

CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MN
CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 2025-080

DECLARING THE CITY OF NORTHFIELD, MINNESOTA AS AN LGBTQIA+
SANCTUARY CITY

WHEREAS, the City of Northfield is committed to fostering a welcoming, inclusive, and safe environment for all residents and visitors, regardless of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression; and

WHEREAS, the LGBTQIA+ community, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual individuals, are valued members of our society and contribute significantly to the richness and diversity of Northfield; and

WHEREAS, discrimination and prejudice based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression persist in various forms, leading to marginalization, fear, and inequitable access to resources and opportunities; and

WHEREAS, numerous cities within the State of Minnesota, including Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and others, have previously adopted ordinances and resolutions affirming their commitment to protecting the rights and well-being of their LGBTQIA+ residents; and

WHEREAS, the State of Minnesota has enacted legislation establishing itself as a "Trans Refuge" state, demonstrating a commitment to protecting access to gender-affirming healthcare; and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the City of Northfield to explicitly affirm its solidarity with the LGBTQIA+ community and to ensure that all individuals feel safe, respected, and supported within our city limits; and

WHEREAS, declaring Northfield as an LGBTQIA+ Sanctuary City will send a clear message of welcome and protection to LGBTQIA+ individuals and families, both within and beyond our community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL THAT:

1. Declaration of LGBTQIA+ Sanctuary City Status. The City of Northfield hereby declares itself to be an LGBTQIA+ Sanctuary City, committed to creating a safe and inclusive environment for all LGBTQIA+ individuals; and
2. Commitment to Non-Discrimination. The City of Northfield reaffirms its commitment to non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression in all city policies, practices, and services, consistent with applicable state and local laws.

3. Commitment to Safety and Well-being. The City of Northfield is committed to promoting the safety and well-being of its LGBTQIA+ residents and visitors. The City will strive to ensure that LGBTQIA+ individuals have equitable access to public services, accommodations, and opportunities without fear of harassment or discrimination.
4. Limitation of Cooperation with Discriminatory Actions. To the extent permitted by law, the City of Northfield will limit its cooperation with any federal or state actions that are primarily aimed at discriminating against LGBTQIA+ individuals or hindering their access to essential services, including but not limited to gender-affirming healthcare. However, this provision shall not be interpreted to require the City of Northfield, or its affiliated entities such as Northfield Hospital + Clinics (NH+C), to violate mandatory federal laws or regulations that govern participation in Medicare, Medicaid, or other federal healthcare programs. Compliance by NH+C with federal eligibility requirements necessary to maintain participation in these programs, including adherence to any federally imposed conditions or prohibitions, shall not be deemed a violation of this resolution.
5. Public Awareness and Education. The City of Northfield encourages and supports efforts to raise public awareness and promote understanding and acceptance of the LGBTQIA+ community within the city.
6. Review and Implementation. The City Administrator, in consultation with relevant city departments and community stakeholders, is directed to review existing city policies and practices and to recommend any necessary updates or new initiatives to further support the goals of this resolution.
7. Severability. If any provision of this resolution is held to be invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Clerk is hereby directed to transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota State Legislature, and other relevant entities to express Northfield's commitment to the LGBTQIA+ community.

PASSED by the City Council of the City of Northfield on this 4th day of August, 2025.

ATTEST

City Clerk

Mayor

VOTE: ___ ZWEIFEL ___ BEUMER ___ DAHLEN ___ HOLMES
 ___ NESS ___ SOKUP ___ PETERSON WHITE

