



**LGBTQ+
VICTORY
FUND**



"I could not have won this campaign without the unwavering support of LGBTQ+ Victory Fund. Their commitment to amplifying LGBTQ+ voices and empowering our community to lead is truly inspiring. Thank you for being a critical ally in my journey towards victory."

DINA NINA MARTINEZ-RUTHERFORD
Madison, WI Common Council

A Note from Mayor Annise Parker

In 2023, our community garnered national headlines because of relentless attacks on our freedoms and equality. The Supreme Court ruled in favor of discrimination under the guise of religious freedom, more than 500 pieces of anti-LGBTQ legislation were introduced, and politicians used trans kids as political punching bags. But what the headlines also emphasized – and what we know well at LGBTQ+ Victory Fund – is that our community is mobilized and fighting back.

A historic number of LGBTQ+ candidates ran for public office – surpassing all previous odd-year election cycles. Victory Fund endorsed a record number of candidates (almost 260), made strategic investments, expanded candidate services, and put more boots on the ground than ever before.

It was an incredible year for Victory Fund endorsed candidates. Seventy-one percent won on Election Day. They won in places that are in desperate need of LGBTQ+ leadership. Due to the Magnolia Initiative – our plan to expand LGBTQ+ political power across the South – LGBTQ+ leaders are proudly serving in new or higher elected positions in Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia. Trans and non-binary candidates won school board and state legislative seats in places that have proven to be the epicenter of the policy and legislative debates on our lives.

These victories will continue to resonate, and we know those elected will be our firewall against legislation that attempts to invade our bedrooms and medical decisions and erode our dignity. And those who bravely stepped up to run – regardless of the outcome of their campaigns – have inspired even more to run for office and ensure LGBTQ+ people are present and visible on the trail.

The onslaught against our fundamental rights continues. But the future of equality rests in the hands of those who are willing to fight those who aim to undermine it. Thanks to your support and commitment, we were ready to win in 2023, and we will continue to push forward in 2024.

Onward,



Mayor Annise Parker
President & CEO, LGBTQ+ Victory Fund



Electing LGBTQ+ Leaders Beating Bigots

During odd-year election cycles, down-ballot races have a chance to shine. State legislatures, city councils, school boards and other local seats are all up for grabs. These are the races where LGBTQ+ Victory Fund makes an outsize impact – changing the dynamics and propelling candidates to victory. We racked up more than 500 hours of direct candidate support. Victory Fund staff was on the ground with campaigns throughout the year, including Spotlight candidate Fabian Nelson in Mississippi – who won and became the state’s first out LGBTQ+ state legislator.

Victory Fund also had a significant impact on campaign coffers, leveraging the bundling power of the Victory Campaign Board to directly invest more than \$946,000 in LGBTQ+ candidates in 2023.

In part because of Victory Fund support, more than 70 percent of our candidates won on Election Night – a historic high for an odd-year election cycle.



Powering the Movement Winning LGBTQ+ Campaigns



Key Victories

One of the core aspects of LGBTQ+ Victory Fund’s mission is to ensure America’s LGBTQ+ candidates have the resources, support, and knowledge to win their elections. By elevating our candidates’ stories and campaigns, we are winning more elections than ever – and changing the face of American political power.

In 2023, LGBTQ+ candidates ran to win – and we fueled their victories.

On the Ground

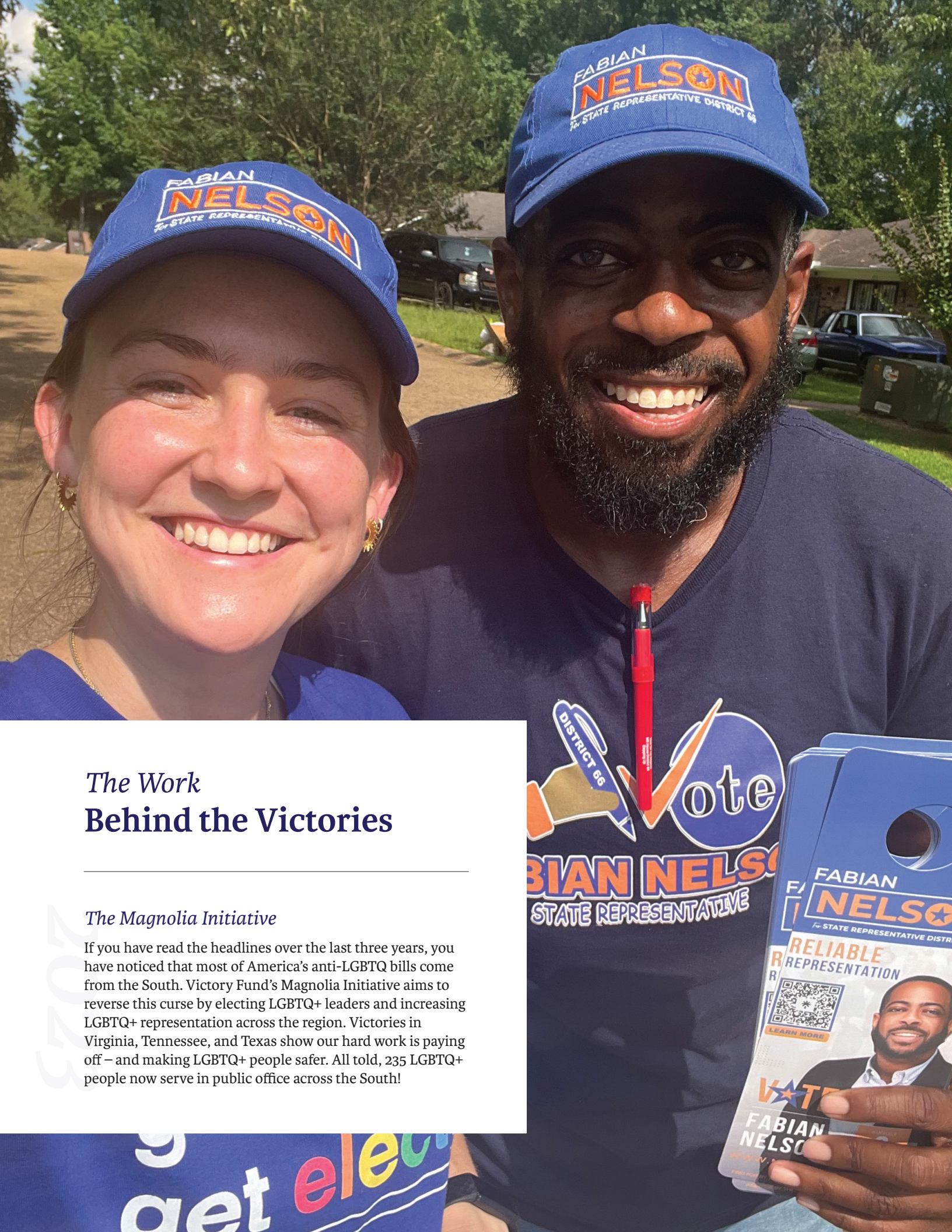
We were on the ground providing direct support for 51 candidates in 10 states. LGBTQ+ Victory Fund staff boosted candidates in key states such as Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Virginia.

Photo (left): LGBTQ+ Victory Fund Political Manager Eliza Fox and Political Associate Candace Silver on the ground with candidate for Virginia State Assembly Joshua Cole.

Photo (top): Victory Campaign Board Member Daqavise Winston on the ground with Minneapolis City Council Member Andrea Jenkins.

Photo (right): Shay Franco-Clausen speaking at the 2023 Black Leaders Caucus Reception in D.C. Pictured left to right: Maryland State Senator Mary Washington, Connecticut State Treasurer Erick Russell, D.C. City Councilmember Zachary Parker, Pennsylvania State Representative Malcolm Kenyatta, El Cerrito Mayor Pro Tem Carolyn Wysinger, Chicago City Councilmember Lamont Robinson, and Greenbelt City Councilman Brandon “Ric” Gordon.





The Work Behind the Victories

The Magnolia Initiative

If you have read the headlines over the last three years, you have noticed that most of America's anti-LGBTQ bills come from the South. Victory Fund's Magnolia Initiative aims to reverse this curse by electing LGBTQ+ leaders and increasing LGBTQ+ representation across the region. Victories in Virginia, Tennessee, and Texas show our hard work is paying off – and making LGBTQ+ people safer. All told, 235 LGBTQ+ people now serve in public office across the South!

Black Leaders Caucus

In 2022, a group of LGBTQ+ Victory Fund supporters formed the Black Leaders Caucus to address the severe underrepresentation of America's Black LGBTQ+ community in government. The Caucus identifies, recruits, and supports Victory Fund's Black LGBTQ+ candidates around the country. In 2023, the Black Leaders Caucus hosted key events around the U.S., campaigned with candidates, and contributed more than \$30,000 directly to Black endorsed candidates!



Spotlight on School Boards

During the COVID-19 pandemic, school boards became ground zero for anti-LGBTQ and anti-diversity legislation. But LGBTQ+ people are stepping up to ensure kids will read LGBTQ+ inclusive books, protect LGBTQ+ kids in schools and create safe learning environments. Together with national partners, Victory Fund prioritized school board races in 2023. Over 140 LGBTQ+ people are now serving on school boards across the U.S. and more LGBTQ+ school board candidates won in 2023 than in 2022!



Photo (left): LGBTQ+ Victory Fund Political Manager Eliza Fox on the ground with candidate for Mississippi State House Fabian Nelson.

Photo (top): San Antonio City Councilmember Jalen McKee-Rodriguez speaking at a LGBTQ+ Victory Fund Black Leaders Caucus Reception in Houston.

Photo (bottom): LGBTQ+ Victory Fund Vice President of Political Programs Sean Meloy on the ground with candidate for Central York School District Board of Directors Amelia McMillan.

LGBTQ+ Candidates Changing History



Danica Roem

Victory Fund was critical to Danica Roem's history-making House of Delegates race in 2017 – and we were all-in to help her shatter another lavender ceiling in 2023. We worked closely with her campaign and supported counterattacks at her transphobic opponent, helping her become the first out trans Virginia State senator and just the second out trans person ever elected to a state senate in the U.S.



Fabian Nelson

Victory Fund invested a record amount in Fabian's campaign, giving our time, training, resources, and on-the-ground support. During his first campaign, Fabian received only 33 votes. He attended an LGBTQ+ Victory Institute Candidate & Campaign Training, and Victory Fund staff embedded in his campaign. In 2023, he won 69 percent of the vote, shattering a rainbow ceiling in Mississippi, and becoming the first out LGBTQ+ person elected to the state legislature.



Luanne Peterpaul

Former County Prosecutor Luanne Peterpaul previously served as chair of the board for Garden State Equality, working to defend challenges to New Jersey's state law prohibiting conversion therapy and helping pass marriage equality. When school districts started banning books in her district, Victory Fund knew we had to get involved early to help make sure Luanne won. Thanks to Victory Fund's on-the-ground support, Luanne is now the first out LGBTQ+ woman elected to the state assembly!



Andrea Jenkins

One of our most vulnerable incumbents – and the only Black out trans woman currently serving on a city council in the U.S. – needed our full support. Through on-the-ground campaigning and financial backing, both the Black Leaders Caucus and Victory Campaign Board ensured Andrea's victory – by only 38 votes!



Rue Landau

Hard to believe, but true: the City of Brotherly Love and Sisterly Affection had never enjoyed LGBTQ+ representation on the city council. A longtime LGBTQ+ activist and political leader, Rue Landau changed all that with the help of Victory Fund, becoming the first out LGBTQ+ person elected to the Philadelphia City Council. Philly is the U.S.'s 6th largest city and is the last top-25 city in the country to elect an LGBTQ+ city councilmember!



Olivia Hill

Over the last several years, Tennessee has become known for its "slate of hate" legislation – bills crammed together to form a mass of anti-LGBTQ legislation. But Victory Institute Candidate & Campaign Training alum Olivia Hill was ready to run anyway, winning election to the Metropolitan Council of Nashville and Davidson County and becoming the first out trans person elected in Tennessee!



Amelia McMillan

As part of our School Board Initiative, we went all-in for Amelia McMillan, running for the Central York School Board in the swing state of Pennsylvania. They beat a conservative slate to earn this essential seat and ensure that the students, not anti-LGBTQ rhetoric, are the focus. Amelia is now one of just 15 out gender non-conforming people serving in any position in the entire U.S.

SCAN ME



For the full listing of our candidates and their election results, visit victoryfund.org/2023report



A Year of Notable Victories

Victory in Texas

LGBTQ+ Victory Fund helped hold representation in key city councils in Texas, ensuring Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio will continue to have LGBTQ+ voices. Additionally, Spotlight candidate and 2023 candidate for Houston City Council Mario Castillo pulled off a tough win in the runoff after campaigning with Victory Fund President & CEO Mayor Annise Parker!



Victory in Seattle

With her victory, Joy Hollingsworth helped restore LGBTQ+ representation on the Seattle City Council!



Victory in Virginia

LGBTQ+ Victory Fund helped ensure endorsed candidates in Virginia secured victories in both the primary and general elections. All **nine** Virginia state legislative candidates won their campaigns!

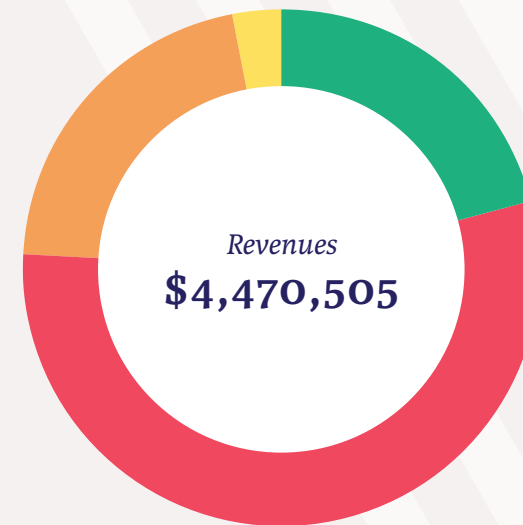
Photo (top): LGBTQ+ Victory Fund President & CEO Annise Parker and candidate for Houston City Council Mario Castillo at the LGBTQ+ Victory Fund Houston Champagne Brunch.

Photo (left): LGBTQ+ Victory Fund Political Manager Eliza Fox canvassing on behalf of candidate for Seattle City Council Joy Hollingsworth.

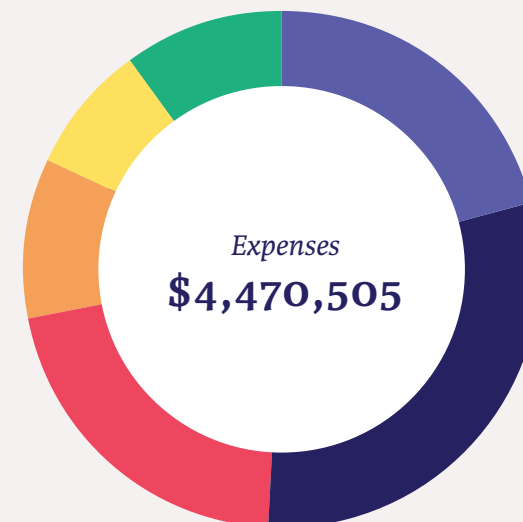
Photo (right): Candidate for Virginia State Delegate Rozia Henson with supporters and LGBTQ+ Victory Fund staffers at a fundraising event at the Victory Fund headquarters.

2023 Finances

Year ending December 31, 2023



- **Donor Candidate Contributions**
\$946,300 • 21% of total
- **IE Political Contributions**
\$158,928 • 4% of total
- **Events**
\$923,884 • 21% of total
- **Contributions**
\$2,441,393 • 54% of total



- **Candidate Contributions**
\$946,300 • 21% of total
- **Research and Communications**
\$450,254 • 10% of total
- **Fundraising**
\$391,106 • 9% of total
- **Management and General**
\$435,505 • 9% of total
- **Direct Donor Benefit**
\$920,816 • 21% of total
- **Political Expenditures**
\$1,326,524 • 30% of total

Our Victory Fund Team

2023 Board of Directors

Wade Rakes, *Chair*
Paul Feeney, *Vice Chair*
Jessica Nahigian, *Secretary*
Mellie Price, *Treasurer*

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Ken Bohan
Mark Buse
Sharon Callahan-Miller
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Samuel Garrett, *ex officio*

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Mary Jo Hudson
Lori Lightfoot
Kate Maeder, *ex officio*
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Twaun Samuel
RJ Stillwell
Brady Walkinshaw

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Neil Giuliano
Lynn Greer
Brandon Hernandez
Mike Holloman
Richard Holt
Mary Jo Hudson
Ann Johnson
Shane Jordan
Nancy Katz
Stephen Lewis
Lori Lightfoot

Kate Maeder, *ex officio*
Brian Maloney
Terrence Meck
Kevin B. Morrison
Jessica Nahigian
Catherine Pino
Greg Porter
Mellie Price
Rebecca Prozan
Howard Pulchin-Ramos
David Reid
Katherine Rice
Twaun Samuel
Alex Slater
Campbell Spencer
Mattheus Stephens
RJ Stillwell
John Tedstrom
Louis Vega
Brady Walkinshaw
Gretchen Wetzal
Rhett Wilson

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Senior Director of Operations

Nick De Leon
Outreach & Engagement Manager

Eliza Fox
Political Manager

Elishah Gilliam
Finance and Operations Manager

Sarah Green
Political Associate

Jarod Keith
Creative Director

Shelby Kestler Kearney
Senior Victory Campaign Board Manager

Sarah LeDonne
Digital Director

Curtis Sakow
Director of Corporate & Institutional Giving

Candace Silver
Political Associate

Carlton Keith Taylor, Jr.
Marketing Manager

Kristen White
Events Manager

Victory Campaign Board

The Victory Campaign Board is the driving force behind our endorsements and candidate fundraising. This growing national board makes the final determination on which candidates to endorse, provides direct contributions and helps uplift our endorsed candidates.

Join the Board

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

2023 Board Co-Chairs

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San Francisco, CA

Sue Burnside, Chair Emeritus
Los Angeles, CA

Samuel Garrett
Los Angeles, CA

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Eastern Caucus Chair

Eric Wilkerson
Midwestern Caucus Chair

Aaron Bos-Lun
Southern Caucus Chair

Martín Campos
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Charlie Panfil
Washington, DC

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Cliff Alburger
Ben Allatt
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Scott Andreas
Michael Appel
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Zach Baum
Evan Bergeron
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Tammy Bima
Wesley Bizzell
Dana Black
Eric Blackwell
John Blair
Thomas Blake
Jeremy Blake
Andrew Bly
Thomas Bonsaint
Brooks Boron
Aaron Bos-Lun
Ashley Brown
Matt Burgess
Brett Burman
Jason Burns
Sue Burnside
Kevin Cameron
Martin Campos
Alex Catanese
David Catania
Christopher Cerda
Benson Cohen
Matthew Corridoni
Mark Dann
Clifford Davidson
Justin DeJong
Linda di Lello Morton
Mike Dillon
Lynna Lan Tien Nguyen Do
Michael Eisenstatt
Hosseh Enad
Kaia Ferari
Thomas Fitzgerald
Sean Flanery
Patti Flynn
Shay Franco-Clausen
Glen Paul Freedman
Alex Gabriel
Samuel Garrett
Ashton Giese
Christian Glason
Shua Goodwin
John Green
Chirs Guerrero
Ed Harnaga
Jordan James Harvill
Justin L. Hill
Bryan Hlavinka
Jon Hoadley
Aaron Hoffmeyer
Ted Holmquist
Steve Howard
Michel Huff
Jin-Soo Huh
Kim Hunt
Edward "Ted" Jackson
Eric Jia-Sobota
Eric Johnson
Jen Jones
Matt Kaczmarek
Poonam Kapoor
Leslie Katz
Jessica Katzenmeyer
Rob Keast
Ashley Kendrick
John Klenert
DJ Koessler
Lisa Kohn
Joel Kopperud

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Jer Adrienne Lelliott
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Brian Maloney
Stephen Massey
Christopher Massicotte
Michael Mattmiller
Matthew McClellan
Patrick McCluskey
Matt McDermott
Erin Moore
Laurie Morrison Sauer
Chris Morter
Ashley Mudd
Bill Murat
Jane Natoli
Sam Nitz
Jill Normington
Luke O'Connell
Blake Oshiro
Charlie Panfil
Jon Patterson
Clark Pellett
Tom Perrault
Skip Perry
Kevin Perry
Jeffrey Person
Chris Pfauser
Catherine Pino
Howard Pulchin-Ramos
Ray Purser
Abe Rakov
Daniel Ramos
Thomas Ranese
David Reid
Dan Robbins
Josiah Robinson
Tyler Sadonis
Twaun Samuel
Joe Sangirardi
Kristin Savage
Alex Schaefer
Jim Schmidt
Chris Semenas
Allyn Shaw
Matthew Shaw
Matthew Shorraw
Justin Sia
Josh Siegel
Robert Sikorski
Daniel Sinasohn
Stephen Skinner
Johnson Smith
Carlton Smith
Chuck Smith
Mona Smith
Mark Spengler
Dwayne Stewart
Tom Strong-Grinsell
David Taylor
Heather J. Taylor
Logan Taylor
Cesar Toledo
Darrell Tucci
Jovon Tyler
Joseph Vardner
Mario Vasquez Zuniga
Stefani Vestal
Sean Walker
Robert Wander
Daniel Ward
Eric Wilkerson
Daqavise Winston
Keith Yetter
Scott Zumwalt