

Why should you care about



LGBTQ+ rights as a **Jew**?



Not only is the fight for queer rights closely connected to the fight for separation of church and state, but civic engagement is a Jewish value.

The 7 Jewish Values for Social Action

1. We are all made in the image of God.
2. It is an obligation for Jews to build a society that is just.
3. The Torah says “you must not stand idly by the blood of your neighbor.”
4. We are all responsible for one another.
5. It is a Jewish imperative to make our voices heard in civic matters.
6. We must persevere.
7. Like Abraham and our ancestors, we must have the audacity to challenge.

Sources:

7 Jewish Values for Social Action - Keshet

What has **Kamala Harris** promised to do for **LGBTQ+** rights if elected?

“We fight for our future , where we defend our most fundamental freedoms ... The freedom to love who you love openly and with pride.” -KH

She supports the Equality Act, which she also cosponsored as a senator. The Equality Act fights LGBTQ+ discrimination in the workplace.

“Harris supports the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s (HUD) move to enforce the Fair Housing Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.” -GLAAD

Sources:

- Kamala Harris Rally in Pennsylvania
- Fact Sheet: Kamala Harris on LGBTQ Issues: Jobs, the Economy, and Housing - GLAAD
- Hope on the Ballot: Harris Chooses Pro-Equality Leader Governor Tim Walz for VP Slot - Human Rights Campaign

What has **Donald Trump** promised to do for **LGBTQ+** rights if elected?

End “taxpayer-funded schools promoting gender transition,”
“Biden’s radical rewrite of Title IX,”
and “taxpayer funding for sex change surgeries.” -DT

Vows to “keep men out of women’s sports,” a term that is filled with transphobic rhetoric, implying that trans women are not women.

“Cut federal funding for any school pushing critical race theory, racial gender ideology, and other inappropriate racial, sexual, or political content on our children.”

Sources:

Trump’s Campaign Promises - Donald Trump

What is **Kamala Harris's** history with **LGBTQ+** rights?

District Attorney

- 2004: “Established a hate crimes unit to investigate and prosecute anti-LGBTQ+ violence”
- 2008: Opposed Project K, which attempted to decriminalize sex work, disproportionately impacting individuals in the queer community

Attorney General

- 2013: Opposed Proposition 8, which threatened to ban same-sex marriage, which helped overturn it
 - 2013: “Officiated the first same-sex marriage in California”
- 2015: Signed off on an incarcerated trans woman’s denial of gender-affirming care
 - She has since explained that as Attorney General, she was obligated to defend her clients, which sometimes differed from her personal beliefs, taking “full responsibility” for what happened
- 2015: “Worked behind the scenes to change the policy regarding gender-affirmation surgery for transgender inmates in California prisons, ensuring that inmates requiring such procedures could receive them”
- 2016: “Introduced legislation to mandate insurance coverage of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), the HIV prevention method”

Vice President

- 2023: Addresses the “Don’t Say Gay/Trans” bill at least seven times throughout several campaigns all over the country, bringing it to the forefront
- 2020 to 2024: The Biden-Harris administration had over 10 “key LGBTQ+ nominations, appointments, and staff hires”

Sources:

Kamala Harris Accountability Tracker - GLAAD

Unpacking Kamala Harris's Record on Trans and Sex Work Issues - them

Biden-Harris Accountability Tracker - GLAAD

What is Donald Trump's history with LGBTQ+ rights?

- 2011: “No, I’m just not in favor of gay marriage. I live in New York. New York is a place with lots of gays, and I think it is great. But I’m not in favor of gay marriage.”

President

- 2017: “Minutes after Donald Trump was sworn into office, any mention of the LGBTQ+ community was erased from White House, Department of State, and Department of Labor websites”
- 2017: “Under his proposed budget for the U.S. Congress, The Trump Administration offered to cut HIV and AIDS research funding under the National Institutes of Health (NIH)”
- 2017: “The Trump Administration canceled plans to add the LGBTQ+ community to its upcoming 2020 U.S. Census”
- 2017: “Reportedly joked of Pence when asked about LGBTQ+ rights: ‘Don’t ask that guy—he wants to hang them all!’”
- 2017: “Fired the entire White House Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS”
- 2018: “Rolled back protections for incarcerated transgender people that were intended to mitigate their exposure to sexual assault and abuse, allowing the Bureau of Prisons to ‘use biological sex as the initial determination for designation’ when placing trans people for housing, screening, and programs and services”
- 2019: “Implemented ban barring transgender Americans from openly serving in the country’s armed services”
- 2019: Announced plans to weaponize “religious exemptions” as an excuse to discriminate against LGBTQ+ Americans in the workplace and adoption agencies
- 2020: “Housing and Urban Development announces new rule allowing single-sex homeless shelters to turn away transgender people”
- Nominated and appointed over 10 anti-LGBTQ+ people into power

Sources:

Donald Trump Accountability Tracker - GLAAD

What about **third party** candidates?

According to History.com, “Since 1920, in fact, only four third-party candidates—Robert La Follette in 1924, Strom Thurmond in 1948, George Wallace in 1968 and John Hospers in 1972—have been able to win even **a single** electoral vote,” which is not nearly enough, as **a candidate needs at least 270** electoral votes.

Most of them ended up pulling away votes from one candidate, causing their common opponent to win.

Typically, third parties do not last long. “Once their leaders had been defeated or discredited, the party structures that were built to contest elections collapsed.”

-Lumen

Even if they were to be elected, they would likely reach opposition from other branches of the government, due to lack of support at the state level and in congress.

Sources:

Here's How Third-Party Candidates Have Changed Elections - History.com

What Are Parties and How Did They Form? - Lumen Learning Courses

What is **Project 2025**, and how does it affect **LGBTQ+** rights?

Project 2025 is a policy plan created by the **far-right** think tank, The Heritage Foundation, to serve as a playbook if a **republican** president is elected. A Project 2025 spokesperson has said that “it is ultimately up to that president, who we believe will be **President Trump**, to decide which recommendations to use,” saying that it’s not for anyone specifically.

When it comes to **queer** rights, Project 2025 fights to:

- Remove healthcare for trans people on Medicare and Medicaid
- Eliminate protections against queer people in the workplace, discrimination, and removing mention of anything queer from federal rules, regulations, contracts, grants, and legislation.
- End protections against transgender students while removing any “gender ideology” from public schools.
- End the separation of church and state, which may lead to added harm towards queer people.

Although **Trump** has attempted to distance himself from Project 2025, CNN has reported that **at least 140 people who worked for Trump helped create Project 2025** as authors, editors, and contributors.

- “About 20 pages are credited to his first deputy chief of staff.”
- “The Heritage Foundation [which published the plan] is led by Kevin Roberts, **a Trump ally** whom the former president praised as ‘doing an unbelievable job’”

Sources:

GLAAD Launches National AD Campaign Exposing the Harms of Project 2025 - GLAAD

Trump claims not to know who is behind Project 2025. A CNN review found at least 140 people who worked for him are involved

- CNN

Quick things to remember!

You aren't just voting for one person, you're voting for an entire administration.

Once in office, the president appoints members to the cabinet, who head executive departments and run agencies. The president also appoints a White House Chief of Staff, who oversees the Executive Office of the President, and **judges to the Supreme Court who serve for life**, unless they retire.

All elections matter! Checks and balances help and hinder the president in making decisions.

For example, Project 2025 touches all branches of government, not just the presidency.