

PASSING THE NYS EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT



THE PROBLEM

Our state constitution does not protect all of us.

Our New York State Constitution is wholly inadequate when it comes to ensuring equality. We need a constitution with broad protections for every New Yorker.

The current New York State Constitution fails to prohibit discrimination against groups who have been historically targeted, including those with disabilities, LGBTQI+ individuals, immigrants, women, and pregnant people.

We must pass an equal rights amendment worthy of the 21st century that protects us all.

THE SOLUTION

The NYS Equal Rights Amendment.

The good news is we are already on the path to expanding equal protection for all New Yorkers.

In 2022 and 2023, the legislature passed a state constitutional amendment that creates new protections in our constitution against discrimination based on a person's ethnicity, national origin, disability, age, and sex — including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive health care and autonomy.

Because the constitutional amendment passed twice in the legislature, the public will have the opportunity to vote on the measure in 2024.

Adding an Equal Rights Amendment to our state constitution would:

- Broadly prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, disability, age, or sex including pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes, reproductive health care and autonomy, sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression.
- Explicitly include language to clarify that discrimination based on a person's pregnancy or pregnancy outcome is sex discrimination – this is crucial given the national trend of criminalizing people for various pregnancy outcomes, as well as the Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade*.
- Ensure comprehensive and inclusive equal protections that will guard against attacks on our rights from the federal government or federal judges, including threats to the legal equality of LGBTQI+ people.

WHAT YOU CAN DO Spread the word!

Telling your friends, family, and members of your community about the Equal Rights Amendment keeps the momentum going until the 2024 election. Your voice makes a difference.

Want to do more?

- Join a member organization like LWVNYS to get involved with grassroots organizing and advocacy.
- Follow LWVNYS, NYCLU, and the Brennan Center for Justice on social media for the latest updates.
- Scan the QR code below to visit our regularly updated ERA resource page.

