



# PROGRESS FOR THE LGBT COMMUNITY

**TOGETHER, WE'VE FOUGHT** for equal rights for LGBT Americans. From President Obama announcing his support for same-sex marriage to ending "Don't Ask, Don't Tell," take a look at the progress we've achieved over the last three years.

## PRESIDENT OBAMA TAKES OFFICE

2009

> **JUNE 17** Ordered the federal government to extend key benefits to same-sex partners of federal employees

> **JUNE 29** Hosted the first-ever White House LGBT Pride reception

> **AUGUST 12** Awarded the highest civilian honor, the Medal of Freedom, to Billie Jean King and Harvey Milk

> **OCTOBER 21** Created a National Resource Center for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Elders

< **JANUARY 4** Lifted the ban that prohibited people with HIV/AIDS from entering the United States

< **JANUARY 1** Banned discrimination in federal workplaces based on gender identity

2010

< **OCTOBER 28** Signed the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act into law

> **MARCH 23** Enacted the Affordable Care Act, reforming health care in America by lowering costs, expanding choice, and improving health care quality

> **APRIL 15** Ensured hospital visitation and medical decision-making rights for gay and lesbian patients

> **JUNE 9** Allowed transgender Americans to receive true gender passports without surgery

< **DECEMBER 21** Led a United Nations measure to restore "sexual orientation" to the definition of human rights

< **OCTOBER 21** Recorded "It Gets Better" video to support LGBT youth experiencing bullying

< **JUNE 22** Released America's first comprehensive plan to prevent and end homelessness, which includes homeless LGBT youth

< **JUNE 22** Clarified the Family and Medical Leave Act to ensure family leave for LGBT employees

> **DECEMBER 22** Signed the repeal of "Don't Ask, Don't Tell"

2011

> **FEBRUARY 23** Declared the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional and announced the administration will no longer defend it in court

> **MARCH 10** Hosted first-ever White House Conference on Bullying Prevention in America's schools

< **AUGUST 18** Clarified the meaning of “family” to include LGBT relationships, helping to protect bi-national families threatened by deportation

< **JULY 19** Endorsed the Respect for Marriage Act, a legislative effort to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act

< **MAY 27** Issued guidance to foster safer working environments for transgender federal employees

< **MARCH 31** Completed an Institute of Medicine study on LGBT health, the first of its kind

> **SEPTEMBER 15** Ended the Social Security Administration’s gender “no-match” letters

> **SEPTEMBER 20** Implemented the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell”

> **SEPTEMBER 30** Permitted military chaplains to officiate same-sex marriages where legal

> **OCTOBER 1** Addressed the annual Human Rights Campaign dinner for the second time

< **DECEMBER 6** Created first-ever U.S. government strategy dedicated to combating human rights abuses against LGBT persons abroad

< **DECEMBER 1** On World AIDS Day, recommitted the U.S. to creating an AIDS-free generation

< **NOVEMBER 1** In his presidential proclamation of National Adoption Month, President Obama called for equal treatment for same-sex adoptive parents

**2012**

> **JANUARY 28** Announced HUD’s new rule protecting against housing discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity

> **FEBRUARY 2** Announced White House LGBT Conference Series to address issues affecting LGBT Americans, including health, housing, and safety

> **FEBRUARY 7** Promoted equal access to health care by enabling searches for health plans with same-sex partner benefits on Healthcare.gov

< **MARCH 16** Came out against North Carolina’s Amendment 1, which prohibits same-sex marriage in the state

< **MARCH 15** Michael Fitzgerald is confirmed to federal bench in California, becoming fourth openly gay nominee under President Obama, and second confirmed, after Alison Nathan

< **MARCH** Ensured transgender veterans receive respectful care according to their true gender through the Veterans Health Administration

> **MAY** President Obama and Vice President Biden announced their support for same-sex marriage

> **JUNE 26** The Pentagon celebrated LGBT Pride month for the first time

> **JULY 19** Announced nearly 80 million in additional grants to fund HIV/AIDS care and end ADAP wait lists