Post-2024 Election FAQs

Updated 4/28/2025

The San Mateo County Pride Center and CoastPride have received many questions about what is in store for the LGBTQIA+ community since the 2024 election. In response, we've created this list of commonly asked questions and answers, along with a linktree of related resources.

Please note that this is a living document and linktree. They were first created in January of 2025 and will be updated as the political and social landscape develops. The linktree will be updated more frequently than this document so look there for the latest information. There is a lot of fear and uncertainty around LGBTQIA+ and immigrant rights. As you're utilizing this document we recommend that you consider what risks are imminent (i.e. laws have been changed) and what risks are possibilities (i.e. a political leader said something in a speech). Check your sources carefully and try to avoid doom scrolling.

Different letters of the LGBTQIA+ community have different needs and are facing different threats. A good place to start to look for supportive organizations in the Bay Area is The Horizon Foundation's organization directory. Many organizations (including CoastPride and the Pride Center) offer identity specific peer support groups as well as case management and mental health support, virtually and in-person.

If you have questions or suggested updates to this document or the linktree, please reach out to info@sanmateopride.org and/or contact@coastpride.org.

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711 Main Street
Half Moon Bay, CA 94019

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1021 S El Camino Real
San Mateo, CA 94402

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What might happen to access to gender-affirming care?
The below links are trusted sources to stay updated on what the current Laws and Policies are in place around gender-affirming care:

- Visit LGBT Map to see what Laws and Policies are in place in California to protect access to Transgender Health Care.
- Stay up to date about legal changes: GLAD Law GLBTQ Legal Advocates & Defenders.
- Know what impacts Executive Orders do and **do not** have on access to gender-affirming care and hormone replacement therapy and reach out to organizations like Lambda Legal, the ACLU, and CA (or your state's) Attorney General if you encounter issues getting access to care

What can I do now to prepare for potential restrictions on gender-affirming healthcare access?
Take steps that are important to you, but don't rush into decisions based only on the possibility of changes in access to care. The below resources offer short and long term solutions to engage in gender-affirming care in an uncertain political landscape.

GLAD Law Transgender Health Care Questions
California Department of Managed Health Care's information page on Trans-Inclusive Care and Gender-Affirming Care

What might happen to my right to get married or to my existing same-sex marriage?
In 2024, California passed Prop 3, a constitutional change that both removed a previous provision that barred same-sex marriage and added new protections in the event the U.S. Supreme Court overturns existing precedent. For tips on protecting yourself and your family and to stay informed on legislation visit: Protecting your LGBTQ+ Marriage and Family

What can I do about my name and gender markers on legal documents?
Changes you can or cannot make will vary depending on if the document is controlled at the Federal Level (e.g. passports, Social Security), or the State Level (e.g. Driver's Licenses, Birth Certificates, State IDs). Further variation will happen for State documents depending on the specific laws and practices of the state controlling said documents. For more information and out of state support, check out Advocates for Trans Equality's online tools.

For an in-depth overview of how to update your name and gender markers in CA, we recommend the Transgender Law Center's ID Please Guide. This guide walks you through each step of the process for updating everything from your IDs, Social Security, Birth Certificates, Passports, and more. **Please note that this document may be outdated regarding updating federal documents. Please visit the**

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Advocates For Transgender Equality page on Passports for the latest information.

The San Mateo County Pride Center also hosts free virtual workshops each month to provide tailored assistance and guide you through each step of the process. RSVP and more information here.

If eligible, you can also get assistance with paying filing fees. Organizations like Point of Pride may also help. Please reach out to CoastPride/SMCPC directly if you need further support with fees.

How do I support my LGBTQ+ minor?

Minors are the population most at risk for losing access to rights and care, however luckily they have several protections in California. The Trevor Project is the best place to look to understand the legislative landscape as well as resources for LGBTQ+ minors nationally.

In California, LGBTQ+ youth and students still have protections and our Attorney General has stated that youth will continue to be protected. Instances where their rights are not respected should be reported for follow-up.

Keep in mind that restrictions to LGBTQ+ rights are felt emotionally by community members even if they themselves are not directly affected.

What rights do I have as an LGBTQ+ parent or caregiver?

LGBTQ+ parents have mostly the same rights as non-LGBTQ+ parents, however this does vary slightly state-to-state. GLAD has a guide for ensuring you maintain your parental rights or to establish them as needed. California passed "Voluntary Declaration of Parentage" in 2020 allowing parents to streamline claiming legal rights regardless of genetic relationship to the child. Our Family Coalition is a local org focused on resourcing and educating LGBTQ+ families.

Where/how can I get support as an LGBTQ+ older adult?

SAGE is a national organization focused on resourcing LGBTQ+ Older Adults, and they offer information on rights and services on a national and state level. Local orgs such as Avenidas and OpenHouse offer similar support as well as groups, events, and community. Additionally, the Pride Center welcomes LGBTQ+ folks of all ages in our programs and services.

What can undocumented people and our families do to prepare for possible changes to immigrant rights?

Here are a few things you can do:

1. Know your rights.

Visit our linktree for more direct resources!

2. Obtain red cards for a script for what to say if you're approached by ICE.
3. Save the San Mateo County Rapid Response Hotline number: 1-203-666-4472.
4. Follow local immigrant rights orgs on social media - this is likely the first place where the community will be notified of a local ICE raid.
5. Make a plan for what to do if detained by ICE.

Legal Aid of San Mateo County has additional resources available on their website.

What actions can I take to keep myself and/or my family and loved ones safe?

Each person's safety needs are different. Some helpful starting points could be: What risks do you face based on you or your family members' identities? What type of safety are you concerned about: physical, emotional, something else?

If you are concerned about emotional safety, one-on-one therapy, support groups, and finding community can be very helpful. Check out the "Where can I find social support and community?" question on this doc and the linktree for resources.

If you are concerned about access to rights and resources (such as gender-affirming care, protections for minors at school, etc.) make sure you are up-to-date on what has or hasn't changed **legally**. It can also be helpful to know how to report instances of discrimination and provide assistance to members of the community who may need to submit a form.

If you are concerned about needing to physically defend yourself, Impact Bay Area offers self defense classes specifically for the LGBTQ+ community.

What can I do if I experience discrimination, harassment, or retaliation in a place of employment or housing?

What you can do depends largely on where the discrimination took place, whether any state or local laws there might apply to your situation, and where things stand under the current administration. Document every interaction and exchange that could show what happened. For additional guidance you can contact your local ACLU affiliate or the national ACLU LGBTQ & HIV Project for help weighing your options.

If you've experienced housing discrimination in San Mateo County, contact the Legal Aid Society of San Mateo County or Project Sentinel.

Where can I find social support and community?

Across the Bay and online, there are a multitude of LGBTQ+ affirming events, gatherings, meet-ups, or community groups that are hosted regularly.

Visit our linktree for more direct resources!

Consider joining virtual or in-person support groups (such as those at SMC Pride Center, Outlet, CoastPride, Trans:Thrive, Billy deFrank, or Pacific Center for Human Growth).

Explore online communities like Discord or Plura to directly connect and chat with peers. You can also find affirming spaces and communities on Facebook, Reddit, Instagram, Bluesky, or Youtube. Attend local events via MeetUp, NextDoor, and reach out to your local community center such as CoastPride or SMC Pride Center to learn more about what's going on. Here is a cool list of queer resources and centers across the Bay Area to check out.

LGBTQ+ student-led clubs and GSAs (Gender and Sexuality Alliances) can be another source of support for youth - for more information check out GLSEN and GSA Network.

How can I relocate to CA?

Here are some key considerations and tips if you plan to move to California:

- Be prepared for high rent prices and limited housing availability, especially in San Francisco and major cities. Explore cities like Oakland, Berkeley, San Jose, and smaller towns to find more affordable options.
- Consider shared housing with roommates to manage costs. For LGBTQ+ roommates, try Facebook Housing groups like "Gay Area Queer Housing", Craigslist, or local nonprofits such as HIP Housing in San Mateo County.
- Connect with LGBTQ+ housing organizations for additional guidance: OpenHouse SF; TGNCI Housing SF; Below Market Rate & Affordable Rental Workshops. LGBTQ+ centers like the SMC Pride Center, Oakland LGBT Center, and SF LGBT Center can also help point you in the right direction.

I'm an ally! How can I support LGBTQ+ and immigrant community members in these uncertain times?

- Vote!
- Get politically involved
- Wear visible markers of support where you can. This includes (but is not limited to), flags, pronoun pins, LGBTQIA+ community center swag, etc.
- Interrupt and educate if mis/disinformation about the LGBTQIA+ community is being shared. Offer positive narratives and experiences to counter negativity about the LGBTQIA+ community.
- Practice intervention where it is safe and comfortable. Consider a de-escalation approach, such as greeting a stranger who may be in a bad situation as a friend and offering to "get out of here" for your next activity
- Be careful about outing people in your life - talk to them to find out where they are comfortable discussing LGBTQIA+ issues and having their proper names and pronouns used
- Advocate for trans friends/family members/community, especially in public spaces and use of gendered areas such as bathrooms

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- Listen to and Support LGBTQIA+ friends, and help them find resources and community
- Stay up-to-date and aware of anti-LGBTQIA legislation, and how it affects your friends/family/community
- Learn more allyship tips from PFLAG - https://pflag.org/resource/resources-to-being-a-lifelong-ally/
- There are many organizations doing incredible work to support LGBTQ+ and immigrant communities. We don't have the space here to share all of their donation pages, so we've selected some local and national organizations to highlight.
    - Local: San Mateo County Pride Center, CoastPride, Oasis Legal Services.
    - National: Trevor Project, Immigrant Defense Project

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