

## A Timeline of Milestones in LGBTQIA+ History

**1868**

The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution is ratified. It becomes the basis for most future landmark LGBTQIA+ civil rights case rulings.

**1952**

Actress **Christine Jorgensen** becomes the first transgender woman to become widely known in the U.S. for having sex reassignment surgery.

**1967**

The Black Cat Tavern in L.A. is raided by the police on New Year's Day. The incident prompts protests organized by P.R.I.D.E. (Personal Rights in Defense and Education).

**1969**

The historic Stonewall Uprising begins on June 28 – a six-day series of demonstrations by LGBTQIA+ protesters against the police who had raided The Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in New York City.

**1973**

The American Psychiatric Association removes the classification of homosexuality as a "sociopathic personality disturbance" in its Diagnostic and Statistical Manual.

**1977**

**Harvey Milk** is elected county supervisor in San Francisco and becomes the third "out" public official in the U.S. Milk is assassinated in 1978 and regarded as an icon and martyr in the gay community.

**1979**

Over 100,000 people gather in support of gay and lesbian rights at the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

**1997**

Comedian and TV actor, **Ellen DeGeneres**, publicly comes out as a lesbian in an interview with **Oprah Winfrey**.

**2003**

The Supreme Court rules that state laws banning homosexual sodomy are unconstitutional as a violation of the right to privacy.

**2010**

President **Barack Obama** signs the repeal of the anti-gay "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law so homosexuals can serve openly in the military.

**2018**

More than 150 LGBTQIA+ candidates are elected into office in the midterm elections, putting a historic number of LGBTQIA+ politicians in positions of power.

**2021**

**Pete Buttigieg** becomes the first openly gay cabinet secretary confirmed by the U.S. Senate.

**2023**

Intact Insurance Specialty Solutions launches its fourth employee network – Proud & Professional - for the LGBTQIA+ community and its allies in the U.S.

**1924**

The Society for Human Rights, the first gay rights organization in the U.S., is founded by **Henry Gerber** in Chicago.

**1963**

**Bayard Rustin**, a gay Black associate of **Martin Luther King Jr.** organizes the March on Washington for "Jobs and Freedom" that culminates with King's "I Have a Dream" speech.

**1968**

The National Transsexual Counseling Unit, the world's first transgender organization, is established in San Francisco.

**1970**

The first gay pride marches are held in multiple cities across the U.S. to mark the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots.

**1974**

**Elaine Noble** becomes the first openly gay person to be elected as a state legislator. She served in the Massachusetts State House of Representatives for two terms.

**1978**

On June 25, the rainbow gay pride flag designed by **Gilbert Baker** is first flown at the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Parade.

**1982**

Wisconsin becomes the first U.S. state to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

**1998**

**Matthew Shepard**, a gay student at the University of Wyoming, is beaten to death. In 2009, the "Hate Crimes Prevention Act" is named after Shepard and becomes a law.

**2008**

The California Supreme Court strikes down the state's ban on same-sex marriage.

**2015**

The Supreme Court makes same-sex marriages legal in all 50 U.S. states.

**2020**

The Supreme Court issues a landmark ruling saying that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 protects gay and transgender workers from employment discrimination.

**2022**

A record 7.1% of U.S. adults self-identify as LGBTQIA+ – up from 5.6% in 2020, as per a Gallup report. The increase in LGBTQIA+ identification reflects a positive shift in acceptance among the general population.

