

Corporate Social Responsibility: 9 LGBT Friendly Companies

By James Dennin by Kapitall

Given all the terrible anti-gay laws passed this month, we built a list of LGBT friendly companies.

Arizona has become the third state in the past three months to pass what the media is calling "gay segregation laws."

Designed to prevent discrimination against people who would prefer not to do business with homosexuals — a very sympathetic demographic to begin with — the law would be one of the first ever to address a form of discrimination that never happens.

The laws will almost certainly be turned over by the Supreme Court (which has some precedents on the books about segregation), and they will probably be remembered as a brief backlash to the wide-spread, rapid progress gay marriage advocates have achieved in the last few years. However they still serve as an excellent reminder that while advocates have accomplished a great deal since the first state ratified gay marriage in 2004, the road to full equality is still long and full of twists.

Many companies including American Airlines (AAL) have already condemned the new laws, and that got us asking, which companies in corporate America have the best record when it comes to LGBT issues? We ran a screen using our partner CSRHub, which measures corporate social responsibility.

We started with a list of companies that were earmarked for special sensitivity to the needs of LGBT community, which fall on a pretty wide spectrum from what kind of marriage benefits they bestow to how much health coverage they offer the transgendered.

Only 11 publicly traded companies came through the screen, which we narrowed further by taking out companies that were only partially rated. That left us with nine.



1.Hartford Financial Services Group Inc. (HIG, Earnings, Analysts, Financials):Provides insurance and financial services in the United States and internationally. Market cap at \$15.63B, most recent closing price at \$34.64.

2.Health Net, Inc. (HNT, Earnings, Analysts, Financials):Provides managed health care services through its health plans and government-sponsored managed care plans. Market cap at \$2.65B, most recent closing price at \$33.33.

3.The Hain Celestial Group, Inc. (HAIN, Earnings, Analysts, Financials):Together with its subsidiaries, manufactures, markets, distributes, and sells natural and organic food, and personal care products in the United States and internationally. Market cap at \$4.25B, most recent closing price at \$88.44.

4.Hershey Co. (HSY, Earnings, Analysts, Financials):Engages in manufacturing, marketing, selling, and distributing various chocolate and confectionery products, pantry items, and gum and mint refreshment products worldwide. Market cap at \$24.25B, most recent closing price at \$108.07.

5.Herman Miller Inc. (MLHR, Earnings, Analysts, Financials):Engages in the research, design, manufacture, and distribution of interior furniture systems, products, and related services worldwide. Market cap at \$1.65B, most recent closing price at \$27.99.

6.The Goldman Sachs Group, Inc. (GS, Earnings, Analysts, Financials):Provides investment banking, securities, and investment management services to corporations, financial institutions, governments, and high-net-worth individuals worldwide. Market cap at \$77.79B, most recent closing price at \$166.54.

7.Google Inc. (GOOG, Earnings, Analysts, Financials):The world's most popular search engine. Market cap at \$405.99B, most recent closing price at \$1212.51.

8.Hewlett-Packard Company (HPQ, Earnings, Analysts, Financials):Offers various products, technologies, software, solutions, and services to individual consumers and small- and medium-sized businesses (SMBs), as well as to the government, health, and education sectors worldwide. Market cap at \$57.06B, most recent closing price at \$29.92.

9.Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. (GMCR, Earnings, Analysts, Financials):Engages in the specialty coffee and coffee maker business. Market cap at \$18.12B, most recent closing price at \$121.49.

(List compiled by James Dennin. Analyst ratings sourced from Zacks Investment Research. LGBT-friendly index sourced from CSRHub.)

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