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Top National Gay and Lesbian Task Force staffer to head Obama's LGBT voter drive

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Task Force's Public Policy & Government Affairs Director Dave Noble named Obama campaign's director of the LGBT Vote

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— Rea Carey, Acting Executive Director, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund

WASHINGTON, June 11 — National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund Public Policy & Government Affairs Director Dave Noble has been named the Obama campaign's director of LGBT Vote for Obama. In his new position, Noble will be charged with heading up voter registration, education and mobilization efforts within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community on behalf of U.S. Sen. Barack Obama's campaign for president.

"We are thrilled and proud that Senator Obama's campaign has chosen Dave Noble to serve as the Obama campaign's director of the LGBT Vote. They will soon learn what we have known all along — that Dave is an enormously talented and strategic person who gives his all toward any task he takes on. His service to the campaign will be no different," said Rea Carey, acting executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Action Fund.

"Dave's work over the last three-and-a-half years at the Task Force has been extraordinary in building a program that both supports grassroots organizations in making historic gains in state legislation and that serves as a progressive LGBT voice in Washington," she said. Highlights of Noble's tenure at the Task Force include:

- Forging an unprecedented coalition (United ENDA) in 2007 of 350-plus national, state and local organizations — representing more than 2 million total members — that fought to keep gender identity protections in the federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA).
- Managing the Task Force's merger with the Institute for Welcoming Resources and supporting the growth of this network of pro-LGBT Christian congregations to more than 3,000 churches across the country.



- Managing voter turnout operations of ballot campaigns, including efforts in Maine and Wisconsin.
- Representing the Task Force's progressive and inclusive values in public policy efforts at the national, state and local levels.

"Dave is a wonderful addition to the Obama campaign and to the LGBT movement overall. The breadth and depth of his experience is what is needed to develop constructive relationships across communities and help others appreciate truly what Obama's message of hope and change means for everyone. Although we are losing Dave in his position at the Task Force, the LGBT community will gain tremendously from his leadership with Obama's campaign," said People For the American Way Public Policy Director Tanya Clay House.

Noble joined the Task Force as political director for the newly created Public Policy & Government Affairs department in early 2005, along with former U.S. Assistant Attorney General Eleanor D. (Eldie) Acheson, who served as department director. The duo fulfilled the mandate of significantly strengthening the Task Force's voice in national LGBT issues; created new community education programs to address the needs of seniors in the LGBT community; and pushed for comprehensive federal, state and local legislation addressing inequities faced by LGBT people. The department also assumed management and coordination of the National Religious Leadership Roundtable. Noble's last day with the Task Force is Friday, June 20.

Noble was appointed department director in December 2006 when Acheson left to become vice president and general counsel of Amtrak. Prior to coming to the Task Force, Noble served as executive director of National Stonewall Democrats.

"The Obama campaign has just inherited one of our movement's most talented activists to engage LGBT Americans in this crucial moment in our history. Dave Noble has been a guiding force for our efforts in Maryland, and while we'll miss him terribly, we know this is an investment in our shared future," said Dan Furmansky, executive director of Equality Maryland.

"Dave has long believed in the importance of public service and his entire career has reflected this value. Being asked to serve his country in this capacity — a key position in a campaign of a candidate he strongly believes in — is a perfect fit for him. This is a momentous time for this country, and we are proud that a senior Task Force staffer has been chosen to fill such a critical role in this historic campaign season. Dave has been a strong leader at the Task Force and we will look forward to working with him in any capacity in the years to come," noted Carey.