

2009



annual report



Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Leadership Institute

we are
no longer
“other.”

we are
leaders.

we are
colleagues.

from the board of directors

The annual report you're holding summarizes the work of the Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Leadership Institute in 2009, the most successful non-federal election year in our history. While this report can't quite relay the joy felt by everyone when Annise Parker's victory made Houston the largest U.S. city ever to elect an openly LGBT mayor, we hope it reflects the historic impact of that tremendous victory.

At the end of the 2009 political season, the Victory Fund saw 54 of 79 endorsed candidates win their elections, an extraordinary success rate for any political organization. We helped elect the first openly LGBT city council members in Akron, Ohio, St. Petersburg, Florida, and Detroit, where Charles Pugh was the top vote-getter in his first run for office and thus became president of the city council.

In Georgia, Simone Bell's victory made her the first openly lesbian African-American elected to a state legislature in the U.S., and Alex Wan became the first gay man and first Asian-American elected to public office in Atlanta.

These breakthroughs are important. They give us hope that we can win when we work harder and smarter than our opponents, and they give young people the confidence to pursue their dreams while living authentic lives, unafraid to be themselves. Once in office, these public leaders literally become the face and voice of the LGBT community. We are no longer "other." We are leaders. We are colleagues. We are visible.

Winning is sweet, but our mission isn't complete after the last vote is counted. Whether it's introducing and fighting for federal legislation in Congress, or speaking out for anti-bullying policies on local school boards, out elected officials are working on the front lines in the fight for equality.

Our ranks also expanded significantly in 2009 as we led the community's Presidential Appointments Project, a coalition of a dozen national organizations that saw more than 100 appointees placed by the end of President Obama's first year in office—a record-setting pace that will ensure LGBT voices are heard at the highest reaches of the federal government.

We are proud of our success in 2009 and, especially in tough economic times, grateful for the generous support of a family of donors, board members and friends who make this vital work possible. The year ahead will be full of new challenges, and with your help we will meet them with renewed hope, energy and confidence in the value of our contribution toward equality.



Mark Burstein
Chair, Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund



Joyce Newstat
Chair, Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute



Chuck Wolfe
President and CEO

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our mission

to change the face and voice of america's politics and achieve equality for lgbt americans by increasing the number of openly lgbt officials at all levels of government.

election scorecard

county/municipal

AL	Howard Bayless	Birmingham City Council
● AZ	Karin Uhlich	Tucson City Council
● AZ	Tom Simplot	Phoenix City Council
● CA	John Duran	West Hollywood City Council
● CA	Jeffrey Prang	West Hollywood City Council
● CA	Robert Garcia	Long Beach City Council
● CA	Jose Cisneros	San Francisco Treasurer
● CA	Ginny Foat	Palm Springs City Council
CA	Dave Carden	Palm Springs City Council
CA	Henry Lo	Rosemead City Council
● FL	Anthony Niedwiecki	Oakland Park City Commission
● FL	Steve Kornell	St. Petersburg City Council
● FL	Michael Gongora	Miami Beach City Commission
FL	Sherry Roberts	Miami Beach City Commission
FL	Coleman Prewitt	Fort Lauderdale City Commission
● GA	Brian Bates	Doraville City Council
● GA	Alex Wan	Atlanta City Council
GA	Adam Brackman	Atlanta City Council
GA	Kyle Williams	Decatur City Commission
GA	Eric Morrow	East Point City Council
● IL	Scott Hall	Alderman, Jacksonville
● MA	E. Denise Simmons	Cambridge City Council
● MA	Ken Reeves	Cambridge City Council
MA	Steven Camara	Mayor, Fall River
MA	Amaad Rivera	Springfield City Council
● MA	Timothy Purington	Holyoke City Council
● MD	Patrick Wojahn	College Park City Council
● MI	Charles Pugh	Detroit City Council
● MI	Terry Kuseske	Kalamazoo City Council
MI	Scott Klein	Hamtramck City Council
● MN	Jim Llanas	Maplewood City Council
● MN	Carol Becker	Board of Estimate and Taxation
● MN	Gary Schiff	Minneapolis City Council
● MO	Shane Cohn	Alderman, St. Louis
● NJ	Len Resto	Chatham Borough Council
NJ	Jack Zatz	Marlboro Township Council
● NY	Christine Quinn	New York City Council
● NY	James Van Bramer	New York City Council
● NY	Danny Dromm	New York City Council
● NY	Rosie Mendez	New York City Council
NY	Bob Zuckerman	New York City Council
NY	Lynn Schulman	New York City Council
● NY	Ken Zalewski	Troy City Council
● NY	Kathy Herrera	Tompkins County Board
● NY	Barbara Smith	Albany City Council
● NY	Matt Haag	Rochester City Council
NY	Jo Meleca-Voigt	Monroe County Legislature
● OH	Nickie Antonio	Lakewood City Council

county/municipal (cont.)

● OH	Sandra Kurt	Akron City Council
● OH	Mark Tumeo	Cleveland Heights City Council
OH	Jay Smith	Medina City Council
● PA	Daniel Miller	Harrisburg City Controller
● PA	Sharyn Keiser	New Hope Borough Council
● PA	Lori Schreiber	Abington Township Commission
● PA	Karl Marking	Coatesville City Council
TN	David Glasgow	Nashville Metro Council
● TX	Annise Parker	Mayor, Houston
● TX	Sue Lovell	Houston City Council
TX	Lane Lewis	Houston City Council
TX	Maverick Welsh	Houston City Council
TX	Noel Freeman	Houston City Council
● TX	Joel Burns	Fort Worth City Council
● VA	Paul Smedberg	Alexandria City Council
● WA	Rob Holland	Seattle Port Commission
● WA	David Kaplan	Des Moines City Council
● WA	Fred Chang	Port Orchard City Council
WA	Jeff Kingsbury	Olympia City Council

school board

AL	Elisa Burns-Macon	Birmingham Board of Education
● CA	Stephanie O'Brien	Lagunitas School Board
DE	Meyer Persow	Cape Henlopen School Board
● NE	Barbara Baier	Lincoln School Board
● OH	Joe Lacey	Dayton Board of Education

judicial

● PA	Dan Anders	Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas
● PA	Dawn Segal	Philadelphia Municipal Court
PA	Hugh McGough	Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas

state legislative

● GA	Simone Bell	Georgia State House, District 58
● NJ	Reed Gusciora	New Jersey General Assembly, District 15
● VA	Adam Ebbin	Virginia House of Delegates, District 49

congressional

CA	Anthony Woods	US House of Representatives, CA-10
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● = Winner

mayor annise parker

houston, texas

On December 12, 2009 the citizens of Houston elected an open lesbian to lead their city—a milestone moment for LGBT Americans and an unmistakable repudiation of anti-gay extremists who fought to keep her from winning.

The news shocked a lot of people outside Houston who didn't know Annise Parker or understand her longtime commitment to public service in her hometown.

“How did this happen...in Texas?” they wondered.

But those of us who worked to help elect Annise knew this was possible.

There's a quiet confidence about her that says, “I'm ready.”

And she was.

PREPARING TO WIN



Annise had prepared for more than a dozen years and through six citywide elections, winning each time with the help of the Victory Fund. She'd graduated from Victory's candidate training and executive development programs, learning how to build winning campaigns.

But in the end Annise put her trust in the voters, hoping the honesty and openness that had marked her previous campaigns would inoculate her against extremist attacks. Her opponents wanted to make the election another battle in the tired culture wars that preoccupy the fringes of American politics, but she refused to take the bait.

PHOTO: Annise (second row, fourth from the left) attends the Leadership Institute's Candidate and Campaign Training in 1994

VICTORY FUND SUPPORT



When those attacks came Annise stood strong, supporters like you stepped up, and together we defeated naked bigotry. The Victory Fund was able to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to make sure Annise's campaign team could respond to attacks and get her message to voters.

On Election Night Annise said it best: "I am so grateful to the Victory Fund and its supporters for believing in this campaign from the beginning. This race was about the future of Houston, and whether we will face that future proud to be an open, welcoming, and fair-minded city. Tonight Houstonians said yes to a future like that, and I am glad the Victory Fund helped make that happen."

David Mixner, one of the LGBT movement's most respected voices, had this to say in reaction to Annise's victory: "Deserving much applause...is the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. Under the talented direction of Chuck Wolfe, the organization has quietly provided this community with one triumph after the other. Tired of wasting money on candidates who forget their promises to us as soon as they are elected? Well, open up those check books and send checks to the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund and elect our own."

PHOTO: Annise, Chuck Wolfe and consultant Grant Martin confer on election night in Houston.

THE MISSION CONTINUES



Marquee wins like Annise Parker's are exciting, but dozens of similar victories on school boards and city councils, in state legislatures and even statewide offices have the same power to change hearts and minds.

We go forward in 2010 ready to meet the challenge of our mission, to train and help elect more men and women who, like Annise, will be prepared to stand up to bigotry and win. Victory's staff and board members are dedicated to keeping LGBT Americans an integral part of civic life and the electoral process, so that our community's voice is heard loud and clear.

building leaders



Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit addresses a record crowd of attendees at the 25th International Gay & Lesbian Leadership Conference.

The Gay & Lesbian Leadership Institute's programs help current and aspiring leaders run winning campaigns and become effective public officials. In 2009, GLLI aided thousands of people dedicated to public service.

PRESIDENTIAL APPOINTMENTS PROJECT



With more than 100 openly LGBT individuals already appointed by President Obama, his administration is on track to become the most diverse in history. Thousands of LGBT Americans have applied for appointments through the Presidential Appointments Project, a community-wide coalition led by GLLI and recognized by White House officials for its professionalism and effectiveness. Key appointments include the director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, the chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality and the Chair of the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

DAVID BOHNETT GAY & LESBIAN LEADERSHIP FELLOWS



GLLI, in collaboration with the David Bohnett Foundation, helped 16 outstanding LGBT leaders attend the Harvard Kennedy School's Senior Executives in State and Local Government program in 2009. This innovative partnership and highly acclaimed program together are changing the lives and careers of some of the community's best and brightest leaders.

CANDIDATE & CAMPAIGN TRAINING



Hundreds of future candidates attended GLLI's centerpiece training program in 2009, with many going on to run for and win elective office. Program participants learned the art and science of building winning campaigns from the ground up, and many credit GLLI's training for helping them beat the odds and win. Training sessions took place in Ft. Lauderdale, Chicago, Denver and San Francisco.

GAY & LESBIAN LEADERSHIP SMARTBRIEF



Leaders need quick access to key information, so GLLI set out to make it easier for LGBT leaders to keep on top of the latest news and opinion about issues important to our community. Five years later, SmartBrief is a must-read news resource for more than 20,000 readers around the world, and with its active jobs board, a first stop for those looking for careers in the LGBT movement.

25TH INTERNATIONAL GAY & LESBIAN LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE



Held in San Francisco for the first time, the silver anniversary of this growing event saw more than 500 openly LGBT leaders in politics, government and community organizations come together to build their skills and connect with colleagues. Attendees heard from Berlin, Germany Mayor Klaus Wowereit, Director John Berry of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, and U.S. Reps. Tammy Baldwin and Jared Polis, among dozens of other speakers and panelists.

making an impact



tangible results

Throughout 2009, openly LGBT elected and appointed officials made lasting contributions toward a more equal and fair America.

This is just a sampling of the efforts of openly LGBT officials, whose voices and passion helped advance the cause of equality:

Congressman [Barney Frank](#), along with his colleagues [Tammy Baldwin](#) and [Jared Polis](#), led a successful effort to finally pass legislation adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the nation's federal hate crimes laws, and President Barack Obama signed the measure into law.

Congresswoman [Tammy Baldwin](#) introduced the Domestic Partnerships Benefits and Obligations Act of 2009, a bill that equalizes benefits for federal employees with same-sex partners.

Assemblymember [Daniel O'Donnell](#) led a successful effort to pass a marriage equality bill in the New York State Assembly. The effort was dealt a blow in the State Senate despite the best efforts of Sen. [Tom Duane](#), but advocates in New York have vowed to fight on.

Maine State Sen. [Larry Bliss](#), along with his openly gay colleagues in the Maine House, Rep. [Terry Morrison](#) and Rep. [Jim Martin](#), worked for passage of a marriage equality bill. The state's governor signed the bill, but the law was overturned later in the year via a statewide ballot question.

Vermont's openly gay and lesbian state legislators helped persuade their colleagues to vote in favor of a marriage equality bill and even override a governor's veto of the measure.

New Hampshire's openly gay state legislators, Rep. [Ed Butler](#), Rep. [David Pierce](#), and Rep. [Jim Splaine](#), led efforts to craft a marriage equality bill that was passed and signed into law by the state's governor.

Illinois State Rep. [Greg Harris](#) introduced a bill to establish civil unions in the state.

Washington State's openly gay lawmakers made the case for sweeping new laws designed to give same-sex domestic partners the same rights and responsibilities as married couples. Opponents tried to repeal the measures via a statewide ballot question, but lost.

In Nevada, State Sen. [David Parks](#) introduced and helped pass a bill establishing a domestic partner registry in the state. Even after a governor's veto threatened to stop the bill, Parks persuaded enough of his colleagues to vote to override and enact the new law.

Birmingham, Alabama school board member [Howard Bayless](#) got an anti-bullying policy adopted that specifically addresses sexual orientation and gender identity.

North Carolina State Sen. [Julia Boseman](#) persuaded her colleagues to pass a statewide anti-bullying law designed to outlaw abuse directed at the state's LGBT students.

In Colorado, a bill that would give gay and lesbian state employees insurance benefits for their partners was introduced by State Sen. [Jennifer Veiga](#).

D.C. City Councilmember [David Catania](#) introduced and helped pass a measure establishing marriage equality for residents of the nation's capital.

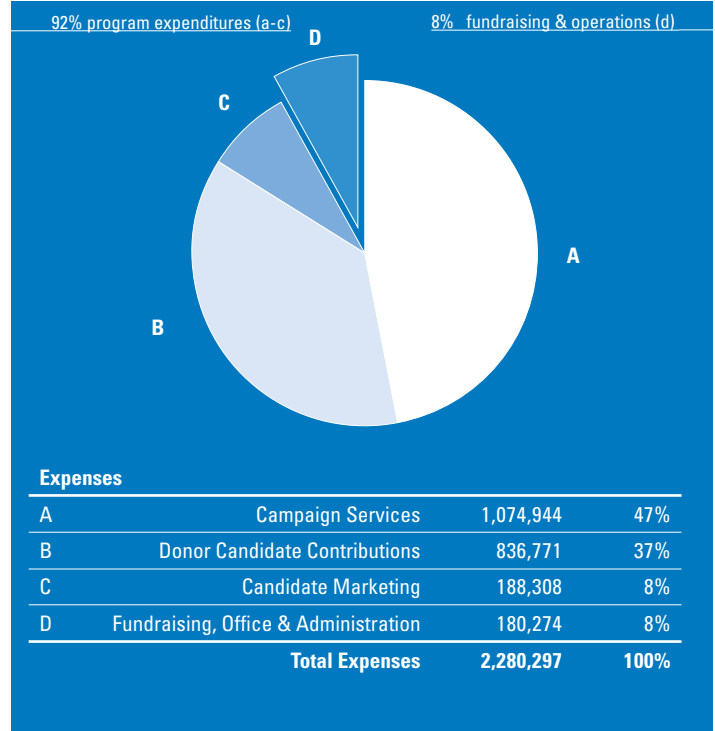
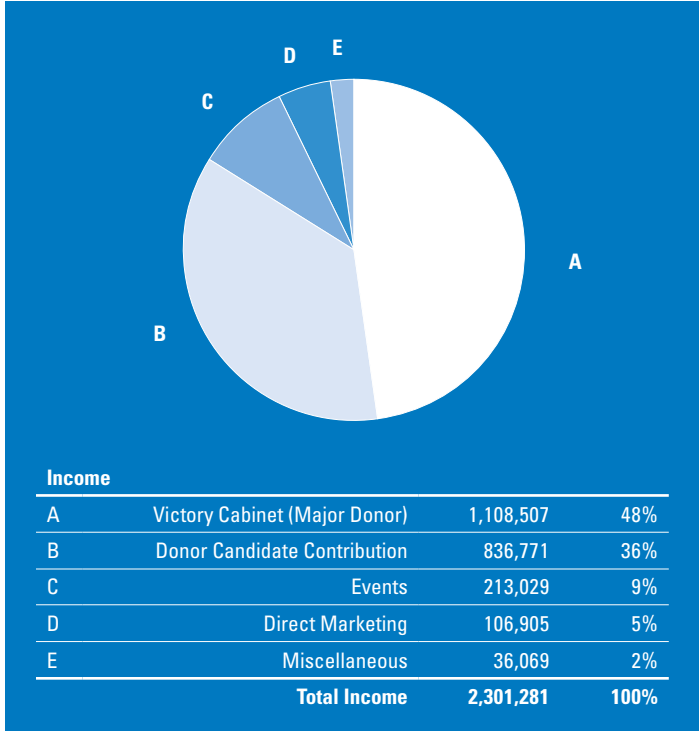
Assemblymember [Mark Leno](#) authored and helped pass a bill to recognize "Harvey Milk Day," an official day of recognition to be celebrated on Milk's birthday each year. The measure was signed into law by Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger.

financial reporting, supporters, staff & boards

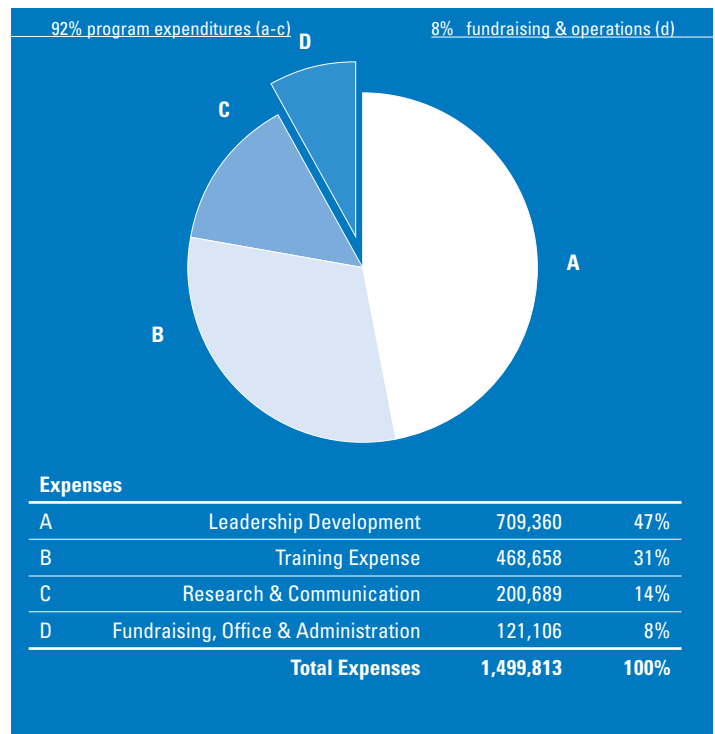
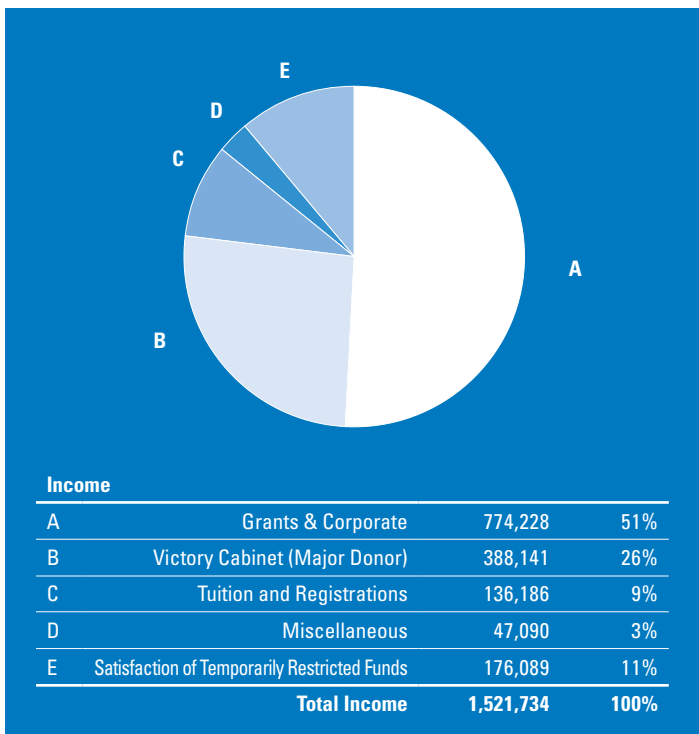
The Gay & Lesbian Victory Fund and Leadership Institute is committed to using our resources – and your contributions – effectively. In fact, nearly 92% of all funds directly support our programs. That's only 8% spent toward fundraising and operations. For more information on our financial reporting visit victoryfund.org/2009audit.

financial reporting

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