

## **Analysis of presidential candidates' stance on LGBT issues**

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Our writers and editors explore issues of faith, spirituality and values - and bring you news of local religion events

**The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has released what it calls the first comprehensive analysis of where the presidential candidates stand "on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues."**

You can download the 35-page report [here](#).

On the second page is a checklist showing where the Democratic and Republican candidates stand on eight issues of key interest to the task force. Across the board, the Democrats fare much better, in the eyes of the group.

One Democrat, Dennis Kucinich, got a perfect eight out of eight on the issues. Other Democrats, including front-runners Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Barack Obama, got seven out of eight.

Among Republicans, Mitt Romney scored a "zero" on the task force's checklist. Only one Republican had the "right" position, from the task force's perspective, on more than one of the eight issues. That was Rudy Giuliani, whose position the task force endorsed on two of the eight issues.

Matt Foreman, executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, said: "The differences between the Democratic and Republican fields of candidates on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues are shockingly stark and profoundly depressing. ... The public statements and voting records of the Democratic candidates show that they are clearly light years ahead of the Republicans on almost every issue important to the LGBT community."

Read the NGLTF news release [below](#).

National Gay and Lesbian Task Force releases first comprehensive analysis of 2008 presidential candidates' positions on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues

Report details Democrats' support of and Republicans' opposition to lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender rights

WASHINGTON, June 27 — The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Inc., today released the first comprehensive analysis of the top 19 candidates for the 2008 presidency on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) issues. Democrats discussed in this report include Hillary Clinton, John Edwards and Barack Obama. Republicans include Rudy Giuliani, John McCain and Mitt Romney.

The report, *The 2008 Presidential Candidates' Positions on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Issues*, and its accompanying chart are based on an analysis of the voting records and public statements of the candidates in eight key LGBT issue areas, including sexual orientation and gender identity nondiscrimination and hate crimes laws; HIV/AIDS prevention and

treatment; lifting the military's ban on openly lesbian, gay and bisexual service members; and partnership recognition for same-sex couples.

According to the report, all Democratic candidates are supportive of the majority of LGBT issues, including transgender-inclusive nondiscrimination and hate crimes laws. Only two Democratic candidates support marriage equality for same-sex couples, however, yet all of them are in support of other partnership recognition rights, such as civil unions. Across the board, Republican candidates were in opposition to the majority of LGBT issues, with most publicly opposing lifting the military's ban on openly lesbian, gay and bisexual service members. Ten of 11 Republican candidates also oppose any partnership recognition for same-sex couples, whether it be marriage equality, civil unions or domestic partnerships.

U.S. Rep. Dennis Kucinich is the only 2008 presidential candidate who has publicly supported all eight LGBT issues. Former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney is the only 2008 presidential candidate who has publicly opposed all eight LGBT issues.

Statement by Matt Foreman, Executive Director  
National Gay and Lesbian Task Force

"The differences between the Democratic and Republican fields of candidates on lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues are shockingly stark and profoundly depressing. Over time, the majority of Americans have moved to support basic fairness for LGBT Americans, including nondiscrimination and hate crimes laws, repeal of 'Don't Ask Don't Tell,' and protections for our families. Sadly, the Republican field has gone in the opposite direction, still clearly pandering to the venom of the so-called 'religious right.' This only means that they will continue to use our lives as cultural wedge fodder whenever it's deemed politically expedient.

"The public statements and voting records of the Democratic candidates show that they are clearly light years ahead of the Republicans on almost every issue important to the LGBT community. Nevertheless, the lack of courage on marriage equality is disturbing on both political and moral grounds. Politically, being for civil unions but against marriage doesn't bring a single voter over from the other side. Morally, it's hard to understand how a Democratic candidate can say to people they know individually and to one of the most loyal and generous voting blocs the party has, 'Sorry, I just can't go there — you understand, right?' Actually, we don't."

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The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Inc. ("NGLTF, Inc."), founded in 1974, works to build the grassroots political power of the LGBT community to win complete equality. We do this through direct and grassroots lobbying to defeat anti-LGBT ballot initiatives and legislation and pass pro-LGBT legislation and other measures. We also analyze and report on the positions of candidates for public office on issues of importance to the LGBT community. NGLTF, Inc., is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation incorporated in New York. Contributions to NGLTF, Inc., are not tax-deductible.

Posted by Bruce Tomaso on June 27, 2007 12:33 PM | [Permalink](#)  
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As both a gay man and a Christian, I ask, why on earth is this in the religion section? Even though it is a remnant of its former self, the DMN religion section is still possibly the only part of this paper worth reading.

This can only be inflammatory to Christians who disagree about homosexuality. Furthermore, if I want to read about gay stuff I will go to the Dallas Voice. Also, I don't want to read about political surveys in the religion section either.

EDITOR'S RESPONSE: You ask some good questions that deserve answers.

1. It isn't in the Religion section, it's on the Religion blog. A blog is a different medium from a newspaper. We try to offer the blog's readers many different things each day, and we strive for variety in those offerings.

2. We have published many, many items on the blog dealing with the 2008 presidential election and where the candidates stand on various issues. Almost none of these items have been "religious" in the strictest sense. But our mandate, as you'll see if you scroll back to the top of the page, is to "explore issues of faith, spirituality and values."

Surely, where the candidates for president stand on issues related to gay rights is a matter of some importance involving their values, wouldn't you agree?

3. Christians who disagree about homosexuality don't need a report from the National Gay and Lesbian task Force to inflame their sentiments. In my experience, there is no issue, with the possible exception of abortion, that more deeply divides people of faith than their views on homosexuality. Reporting on the subject doesn't inflame those sentiments any more than ignoring it would cause them to vanish.

4. If you want to read about "gay stuff," by all means go to the Dallas Voice. If you don't want to read about political surveys on the Religion blog, by all means skip those items. In trying to offer "something for everyone," we always run the risk of publishing items that not every last reader will care about. That's fine. Pick and choose. That's what I do.