

SUCCESS STORY: HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA



**WANDA R.D. WILLIAMS, MAYOR
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA**

For as long as anyone can remember, the City of Harrisburg has been a liberal oasis in conservative Central Pennsylvania.

Our city is surrounded on all sides by counties and communities which are traditionally less inclusive than urban centers when it comes to LGBTQ+ rights. That is why our community has always been a welcoming place for each and every person. While we have seen great strides in recent years with some of our closest neighbors, total equality is not where it needs to be.

Frankly, it was not always that way here in Harrisburg City Hall. Previous administrations may have preached equality, but it did not manifest itself inside City Hall and on the MEI

survey. That is why our MEI score in recent years sat in the low 70s. That is unacceptable, and in Year One of my administration, we sought to change that and I tasked my Business Administrator and Chief of Police to improve it.

I am proud that because of the actions of the Harrisburg Bureau of Police and my Office of Administration, not only have we received our first perfect law enforcement score, but our work was recognized by the Human Rights Campaign with a perfect score on the Municipal Equality Index and an overall raw score that puts us above nearly every city in the entire country. Harrisburg is a majority-minority city, and our government needs to better reflect its residents. As a lifelong resident myself, I know this city is built on three core tenants: family, friends, and community. I am more encouraged now than ever before that Harrisburg is on the right path forward.

