



LGBTQ+ History Timeline: Stonewall to Today

Since the Stonewall riots took place in 1969, the visibility and rights of LGBTQ+ people have continued to improve in the United States. Community members contributed events to our LGBTQ+ history timeline during June 2019 Pride Civic Lab events.

- 1969, June** – Stonewall riots take place in New York City
- 1970, June 28** – First Pride Parade takes place one year after the Stonewall Riots in New York City
- 1973** – Homosexuality is no longer categorized as a mental illness when it is removed from the American Psychiatric Association's *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*
- 1974** – Kathy Kozachenko becomes the first openly LGBTQ+ American elected to public office (Ann Arbor City Council)
- 1976** – Michigan Womyn's Music Festival takes place for the first time
- 1978** – Harvey Milk becomes the first openly gay man elected office in California (San Francisco Board of Supervisors)
- 1979** – First National March on Washington for Lesbian & Gay Rights
- 1982** – Wisconsin becomes the first state to ban discrimination based on sexual orientation
- 1983** – Lambda Legal wins the first HIV/AIDS discrimination lawsuit
- 1985** – *The Times of Harvey Milk* wins an Academy Award
- 1987** – ACT UP is founded
- 1988, October 11** – First National Coming Out Day
- 1990** – First Gay/Straight Alliance is founded
- 1991** – Chicago establishes the Gay & Lesbian Hall of Fame
- 1993** – Minnesota becomes the first state to ban discrimination of transgender people





- 1995** – The Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act goes into effect
- 1997** – Rainbow pylons are installed in Boystown
- 1997** – Ellen DeGeneres portrays the first character to come out on primetime television
- 1998** – Tammy Baldwin becomes the first openly LGBTQ+ American elected to Congress (House of Representatives)
- 1999** – The character Willow on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* comes out
- 2000** – Vermont becomes the first state to legalize same-sex civil unions
- 2003** – V. Gene Robinson is the first openly gay clergyman elected bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of New Hampshire
- 2004, May 17** – The first same-sex marriage in the United States takes place in Massachusetts
- 2009** – Expansion of the federal Hate Crime Law
- 2010** – “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” is repealed
- 2011, June 1** – Illinois recognizes same-sex civil unions
- 2014** – Laverne Cox becomes the first transgender person nominated for a primetime Emmy Award
- 2015, June** – The Supreme Court of the United States recognizes same-sex marriage as legal across the country
- 2019, May** – Lori Lightfoot is sworn in as Mayor of Chicago
- 2019, June 9** – Skokie Pride is the first community-wide Pride event in the Village of Skokie

