

## **Joint Statement Against Violence and Hateful Rhetoric Toward the LGBTQ+ Community**

Today we are speaking out against violence toward the LGBTQ+ community.

This year alone, we have seen over a dozen attacks against drag artists and drag performances and countless threats of violence toward LGBTQ+ people across North Carolina. These attacks have caused pain, fear, and trauma for LGBTQ+ people, their families, friends, and entire communities. This cannot continue. As LGBTQ+ elected leaders, we cannot stay silent on the continued attacks on our community.

Our community has suffered violent attacks from extremist right-wing groups; hateful rhetoric from elected leaders and candidates at all levels of government; attacks on our rights from legislators and decision makers; and ongoing media attacks from right-wing news outlets spewing hateful and disparaging messages.

Across North Carolina, we saw hateful, racist threats being used to instill fear in organizers of Drag Queen Story Hour and other drag events, at times causing them to be canceled or relocated to protect young people. We saw vandalism of venues that hosted drag performances. We saw Pride events canceled or rescheduled due to death threats and security concerns. We saw organized efforts to harass and intimidate drag artists, organizers of LGBTQ+ events, advocates, leaders, and even attendees of these events. We saw municipal officials and state legislators attempt to take away the rights and protections of LGBTQ+ people. And within the last month, we saw a transgender policymaker resign from her position after intense harassment by right-wing groups.

Across the United States, we saw a record number of pieces of anti-LGBTQ+ legislation, as well as devastating and violent attacks on trans women, especially trans women of color, on transgender and gender-nonconforming youth in schools, and on LGBTQ+ gathering spaces. We saw hateful and dehumanizing messages from anti-equality elected officials and candidates. We saw states attempt to persecute our communities and our families for simply living our truths, lives, and identities.

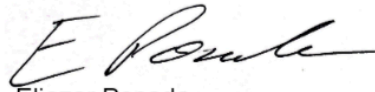
It is outrageous that, while it has been 50 years since Stonewall, we continue to see the policies and attacks that led to those historic protests happening today. LGBTQ+ people are a vital part of the history and beauty of this state and of this country. Our existence, dignity, and rights are not up for debate. LGBTQ+ peoples' lives and identities are not an opinion or a policy stance or a talking point. We are human beings.

Over the next few months, we will work with other policy makers across the state to pass resolutions affirming our support for the LGBTQ+ community and drag artists. We encourage our state's leaders to proactively address the rise in hateful attacks and rhetoric against LGBTQ+ people.

We are your neighbors, your friends, and your family members. Join us in building safe, inclusive communities where all of us can live without fear.



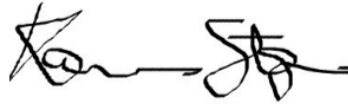
Damon Seils  
Mayor, Town of Carrboro



Eliazar Posada  
Council Member, Town of Carrboro



Jillian Johnson  
Council Member, City of Durham



Karen Stegman  
Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Chapel Hill



Matt Hughes  
Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Hillsborough



Jonathan Melton  
Council Member, City of Raleigh



Representative Vernetta Alston  
North Carolina House 29

Signatories,

### **LGBTQ Elected Officials**

**Senator Elect Lisa Grafstein**  
North Carolina Senate 13

**Representative Allison A. Dahle**  
North Carolina House 11

**Representative Deb Butler**  
North Carolina House 18

**Representative Marica Morey**  
North Carolina House 30

**Audra Killingsworth**  
Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Apex

**Jane Campbell**

Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Davidson

**Todd Carter**

Council Member, Town of Boone

**Kim Roney**

Council Member, City of Asheville

**LaWana Mayfield**

Council Member, City of Charlotte

**Stormie Forte**

Council Member, City of Raleigh

**Jasmine Beach-Ferrara**

Commissioner, Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

**Sarah Smylie**

Board member, Orange County Board of Education

**Mark Kleinschmidt**

Clerk of Superior Court, Orange County

**Jenna Wadsworth**

Vice-Chair, Wake County Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

**Satana Deberry**

District Attorney, Durham County

**Elected Officials****Senator Elect Graig Meyer**

North Carolina Senate 23

**Senator Natasha Marcus**

North Carolina Senate 41

**Senator Julie Mayfield**

North Carolina Senate 49

**Representative Kandie D. Smith**

North Carolina House 8

**Representative Elect Tim Longest**

North Carolina House 34

**Representative Julie von Haefen**

North Carolina House 36

**Representative Elect Renee A. Price**

North Carolina House 50

**Representative Pricey Harrison**

North Carolina House 61

**Representative Elect Diamond Staton-Williams**

North Carolina House 73

**Representative Carolyn G. Logan**

North Carolina House 101

**Representative Tricia Cotham**

North Carolina House 112

**Representative Caleb Rudow**

North Carolina House 114

**Representative-Elect Lindsey Prather**

North Carolina House 115

**Pam Hemminger**

Mayor, Town of Chapel Hill

**Jennifer (Jenn) Weaver**

Mayor, Town of Hillsborough

**Elaine M. O'Neal**

Mayor, City of Durham

**Mayor Mary-Ann Baldwin**

Mayor, City of Raleigh

**Edie Tugman**

Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Boone

**J. Dalton George**

Council Member, Town of Boone

**Susan Romaine**

Mayor Pro Tem, Town of Carrboro

**Barbara Foushee**

Council Member, Town of Carrboro

**Danny Nowell**

Council Member, Town of Carrboro

**Carissa Johnson**

Council Member, Town of Cary

**Amy Ryan**

Council Member, Town of Chapel Hill

**Paris Miller-Foushee**

Council Member, Town of Chapel Hill

**Mark Bell**

Commissioner, Town of Hillsborough

**Kathleen Ferguson**

Commissioner, Town of Hillsborough

**Lance Munger**

Commissioner, Town of Huntersville

**Braxton Winston II**

Mayor Pro Tem, City of Charlotte

**Renee Johnson**

Council Member, City of Charlotte

**Victoria Watlington**

Council Member, City of Charlotte

**Malcolm Graham**

Council Member, City of Charlotte

**Dimple Ajmera**

Council Member, City of Charlotte

**Javiera Caballero**

Council Member, City of Durham

**Jane Harrison**

Council Member, City of Raleigh

**Wendy Jacobs**

Vice-Chair, Durham County Board of Commissioners

**Heidi Carter**

Commissioner, Durham County Board of Commissioners

**Nida Allam**

Commissioner, Durham County Board of Commissioners

**Mary Beth Murphy**

Commissioner, Guilford County Board of Commissioners

**Susan Rodriguez-McDowell**

Commissioner, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners

**Mark D. Jerrell**

Commissioner, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners

**Laura Meier**

Commissioner, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners

**Arthur Griffin, Jr.**

Commissioner, Mecklenburg County Board of Commissioners

**Jamezetta R Bedford**

Chair, Orange County Board of Commissioners

**Sally Greene**

Commissioner, Orange County Board of Commissioners

**Cheryl Stallings**

Commissioner, Wake County Board of Commissioners

**Rani Dasi**

Chair, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education

**George Griffin**

Vice Chair, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education

**Mike Sharp**

Board Member, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools Board of Education

**Bettina Umstead**

Chair, Durham Public Schools Board of Education

**Natalie Beyer**

Board Member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education

**Millicent Rogers**

Board Member, Durham Public Schools Board of Education

**Carrie B Doyle**

Board Member, Orange County Schools Board of Education

**Sam Hershey**

Board Member, Wake County Board of Education

**Lynn Edmonds**

Board Member, Wake County Board of Education

**Tyler Swanson**

Board Member, Wake County Board of Education

**Tammy Brunner**

Register of Deeds, Wake County

**Community Partners**

**Equality North Carolina**

**RAIN, Inc.**

**Latino Commission on AIDS**

**Campaign for Southern Equality**

**El Pueblo**

**Carolina Migrant Network**

**Free Mom Hugs High Country Chapter**

**Watauga Arts Council**

**Community Worx**

**Western Youth Network**

**El Centro Hispano**

**Sandhills PRIDE**

**Combat Sexual Assault**

**SYCC LGBTQ Resource Center**

**The Freedom Center for Social Justice**

**Circle of Love Movement**

**Education Justice Alliance**

**Southern Coalition for Social Justice**

**Democracy NC**

**Action NC**

**La Fuerza NC**

**Carolina Jews for Justice**

**Fayetteville Police Accountability Community Taskforce**

**NC Gender & Sexualities Alliance (NCGSA)**

**North Carolinians Against Gun Violence**

**Fayetteville Freedom For all**

**Center for Death Penalty Litigation**

**Durham Beyond Policing**

**Black Voters Matter Fund**

**Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina**

**A Better Chance A Better Community (ABC2)**

**LGBTQ Chapter APRI**

**Fayetteville PRIDE**

**Time Out Youth**

**Down Home North Carolina**

**Siembra NC**

**Friends of the Earth**

**Union County Pride**

**Pro-Choice North Carolina**

**Apex Pride**

**Common Cause North Carolina**



**Highlander Research and Education Center**

**Muslim Women For**

**Women Leading 4 Wellness and Justice**

**NC Climate Justice Collective**

**NC Counts Coalition**

**LGBT Center of Raleigh**

**Diamante Arts and Culture Center**

**LGBTQ+ Hearts Place**

**LGBT Center of Raleigh**

**ACLU-NC**