

THE MOMENTUM REPORT – 2009 EDITION

Executive Summary



October 2009



movement advancement project ▶

Movement Advancement Project

The LGBT Movement Advancement Project (MAP) is an independent resource for LGBT organization executives and donors, funded by a small number of committed, long-term donors to the movement. MAP's mission is to speed achievement of full social and political equality for LGBT people by providing donors and organizations with strategic information, insights, and analyses that help them increase and align resources for highest impact.

The Momentum Report

The Momentum Report measures progress toward the LGBT movement's ideal end-state: that of equal opportunities, rights, and responsibilities for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression. This publication is the second edition of *The Momentum Report*; the next edition will be released in 2011.

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Disclaimer: *The opinions expressed in this report reflect the best judgment of MAP based on analyzed data collected from research studies and published materials. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of our funders or other MAP members.*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Movement Advancement Project's *Momentum Report* organizes and analyzes indicators of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) movement's success in securing political and social equality for its constituents. Specifically, the report measures the movement's progress working toward an ideal end-state for LGBT Americans: equal opportunities, rights, and responsibilities for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.




Most of the report's indicators reflect very positive news for LGBT people and the movement. The American public has become very supportive of our issues in recent years, and state legislatures are more likely to pass pro-LGBT legislation than laws that harm us. As a result of these positive changes, nearly half of the United States population now lives in a state that has nondiscrimination laws based on sexual orientation, and nearly one-third is covered by a state nondiscrimination law based on gender identity or expression. Those numbers would be even higher if we factored in local laws and regulations. One-third of all LGB adults in the U.S. live in states with relationship recognition laws for same-sex couples, with a growing percentage having access to full marriage equality.

Of course, we have more work to do. For example, many more people need access to relationship rights and nondiscrimination legal protections. A few states have recently scaled back LGB adoption rights. HIV/AIDS is resurgent among men who have sex with men, and the disease disproportionately impacts men of color. Gay men and lesbians are still barred from serving openly in the U.S. military. And the number of hate crimes based on sexual orientation is beginning to increase, after a few years' decline.

Many members of the U.S. Congress support legislation that would greatly enhance the LGBT population's legal equality, including trans-inclusive employment nondiscrimination and hate crimes bills, ending Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and repealing the Defense of Marriage Act. The Obama White House also appears to support these issues, but both Congress and the Administration have made it clear that LGBT movement organizations must make the case for these laws and work hard for their passage. Doing so requires extensive financial resources, which are in dwindling supply as the economy remains mired in the worst recession since the 1930s.¹

To help LGBT organizations and donors navigate the current economic and political landscape, *The Momentum Report* provides a quick yet comprehensive overview of the movement's recent progress and most pressing challenges. In particular, *The Momentum Report* tracks 20 indicators, which we group into three categories: Cultural and Social; Political and Legal; and LGBT Movement Capacity. We chose these 20 indicators after extensive research on data and information from a wide range of sources, including the U.S. Census, several major polling firms, LGBT organizations, the Centers for Disease Control, and academic journals.

The table below provides top-line findings for the three types of indicators.























Cultural and Social Indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Since the early 1980s, the general public has become increasingly supportive of lesbian and gay issues, especially related to employment rights. • An increasing number of Americans support marriage equality, although a majority still opposes marriage. A clear majority, however, supports some type of legal recognition for same-sex couples. • Protestants and Catholics are increasingly supportive of relationship rights for same-sex couples (although not of marriage, per se).
Legal Indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A clear majority of LGB people still do not have access to formal relationship recognition laws, and most of the U.S. population is not covered by state-level nondiscrimination laws. • But the percentage of the LGB and overall U.S. population that is covered by such laws has grown dramatically in the past decade. • New laws, regulations, and court rulings are slowly eroding LGB adoption rights. • HIV/AIDS is a growing problem among men who have sex with men, while the U.S. government increasingly directs its funds for HIV prevention and treatment abroad.
LGBT Movement Capacity Indicators	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The total financial size of leading LGBT organizations had been growing steadily until the economic downturn in 2009. • The number of donors to and foundation investments in the LGBT movement are growing. • The economic recession will almost certainly negatively impact these indicators in the next year or two.

¹ For more information about how the economic downturn is impacting the LGBT movement, see MAP's *LGBT Organizations and Their Funders in a Troubled Economy*, at www.lgbtmap.org.

INDICATORS QUICK VIEW

In sum, *The Momentum Report* delivers mostly good news for the LGBT movement and recent efforts to advance LGBT equality. To be sure, many more changes must take place before we secure equality for all LGBT people, but it is undeniable that we have made substantial progress, thanks to the many local, state, and national organizations fighting for LGBT rights and the donors who support their efforts.

Unprecedented opportunities to advance and expand LGBT equality currently exist both in Washington, DC and state legislatures across the country. At the same time, economic challenges are forcing the movement to rethink its operations and strategies. Because the economic and political landscapes have undergone so many changes in recent years, we think it is especially important to step back and assess our progress as a movement. With that in mind, we offer the 2009 edition of *The Momentum Report*.

Indicator	Trend/Status ²	Page and Figure Number
 Cultural and Social Indicators		
Public Perceptions of Homosexuality as an Acceptable Lifestyle		Page 6, Figure 4
Public Attitude Toward Legality of Same-Sex Sexual Relations		Page 6, Figure 5
Public Support of Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples		Page 7, Figure 6
Public Support of Equal Employment Rights for Lesbians and Gay Men		Page 7, Figure 7
Public Support of Open Military Service by Lesbians and Gay Men		Page 7, Figure 8
Number of Hate Crimes Based on Sexual Orientation		Page 8, Figure 9
Hate Crimes Rates by Race, Religion, and Sexual Orientation		Page 8, Figure 10
Protestant and Catholic Support of Marriage Equality		Page 9, Figure 11
 Legal Indicators		
Expansion of Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Coverage for Total U.S. Population		Page 10, Figure 12
Expansion of Gender Identity Non-Discrimination Coverage for Total U.S. Population		Page 10, Figure 13
Access to Same-Sex Relationship Recognition for U.S. LGB Population		Page 11, Figure 14
Expansion of Same-Sex Relationship Recognition for U.S. LGB Population		Page 11, Figure 15
Access to Adoption for U.S. LGB Population		Page 12, Figure 16
Access to Same-Sex Second-Parent/Joint Adoption for U.S. LGB Population		Page 12, Figure 17
U.S. HIV/AIDS Cases		Page 13, Figure 18
U.S. Federal Government Domestic Spending on HIV/AIDS		Page 13, Figure 19
State Legislative Climate		Page 13, Figure 20
 LGBT Movement Capacity Indicators		
Total Revenue of Leading LGBT Organizations		Page 14, Figure 21
Individual Donor Support for Leading LGBT Organizations		Page 14, Figure 22
Foundation Support for LGBT Organizations and Issues		Page 15, Figure 23

²The weather symbols represent MAP's overall qualitative judgment of recent progress for each indicator.

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