

LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

Advances for LGBTQ People

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- :19 The Stonewall Uprising began on June 28, 1969 in response to a New York City police raid of the Stonewall Inn, a gay club in Greenwich Village. Fighting the oppression and taking cues from the civil rights movement, members of the LGBTQ community led a series of protests and demonstrations that lasted six days including a protest march with more than 2000 people. Largely credited as a turning point in the fight for LGBTQ rights, the Stonewall Uprising inspired more organized activism for LGBTQ equality and launched the modern day Pride movement.
- :55 Marsha P. Johnson was a black American, gay liberation activist and self-identified drag queen. Known as an outspoken advocate for gay rights, Johnson was one of the prominent figures in the Stonewall Uprising of 1969. Marsha disappeared on the eve of the gay pride parade in July 1992. Her body later surfaced in the Hudson River. Law enforcement ruled it a suicide, but her friends believe she was murdered. Her murder remains unsolved.
- 1:23 In 1977, eight years after the Stonewall episode in New York City that launched the gay pride movement, Florida Citrus spokeswoman, Anita Bryant, waged an ongoing nationally publicized verbal war with gay people.
- 1:44 In St. Petersburg, police routinely harassed and arrested gay men in parks and other public spaces for suspected homosexual activity. As recently as the early 1980s, St. Petersburg undercover police routinely arrested gay men.
- 2:06 In 2003, the US Supreme Court struck down laws governing homosexuality making it legal in all 50 states. In 2015, the Court struck down the last state law banning same sex marriage, making marriage equality the law of the land. In the summer of 2020, the Supreme Court ruled that federal sex discrimination protection extended to LGBTQ people in the workplace. It protects employees from being terminated simply because of their gender identity or sexual orientation.
- 2:38 St. Petersburg hosts the largest annual pride parade and celebration in the southeast and is consistently named as one of the most LGBTQ-friendly cities in the region. The parade and celebration was founded in 2003 by a group that included Mark Bias, Carrie West, and Brian Longstreth. Mayor Rick Kriseman, then on the city council, was the only council member to sign it. Despite the progress made, LGBTQ people are not protected from housing discrimination in most states, including Florida nor is there federal or Florida law protecting LGBTQ employees from discrimination.

