

Timeline

- 1867** “Father of the LGBT Movement”
Karl-Heinrich Ulrichs is first to speak out for gay rights

- 1903** First recorded raid on gay bathhouse, in New York City; 12 men charged with sodomy

- 1924** Society for Human Rights, first gay rights organization in United States, is founded. It is shut down by police within a few months

- 1945** Veterans Benevolent Association, first LGBT veterans group, is formed

- 1952** Christine Jorgensen becomes first American to have gender reassignment surgery

- 1955** Daughters of Bilitis, first national U.S. lesbian organization, is formed

- 1958** In first case regarding LGBT rights, Supreme Court protects First Amendment rights of *ONE: The Homosexual Magazine*

- 1962** Illinois is first state to remove sodomy from criminal code

- 1966** National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations is formed

1969

Stonewall Riots in New York gain national attention for gay rights



- 1970** First Gay Liberation Day March is held in New York City; similar events are held in Los Angeles and San Francisco

- 1973** American Psychiatric Association removes “homosexuality” as a mental disorder

- 1974** Kathy Kozachenko (Ann Arbor, Mich., City Council) becomes first openly LGBT candidate to win elective office in U.S.

- 1975** Minneapolis becomes first city to pass law protecting transgender people from discrimination

1978

Rainbow flag is first used as symbol of gay pride



- 1979** First national gay rights march is held in Washington, D.C.

- 1980** David McReynolds becomes first openly LGBT person to run for President, for Socialist Party USA

- 1982** Wisconsin is first state to ban discrimination on basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations

- 1983** U.S. Representative Gerry Studds (Mass.) becomes first openly gay member of Congress

- 1986** In *Bowers v. Hardwick*, Supreme Court upholds Georgia law banning homosexual sex

- 1989** Denmark becomes first country to legalize same-gender partnerships

- 1991** First TV kiss between same-gender couple: two women on *L.A. Law*

1993

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” allows gays/lesbians to serve in the military if they remain closeted



- 1994** Deborah Batts becomes first openly LGBT federal judge

- 1996** In *Romer v. Evans*, Supreme Court says gays and lesbians have same right to be protected against discrimination as non-LGBT people

- 1996** President Clinton signs Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) into law

- 1999** California becomes first state to legalize domestic partnerships for same-gender couples

- 2000** Vermont becomes first state to legalize civil unions for same-gender couples

- 2000** President Clinton declares June Gay and Lesbian Pride Month

- 2003** In *Lawrence v. Texas*, Supreme Court overturns 1986 ruling and declares anti-sodomy laws unconstitutional



2004

Massachusetts is first state to legalize same-sex marriage

- 2007** DiversityInc requires domestic-partner benefits as a prerequisite to make DiversityInc Top 50

- 2008** Diego Sanchez becomes him first transgender staffer on Capitol Hill

- 2009** President Obama signs law making it a federal crime to assault someone because of sexual orientation or gender identity

- 2009** President Obama declares June Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Pride Month

- 2009** Respect for Marriage Act, which would repeal DOMA, introduced in Congress

- 2010** President Obama signs law ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

- 2012** Seven LGBT candidates win election into U.S. House and Senate

- 2013** Supreme Court strikes down section of DOMA that denies federal benefits to legally married same-gender couples

- 2013** Department of the Treasury announces that legal same-gender marriages will be recognized for federal tax purposes

- 2014** Department of Justice announces that legally married same-gender couples will receive equal protection in every program it administers

- 2014** National Basketball Association player Jason Collins becomes first gay athlete to play in one of the U.S.'s four major sports leagues

- 2015** Supreme Court legalizes marriage equality nationwide

- 2015** Boy Scouts of America President Robert Gates lifts ban on gay scout leaders and employees

- 2015** President Obama appoints Raffi Freedman-Gurspan, the first transgender person to work in the White House

- 2016** International Olympic Committee (IOC) no longer requires transgender athletes go under reassignment surgery to compete

- 2016** Eric Fanning is confirmed as secretary of the Army, becoming the first openly gay person to head a United States military branch

- 2016** President Obama designates the first ever monument dedicated to LGBT rights, the Stonewall National Monument

- 2017** D.C. becomes first place in U.S. where residents can choose gender "X" on their driver's license

- 2017** For the first time, a U.S. appeals court rules that federal civil rights law protects LGBT employees from discrimination in the workplace

- 2017** Danica Roem is first openly transgender person elected to Virginia's legislature; first openly transgender person elected to a state legislature in American history

- 2018** First transgender person signs a contract to join the military

- 2018** Daniela Vega becomes first openly transgender person to present at Academy Awards