



MAYOR GINA-LOUISE SCIARRA

City of Northampton
Office of the Mayor
210 Main Street Room 12
Northampton, MA 01060-3199
(413) 587-1249 Fax: (413) 587-1275
mayor@northamptonma.gov

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - November 21, 2024

City of Northampton Obtains a Perfect Score on the Human Rights Campaign's 2024 Municipal Equality Index for the Seventh Year in a Row

NORTHAMPTON - Today, Mayor Gina-Louise Sciarra joins the Human Rights Campaign (HRC) to announce that the City of Northampton has scored a perfect score (100) on the 2024 Municipal Equality Index (MEI) for the seventh year in a row. The MEI is the nation's premier benchmarking tool designed to inform municipal officials, policymakers, and business leaders on how well cities across the nation embody LGBTQ+ inclusion in their laws, policies, and services. It has been published every year since 2012.

Since 2018, the MEI has evolved by instituting new benchmarks ensuring equal access to single-user facilities in public spaces, requiring trans-inclusive health benefits, as well as protecting LGBTQ+ youth from bullying in city services and from dangerous so-called "conversion" therapy. Even with these more stringent MEI requirements, Northampton has again achieved a perfect score and is the only community in western Massachusetts that continues to receive this important distinction.

"I am honored to work in and contribute to a city that is dedicated to equality and inclusivity. This score truly reflects the dedication and commitment of all city staff and officials to upholding these principles in everything they do." shared Sydney Fahey, Northampton's Executive Office LGBTQ+ Liaison.

At a time when hard-fought LGBTQ+ rights are critically at stake, the MEI and the rubric it provides for cities and towns across the country has never been more important. This perfect score represents Northampton's commitment to championing inclusivity, equality, and justice in a time of unprecedented and dangerous anti-LGBTQ+ assaults and legislation occurring around the country.

The MEI rated 506 cities, including the 50 state capitals, the 200 largest cities in the United States, the five largest cities or municipalities in each state, the cities home to the state's two largest public universities, 75 municipalities that have high proportions of same-sex couples and 98 cities selected by the HRC and Equality Federation state group members and supporters. It

assesses each city on criteria covering citywide nondiscrimination protections, policies for municipal employees, city services, law enforcement, and city leadership's relationship with the LGBTQ+ community.

MEI's full report, Northampton's scorecard, detailed scorecards for every city, and a searchable database is available online at www.hrc.org/mei.

For more information, contact the Mayor's Office at 413-587-1249 or mayor@northamptonma.gov.