



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 2, 2025

Equality Indiana on the Indiana Pride Season Proclamation

Indianapolis, IN — Equality Indiana’s Executive Director, G. David Caudill, proudly shares the following proclamation which is for the entire Hoosier LGBTQIA+ community and its allies.

He stated, “This proclamation underscores the values of the true meaning of what Hoosier Hospitality means, Hoosier’s commitment to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and welcoming society where all individuals—regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression—can live openly, authentically, and are welcomed by everyone.”

This proclamation aligns with events across the state, including community festivals, educational forums, parades, and artistic showcases, all aimed at uplifting LGBTQIA+ voices and promoting awareness and unity.

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State of Indiana



Senate District 40

BE IT HEREBY KNOWN AND PROCLAIMED

- WHEREAS,** *Senator Shelli Yoder, the Indiana Senate Minority Leader, supports civil rights, freedom, equality, and safe spaces for all people—including citizens with diverse LGBTQIA+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, and Asexual) identities, as well as their friends, families (both biological and chosen), and allies; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Indiana's Pride Season is a time to reflect on the trials and tribulations the LGBTQIA+ community has endured, and to celebrate the triumphs of trailblazing individuals who have courageously fought—and continue to fight—for full equality; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The months of June through October are recognized as Indiana's LGBTQIA+ Pride Season of celebration: a joyful, communal, and safe celebration of visibility, authenticity, self-worth, and dignity, promoting solidarity in the pursuit of equity for people of all identities, genders, races, abilities, ethnicities, and ages; and*
- WHEREAS,** *2025 marks the 50th anniversary of Pride celebrations in Washington, D.C., with the hosting of WorldPride—a historic global event occurring at a critical time—uniting voices in support of the LGBTQIA+ community's ongoing struggle for equality, visibility, and justice; and*
- WHEREAS,** *June 28, 2025, marks the 56th anniversary of the Stonewall Riots—widely recognized as the catalyst for the modern LGBTQIA+ equality movement—sparked by the resistance of Marsha P. Johnson, a Black transgender woman, whose courage continues to inspire the pursuit of liberty and justice for all; and*
- WHEREAS,** *The values of Hoosier Hospitality embrace Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI), and initiatives rooted in these values promote dialogue and foster environments where all people feel valued and have equal opportunities to succeed, thereby strengthening communities, boosting innovation, and ensuring dignity for all regardless of background, identity, or ability; and*
- WHEREAS,** *We recognize and celebrate the invaluable contributions of LGBTQIA+ individuals across the United States and Indiana, and reaffirm our commitment to standing in solidarity with LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers in their ongoing fight against discrimination and injustice; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Indiana's Pride Season serves as a reminder that much work remains to pass legal protections for LGBTQIA+ Hoosiers, because discrimination against one person threatens the constitutional rights of all and erodes our collective character and integrity; and*
- WHEREAS,** *Discrimination against the LGBTQIA+ community persists across employment, health care, housing, lending, education, and public accommodations; therefore, lawmakers should ensure protections at every level; and*

WHEREAS, *Our communities must be safe and welcoming for everyone, especially as hate crimes rise against targeted populations; therefore, Indiana should strengthen its hate crimes laws by including explicit protections for transgender and gender-diverse Hoosiers; and*

WHEREAS, *Hoosier families, in consultation with trusted medical providers, should have the freedom to make decisions about their health care; the right to bodily autonomy is a cornerstone of individual liberty and must not be infringed upon by the government; thus, Hoosier lawmakers should be passed to repeal the 2022 abortion ban and the 2023 bans on gender-affirming care for transgender youth and incarcerated individuals; and*

WHEREAS, *All families flourish when treated equally under the law as guaranteed by the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution; therefore, Indiana lawmakers should affirm marriage at the state level; and*

WHEREAS, *LGBTQIA+ youth are disproportionately vulnerable to ostracization, bullying, violence, and suicide; and according to the national nonprofit True Colors United, they are 120% more likely to experience homelessness compared to non-LGBTQIA+ youth; lawmakers at all levels must prioritize solutions to this crisis; and*

WHEREAS, *All students—including LGBTQIA+ students—deserve safe, affirming schools where they can learn and be themselves without fear of discrimination or harassment; thus, national, state, and local policies should be enacted to protect these students' rights and dignity; and*

WHEREAS, *Schools must be inclusive environments that allow all students to participate fully in activities available to their peers; therefore, school boards should adopt inclusive policies, and the Indiana General Assembly should repeal the 2022 ban on transgender athletes participating in secondary school sports, the 2023 law that compels school officials to out students to their families, and the 2024 ban on any athlete at any level of sports ; and*

THEREFORE, *I do hereby proclaim June 2025 as Pride Month in recognition of the innate human value and equal protection by law of the LGBTQ+ community, and commit to continuing to build a community and country that promotes diversity, equity, love, inclusion, respect, and acceptance for all people:*

AND DIRECT *That a copy of this proclamation, in honor of Pride Month, sponsored by the Honorable Shelli Yoder, be presented to G. David Caudill, Director and Founder of Equality Indiana.*



Senate Minority Leader Shelli Yoder
District #40