Winning as an out non-binary woman of color in the Deep South is an uphill battle—even in Atlanta. Yet Victory Fund believed in me from the beginning and endorsed early in both my campaigns. The team was a constant source of support during and in between my races, holding fundraisers, talking campaign strategy and always being just a phone call away. Their hands-on support is unmatched.”

LILIANA BAKHTIARI, ATLANTA CITY COUNCIL

On the Cover (from left to right): New York City Councilmember Crystal Hudson, Bozeman City Commissioner Christopher Coburn, Minneapolis City Council President Andrea Jenkins, San Antonio City Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez, Atlanta City Councilmember Alex Wan, New York City Councilmember Tiffany Cabán and Spokane City Councilmember Zack Zappone.
A record number of anti-LGBTQ bills were introduced at the state and local levels in 2021, with politicians targeting our lives and equality for their own perceived political gain. Yet leading the counteroffensive—through fiery speeches, legislative maneuvers and organizing allies—were LGBTQ elected officials. Whether in a state legislature, city council or school board, if an LGBTQ person were serving, they were on the frontline.

That power in representation is why LGBTQ Victory Fund made historic investments in state and local candidates during the 2021 cycle. While many political organizations slowed down after the presidential year, we remained steady, endorsing 177 LGBTQ candidates in 31 states. Nearly 60 percent of these candidates won on Election Day, pushing us above 1,000 LGBTQ elected officials serving for the first time in U.S. history.

While the impact of victories is apparent, perhaps less so is the impact of those who fell short on Election Day. In Pennsylvania, Tyler Titus ran a county executive race that brought national attention to and understanding for non-binary people. In New Orleans, Mariah Moore put a citywide spotlight on the discrimination and challenges trans women continue to face—and inspired more trans advocates to consider a run.

Every candidate we endorse opens hearts and minds to our community. Each victory places a fierce advocate for equality in the halls of power. Thanks to your support and commitment, we’ve more than doubled the number of candidates we support in just the last four years. That is no accident. Without you, our historic achievements in 2021 are truly impossible. Thank you.

Onward to 2022,

Mayor Annise Parker
President & CEO
LGBTQ Victory Fund
A History-Making 2021

While many political organizations called 2021 an “off-year” election, it was not the case at LGBTQ Victory Fund. We endorsed 177 LGBTQ candidates for state legislatures, city councils and school boards, and 59 percent won on Election Night.

Big Cities, Big Impact

Victory Fund endorsed candidates won city council elections in major U.S. cities, from Atlanta to Detroit to New York City.

New York Sets Record

The election cycle began with some concern that LGBTQ representation on the New York City Council could diminish, as all four sitting LGBTQ members were termed out. Yet on Election Night, six out LGBTQ endorsed candidates won their New York City Council elections—the largest group of out LGBTQ councilmembers ever elected in the city.

Crystal Hudson and Kristin Richardson Jordan became the first two Black out LGBTQ women elected to the council. Lynn Schulman and Tiffany Cabán became the first out LGBTQ women elected to the council from Queens. Chi Ossé became the youngest person ever elected to the council and Erik Bottcher preserved LGBTQ representation in his district, an LGBTQ legacy seat that is home to the Stonewall Inn.

Detroit Breaks New Ground

Gabriela Santiago-Romero restored LGBTQ representation to the Detroit City Council and became the first out LGBTQ woman and first LGBTQ Latinx person to serve in the body. No out LGBTQ person had served on the council since 2013.
**Four New Members in Atlanta**

The Atlanta City Council was also at risk of no LGBTQ representation in 2022, but **Liliana Bakhtiari, Keisha Waites** and **Alex Wan** refused to let that happen. Wan—who previously served on the council and was its first Asian American member—won on Election Night. Bakhtiari and Waites fell just short of the 50 percent needed to avoid a runoff. With Victory Fund support, Bakhtiari conquered in the runoff, winning more than two-thirds of the vote and becoming the first out LGBTQ Muslim elected in Georgia. Waites also won her runoff to become the first Black out lesbian elected to the council. Not long after, Councilmember **Matt Westmoreland** came out, just before being sworn-in to his second term. Atlanta now has the most out LGBTQ councilmembers in its history.

**Shattering Ceilings in San Antonio & Beyond**

With a runoff victory for San Antonio City Council, **Jalen McKee-Rodriguez** made history to become the first out gay Black man ever elected in the entire state of Texas. He achieved the milestone by defeating an incumbent who he previously worked for and had retaliated against him for reporting anti-LGBTQ discrimination and harassment.

**Holding the Majority in Salt Lake City**

Four LGBTQ Salt Lake City Council candidates won their elections—two incumbents and two non-incumbents—putting four of the council’s seven seats in LGBTQ hands. **Darin Mano** became the first out LGBTQ Asian American elected to the council and **Alejandro Puy** the first out LGBTQ Latinx person. They joined LGBTQ councilmembers **Amy Fowler** and **Chris Wharton**, who both won reelection and are now the council’s senior members.
A Voice in Ohio

As Dion Manley’s election for Gahanna Jefferson School Board in Ohio approached, national headlines were focused on riotous school board meetings dominated by anti-trans and anti-Black activists. Yet on Election Night, voters rejected the vitriol and chose Manley, making him the first out trans person ever elected in Ohio.

Judicial Progress in Pennsylvania

Despite just nine out non-binary elected officials in the entire U.S., Xander Orenstein ran with pride in their race for the Allegheny County Magisterial District Court in Pennsylvania. After defeating an incumbent primary challenger by just 40 votes, they sailed to victory unchallenged in the general election. Orenstein became the first out non-binary person elected to a judicial position anywhere in the U.S.

We’re Back in New Jersey

On Election Night, former Atlantic City Mayor Don Guardian restored LGBTQ representation to the New Jersey state legislature, where no LGBTQ person was serving. He also became the first out LGBTQ Republican ever elected to the state legislature.
First National LGBTQ Redistricting Campaign

Creating LGBTQ-Friendly Districts for 2022 & Beyond

Redistricting has an enormous impact on LGBTQ representation. Districts can be drawn to encompass LGBTQ neighborhoods and strengthen our ability to elect LGBTQ people. Or lines can be drawn that fracture LGBTQ neighborhoods, depriving us of political power and diminishing our ability to elect LGBTQ leaders. That reality is why we launched “We Belong Together” in 2021, the first national campaign to ensure LGBTQ people are considered in redistricting efforts.

Modeled on successful efforts by Equality California in their state, “We Belong Together” worked with in-state partners to identify opportunities to engage redistricting officials and ensure LGBTQ communities were respected. A comprehensive toolkit provided organizations and advocates with the information and tools needed to work with redistricting officials and an analysis of the top 40 U.S. cities gave advocates additional guidance on how to influence the process. The effort brought unprecedented attention to the impact redistricting has on LGBTQ candidates and voters.

Learn more about “We Belong Together” at victoryfund.org/together.

Jump Starting Campaigns

Early endorsements and fundraising dollars can make or break a candidacy, so in 2021 Victory Fund jumped into key 2022 races where it could make the greatest impact. Candidates who received our endorsement and early investment include:

**Daniel Hernández** (US Congress)
Would be the first out gay man elected to Congress from Arizona.

**Malcolm Kenyatta** (US Senate)
Would be the first out LGBTQ person of color in the U.S. Senate.

**Sean Meloy** (US House)
Would be the first out LGBTQ member of Congress from Pennsylvania.

**Heather Mizeur** (US House)
Would be the first out LGBTQ member of Congress from Maryland.

**Michele Rayner** (US House)
Would be the first out LGBTQ member of Congress from Florida.

**Brian Sims** (Lt. Governor of Pennsylvania)
Would be the first out LGBTQ lieutenant governor of a U.S. state.
Impacting Groundbreaking Races

Our endorsed candidates receive campaign consulting, fundraising assistance and media visibility support to help them build strong campaigns and win on Election Day. The endorsement also signals to our national network of donors that a candidate is viable and will make a positive impact on equality when elected to public office.

Providing Campaign Strategy Support

Many of the state and local candidates running in 2021 have extremely small campaign staffs. That is why our in-house political experts play an outsized role in these campaigns—consulting on their campaign plans, vote goals and get out the vote efforts. Also with our endorsement comes exclusive access to a suite of resources to help candidates build successful campaigns.

Raising Critical Dollars

Having the dollars to remain competitive is among the more difficult challenges our candidates face while running for office. LGBTQ people—and especially LGBTQ women and LGBTQ people of color—often have less access to wealthy donor networks. Yet Victory Fund’s endorsement provides access to a national network of donors – an advantage few local and state legislative candidates have.

Chi Ossé became the youngest person ever elected to the New York City Council.

Virginia Delegate Danica Roem—the first out trans state legislator—won reelection to a third term in 2021.
As Election Day approached, Victory Fund pitched candidate profiles to national media outlets, including NBC News. Bozeman City Commissioner Christopher Coburn—who became the first out LGBTQ Black person ever elected in Montana—was among those profiled.

State and local candidates often receive little media coverage until the final weeks before their primaries or general elections. We work to build their visibility earlier—both in their local media markets and to national LGBTQ and mainstream audiences. From the Washington Post to Chicago Tribune to Marie Claire and The Advocate—the visibility our candidates receive can influence the trajectories of their campaigns.

**Securing Media Visibility**

We teamed up with dozens of electoral partners to secure endorsements and support for our candidates, respond to homophobic and transphobic attacks and identify LGBTQ people to run for key seats. Among our partners:

- **ALL ON THE LINE**
- **DCCC**
- **EMILY'S LIST**
- **EQUALITY ARIZONA**
- **EQUALITY CALIFORNIA**
- **EQUALITY FLORIDA**
- **EQUALITY ILLINOIS**
- **EQUALITY MICHIGAN**
- **EQUALITY OHIO**
- **EQMI**
- **HUMAN RIGHTS CAMPAIGN**
- **Lead NC**
- **LGBT DETROIT**
- **LPAC**
- **NARAL PRO-CHOICE AMERICA**
- **nglcc**
- **NDRC**
- **ONE COLOrado**
- **Planned Parenthood**

**Amplifying the Endorsement**

As Election Day approached, Victory Fund pitched candidate profiles to national media outlets, including NBC News. Bozeman City Commissioner Christopher Coburn—who became the first out LGBTQ Black person ever elected in Montana—was among those profiled.
Our 2021 Endorsements

LGBTQ Victory Fund endorsed 177 of the more than 430 out LGBTQ people who ran for office in 2021. Only 4.9 percent of LGBTQ candidates we declined to endorse won their elections.

177
CANDIDATES ENDORSED

104
CANDIDATES WON

73
CANDIDATES LOST

59%
OVERALL WIN RATE

Endorsed Candidates Demographics & Position Levels

**Gender Identity**
- Cisgender Men (61%)
- Cisgender Women (27%)
- Genderqueer/Nonbinary (6%)
- Transgender Women (3%)
- Transgender Men (2%)
- Gender Non-Conforming (2%)

**Sexual Orientation**
- Gay (54%)
- Queer (16%)
- Bisexual (14%)
- Lesbian (12%)
- Heterosexual (2%)
- Pansexual (1%)
- Asexual (1%)
- Same-Gender Loving (1%)
- Other (1%)

**Race & Ethnicity**
- White/Caucasian (63%)
- Black/African American/Afro-Caribbean (16%)
- Latinx/Hispanic (10%)
- Asian/Pacific Islander (5%)
- Multiracial (5%)
- Middle Eastern/Arab American (2%)

**Position Level**
- Local (84%)
- Mayor (7%)
- State Legislature (5%)
- Judicial (3%)
- Statewide (1%)
# 2021 Game Changer & Spotlight Candidates

Game Changer candidates are those running in federal or statewide races who will make an outsized contribution to equality if elected. Spotlight candidates are those running in potentially history-making state or local races or those running in places where few or no LGBTQ elected officials serve.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Winner</th>
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<th>City/State</th>
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<tr>
<td>Liliana Bakhtiari</td>
<td>GA</td>
<td>Atlanta City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christopher Coburn</td>
<td>MT</td>
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<td>Crystal Hudson</td>
<td>NY</td>
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<td>Mark Levine</td>
<td>VA</td>
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<td>Mariah Moore</td>
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<td>Darden Rice</td>
<td>FL</td>
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<td>Vincent Solomeno</td>
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<td>Tyler Titus</td>
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<td>Katherine Adams</td>
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<td>Marti Gould Allen-Cummings</td>
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<td>Marcony Almeida-Barros</td>
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<td>Alex Arroyo</td>
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<td>Amit Bagga</td>
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<td>Bryan Barash</td>
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<td>Devin Barrington-Ward</td>
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<td>Paul Baumann</td>
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<td>Tom Beckius</td>
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<td>Danny Bernal Jr.</td>
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<td>Robin Biro</td>
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<td>Craig Brendli</td>
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<td>David Bria</td>
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<td>Willie Burnley Jr.</td>
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<td>Tiffany Cabán</td>
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<td>Michael Campbell</td>
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<td>Guyleen Castriotta</td>
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<td>Kali Clark</td>
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<td>Mario Clopton-Zymler</td>
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<td>Joshua Cole</td>
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<td>Molly Cowan</td>
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<td>Guillermo Cowan</td>
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<td>James Demetriades</td>
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<td>Sara Dion</td>
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<td>Willie Garcia</td>
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<td>Mayor of Adrian</td>
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<td>Matthew Gerding</td>
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• Dustin Gettel  UT  Midvale City Council
• Emily Gilbert  IL  Library Board of Trustees
• Caitlin Giles-McCormick  NJ  Flemington Borough Council
• Anthony Gomez  OH  Cuyahoga Falls Board of Education
• Adam Graham  OK  The Village City Council
• Rob Grilley  NM  Albuquerque City Council
• Don Guardian  NJ  New Jersey State Assembly
• Jackie Gunderson  IL  Mayor of Bloomington
• Shannon Hardin  OH  Columbus City Council
• Reggie Harris  OH  Cincinnati City Council
• Jeff Harris  KS  Westwood City Council
• Patrick Heck  WI  City of Madison Board of Aldermen
• Bill Hedrick  OH  Municipal Court Judge
• Dana Hilliard  NH  Mayor of Somersworth
• Carolyn D. Hoffman  NY  Monroe County Legislature
• Jason Hoskins  MI  Southfield City Council
• Brad Hoylman  NY  Manhattan Borough President
• Jake Hudnut  NJ  Jersey City Council
• Bret Jacob  RI  Rhode Island State Senate
• Nathan Jeffries  WA  Spokane County Water District Board
• Andrea Jenkins  MN  Minneapolis City Council
• Marion Johnson  NC  Durham City Council
• Corey Johnson  NY  New York City Comptroller
• Nick Kachiroubas  IL  Crystal Lake City Clerk
• John Kashwick  NJ  Clinton City Council
• Charlotte Kelly  MA  Somerville City Council
• Marshall Kilgore  MI  Kalamazoo City Commission
• Megan Kilgore  OH  Columbus City Auditor
• Scott Kirschman  OH  Franklin County Municipal Court
• Justin Klekota  MA  Somerville City Council
• Nick Komives  OH  Toledo City Council
• Stephe Koontz  GA  Doraville City Council
• Nicholas Kor  MN  Minneapolis City Council
• Dustin Lambro  WA  Public Hospital District Board
• Kristal Larson  IL  Avon Township Clerk
• Kelly-Jeanne Lee  GA  Atlanta City Council
• Scott Lennon  IL  Berwyn Board of Aldermen
• James Lewis  VA  Alexandria City Council
• Malia Lewis  OH  Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School Board
• Paula Lewis  OK  Oklahoma City Public School Board
• Signe Lindell  NM  Santa Fe City Council
• Jeffrey Litke  CT  Naugatuck Board of Education
• Luke Londo  MI  Hazel Park City Council
• Mico Londo  NJ  Atlantic County Clerk
• Dion Manley  OH  Gahanna Jefferson School Board
• Darin Mano  UT  Salt Lake City Council
• Stanley Martin  NY  Rochester City Council
• Graysen Martinez Ocasio  MA  Salem City Council
• Krystal Marx  WA  Burien City Council
• Rebecca Maurer  OH  Cleveland City Council
• Stephen McBride  MA  Boston City Council
• Kerry McCormack  OH  Cleveland City Council
• John McCrostie  ID  Garden City City Council
• Jalen McKee-Rodriguez  TX  San Antonio City Council
• Kirk McPike  VA  Alexandria City Council
• Rebecca Miller  MA  Somerville City Council
• Randall Moorman  CO  Arvada City Council
• Jae Moyer  KS  Johnson County Community College Board of Trustees
• Alex Myers  PA  Hatboro Borough Council
• Sheila Nezhad  MN  Mayor of Minneapolis
• Thu Nguyen  MA  Worcester City Council
• Andrew Nowick  NJ  Mayor of Lambertville
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<td>Peter Spadafore</td>
<td>MI</td>
<td>Lansing City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stephen Spring</td>
<td>GA</td>
<td>Atlanta Public Schools Board of Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>Karen Stegman</td>
<td>NC</td>
<td>Chapel Hill Town Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Stephens</td>
<td>MO</td>
<td>Saint Louis Board of Aldermen</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cesar Stewart-Morales</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>Framingham City Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sean Strub</td>
<td>PA</td>
<td>Mayor of Milford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kari Suhadolnik</td>
<td>OH</td>
<td>Stow City Council</td>
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<td>David Todisco</td>
<td>MA</td>
<td>Medford City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kate Triggiano</td>
<td>NJ</td>
<td>Red Bank City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dave Upthegrove</td>
<td>WA</td>
<td>King County Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose Valdes-Fauli</td>
<td>FL</td>
<td>Coral Gables Commission</td>
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<td>Mauro Walden-Montoya</td>
<td>NM</td>
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<tr>
<td>India Walton</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Mayor of Buffalo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alex Wan</td>
<td>GA</td>
<td>Atlanta City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Douglas Ward</td>
<td>VA</td>
<td>Virginia House of Delegates</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sändra Washington</td>
<td>NE</td>
<td>Lincoln City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Waters</td>
<td>NY</td>
<td>Onondaga County Legislator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chad West</td>
<td>TX</td>
<td>Dallas City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Wharton</td>
<td>UT</td>
<td>Salt Lake City Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marcia White</td>
<td>UT</td>
<td>Ogden City Council</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Out on the Trail
Report Finds A Rainbow Wave of LGBTQ Candidates

LGBTQ Candidates More Diverse Than Ever

More than 430 out LGBTQ people ran for office in 2021—the most ever in an odd-numbered election year—and at least 237 appeared on the ballot in November. Our annual Out on the Trail report also found that between 2019 and 2021 there was a:

- 36% of LGBTQ candidates were people of color
- 148% increase in queer-identified candidates
- 75% increase in bisexual candidates
- 260% increase in genderqueer and non-binary candidates

Read all 2021 Out on the Trail findings at:
victoryfund.org/out-on-the-trail-2021
Our Financials

REVENUE
$4,178,223.50

- Contributions
  $1,902,383.48 | 46% of total revenue
- Donor Candidate Contributions
  $1,104,691.53 | 26% of total revenue
- Events
  $1,062,112.61 | 25% of total revenue
- IE Political Contributions
  $109,035.88 | 3% of total revenue

expenses
$3,607,671.22

- Direct Candidate Contributions
  $1,104,691.53 | 31% of total expenses
- Political Expenditures
  $822,451.44 | 23% of total expenses
- Direct Donor Benefit
  $615,485.19 | 17% of total expenses
- Research and Communications
  $470,251.93 | 13% of total expenses
- Fundraising
  $401,374.44 | 11% of total expenses
- Management and General
  $193,416.69 | 5% of total expenses
Our Team

LGBTQ Victory Fund
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Paul Feeney, Vice Chair
Mellie Price, Treasurer
J.D. Angle, Secretary

Sue Burnside
Sharon Callahan-Miller
Samuel Garrett-Pate
Joe Falk
Richard Holt
Chris Kehoe
Chrys Lemon
Terrence Meck
Kevin B Morrison
Jess Nahigian
Greg Porter

One Victory
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Michael Fuller, Vice Chair
Wade Rakes, Vice Chair
Paul Horning, Treasurer
Claire Lucas, Secretary

John Arrowood
Brandon Hernandez
Mike Holloman
Mattheus Stephens
John Tedstrom
Louis Vega

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Seth Schermer, Executive Vice President and Chief Development Officer
Andrea Hernandez, Chief Financial Officer
Elliot Imse, Vice President of Communications

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Danielle Coppens, Data Manager
Katie Creehan, Director of Operations
Nicole Demchishin, Executive Assistant and Board Liaison
Albert Fujii, Press Secretary
Alex Gabriel, Political Manager
Jarod Keith, Senior Digital Strategist
Shelby Kestler, Victory Campaign Board Manager
Sarah LeDonne, Senior Communications & Marketing Manager
Sean Meloy, Senior Political Advisor
Josh Roth, Victory Cabinet Manager
Curtis Sakow, Corporate & Institutional Giving Officer
Ryan Schaefer, Development Associate
Cesar Toledo, Deputy Political Director
Kristen White, Events Manager

Independent Consultant

Marty Rouse, Senior Director of Political Programs
Victory Campaign Board

The Victory Campaign Board is the driving engine behind our endorsements and candidate fundraising services. This national and growing board makes the final determination on which candidates to endorse and provides direct contributions and holds fundraisers for endorsed candidates.

Join the Board

If you are interested in getting more involved with Victory Fund as a Campaign Board Member, visit: victoryfund.org/vcb to learn more or contact us.

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Samuel Garrett-Pate

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Jim Schmidt

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Justin Hill
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Eric Johnson
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Joel Kopperud
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Desiree Luckey
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Brian Maloney
Jeffrey Marburg-Goodman
Eliz Markowitz
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Michael Mattmiller
Phillip McCarthy
Matthew McClellan
Patrick McCluskey
Matthew McDermott
Mark McLaurin
Marvin McMoore
Ted Miller
Evan Minton
Erin Moore
Laurie Morrison Sauer
Chris Morter
James Moses
Bill Murat
Amanda Nelson
Sam Nitz
Josie Nixon
Jill Normington
Matt Okeson
Blake Oshiro
Charlie Panfil
Jon Patterson
Clark Pellett
Daniel Penchina
Paul “Neil” Penick
Tom Perrault
Phil Perry
Kevin Perry
Skip Perry
Chris Pfauser
DeAndre Pickett
Catherine Pino
Greg Pizarro
Jerred Price
David Prophitt
Howard Pulchink
Ray Purser
Abe Rakov
Daniel Ramos
Thomas Ranese
David Reid
Victor Reyes
Robbie Rikard
Jake Riley
Dan Robbins
Gavin Rose
Kefter Rowlans
Tyler Sadonis
Arnel San Pedro
Kaleb Schumann
Christopher Semenas
Troy Sexton
Allyn Shau
Harold “Hal” Shipman
Robert Sikorski
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Stephen Skinner
Ethan Smith
Carlton Smith
Chuck Smith
Mona Smith
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