

IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO HAWE FRIENDS REPRESENT US, NO MATTER HOW GOOD THESE FRIENDS MAY BE. WE MUST GIVE PEOPLE THE CHANCE TO JUDGE US BY OUR OWN LEADERS & BY OUR OWN LEGISLATORS.



ABOVE: Oregon Secretary of State Kate
Brown (center) speaks to participants
at the 2008 International Gay & Lesbian
Leadership Conference. Also pictured:
Julie Bolcer (left), journalist; Commissioner Kecia Cunningham (right),
Decatur, Georgia City Commission.

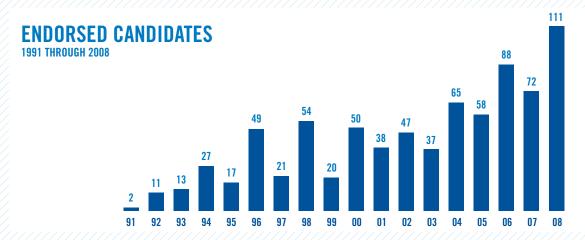
It's hard to dispute the statement that 2008 was a watershed year in American politics. While the national limelight shone on President Barack Obama, the Victory Fund's 80 successful candidates made history by defying expectations and breaking barriers. This year alone saw Victory Fund endorsees become the first openly LGBT secretary of state, the first openly LGBT mayor of a top 30 U.S. city and the first openly LGBT person elected in the entire state of Louisiana. In fact, more than 70% of Victory-endorsed candidates won their elections in 2008.

One of the most prominent leaps forward for the LGBT community was Jared Polis' election to represent Colorado's second district in the U.S. House of Representatives, joining Reps. Barney Frank and Tammy Baldwin. At only 33 years of age, Jared has a bright political future, which began when he won a seat to the Colorado Board of Education. Not long after being elected to that seat, and with Victory's help, Jared courageously came out to his constituents, laying the groundwork for him to become the first openly gay man to be elected to Congress as a non-incumbent.

Kate Brown made history by becoming Oregon's Secretary of State, the second-highest ranking executive office in the entire state. She won a tough four-way primary race and went on to defeat her Republican opponent on November 4th. Kate's race was a top priority for the Victory Fund, and the support of Victory's donors had a tremendous impact on the outcome.

>> "THE EARLY AND SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT I RECEIVED FROM THE VICTORY FUND PROVIDED THE FOUNDATION I NEEDED TO RUN A STRONG, WINNING PRIMARY CAMPAIGN AND POSITIONED ME FOR A SUCCESSFUL ELECTION IN THE FALL."

KATE BROWN, OREGON SECRETARY OF STATE



After coming out publicly in February, Connecticut State Representative Jason Bartlett won his hotly contested re-election race, making him one of just two openly LGBT African-Americans to be elected to a state legislature in the United States.

In Falls Church, Virginia, Lawrence Webb won an incredibly close election for a city council seat, edging out his competition by a margin of 39 votes and making him the first and only openly LGBT African-American elected official in Virginia. Lawrence said, "I hope my election opens the door for others to get involved in public service. It doesn't matter if you're gay or black or both. What matters is your dedication to building a better community, and your willingness to work hard at it."

Other notable accomplishments include rising stars Nicole LeFavour of Idaho and David Parks of Nevada winning elections to become the first openly LBGT state senators in their states; Rosemary Lehmberg became the first out lesbian elected as a county district attorney in Texas; John Perez won his race in California and now serves as the first openly LGBT person of color in the state legislature and the first openly LGBT head of the Democratic Caucus.



ABOVE: Rep. Tammy Baldwin addresses a group of Victory supporters at the 8th Annual Champagne Brunch in Washington, DC. The Victory Fund endorses candidates running in races of all levels – from small town city councilmembers to national leaders. As such, the officials we've helped elect have enacted changes big and small. But each out elected official made a difference in his or her community by serving openly and honestly.

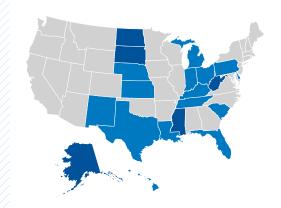
Brian Bates, a member of the Doraville, Georgia City Council, helped unanimously pass a measure banning discrimination based on sexual orientation. In Pittsburgh, out city councilman Bruce Kraus secured final approval for legislation creating a domestic partner registry, which he wrote. The legislation provides benefits to city employees and sets a standard for private employers to grant benefits to their gay employees.

On the state level, openly gay Washington state representative Jamie Pedersen helped pass legislation granting property rights and immunity from testifying against one's partner in court. Meanwhile, in Colorado, Sen. Jennifer Veiga & Rep. Mark Ferrandino helped pass a statewide ban on anti-LGBT workplace discrimination.

In Alabama, out state legislator Patricia Todd helped usher two pro-gay bills through the state's House of Representatives. The bills would have added discrimination protections and added sexual orientation to the state's existing hate crimes laws. Equality Alabama Executive Director Danny Upton called Todd's presence in the legislature "transformative" for the state's gay community.

>> "BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THAT WHILE I AM PROUD TO BE THE FIRST OUT LESBIAN IN CONGRESS, I DON'T WANT TO BE THE ONLY OUT LESBIAN IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES."

REP. TAMMY BALDWIN, U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



HORIZON STATE UPDATE

- Horizon States are states with no openly LGBT elected officials at any level of government.
- Legislative Horizon States lack openly LGBT representation in their state legislatures.

And in Massachusetts, where marriage equality has been in place since 2004, lawmakers (including out Reps. Carl Sciortino, Cheryl Coakley-Rivera and Sarah Peake) voted to repeal a 95-year-old law used to prevent out-of-state, same-sex couples from marrying within the commonwealth.

STANDING UP TO HATE More than one million views on YouTube. Coverage from The New York Times, Perez Hilton and CNN. A segment on Ellen Degeneres' syndicated talk show. The "I'm Listening" campaign, which featured a viral video of an anti-gay rant by Oklahoma Rep. Sally Kern, gave the Victory Fund & its mission unprecedented worldwide exposure.

As Kern spewed misinformation and outrageous statements (including the idea that gays were a bigger threat to America than terrorism), the "I'm Listening" campaign encouraged LGBT rights supporters to expect more from their leaders and to support the Victory Fund and LGBT candidates. Thanks to the power of new media, the Victory Fund introduced itself to a completely new LGBT-supportive audience.

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WANT ME TO SAY TO ALL OF THE GAY AND LESBIAN KIDS OUT THERE TONIGHT WHO HAVE BEEN TOLD THAT THEY ARE LESS THAN BY THEIR CHURCHES, BY THE GOVERNMENT OR BY THEIR FAMILIES, THAT YOU ARE BEAUTIFUL, WONDERFUL CREATURES OF VALUE AND THAT NO MATTER WHAT ANYONE TELLS YOU, GOD DOES LOVE YOU AND THAT VERY SOON, I PROMISE YOU, YOU WILL HAVE EQUAL RIGHTS..."

DUSTIN LANCE BLACK, OSCAR-WINNING SCREENWRITER OF THE HARVEY MILK BIOPIC, "MILK," ON ACCEPTING HIS ACADEMY AWARD.

ABOVE: Creative team from the movie
"Milk" speak after a GLLI screening
of the film. From L to R: Cleve Jones,
portrayed in the film by Emile Hirsch;
Dustin Lance Black, Screenwriter; Bruce
Cohen Producer

Supporting the campaigns of out candidates isn't enough to ensure LGBT leaders are equipped to handle the responsibilities of public office. The Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute's professional development programs help current and aspiring LGBT leaders run winning campaigns and become effective public officials.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS PROJECT GLLI's Presidential Appointments Project became a runaway success, amassing more than 1,500 resumes through an impressive coalition of 12 national LGBT organizations. As of February 2009, 20 gay or lesbian individuals had received appointments within the administration.

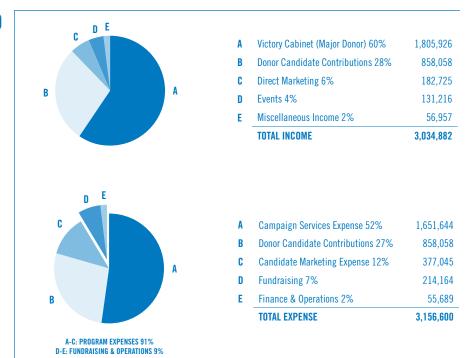
DAVID BOHNETT GAY & LESBIAN LEADERSHIP FELLOWS Last year, the David Bohnett Gay & Lesbian Leadership Fellows program made it possible for eleven openly LGBT public servants to attend the Senior Executives in State & Local Government program at Harvard's Kennedy School. Campbell, California, City Councilmember Evan Low explained the impact he and the other Bohnett Fellows had on one of the Kennedy School's straight participants. "He no longer feels uncomfortable and sees us as friends," Low said.

CANDIDATE & CAMPAIGN TRAINING GLLI's flagship Candidate & Campaign Training program trained more than 80 people in 2008 in four cities across the country. The intensive three-day sessions teach future candidates and campaign workers to build winning campaigns and overcome obstacles common to openly LGBT office seekers. Past training participants include Dallas County Sheriff Lupe Valdez and North Carolina State Senator Julia Boseman, both of whom won re-election in 2008.

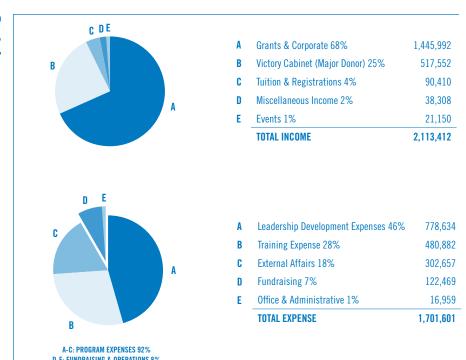
In December, GLLI hosted the largest-ever International Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. More than 600 people participated from all over the world, including Sunil Babu Pant, Nepal's first openly gay elected official, and Zvonimir Dobrovic, organizer of Croatia's Queer Zagreb Festival. The creative team behind "Milk," the Oscar-winning biopic about Harvey Milk, screened the film for conference attendees and answered viewers questions afterward.

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= WINNER

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•	MN	Carla Bates	Minneapolis School Board

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CA	Christopher Cabaldon	Mayor, West Sacramento
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JUDICIAL

	AR	Gary Sullivan	Little Rock District Court
•	AR	Alice Lightle	Little Rock District Court
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•	IL	Sebastian Patti	Cook County Circuit Court
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•	TX	Steve Kirkland	215th Civil District Court, Harris County
	TX	Andres Pereira	190th Civil District Court, Harris County
	WA	Jean Rietschel	King County Superior Court

CONGRESSIONAL

•	CO	Jared Polis	US House of Reps, CO-2
•	MA	Barney Frank	US House of Reps, MA-4
	SC	Linda Ketner	US House of Reps, SC-1
•	WI	Tammy Baldwin	US House of Reps, WI-4

STATE LEGISLATIVE

•	AR	Kathy Webb	State House, Dist. 37
•	AZ	Kyrsten Sinema	State House, Dist. 15
•	AZ	Matt Heinz	State House, Dist. 29
	CA	Greg Pettis	State Assembly, Dist. 80
	CA	Laurette Healey	State Assembly, Dist. 40
	CA	Kriss Worthington	State Assembly, Dist. 14
•	CA	Christine Kehoe	State Senate, Dist. 39
•	CA	Tom Ammiano	State Assembly, Dist. 13
•	CA	John Perez	State Assembly, Dist. 46
•	CA	Mark Leno	State Senate, Dist. 3
	CA	Christopher Cabaldon	State Assembly, Dist. 8
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•	MO	Jeanette Mott-Oxford	State House, Dist. 59
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•	NC	Julia Boseman	State Senate, Dist. 9
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•	WA	Joe McDermott	State Senate, Dist. 34
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