map to determine which Congressional District's voter grid is yours!

Unsure of your district? Go to [www.MIVoterGuide.com](http://www.MIVoterGuide.com) and enter your zip code to receive a more specific ballot!

Did you know... You can see an example of your ballot before Nov. 6 by entering your voter information at [www.Michigan.gov/Vote](http://www.Michigan.gov/Vote)

Make sure you know as much about those running in your region today!

More links and resources are available at [www.PrideSource.com](http://www.PrideSource.com)



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# 1ST U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**Between The Lines Strongly Endorses These Statewide Candidates**

## U.S. Congress

District	Candidate	Party	LGBT		Women		Envir		Labor		ANTI-	X	X
			BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW			
1	Bergman, Jack	R											
	Morgan, Matt	D	█			█	█	█	█				

## State Senate

District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MIRTL
35	Taillard, Mike	D	█	█			█					
	Coon, Timothy	L										
	VanderWall, Curt	R										█
36	Weir, Joe	D								█		
	Stamas, Jim	R										█
37	Page, Jim	D				█	█					
	Schmidt, Wayne	R									█	█
38	Dianda, Scott	D	█	█		█		█	█	█		
	Roberts, Wade	G										
	McBroom, Ed	R									█	█

## State Representatives

District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MIRTL
101	Wiejaczka, Kathy	D	█	█	█	█			█	█		
	O'Malley, Jack	R										█
103	Schaiberger, Tim	D										
	Rendon, Daire*	R										█
104	O'Neil, Dan	D	█	█		█	█	█	█	█		
	Inman, Larry*	R										█
105	Fruge, Melissa	D	█	█		█				█		
	Cole, Triston*	R									█	█
106	Greene, Lora	D	█	█		█				█		
	Allor, Sue*	R									█	█
107	Schmidt Galloway, Joanne	D	█	█			█					
	Chatfield, Lee*	R										█
108	Romps, Bob	D	█	█					█	█		
	LaFave, Beau*	R										█
109	Cambensy, Sara*	D	█		█	█	█	█	█	█		
	Wagner, Melody	R										
110	Summers, Ken	D	█	█			█	█	█	█		
	Markkanen, Gregory	R									█	█
*Incumbent			█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█



**Gretchen Whitmer**  
*Governor*



**Garlin Gilchrist**  
*Lt. Governor*



**Debbie Stabenow**  
*U.S. Senate*



**Jocelyn Benson**  
*Secretary of State*



**Dana Nessel**  
*Attorney General*

### Sam Bagenstos

*MI Supreme Court (8 yr. term)*

### Megan Cavanagh

*MI Supreme Court (8 yr. term)*

### Judy Pritchett & Tiffany Tilley

*State Board of Education*

### Brianna Scott & Kelly Tebay

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*WSU Governors*

### Paul Brown & Jordan Acker

*U-M Regents*

**Vote YES Proposal 1**  
**MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

**Vote YES Proposal 2**  
**VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS**

**Vote YES Proposal 3**  
**PROMOTE THE VOTE**

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# 2ND U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Between The Lines Strongly  
Endorses These Statewide Candidates



**Gretchen Whitmer**  
*Governor*



**Garlin Gilchrist**  
*Lt. Governor*



**Debbie Stabenow**  
*U.S. Senate*



**Jocelyn Benson**  
*Secretary of State*



**Dana Nessel**  
*Attorney General*

## Sam Bagenstos

*MI Supreme Court (8 yr. term)*

## Megan Cavanagh

*MI Supreme Court (8 yr. term)*

## Judy Pritchett & Tiffany Tilley

*State Board of Education*

## Brianna Scott & Kelly Tebay

*MSU Trustees*

## Dr. Anil Kumar & Bryan Barnhill

*WSU Governors*

## Paul Brown & Jordan Acker

*U-M Regents*

**Vote YES Proposal 1  
MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

**Vote YES Proposal 2  
VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS**

**Vote YES Proposal 3  
PROMOTE THE VOTE**

Go to [www.MiVoterGuide.com](http://www.MiVoterGuide.com) and enter your zip code for local election endorsements and updates. Displays on smartphone.

## U.S. Congress

District	Candidate	Party	LGBT	Women	Envir	Labor	ANTI-		
			BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MICV	AFL-CIO
2	Davidson, Rob	D					X		
	Graeser, Ronald E.	UST					X		
	Huizenga, Bill	R					X		

## State Senate

District	Candidate	Party	LGBT	Women	Envir	Labor	ANTI-					
			BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MICV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MIRTL
26	Lewis, Garnet	D										
	Always, Robert	G										
	Haas, Erwin	L										
	Nesbitt, Aric	R									X	X
28	Beach, Craig	D										
	Hewer, Nathan	L										
	MacGregor, Peter	R									X	X
30	Schipper, Jeanette	D										
	Buzuma, Mary	L										
	Victory, Roger	R									X	X
34	Sias-Hernandez, Poppy	D										
	Riekse, Max	L										
	Bumstead, Jan	R									X	X
35	Taillard, Mike	D										
	Coon, Timothy	L										
	VanderWall, Curt	R										X

## State Representatives

District	Candidate	Party	LGBT	Women	Envir	Labor	ANTI-					
			BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MICV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MIRTL
72	Draayer, Ron	D										
	Johnson, Steven*	R									X	X
74	Carr, Meagan	D										
	Huizenga, Mark	R										X
77	Knight, Dana	D										
	Malowney, Patty	L										
	Brann, Tommy*	R										X
80	Hoezee, Brandon	UST										
	Ludwig, Mark	D										
88	Whiteford, Mary*	R										X
	Zuniga, Heidi	D										
89	Meerman, Luke	R										X
	Sias, Jerry	D										
90	Lilly, Jim*	R										X
	Banks, Christopher	D										
91	Slagh, Bradley	R										X
	Cabala, Tanya	D										
92	VanWoerkom, Greg	R									X	X
	Sabo, Terry*	D										
100	Eichorst, Gail	R										
	Clarke, Sandy	D										
101	VanSingel, Scott*	R									X	X
	Wiejaczka, Kathy	D										
	O'Malley, Jack	R										X
											X	X

Go to [www.MiVoterGuide.com](http://www.MiVoterGuide.com) and enter your zip code for local election endorsements. Check back again for updated endorsements from your progressive organizations. \*Incumbent

# 3RD U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

## U.S. Congress



District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MI RTL
3	Amash, Justin	R										X
	Albro, Cathy	D										X
	Gerrard, Ted	UST										

## State Senate

19	Noble, Jason	D										
	Gillotte, Joseph	L										
	Bizon, John	R									X	X
26	Lewis, Garnet	D										
	Always, Robert	G										
	Haas, Erwin	L										
	Nesbitt, Aric	R									X	X
28	Beach, Craig	D										
	Hewer, Nathan	L										
	MacGregor, Peter*	R									X	X
29	Brinks, Winnie	D										
	VanNoller, Robert	L										
	Afendoulis, Chris	R									X	X
	Palus, Louis	WC										
33	Bignell, Mark	D										
	Outman, Rick	R									X	X
	Comden, Christopher	UST										

## State Representatives

62	Haadsma, Jim	D										
	Morgan, Dave	R									X	X
63	Aniano, Jennifer	D										
	La Pietra, John Anthony	G										
	Hawkins, Ronald	L									X	X
70	Train, Kresta	D										
	Laurain, Robin	G										
	Lower, James*	R									X	X
72	Draayer, Ron	D										
	Johnson, Steven*	R									X	X
73	Saxton, Bill	D										
	Afendoulis, Lynn	R										X
74	Carr, Meagan	D										
	Huizenga, Mark	R										X
75	LaGrand, David*	D										
	Lewis, Jamie	L										
76	Schutte, Daniel	R										
	Hood, Rachel	D										
	Brand, Amanda	R										X
77	Knight, Dana	D										
	Malowney, Patty	L										
	Brann, Tommy*	R										X
86	Hoezee, Brandon	UST										
	Taylor, Lauren	D										
87	Albert, Thomas*	R										X
	Winters, Shawn Marie	D										X
	Calley, Julie*	R										X

Between The Lines Strongly Endorses These Statewide Candidates



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*Governor*



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*WSU Governors*

### Paul Brown & Jordan Acker

*U-M Regents*

**Vote YES Proposal 1  
MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

**Vote YES Proposal 2  
VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS**

**Vote YES Proposal 3  
PROMOTE THE VOTE**

# 4TH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Between The Lines Strongly  
Endorses These Statewide Candidates



**Gretchen Whitmer**  
*Governor*



**Garlin Gilchrist**  
*Lt. Governor*



**Debbie Stabenow**  
*U.S. Senate*



**Jocelyn Benson**  
*Secretary of State*



**Dana Nessel**  
*Attorney General*

## Sam Bagenstos

*MI Supreme Court (8 yr. term)*

## Megan Cavanagh

*MI Supreme Court (8 yr. term)*

## Judy Pritchett & Tiffany Tilley

*State Board of Education*

## Brianna Scott & Kelly Tebay

*MSU Trustees*

## Dr. Anil Kumar & Bryan Barnhill

*WSU Governors*

## Paul Brown & Jordan Acker

*U-M Regents*

**Vote YES Proposal 1**  
**MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

**Vote YES Proposal 2**  
**VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS**

**Vote YES Proposal 3**  
**PROMOTE THE VOTE**

www.MiVoterGuide.com

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## U.S. Congress

District	Candidate	Party	LGBT		Women		Envir		Labor		ANTI-	
			BTL	LAHR	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV
4	Hilliard, Jerry	D										
	Moolenaar, John	R		--								X

## State Senate

24	Rossman-McKinney, Kelly	D		++								
	Nepton, Kate	L										
	Barrett, Tom	R									x	x
32	Phelps, Phil	D										
	Horn, Ken	R										x
33	Bignell, Mark	D										
	Outman, Rick	R									x	x
	Comden, Christopher	UST										
35	Taillard, Mike	D										
	Coon, Timothy	L										
	VanderWall, Curt	R										x
36	Weir, Joe	D										
	Stamas, Jim	R										x

## State Representatives

70	Train, Kresta	D										
	Laurain, Robin	G										
	Lower, James*	R									x	x
85	Sabin, Eric	D										
	Frederick, Ben*	R										x
93	Levey, Dawn	D										
	Palmer, Tyler	L										
	Filler, Graham	R										x
94	Adams, Dave	D										
	Wakeman, Rodney	R									x	x
95	Guerra, Vanessa*	D										
	Tanner, Dorothy	R										
97	Young-Wenkel, Celia	D										
	Wentworth, Jason*	R										x
98	Schulz, Sarah	D										
	Glenn, Annette	R									x	x
99	Brown, Kristen	D										
	Hauck, Roger*	R										x
102	Adams, Dion	D										
	Hoitenga, Michele*	R										x
103	Schaiberger, Tim	D										
	Rendon, Daire*	R										x

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# 5TH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**Between The Lines Strongly Endorses These Statewide Candidates**

## U.S. Congress

District	Candidate	Party	LGBT		Women		Envir		Labor		ANTI-	X	X
			BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW			
5	Goodwin, Kathy	WC											
	Kildee, Dan	D	█				█		█	█			
	Wines, Travis	R											

## State Senate

District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MIRTL
14	Watson, Renee	D				█	█			█		
	Smith, Jessica	G										
	Johnson, Ruth	R										
27	Ananich, Jim	D	█	█		█	█	█	█	█		
	Kekesis, Donna	R										
31	Luczak, Cynthia	D					█			█		x
	Daley, Kevin	R									x	x
32	Phelps, Phil	D	█	█		█	█	█	█	█		
	Horn, Ken	R										x
36	Weir, Joe	D								█		
	Stamas, Jim	R										x

## State Representatives

District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MIRTL
34	Neeley, Sheldon*	D	█		█	█	█	█	█	█		
	Swift, Henry	R										
48	Kennedy, Sheryl	D	█		█	█	█		█	█		
	Hardwick, Allen	R										
49	Cherry, John	D	█	█		█	█		█	█		
	Duvendek, Patrick	R										
50	Sneller, Tim*	D	█	█		█	█	█	█	█		
	Fisher, Trace	R										x
51	Lossing, David	D	█			█	█		█	█		
	Mueller, Mike	R										x
84	Shoop, William	D				█						
	Green, Phil	R										x
94	Adams, Dave	D							█	█		
	Wakeman, Rodney	R									x	x
95	Guerra, Vanessa*	D	█	█		█	█	█	█	█		
	Tanner, Dorothy	R										
96	Elder, Brian	D	█	█			█	█	█	█		
	Kowalski, Susan Kay	R										
97	Young-Wenkel, Celia	D				█			█	█		
	Wentworth, Jason*	R										x
98	Schulz, Sarah	D	█	█					█	█		
	Glenn, Annette	R									x	x
106	Greene, Lora	D	█	█		█				█		
	Allor, Sue*	R									x	x



**Gretchen Whitmer**

*Governor*



**Garlin Gilchrist**

*Lt. Governor*



**Debbie Stabenow**

*U.S. Senate*



**Jocelyn Benson**

*Secretary of State*



**Dana Nessel**

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### Judy Pritchett & Tiffany Tilley

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*MSU Trustees*

### Dr. Anil Kumar & Bryan Barnhill

*WSU Governors*

### Paul Brown & Jordan Acker

*U-M Regents*

**Vote YES Proposal 1  
MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

**Vote YES Proposal 2  
VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS**

**Vote YES Proposal 3  
PROMOTE THE VOTE**

# 6TH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Between The Lines Strongly  
Endorses These Statewide Candidates



**Gretchen Whitmer**

*Governor*



**Garlin Gilchrist**

*Lt. Governor*



**Debbie Stabenow**

*U.S. Senate*



**Jocelyn Benson**

*Secretary of State*



**Dana Nessel**

*Attorney General*

## Sam Bagenstos

*MI Supreme Court (8 yr. term)*

## Megan Cavanagh

*MI Supreme Court (8 yr. term)*

## Judy Pritchett & Tiffany Tilley

*State Board of Education*

## Brianna Scott & Kelly Tebay

*MSU Trustees*

## Dr. Anil Kumar & Bryan Barnhill

*WSU Governors*

## Paul Brown & Jordan Acker

*U-M Regents*

**Vote YES Proposal 1**  
**MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

**Vote YES Proposal 2**  
**VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS**

**Vote YES Proposal 3**  
**PROMOTE THE VOTE**

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## U.S. Congress

District	Candidate	Party	Endorsements													
			BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MICV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MIRTL				
6	Longjohn, Matt	D	█			█	█			█					X	X
	Upton, Fred	R														X
	Young, Stephen J.	UST														

## State Senate

20	McCann, Sean	D	█	█		█	█	█	█	█						
	Wenke, Lorence	L														
	O'Brien, Margaret	R														X
21	Haight, Ian	D	█	█		█	█									
	LaSata, Kim	R														X
26	Lewis, Garnet	D	█	█	█	█	█				█					
	Always, Robert	G														
	Haas, Erwin	L														
	Newsbitt, Aric	R												█		

## State Representatives

59	Smith, Dennis	D	█	█		█					█					
	Miller, Aaron*	R														X
60	Hoadley, Jon*	D	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█						
	Baker, William	R												█		
61	Griffin, Alberta	D	█	█	█	█	█	█			█					
	Iden, Brandt*	R														X
63	Aniano, Jennifer	D	█	█		█				█	█					
	La Pietra, John Anthony	G														
	Hawkins, Ronald	L														
66	Hall, Matt	R												█	█	
	Seibert, Dan	D								█						
72	Griffin, Beth*	R												█	█	
	Draayer, Ron	D									█					
78	Johnson, Steven*	R												█	█	
	Hill, Dean	D				█										
79	Paquette, Brad	R														
	Andrews, Joey	D	█	█		█	█				█					
80	Wendzel, Pauline	R														X
	Ludwig, Mark	D	█	█												
	Whiteford, Mary*	R														X

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# 7TH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**Between The Lines Strongly Endorses These Statewide Candidates**

## U.S. Congress



District	Candidate	Party	BTL	LAHR	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MI RTL
7	Driskell, Gretchen	D	Red	++		Orange	Yellow	Green		Blue	Dark Blue		X
	Walberg, Tim	R											X

## State Senate

16	Toops, Val Cochran	D											
	Muszynski, Ronald	L											
	Shirkey, Mike	R										X	X
17	LaVoy, Bill	D	Red		Orange						Dark Blue		
	McNamara, Chad	L											
	Zorn, Dale	R							Green				X
18	Irwin, Jeff	D	Red		Orange		Yellow	Green		Blue	Dark Blue		
	Church, Martin	R										X	
22	Dreher, Adam	D	Red		Orange		Yellow	Green		Blue			
	Borregard, Eric	G											
	Theis, Lana	R										X	X
24	Rossmann-McKinney, Kelly	D	Red	++	Orange	Orange	Yellow				Dark Blue		
	Nepton, Kate	L											
	Barrett, Tom	R										X	X
	Shepard, Matthew	UST											

## State Representatives

17	LaVoy, Michelle	D	Red		Orange			Green		Blue	Dark Blue		
	Bellino, Joseph*	R										X	
52	Lasinski, Donna*	D	Red		Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Blue	Dark Blue		
	Aiuto, Teri	R											X
55	Warren, Rebekah	D	Red		Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Blue	Dark Blue		
	Baird, Bob	R											
56	Whiteside, Ernie	D					Yellow	Green					
	Sheppard, Jason*	R											X
57	Pedersen, Amber	D	Red		Orange		Yellow	Green			Dark Blue		
	Kahle, Bronna*	R											X
58	Barnes, Tamara	D											
	Leutheuser, Eric*	R											X
64	Troxel, Sheila	D	Red		Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green		Blue			
	Peterson, Norman	L											
65	Alexander, Julie*	R										X	X
	McKinnon, Terri	D	Red	++	Orange		Yellow	Green		Blue	Dark Blue		
71	Rees, Jason	L											
	Lightner, Sarah	R											X
71	Witwer, Angela	D	Red	+	Orange	Orange	Yellow	Green	Green	Blue	Dark Blue		
	Barnes, Christine	R										X	X



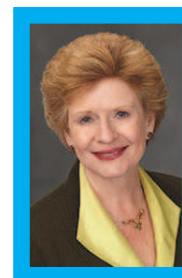
**Gretchen Whitmer**

*Governor*



**Garlin Gilchrist**

*Lt. Governor*



**Debbie Stabenow**

*U.S. Senate*



**Jocelyn Benson**

*Secretary of State*



**Dana Nessel**

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*MSU Trustees*

### Dr. Anil Kumar & Bryan Barnhill

*WSU Governors*

### Paul Brown & Jordan Acker

*U-M Regents*

**Vote YES Proposal 1  
MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

**Vote YES Proposal 2  
VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS**

**Vote YES Proposal 3  
PROMOTE THE VOTE**

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# 8TH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Between The Lines Strongly  
Endorses These Statewide Candidates



**Gretchen Whitmer**  
*Governor*



**Garlin Gilchrist**  
*Lt. Governor*



**Debbie Stabenow**  
*U.S. Senate*



**Jocelyn Benson**  
*Secretary of State*



**Dana Nessel**  
*Attorney General*

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*WSU Governors*

## Paul Brown & Jordan Acker

*U-M Regents*

**Vote YES Proposal 1**  
**MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

**Vote YES Proposal 2**  
**VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS**

**Vote YES Proposal 3**  
**PROMOTE THE VOTE**

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## U.S. Congress

District	Candidate	Party	LGBT		Women		Envir		Labor		ANTI-	
			BTL	LAHR	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV
8	Bishop, Mike	R										x
	Ellison, Brian	LIB										
	Lillis, David J.	UST										
	Slotkin, Elissa	D	+	+								

## State Senate

12	Bayer, Rosemary	D										
	Pittel, Jeff	L										
	McCready, Michael D.	R										x
13	McMorrow, Mallory	D										
	Knollenberg, Marty	R										x
14	Watson, Renee	D										
	Smith, Jessica	G										
	Johnson, Ruth	R										
22	Dreher, Adam	D										
	Borregard, Eric	G										
23	Theis, Lana	R										x
	Hertel, Curtis	D										x
	Pollock, Andrea	R										
24	Rossman-McKinney, Kelly	D										
	Nepton, Kate	L										
	Barrett, Tom	R										
	Shepard, Matthew	UST										

## State Representatives

42	Shand, Mona	D										
	Bollin, Ann	R										x
43	Breadon, Nicole	D										x
	Schroeder, Andrea	R										x
44	Dodd, Laura	D										
	Maddock, Matt	R										x
45	Cooper, Kyle	D										
	Webber, Michael	R										x
46	Denninger, Mindy	D										
	Reilly, John*	R										x
47	Turk, Colleen	D										
	Vaupel, Henry*	R										x
51	Lossing, David	D										
	Mueller, Mike	R										x
67	Hope, Kara	D										
	Clark, Leon	R										x
68	Anthony, Sarah	D										
	Hernandez, Rosalinda	R										
69	Brixie, Julie	D										
	Moreau, Zachary	L										x
	Nastas, George	R										x

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# 9TH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**Between The Lines Strongly Endorses These Statewide Candidates**

## U.S. Congress

District	Candidate	Party	LGBT		Women		Envir		Labor		ANTI-	
			BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MIRTL
9	Stearns, Candius	R									X	X
	Levin, Andy	D	█			█	█		█	█		
	Kirby, Andrea	WC										
	McDermott, John V.	GRN										

## State Senate

8	Francis, Paul	D								█		
	Lucido, Peter	R						█			X	X
9	Wojno, Paul	D	█	█	█	█	█			█		
	Bonnell, Jeff	R										
10	Yanez, Henry	D	█	█	█	█	█	█	█			
	Saliba, Mike	L										
	MacDonald, Michael	R										X
11	Moss, Jeremy	D	█	█		█	█	█	█	█		
	Young, James	L										
	Tuman, Boris	R										
12	Bayer, Rosemary	D	█	█	█	█				█		
	Pittel, Jeff	L										
	McCready, Michael D.	R										X
13	McMorrow, Mallory	D	█	█	█	█	█	█	█			
	Knollenberg, Marty	R										X

## State Representatives

18	Hertel, Kevin	D	█	█		█	█		█			
	McKee, Kyle	R										
22	Chirkun, John	D	█	█		█	█	█	█			
	Kuehnel, Matt	L										
24	Blundell, Arthur	R										
	Winn, Laura	D			█	█				█		
25	Marino, Steve	R										X
	Shannon, Nate	D	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
26	Early, Jazmine	R									X	X
	Ellison, Jim	D	█			█	█	█	█			
27	Gui, Al	R										
	Wittenberg, Robert	D	█			█	█	█	█	█		
	Carr, Benjamin	L										
28	Flessland, Janet	R										
	Stone, Lori	D	█	█		█	█			█		
30	Manier, Ryan	L										
	Delikta, Aaron	R										
31	Spica, John	D							█			
	Farrington, Diana	R										X
35	Sowerby, William	D	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
	Valerio-Nowc, Lisa	R									X	X
40	Harris Bolden, Kyra	D	█	█		█	█			█		
	Alfonsetti III, Theodore	R									X	
41	Manoogian, Mari	D	█	█	█	█	█	█	█			
	Wolkinson, David	R										X
41	Kuppa, Padma	D	█		█	█	█	█	█			
	Tietz, Doug	R									X	X



**Gretchen Whitmer**

*Governor*

**Garlin Gilchrist**

*Lt. Governor*



**Debbie Stabenow**

*U.S. Senate*

**Jocelyn Benson**

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*WSU Governors*

### Paul Brown & Jordan Acker

*U-M Regents*

**Vote YES Proposal 1  
MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

**Vote YES Proposal 2  
VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS**

**Vote YES Proposal 3  
PROMOTE THE VOTE**

# 10TH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Between The Lines Strongly  
Endorses These Statewide Candidates



**Gretchen Whitmer**  
*Governor*



**Garlin Gilchrist**  
*Lt. Governor*



**Debbie Stabenow**  
*U.S. Senate*



**Jocelyn Benson**  
*Secretary of State*



**Dana Nessel**  
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## Dr. Anil Kumar & Bryan Barnhill

*WSU Governors*

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*U-M Regents*

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**MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION**

**Vote YES Proposal 2**  
**VOTERS NOT POLITICIANS**

**Vote YES Proposal 3**  
**PROMOTE THE VOTE**

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## U.S. Congress

District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MI RTL
10	Mitchell, Paul	R										X
	Bizon, Kimberly	D										X
	Mikkelson, Harley	GRN										

## State Senate

8	Francis, Paul	D										
	Lucido, Peter	R									X	X
10	Yanez, Henry	D										
	Saliba, Mike	L										
	MacDonald, Michael	R										X
25	Bourgois, Debbie	D										
	Lauwers, Dan	R										X
31	Luczak, Cynthia	D										X
	Daley, Kevin	R									X	X

## State Representatives

24	Winn, Laura	D										
	Marino, Steve*	R										X
25	Shannon, Nate	D										
	Early, Jazmine	R									X	X
30	Spica, John	D										
	Farrington, Diana*	R										X
32	Manley, Paul	D										
	Hornberger, Pamela*	R									X	X
33	Geralds, Andrea	D										
	Yaroch, Jeff	R										X
36	Murphy, Robert	D										
	Dryke, Benjamin	L										
	Wozniak, Douglas	R										X
81	Rivard, Joshua	D										
	Eisen, Gary R.	R										X
82	Giles, Christopher	D										
	Howell, Gary*	R										X
83	Brown, Stefanie	D										
	Hernandez, Shane*	R									X	X
84	Shoop, William	D										
	Green, Phil	R										X

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# 11TH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**Between The Lines Strongly Endorses These Statewide Candidates**

## U.S. Congress



District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MI RTL
11	Epstein, Lena	R										x
	Stevens, Haley	D	Red		Orange	Yellow	Green			Blue		
	Schwartz, Leonard	LIB										

## State Senate

7	Polehanki, Dayna	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue					
	LeBlanc, Joseph	L										
	Cox, Laura	R										x
11	Moss, Jeremy	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue					
	Young, James	L										
	Tuman, Boris	R										
12	Bayer, Rosemary	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green				Blue		
	Pittel, Jeff	L										
	McCreedy, Michael D.	R										x
13	McMorrow, Mallory	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue					
	Knollenberg, Marty	R										x
	Watson, Renee	D				Yellow	Green			Blue		
14	Smith, Jessica	G										
	Johnson, Ruth	R										
	Pulver, Julia	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green				Blue		
15	Runestad, Jim	R									x	x

## State Representatives

11	Jones, Jewell*	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue					
	Townsend, James	R										
19	Pohutsky, Laurie	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green						
	Meakin, Brian	R										x
20	Koleszar, Matt	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue					
	Noble, Jeff*	R									x	x
21	Pagan, Kristy*	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue					
	Moore, Darian	R									x	x
29	Carter, Brenda	D	Red	Orange	Yellow							
	Carrier, Timothy	R										
37	Greig, Christine*	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue					
	Swoboda, Mitch	R										
38	Breen, Kelly	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green		Blue				
	Wright, Brian	L										
39	Crawford, Kathy*	R										x
	Suidan, Jennifer	D										
40	Croff, Anthony	L										
	Berman, Ryan	R										x
41	Manoogian, Mari	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue					
	Wolkinson, David	R										x
43	Kuppa, Padma	D	Red		Orange	Yellow	Green	Blue				
	Tietz, Doug	R									x	x
44	Breadon, Nicole	D			Yellow							
	Schroeder, Andrea	R									x	x
45	Dodd, Laura	D	Red	Orange	Yellow	Green		Blue				
	Maddock, Matt	R									x	x
45	Cooper, Kyle	D						Blue				
	Webber, Michael*	R										x



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*Governor*



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# 12TH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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						X	X		
LGBT		Women		Envir		Labor		ANTI-	

## U.S. Congress

District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MI RTL
12	Jones, Jeff	R										
	Dingell, Debbie	D										
	Walkowicz, Gary	WC										

## State Senate

1	Montie, Pauline	R										
	Chang, Stephanie	D										
	Bullock, David	G										
3	Santana, Sylvia	D										
	Stecker, Kathy	R										
	McEachern, Hali	WC										
4	Bullock, Marshall	D										
	Savino, Angela	R										
5	Alexander, Betty Jean	D										
	Wilkins, DeShawn	R										
	Betts, Larry	WC										
6	Geiss, Erika	D										
	Jones, Brenda	R										
18	Irwin, Jeff	D										
	Church, Martin	R									X	
22	Dreher, Adam	D										
	Borregard, Eric	G										
	Theis, Lana	R										

## State Representatives

9	Whitsett, Karen	D										
	Stephens, James	R										
12	Garza, Alex	D										
	Bailey, Michelle	R										
13	Liberati, Frank*	D										
	Spencer, Annie	R										
14	Clemente, Cara*	D										
	Stasik, Darrell	R										
15	Hammoud, Abdullah*	D										
	Mitchell, Doug	R										
17	LaVoy, Michelle	D										
	Bellino, Joseph*	R									X	
21	Pagan, Kristy*	D										
	Moore, Darian	R									X	X
23	Camilleri, Darrin*	D										
	Frazier, Michael	R										
52	Lasinski, Donna*	D										
	Aiuto, Teri	R										X
53	Rabhi, Yousef*	D										
	Holland, Jean	R										
54	Peterson, Ronnie*	D										
	Campbell, Colton	R										
55	Warren, Rebekah	D										
	Baird, Bob	R									X	X

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# 13TH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

## U.S. Congress



District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MI RTL
13	Johnson, Sam	R										
	Tlaib, Rashida	D	Red		Orange		Green			Blue		
	Wilcoxon, D. Etta	WC										

## State Senate

District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MI RTL
1	Montie, Pauline	R										
	Chang, Stephanie	D	Red	Orange	Yellow		Green		Blue	Blue		
	Bullock, David	G										
2	Hollier, Adam	D	Red	Orange		Yellow	Green		Blue	Blue		
	Papas, Lisa	R										
3	Santana, Sylvia	D	Red	Orange	Yellow		Green		Blue	Blue		
	Stecker, Kathy	R										
	McEachern, Hali	WC										
4	Bullock, Marshall	D								Blue		
	Savino, Angela	R										
5	Alexander, Betty Jean	D										
	Wilkins, DeShawn	R										
	Betts, Larry	WC										
6	Geiss, Erika	D	Red	Orange	Yellow		Green		Blue	Blue		
	Jones, Brenda	R										
7	Polehanki, Dayna	D	Red	Orange	Yellow		Green		Blue	Blue		
	LeBlanc, Joseph	L										
	Cox, Laura	R										X

## State Representatives

District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MI RTL
2	Tate, Joseph	D				Yellow	Green			Blue		
	Palffy, John	R										
3	Byrd, Wendell*	D	Red			Yellow		Green	Blue	Blue		
	Brodersen, Dolores	R										
4	Robinson, Isaac	D					Green			Blue		
	Weathington, Howard	R									X	
5	Johnson, Cynthia A.	D				Yellow						
	Patterson, Dorothy	R										
6	Carter, Tyrone	D				Yellow	Green					
	Sawyer, Linda	R										
7	Garrett, LaTanya	D					Green		Blue	Blue		
	Turner, Marcelis	R										
8	Gay-Dagnogo, Sherry*	D	Red		Orange	Yellow	Green		Blue	Blue		
	Parker, Valerie	R										
9	Whitsett, Karen	D				Yellow			Blue	Blue		
	Stephens, James	R										
10	Love, Leslie*	D	Red			Yellow			Blue	Blue		
	Morgan, Jeremy	L										
11	Brang, William	R										
	Jones, Jewell*	D	Red	Orange		Yellow		Green	Blue	Blue		
12	Townsend, James	R										
	Garza, Alex	D	Red	Orange		Yellow	Green		Blue	Blue		
13	Bailey, Michelle	R										
	Liberati, Frank*	D	Red	Orange		Yellow		Green	Blue	Blue		
14	Spencer, Annie	R										
	Clemente, Cara*	D	Red	Orange				Green	Blue	Blue		
16	Stasik, Darrell	R										
	Coleman, Kevin	D				Yellow						
	Rice-White, Jody	R										

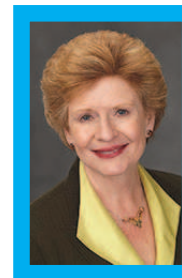
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# 14TH U.S. CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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*Lt. Governor*



**Debbie Stabenow**  
*U.S. Senate*



**Jocelyn Benson**  
*Secretary of State*



**Dana Nessel**  
*Attorney General*

## Sam Bagenstos

*MI Supreme Court (8 yr. term)*

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## U.S. Congress



District	Candidate	Party	BTL	EQMI	WOMEN	PP	Sierra	MLCV	AFL-CIO	UAW	CTV	MI RTL
14	Herschfus, Marc	R										
	Lawrence, Brenda	D	█			█	█		█	█		
	Kolody, Philip	LIB										

## State Senate

1	Chang, Stephanie	D	█	█	█	█	█	█	█			
	Bullock, David	G										
	Montie, Pauline	R										
2	Hollier, Adam	D	█	█		█	█		█	█		
	Papas, Lisa	R										
3	Santana, Sylvia	D	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
	Stecker, Kathy	R										
	McEachern, Hali	WC										
4	Bullock, Marshall	D								█		
	Savino, Angela	R										
5	Alexander, Betty Jean	D										
	Wilkins, DeShawn	R										
	Betts, Larry	WC										
11	Moss, Jeremy	D	█	█		█	█	█	█	█		
	Young, James	L										
	Tuman, Boris	R										
12	Bayer, Rosemary	D	█	█	█	█	█			█		
	Pittel, Jeff	L										
	McCready, Michael D.	R										█
15	Pulver, Julia	D	█	█	█	█	█			█		
	Runestad, Jim	R									█	█

## State Representatives

1	Yancey, Tenisha*	D	█		█	█	█	█	█	█		
	Creswell, Gregory	L									█	
	Corcoran, Mark	R										
2	Tate, Joseph	D				█	█			█		
	Palffy, John	R										
3	Byrd, Wendell*	D	█			█		█	█	█		
	Broderson, Dolores	R										
4	Robinson, Isaac	D				█				█		
	Weathington, Howard	R									█	
5	Johnson, Cynthia A.	D				█						
	Patterson, Dorothy	R										
6	Carter, Tyrone	D				█	█					
	Sawyer, Linda	R										
7	Garrett, LaTanya	D					█		█	█		
	Turner, Marcellis	R										
8	Gay-Dagnogo, Sherry*	D	█		█	█	█	█	█	█		
	Parker, Valerie	R										
10	Love, Leslie*	D	█			█			█	█		
	Morgan, Jeremy	L										
27	Brang, William	R										
	Wittenberg, Robert*	D	█			█	█	█	█	█		
29	Carr, Benjamin	L										
	Flessland, Janet	R										
35	Carter, Brenda	D	█	█	█	█						
	Carrier, Timothy	R										
37	Harris Bolden, Kyra	D	█	█		█	█			█		
	Alfonsetti III, Theodore	R									█	
39	Greig, Christine*	D	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
	Swoboda, Mitch	R										
40	Suidan, Jennifer	D										
	Croff, Anthony	L										
	Berman, Ryan	R										█
40	Manoogian, Mari*	D	█	█	█	█	█	█	█	█		
	Wolkinson, David	R										█





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Photos courtesy of Kathy Griffin

# A Star Is Reborn

## Kathy Griffin Talks Trump (Obviously), Gaga, Aretha, Madonna and More

BY CHRIS AZZOPARDI

**K**athy Griffin's priorities shifted after, well, you know. The head. More precisely: a gory replica of President Trump's own head made from a ketchup-dosed Halloween mask that Griffin holds in the infamous pic that spread like an online wildfire in May 2017.

It caused a stir – and then it caused Griffin's career to take a major hit. Promoters pulled the plug on already-scheduled tour stops, CNN cut her from her annual televised New Year's Eve stint with Anderson Cooper (who publicly sided with CNN), and Griffin says she experienced a thorough investigation by the Secret Service, organized by Trump.

Griffin was sure she wouldn't tour again – or do much of anything. But after organizing

a mailing list for fans who essentially helped route her "Laugh Your Head Off" tour, she traveled around the globe, stopping at cities in the U.K., Australia, Mexico and the United States this year.

Looking back during our recent interview, Griffin recalled the responsibility she felt to tour and acknowledged being a different kind of artist now, one with a harrowing story of her own to tell. (Talking about the "Real Housewives of Dallas" might be less pressing for you, too, if the Secret Service was in your business.)

But during this breathless 35-minute-long interview, the comedic spitfire didn't just take on Trump – she delightedly got back to her frivolous pre-head-pic roots, dishing on Hollywood star stories like eating Lady Gaga's

chicken eggs, the awards show competition for Best Aretha Franklin Tribute and the hilarious text from Cher she received that fateful May day.

### What's this about a potential New Year's Eve special with Stormy Daniels?

I am so bummed. Every single show, when I say I have been pitching "New Year's Live with Kathy Griffin and Stormy Daniels," the audience spontaneously bursts into applause and not one buyer will go for it. I've had, like, five meetings and what happens is the creative team loves it and then they kick it upstairs to the check signer and the check signer is inevitably a 65-year-old white guy who's never been a fan of mine and then they just shut it down before I can even finish

the pitch. (Laughs) I still think it's a damn winning idea. And once again I think I'm... wait for it... *ahead* of my time.

### No, Anderson Cooper probably won't call her ever again

I don't think he's that kind of guy. In my experience with him he's, like, not the kind of guy that would pick up the phone. He's like (CNN president) Jeff Zucker; those two don't roll like that (laughs). They are powerful white men, one gay, one straight. But at the end of the day I'm still a woman and I'm still a click down, a rung down on the ladder compared to a man, gay, straight, white or of color. But you know me, I'm still trying to get up that ladder one broken rung at a time, dammit.

## INFO

### Kathy Griffin

'Laugh Your Head Off' tour  
8 p.m. Oct. 26  
Fisher Theatre  
3011 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit  
broadwayindetroit.com

#### Fan love made performing this year's post-controversy shows "beyond special"

It's sort of a miracle – and I'm not a religious person. I love walking the audience through the process because, like I said, it has actually a historic footprint. After starting the tour in Auckland, New Zealand, and going everywhere, I got to come back to my own country of origin. I was able to work again, and prior to that I could not get one day of paid work. And you know, the story keeps growing. Like, I'm just gonna be honest – and I hope this doesn't scare readers – but the show is three hours because more crazy shit kept happening.

#### "A different kind of artist"

There are some cities I know I can't play now, and I may never be able to play again. Like, I don't know if I can ever play a casino again. Ever. If I can use the word "artist" without sounding like a total asshole, I am a completely different kind of artist than I was before the photo. I was considered completely toxic in Hollywood and unhirable. And putting me into the Harvey Levin TMZ machine and the AMI David Pecker machine, and then putting hit pieces on me, constantly, that I have lupus or that I'm a bald – in other words making me unhirable by putting out shit like that. The idea that they all coordinated with the actual White House is so insane that my own representatives couldn't wrap their brains around it. I had to figure out a whole new business model.

#### Feeling "a sense of responsibility" to tour

It's bizarre but it's almost like America has to forgive me. I don't like saying that because I didn't do anything wrong – the picture was totally covered by the First Amendment. I do feel, honestly, a responsibility to go city to city and say to people, "If you threw this picture up on Twitter tomorrow, or god forbid your 13-year-old kid did, they should not have to be subject to being decimated by the president and the Department of Justice putting them under a two-month investigation, being put on the no-fly list, then the Interpol list, being detained at every airport and spending hundreds of thousands in legal fees." So, I felt a sense of responsibility that I've never felt before.

#### Putting pop culture on hold

I really feel like this is the kind of material that commands what I call "the great halls." I've always loved doing stand-up and talking

about the Housewives, and I'll always love talking about pop culture, but for this particular tour, this is a real story, it's got an arc, and there's a lot of meat on the bone. And there are parts of it that people really didn't know about. I talk about being detained in airports.

Live Nation was running the show. I ended up not using them anymore, but they had the show going into March and they were just spreading it out, sending me wherever. I was like, "Guys" – and I mean guys, like all old white guys – "I'm not the same Kathy Griffin from "Suddenly Susan" and "My Life on the D-List" to, like, a fifth of America... to a fifth of America I'm a high-ranking member of ISIS! It's gonna take a minute! I gotta correct the record here in a very different way! (Laughs) Even though it kills me to do it and it terrifies me, of course, to like not have any work after the (tour). (Griffin is self-financing a special based on the tour.)

#### Is political commentary a comedian's responsibility?

I kind of think it's our duty. I mean, I'm 57. I was little in the 60s, but it's a little bit of a 60s mentality, which is (that) comedians, I think, have always been on the forefront of social commentary, as have all artists. So it still hurts to this day – if you research the comedians who stuck up for me, it's little to none. To this day, I have not had an advocate.

#### How comedy has changed in the Trump era

When I did say in my horrible press conference, "If this can happen to me, it can happen to you," that is the one thing I stand by. During the "W" years, I was very much against the war, but I still went to Iraq and performed because you could do that; you could be saying things that were liberal, but you could also go and support the troops. Now everything is so dumbed down.

I will tell you something a little chilling: I'm not gonna name their names, but three of the most famous comedians in the world called me and said, "We're all watching you." I'm like, "What do you mean?" speaking to unnamed person much more famous than I. And all three of them said, "We saw what happened to you and we don't fucking want that to happen to us." And I would say, "Well, then you need to speak up about it," and that's where I lost them. I still think a lot of comics don't get it. It's gonna be somebody else next. It's probably gonna be a beloved comedian because I'm an easy target. I'm already divisive and shit.

#### Trump is dying to know what Kathy has said during these shows about him, right?

Oh, absolutely. It's like all those years I used to make fun of Oprah and then over the years I would just meet people from Harpo who would all say, "We all watch your specials and we all go to your shows." When I was invited to the freakin' White House Correspondents

See **Kathy**, continued on p. 36

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### ► Kathy

Continued from p. 35

Dinner, oh my god, it was a dream come true. I was scared shitless to go because I thought, Oh god, it's a room full of enemies. But I had so much fun getting in fights with cabinet members because (laughs) they were there and they just couldn't escape me and I was invited and it was heaven. And you know Brian Kilmeade, that piece of shit from "Fox & Friends"? So, he wanted a selfie! I go, "I did not see that coming, Nazi." Obviously, normally, I would take one - I had a lot of friends calling him a Nazi *and* telling him to "fuck off" while in an Oscar de la Renta ball gown.

#### But how about Lady Gaga in "A Star Is Born"?

This is one of those topics that I call "gay untouchable," meaning I haven't seen the film yet and yet I'm afraid to say that. If I do see it and I have one criticism, I'm afraid to say it. Like as an ally I believe there is a law that I have to love this movie. And as a gay man sight unseen I already want it to win Best Picture. Based on the commercial, that there's even a moment when Lady Gaga acts like she's not sure if she's a good singer - that's why she should win the Academy Awards. I've met Lady Gaga. She gave me eggs. I went to see Tony Bennett and Gaga and I had never met Lady Gaga before and I was like, "What? How did these two gay guys never meet?" So I got in touch with her team and said, "Can I come back stage and say hi?" and it was really sweet. She had brought a present for me and then she brought a present for Tony as if she wasn't seeing him every night that year. It was this beautiful wrapped box of eggs, and she gives me a box of eggs and I'm super excited because I can't help it. And Tony's like, "What are these?" And I'm trying to explain to Tony, "Oh my god, you got eggs from Lady Gaga - is this epic or what?" And he's like, "What, toots? I just did 17 duets with her; can I get more than eggs?" I, of course, was very excited and I made a Gaga omelette.

#### ... and Taylor Swift finally addressing her political views

Guess what? I'm now pro-Swiftie. Hear me out, hear me out. By the way, I don't mean as a singer - she's not a very good singer. But, like, whatever. Nobody sings anymore. But there are two reasons I am pro-Swiftie. No. 1: I think it's so cool that when that asshole DJ grabbed her ass in the photo she went to a Colorado courtroom with almost no press and sat there for four days and won that case for women everywhere. Having done meet-and-greets for decades, and I know I'm Granny and she's Taylor Swift, but guys do that - guys grab my ass and guys grab my tits because they think it's funny. You know what, props to her - and really big props because I think that because she has country roots she will pay a price. I love that she's got more people to register (to

vote). But as someone who has paid prices, yeah, she's probably getting a lot of country hate right now.

#### Aretha Franklin wearing different dresses for each new day of her funeral service

Fabulous, necessary. Knew how to do it, always did. But here's what I love: I love that now that she's gone we can actually enjoy her deliciously bitchy moments. I love the people who are putting up all of these clips of her, like, not suffering fools. I'm sure you've seen the one where they're like, "What do you think of Auto-Tune?" and she's like, "What's that?" It's like, as if her voice wasn't good enough. But I also am fascinated by - you know there's a competition of tributes? There's been three major award shows with tributes and now they're trying to out-tribute each other. There was an AMAs tribute, there was a BET tribute. They're gonna keep doing them until they fucking get it right. Like, it wouldn't surprise me if four years from now there was another Aretha tribute... which I'm also all for.

#### And, uh, what did Kathy think of Madonna's tribute to Aretha?

OK, hold on. I'm gonna give you a gay smack down right now, you son of a bitch. You young baby-gays stay away from her! Don't you dare judge. She's fucking 60 and let me tell you: Hollywood has been trying to age me out of the system since I was 40. They've been trying to put me out to pasture and I refuse to moo. Madonna has done so much for the community and, honestly, for women as well, and also she's legit talented. She really did turn into a beauty icon as well. They gave her shit about being "chubby" so then she got anorexic and muscly and then it was never enough and now she's like a fucking Olympic athlete at 60. Having been told 1,000 times how ugly and old I am, it probably just fucking got to her and she thought, "All right, I'll get some fillers." And, yes, I personally would prefer she'd tone it down with the fillers, but I'm gonna give her a pass. She gets what I call the "Liza Pass."

#### Cher helicoptering onto the set of "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again" like the queen she is

I mean, what else would you expect? She's probably helicoptering into her mansion right now. I have not been in the helicopter, but I can tell you the day of the Trump photo when the world caved in, Cher made me laugh so hard because she texted one line: (impersonates Cher) "You wanted to be famous, bitch!"

As editor of Q Syndicate, the international LGBTQ wire service, Chris Azzopardi has interviewed a multitude of superstars, including Meryl Streep, Mariah Carey and Beyoncé. Reach him via his website at [www.chris-azzopardi.com](http://www.chris-azzopardi.com) and on Twitter (@chrisazzopardi).



## HALLOWEEN SPOOKTACULAR

Halloween Party, October 27th, 8pm-11pm, Montage Grill  
Tickets: \$30 by October 21st, \$40 after October 21st

Join us for a spooktacular time at this year's Halloween Party at the Montage Grill in Clawson! Admission price includes a taco bar, unlimited soda, music, and prizes for best costume.

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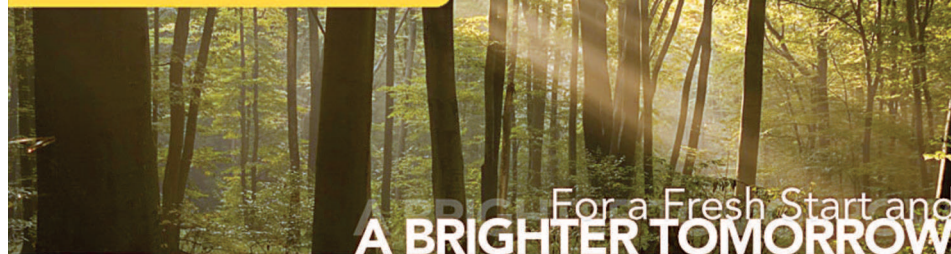
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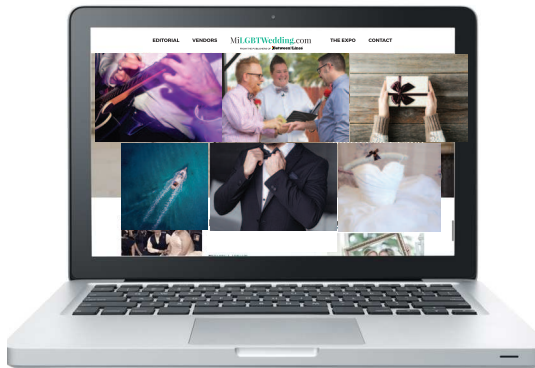
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# Snap Judgment at Royal Oak Music Theatre

BY BTL STAFF

On Friday, Oct. 26, fans of all forms of storytelling can mark their calendars to see Snap Judgment LIVE. Hosted by Detroit's own Glynn Washington, the show has been running on NPR stations for five years now and is available in podcast form. Each hour-long episode is heard weekly on nearly 400 radio stations nationally and downloaded more than 2 million times a month. The radio program features a unique collection of tales from every walk of life, and live is no different.

"Snap delivers a raw, intimate, musical brand of narrative — daring audiences to see the world through the eyes of another. Snap Judgment LIVE features the world's finest storytellers, on stage, backed by (the) Snap Judgment band," said event organizers. "We ask Snap storytellers to dig deep, and marvel as they create



magic. Snap Judgment crafts powerful multi-platform experiences (radio, stage, screen, web) that deliver raw, intimate narratives — giving audiences a glimpse into the lives of a stranger."

Tickets for the all ages-friendly show start at \$39.50. More information can be found online at [royaloakmusictheatre.com](http://royaloakmusictheatre.com).

# New Poll Shows Haley Stevens with 10-Point Lead in Race

BY BTL STAFF

BIRMINGHAM, Michigan – New polling conducted by ALG Research shows Haley Stevens has expanded her lead in the Michigan 11th congressional race. With less than three weeks until Election Day, Stevens, 44 percent, now holds a 10-point lead over former Trump Campaign Co-Chair Lena Epstein, 34 percent, with 16 percent of voters undecided. Conducted October 10 through 14, the poll shows Stevens ahead by an all-time high margin, doubling her lead since ALG's October 4 poll.

Stevens' 10-point lead also doubles

the generic party ballot advantage for Democrats, where a Democrat leads a Republican by 5 percent — 46 to 41 percent. President Donald Trump's favorability remains stuck underwater at 46 to 51 percent, with a significant 45 percent polled viewing him "very unfavorably."

"Michiganders know that Haley Stevens — the Chief of Staff to President Obama's Auto Rescue — has always fought for Michigan and always will," said Blake McCarren, communications director for Haley Stevens for Congress. "Her relentless focus on Michigan's advanced manufacturing economy and making

healthcare more affordable resonates with voters, while former Trump campaign co-chair Lena Epstein's blind support for Donald Trump tarnishes her image with Michiganders."

The new polling follows Haley Stevens recent record-setting third quarter fundraising number of \$1.96 million, four times what Lena Epstein was able to bring in over the same time period.

More detail about the poll can be found here <https://haleystevensforcongress.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/mi-cd-11-track-3-memo.pdf>

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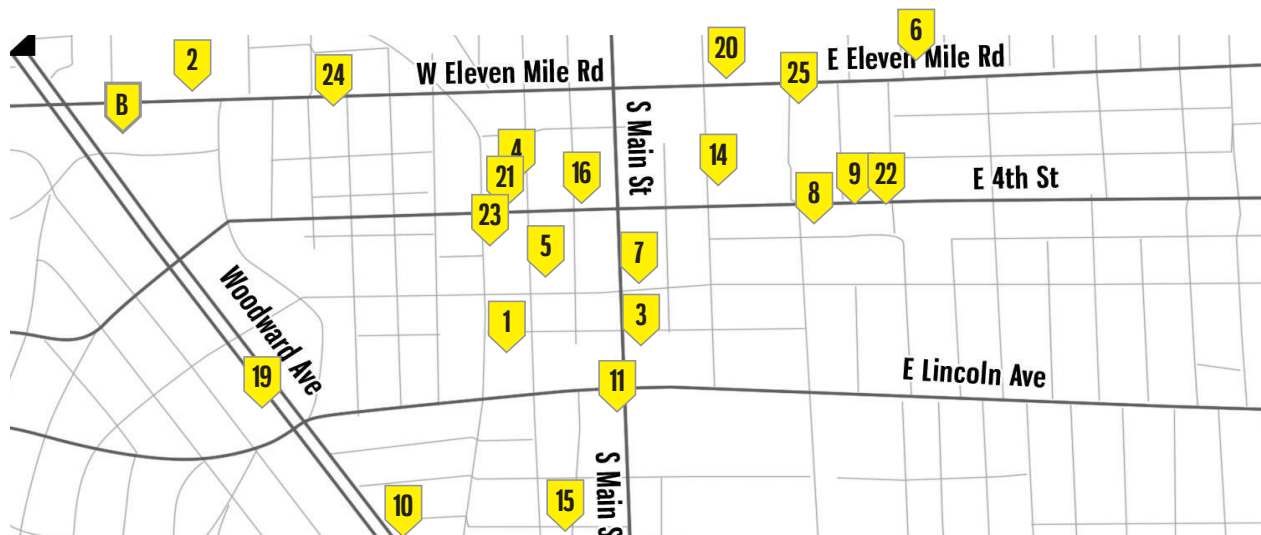
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# Hazel, Ravines and Downtown Owners Support Workforce

## BY BTL STAFF

**BIRMINGHAM, Mich.** – Restaurateurs Beth Hussey and Emmele Herrold have not yet opened the doors to the anticipated, new Birmingham restaurant and market Hazel, Ravines and Downtown, but Eater Detroit reports that they are pushing for an end-of-October opening date. In the meantime, hiring has begun and the owners are in the hiring process and they hope to do things differently than many restaurants: put employees first.

“We’re breaking the mold that is so typical in this industry,” said Hussey, owner and operator at Hazel, Ravines and Downtown. “Working in restaurants typically means working long hours, late nights and on every holiday.”

Located at 34977 Woodward Ave. Ste 100, Hazel, Ravines and Downtown earned its name from three neighborhoods that converge at this exact downtown Birmingham location.



The women-owned establishment is focused on a come-as-you-are casual fine dining aesthetic. Though it’s common for restaurant employees to spend 60 to 70 hours at work every week

without having more than one day off at a time, the owners say that won’t be the case at their brand-new restaurant.

“We’re placing our employees’ quality of life

above all else,” said Herrold, co-owner and executive chef.

Herrold and Hussey are taking an important step as they develop their HRD team.

“All salaried employees will be expected to work a 40-hour work week,” said Hussey. “In the event that we need them for any hours beyond 40, they will be compensated.”

Herrold added: “I truly believe any job can be completed in 40 hours a week.”

By hiring additional staff and supporting their employees, Herrold and Hussey aim to make this model a new reality in the industry. They will cover the cost of insurance for all management personnel and likely offer it to employees.

“We’re doing something unconventional in our industry; we are providing a work-life balance for our team,” said Hussey.

*To stay updated or inquire about job openings at HRD.Kitchen.*

# Queer-Friendly Halloween Celebrations



BY DREW HOWARD

There's no Halloween like a Halloween with drag queens, burlesque shows and friendly LGBTQ company. With the season kicking into high gear this weekend, our team at BTL has organized a list of queer-friendly Halloween celebrations that are sure to be a fabulous time.

## Homophobia is such a Drag!

Where: SOHO Ferndale - 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale  
When: Saturday, Oct. 20 at 10 p.m.  
Details: "Join us as we party for a cause and support the wonderful work that Ruth Ellis Center does for our community. Homophobia is Such a Drag will feature a costume contest (\$300 grand prize), drink specials, gift raffle and more. In the spirit of Halloween, costumes or drag looks are encouraged."

## Rocky Horror After Party

Where: Necto Nightclub - 516 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor  
When: Saturday, Oct. 20, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Details: "Join us as we celebrate the 2nd annual presentation of the Rocky Horror Picture Show at the Michigan Theater! Enjoy great Rocky Horror drink specials with all the crazy glitz and glamour at Ann Arbor's best nightclub in town. \$5 for guaranteed general admission after the show or \$15 to skip the line!"

## DLP Presents Zombie Prom

Where: Spiral-DanceBar - 1247 Center St., Lansing  
When: Saturday, Oct. 20, 9 p.m. to 2 a.m.  
Details: "Dress in your fanciest prom wear and then splatter it with blood, because we're ready to get messy. Enjoy music in the main room from our resident DJ

Klees and drag performances throughout the night featuring Asio Aviance and Caj Monet. We'll have gogos on the bar, shot boys, performances and a costume contest, with a \$100 prize package for the best dressed! Make sure you find our Snapchat geofilter while you're here!"

## SuicideGirls: Blackheart Burlesque

Where: The Majestic - 4120-4140 Woodward Ave., Detroit  
When: Thursday, Oct. 25 from 9 to 11 p.m.  
Details: "The SuicideGirls: Blackheart Burlesque is unlike any other burlesque act you've ever seen, filled with pop culture references, a high-energy indie soundtrack and the sexiest choreography that will make your inner nerd explode with glee. Choreographed by one of their very own - you can see 'Star Wars,' 'Rick and Morty,' 'Stranger Things,' 'Sailor Moon' and more!"

## "For Saints and Sinners"

Where: Ant Hall - 2320 Caniff Ave., Hamtramck  
When: Friday, Oct. 26 at 12 p.m.  
Details: "Willa Rae & the Minor Arcana cordially invite you to a night of worldly pleasures and auditory luxuriance ... Including live DJs, burlesque, arial and a chance to confess your sins, so start accumulating them. All souls require costume for admission."

## Pride Halloween 2018

Where: Necto Nightclub - 516 E. Liberty St., Ann Arbor  
When: Friday, Oct. 26 from 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.  
Details: Midnight costume contest - High energy dance music from DJ Jace - Free

professional photographs - Hosted by Chanel Hunter and Jadein Black.

## Detroit School of Burlesque Halloween Anniversary Party

Where: Detroit School of Burlesque - 483 W. Marshall St., Ferndale  
When: Friday, Oct. 26 from 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.  
Details: "Join us to celebrate the one year anniversary of the Detroit School of Burlesque Grand Opening! Enjoy catered hors d'oeuvres and cocktails, photos in front of our Halloween backdrop, one night only luxe showgirl and class discounts, champagne toast, raffles, games and prizes for the best costume!"

## Ta-Boo Halloween Party!

Where: CLUB TABU - 3208 S Martin Luther King Jr Blvd, Lansing

When: Friday, Oct. 26 from 10 a.m. - 4 a.m.  
Details: "It's time for another epic CLUB TABU bash, and there's no better holiday than Halloween to do so! For our naughty little peeps that cum dressed in a costume

of sorts, and couples that are dressed in a theme, admission is only \$10. Single's admission is \$20. Couples that are not dressed cost \$35."

## Hallo-Weenie: Dia De Los Muertos

Where: The Dunes Resort - 333 Blue Star Hwy, Douglas  
When: Friday, Oct. 26 at 9 p.m. - Sunday, October 28 at 9 p.m.  
Details: Dia De Los Muertos (Day of the Dead) Theme - Resident DJ Doug Robers - Costume Contests (Best Drag, Best Group, Best Overall) - Karaoke - Bobby on the Piano.

## Halloween Costume Contest -

Where: Apartment Lounge - 33 Sheldon Ave. NE, Grand Rapids  
When: Saturday, Oct. 27 from 9 p.m. - 12 a.m.  
Details: "It's our annual Halloween party! Come down in your best Halloween costume and enter to win cash prizes. All contestants must be present and entered in the contest by 11 p.m."

## The Addams Family Halloween Party (Spiral - Lansing)

Where: Spiral-DanceBar - 1247 St.,

Lansing  
When: Saturday, Oct. 27 from 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.

Details: "They're creepy and they're kooky, mysterious and spooky ... This Halloween, we're paying tribute to everyone's favorite ghoulish TV family 'The Addams Family!' Enter our costume contest and you'll have a chance at \$200 for first place or \$100 for second place. Dance to the sounds of DJ Sizi and enjoy drag performances on the main stage. We'll also have sexy gogos on the bar, a photo booth, custom Snapchat filter, hot shot boys and a special Halloween drink menu."

## Menjo's Halloween Contest

Where: Menjos Entertainment Complex - 928 W McNichols Road, Detroit  
When: Saturday, Oct. 27, 9 p.m. to 4 a.m.  
Details: "It's that one night of the year that you can be a 300-pound bear in a pink tutu w/ tuna cans for earrings and nobody bats an eye. Yes spooks, kooks and queens, the gay high hold day is upon us and tonight we will be throwing cold hard cash (\$250 bucks).

Just sign up with our gracious hostess for the contest and enjoy the evening festivities including seasonal treats, plus the Olympics patio will be open for this event featuring seasonal spiced shots and Oktoberfest beer specials throughout the night!"

## Halloween Night - Sloppy Seconds Halloween Costume Contest

Where: Menjos Entertainment Complex - 928 W McNichols Road, Detroit  
When: Wednesday, Oct. 31, 9 p.m. - 2 a.m.  
Details: "You've put a ton of work into your costumes, you cleaned Michael's and Jo-Ann's out of glitter, felt, feathers and gold anything and your costume still didn't win shit ... well here's your shot at redemption. We invite you to cash in on our Annual Sloppy Seconds Halloween Costume Contest featuring a special guest hostess, seasonal drink & specials all night long with a special Halloween-themed after party over at the Eagle."

## Birthday Bash & Halloween Party

Where: Affirmations - 290 W 9 Mile Road, Ferndale  
When: Friday, Nov. 2 from 6 - 9 p.m.  
Details: "Celebrating Transgender Michigan's 21st Anniversary, Halloween and Rachel Crandall's upcoming birthday (presents cheerfully accepted). Karaoke with DJ Megan. No cover charge, but donations to Transgender Michigan are





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# Happenings



## Ofrendas: Celebrating el Día de Muertos at the DIA

From Wednesday, Oct. 31 through Friday, Nov. 2 millions of people celebrate the Day of the Dead. Now at the DIA, attendees can learn more about the holiday that coincides with Halloween by visiting an exhibition of ofrenda altars that honor those who have passed. The exhibit is free with museum admission and lasts now through Nov. 11. More information can be found online at [dia.org](http://dia.org) or by calling 313-833-7900.

## OUTINGS

### Thursday, October 25

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Farmington Hills – Oakland County** 7 p.m. All youth are welcome to attend this free group. Orchard United Methodist Church.

**Toastmasters International SpeakOUT! LGBTQ Meeting** 7 p.m. Professional & personal communication skills development. Jim Toy Community Center, 319 Braun Court, Ann Arbor. 734-995-9867. [lawrencemoeb@gmail.com](mailto:lawrencemoeb@gmail.com). [speakout.toastmastersclubs.org](http://speakout.toastmastersclubs.org).

### Saturday, October 27

**MCCDetroit – Halloween Spooktacular!** 8 p.m. Admission price includes a taco

bar, unlimited soda, music and prizes for best costume! MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. [mccdetroit.org](http://mccdetroit.org).

### Friday, November 2

**Transgender Michigan Birthday Bash and Halloween Party** 6 p.m. This dual celebration is for both Transgender Michigan's 20th Anniversary and celebrating the birthday of Transgender Michigan Co-Founder Rachel Crandall-Crocker. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [transgendermichigan.org/events](http://transgendermichigan.org/events).

### Sunday, November 4

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Adrian-Lenawee County** 6:30 p.m. Free. For

parents of transgender kids. Contact facilitator Socorro Sevilla, MSW: [socorro@hilltopcounseling.org](mailto:socorro@hilltopcounseling.org). Hilltop Counseling, 115 W. Maumee St., Adrian. 313-909-5408. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org). [hilltopcounseling.org](http://hilltopcounseling.org).

### Tuesday, November 6

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Lake Orion / Oakland County** 7 p.m. Free. For parents of transgender kids. Parent Support Group Facilitated by Lisa Goyette, ally, activist. St. Mary's In The Hills Episcopal Church, 2512 Joslyn Court, Lake Orion. 248-391-0663. [stmarysinthehills.org](http://stmarysinthehills.org). [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### Thursday, November 8

**Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of**



## Editor's Pick

### 'Evil Dead: The Musical' Returns for 10th Season at City Theatre

Based on the 1980s cult classic films of Sam Raimi, "Evil Dead: The Musical" is a comedy that focuses on the story of a boy and his friends who take a weekend vacation to an abandoned cabin. All seems normal at first, until mayhem begins. Running now through Oct. 27, this event will be held at the City Theatre in Detroit, located at 2301 Woodward Ave. Tickets start at \$38.50. Go online to [313presents.com](http://313presents.com) for information or call 313-471-3465.

**Commerce Merge & Mixer** 6:30 p.m. Michigan Employee Resource Groups for Equality (MERGE) Monthly Networking Event. All welcome. RSVP Required. Soho, 205 W. 9 Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-542-7646. [info@detroitlgbtchamber.com](mailto:info@detroitlgbtchamber.com). [ferndalesoho.com](http://ferndalesoho.com). [detroitlgbtchamber.com](http://detroitlgbtchamber.com).

**Laura Love in Concert** 7 p.m. Laura Love, award-winning "folk-funk" artist/activist/author returns to the stage. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023. [office@uuf Flint.org](mailto:office@uuf Flint.org). [uuf Flint.org](http://uuf Flint.org).

### Saturday, November 10

**Transgender and Thriving with Rev. Dr. Justin Tanis** 10 a.m. We will explore spiritual health and wellbeing for our communities. Affirmations, 290 W. Nine Mile Road, Ferndale. 248-398-7105. [goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org).

### Sunday, November 11

**MCCDetroit – Spiritual Gifts of the Trans Community** 11:30 a.m. MCCDetroit offers as part of their Trans Witness sermon series, Rev. Dr. Justin Tanis will share his journey to spiritual wellness and help us explore how we can help to preserve the lives of the transgender community. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. [mccdetroit.org](http://mccdetroit.org).

### Monday, November 12

**Stand with Trans 2018 Support Groups – Macomb County** 6:30 p.m. Macomb Teen/Youth Support Group: All youth welcome. Free. Dakota High School, 21051 21 Mile Road, Macomb. 586-723-2700. [chippewavalley.schools.org](http://chippewavalley.schools.org).

### Tuesday, November 13

**Conversation Station** 5 p.m. LGBTQI 25 and over, join GOAL each week for discussion, food and fun. Topic: "What are your pet peeves?" Please RSVP via e-mail or call 248-981-4227. Jimis Restaurant & Banquet Center, 714 S. Washington St., Royal Oak. 248-981-4227.

### Wednesday, November 14

**Stand with Trans Youth Support Group – Flint – Genesee** 6:30 p.m. Free. Facilitator Sara Griffin, MA, LPC is a psychotherapist and a parent of a transgender son, [eiregriff@aol.com](mailto:eiregriff@aol.com). Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023. [uuf Flint.org](http://uuf Flint.org). [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### Saturday, November 17

**Unicorn Feed and Supply's First Annual Mermaid Party** 8 p.m. A mermaid-themed costume party in downtown Ypsilanti. Join us for an "mermazing" evening with Ypsi's own performers Maxi Chanel and Luna Legare, with DJ Jamie. Bona Sera, 200 West Michigan Ave, Yps. [info@unicornfeedsupply.com](mailto:info@unicornfeedsupply.com). [unicornfeedsupply.com](http://unicornfeedsupply.com).

### Sunday, November 18

**MCCDetroit – Transgender Day of Remembrance** 11:30 a.m. Char Davenport, Navy Veteran and transgender activist, will help acknowledge, remember and honor all who have been victims of violence. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. [mccdetroit.org](http://mccdetroit.org).

### Tuesday, November 20

**GenderSpark Transgender Day of**

**Remembrance Event** 6 p.m. GenderSpark is taking an empowering approach to this year's homage to Transgender Day of Remembrance. As members of the Trans community and the people who love them. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. [mccdetroit.org](http://mccdetroit.org).

### Wednesday, November 21

**Stand with Trans Support Groups – Livonia – Wayne County** 6:30 p.m. Free. Parent Support Group Facilitators Karen Sessler, [ksessler@yahoo.com](mailto:ksessler@yahoo.com) or 734-673-3590 and Scott Sessler, [pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org](mailto:pastorscott@emmanuel-livonia.org) or 734-673-2485. Emmanuel Lutheran Church, 34567 7 Mile Road, Livonia. [standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org).

### Sunday, November 25

**MCCDetroit – 30th Anniversary World AIDS Day** 11:30 a.m. Special service to commemorate those who have and continue to be impacted by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. After service there will be a screening of the important documentary 'It's Not Over'. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. [mccdetroit.org](http://mccdetroit.org).

## MUSIC & MORE

**Half Truths – A Book Discussion Facilitated by Michael Hart** October 25, 7 p.m. Join us for a rich discussion of Rev. Adam. Hamilton's examination of simple phrases that capture some element of Biblical Truth, yet miss the point in important ways. MCC Detroit, 205 N. Main St., Clawson. 248-399-7741. [mccdetroit.org](http://mccdetroit.org).

# Editor's Pick

## 'Rocky Horror Picture Show' Viewing Experience

The Rocky Horror Preservation Society is offering a screening and full audience participation experience of the classic film. Held at the State Wayne Theatre, attendees are encouraged to throw, yell and do the time warp. Admission cost is \$10. More information can be found online at michiganrhps.com or by emailing michiganrhps@gmail.com. Performances are held the second and fourth Saturday of every month from 11:15 p.m. to 2:30 a.m.



**Dianne Reeves and Christian McBride Duo** October 26, 8 p.m. Dianne Reeves is one of the pre-eminent jazz vocalists in the world today. Award winning jazz bassist Christian McBride has become Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

**Spartan Spectacular – College of Music** October 28, 3 p.m. A musical experience for the entire family. The program features a surround-sound performance by the Spartan Marching Band and more. Great Cobb Hall, 750 E. West Shaw Lane, East Lansing. wharton@msu.edu. whartoncenter.com.

**All Souls/Day of the Dead gathering** 6 p.m. An interfaith gathering to remember and honor those who have passed—through music, a meal and ceremony. Vegetarian stew and tea provided; bring a dish to pass if you like. Bring a photo or memento. Open Episcopal Church of the Incarnation, 3257 Lohr Road, Ann Arbor. 734-546-0243.

**Personal Medicine: Becoming Active Agents in Our Own Recovery** October 30, 7:30 p.m. Jerry Fouchey, MA, CADC will discuss how conditions common to early addiction recovery can be effectively managed through St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

**Czech Philharmonic at Cobb Great Hall** 7:30 p.m. Led by renowned conductor Semyon Bychkov, the orchestra will perform a full evening of Dvořák. Great Cobb Hall, 750 East West Shaw Lane, East Lansing. wharton@msu.edu. whartoncenter.com.

**Cirque de la Symphonie** November 2, 10:45 a.m. Back by popular demand, it's Cirque de la Symphonie! Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

**Laura Love in Concert** November 8, 7 p.m. Laura Love, award winning "folk-funk" artist/activist/author returns to the stage. Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Flint, 2474 S. Ballenger Hwy, Flint. 810-232-4023. office@uuf Flint.org. uuf Flint.org.

**Emanuel Ax Plays Beethoven** November 9, 10:30 a.m. Emanuel Ax performs Beethoven's youthful First Piano Concerto, while Cristian Măcelaru conducts "Play" by Andrew Norman. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

**Ann Arbor's Storytellers Guild Presents 'Storyfest!'** 7:30 p.m. Premier storytelling event for adults 14 and older. Features "Moth" winners, door prizes, great snacks and free parking. Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 1400 W. Stadium Blvd., Ann Arbor. 734-662-4419. annarborstorytelling.org.

**Well-Intentioned White People by Rachel Lynett** November 9, 8 p.m. Well-Intentioned White People explores how "good intentions" can sometimes be just as problematic. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. 313-967-0599. info@matrixtheatre.org. matrixtheatre.org.

**Saline Antiques Market** November 11, 9 a.m. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor. 734-761-2796. salinemarket@gmail.com. foodgatherers.org. salineantiquesmarket.com.

**Storyfest Family Fun Concert** November 11, 2 p.m. For children ages 4 and up by the Ann Arbor Storyteller's Guild. Stories and fun for all, with a beautiful, homemade quilt to one lucky winner. Pittsfield Branch, Ann Arbor Library, 2359 Oak Valley Drive, Ann Arbor. 734-327-4200. annarborstorytelling.org.

**Tchaikovsky Symphony No. 4** November 16, 10:45 a.m. John Storgårds conducts Tchaikovsky's Fourth Symphony, and Pekka Kuusisto plays Daniel Bjarnarsson's new Violin Concerto. Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

**Unicorn Feed and Supply's First Annual Mermaid Party** November 17, 8 p.m. A mermaid themed costume party in downtown Ypsilanti. Join us for an "mermazing" evening with Ypsi's own performers Maxi Chanel and Luna Legare, with DJ Jamie Register. Bona Sera, 200 West Michigan Ave, Yps. info@unicornfeedsupply.com. unicornfeedsupply.com.

**DSO Presents The Vienna Boys Choir!** November 25, 7 p.m. Christmas in Vienna showcases these gifted musicians with Orchestra Hall, 3711 Woodward Ave., Detroit. 313-576-5111. dso.org.

**An Introduction To Cultivating Mindfulness to Support Recovery** November 27, 7:30 p.m. Define mindfulness, research supporting mindfulness' benefit, and how mindfulness supports recovery from substance addiction. Free. St. Joseph Mercy Hospital Education Center

Auditorium, 5305 Elliott Drive, Ypsilanti. 734-485-8725. dawnfarm.org.

## ART 'N' AROUND

**Michigan Depression Glass Society Show and Sale** November 3, 10 a.m. Enjoy one of the nation's best all-American made glass shows with makers such as Fostoria, Heisey and Fenton. Dearborn Ford Community & Performing Arts, 15801 Michigan Ave., Dearborn. 313-943-2350. dearbornfordcenter.com. michigandepressionglass.com.

**Saline Antiques Market** November 11, 9 a.m. Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds, 5055 Ann Arbor-Saline Road, Ann Arbor. 734-761-2796. salinemarket@gmail.com. foodgatherers.org. salineantiquesmarket.com.

## THEATER

**THE STONE WITCH by Shem Bitterman Michigan Premiere** Through November 11, 8 p.m. Peter Chandler, a starving artist with his own literary aspirations, is hired to help "The Great Man" finish his overdue book, an unlikely friendship ensues, secrets are revealed, and more. Theatre NOVA, 410 W. Huron, Ann Arbor. 734-635-8450. A2TheatreNOVA@gmail.com.

**A2CT Presents Arsenic and Old Lace** October 25, 7:30 p.m. Ann Arbor Civic Theatre is proud to present "Arsenic and Old Lace" by Joseph Kesselring, directed by Alex Duncan. Arthur Miller Theatre, 1226 Murfin Ave., Ann Arbor. 734-764-2538. smtd.umich.edu.

**Theatre and Dance at Wayne Presents 'As You Like It'** October 26, 8 p.m. One of Shakespeare's most hilariously subversive comedies, "As You Like It" is set in present day in the Appalachians, and this reimagining is directed by Lavinia Hart. Hilberry Theatre, 4743 Cass Ave., Detroit. 313-577-2972. theatredanceatwayne.com.

**Well-Intentioned White People by Rachel Lynett** November 9, 8 p.m. Explores how "good intentions" can sometimes be just as problematic. Matrix Theatre Company, 2730 Bagley St., Detroit. 313-967-0599 info@matrixtheatre.org. matrixtheatre.org.

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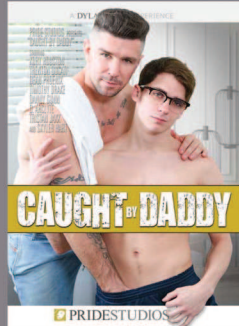
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# Deep Inside Hollywood

BY ROMEO SAN VICENTE

## Will Rosie Rivet audiences on 'The Talk'?

Well, Julie Chen is, of course, out at "The Talk" thanks to horrible husband troubles. But who'll take over for her? It seems like every woman in Hollywood in need of work (aka most of them) is hungry for her shot, but it's looking more and more – and possibly even a done deal by the time you read this – like venerable daytime talk diva Rosie O'Donnell is primed to warm up that chair. She recently guested and that's clearly an "audition" of sorts, and historically she's a verifiable ratings boost because you never know what she'll say or with whom she'll enter a verbal showdown (and we love her for that), so this just looks like a win/win to us. Some of you may miss her '90s "Queen of Nice," but in these times of social and political strife, we're looking for a Battle Lesbian who'll come in, kick ass, and take names. That's Rosie.



Julie Chen. Photo: KathClick

## Janelle and Tessa will cute up 'Lady and the Tramp'

Disney's "Lady and the Tramp" remake is in production and this good news just made us bark for joy: "Hidden Figures" and "Moonlight" star Janelle Monáe will voice the role of Peg, the dog pound-bound friend of Lady, who is being played by Monáe's close friend Tessa Thompson ("Thor: Ragnarok"). Both women came out as queer fairly recently and oh, how we ship them so hard to be more than just friends, but we'll settle for them being canine besties in Disney's upcoming remake. Peg, as you may remember, is the dog who sang "He's a Tramp," and in the 1955 original she was the doggie incarnation of sultry-voiced singer Peggy Lee, so we're excited to see what Monáe does with the part. Meanwhile Justin Theroux

is the voice of Tramp, and the supporting voice cast includes Thomas Mann, Kiersey Clemons, Benedict Wong, Ashley Jensen and Yvette Nicole Brown. Look for this one to help launch Disney's home streaming service sometime near Christmas of 2019.

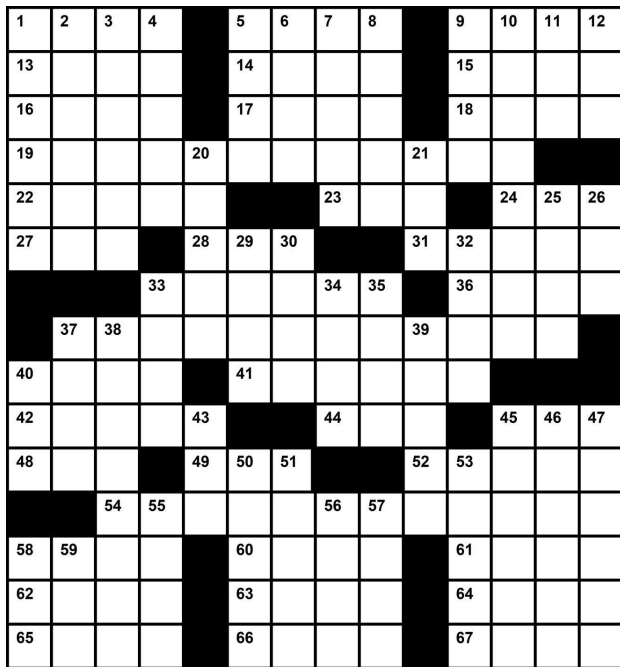
## 'Project Runway' forever?

It seems like just moments ago that Heidi Klum and Tim Gunn jumped the "Project Runway" ship for their new unnamed Amazon fashion series. But Bravo has decided there's still juice to be squeezed from the formerly very popular reality competition, and is going to re-launch the show (taking it back from its current network Lifetime) with model Karlie Kloss and "Runway" alum (as well as Season 4 winner) Christian Siriano as host and mentor, respectively. They'll be joined by returning judge Nina Garcia, designer Brandon Maxwell and former "Teen Vogue" editor-in-chief Elaine Welteroth. We will love it if this all goes well and the original magic can be rekindled with fresh blood, because we were big fans back in those early Siriano days. But if the recent non-starting "American Idol" reboot is any indication of audience demand, there may be cause for concern about who asked for this.

## Queer superheroes everywhere

"Doom Patrol" has its last major cast member in place. Matt Bomer has been signed to play Negative Man, opposite Brendan Fraser's Robotman, in the upcoming DC Comics live-action drama from Greg Berlanti about a group of X-Men-esque misfit superheroes. But in case you think this is some copycat action, understand that "Doom Patrol" has been around for more than 50 years, taking on oddball villains and going on bizarre adventures in comic book form. Once the show goes into full production, the final product will be part of the DC Universe digital platform. Meanwhile, coming to movie theaters is Academy Award nominee Rosie Perez as lesbian character Renee Montoya opposite Margot Robbie's Harley Quinn in "Birds of Prey." Perez's character is a detective who trades in her badge for a costumed identity as The Question and will be joined on screen by Jurnee Smollett-Bell as Black Canary, and Mary Elizabeth Winstead as Huntress. Have you guessed that this one is about an all-female world of heroes and villains? Well, it is, and it's what happens when enough people buy tickets to "Wonder Woman" and money begins to talk. Look for it to land in theaters in early 2020.

Romeo San Vicente loves both negative and positive men



- 27 TLC specialists  
 28 Sci-fi role for Rene Auberjonois  
 31 "Puppy Love" singer Osmond  
 33 Mauresmo of the courts  
 36 Kitchen foray  
 37 Kids' TV show that features 19-Across  
 40 Emulated Greg Louganis  
 41 Homes near polar bears, perhaps  
 42 Planning meeting input  
 44 Bambi character that wasn't horny?  
 45 Pro \_\_\_ (acting)  
 48 Billy Budd, for one  
 49 Bring to bear  
 52 Close call  
 54 Writer who modeled 19-Across after his relationship with Arnold Glassman  
 58 Worked up  
 60 Arthur of the AIDS Quilt  
 61 Magi origin  
 62 Former New York leather bar  
 63 Woolen caps  
 64 1963 movie role for Liz  
 65 Encouraging words  
 66 Bette Davis feature of song  
 67 "Cabaret"'s "Mein \_\_\_"
- Down**
- 1 Bounce from the Eagle?  
 2 To the rear, when cruising  
 3 Women who date men who date men  
 4 Brief brawl  
 5 Shocking word, at the time, from
- GWTW  
 6 Surrounded by  
 7 Bernstein's staff members  
 8 Elroy Jetson stroked him  
 9 "\_\_\_ fan tutte"  
 10 Fruit fly feelers  
 11 Apt name for a cook  
 12 Title for T. Baldwin  
 20 Emanation from Feniger's kitchen  
 21 Show agreement  
 25 Body of soldiers  
 26 Site of Gay Games VI (abbr.)  
 29 Moore of "Striptease"  
 30 Jackie's designer  
 32 Rock group?  
 33 On an Olivia cruise  
 34 Lesbos, for one  
 35 Thames college  
 37 Ingredient in highballs  
 38 From here to eternity  
 39 Friar's affair  
 40 Short one  
 43 Kerouac's "Big \_\_\_"  
 45 Some like it hot  
 46 Rubber for your mistakes  
 47 Wise counselor  
 50 Imitate Dick Button  
 51 James Baldwin piece, e.g.  
 53 Navratilova, by birth  
 55 Many a moon  
 56 Quaint sigh  
 57 More, to a minimalist  
 58 Home st. of Harper Lee  
 59 Pearce of Priscilla fame

## Puppet Love

## QPuzzle

### Across

- 1 Small quantities of lube, e.g.  
 5 Delany of "Desperate Housewives"  
 9 "A Boy Named Sue" singer Johnny  
 13 Fortune-teller's opening  
 14 Famous cookie maker

- 15 Atop  
 16 Pronto, in the OR  
 17 Fly catcher  
 18 Coldcock  
 19 Gay puppet pair  
 22 Passion that rhymes with "harder"  
 23 Jack of "Flower Drum Song"  
 24 Minnelli's pair, on Lesbos

Michigan's Statewide Resource For Sexual Health Information

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## AIDS/HIV

There are dozens of AIDS/HIV organizations and resources listed at [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com). Here are just three of them:

### AIDS Walk Detroit

Contact [info@aidswalkdetroit.org](mailto:info@aidswalkdetroit.org) or 248-399-9255 for more information. The walk takes place this year on Sunday, Sept. 15, 8:30 a.m. at the Royal Oak Farmers Market

### Macomb County STD Clinic

27690 Van Dyke  
Warren, MI 48093  
586-465-9217

[health.macombgov.org/  
Health-Programs-HPDC-  
HIVAIDSCounselingTesting](http://health.macombgov.org/Health-Programs-HPDC-HIVAIDSCounselingTesting)  
**Matrix Ryan White HIV/  
AIDS Program**

120 Parsons Street  
Detroit, MI 48201  
888-226-6366  
248-545-1435

[matrixhumanservices.org/  
programs/ryanwhite/](http://matrixhumanservices.org/programs/ryanwhite/)

### UNIFIED - HIV Health and Beyond

3011 W. Grand Blvd. Suite 230  
Detroit, MI 48202  
313-446-9800  
[miunified.org](http://miunified.org)  
Michigan HIV/STD Hotline  
800-872-2437

## Advocacy

### Equality Michigan

19641 W. 7 Mile, Detroit, MI  
313-537-7000  
[equalitymi.org](http://equalitymi.org)  
[Facebook.com/equalitymichigan](https://www.facebook.com/equalitymichigan)

## Campus

Currently there are 19 organizations listed as active online at [pridesource.com/yellowpages](http://pridesource.com/yellowpages). The following are some in the southeast Michigan area:

### U-M Ann Arbor

Spectrum Center  
[Spectrumcenter@umich.edu](mailto:Spectrumcenter@umich.edu)  
[spectrumcenter.umich.edu](http://spectrumcenter.umich.edu)  
734-763-4186

### Oakland University Gender & Sexuality Center

[gsc@oakland.edu](mailto:gsc@oakland.edu)  
[oakland.edu/gsc](http://oakland.edu/gsc)  
248-370-4336

### Eastern Michigan University

LGBT Resource Center

[emich.edu/lgbtrc](http://emich.edu/lgbtrc)  
734-487-4149

### The Lawrence Tech LGBT Resource Center

[ltu.edu/student\\_affairs/lgbt.asp](http://ltu.edu/student_affairs/lgbt.asp)  
**Wayne State JIGSAW**

[Facebook.com/groups/  
WayneStateJIGSAW](https://www.facebook.com/groups/WayneStateJIGSAW)  
[wsujigsaw@gmail.com](mailto:wsujigsaw@gmail.com)

## Community Centers

Michigan has nine active LGBTQ community centers, with a tenth planned in Lansing. Here are three of them.

### Jim Toy Community Center

Ann Arbor  
[jimtoycenter.org](http://jimtoycenter.org)  
[facebook.com/jimtoycenter](https://www.facebook.com/jimtoycenter)  
or follow them on Twitter @  
JimToyCenter.

319 Braun Court  
Ann Arbor, MI  
734-995-9867

### LGBT Detroit

Detroit  
[lgbtdetroit.org](http://lgbtdetroit.org)  
[facebook.com/lgbtdetroit](https://www.facebook.com/lgbtdetroit)  
@LGBTDetroit.

20025 Greenfield Road  
Detroit, MI  
Phone: 313-397-2127

### Affirmations

Ferndale  
[goaffirmations.org](http://goaffirmations.org)  
[facebook.com/Affirmations/](https://www.facebook.com/Affirmations/)  
or follow them on Twitter @  
GoAffirmations.

290 W. Nine Mile Road  
Ferndale, MI  
248-398-7105

## Legal

### American Civil Liberties Union of Michigan

Jay Kaplan, Staff Attorney, LGBT Project  
2966 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI  
[aclumich.org](http://aclumich.org)  
313-578-6800

### Fair Michigan

PO Box 6136  
Plymouth, MI 48170  
877-432-4764, 313-556-2300  
[fairmichigan.org](http://fairmichigan.org)  
[Facebook.com/fairmichigan2016](https://www.facebook.com/fairmichigan2016)

### Know Your Rights Project

Outlaws U-M student group  
[outlawslegal@gmail.com](mailto:outlawslegal@gmail.com)  
734-995-9867

## Older Adults

### SAGE Metro Detroit

290 W. Nine Mile Rd. Ferndale, MI  
313-578-6812

[sagemetrodetroit.org](http://sagemetrodetroit.org)  
Facebook: SAGE Metro Detroit

## Political

### The LGBT and Allies Caucus of the Michigan Democratic Party

[Facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP](https://www.facebook.com/TheLGBTACaucusoftheMDP)  
CaucusoftheMDP  
Stonewall for Revolution  
[facebook.com/  
stonewall4reolution](https://www.facebook.com/stonewall4reolution)

## Professional Groups

### Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce

P.O. Box 32446  
Detroit, MI 48232  
[detroitlgbtchamber.com](http://detroitlgbtchamber.com)  
1-800-DET-LGBT

### Ties Like Me

Professional networking events  
third Weds. 5:30 - 8 p.m.  
[TiesLikeMe.org](http://TiesLikeMe.org)  
Suits And The City  
Lansing, MI  
[suitsandthecity@gmail.com](mailto:suitsandthecity@gmail.com)  
[suitsandthecity.org](http://suitsandthecity.org)

## Transgender

### FtM Detroit

[https:// www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/](https://www.facebook.com/FtMDetroit/)  
[ftmdetroit@gmail.com](mailto:ftmdetroit@gmail.com).

### FtM A2 Ypsi

[ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com](mailto:ftmannarborypsilanti@gmail.com)  
[https:// www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/](https://www.facebook.com/ftma2ypsi/)

### Transgender Michigan

23211 Woodward Ave.  
Ferndale, MI  
[info@transgendermichigan.org](mailto:info@transgendermichigan.org)  
[transgendermichigan.org](http://transgendermichigan.org)  
800-842-2954

### Trans Sistās of Color Project

19641 W. 7 Mile Rd. in Detroit  
313-537-7000 Ext 107  
[info@tscopdetroit.org](mailto:info@tscopdetroit.org)  
[facebook.com/TSCOPD/](https://www.facebook.com/TSCOPD/)

## Youth

### Ruth Ellis Center

## Get Listed, Promote Your Events

You can add or update any listing by going to [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com) and clicking on Yellow Pages. Once you submit your listing, our staff will contact you to confirm your information. You can add your event to the Pride Source Calendar online and in print by going to [PrideSource.com](http://PrideSource.com) and clicking on Calendar, then "Add Event." Send any press releases and announcements to [editor@pridesource.com](mailto:editor@pridesource.com)



## Find a digital version of PrideSource Magazine online under Our LGBTQ Yellow Pages

### Find these resources online

77 Victor Street, Highland Park, MI 48203  
[info@ruthelliscenter.org](mailto:info@ruthelliscenter.org)  
Facebook: Ruth Ellis Center  
313-252-1950  
**Ozone House**  
102 N. Hamilton Street  
Ypsilanti, MI  
734-662-2265  
734-662-2222  
**Stand With Trans**  
Farmington, MI  
[standwithtrans.org](http://standwithtrans.org)  
248-739-9254

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Employee Resource Groups  
Families and Parents  
Foster Care  
Foundations and Funders  
Hotlines & Switchboards  
Labor Union  
Legal Organizations  
Museums  
Music Groups  
National Organizations  
Political Organizations  
Professional Organizations  
Religious & Spiritual  
Senior Living  
Seniors  
Social/Community Organizations  
Sports  
Substance Abuse  
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Women's Health  
Youth Services

# HRC Releases Scorecard Congress, Measures Support of LGBTQ Equality

BY BTL STAFF

WASHINGTON— Last week the Human Rights Campaign, an LGBTQ activism organization, released its Congressional Scorecard. The Scorecard measures support for LGBTQ equality in the 115th Congress — the current meeting of the legislative branch of the U.S. Members of Congress were scored based on a range of indicators of support for LGBTQ equality: votes in the Senate to confirm anti-LGBTQ cabinet officials and judicial nominees, to votes and co-sponsorships in both chambers on pieces of legislation that significantly impact LGBTQ people and their families.

“While Donald Trump and Mike Pence have spent the past two years unleashing relentless attacks on the LGBTQ community, the 115th Congress has done little to hold them accountable or pass LGBTQ equality, while doing a great deal to undermine the rights of the most vulnerable members of our community,” said HRC President Chad Griffin. “The HRC Congressional Scorecard serves as an important tool to understand where Members of Congress stand on LGBTQ equality. As we face one of the most important elections of our lifetime, HRC’s Congressional Scorecard makes clear that it is crucial for fair-minded voters turn out in force to elect a pro-equality majority to Congress.”

For the 115th Congress, 184 Democrats in the House and Senate received perfect 100 scores. In comparison, zero Republicans earned perfect scores. There was also a slight increase for the average score among House Democrats in comparison to the 114th Congress.

With 246 cosponsors, The Equality Act — critically important federal legislation that would finally add clear, comprehensive non-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people to our nation’s civil rights laws — has record support in both the House and Senate.

The Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act, International Human Rights Defense Act, Voting Rights Advancement Act, Freedom from Discrimination in Credit Act and the Juror Non-Discrimination Act/Jury ACCESS Act all also have record support in both chambers.

In addition to votes on LGBTQ-specific legislation like the deeply discriminatory Hartzler Amendment, the scorecard also includes a number of votes beyond LGBTQ-specific measures that profoundly impact LGBTQ people and their families. From votes to refuse to provide Title X family planning grant funds to Planned Parenthood — one of the largest providers of trans-competent care in the country and a vital source of healthcare for women, especially low-income women — to attempts to repeal core provisions of the Affordable Care Act, the measures scored all significantly impact the LGBTQ community.

#### Some Key Facts:

184 Members of Congress earned perfect scores (184 Democrats, 0 Republicans).

The average score for Representatives is 47.6.

Average score for Democratic Representatives is 97.6.

Average score for Republican Representatives is 5.6.

The average score for Senators is 48.7.

Average score for Democratic Senators is 94.8.

Average score for Republican Senators is 2.5.

The Northeast and West continue to elect Members of Congress with strong support of LGBTQ equality; the average score for Representatives and Senators from the Northeast was 73.8 and 89.9 respectively; in the West it was 66.0 and 53.1 respectively.

*The HRC Scorecard for the 115th Congress is available online at [hrc.org/scorecard](http://hrc.org/scorecard).*



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