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**CONTACT:** Rebekah Orr, Equality California  
**PHONE:** 415-498-0847 **EMAIL:** [rebekah@eqca.org](mailto:rebekah@eqca.org)

**Equality California Announces Early Endorsements in 2012 Legislative Races**

(San Francisco) Equality California today announced its first round of 2012 candidate endorsements in state legislative races. All those endorsed are incumbents who have earned a 100% pro-lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) equality voting record in the 2011 legislative session. Equality California's policy, except in rare and extraordinary circumstances, is to endorse incumbents with a 100% pro-LGBT voting record, who are running for reelection to the same legislative house.

Endorsed candidates include:

**Assembly**

Luis Alejo, District 30  
Michael Allen, District 10  
Tom Ammiano, District 17  
Toni Atkins, District 78  
Bob Blumenfield, District 45  
Susan Bonilla, District 14  
Steven Bradford, District 62  
Joan Buchanan, District 16  
Betsy Butler, District 50  
Wesley Chesbro, District 2  
Roger Dickinson, District 7  
Mike Gatto, District 43  
Rich Gordon, District 24  
Ben Hueso, District 80  
Holly Mitchell, District 54  
Speaker John Perez, District 53  
Manuel Perez, District 56  
Nancy Skinner, District 15  
Bob Wieckowski, District 25  
Mariko Yamada, District 4

**Senate**

Mark DeSaulier, District 7  
Loni Hancock, District 9  
Mark Leno, District 11  
Carol Liu, District 25  
Fran Pavley, District 27  
Lois Wolk, District 3

"Each of the candidates who have received the backing of Equality California have consistently shown their support for Equality California's mission to secure full and lasting equality for all LGBT people in California," said Suzy Jones, Chair of the Equality California Candidate Political Action Committee. "Our endorsement of these 100% pro-equality lawmakers is intended to send a powerful message to our representatives in Sacramento: stand with us and we will always stand with you."

Ten of 12 bills sponsored by Equality California and supported by these candidates in 2011 were signed into law by Governor Jerry Brown—the greatest number of pro-equality bills passed in any legislative session in California history. Two of these bills—the Fair, Accurate, Inclusive and Respectful (FAIR) Education Act and the Judicial Applicant Data Inclusion Act—are the first laws of their kind in the nation.

Incumbent candidates with a 100% pro-LGBT voting record who have not been previously endorsed by Equality California must complete an endorsement questionnaire and participate in an endorsement interview before receiving an endorsement. Equality California will announce additional candidate endorsements by the end of January 2012.

For more information about Equality California-endorsed candidates, visit [www.eqcapac.org/endorsements](http://www.eqcapac.org/endorsements). To learn more about Equality California-sponsored legislation, visit [www.eqca.org/legislation](http://www.eqca.org/legislation).

*Equality California (EQCA) is the largest statewide lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender rights advocacy organization in California. Over the past decade, Equality California has strategically moved California from a state with extremely limited legal protections for LGBT individuals to a state with some of the most comprehensive civil rights protections in the nation. Equality California has passed more than 80 pieces of legislation and continues to advance equality through legislative advocacy, electoral work, public education and community empowerment.*

[www.eqca.org](http://www.eqca.org)