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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Delaware Primary Election: A Historic Moment for LGBTQ+ Representation

Rehoboth Beach, DE – September 10th, 2024 – As Delawareans head to the polls today for the primary election, the stakes have never been higher for LGBTQ+ representation in public office. The potential for groundbreaking progress is within reach, particularly with the candidacy of Sarah McBride, who could become the first transgender person elected to Congress.

Historically, LGBTQ+ individuals have faced significant barriers in the political arena. According to LGBTQ Victory Institute, only 0.2% of elected officials in the U.S. currently identify as LGBTQ+. Delaware, however, stands poised to continue to make strides in this area, with a growing number of openly LGBTQ+ candidates stepping up to run for various offices.

Just a few years ago, Delaware had no openly LGBTQ+ individuals elected to state office. Since then, the landscape has transformed dramatically starting with the 2020 election of trailblazers Sarah McBride, Eric Morrison, and Marie Pinkney, all elected to the Delaware State Legislature. This election cycle, Delawareans have the opportunity to build upon this progress at the federal, state, and local level. In addition to Sarah McBride, several LGBTQ+ candidates are vying for positions today, including:

- Eric Morrison (he/him), Delaware State House of Representatives District 27 (running for reelection)
- DeShanna Neal (they/them), Delaware State House of Representatives District 13 (running for reelection, no primary opponent)
- Kerri Evelyn Harris (she/her), Delaware State Senate District 32 (running for reelection, no primary opponent)
- Marty Rendon (he/him), Delaware State House of Representatives District 14
- Claire Snyder-Hall (she/her), Delaware State House of Representatives District 14
- Jane Gruenbaum (she/her), Sussex County Council District 3

(Two of these LGBTQ+ Candidates, Marty Rendon and Claire Snyder-Hall, are running for the same seat in a three way Democratic Primary that includes Kathy McGuinness)

The progress we have made with LGBTQ+ representation in Delaware is noteworthy. While Sussex Pride does not endorse specific candidates, we do acknowledge the impact made by LGBTQ candidates at all levels of government.

David Mariner, Executive Director of Sussex Pride, stated, “The 2020 election of LGBTQ+ individuals like Sarah McBride, Eric Morrison, and Marie Pinkney and the progress made since that time has dramatically altered the landscape for LGBTQ+ individuals in Delaware. It shows our youth that their identities are not only valid, but worthy of representation in the halls of power. For those young people, these elections aren’t just about policies; they are also about belonging.”

As we begin this pivotal election cycle, Sussex Pride acknowledges the significance of LGBTQ+ candidates at every level. Together, we can forge a future where everyone has a seat at the table.

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SUSSEX PRIDE

Sussex Pride works to celebrate, strengthen, and support the LGBTQ+ community in Sussex County and the state of Delaware, working through a social justice lens. We focus on arts & culture, health & wellness, social and support groups, and advocacy for our community. (www.sussexpride.org)