LGBTQ IN COLUMBUS
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Columbus’ Proud Tradition of Inclusiveness, Acceptance and Progressive Social Action

- **1974:** Ordinance (Ordinance)
  - Extended protections against discrimination in housing and public accommodations based on sexual orientation

- **1981:** Founded (Founded)
  - Stonewall Columbus

- **1982:** Parade (Parade)
  - Columbus’ first Pride Parade

- **1988:** Policy Statement (Policy Statement)
  - Forbids discrimination against lesbians and gay men in city employment

- **2005:** Founded (Founded)
  - Gay Ohio History Initiative (GOHI) preserves Ohio’s LGBTQ history

- **2008:** Ordinance (Ordinance)
  - Passed by City Council to extend civil rights protections to new classes of age, disability, sex, gender identity or expression, familial status and military status

- **2012:** Code (City Code)
  - Section 229 created a City of Columbus Domestic Partnership Registry

- **2015:** Founded (Founded)
  - The LGBTQ Health Initiative addresses the gaps in care and issues of health inequity within these communities
  - The Greater Columbus LGBTQ Health Coalition is a community-based initiative working to improve the health and safety of LGBTQ communities

- **2016:** Created (Created)
  - The city’s Office of Diversity and Inclusion works to improve workforce, supplier and leadership diversity, as well as diversity outreach

- **2017:** Code (City Code)
  - Section 2331.10 prohibits the practice of conversion therapy on minors

- **Present:** Elected (Elected)
  - First openly gay city council president elected, Shannon Hardin

- **Present:** Community (Community)
  - Present

With the 15th largest per capita gay population, Columbus has more than 700,000 attendees at its annual Pride celebrations.

Columbus has received the highest possible score for eight years running on the Human Rights Campaign Foundation’s Municipal Equality Index (MEI), the only nationwide rating system of LGBTQ inclusion on municipal law and policy.

Local companies who received a perfect score on the corporate equality index:

- Abercrombie & Fitch
- CardinalHealth
- Huntington
- Nationwide
- L Brands
- Victoria’s Secret / PINK
- Bath & Body Works