

FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN



Governor Andy Beshear kicks off the 2025 Statewide Fairness Rally in Frankfort. Photo by Murphy Meador

Special Election '25

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**2024 "Friends of Fairness,"
C-FAIR Donors, & Tributes**

This year the Fairness Campaign and LGBTQ Kentuckians have shown true grit in the face of continued opposition and growing threats to our community. One thing remains abundantly clear—we're not backing down, no matter what. We've stood proudly with our allies against ICE, we've fought fiercely for our trans community as Trump's attacks keep adding up, and we've shown up in Frankfort to stop some of the worst bills the Kentucky General Assembly has introduced.

Despite all the challenges, Kentucky's queer community is thriving. Nearly 30 Pride festivals and celebrations were held all across our commonwealth this year. The Fairness Campaign was at every single one of them, and let us tell you, they're growing. Our community continues to get bigger, louder, and prouder, despite the endless attacks we face. **Our opposition knows our strength is in our numbers, and they're not stopping either.** We expect another difficult legislative session in January, as an anti-drag bill will return in an attempt to quash Pride festivals, and we'll face continued threats in healthcare and another "Jackpot Justice" bill for Alliance Defending Freedom to try to erode Fairness Ordinance protections. **Join us to fight back in Frankfort. Mark your calendars for the Statewide Fairness Rally Feb. 25. Together, we'll make Kentucky a state of Fairness for all.**



SPECIAL ELECTION ENDORSEMENT

GARY CLEMONS
KY State Senate District 37

ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, December 16

VOTE EARLY
Thursday, Dec. 11 - Saturday, Dec. 13

Voting Locations & More: FairnessVotes.com

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Statenside Summit



Balloon Party



Fairness Rally & Lobby Day



KY Pride Parade

2024 Fairness Campaign Year In Review

Jan. 2: The 2024 Kentucky General Assembly convenes.

Jan. 17-21: Fairness Campaign staff and several Kentucky QTPOC leaders attend the National LGBTQ Task Force's Creating Change Conference in New Orleans, LA.

Jan. 18: C-FAIR Board Member Dawn Wilson joins "Brave Spaces: An honest panel of local trans activists unveiling what we think you should know," hosted by Sweet Evening Breeze at Jefferson Community and Technical College.

Jan. 25: The Campaign for Southern Equality hosts a virtual town hall for families of trans youth in Ohio to prepare for legislation that could end gender affirming care. The Fairness Campaign and Kentucky Health Justice Network join to share the impact of Senate Bill 150 on trans youth in Kentucky.

Jan. 26: **Louisville's original Fairness Ordinance turns 25 years old.** Approved by the Louisville Board of Aldermen in 1999, the landmark civil rights ordinance prohibited LGBTQ employment discrimination and was the first of its kind in Kentucky. **To commemorate the historic anniversary, Kentucky State Senate Minority Leader Gerald Neal and State Representative Keturah Herron introduce the 25th version of Statewide Fairness Laws in the Kentucky General Assembly.** Fairness Campaign Executive Director Chris Hartman celebrates 15 years on staff and enjoys a two-month sabbatical later in the year to commemorate the anniversary.

Jan. 29: Fairness Campaign Community Outreach Coordinator Alexander Griggs joins a "Trans-Affirming Social Work Practice" panel discussion at Spalding University.

Feb. 8: University of Louisville's Inclusion and Equity Council highlights the work of the Fairness Campaign at its quarterly meeting.

Feb. 21: **Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear and Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman kick off the annual Statewide Fairness Rally in the Capitol Rotunda.** Featuring music by longtime Fairness leader Carol Kraemer-Straub and Drag Queen May O'Nays, the rally highlights Kentucky LGBTQ advocates Carma Bell Marshall, Emma Curtis, Ray Loux, Patti Minter, and Troy Stevenson from The Trevor Project along with members of the Kentucky General Assembly, Senate Minority Leader Gerald Neal, Senate Minority Caucus Chair Reggie Thomas, Sen. Karen Berg, Rep. Keturah Herron, and Rep. Lisa Willner. **Anti-LGBTQ House Bill 47, "Jackpot Justice" for Alliance Defending Freedom to sue Kentucky cities and counties with Fairness Ordinances, receives a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee. Fairness Lobby Day advocates fill the hearing**

room and testimony from several LGBTQ leaders helps stall further progress after the bill passes committee.

Feb. 26: Marta Miranda-Straub's Catapult Now Consulting leads a panel discussion for Muhammad Ali Center staff, "Trust Me Enough to Offend Me," that includes the Fairness Campaign.

Feb. 28: The Fairness Campaign and VOCAL-KY host Kentucky's HIV Is Not a Crime Advocacy Day in Frankfort.

Feb. 29: **ACLU-KY Executive Director Amber Duke and Fairness Campaign Executive Director Chris Hartman join other local leaders at the White House for "Communities in Action: Building a Better Tennessee, West Virginia, and Kentucky."** For the second year, Anti-Drag Senate Bill 147 receives a hearing and passage in the Senate Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee. Kentucky HIV Decriminalization House Bill 618, a priority bill of Fairness and the Kentucky HIV Is Not a Crime coalition, is heard and easily approved in the House Health Services Committee.

March 2: The Kentucky Poor People's Campaign hosts a march and rally in Frankfort joined by the Fairness Campaign.

March 5: **HIV Decriminalization House Bill 618 passes the Kentucky House unanimously.** Unfortunately, the legislation later stalls in the Kentucky Senate.

March 6: Anti-Drag Senate Bill 147 is passed by the Kentucky Senate.

March 12-15: Civitas, the regional LGBTQ Chamber of Commerce, hosts the national NGLCC conference in Louisville.

March 13: The Kentucky Senate Health Services Committee passes Senate Bill 239, an overly broad healthcare discrimination bill.

March 18: Fairness conducts an LGBTQ 101 training for new Louisville Metro Department of Corrections officers.

March 21: Healthcare Discrimination Senate Bill 239 passes the full Kentucky Senate but ultimately falters in the Kentucky House. Anti-Drag Senate Bill 147 receives a hearing and passage in the Kentucky House Veterans, Military Affairs, and Public Protection Committee, though it also does not see final passage in the Kentucky General Assembly.

March 23: Susan Hershberg and the Wiltshire Pantry host the annual sold-out "We The People" dinner at the Muhammad Ali Center to benefit the ACLU of Kentucky and Fairness.

April 4: **To commemorate the 25th anniversary of Louisville's Fairness Ordinance, Fairness Campaign leaders**

through the decades join in a living slideshow at Speed Cinema titled, "Fairness—Doing Cities Good Since 1999." The event features photo sharing and storytelling from Rev. Aletha Fields, Jaison Gardner, Alexander Griggs, Lisa Gunterman, Darnell Johnson, Carol Kraemer-Straub, Pam McMichael, Alicia Pedreira, Jeff Rodgers, Dr. Kaila Story-Jackson, Carla F. Wallace, and Dawn Wilson.

April 11: Students from the University of Louisville Kent School of Social work visit the Fairness Campaign to learn about the local LGBTQ civil rights movement.

April 15: **The 2024 Kentucky General Assembly adjourns sine die. The Fairness Campaign and its allies defeat all anti-LGBTQ legislation for the year.**

April 16: C-FAIR hosts a happy hour at Big Bar honoring longtime leader Nick Wilkerson, who completes 20+ years of service in various Fairness leadership roles.

April 17: The Office of Belonging and Community Engagement at Jefferson Technical and Community College hosts a panel discussion that includes the Fairness Campaign, "JCTC Conversations of Belonging - Queerness & Religion."

April 18: **The University of Louisville Ekstrom Library Archives and Special Collections hosts an opening reception for their new exhibit, "Fairness Does a City Good: A 25 Year Retrospective."** The exhibit runs through the end of the year and features photographs and materials from the Fairness Campaign records and Williams-Nichols collection. C-FAIR, the Political Action Committee of the Fairness Campaign, announces endorsements in sixteen state and local races for the Kentucky Primary Election.

April 20: Kentucky Pride season kicks off with Morehead Pride, the first festival of the year.

April 22-29: Fairness Campaign Community Outreach Coordinator Alexander Griggs joins the Black Trans Advocacy Conference in Dallas, Texas.

April 25: Fairness joins the Elizabethtown Community and Technical College Multicultural Fair.

May 17: The World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana hosts a delegation from Indonesia at the Fairness Campaign to discuss LGBTQ rights internationally.

May 19-21: Fairness leads a panel discussion, "Decriminalizing HIV in Kentucky and Beyond" with VOCAL-KY and other HIV advocacy groups at the Community Education Group's Syndemic Summit at the Greenbrier Resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia.

May 21: The Kentucky Primary Election is held, and three-quarters of C-FAIR endorsed candidates move on to the General Election.

June 1: Fairness Campaign Community Outreach Coordinator Alexander Griggs celebrates two years on staff. LGBTQ Pride Month kicks off with festivals all across our commonwealth—Paducah Pride: United Together, Richmond Pride, and Shelby County Pride.

June 2: Northern Kentucky Pride is held in Covington's Goebel Park.

June 4: Louisville Mayor Craig Greenberg declares June Pride Month in the city and honors the Fairness Campaign and Executive Director Chris Hartman for service to the community.

June 6: **The first LGBTQ Kentucky Historical Highway Marker in Louisville is unveiled at the intersection of St. James Court and Belgravia Court. The plaque commemorates two important events in Louisville's LGBTQ history from 1970—the founding of the Louisville Gay Liberation Front (LGLF), the first public-facing LGBTQ advocacy organization in Kentucky, and the nation's first lesbian marriage trial, Jones v. Hallahan. The highway marker is the culmination of almost a decade of work by the Fairness Campaign and Dr. Cate Fosl. Fairness joins Looking for Lilithe Theatre Company's panel discussion, "Advocating for Our Rights," following a performance of their queer and gender expansive play Defining Infinity at the Kentucky Center.**

June 7: The Robley Rex VA Medical Center Pride and Queer Kentucky Pride at Mile Wide are held in Louisville.

June 8: Mt. Sterling Pride is held un the Dubois Community Center.

June 9: The Danville Area Pride Picnic Potluck is held on Centre College's campus.

June 13: Kentuckiana Pride Foundation hosts a kick-off event at Chill Bar in Louisville with Lieutenant Governor Jacqueline Coleman, who names Fairness Executive Director Chris Hartman a Kentucky Colonel.

June 15: More than 100 Fairness volunteers and leaders march in our signature "human balloon float" of 10,000 balloons in Louisville's Kentuckiana Pride Parade, which is followed by a sold-out Kentuckiana Pride Festival headlined by Chappell Roan at the Big Four Bridge. **The first Augusta Pride is held in scenic River Park.**

June 16: Fairness Campaign Development Associate Jenna Murnan celebrates two years on staff.

June 19: Protect Our Schools Kentucky launches to defeat Kentucky Constitutional Amendment 2, which would allow tax dollars to be used for private school vouchers. Fairness joins as a steering committee member of the campaign.

June 20: Pride at Papa John's corporate headquarters features a speech by the Fairness Campaign.

June 21: Dinsmore & Shohl law firm in Louisville hosts a Fairness Campaign presentation for Pride Month.

June 23: The Owensboro Pride Picnic is held at Unity Fellowship.

June 24: Fairness conducts an LGBTQ 101 training for new Louisville Metro Department of Corrections officers.

June 26: Fairness' Chris Hartman joins President Joe Biden and First Lady Dr. Jill Biden's Pride Month Celebration at The White House.

June 27: The Louisville Bar Association hosts a Pride Month discussion on LGBTQ legislation with State Senator Cassie Chambers Armstrong and Fairness.

June 27-30: University of Louisville hosts Athlete Ally's national Athlete Activism Summit.

June 29: **The Fairness Campaign celebrates its 33rd anniversary.** Pride Month in Kentucky continues with the Harlan County Pride March at the Harlan County Courthouse, Lexington Pride at the Central Bank Center, and Latinx Pride at La Casita Center in Louisville.

June 30: The first-ever Henderson Pride held at The Chloe Randolph Foundation closes out Pride Month.

July 8: **Lexington's Fairness Ordinance turns 25 years old.** Lexington's 1999 ordinance added housing and public accommodations discrimination protections along with employment, making is Kentucky's first comprehensive LGBTQ Fairness Ordinance.

July 13: Ashland Pride is held at Riverfront Park.

July 25: Big Bar and Louisville Pride Foundation co-host an "HRC Live Townhall on Project 2025" featuring the Fairness Campaign and state lawmakers.

July 29-31: Fairness Campaign staff and leaders join the Equality Federation Leadership Conference in Portland, Oregon.

Aug. 5: C-FAIR endorses more than 70 candidates in state and local races across Kentucky.

Aug. 5-7: The Fairness Campaign co-sponsors the National Conference of State Legislatures held in Louisville.

Aug. 15-25: For the 30th year, dozens of Fairness Campaign volunteers staff our booth at the Kentucky State Fair.

Sept. 6: Fairness staff join the Kentucky Common Ground Kentucky annual meeting in Lexington.

Sept. 11: Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at University of Louisville hosts a voter registration and outreach event that includes the Fairness Campaign.

Sept. 12: The Community Foundation of Louisville's "Give for Good Louisville" helps raise more than \$30,000 for the Fairness Campaign.

Sept. 14: Kentucky Black Pride Festival is held in Lexington's Woodland Park and Louisville Pride Festival is held on Bardstown Road.

Sept. 18: **Governor Andy Beshear makes history by signing an executive order to ban anti-LGBTQ conversion practices in Kentucky. Governor Beshear invites the Fairness Campaign, National Association of Social Workers-Kentucky, Kentucky Psychological Association, Advocacy Action Network, and the Trevor Project to join the signing.**

Sept. 20: Murray Pride is held at The Grove of Murray.

Oct. 1: The Jack Harlow Foundation announces a partnership with The Nitty Gritty vintage store in Louisville for Halloween costume rentals to benefit the Fairness Campaign. C-FAIR and May O'Nays host a Vice Presidential Debate Watch Party at Big Bar in Louisville.

Oct. 5: The first-ever Boone County Pride is held at Union Presbyterian Church; the Fairness Campaign serves as its fiscal sponsor.

Oct. 12: Capital Pride Festival is held on the Old Capitol Lawn in Frankfort and Pikeville Pride is held at Appalachian Wireless Arena. **Jefferson County's Fairness Ordinance turns 25 years old. The Jefferson County Fairness Ordinance in 1999 added all three areas of LGBTQ discrimination protections—employment, housing, and public accommodations.**

Oct. 13: Berea Pride Festival is held at Berea Friends Meeting.

Oct. 19: PFLAG National hosts its South Atlantic Regional meeting in Danville and invites the Fairness Campaign to join Tennessee Equality Project on an advocacy panel discussion.

Oct. 23: Fairness conducts an LGBTQ 101 training for new Louisville Metro Department of Corrections officers and hosts a "Project 2025 Town Hall" at Mandala House in Louisville.

Oct. 26: Somerset Chill Out and Proud is held at College Festival Field and the Fairness Campaign produces Bowling Green Pride at Circus Square Park.

Nov. 5: The General Election is held and several C-FAIR endorsed candidates make Kentucky history—**State Rep. Keturah Herron is the first openly LGBTQ woman elected to the State Senate, Emma Curtis is the first openly trans person elected**

to a city council (in Lexington), and Judge Pamela Goodwine is the first Black woman elected to the Kentucky Supreme Court. **Protect Our Schools Kentucky defeats Constitutional Amendment 2 on school vouchers in all 120 Kentucky counties.**

Nov. 19: The University of Kentucky Young Democrats host the Fairness Campaign for a 2025 legislative preview.

Nov. 20: Transgender Day of Remembrance Vigils are held at Robert F. Stephens Courthouse Plaza in Lexington and St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Louisville.

Dec. 1: VOCAL-KY hosts a World AIDS Days press conference in Louisville with the Fairness Campaign and other HIV/AIDS services and advocacy groups.

Dec. 2-5: Fairness joins a national election debrief hosted by the Equality Federation in Palm Springs, California.

Dec. 5: The Human Rights Campaign announces Municipal Equality Index scores for major U.S. cities on LGBTQ inclusion. Covington, Lexington, and Louisville once again top the list with perfect 100 scores.

Dec. 9: The Fairness Campaign announces a passport navigation program to cover fees and help transgender Kentuckians obtain U.S. passports with their correct gender marker before the new presidential administration takes office. Fairness hosts a "Post-Election LGBTQ Legal Resources" event at AVOL in Lexington with Kentucky Youth Law Project, Dinsmore and Shohl, and Kentucky Health Justice Network.

Dec. 10: Fairness hosts a "Post-Election LGBTQ Legal Resources" event at the Northern Kentucky Pride Center in Covington with Kentucky Youth Law Project, Kentucky Health Justice Network, and Queer Kentucky. **The Louisville Metro Fairness Ordinance turns 20 years old.** Approved in 2004 by the inaugural Louisville Metro Council, the ordinance prevented the LGBTQ discrimination protections approved in 1999 from sunset in the new merged city-county government.

Dec. 11: Louisville Pride Foundation hosts a "Post-Election LGBTQ Legal Resources" event with the Fairness Campaign, Kentucky Health Justice Network, Kentucky Youth Law Project, Dinsmore and Shohl, Southern Indiana Pride, and more organizations.

Dec. 12: Fairness hosts a "Post-Election LGBTQ Legal Resources" event at the Warren County Public Library with Bowling Green Fairness, Kentucky Legal Aid, Kentucky Health Justice Network, and Kentucky Youth Law Project.

Dec. 15: Dozens Fairness Campaign staff and leaders, past and present, gather at Vernon Lanes in Louisville for the annual Fairness Leadership Brunch.

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 Crawl With US - Pride Bar Crawl
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 Curtis Conlin and Chris Welsh
 Curtis Denton
 Cyres McCay
 Damiona Cure
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 Dan Parke
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 Dana Oliver
 Daniel Shen
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 DDM LLC
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 Deb CASSO
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 Deborah Ison Flowers committee to elect
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 Delores McDonald
 Denise Moriarty
 Dennis Bell
 Department of Theatre & Dance, Western
 Kentucky University

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 Diane Kane
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 Diane Taylor
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 Elwood Stroder and Mike O'Leary
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 Emily McGrath
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 emma sporing
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 Kentucky University
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 George Sunday
 Georgia Rhoades
 Geraldine Gordon-Brown
 Ginna Wilkerson
 Glasgow Pride
 Glenye Oakford
 Glynis Lewis-Green
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KY Special Election Tuesday, December 16
Voter Info @ FairnessVotes.com

2026 KY Fairness Rally & Lobby Day

WEDNESDAY, FEB 25

[FAIRNESS.ORG/RALLY](https://Fairness.org/Rally)

8:30am ET: Meetup in Capitol Annex Cafeteria
702 Capital Ave., Frankfort, KY 40601

1:30pm ET: Rally in Capitol Education Center
706 Capital Ave., Frankfort, KY 40601



Register Today!

