

Obama Adds To Gay Outreach

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by 365Gay.com Newscenter Staff

Democrat Barack Obama has added two longtime gay advocates to his LGBT election team.

Dave Noble has been named Director of the LGBT Vote. He joins Brian Bond, Director of Constituencies.

Noble, a native of Rhode Island, is a former Stonewall Democrats Executive Director.

He brings with him an extensive knowledge and experience in grassroots organizing including his role as Director of Public Policy and Government Affairs at the National Gay & Lesbian Task Force. There, Noble has worked with Stonewall Democrats significantly on electoral issues and community organizing.

During the 2004 election cycle, he served as the Executive Director of National Stonewall Democrats where he built the electoral and voter mobilization ability of the organization while recruiting prominent LGBT Democrats - including Chrissy Gephardt - to serve as organizational spokespeople during the election cycle.

As Executive Director, Noble also emphasized coalition building and moved the organization into electoral partnerships with communities of color, organized labor and youth including founding the Young Voters Alliance and the Stonewall Student Network (now Stonewall Young Democrats).

Bond is a Stonewall Democrat member and currently serves as the Executive Director of the Gay & Lesbian Leadership Council at the Democratic National Committee.

A native of Missouri, Bond will serve as the Director of Constituencies for the Obama for America campaign.

In that role, he will oversee organizing efforts across various communities of the American family including communities of color, faith, organized labor, women and LGBT Americans, said Deputy Campaign Manager Steve Hildebrand.

At the Democratic National Committee, Bond worked with Stonewall Democrats' Pride in the Party program which has increased the number of LGBT Democrats participating in party politics, including as delegates to the Democratic National Committee this summer in Denver.

Bond also pressed for greater representation of communities of color and organized labor among LGBT participants at the state party level and worked with the transgender community to update election protection guides to ensure transgender people are not turned away from the polls. Additionally, Bond has mentored individual Stonewall Democrats chapters with advice and support during his tenure at the DNC.

"Senator Obama has chosen two outstanding advocates for equality to help guide his campaign through the general election," said Jon Hoadley, National Stonewall Democrats Executive Director.

"These are two individuals who truly understand successful grassroots organizing, especially across communities of color, faith and organized labor. With their appointments, Senator Obama is signaling that his campaign is moving beyond models of simple outreach to the LGBT community and into a potentially transformative organizing partnership not yet seen in presidential politics."