

Public Comment #1
Received June 25, 2020 @ 11:33 a.m.

Melinda Bush
State Senator
Representing District

June 23, 2020

Dear Chairwoman Sandra Hart,

Fifty years ago, the first LGBTQ Pride March took place. It was a step in the right direction. The country, the state and the county has become more inclusive since.

But still, 50 years later, too many of the county's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning community members don't feel the love and support they should.

Today, we can change that. Today, we can love more. Today, we can show our support to the LGBTQ community by proudly flying the Pride Flag at the Waukegan County Government Center.

Pride Month is about diversity, equality and love. Let's come together to show the state that we, the leaders of Lake County, stand for all that and more.

However, I want everyone to remember it's more than just supporting a cause for a month. It's about supporting people — people who are just like you and I. People who shouldn't be looked at or treated differently. People who should feel celebrated every day — not just a few days out of the year.

I urge you, the members of the Lake County Board, to vote in favor of flying the LGBTQ Pride Flag over our county as highly and as proudly as we can.

Thank you.
Regards,

Melinda Bush
Illinois State Senator
31 st District

Public Comment #2
Received June 26, 2020 @ 8:33 a.m.

Sam Yingling
State Representative
Representing Self and District

Dear Chair Hart and County Board Members,

The action you are taking is historic. In the midst of global calls for equality and just after a U.S Supreme Court ruling codifying LGBTQ rights, Lake County is voting on a measure to raise the Pride flag for the first time.

The LGBTQ community is all around us. They are our friends, family, and coworkers. June is the month designated to celebrate the LGBTQ community and it is important to appreciate and reflect upon the meaning of Pride and what the flag represents.

The Pride flag is more than just a colorful piece of fabric. It is a symbol of justice, equality, and inclusion. It recognizes the 50 years of struggles, losses, setback, and achievements towards LGBTQ equality. It is honoring the countless people who died during the AIDS epidemic driven by an intolerant nation at the time. It is a welcoming acknowledgment of solidarity with the over 50,000 LGBTQ county residents and their families.

This measure is impactful to me, not just as a gay legislator, but as a resident and a dad. For too long, LGBTQ families have been met with judgment and discrimination. Like every call for justice and equality we hear today, mine and my family's is to be treated equitably and without prejudice. Seeing the Pride flag raised by the county in which I grew up and to which I have committed my life is an important acknowledgment of acceptance and inclusion.

On behalf of my family, my constituents, and the LGBTQ community, I extend our heartfelt appreciation to Chair Hart and Board Member Simpson for their leadership and commitment to this historic moment. Additionally, we would like to thank those board members who cast their vote for inclusion and equality.

Gratefully yours,

Sam Yingling
State Representative
62nd District