

## **Michigan Democratic Party's LGBT & Allies Caucus**

**New Years letter from the Chair Phil Volk:**

**2009 was an exciting first year for the Michigan Democratic Party's LGBT Caucus. Our growth was record breaking, from starting with a small core group of LGBT activists, to now having a news update that reaches thousands of Michigan's residents. We also have established sub-committees called Congressional District LGBT Caucuses in every congressional district in Michigan, which gives the Caucus improved capability to lobby all of our congresspersons, state and local officeholders, as well as the capacity to reach every Democratic precinct delegate within the state about LGBT issues. These district sub-committees have enhanced our ability to hear the needs of the local grassroots LGBT community.**

**Our newly established Candidate Committee is being flooded with requests to endorse, support, and help develop candidate's campaign policy on LGBT issues. We will be choosing key campaigns to be imbedded in, so we can help with volunteers and fundraising. The LGBT people now have an important voice in developing the early mindset of our Democratic candidates.**

**This year we have made some great gains, made some mistakes, and had some growing pain, but you; our LGBT people and allies have been supportive through it all. Thank you very much!**

**2010 will be a base building year for the Michigan Democratic LGBT & Allies Caucus. As this is an even year we will be focused mainly on the election of pro-LGBT candidates. Other goals for this year include: a greater development of the Congressional and Candidates Committees, in addition to developing both a Fundraising and Administration Committees. We will be aiding four local communities to pass LGBT civil rights measures as well as continue lobbying for anti-bullying and second parent adoption laws in Michigan.**

**In Michigan, there is a clear political and party line difference between support and opposition on LGBT issues and the Democrat party has shown full support. It is time to hold the Republican Party responsible for their actions.**

**In past few years there was much talk at the Michigan Republican Convention of passing a state law to overturn all community measures supporting LGBT rights. In last year's Michigan Democrat Convention the LGBT Caucus helped to pass a Michigan Democrat Party resolution for total equal rights for transgender individuals and a second resolution in support of June as official 'Pride Month'. There is no choice for the Michigan LGBT people in the fight for LGBT rights, we must find and support Democratic LGBT and ally candidates and work hard for their victories.**

**2010 will be a challenging year for both the Michigan LGBT people and the Michigan Democratic Party. The Republican Party is working hard to gain seats in the State Senate, retake the State House, as well as winning back both congressman Peter and Schauer's seats and have an ultimate goal of winning the governorship back.**

**One of the Republican's main campaign issues for the 2010 election will be to stop the gays and the 'gay agenda'. If the Republican's win only half of the offices**

**they are aiming for LGBT rights legislation will not only halt but will move backwards. The state Republicans know the more they harm and/or stop the gay movement the more they become heroes to their base.**

**We all have a duty to fight for the full rights of all Michigan citizens. This will be a key year for LGBT rights in Michigan. Help the Michigan Democratic Party's LGBT Caucus in our "Fight Back Campaign" to move forward the full citizenship of the Michigan LGBT people.**

**Volunteering, donating, and finding five friends to do the same will be the only way to keep progress moving. Reach out to five friends to go to our web-site [www.mdplgbt.org](http://www.mdplgbt.org) to sign up for our Action Newsletter, donate online and/or volunteer for action.**

**In the end the Michigan Democratic LGBT Caucus is accountable only to the Michigan Democratic Party and the Michigan LGBT people. It is the Caucus's duty and responsibility to service the Michigan LGBT people to the best of our abilities Thank you for your trust in our team to represent you.**

**Caucus Chair  
Phil Volk**