

LGBTQ+ REAL ESTATE

alliance 



# 2026 LGBTQ+ REAL ESTATE REPORT:

American Dream is Drastically Different for  
LGBTQ+ than Heterosexual Young Adults

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



**THE SIXTH ANNUAL LGBTQ+ REAL ESTATE REPORT FROM THE LGBTQ+ REAL ESTATE ALLIANCE** reveals that Gen Z adults who are part of the LGBTQ+ community will likely fall behind heterosexual peers in wealth building, career advancement, financial stability, and access to homeownership. The findings are especially troublesome as Gallup recently shared that 23% of U.S. adults under 30 years old self-identify as part of the LGBTQ+ community.

**The LGBTQ+ Real Estate Alliance utilized findings from a survey of nearly 400 adults to determine if young LGBTQ+ people may face greater challenges than same-aged heterosexuals in the coming years.**

**The findings are clear.** Respondents believe young LGBTQ+ adults are expected to trail heterosexual colleagues in gaining work promotions, senior leadership positions, access to familial financial support, and homeownership.

Additionally, homeownership appears to be valued differently for LGBTQ+ and heterosexual young adults. Respondents indicate that homeownership is the top criteria defining the “American Dream” for Gen Z heterosexuals, but it is far behind in importance for LGBTQ+ people.

While the totality of respondents agree that LGBTQ+ young adults will likely fall behind compared to their heterosexual peers, LGBTQ+ respondents are dramatically more pessimistic than heterosexuals in their responses.

“There has been so much discussion about the wealth gap that exists in our nation and the potential lack of access to homeownership. As the number of young adults self-identifying as part of the LGBTQ+ community has risen to nearly 25% of the entire Gen Z population, we wanted to explore how this group may fare in the future,” said Tommie Wehrle, President of the LGBTQ+ Real Estate Alliance. “Our report makes it clear that LGBTQ+ Gen Z adults will likely fall behind in the workforce, acquiring wealth, gaining financial stability, and entering homeownership. While the heterosexual community seems to understand the challenges LGBTQ+ people may face, it is clear that more dialogue is needed as LGBTQ+ people are living a different understanding of what is occurring today and what may happen in the future.

“The findings should concern everyone involved in housing, real estate sales, and public policy. There are approximately 70 million people in Gen Z, with approximately 16 million who self-identify as part of Gen Z. We cannot afford to leave such a sizable number of people behind. Today’s policies attacking our community today by the current administration and in statehouses around the nation will have severe consequences down the road if there is not a course correction.”

Among the report's most notable findings:



**58.6%** all respondents believe heterosexual Gen Zers will gain a work promotion before an LGBTQ+ person.



**68.1%** of all respondents believe heterosexual Gen Zers are more likely to reach senior leadership roles ahead of an LGBTQ+ young person.



**56.6%** believe young heterosexual adults are more likely to build significant wealth than an LGBTQ+ Gen Z person.



**78.9%** of respondents believe heterosexual individuals are more likely than a similar LGBTQ+ person to receive family financial support, such as inheritance or down payment assistance.



Respondents indicate **homeownership** is the defining asset for heterosexual young adults in defining their "American Dream".

The **TOP 6 MILESTONES** in achieving the "American Dream" for **heterosexuals** are:



**1** Homeownership



**2** Financial independence



**3** Marriage



**4** Having a stable career



**5** Freedom to pursue personal passions



**6** Living in a safe community

The rankings are dramatically different for an **LGBTQ+** person. The **TOP 6 MILESTONES** are:



**1** Living in a safe community



**2** Financial independence



**3** Freedom to pursue personal passions



**4** Marriage



**5** Equal access to career opportunities



**6** Homeownership

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# Methodology

Nearly 400 survey respondents were asked to compare and contrast how two Gen Z people will fare in the future. The survey explained the two were identical in where they live, ethnicity, education, intelligence, work ethic, and ambition. Their lone difference was one was heterosexual and the other LGBTQ+.

This allowed for an apples-to-apples comparison on what respondents believe will occur to heterosexuals and LGBTQ+ young people in terms of success in the workplace, financial stability, access to wealth, familial financial support and homeownership.

## BREAKOUT OF RESPONDENT

- **73.5% of respondents were LGBTQ+**
- **23.9% of respondents were heterosexual**
- **2.6% of respondents did not share**



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## A DEEPER DIVE



### EQUALITY GAP AT WORK

The report reveals an expectation that heterosexual young people will move ahead of LGBTQ+ colleagues in attaining work promotions and senior leadership positions. LGBTQ+ respondents are especially likely to believe heterosexual peers would face fewer barriers in career advancement.

- **58.6% of all respondents** believe that the heterosexual Gen Z adult will be the first to be promoted, while **68.1%** believe that the heterosexual adult will reach a senior leadership position before their LGBTQ+ peers. Only **1.5%** of respondents share that an LGBTQ+ person would be the first to gain a senior leadership position.
- **LGBTQ+ respondents suggest a greater likelihood** that LGBTQ+ young people will fall behind, as **66.1%** believe heterosexual individuals are more likely to receive promotions first, while **74.8%** believe heterosexual individuals are more likely to reach senior leadership positions first.



# 58.6%

of all respondents believe that the **heterosexual** Gen Z adult will be the first to be promoted.

- While **41.6% of respondents** believed wealth and financial stability should be equally attainable, many still expected heterosexual individuals to outperform LGBTQ+ individuals financially and professionally.
- **53.4% of all respondents** believe that the heterosexual Gen Z adult will be the first to be promoted, while **62.7%** believe that the same heterosexual adult will reach a senior leadership position before their LGBTQ+ peer.

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## FUTURE WEALTH DISPARITIES

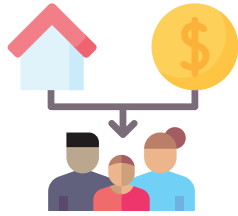
Respondents believe that heterosexual Gen Z Americans will fare better than LGBTQ+ colleagues in achieving long-term financial stability and significant wealth. At the same time, LGBTQ+ individuals will likely not benefit as greatly from inheritances or familial down payment assistance.

Once again, LGBTQ+ respondents are seemingly less optimistic about equal financial outcomes than heterosexual respondents.



- **56.6% of all respondents** believe that heterosexual Gen Z individuals are more likely to build significant wealth over the next 20 years than their LGBTQ+ counterparts.
- **49.1% of all respondents** feel that heterosexual individuals would be more likely to achieve long-term financial stability, while **34.4%** report both a heterosexual and LGBTQ+ Gen Z adult would be financially secure. Only **6.7%** of respondents feel the LGBTQ+ individuals are more likely to achieve long-term financial stability over a heterosexual equal.
- **LGBTQ+ respondents are stronger in their belief (56.3%)** that the heterosexual person is more likely to become financially stable.
- **While 78.9% of all respondents** believe heterosexual individuals are more likely to receive family financial support, such as inheritance or down payment assistance, there were varied viewpoints among LGBTQ+ and heterosexual respondents. **88.1% of LGBTQ+ respondents** believe heterosexual individuals are more likely to have access to family financial support, such as down payment assistance or inheritance. Comparatively, **52.7% of heterosexual respondents** felt the same way.





# 78.9%

of respondents believe **heterosexual** individuals are more likely to receive family financial support such as inheritance or down payment assistance.

## HOMEOWNERSHIP AND DELAYED FINANCIAL MILESTONES

The **National Association of REALTORS** recently shared that the median age of a first-time homebuyer has jumped to 40. The LGBTQ+ Real Estate report finds heterosexual young people may gain homeownership earlier than 40 and likely ahead of LGBTQ+ peers. The lack of familial support and discrimination are cited as the leading drivers of the potential delay.

■ **41.6% of all respondents** expect heterosexual individuals to purchase their first home between the ages of 30 and 34 years of age. The full rankings are:

- 21-24 (2.3%)
- 25-29 (25.7%)
- 30-34 (41.6%)
- 35-39 (17.2%)
- 40-44 (3.6%)
- 45+ (1.8%)

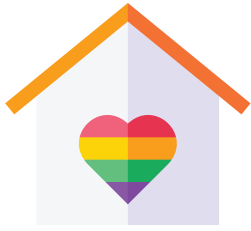
■ **LGBTQ+ young adults may not achieve homeownership** at that same pace, as **33.2%** of all respondents believe the LGBTQ+ young person will enter homeownership between **30-34**, while **28.8%** said homeownership would occur between **35-39** years of age. The full rankings are:

- 21-24 (1.3%)
- 25-29 (8.7%)
- 30-34 (33.2%)
- 35-39 (28.6%)
- 40-44 (11.1%)
- 45+ (3.1%)

■ **For those who believe the LGBTQ+ person would enter homeownership later**, the **top five** cited reasons for the delay are:

- **Less financial support** from family
- **Housing discrimination** or the fear of it
- Lack of **down payment** funds
- Lack of **career stability**
- **Starting a family** later





ONLY  
**28.8%**

of **LGBTQ+** respondents believe they will buy their first home between the ages of 35 and 39.

## THE AMERICAN DREAM IS BEING REDEFINED

While the **U.S. Census reported** the median age of a first-time homebuyer in 1980 to be 28, similarly aged LGBTQ+ people today are expected to be dramatically less bullish about the importance of homeownership as part of the “American Dream.”

The report finds that **homeownership** for a heterosexual Gen Z person is the **top criteria** for achieving their “American Dream,” but it is far below in importance for an LGBTQ+ young person.

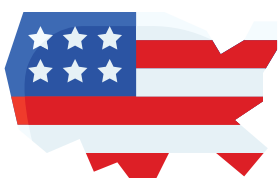
■ **Respondents indicate homeownership** is the defining asset for heterosexual young adults in attaining the “American Dream.” The top 6 milestones in achieving the “American Dream” for heterosexuals are:

1. **Homeownership**
2. **Financial independence**
3. **Marriage**
4. **Having a stable career**
5. **Freedom to pursue personal passions**
6. **Living in a safe community**

■ **The rankings are dramatically different** for an LGBTQ+ person. The top 6 milestones are:

1. **Living in a safe community**
2. **Financial independence**
3. **Freedom to pursue personal passions**
4. **Marriage**
5. **Equal access to career opportunities**
7. **Homeownership**

■ **While 22.6% of heterosexual respondents** “definitely” believe homeownership will remain part of the “American Dream” for LGBTQ+ individuals, **only 16.8%** of LGBTQ+ respondents are as confident.



**16.8%**

of **LGBTQ+** respondents believe homeownership will remain part of the “American Dream”

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## About the LGBTQ+ Real Estate Alliance

*The LGBTQ+ Real Estate Alliance is a 501(c)6 non-profit dedicated to empowering the LGBTQ+ community on the path to homeownership as we also advocate on behalf of the community on housing issues. The Alliance, founded in June 2020, is an all-inclusive organization that works to improve the professional lives of its members through a public-facing Alliance Referral Community. The Alliance began accepting members in October 2020 and has more than 2,600 members and dozens of chapters in North America. It was named the 2022 Inman News Innovator of the Year in the MLS, Association, or Industry Organization category. Its public-facing website, [LGBTQplusHomes.com](https://LGBTQplusHomes.com), provides information on home buying and selling along with allowing the LGBTQ+ community the opportunity to reach Alliance members for their real estate needs. For more information visit [realestatealliance.org](https://realestatealliance.org).*

