

PROTECT EQUAL RIGHTS IN CHAMBERSBURG, PA

Our community is facing the potential elimination of a LGBTQ+ inclusive local non-discrimination ordinance and Human Relations Commission by Chambersburg Borough Council at its public meeting on January 24, 2022.

Raise your voice to help protect equal rights in our community!

WHAT'S AT STAKE?



Chambersburg, PA currently has a LGBTQ+ inclusive non-discrimination ordinance (NDO) in place.

The NDO is important because it ensures **equal** protections against discrimination in matters of housing, employment, and public accommodation for **all** citizens.

This is because PA law does not clearly and explicitly protect LGBTQ+ individuals from discrimination. Without the local NDO, LGBTQ+ people are not guaranteed these protections.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?



Late 2020 - Early 2021

Residents reach out to their Boro Council representatives, and speak at public meetings asking them to consider adopting a local NDO.

April 28, 2021

Council approves formation of a special exploratory committee to investigate a local NDO.

August 7, 2021

Exploratory committee releases **final report** including recommendation to adopt a local NDO.

September 29, 2021

Mayor vetoes the NDO.

January 3, 2022

Rather than appointing a new Human Relations Commission, per NDO, Council votes to add NDO to its meeting on January 24, the required advertising period to repeal or adopt a new ordinance.

March 8, 2021

Council adopts operational policies that extend LGBTQ+ protections to groups associated with the Borough, but falls short of protecting all citizens.

May 11 - July 28, 2021

Exploratory committee meets six times to research, gather information, and consider potential amendment(s) to local law or new ordinances to codify non-discrimination.

September 20, 2021

Council passes the proposed LGBTQ+ inclusive NDO.

October 11, 2021

Council overrides mayor's veto, passing the NDO.

January 24, 2022

Council is anticipated to vote on **repealing the NDO, which would strip away rights of marginalized groups not protected under the PA Human Relations Act.**

FAST FACTS

71

At least 71 municipalities in PA have passed LGBTQ+ inclusive local NDOs.

More than 35% of PA's overall population (about one in three residents) are protected under a local NDO.



Shippensburg, Gettysburg, and Bloomsburg all adopted LGBTQ+ inclusive NDOs in 2020.

If Chambersburg's NDO is repealed, it would **remove** guaranteed protections for LGBTQ+ persons in matters of discrimination related to housing, employment, and public accommodation (stores, restaurants, hotels, and theaters).



WHEN IT'S NOT GOOD TO BE

#1

If repealed, Chambersburg would be the first municipality in PA state history to eliminate a LGBTQ+ inclusive NDO.

Pennsylvania is the only state in the northeast to not have statewide protections for LGBTQ+ individuals.



RAISE YOUR VOICE!



1. **Write Council members an email** asking them to keep the NDO in place.
2. **Attend the public meeting:** January 24, 7pm, Council Chambers, 100 S. 2nd St. (Zoom also avail., [sign up for link](#))
3. **Make a statement** at the meeting. Feel unsafe speaking? [Submit a statement.](#)

LEARN MORE AT FCCFORPROGRESS.ORG/PROTECT-EQUAL-RIGHTS