



City Manager's Office

MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 15, 2023

TO: Mayor and City Council

THROUGH: Doug Thornley, City Manager **Approved Electronically**

FROM: Cynthia Esparza, Chief Equity & Community Relations Officer
Jackie Bryant, Assistant City Manager

SUBJECT: 2023 Human Rights Campaign Municipal Equity Index

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) released the 2023 Municipal Equity Index scorecards on November 14, 2023, and the City of Reno received a perfect score for the sixth consecutive year.

The annual assessment examines how inclusive municipal laws, policies, and services are for members of the LGBTQ+ community. This includes internal and external efforts including non-discrimination laws, the organization as an employer, leadership, and practices.

The City of Reno remains committed to creating a community where all can thrive and will continue strengthening relationships citywide. Please contact Cynthia Esparza at esparzac@reno.gov or (775) 737-1374 with any questions.

Attached:

- *City of Reno 2023 HRC Municipal Equity Index scorecard*

I. Non-Discrimination Laws**

This category evaluates whether discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity is prohibited by the city, county, or state in areas of employment, housing, and public accommodations.

	STATE	COUNTY	MUNICIPAL	AVAILABLE
Employment	4/4	0/0	0/0	5/5
Housing	5/5	0/0	0/0	5/5
Public Accommodations	5/5	0/0	0/0	5/5
SCORE	28 out of 30			
FLEX Single-Occupancy All-Gender Facilities	+2	+0	+1	+2
FLEX Protects Youth from Conversion Therapy	+2	+0	+0	+2

II. Municipality as Employer

By offering equivalent benefits and protections to LGBTQ+ employees, awarding contracts to fair-minded businesses, and taking steps to ensure an inclusive workplace, municipalities commit themselves to treating LGBTQ+ employees equally.

	COUNTY	MUNICIPAL	AVAILABLE
Non-Discrimination in City Employment		7/7	7/7
Transgender-Inclusive Healthcare Benefits		6	6
City Contractor Non-Discrimination Ordinance		3/3	3/3
Inclusive Workplace		2	2
SCORE	28 out of 28		
FLEX City Employee Domestic Partner Benefits		+1	+1

III. Municipal Services

This section assesses the efforts of the city to ensure LGBTQ+ residents are included in city services and programs.

	COUNTY	MUNICIPAL	AVAILABLE
Human Rights Commission	0	5	5
NDO Enforcement by Human Rights Commission	0	0	2
LGBTQ+ Liaison in City Executive's Office		5	5
SCORE	10 out of 12		
FLEX Youth Bullying Prevention Policy for City Services		+1/+1	+1/+1
FLEX City Provides Services to LGBTQ+ Youth		+0	+2
FLEX City Provides Services to LGBTQ+ People Experiencing Homelessness		+0	+2
FLEX City Provides Services to LGBTQ+ Older Adults		+2	+2
FLEX City Provides Services to People Living with HIV or AIDS		+2	+2
FLEX City Provides Services to the Transgender Community		+0	+2

IV. Law Enforcement

Fair enforcement of the law includes responsible reporting of hate crimes and engaging with the LGBTQ+ community in a thoughtful and respectful way.

	MUNICIPAL	AVAILABLE
LGBTQ+ Liaison/Task Force in Police Department	10	10
Reported 2020 Hate Crimes Statistics to the FBI	12	12
SCORE	22 out of 22	

V. Leadership on LGBTQ+ Equality

This category measures the city leadership's commitment to fully include the LGBTQ+ community and to advocate for full equality.

	MUNICIPAL	AVAILABLE
Leadership's Public Position on LGBTQ+ Equality	5	5
Leadership's Pro-Equality Legislative or Policy Efforts	3	3
SCORE	8 out of 8	
FLEX Openly LGBTQ+ Elected or Appointed Leaders	+2	+2
FLEX City Tests Limits of Restrictive State Law	+0	+3

TOTAL SCORE 96 + TOTAL FLEX SCORE 13 = Final Score 100
CANNOT EXCEED 100

** On June 15, 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in *Bostock v. Clayton County, Georgia* that sexual orientation and gender identity discrimination are prohibited under federal sex-based employment protections. Nevertheless, it is imperative that localities continue enacting explicitly LGBTQ+-inclusive comprehensive non-discrimination laws since it will likely take additional litigation for *Bostock* to be fully applied to all sex-based protections under existing federal civil rights law. Moreover, federal law currently lacks sex-based protections in numerous key areas of life, including public spaces and services. Lastly, there are many invaluable benefits to localizing inclusive protections even when they exist on higher levels of government. **For these reasons, the MEI will continue to only award credit in Part I for state, county, or municipal non-discrimination laws that expressly include sexual orientation and gender identity.**

PTS FOR SEXUAL ORIENTATION PTS FOR GENDER IDENTITY FLEX PTS for criteria not accessible to all cities at this time.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT CITY SELECTION, CRITERIA OR THE MEI SCORING SYSTEM, PLEASE VISIT [HRC.ORG/MEI](https://hrc.org/mei). All cities rated were provided their scorecard in advance of publication and given the opportunity to submit revisions. For feedback regarding a particular city's scorecard, please email mei@hrc.org.