

## CREATE CHANGE

When you become a member of Equality Illinois, you are making a commitment to change: change for the LGBT community and change for the entire State of Illinois.

Your donation is a personal investment in the vital work of Equality Illinois, including state-wide campaigns that promote fair and equitable treatment for all Illinoisans. You are also investing in the future of the LGBT community.

Equality Illinois empowers and organizes individuals, communities and allied groups to work proactively for fairness, equality and justice.

Consider the type of world that you wish to leave for future generations. Donate. Volunteer. Educate. Give a face to the cause. In short, we must not just say that homophobia is wrong— we must live our lives to com-

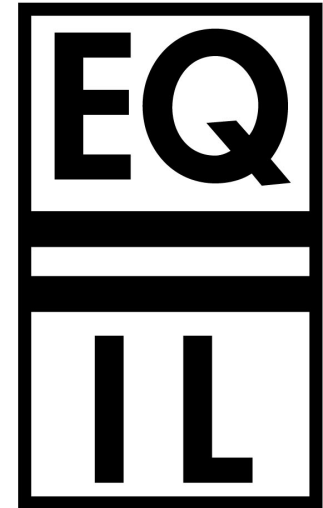
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## EQUALITY ILLINOIS

### History and Past Achievements

Equality Illinois enjoys a rich history with past achievements that includes:

- Promoting, lobbying for and winning legislation to prohibit discrimination based upon sexual orientation and gender identity;
- Educating and informing citizens and members of the General Assembly, working to raise awareness of issues confronting LGBT individuals in the community and in the workplace;
- Registering thousands of new Illinois voters, and developing a strong network of over 12,000 human rights supporters throughout the state;
- Expanding statewide grassroots support for LGBT issues and initiatives, independently as well as in partnership with churches and other community based organizations;
- Assisting businesses in the development of nondiscrimination policies for their employees;
- Conducting polls and surveys of public attitudes and opinions on civil rights issues;
- Working to educate the media, and encourage discussions about LGBT issues.



## EQUALITY ILLINOIS

### CREATING CHANGE

#### EQUALITY ILLINOIS

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EQUALITY ILLINOIS

Equality Illinois (EQIL) was founded in 1991 to secure, protect and defend equal rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in Illinois. In 2000, the Equality Illinois Education Project, our 501(c)(3) arm, was created to focus on the educational and charitable aspects of the mission.

Equality Illinois' initiatives extend throughout every sector of Illinois life, reaching individuals and organizations both in the LGBT community and the mainstream, across the private, public and nonprofit sectors.

One of the largest and most influential LGBT civil rights advocacy organizations in the Midwest, Equality Illinois has made great strides in the pursuit of advancing the fight for LGBT rights and equality.

Equality Illinois achieved a benchmark victory with the passage of SB 3186, an amendment adding sexual orientation and gender identity to the Illinois Human Rights Act; the bill was signed into law in 2005, becoming effective on January 1, 2006. The importance of this became apparent when the community of Crystal Lake, Illinois attempted to keep a portion of the 2006 Gay Games from being held on park lands.

EQIL also played a major role in convincing the Governor to extend domestic partner benefits to same-sex partners of all state employees serving in agencies under the Governor's control, an administrative order that became effective on July 1, 2006.

Equality Illinois joined with three other organizations to launch the Fair Illinois initiative, dedicated to opposing an anti-gay marriage advisory referendum proposed for the November 2006 ballot. This massive undertaking involved the review of over **345,000 signatures**, a challenge met entirely by volunteers. After a summer of legal challenges, fairness finally won out in September of 2006.

EQIL has worked with local communities throughout Illinois to pass non-discrimination ordinances, including Cook County, as well as the cities of Bloomington, Champaign, Decatur, DeKalb, Evanston, Peoria, Springfield and Urbana.

Equality Illinois enjoys the support of prominent businesses, civic, civil rights, legislative and religious organizations and individuals, and major corporate allies such as **at&t, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Boeing, BP, Darden, Exelon** and the **YMCA**.

## Equality Illinois Future Focus, Goals and Initiatives

### Equality Illinois is carrying its mission forward by:

- Working with Illinois legislators, organizations, communities and individuals across the state to ensure expanded rights for the LGBT community, including marriage equality beginning with the passage of SB 1716;
- Defeating any upcoming anti-gay legislation, policies and initiatives;
- Surveying top Illinois corporations and law firms to evaluate which have the best policies for LGBT employees;
- Surveying Illinois municipalities to evaluate which have the best non-discrimination protections for LGBT citizens;
- Building an increased presence through central and southern Illinois;
- Expanding Equality Illinois membership demographics by reaching out to more women, youth, seniors and minority groups to better represent and serve the entire LGBT community;
- Creating a strong and committed network of allies outside of the LGBT community through Allied for Equality, a joint venture with PFLAG of Illinois;
- Working with the Equality Federation, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and other national organizations to secure strong protections for the LGBT community.

### Equality Illinois Membership Form

Become a member, help create change!	Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> Equality Partner	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Equality Ally	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Household Membership	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 35.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Student Membership	\$ 20.00
<input type="checkbox"/> General Donation	\$
Subtotal:	_____
Tax:	_____
Total:	_____

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

#### Method of Payment

- Cash  
 Check  
 Bill Me  
 Visa  
 MasterCard  
 American Express

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to:

**Equality Illinois**  
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PMB 125  
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