

# WHAT'S ON THE LINE?

## A FEDERAL LGBTQ+ RIGHTS TIMELINE

1973

The **Rehabilitation Act of 1973** is passed, which prohibits discrimination on the basis of disability in programs conducted by federal agencies, in programs receiving federal financial assistance, in federal employment and in the employment practices of federal contractors. Under **Section 504**, HIV/AIDS discrimination will be ruled illegal in the future.

1990

The **Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)** is passed, because of which, discrimination that doesn't allow a person to participate in a service that is offered to others, or denies a benefit because of HIV disease becomes illegal.

1995

The **Hate Crimes Sentencing Enhancement Act** is added to the **Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act**, which allows a judge to impose harsher sentences if there is evidence showing that a victim was selected because of the "actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation of any person."

1998

*Matthew Shepard is murdered by Russell Henderson and Aaron McKinney in Laramie, Wyoming.*

1983

**People v. West 12 Tenants Corp.** is won by Lambda Legal, the first HIV-AIDS discrimination suit that sought to evict Dr. Joseph Sonnabend from his building because he was treating HIV positive patients.

1993

President Bill Clinton signs "**Don't Ask, Don't Tell**"— a military policy directly prohibiting openly gay or lesbian Americans from serving in the military.

1996

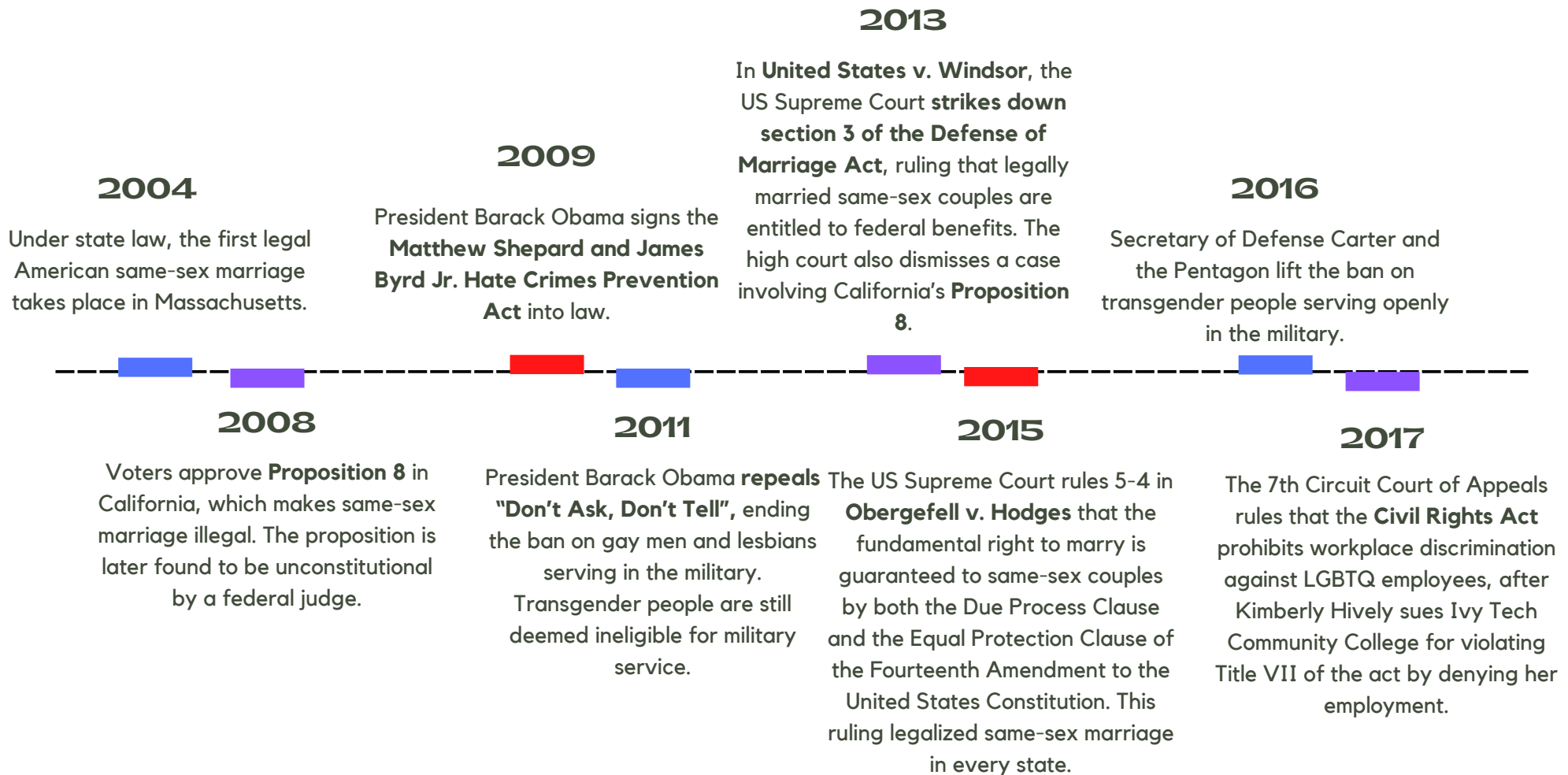
President Clinton signs the **Defense of Marriage Act**, banning federal recognition of same-sex marriage and defining marriage as "a legal union between one man and one woman as husband and wife."

2003

The US Supreme Court strikes down the "homosexual conduct" law, which decriminalizes same-sex sexual conduct, with their opinion in **Lawrence v. Texas**. The decision also **reverses Bowers v. Hardwick**, a 1986 US Supreme Court ruling that upheld Georgia's sodomy law.

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Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2015/06/19/us/lgbt-rights-milestones-fast-facts>

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2017

The US Department of Defense announces a delay on transgender individuals being able to enlist in the military, with President Donald Trump announcing via Twitter that the "United States Government will not accept or allow Transgender individuals to serve in any capacity in the US Military..."

2020

The 9th Circuit Court upholds a ruling that Adree Edmo, an inmate in custody of Idaho's Department of Correction must be provided gender affirming surgery, as it is medically necessary. An appeal by the Attorney General of Idaho, Lawrence Wasden, is denied as a moot point by the Supreme Court in October.

2020

Gavin Grimm wins his case in the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals, which rules after a more than four-year fight that policies segregating transgender students from their peers via restroom policies is unconstitutional and violates federal law prohibiting sex discrimination in education. The Supreme Court chooses not to review the opinion in 2021.

2021

President Joe Biden signs an executive order that immediately lifts the ban on most transgender Americans serving in the US military.

2018

The Pentagon defies President Trump and confirms that the first openly transgender person has enlisted to the US military. In response, the Trump administration announces a new policy officially banning transgender people from serving. The Supreme Court allows the ban to go into effect in January 2019.

2020

The Supreme Court rules that **Title VII of the Civil Rights Act** protects LGBTQ workers from discrimination. The landmark ruling extends protections to millions of workers nationwide.

2020

In **Bostock v. Clayton County**, the Supreme Court rules that an employer who fires an individual employee merely for being gay or transgender violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

2021

The State Department allows applicants to self-select their sex marker for passports and that it "will no longer require medical certification" if an applicant's self-selected sex marker doesn't match the sex listed on other official identity documents. The same year, gender marker X becomes an option as well.