



## Task Force Finds Dems Good, GOP Bad in Prez Race

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**The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force** just issued a report on the stands of presidential hopefuls on eight LGBT and AIDS issues and found the Democrats lining up on most all of them except same-sex marriage and Republicans almost uniformly opposed to their agenda. **Matt Foreman, the group's executive director, called the differences "shockingly clear and profoundly depressing."**

All the leading Democrats are listed as supporting a transgender-inclusive federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act and hate crimes law, civil unions, same-sex adoption, and HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment. They also all oppose the ban on gays in the military and the Federal Marriage Amendment. But only third-tier candidates Congressman Dennis Kucinich of Ohio and Mike Gravel, a former Alaska governor, support same-sex marriage.

Many of the positions of the Republican candidates were listed as unknown, though former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney had the distinction of being the only candidate known to oppose the entire NGLTF agenda. The survey lists Rudy Giuliani as a supporter of civil unions. He has expressed support for domestic partnerships and indeed signed a law codifying rights for them as mayor in 1998. But when New Hampshire passed a civil union law this year, Giuliani said it "went too far."

The report did not rate New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

If Bloomberg makes a run for president as an Independent, he would likely be the only leading candidate to have voiced support for opening marriage to gay couples. He announced his support on the very day in 2005 that he appealed a court decision ordering the city to start issuing licenses to same-sex couples.