Quick Facts About Florida

According to the Public Religion Research Institute (PRRI):

- **69%** of all Americans support LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination laws
- **68%** of all Floridians support LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination laws
- **60%** of LGBT Floridians are protected from discrimination* by local law
- **0%** of LGBT Floridians are protected from discrimination by state law

*Percent of state's population protected by local ordinances from discrimination in employment, housing, and/or public accommodations. See [http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/](http://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/).

**35 Florida Municipalities Already Offer LGBT Protections**

In Florida, nearly three dozen cities and counties—covering 60% of the state population—already prohibit discrimination against LGBT people in employment, housing, and public accommodations, showing the already widespread constituent support for adding these protections at a state level. These Florida cities and counties include:

- Hillsborough County
- Jacksonville
- Leon County
- Miami-Dade County
- Orange County
- Orlando
- Palm Beach County
- Pinellas County
- Sarasota
- Venice
- Wellington
- West Palm Beach

State profile: [https://tinyurl.com/FloridaLGBT](https://tinyurl.com/FloridaLGBT)
Why Do We Need Nondiscrimination Laws?

- Many lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people still experience discrimination when going about their daily life—whether eating at a restaurant, trying to obtain safe housing, or applying for a job or a loan.

- Nationwide, 69% of all Americans—including 68% of all Floridians—support LGBT-inclusive nondiscrimination laws to protect their friends, family members, and neighbors against this kind of discrimination.

- That's why most people are surprised to learn that federal laws don’t explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, health care, education, credit and lending, and more.

- Only 20 states and Washington D.C. explicitly include sexual orientation and gender identity in their nondiscrimination laws in employment, housing, and public accommodations. As a result, over half of LGBT people in the U.S. live in a state where, under state law, a boss can fire an employee, a landlord could evict a family, and a business could refuse service to someone simply because of who they are.

- Protecting people from discrimination, including LGBT people, is about treating others as we want to be treated. Even though we may have different beliefs, what's most important is focusing on what we have in common—taking pride in our work, making a safe home for our family, and being able to safely and freely participate in our local community.

- Respect shouldn't depend on your zip code. Therefore, it's crucial that federal, state, and local nondiscrimination laws are updated to explicitly ensure that LGBT people are able to participate fully in society and provide for themselves and their families.

What Can You Do to Protect Your Constituents?

- Update federal, state, and local laws to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the bases of sexual orientation and gender identity in:
  - Private Employment
  - Public Employment
  - Housing
  - Credit and Lending
  - Public Accommodations
  - Education
  - Health Care
  - Adoption
  - Medicaid
  - Foster Care

- Fight against legislation or efforts to create religious exemptions to nondiscrimination laws, as well as other efforts to harm LGBT people and roll back LGBT freedom.

- Repeal laws that allow individuals, businesses, and/or service providers (such as doctors, pharmacists, adoption or foster care agencies, and more) to discriminate against minority faiths, immigrants, people of color, LGBT people and their children, single parents, unmarried couples, women who are eligible for birth control under the Affordable Care Act, and unmarried and/or divorced pregnant women on the basis of religious beliefs.

Where Can You Learn More?