



**Get the Score! Senator John Kerry’s Long-Standing Support of GLBT rights shows that he is the right leader for America.**

<b>Scorecard</b>	<b>Kerry</b>	<b>Bush</b>
Supports anti-discrimination employment laws (ENDA)	<b>Yes</b>	No
Supports hate crimes legislation	<b>Yes</b>	No
Supports an end to “don’t ask, don’t tell”	<b>Yes</b>	No
Supports increased spending for HIV/AIDS prevention	<b>Yes</b>	No
Supports health care benefits, inheritance rights, pension benefits, medical and bereavement leave, hospital visitation and survivor benefits for same-sex couples	<b>Yes</b>	No
Opposes the “Federal Marriage Amendment”	<b>Yes</b>	No
Would appoint fair-minded and independent Supreme Court Justices	<b>Yes</b>	No

- **Senator Kerry opposes discrimination against GLBT families.** Kerry has publicly declared his support for equal rights for all GLBT families, saying “All Americans deserve the protection of the Equal Protection Clause.” He supports extending the more than 1,000 federal benefits and protections to same-sex couples, including access to survivor benefits, the right to file joint income taxes and hospital visitation.
- **There has never been a Democratic Presidential candidate with a stronger record on issues of importance to the GLBT community.**
  - As a freshman Senator in 1985, Kerry was the original sponsor of the Civil Rights Amendment Act, which would have prohibited discrimination based on sexual orientation.
  - Original co-sponsor of Ryan White Act to fund care of people with HIV (1990)
  - Opposed “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” (1993) and was one of the few Senators to testify against the policy in the Senate Armed Services Committee.
  - Was the only Senator up for re-election who voted against the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) (1996)
  - Co-Sponsor of Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA), federal hate crimes legislation, the Early Treatment of HIV Act, the Permanent Partners Immigration Act, and the Domestic Partnership Benefits and Obligations Act of 2002.
  - Supports the expansion of the Family and Medical Leave Act to cover domestic partners and their children.
  - Supported the decision by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which struck down discriminatory laws and reaffirmed the privacy rights of gays and lesbians.
  - Received a 100% voting rating from the Human Rights Campaign for the last four sessions of Congress, with a career rating of 96%.

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