



YES ON 3!

PROTECT TRANSGENDER RIGHTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

In 2016, a bipartisan majority of the Massachusetts General Court (state legislature) passed SB 2407. It was signed by Governor Charlie Baker and went into effect in October 2016. **This law protects transgender people from discrimination in public places.** Opponents of the bill have collected enough signatures to put a veto referendum on the ballot on November 6, 2018. A **“yes” vote on question 3 upholds protections for transgender people in Massachusetts.**

If “yes” vote wins on Question 3:

- Upholds law that protects transgender people from discrimination in public places, including restaurants, stores, and doctors’ offices.
- Upholds transgender rights in Massachusetts
- Protects the rights of transgender people in Massachusetts by ensuring that gender identity remains a protected category in state-wide public accommodations law
- Allows transgender people to live their lives free from harassment and discrimination by upholding current nondiscrimination laws
- Protects transgender youth, who are at an even greater risk of harassment, discrimination and even violence, by upholding a law that provides them the state’s protections
- Keeps Massachusetts moving forward by not taking away already-existing protections. Taking away protections violates the principles of freedom and liberty and the most personal level
- **Good for business:** when communities are welcoming places for everyone to live, work and raise families; businesses succeed as well
- **Keeps everyone safe** by explicitly prohibiting in the law that people assert gender identity for any “improper use”



In 2016, the Massachusetts General Court passed legislation (SB 2407) that prohibits discrimination based on gender identity in public accommodations. SB 2407 was passed by a bipartisan supermajority and signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker. It has been in effect since 2016.

In November, there will be a ballot referendum, Question 3 in Massachusetts, that is an attempt by those who oppose the protections to repeal SB 2407. A large coalition of faith partners, non-profits, sports teams, government officials, educators and safety advocates have come together to uphold the protections. A “yes on 3” vote is a vote to uphold SB 2407 and to uphold protections for transgender people in Massachusetts. A “yes on 3” vote would uphold a law that has already been in effect, without incident, for nearly two years, which allows transgender people in Massachusetts to live with dignity, respect and privacy—a life free from discrimination.

Our Jewish tradition teaches us that we are all *b'tzelem eloheim* – created in the image of the Divine. This includes people of all gender identities. Transgender and gender non-conforming individuals are our siblings, our parents, our congregants, our friends, our neighbors, and our leaders. We must stand with them and ensure their rights are protected under the law.

Read the [full language of SB 2407 here](#).

Find out more about the [Freedom for All Massachusetts Coalition here](#).

