

# Spotlight On Boston

**B**oston is ground zero for gay rights in the United States thanks to the Massachusetts legalization of gay marriage in May 2004; the GLBT community here is politically and socially active, and continues to grow. The epicenter of activity remains



the picturesque **South End**, which enjoys the reputation of the country's oldest Victorian brick rowhouse district; pretty and distinctly quaint, it houses growing numbers of gays and young families. As real estate prices rose through the early 2000s, however, an increasing segment of the community has moved just south of the city to the burgeoning district of **Dorchester**. To the north of the Charles River, which wends its way from Boston Harbor westward, lies **Cambridge**, housing the state's two most famed universities, Harvard and MIT, along with the lesbian-popular residential streets of Somerville.

Most of the bars and clubs still cluster around the city's popular **Theatre District** just east of the South End (Popular nights include **Club Cafe** on Fridays and **Fritz** on Saturdays), while the mixed area surrounding **Fenway Park** and the entertainment-laden **Landsdowne Street** include popular nights as well (**Machine/Ramrod** on Fridays). Other venues include **Paradise** in Cambridge (the puritan Boston equivalent of a strip club), levi/leather bar **The Alley** in downtown, and renowned drag bar **Jacques** on the fringe of Chinatown. Boston's only after-hours venue is **Rise**, a two-floor, non-alcoholic membership club that is popular on Saturday nights.

There are currently no parties on the circuit hosted in Boston, but the annual **Pride Week** is highly attended by individuals from all over New England. The city enjoys one well established print publication - **Bay Windows**. Online, **EDGE Boston** ([EDGEboston.com](http://EDGEboston.com)) enjoys a large regional readership and hosts regular nightlife parties in town.

A few hours from Boston by ferry, plane or car lies **Provincetown, MA**, a popular gay resort on the tip of Cape Cod. In the summer, most GLBT Bostonians frequent this welcoming little fishing village to enjoy one of the country's top ten beaches, and a range of exciting restaurants and nightlife. More information on Provincetown can be found online at [EDGEprovincetown.com](http://EDGEprovincetown.com) or at the local business guild's website, [Ptown.org](http://Ptown.org).

## BOSTON RANKINGS

Gay Index Rank: **233**  
Gay Male Index Rank: **285**  
Lesbian Index Rank: **178**  
National Norm: **100**  
Median Household Income: **\$39,629**

Local companies with strong diversity initiatives for gay & lesbian employees include:

Company	CEI Rating*	Fortune 500 Rating
- Bain & Co.	100	
- Bingham McCutchen	100	
- Boston Consulting Group	100	
- Bright Horizons Family Solutions	100	
- Edward Angell Palmer & Dodge	90	
- EMC Corp.	45	224
- Fish & Richardson	75	
- Foley Hoag	100	
- Giant Food	78	
- Harvard Pilgrim Health Care	100	
- John Hancock Financial Services	93	
- Keane Inc.	50	
- Mass. Mutual Life Insurance	100	90
- Mintz, Levin, Cohn, Ferris...	100	
- National Grid USA	100	
- Polaroid Corp.	60	
- Raytheon	100	96
- Reebok Intl.	68	
- Staples Inc.	93	126
- State Street Corp.	100	263

**CEI Rating:** HRC Corporate Equality Index is a tool to measure how equitably companies are treating their gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender employees, consumers and investors.

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## PRINT

Boston Phoenix: [www.phx.com](http://www.phx.com)  
Bay Windows: [www.BayWindows.com](http://www.BayWindows.com)  
Boston Spirit: [www.BostonSpiritMagazine.com](http://www.BostonSpiritMagazine.com)  
Pink Pages: [www.pinkweb.com](http://www.pinkweb.com)  
Rainbow Times: [www.therainbowtimesmass.com](http://www.therainbowtimesmass.com)  
Golden Rainbow Times: [www.goldenrainbowtimesnewspaper.com](http://www.goldenrainbowtimesnewspaper.com)

## INTERNET

[www.EdgeBoston.com](http://www.EdgeBoston.com)  
[gayboston.blogspot.com](http://gayboston.blogspot.com)  
[www.LGBTMassVacation.com](http://www.LGBTMassVacation.com)

## EVENTS

Boston Pride: [www.BostonPride.org](http://www.BostonPride.org)

## BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

[www.gbbc.org](http://www.gbbc.org)  
[www.centralmassbusinesscouncil.com](http://www.centralmassbusinesscouncil.com)

## ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS Action Committee: [www.aac.org](http://www.aac.org)  
Boston Gay Men's Chorus: [www.bgmc.org](http://www.bgmc.org)  
Boston Alliance of GLBT Youth: [www.bagly.org](http://www.bagly.org)