

# Overview of LGBTQ Commission Work With and For Queer Washingtonians

Presentation by:

J. Manny Santiago, Director



WASHINGTON STATE  
**LGBTQ**  
COMMISSION

# Welcome!

- ▶ Introduction

- ▶ Who am I?



- ▶ Agenda

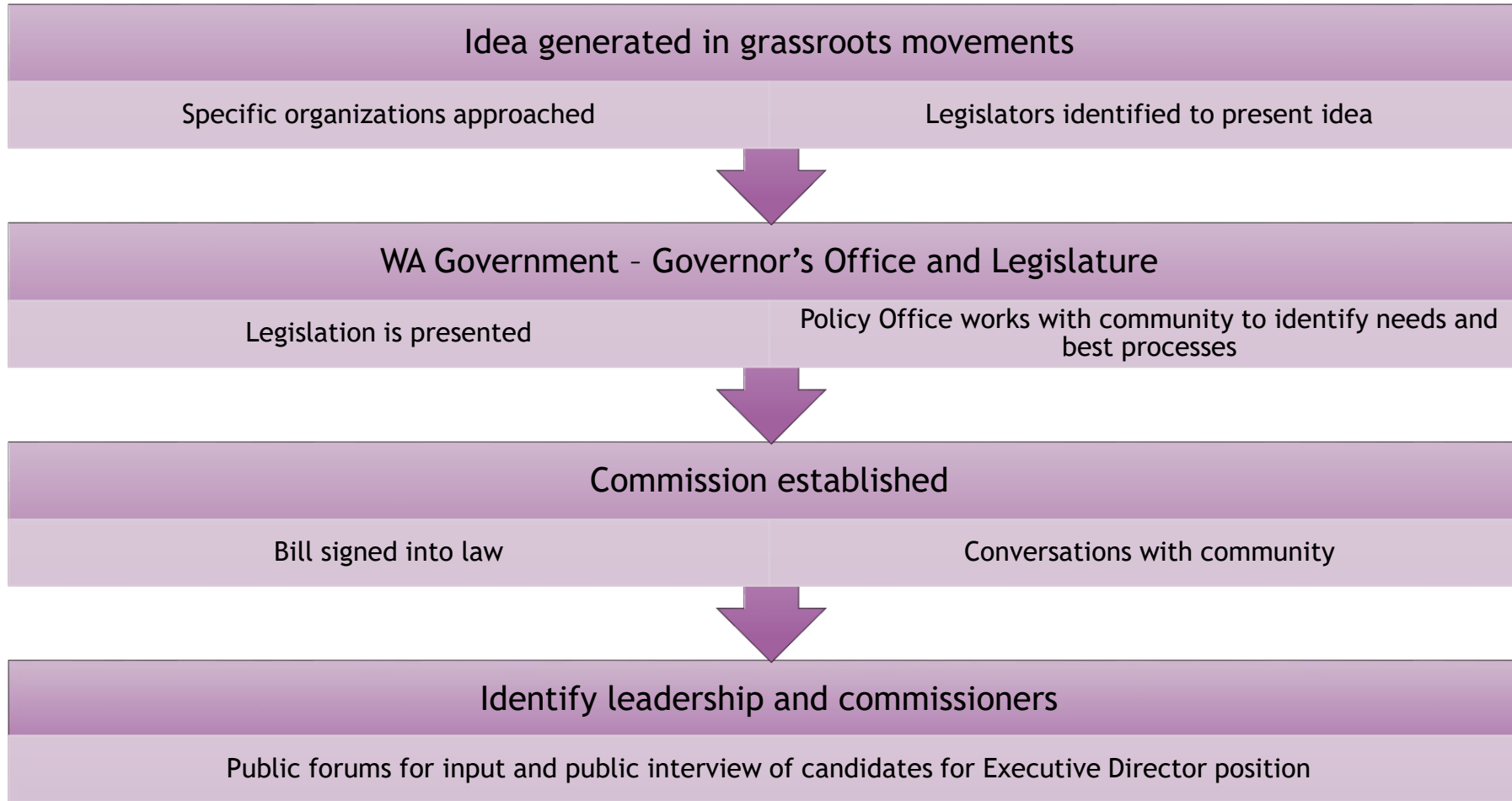
- ▶ History, Mission, and Vision
  - ▶ Your community represented: Commissioners and how to get involved
  - ▶ How are we working with you: Committees, Accomplishments, and Legislative Priorities
  - ▶ The Future: State-wide Pride, Virtual Town Halls, Public Meetings

# Short history

- ▶ Community leaders advocate for creation of LGBTQ Commission
- ▶ Legislature is presented by Senator Claire Wilson (D-Federal Way)
- ▶ WA Legislature approves Senate Bill 5356 on April 2019. Governor Inslee signs on May 13th, 2019
- ▶ First Executive Director appointed October 2019
- ▶ Fifteen Commissioners appointed January 2020
- ▶ First public meeting took place on February 2020



# Process to Establish the Commission



# Mission (from statute)

The Washington State LGBTQ Commission works to improve the state's interface with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, two-spirit, and intersex community, identify the needs of its members, and ensuring that there is an effective means of advocating for LGBTQ equity in all aspects of state government.



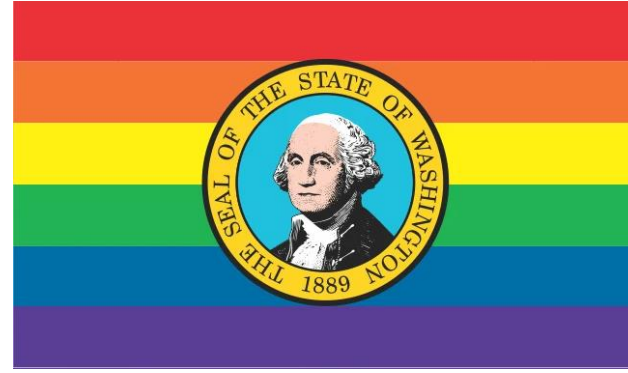
# What does this mean?

- ❑ Consulting role within the Governor's administration
  - ❑ Advise the Legislature and the Governor's Office
    - ❑ Collaborate with other Commissions
    - ❑ Hub of information and connections
  - ❑ Collaborate and advise state agencies
- ❑ Propose changes to current laws, works on expanding laws
- ❑ Support the state-wide LGBTQ business resource group, RAIN
  - ❑ Help with agency accountability

# It does NOT mean...

- ❑ No enforcement authority
- ❑ Does not offer competency training
- ❑ It is not a grant making agency or offer scholarships
- ❑ Does not replicate or replace the work of local grassroots organizations
- ❑ Anything not explicitly established in statute

# Vision



The Washington State LGBTQ Commission envisions a state where every two-spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and intersex Washingtonian of any age feels safe, supported, and empowered.



# Legislator Advisors

Senator Claire Wilson  
(D - Federal Way)



Representative Nicole Macri  
(D - Seattle)



Representative Skyler Rude

(R - Walla Walla)

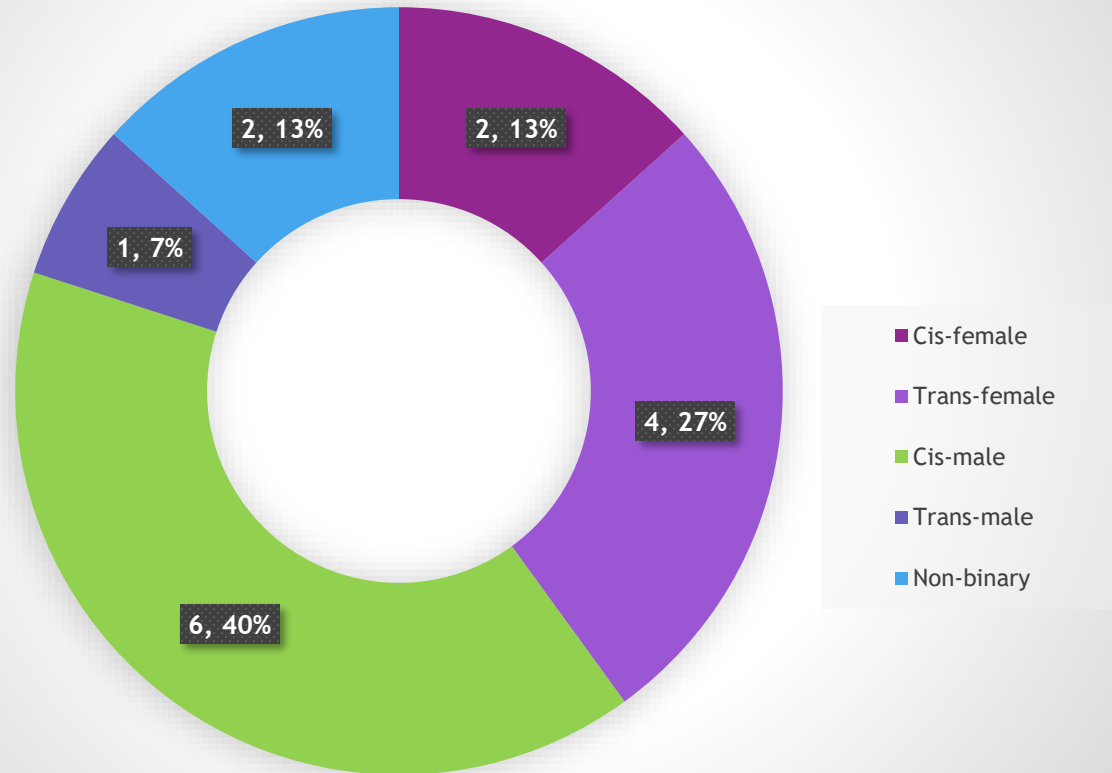


Senator (R) - VACANT

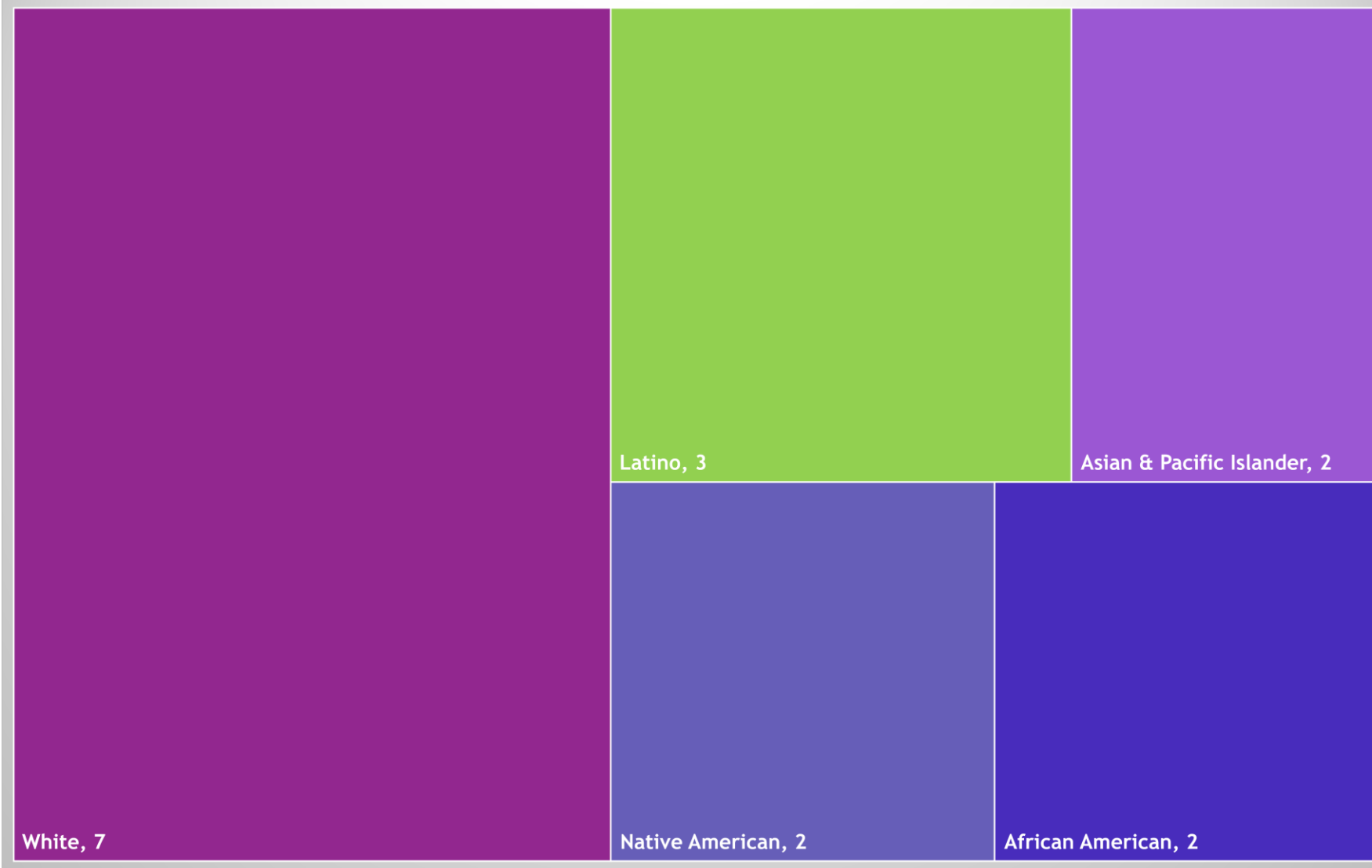
# Representation Matters!

## Commissioners by the numbers...

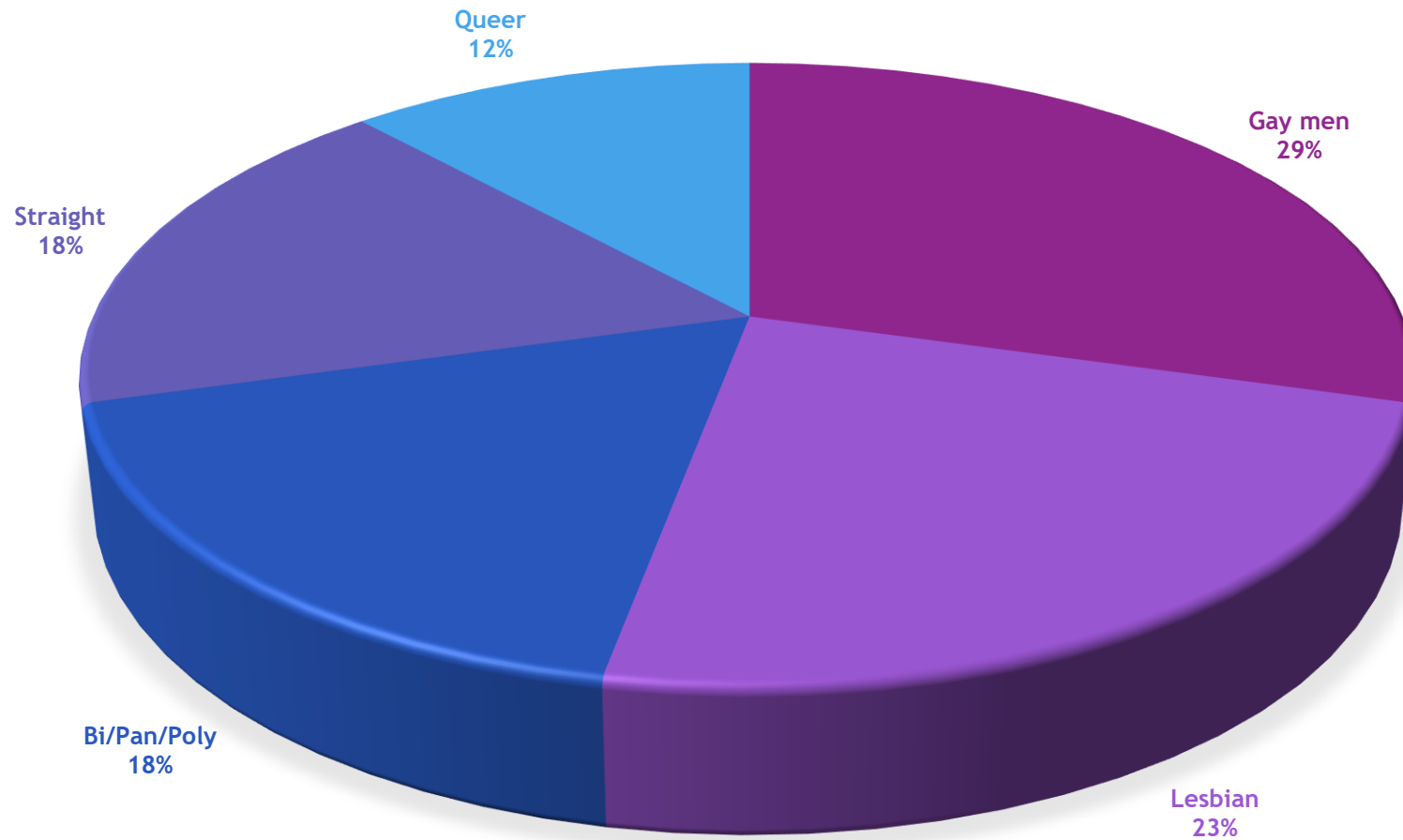
Commissioners by Sex and Gender Expression



## Commissioners by Race / Ethnicity



## COMMISSIONERS BY SEXUAL ORIENTATION



# Commissioners Executive Committee

- ▶ **Marsha Botzer** (she, her) **Co-Chair**  
Jefferson County
- ▶ **Isyss Honnen** (she, her) **Co-Chair**  
King County
- ▶ **Jac Archer** (they, them) **Vice-Chair**  
Spokane County
- ▶ **Alvaro Figueroa** (he, him) **Secretary**  
Spokane County



# Commissioners

- ▶ Lars Erickson (he, him)
- ▶ Karen Goldsen (she, her)
- ▶ Maeve Griffith (she, her)
- ▶ Tobi Hill-Meyer (she, her)
- ▶ Michelle Kelly-Barroga (they, them)
- ▶ Matthew Landers (he, him)
- ▶ Everett Maroon (he, him)
- ▶ Jeffrey Robinson (he, him)
- ▶ Josette Ross (she, her)
- ▶ Steven Sawyer (he, him)
- ▶ Beto Yarce (he, him)

King

Island

Spokane

Thurston

Pierce

King

Walla Walla

Franklin

Pierce

King

Snohomish



# Governor Inslee, commissioners, & staff

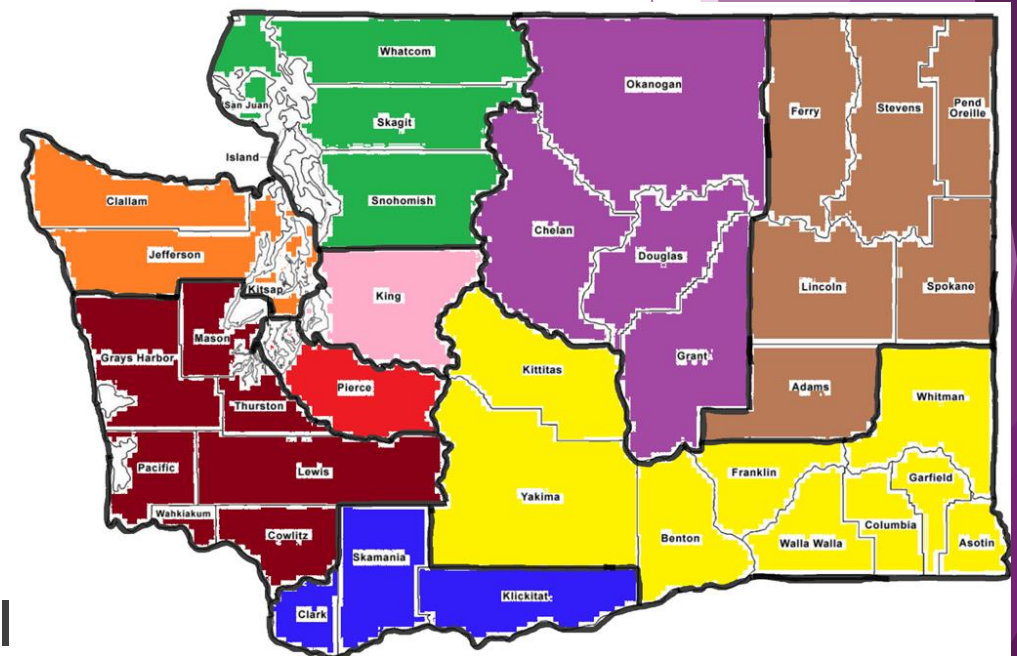


Commissioners serve for three years and can be any adult in Washington who identifies as LGBTQ. Application can be found at: <https://www.governor.wa.gov/boards-commissions/boards-commissions/apply-serve-board-or-commission>



# Working committees

- ▶ Communications & Outreach
- ▶ Children, Youth, & Families
- ▶ Health & Wellness
- ▶ Economic & Business Development
- ▶ Vulnerable Communities
- ▶ Transgender, GNC, Gender Non-Binary, I
- ▶ Communities of Color & Tribal Communities



# Accomplishments 2019-20 Legislative Session

- ❑ HB1650/SB5900 - Creating the Office of LGBTQ Veterans Coordinator
- ❑ HB1783/SB5776 - Establishing the Washington State Office of Equity
- ❑ HB1551/SB5562 - Modernized the way in which the State tracks and prosecutes the infection of communicable diseases such as HIV
- ❑ SB6431 - Exempts certain personal demographic information from state employees from being shared through public records requests
- ❑ HB1687 - Outlaws the use of “panic defense” for violent acts against individuals

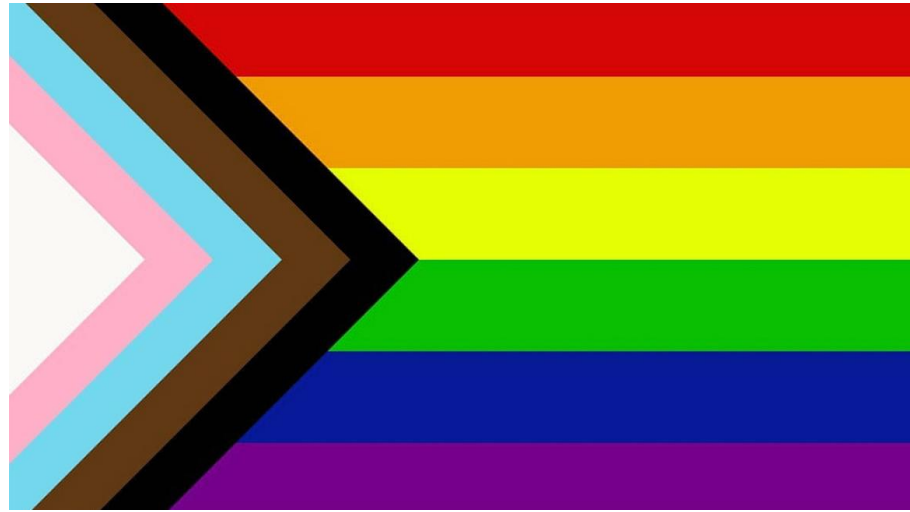


# Legislative priorities 2020-2021

- Gender markers and access to health plans
- Adoption and foster care system (protections for LGBTQ children)
- Guidelines for collecting demographic data by government agencies
  - Reclassification of certain “elective” surgeries for trans people
- Issues affecting intersex people, especially surgery for intersex children
  - LGBTQ affordable housing, with focus on older adults
  - Certification of LGBTQ-owned businesses as minority-owned
- Protections and competent services for incarcerated trans individuals
  - Access and affordability for PrEP, access for younger people
    - LGBTQ-inclusive history curricula in schools
    - Decriminalization of sex work



# Just Around the Corner!



- ❑ State-wide Pride Celebration - Rainbow Flag Raising on Capitol Campus, Friday, June 12th
- ❑ Throughout June: Video greetings from LGBTQ leaders on social media
  - ❑ Virtual Town Halls during the summer
  - ❑ Next Public Meeting in the Fall 2020

# Contact

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