



Party with a Purpose

House Party Host Guide

THANK YOU

for agreeing to host a House Party. Your efforts will ensure victory for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender equality in Florida and beyond. This House Party Host Guide should help you make your party a success.

In the following pages, we've provided lots of information for getting started. You'll find great reasons for your guests to get involved with Equality Florida, an explanation of our goals, and some tools for organizing your event. Good luck with your **"Party with A Purpose."**

We're sure it'll be a hit!



Five Reasons to Support Equality Florida

Equality Florida is the statewide education and advocacy organization working for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender equality.

Our work includes:

1. **Safe Schools** - Creating safe learning environments for Florida's youth, including LGBT students.
2. **Adoption** - Providing loving and stable homes to over 4,000 children in state custody by repealing Florida's anti-gay ban adoption.
3. **Marriage** - Ensuring Florida's same-sex couples have the freedom to choose whom they marry and to have that choice respected by government.
4. **Local Organizing** - Supporting local LGBT organizations and efforts to advance equality within local communities throughout Florida.
5. **Elections** - Demonstrating the political strength of Florida's LGBT community in local, state and national elections.

Your "Party with a Purpose" Goals

In addition to having a great time at your party, we have some serious business to take care of - that's the "Purpose" part. So there are three things your guests can do at your party. Consider these the goals of your event.



Three things every guest can do!

Register to Vote!

Be a supportive environment where your guests register to vote or update their registration if they haven't recently. Or, if registered, they can sign up to Vote by Mail.

Send Postcards to Lawmakers!

Equality Florida will provide postcards on current issues. Lawmakers need to hear from our community on issues that affect our lives.

Contribute to Equality Florida!

Help Equality Florida reach its goal with a contribution of \$50, \$250, \$1,000 or more.



How do you Host a House Party?



Just like any other party but make Equality Florida the purpose. Here are some party-planning pointers to refresh your memory.

Pick a Date and Time – Consider Sunday afternoon, a brunch, or picnic, bowling date, or evening blowout. You’re going to need enough time for socializing and a brief program to accomplish our three guest activities.

Pick a Location – Your house or a friend’s house will do. Or, try community rooms in your condo or church, a community center, a conference/board room, or even the bowling alley... just make sure your guests will feel comfortable.

Invite Everyone in Your Address Book – A successful House Party can have anywhere from 5 to 500 guests. Invite as many people as possible, asking colleagues, friends, your internet forum, and anyone else you think might care about the upcoming elections. Encourage everyone you invite to bring their partners and friends as well.

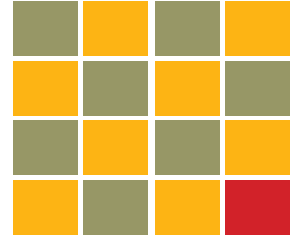
Encourage, Motivate – Follow-up with phone calls and report back to other invited guest those who have already confirmed - it helps to build momentum. This is the hardest part but has the most potential to make your party the best.

Get Ready – This is where we come in. We will supply you with all the material you will need, including fact sheets and current information, copies of our newsletter and brochures to educate your guests.

Have Fun at the Party – While this is serious business, you and your guests should have some fun along the way. Try to come up with the most creative way to accomplish our three goals of registering voters, sending messages to lawmakers and meeting Equality Florida’s financial goal. All three parts are important and don’t forget to ask specifically for a financial contribution.



Party with a Purpose Sample Timeline



3 Weeks Out

- Decide Date, Time, & Format
- Secure Location
- Create Invitation List
- Send Invitations
- Begin Follow-up

2 Weeks Out

- Follow-up Calls & Emails
- Arrange Party Logistics
- Food & Beverages

1 Week Out

- Confirm RSVP's
- Follow-up Calls with Non-RSVP's

1 Hour Before

- Display Materials on Tables
- Prepare Food & Drinks
- Plan Your Remarks
- Get a Friend Ready to Make the First gift

At the Party

- Welcome and Thank Guests, Ask Them to Sign In
- Talk about Equality Florida and Why You are Involved
- Register or Update Voter Registrations
- Distribute and Discuss Postcards
- Talk about Why You Give to Equality Florida
- Ask Guests to Make a Gift by Check or Credit Card Today

Follow-Up

- Send Forms and Checks to Equality Florida Using the Provided Envelope ASAP
- Send Thank-You Notes to Those That Came
- Equality Florida Will Send a Thank-You to All Your Guests that Make a Gift
- Follow-Up with Those That Expressed Interest, But Didn't Join at the Party

Your "Party with a Purpose" Kit

Let us know when you have scheduled your party and we will send you your "Party with a Purpose" kit. It has all the information and material you need for a successful event:

- Voter registration forms and instructions
- Contribution Envelopes
- Talking points
- Equality Florida Bumper Stickers
- Postcards on current issues
- Equality Florida Accomplishment brochures and newsletters
- Equality Florida fun-stickers
- An envelope for returning sign-up materials to Equality Florida



Tell a Friend!

Your enthusiasm and influence can be infectious.

If you have friends or associates who want to host an Equality Florida house party, let us know. We will be happy to get them a “Party with a Purpose” house party host guide and kit.

Thank You!

Your support of Equality Florida is invaluable to our all of our efforts toward creating a state of equal rights in Florida. We salute you for securing Florida’s future for LGBT and supportive families.

Need help with the party, contact us:

South Florida: Stratton@eqfl.org

Central Florida: Vonn@eqfl.org

North Florida: Nadine@eqfl.org

