

Michigan Democratic Party's LGBT & Allies Caucus

Time For Action

November 2009

Huge Win in Kalamazoo!

Election Night. Kalamazoo, MI

On November 3, 2009 at around 8:45 pm the word came out that 25% of the Kalamazoo residents turned out to vote far exceeding the usually 15% for city elections to vote a landslide 65% YES for Ordinance 1856 ending discrimination of employment, housing and public accommodation for sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. This comes after a year of the matter being put through the Democratic Process of City Hall, forums, city sub committees and full support from the seven members of the City Commission

As a resident of Kalamazoo I write this with tears of joy in my eyes. I remember in late 2007 the first meetings with Michigan Equality, ACLU and Kalamazoo GLBT and Allied leaders to begin the drafting of this document. Today 2 years later we see victory.

The city of Kalamazoo is toasting tonight, and many people after working for weeks at 16+hour days are celebrating.

Letter from Caucus Chair Phil Volk

With the March on Washington and the victory in Kalamazoo the Michigan LGBT people are activated and mobilize to fight for our full rights as American citizens. It is the Michigan Dem LGBT Caucus duty to help in this effort. We the Michigan LGBT people and the Democratic Party will work as one to end the oppression of our people in Michigan.

First I would like to thank Duane Breijak for taking over the job of Vice- Chair Treasurer. As the Caucus is a newer organization we are still defining jobs and duties. Also I want to thank University Bank of Ann Arbor for being so gay friendly and helpful in this change over.

This week end the Michigan Dem LGBT Caucus had a 2010 strategy/goal meeting. Here is the goal for 2010:

1. Congressional District Committee.
Goal to have a district committee in all



Adam Taylor

The Michigan Democratic Party is happy to see this pass and as the appointed LBGTA Caucus Kalamazoo spokesperson I state that defeat to Discrimination for GLBT or any minority population in housing, employment and public accommodation, is never discrimination, and to say otherwise only upholds the discrimination. Today we have seen what was chanted in the National Equality March in DC less than a month ago, "This is what Democracy looks like, This is what Equality looks like!"

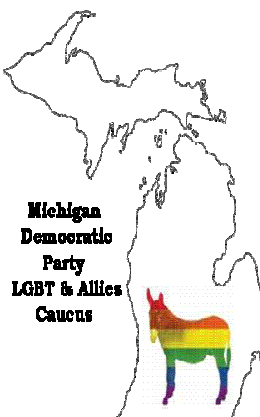
We will use this as a stepping stone for further state equality in Michigan for GLBT. Visit our website at <http://mdplgbt.org/>

If you have questions for the Caucus you can email me at adamtaylorus@yahoo.com for questions on the Ordinance contact the office of OneKalamazoo at www.onekalamazoo.com

15 congressional districts in MI. The job of these district committees is a trifold: to assisted the LGBT community in their fight for equality, to activate local action for state-wide LGBT and Democratic Party efforts and to develop a local bond between the Democratic party and the LGBT community. (Today we have 7)

2. Candidate Committee. Goal is to develop more LBGTA candidates and hold training sessions.
3. Freedom Summer (more info next newsletter)
4. City and Township LGBT Ordinances (more infor to come)

As you can see the Michigan Democratic Party LGBT and Allies Caucus has a full action pack 2010 planed for the struggle for our freedom but we need your help. If you would like to volunteer with the Caucus please e-mail us at mdplgbt@gmail.com or check out our website at www.mdplgbt.org.



8 LGBT Candidates Win on November 3

While the recent elections held mixed results LGBT legislation across the country, 8 LGBT candidates won their election bids, including TWO in Michigan.



Charles Pugh

- [1. Steve Kornell, ST. Petersburg, FL City Council \(1st gay councilmember\)](#)
- [2. Stan Penfold, Salt Lake City, Utah City Council \(1st gay councilmember\)](#)
- [3. Eric Resnick, Canton, OH Board of Education \(Canton's 1st openly gay elected official\)](#)
- [4. Mark Kleinschmidt, Chapel Hill, NC, Mayor \(openly gay\)](#)
- [5. Charles Pugh, Detroit, MI, City Council \(1st openly gay councilmember\)](#)
- [6. Sandra Kurt, Akron, OH, City Council \(1st](#)

- [openly lesbian councilmember\)](#)
- [7. James Llanas, Maplewood, MN, City Council \(1st openly gay councilmember \)](#)
- [8. Terry Kuseske, Kalamazoo, MI City Commission \(1st openly gay commissioner\)](#)

Annis Parker, running for Mayor of Houston, TX is headed to a December runoff. If Parker wins Houston will be the largest U.S. city to have an openly LGBT mayor.

Congrats to all our new representatives!

Washington Succeeds, Maine Falls Back

Washington voters approved the state's new "everything but marriage" law November 3rd, expanding rights for domestic partners and marking the first time any state's voters have approved a LGBT equality measure at the ballot box.

While full-fledged LGBT marriage is still not legal in the state, the new law grants registered domestic partners addition state rights previously given only to married couples.

The gay rights movement was dealt a painful setback with the repeal of Maine's same-sex marriage law. In the spring the Maine legislature passed a law legalizing same-sex marriage, but with a vote of 53% to 47% last Tuesday the measure was overturned. The fight continues however,

"We're in this for the long haul. For next week, and next month, and next year - until all Maine families are treated equally." said Jesse Connolly, manager of the pro-gay marriage campaign.



Terry Kuseske

Scenes from the National Equality March

The 2009 National Equality March was a great success with over 100 Michigan residents traveling with the Caucus to Washington D.C. to fight for Equality!

More pictures at www.mdplgbt.org

