

you navigate the legislative process and maximize your organizing capacity.

**Introduce yourself.** Learn where your legislator(s) stands. Schedule an appointment with some of your elected officials. Sometimes it's easier if you identify a politician who may sympathize with your views for your first meeting. This person may be able to direct you to others who are open to your cause.

**Spread the message.** Write letters to the editor, organize programs, speak at community events. The more people that hear your message, the more chance you have to get people committed to your cause.

For more information,  
go to [www.acluohio.org](http://www.acluohio.org).

## LGBT Activism 101

Expand rights in your community!



ACLU of Ohio  
4506 Chester Ave.  
Cleveland, Ohio 44103-3621  
(216) 472-2200



[www.acluohio.org](http://www.acluohio.org)

Help in the fight for equal rights in Ohio. Around the state, people are organizing and lobbying their local elected officials to expand the rights of LGBT residents.

Ordinances prohibiting discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and laws creating domestic partner registries for unmarried couples, are two significant ways of expanding these rights.

### **Non-discrimination ordinances**

28 Ohio cities and counties now have anti-discrimination ordinances. Ten of these fully protect individuals from discrimination in employment and housing based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The other 18 have partial ordinances that only protect sexual orientation or may only address housing or employment, but not both.



### **Offer full protection:**

Akron  
Athens  
Bowling Green  
Cincinnati  
Cleveland  
Columbus  
Dayton  
Oxford  
Toledo  
Yellow Springs

### **Offer partial protection:**

Canton  
Cleveland Heights  
Cuyahoga County  
Cuyahoga Falls  
Franklin County  
Gahanna  
Hamilton  
Hamilton County  
Lakewood  
Laura  
Lima  
Lucas County  
Montgomery County  
North Olmsted  
Oberlin  
Shaker Heights  
Summit County  
Wood County

### **Domestic partnership registries**

Only three cities have domestic partnership registries: Cleveland, Cleveland Heights and Toledo. These registries do not officially recognize

same-sex relationships or convey any legal benefits, like a marriage would. But, by being registered, couples are often better able to access employee partner benefits, to visit partners at a hospital, or to join certain recreational programs.

### **Take action!**

Ready to make a difference? Follow these easy steps.

**Get connected.** Find other concerned people in your community. Search the web or check your local community listings for meetings already taking place. Talk to your friends and get them energized.

**Organize a meeting.** Discuss your concerns and goals and how you can make change. Develop strategies for getting the word out about your group and recruit others. Politicians, religious leaders, teachers, doctors and entrepreneurs can be powerful coalition partners.

**Ask the experts.** Is this your first time organizing? Call the experts in to help! Organizations like the ACLU, Equality Ohio and your local LGBT center may be willing to send a representative to your meeting or help you develop strategies for talking to your elected officials. Connecting with groups who have experience will help