

# Fairness WV Legislative Agenda 2017



Fairness West Virginia (Fairness) is the statewide civil rights advocacy organization dedicated to fair treatment and civil rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender West Virginians. Our mission is to ensure LGBT people can be open, honest and safe at home, at work, and in the community. We represent the diversity of Appalachia and our membership is open to everyone who believes in fundamental fairness.

## Fighting Discrimination

### **“License to Discriminate Bill” aka Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) / Freedom of Conscience Protection Act / First Amendment Defense Act (FADA)**

Allows individuals and businesses to cite religious freedom as a legal defense when denying services.

### **“Abolishing Local Liberties Act” aka Intrastate Commerce Improvement Act**

Prohibits any county, municipality, or other political subdivision of the state from adopting or enforcing an ordinance, resolution, rule, or policy that creates a protected classification or prohibits discrimination on a basis not contained in state law.

### **“Transgender Discrimination Act” aka “Bathroom Bill” or Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act**

Prohibits access to public facilities – particularly restrooms – by transgender individuals.

## Promoting Equality

### **Employment and Housing Non-Discrimination Act (EHNDA)**

Adds sexual orientation and gender identity to the categories covered by the Human Rights Act, prohibiting discrimination in employment and places of public accommodation and adds sexual orientation and gender identity to the categories covered by the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in housing.

### **Local Non-Discrimination Ordinance Campaign**

Fairness WV’s ongoing state-wide campaign to pass local non-discrimination ordinances (municipal EHNDA’s, see the map on reverse side).

West Virginia currently has 10 cities and towns with LGBT-inclusive non-discrimination ordinances.

## Changing the Conversation

### **Hate Crimes Reform & Restorative Justice Legislation**

Given the increase in hate crimes, we must reform the WV hate crimes law to include sexual orientation and gender identity with a restorative justice (RJ) approach. RJ is a theory of justice that emphasizes repairing the harm caused by criminal behavior that impacts a community. It is more cost-efficient than applying additional sentencing and is more effective at reducing hate-based violence. RJ requires offenders to take responsibility for their actions and for the harm they have caused, seeks redress for victims, and requires a cooperative effort by communities and the government.

### **Youth Mental Health Protection Act**

Prohibits state licensed mental health providers from engaging in, or referring a patient to, sexual orientation conversion therapy when such person is under eighteen years of age. Ends the practice known as “conversion therapy.”

**FACT:**

**68%**  
OF WEST VIRGINIANS  
**SUPPORT**  
NON-DISCRIMINATION

PUBLIC POLICY POLLING, 2013

**FACT:**

**96%**  
OF THE FORTUNE 500 HAVE  
**LGB-INCLUSIVE**  
EMPLOYMENT POLICIES & 70%  
HAVE TRANSGENDER POLICIES

WILLIAMS INSTITUTE, 2011

# FAIRNESS *for* WEST VIRGINIA

## LGBT Nondiscrimination Ordinance

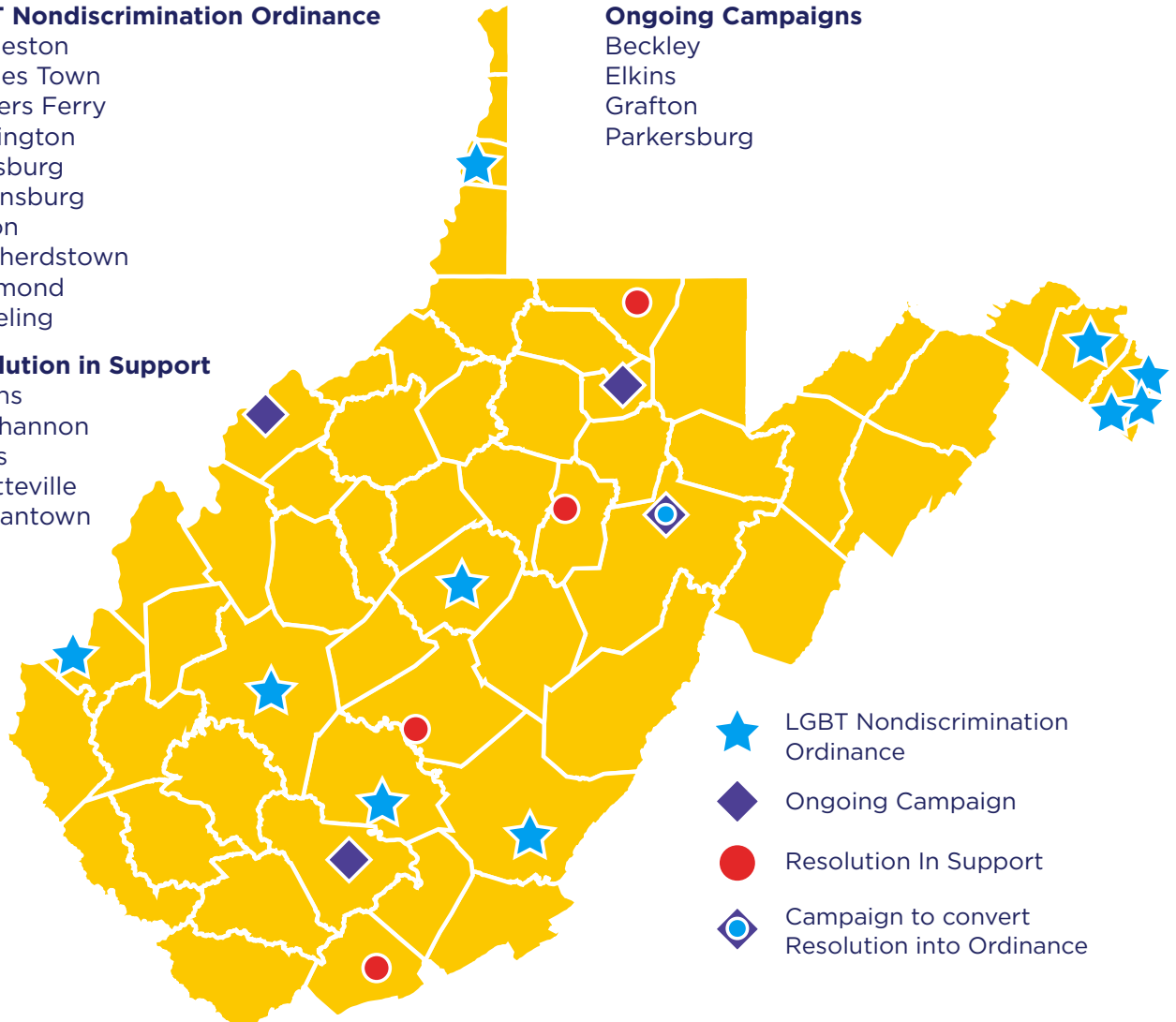
Charleston  
Charles Town  
Harpers Ferry  
Huntington  
Lewisburg  
Martinsburg  
Sutton  
Shepherdstown  
Thurmond  
Wheeling





## Resolution in Support

Athens  
Buckhannon  
Elkins  
Fayetteville  
Morgantown

## Ongoing Campaigns

Beckley  
Elkins  
Grafton  
Parkersburg



-  LGBT Nondiscrimination Ordinance
-  Ongoing Campaign
-  Resolution In Support
-  Campaign to convert Resolution into Ordinance

## CAMPAIGNS

### WILL YOUR TOWN BE NEXT?

Help your city or town rise to fairness with an inclusive nondiscrimination ordinance. Ask us how today! Call (304) 806-2220 or email [info@fairnesswv.org](mailto:info@fairnesswv.org)

