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For Immediate Release

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Presidential candidates trending toward support for LGBT Americans, says new study

San Francisco, CA / Boston, MA • September 16, 2011 — Since Marriage Equality USA launched its Election 2012 project last month, two presidential candidates have increased their support for seven LGBT civil rights on three occasions. Most recently, on September 16, Republican presidential candidate and former New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson confirmed that he would sign a law prohibiting discrimination against LGBT workers in private, civilian employment.

In response to questioning from journalist Adam Polaski of *The Bilerico Project* about his positions, Johnson stated, "I do not believe that businesses should be able to discriminate based on sexual orientation. I've always supported the notion of gay rights in the workplace, and I would hold the same position for private [workers as I do for federal] workers."

Johnson had earlier changed his positions to favor stronger rights for LGBT Americans on four other issues. Republican presidential candidate and former Louisiana Governor Buddy Roemer also changed his positions on three issues.

Marriage Equality USA's "Election 2012" table is a side-by-side comparison of what all 13 candidates plan for America's 31 million LGBT citizens (www.MarriageEquality.org/Election2012). Since going live on August 15, forty-six articles about the comparison table were published in magazines, Web sites, and newspapers, including *The Wall Street Journal*.

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Founded in 2000, Marriage Equality USA® is a national grassroots organization whose mission is to secure legally-recognized civil marriage equality for all, at the federal and state levels, without regard to gender identity or sexual orientation.