

## Timeline

### 1649

Sara Norman and Mary Hammon of Yarmouth, Plymouth Colony, are taken to court for lewd behavior, the first and only record of American colonial women tried for lesbianism.

### 1867

“Father of the LGBT Movement” Karl-Heinrich Ulrichs is considered the first person to speak out for gay rights when he testified before the Congress of German Jurists to repeal anti-homosexual laws.

### 1903

The Ariston Bathhouse Raid: the first recorded police raid on a gay bathhouse takes place in New York City. Thirty-four men were arrested and 16 men were charged with “sodomy.”

### 1924

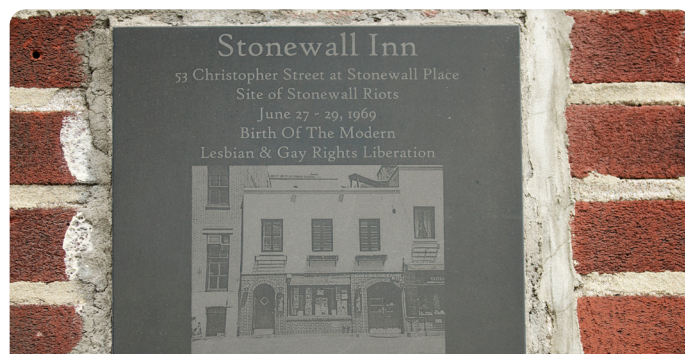
Society for Human Rights, first gay rights organization in United States, is founded in Chicago by Henry Gerber. Police shut it down within a few months.

### 1941

The term “transsexuality” is coined.

### 1944

Poet Robert Duncan becomes the first prominent American to reveal his sexuality, writing an article in the anarchist magazine, *Politics*, that gays are an oppressed minority and campaigning for greater equality.



1969 - Stonewall Inn in New York City.

### 1945

The Veterans Benevolent Association (VBA), the first organization for LGBTQ veterans of the U.S. armed forces, is formed by four honorably discharged gay veterans.

### 1952

Transgender actress Christine Jorgensen becomes the first American to have sex reassignment surgery.

### 1953

U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower signs an executive order banning homosexuals from working for the federal government.

### 1955

The Daughters of Bilitis was founded as the first lesbian rights group.

### 1958

Dancer, director, choreographer and activist Alvin Ailey founds a historic dance company based in New York City with the vision of honoring Black culture through dance.

*One, Inc. v. Olesen*: In the first case regarding LGBTQ rights, Supreme Court protects the First Amendment rights of ONE: The Homosexual Magazine, the first widely distributed publication for gay and lesbian readers.

### 1962

Illinois becomes the first U.S. state to remove criminal penalties for consensual sodomy from its criminal code.

### 1969

The Stonewall Riots at the Stonewall Inn in New York City fight back against a police raid of the famed gay bar. These riots gain mainstream national attention for gay rights. A Black transgender woman, Marsha P. Johnson is widely credited as being the event organizer who threw the first brick at Stonewall.

### 1970

The first Gay Liberation Day March is held in New York City. Similar events take place in Los Angeles and San Francisco.

**1973**

American Psychiatric Association removes label classifying “homosexuality” as a mental disorder.

Joel Grey becomes the first gay man to win the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his role in *Cabaret*.

**1974**

Kathy Kozachenko becomes first openly LGBTQ candidate to win elected office, representing the 2nd Ward of the Ann Arbor City Council.

**1975**

Minneapolis becomes first city to pass law protecting transgender people from discrimination.



1985 - Ronald Reagan becomes the first U.S. President to publicly mention the AIDS epidemic

**1978**

Harvey Milk, the first openly gay elected official in California, is assassinated. He served on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors beginning in 1977 and sponsored a bill banning discrimination in public accommodations, housing and employment on the basis of sexual orientation. He had served in the U.S. Navy in the Korean War.

The rainbow flag, designed by artist Gilbert Baker, is first used as a symbol of gay pride in San Francisco. The original version of the flag included 8 stripes of varying colors. Pink and light blue were eventually removed, creating the six-color version of the flag we recognize today.

**1980**

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention is alerted to the case of San Francisco resident Ken Horne, who has developed a type of cancer known as Kaposi’s sarcoma. In 1981, the CDC would retroactively classify Horne as the first patient of the AIDS epidemic in the U.S.

**1982**

Wisconsin is the first state to ban discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment, housing and public accommodations.

**1983**

U.S. Representative Gerry Studds of Massachusetts’ 10th District becomes first openly gay member of Congress.

**1985**

Ronald Reagan becomes the first U.S. President to publicly mention the AIDS epidemic. Despite this, his commission on the HIV epidemic was far too late and research into the virus was slow and underfunded.

**1986**

In *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the Supreme Court upholds Georgia law banning homosexual sex.

**1987**

ACT UP was formed at the Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center in New York City to bring attention to AIDS-related issues.

**1989**

Jodie Foster becomes the first lesbian actress to win the Oscar for Best Leading Actress for her role in *The Accused*. Three years later, she wins her second Oscar for Best Leading Actress for her role in *The Silence of the Lambs*.

**1991**

The red ribbon is first used as a symbol of the campaign against HIV/AIDS. The first kiss between a homosexual couple airs on network TV during an episode of NBC’s *L.A. Law*.

**1993**

“Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” allows gays/lesbians to serve in the military if they remain closeted. Deborah Batts becomes the first openly LGBTQ federal judge in 1994.

**1996**

President Bill Clinton signs Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) into law. It defines marriage as existing exclusively between one man and one woman.

**1997**

Controversial “coming out” episode of the television sitcom “Ellen” airs. Ellen DeGeneres herself would come out later that year on the cover of Time magazine saying “Yep, I’m Gay.”

**1998**

The groundbreaking NBC sitcom “Will & Grace” debuts. The series is built around four main characters: two gay men and two heterosexual women.

**1999**

California becomes first state to legalize domestic partnerships for same-gender couples. The Transgender Day of Remembrance is founded.

**2000**

Vermont becomes first state to legalize civil unions for same-gender couples while Netherlands became the first country to legalize same-sex marriage.

President Bill Clinton declares the month of June as Gay and Lesbian Pride Month. Showtime’s “Queer as Folk” becomes the first hour-long drama on American television centered on homosexual men and women.

**2002**

For the first time in Oscar history, three gay men were nominated for Best Director: Pedro Almodóvar for “Talk to Her”, Stephen Daldry for “The Hours” and Rob Marshall (who goes on to win) for Chicago.

**2004**

Massachusetts becomes the first state to legalize same-sex marriage.

**2005**

“Brokeback Mountain”, a film starring Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal as two cowboys in a gay relationship, is released. The film receives rave reviews and wins numerous awards, including three Oscars.

**2006**

South Africa’s parliament legalizes gay marriage and is the only African country that legally recognizes same-sex marriages.

**2008**

Diego Sanchez becomes the first openly transgender staffer on Capitol Hill.

Kate Brown of Oregon becomes the first LGBTQ person elected governor.

Rachel Maddow becomes the first openly gay or lesbian host of a primetime news program in the United States. Maddow is also the first openly lesbian Rhodes Scholar.

**2009**

President Barack Obama expands existing hate crime laws, making it a federal crime to assault someone because of sexual orientation or gender identity.

Drag queen RuPaul begins hosting “RuPaul’s Drag Race”. The reality competition television show goes on to win numerous awards and helps to bring drag performance into the mainstream.

Lee Daniels becomes the first Black gay man nominated for Best Director, directing the critically acclaimed “Precious”.

**2010**

President Obama repeals “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell,” allowing LGBTQ people to serve openly in the military. Jane Lynch wins the Emmy for Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Comedy Series for her role in “Glee”.

**2012**

At the Democratic National Convention, the Democratic Party becomes the first major U.S. political party in history to publicly support same-sex marriage on a national platform.

Seven LGBTQ candidates win election into U.S. House and Senate. One of whom is Mark Takano of California — the first openly gay POC congressman.

## 2013

In *United States v. Windsor*, the Supreme Court strikes down the section of DOMA that denies federal benefits to legally married same-gender couples.

U.S. Department of the Treasury announces that legal same-gender marriages will be recognized for federal tax purposes.

Transgender actress Laverne Cox earns notoriety for her role in the hit Netflix series, “Orange Is the New Black”, becoming the first transgender actress to be nominated for a Primetime Emmy Award.



2013 - Transgender actress Laverne Cox

## 2014

National Basketball Association player Jason Collins becomes first gay athlete to play in one of the U.S.’s four major sports leagues. Michael Sam becomes the first openly gay player drafted in the NFL, playing for the St. Louis Rams.

## 2015

In *Obergefell v. Hodges*, the Supreme Court legalizes marriage equality nationwide.

Boy Scouts of America President Robert Gates lifts ban on gay scout leaders and employees.

President Obama appoints Raffi Freedman-Gurspan as a staffer, the first transgender person to work in the White House.

## 2016

International Olympic Committee (IOC) no longer requires transgender athletes to undergo reassignment surgery to compete.

Eric Fanning is confirmed as secretary of the Army, becoming the first openly gay person to head a United States military branch.

President Obama designates the first-ever monument dedicated to LGBTQ rights, the Stonewall National Monument at the Stonewall Inn in New York City.

## 2017

The District of Columbia becomes the first place in the U.S. where residents can choose gender “X” on their driver’s license.

For the first time, a U.S. appeals court rules that federal civil rights law protects LGBTQ employees from discrimination in the workplace.

Danica Roem is elected to the Virginia House of Delegates, becoming the first transgender person to be elected and serve in any U.S. state legislature.

“Moonlight” makes history as the first LGBTQ movie to win Best Picture at the Oscars.

## 2018

The Pentagon confirms the first openly transgender person has signed a contract to join the military.

U.S. Representative Jared Polis wins the Colorado governor’s race, becoming the nation’s first openly gay man elected governor.

Television show “Pose” premieres. The drama, set in the 1980s ballroom scene, features the largest transgender cast ever assembled in one series.

## 2019

Ten openly LGBTQ people are sworn in as members of the 116th of Congress — a historic number.

The governors of New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Colorado, and California fly the Pride Flag from their state capitols and government office buildings for the first time during Pride Month.

Billy Porter becomes the first openly gay Black man to win an Emmy for Outstanding Lead Actor in a Drama Series for his role in “Pose”.

## 2020

For the first time, the census allows people living in the same household to mark themselves as same-sex partners or spouses. However, it still does not identify how many people in the U.S. identify as gender nonbinary.

RuPaul enters the Guinness World Records, becoming the most Emmy Award-winning Host for a Reality or Competition Program. In total, “RuPaul’s Drag Race” has received 39 nominations and won 19 Emmys.

Groundbreaking singer, actor, record producer, and model Janelle Monáe comes out as nonbinary. Known early in her career for playing with gender, donning a traditional male “tuxedo” as her uniform, Monáe also came out as bisexual/pansexual in 2018.

Elliot Page, best known for his Oscar-nominated titular role in Juno, comes out as a transgender man.

## 2021

New Zealand weightlifter Laurel Hubbard became the first openly transgender woman to compete in the Olympic Games.

President Biden signs an executive order directing agencies to interpret federal laws prohibiting sex discrimination to include sexual orientation and gender identity.

Arkansas lawmakers enact a bill that prohibits access to gender-affirming care for transgender youth. Trans youth ages 13-17 in Arkansas are prohibited from accessing gender-affirming care in the state.

The U.S. State Department announces a policy allowing X gender markers on passports and eliminating medical requirements for gender marker changes.

Switzerland becomes the 30th country in the world to legalize same-sex marriage.

Same-sex adoption and same-sex marriage become legal in Chile and Switzerland.

## 2022

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, a Republican, signs the controversial Parental Rights in Education bill, labeled by critics as the “Don’t Say Gay” bill. The law bans public school teachers from holding classroom instruction about sexual orientation or gender identity.

Karine Jean-Pierre becomes the first Black and out LGBTQ person to hold the position of White House press secretary.

Greece, Canada, India, New Zealand and France ban LGBTQ conversion therapy.

Iowa, Oklahoma and Arizona pass bills banning transgender students from playing in K-12 and higher education sports.



2022 - Karine Jean-Pierre becomes the first Black and out LGBTQ person to hold the position of White House press secretary.