



“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.” Much has been achieved in attaining these rights for LGBTQ citizens, but there is much more to do.

PFLAG Southwest Washington Chapter

July 2017 Newsletter



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Join us:

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7 pm at the Children’s Home Society, 1112 Columbia Street, Vancouver, WA 98660

Next Meeting: July 11, 7 pm
We will celebrate the defeat of I-1552. Afterwards we will have our monthly support session.

Dates to remember:

- August 1, 5–7pm, Annual PFLAG/Triple Point Picnic at Esther Short Park
- August 8, 7pm, PFLAG SW WA meeting
- September 9, 9am–4pm, Peace and Justice Fair at Esther Short Park
- September 12, 7pm, PFLAG SW WA meeting
- October 10, 7pm, PFLAG SW WA meeting
- November 14, 7pm, PFLAG SW WA meeting
- December 12, 7pm, PFLAG SW WA meeting

Victory! Let’s Celebrate News from Washington Won’t Discriminate

For the second year in a row, anti-transgender forces have failed in their attempt to qualify a ballot initiative aimed at rolling back non-discrimination protections for our transgender friends and neighbors in Washington.

The Washington Secretary of State’s office announced Friday morning that the I-1552 campaign cancelled its 3pm Friday appointment to turn in 259,622 valid signatures. That means this is the end of the road for I-1552, which, if passed, would have overridden state and local protections against gender-identity discrimination in certain public places, required that public schools restrict access to some facilities based on sex at birth, and allowed related lawsuits against schools.

PFLAG Southwest Washington is grateful for the efforts of President Barbara Aitken and Vice President De Stewart, who worked with the Washington SAFE Alliance to defeat this initiative. We are also grateful to the many people who wrote letters to editors, contributed money, educated friends and family, and declined to sign.



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Dates to remember:

- October 20–22, PFLAG National Convention, Portland, Oregon

To get more information and to register visit www.PFLAG.Org/2017convention



PFLAG SW WA at Saturday in the Park Vancouver's 2017 Pride Event

Led by LGBTQ Pride of Vancouver, a group of people met for the first time in 1993 to celebrate the lives and history of the LGBTQ community in Southwest Washington. This led to the creation in 1994 of Saturday in the Park. At first it was held near the Columbia River and later moved to Esther Short Park. In the early years the event was sparsely attended and was met by marching anti-LGBTQ protesters.

Fast forward to 2017. This year's Saturday in the Park was a huge event. The only marchers were LGBTQ supporters who proudly marched through the park to the beat of drums, with the PFLAG contingent carrying signs celebrating the defeat of I-1552.

PFLAG Southwest Washington is a regular participant at Saturday in the Park. This year, PFLAGers manning our colorful booth gave out information about our chapter, provided LGBTQ literature, and answered questions. Traffic at our booth was heavy and numerous visitors signed up to receive meeting notices and our monthly newsletter. What a great day it was joining with others in the LGBTQ community in celebration of LGBTQ rights.

