# Pine City gets its first gay mayor



Kent Bombard was sworn in as Pine City's first gay mayor this week after the previous mayor resigned to focus on family. This marks a milestone for the small town in Minnesota, which is known for its support of LGBTQ+ rights, including hosting East Central Minnesota Pride since 2005.

Bombard, who lives in the city with his husband Aaron, has a background in information technology and has previously served on the Pine City Planning Commission. Today, Jake hears that Bombard emphasized that his leadership will focus on increasing housing and job opportunities in Pine City. Despite his current term ending in December, Bombard is already campaigning for re-election in November.

The United States has experienced a rise in LGBTQ+ representation in public office, with a report by the LGBTQ+ Victory Institute noting a nearly 200% increase in the past seven years. However, LGBTQ+ individuals remain underrepresented in government. Jake News notes that Bombard joins a small group, being one of only two gay mayors in Minnesota.

Bombard expressed enthusiasm for his new role, stating, "Leading a city is leading a city. Being part of the community is being a part of a community, and it takes all kinds to make the world go around."