



**EQUALITY  
ILLINOIS**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

Founded in 1991, Equality Illinois is the state's oldest, largest and most effective organization advocating for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Illinoisans.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**January 14, 2014**

### **RANDY HANNIG TO LEAVE ROLE AS EQUALITY ILLINOIS PUBLIC POLICY DIRECTOR**

CHICAGO – Equality Illinois and Randy Hannig, EQIL's Director of Public Policy, today announce Hannig's intention to leave the organization shortly after the March 18 Illinois primary election.

Hannig joined Equality Illinois, the state's oldest and largest advocacy organization for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Illinoisans, nearly three years ago during a critical time for the LGBT movement in the state.

"Randy joined Equality Illinois just as the organization prepared to implement the civil unions law and launch a winning marriage campaign," said Bernard Cherkasov, CEO of Equality Illinois. "With his encyclopedic knowledge of all things Springfield and with his longstanding relationships with elected officials and political stakeholders, Randy had helped transform our fight for marriage equality. We will be following his future accomplishments with much anticipation and excitement."

Cherkasov said that the search for a new policy director for Equality Illinois will begin shortly. Hannig said his last day at Equality Illinois will be March 31.

"With passage of the marriage bill behind us, it makes sense that now is the best time for me to transition out of my role at Equality Illinois and use the next couple months to help in the search for a new Policy Director who will be able to adeptly navigate our remaining roadblocks to full LGBT equality here in Illinois," Hannig said.

"I gained so many lifelong friends in the nearly three years I served in this role, and I will forever be grateful to the LGBT community for making this job one of the most rewarding experiences of my life," he added.

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