



## **Equality Indiana Calls for a Boycott of GOP Gubernatorial Primary**

**April 24, 2024** – Average Hoosiers throughout Indiana, all of which recognize the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion as strengths and key to a welcoming state. These Hoosiers, and especially LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers and allies are appalled by every Republican Candidate running for Governor of Indiana because they demonize these strengths. If any of these Republican candidates for Governor get elected, they will weaken Indiana’s economic future by rejecting the Hoosier Hospitality welcoming values of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

To that end, Equality Indiana recommends that any Hoosier, but especially LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers and allies, who takes a Republican ballot in the Indiana Primary election, should boycott voting for any of the Republican Candidates running for Governor because each of them are extremists with anti-DEI positions, meaning they are self-proclaimed pro-discrimination candidates.

The number one job of Indiana’s governor is to fight for the safety, freedom, and dignity of all Hoosiers, every single day, so they can power Indiana’s economy. Before running for Indiana’s top job, one would think that they know that Hoosiers are a diverse people deserving respect; Hoosiers want the government to treat them fairly and equitably; and Hoosiers want to be included at the decision-making table. As leaders, it is their responsibility to know that LGBTQIA+ rights are human rights and most importantly, as governor, they must unify all Hoosiers by knowing each of us has more in common than what divides us.

Instead, each of these Republican Gubernatorial candidates’ positions on diversity, equity, inclusion, and the LGBTQIA + community divides Hoosiers into differing identities. The HAVES, who quietly conform or only make noise when it benefits the extremists, and the HAVE-NOTS, and each candidate is clear that if an identity differs from what these extremists define as acceptable, they are the HAVE-NOTS.

With only days of primary voting remaining, concluding on Tuesday, May 7<sup>th</sup>, there is still time for these extremists’ candidates to sit down with Equality Indiana and the Educational Fund, our educational companion organization, and get truthful information about the importance that diversity, equity, and inclusion programs and initiatives are to the LGBTQIA+ community.

Whichever of these candidates win the Republican nomination, we will extend our nonpartisan hand out to them, and every nominated candidate, regardless of political party, running for state and federal level offices, and invite them to connect with Equality Indiana so we can provide a factual education about diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives as well as LGBTQIA+ community needs. By understanding and supporting these initiatives, Indiana leaders will make Indiana a more welcoming state to its citizens, businesses, visitors, and workers, thus leading to a stronger, competitive economic future for ALL Hoosiers.

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