



1828	The term “crime against nature” is coined in the U.S. Criminal Code
1867	“Father of the LGBT Movement” Karl-Heinrich Ulrichs is the first to speak out for gay rights
1892	First use of “bisexual” appears in Charles Gilbert Chaddock’s translation of Richard von Krafft-Ebing’s Psychopathia Sexualis
1924	The Society for Human Rights, the first gay-rights organization in the United States, is founded. It is shut down by police within a few months
1955	The Daughters of Bilitis, the first national U.S. lesbian organization, is formed
1962	Illinois becomes the first state to decriminalize homosexual acts
1966	The National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations is formed
1969	Stonewall riots in New York gain national attention for gay rights
1970	First Gay Liberation Day March is held in New York City; similar events are held in Los Angeles and San Francisco
1973	The American Psychiatric Association removes “homosexuality” definition as a mental disorder
1975	Minneapolis becomes the first city to protect transgender people by law from discrimination
1978	Rainbow flag is first used as symbol of gay pride
1979	First national gay-rights march is held in Washington, D.C.
1980	David McReynolds becomes the first openly LGBT person to run for president
1982	Wisconsin is the first state to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation
1983	Rep. Gerry Studds (Mass.) becomes the first openly gay member of Congress
1989	Denmark becomes the first country to legalize same-sex partnerships
1993	“Don’t ask, don’t tell” policy allows gays/lesbians to serve in the U.S. military as long as they are closeted
	Minnesota passes the first state-wide law prohibiting discrimination against transgender people
1996	Supreme Court says protections for gays/lesbians are civil rights guaranteed to all U.S. citizens
2000	Vermont becomes first state to legally recognize civil unions for gays and lesbians
	President Bill Clinton names June Gay and Lesbian Pride Month
2003	Supreme Court rules sodomy laws unconstitutional in Lawrence v. Texas
2004	Massachusetts legalizes same-sex marriage
2005	Civil unions become legal in Connecticut
2006	Civil unions become legal in New Jersey
2007	DiversityInc requires domestic-partner benefits as a prerequisite to make The DiversityInc Top 50 Companies for Diversity list
2008	Diego Sanchez is appointed top legislative assistant to Rep. Barney Frank, making him the first transgender staff member on Capitol Hill
	California’s State Supreme Court allows gay marriage; Proposition 8 then eliminates it
	Connecticut legalizes same-sex marriage
2009	President Barack Obama signs a law extending existing federal hate-crime laws to include those committed on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity
	President Obama renames June as LGBT Pride Month
	Iowa and Vermont legalize same-sex marriage
2010	Federal court declares California’s Prop. 8 unconstitutional
	The District of Columbia and New Hampshire legalize same-sex marriage
	President Obama signs law to end “don’t ask, don’t tell” policy
2011	The Respect for Marriage Act is filed in U.S. House of Representatives and Senate to repeal DOMA and end federal discrimination against legally married same-sex couples
	New York legalizes same-sex marriage
	President Obama and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announce policy for more specific actions against countries that do not move to create LGBT equality
2012	The Human Rights Campaign assigns more stringent qualifications for ranking as a best place to work for LGBT employees on its Corporate Equality Index, with an emphasis on benefits for transgender employees
	Proposition 8 in California is ruled unconstitutional, but ruling is expected to go to U.S. Supreme Court
	Maryland and Washington state legalize same-sex marriage
	Ellen DeGeneres is named jcpenny spokesperson; CEO Ron Johnson supports her—and her strong values—despite protests from group calling itself “One Million Moms”
	A Boston court ruled the Defense of Marriage Act unconstitutional