



# GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER

## STANDING UP FOR THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY



LGBTQ+ Michiganders are an essential part of who we are. They make our state a better place to live and work. Members of our LGBTQ+ community deserve full protection under the law so they can be their authentic selves. Governor Whitmer has taken action to prohibit conversion therapy and strengthen protections against LGBTQ+ Michiganders in state employment. She also called on the legislature to expand the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act to include sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression. We still have work to do to make Michigan a truly inclusive state. We must continue to fight to make sure LGBTQ+ individuals feel safe, valued, and know that their state will invest in their health and potential.

*"Fighting for policies that pursue equality for Michigan's LGBTQ+ community is more than just the right thing to do. It's personal. It's fighting for friends, members of my staff, and loved ones. From day one, my administration has been on the side of progress – and it will continue to be."*

*- Governor Gretchen Whitmer*

### Protecting the LGBTQ+ community and youth

- [Signed](#) an executive directive to strengthen protections against discrimination in state employment, including for gender identity or expression and sexual orientation. This directive extended those protections to the employees of anyone doing business with the state too.
- [Signed](#) an executive directive to prohibit the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services to use any state and federal funds for conversion therapy on minors. It also requires any department or agency that regulates, provides, procures, or pays for medical or mental health services for Michiganders must act to protect minors from conversion therapy.
- Vetoed [anti-trans budget language](#) that sought to deny gender affirming healthcare.

### Advocating for equal LGBTQ+ rights

- [Called](#) on the legislature to send her a bill expanding Michigan's Elliot Larsen Civil Rights Act to include "sexual orientation, gender identity or expression."
- Filed an [amicus brief](#) in the Michigan Supreme Court arguing the language of the Elliot-Larsen Civil Rights Act [prohibits discrimination](#) based on sexual orientation. Michigan Supreme Court issued a ruling agreeing to expand protections to sexual orientation.
- Strongly opposed and committed to veto any anti-trans legislation that hits her desk, including [Senate Bill 218](#) was introduced earlier this year and bans trans high school athletes from playing on a team consistent with their gender identity.

## Recognizing the LGBTQ+ community

- Issued an annual [proclamation](#) marking June as Pride Month to recognize the accomplishments of LGBTQ+ Michiganders and was the first Governor to march at the Motor City Pride parade.
- [Renamed](#) Downtown Lansing's Lewis Cass Building to the "Elliot-Larsen Building" in honor of the bipartisan sponsors of Michigan's Civil Rights Law.
- Was the [first governor](#) to fly the Pride Flag on a State of Michigan building in 2019.