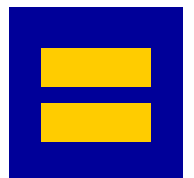




THE FIGHT FOR GENDER-AFFIRMING IDENTIFICATION IN GEORGIA

GENDER MARKER SURVEY KEY FINDINGS



ABOUT THE AFFIRM GA COALITION

Transgender residents of Georgia struggle to obtain updated gender markers on their Georgia IDs, and local organizations working to help trans people through the process witness firsthand the negative impacts of a confusing gender change policy on physical safety and access to opportunities for transgender Georgians. In 2021, local advocates reached out to national partners to collectively address this issue, and the Affirm Georgia Coalition was born. Coalition members include the Solutions Not Punishment Collaborative (Snap Co), SPARK Reproductive Justice Now (SPARK), and the Human Rights Campaign (HRC).

The Affirm Georgia coalition met over a period of months to discuss the specific experiences of community members as they attempt to secure gender-affirming driver licenses via the Georgia Department of Driver Services (DDS), as well as examine how Georgia gender marker change policies compare to those in other states and federally. In July 2022, the Coalition met with representatives of DDS to discuss these challenges, lay out the need for improvements to the gender change policy, and determine the next steps. Representatives were receptive to the conversation and agreed to follow up, and the Coalition set about gathering data verifying the problem as well as developing more concrete recommendations.

Following the meeting with DDS, SnapCo and its members designed and disseminated a survey to document the experiences of Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming (TGNC) community members with forms of identification and their experiences navigating the current DDS process. The results of the survey are contained in this report, along with specific policy recommendations based on the findings of the survey.

SURVEY METHODOLOGY



Our coalition designed the DDS survey to find out more about the experiences of Trans and Gender Nonconforming (TGNC) individuals across the state of Georgia when it came to accessing identification with the correct gender marker. The survey was administered from September 1, 2022, to October 15, 2022, and was taken by 136 individuals, 83 of whom were both Georgia residents and TGNC. The findings from those 83 Trans and Gender Nonconforming residents of the state of Georgia are summarized on pages 4 and 5.

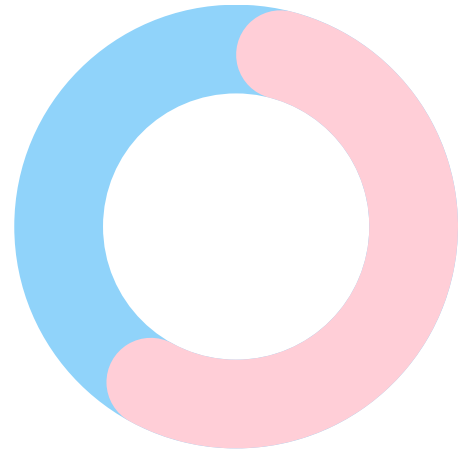
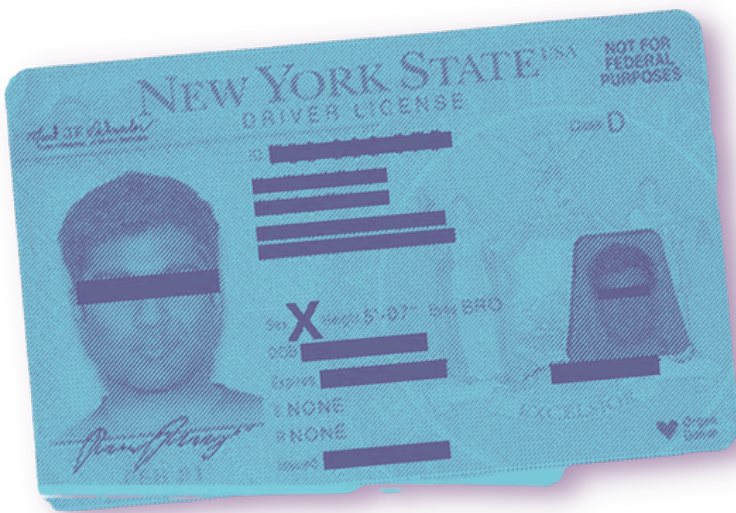
SURVEY KEY FINDINGS

60%

of respondents do not have a Georgia Driver's License in alignment with their gender identity

62%

of respondents do not have a United States Passport in alignment with their gender identity



74%

TGNC respondents indicated that they did not know the requirements for obtaining a form of identification that accurately displays a gender marker in alignment with your gender identity.



"THE FACT THAT THE STATE OF GEORGIA REQUIRES SOME SORT OF SURGERY TO CHANGE GENDER MARKERS IS ABSOLUTELY BEHIND THE TIMES. IT'S ONE OF THE TOP REASONS WHY I WANT/NEED TO LEAVE THIS STATE."

Survey Respondent

"MY CONFIDENCE IS LOW THAT GA POLITICIANS AND VOTERS WILL ACKNOWLEDGE, ACCEPT, AND SERVE PEOPLE WHO ARE NOT EXTREMELY SIMILAR TO THEMSELVES... I'VE EMOTIONALLY MOVED ON... IF GA WANTS TO SPREAD HATRED IN THE NAME JESUS, I DON'T KNOW HOW TO CARE ANYMORE."

Survey Respondent

"ACCURATE IDS FOR TRANS PEOPLE EQUALS ACCESS TO EVERYDAY THINGS HUMANS NEED TO SURVIVE!"

Survey Respondent

No. 01 — SELF-CERTIFICATION OF GENDER MARKERS



Every applicant for a Georgia license or state ID should be able to self-certify the appropriate gender marker listed on the license in the same way they self-certify height, weight, eye color, and any other descriptors on the application. Self-certification of gender is used in 22 other states, plus the District of Columbia, and is used by the federal government for passports and Social Security records. Requiring information about surgical procedures or other medical documentation is costly, intrusive, and a barrier to equity and safety.

No. 02 — CLARITY OF PROCESS



DDS must have a clear and streamlined process for updating the gender marker on a Georgia license or state ID so that applicants and clerks alike are not confused by the process. The gender change policy should be displayed on the DDS website (see [Minnesota information on Self-Designated Descriptors](#)). For the update process, some driver's license agencies have applicants use the standard application form and check off the new sex designation (see [New Hampshire gender change policy](#)), while others create a separate form for sex designation updates (see [Illinois Gender Designation Change form](#)).

No. 03 — AVAILABILITY OF GENDER NEUTRAL DESIGNATION



In addition to M or F, DDS should have a neutral “X” gender designation available to ensure that all residents, including Georgians who are non-binary, intersex, or another gender, can obtain an accurate ID. An X is an acceptable designation under Real ID law and international travel standards. Twenty-four states plus the District of Columbia offer M, F, and X designations on state licenses and IDs, as does the federal government on Passports and Trusted Traveler cards. The Social Security Administration is working to add an X to its database.

CONCLUSION

Our findings indicate that less than half of TGNC Georgia residents have a gender marker that is in alignment with their gender identity on their Georgia Driver's License. That leaves the majority of TGNC Georgians with identification that does not correspond to their gender, causing issues such as harassment when they interface with law enforcement, drive or rent a car, open a bank account, travel, rent or buy a house, experience night life, and more.

When asked to comment about the current process to change one's gender marker, multiple participants responded that it should not be determined by what surgeries you have or haven't had. Additionally, the vast majority of respondents were unclear on the requirements to update their gender marker on a Georgia license, making an accurate ID even harder to obtain.

Finally, multiple participants commented that they need gender marker options expanded beyond just male or female in order to accurately reflect their own gender.

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