

Dear Friends:

The 2008 Presidential elections offer our country and our community a chance to make history, by fundamentally restructuring American politics from the White House to the state house. That is why we are supporting Senator John Edwards for President and hope that you will consider joining us.

As the Democratic presidential nominee John Edwards represents nothing less than the chance to alter the conventional foundations of American politics. Edwards is a strong leader not only on the critical issues facing the LGBT community, but also by offering bold ideas like guaranteeing universal health care to every man woman and child in this nation, ending poverty in this country during our lifetime and stopping global warming while creating hundreds of thousands of new quality American jobs in a new energy economy. As the party's presidential nominee Edwards will run a 50-state campaign- helping to strengthen Democrats officials, not only in traditionally "blue" states, but also in battleground and "red" states.

*Edwards' "policy ideas are shaping the Democratic presidential race."*  
The Economist- July 19, 2007

Edwards' bold leadership on the critical issues, both on those unique to our community and those that transcend all communities, has set the policy agenda for this election, making it safe for others to follow. Edwards was the first candidate to offer a truly universal health care plan, the first candidate to offer a comprehensive global warming proposal, and the first to offer a comprehensive HIV/AIDS strategy. Early on Edwards accepted responsibility and apologized for his vote to invade Iraq, and he has consistently called upon Congress to stand up to President Bush to force an end to the war.

*I am the candidate running for president on the Democratic side who's actually won an election in a red state running against the Jesse Helms political machine.*  
John Edwards- "Meet the Press" October 7, 2007

Edwards is the Democrat with the best chance to regain the White House against all of the top Republican candidates and offers the best chance to help Democrats get elected in some of the toughest races in the country because of his appeal in traditionally "red" areas. According to Doug Shoen, former pollster for President Bill Clinton, Edwards is "[the strongest individual match up](#)" against Republicans in the general. Edwards puts into play states that Democrats running for president have not competed in years. For example his strength in places like [Kentucky, Missouri and Oklahoma](#), will help Democrats competing in tight races, including for control of governorships and legislatures, control of which may mean more to LGBT Americans than most.

While members of the LGBT community are by no means single-issue voters, you may be asking yourself what all of this has to do with the LGBT community and our agenda.

As most of us now realize, almost all of the victories for our community have been at the state and local level. These victories are largely due to the hard work, persistence and talent of LGBT statewide organizations and their allies. Because these activists devoted their lives to educating their neighbors and elected representatives, we have marriage in Massachusetts, civil unions in New Jersey, Vermont, California, New Hampshire and Connecticut, and laws providing workplace equality, safe schools, protection from hate crimes and domestic partnership registries in dozens of states and local municipalities.

As members of the LGBT community, we are supporting John Edwards for President because if we want to continue to see this kind of progress in the states and to see the bills that we all work so hard to pass, we need to retain the majorities Democrats hold in statehouses and build new ones. And there is only one candidate with a 50-state plan who can ensure that we capitalize on the opportunities we have across the nation. That candidate is John Edwards.