



## Hooking up

# How to find, support LGBT political organizations

Monday, September 28, 2006

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*Originally printed 9/28/2006 (Issue 1439 - Between The Lines News)*

You want to support equality-minded candidates and be ready to respond when the religious right attacks with anti-LGBT ballot measures. But it can be hard to squeeze in time to find out what's going on, let alone to act on the people and issues that are shaping our lives.

Never fear; pro-equality political organizations are here.

Whether they are making it easier for local organizations to reach out to members, directly supporting pro-equality candidates or countering extremist-sponsored ballot initiatives, these organizations are on the front lines of our political struggle to have our rights recognized.

And, not incidentally, many of them also make it easy for equality-minded citizens to join the fun.

### **National Organizations**

Want to support pro-equality candidates throughout the country? The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund ([www.victoryfund.org](http://www.victoryfund.org)) has helped elect openly-gay, pro-gay candidates to Congress, state legislatures, school boards, and more since 1991. The organization offers "frontlines," a monthly e-newsletter, and makes it easy to donate to online.

Communication, Relationships, and movements, thrive with it and die without it. That's why the Gill Foundation's Democracy Project ([www.gillfoundation.org/democracyproject](http://www.gillfoundation.org/democracyproject)) is so important. The Democracy Project helps organizations ranging from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation to Michigan organizations from Affirmations Lesbian and Gay Community Center to the Ruth Ellis Center maintain up-to-date databases of their members, donors, and potential allies.

You want a smaller government, less taxes, and a Republican Party that has finally gotten over their obsession with LGBTs and moved on to do something about the economy. You're not alone; the Log Cabin Republicans (<http://online.logcabin.org>) exists entirely to speak common sense to the powers that be in the GOP. Sign up for their weekly newsletter, and find the nearest Michigan chapter online.

You're here. You're trans. And not enough people have gotten used to it. The National Center for Transgender Equality ([www.nctequality.org](http://www.nctequality.org)) is here to help, with an entire Getting Involved Web page dedicated to helping you speak OUT. Topics include working locally, overcoming voting obstacles, and how to organize a community meeting.

**The extremists are coming with yet another anti-LGBT ballot measure. Whether it's the fight for marriage rights or a local civil rights ordinance, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force ([www.thetaskforce.org](http://www.thetaskforce.org)) is there to help local organizations fight the good fight. The organization's Web site has a resource library, and lots of opportunities to take action.**