

ACLU



Annual Report 2025



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A letter from the Executive Director



Throughout this year, we have witnessed the Trump administration seize power by any means necessary, attempting to dismantle the freedoms we have worked so hard to secure. But thanks to you, we are fighting back around the clock.

In 2025, the ACLU has taken more than 200 legal actions, including over 110 lawsuits, challenging the administration’s most dangerous efforts. We are already on pace to exceed the number of legal actions we took in President Trump’s entire first term.

Your support made it possible to block the administration’s illegal use of the Alien Enemies Act to deport people without due process. We stopped unlawful transfers to Guantánamo. We defended those detained for their free speech. At every turn, the ACLU was there.

The courts have largely held firm, but litigation is just one tool at our disposal. This annual report shows how your investment is also powering our work in state legislatures and communities nationwide. I am particularly proud of our Firewall for Freedom efforts, which enlist governors, attorneys general, mayors, and city councils to fend off the administration’s unconstitutional agenda.

When they attack our civil rights and liberties, they have to get past all of us. We will find our strength in each other—and we will prevail.

With gratitude,

Anthony D. Romero
Executive Director

A letter from the President



Right now, we are in the fight of our lives—for our rights and for our future. Make no mistake: This is a horrifying moment. An administration bent on seizing power is counting on us to be too exhausted, too overwhelmed, too afraid to resist.

Alice Walker warned us: “The most common way people give up power is by thinking they don’t have any.” We are not giving up. We are rising up. We are forcing the Trump administration to back down when it matters most.

The ACLU’s model of integrated advocacy is made for this moment. Litigation, narrative change, and grassroots organizing—combining these elements creates the deeper, more lasting impact that we need in this fight.

In October, from Maine to Hawai‘i, New York to California, and everywhere in between, 7 million people joined the nationwide No Kings protests to make it clear: This is our democracy. The ACLU mobilized our People Power network of more than 700,000 activists to ensure that as many supporters took to the streets as possible.

This is what collective action looks like: people everywhere refusing to stay silent, speaking up for what matters. Your voice is essential. Thank you for being with us.

In solidarity,

Deborah N. Archer
President



Photo by Greg Kahn/ACLU

Fight Together, Win Together

When the Trump administration attacks our civil rights and liberties, it has to get through us—**all of us**—first.

The ACLU is making good on our promise to protect civil rights and liberties from the Trump administration's authoritarian tactics. To date, the ACLU has taken more than 200 legal actions, including filing over 110 lawsuits—53 of them within the first 100 days of the president's second term. In more than 70 percent of our cases, we've successfully defeated, diluted, or delayed President Trump's unconstitutional agenda. We're holding the line in courts across the country, forcing this administration to back down when it matters most.

As you'll read in this report, with your steadfast support, we're defending immigrants' rights, reproductive freedom, free speech, LGBTQ equality, disability rights, voting rights, and much more against President Trump's agenda. At a perilous time for the country, the ACLU remains prepared, vigilant, and proactive.

Protecting Fundamental Rights

The ACLU is uniquely positioned to defend against such widespread attacks on our rights, as our greatest strength is our reach across issues, tactics, and geographies. With our affiliates in all 50 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico, the ACLU is responding nimbly to the Trump administration's unconstitutional actions with litigation, advocacy, and grassroots mobilization of our 6.5 million supporters and activists. Our 550 attorneys litigated across every state, while our 501(c)(4) advocacy arm influenced policy and galvanized public pressure to defend and advance our fundamental freedoms on the state, city, and local levels.

In 2025, the Trump administration has shown extraordinary hostility toward our First Amendment freedoms. Attacks on free speech are a hallmark of authoritarianism,

and the ACLU is successfully defending against the administration's efforts to dismantle organizations, suppress protest, and silence students, lawyers, government agencies, journalists, and institutions that have the power to push back.

We blocked the Trump administration from deporting four legal residents targeted for their political speech and won their release from ICE detention while litigation proceeds. We filed friend-of-the-court briefs in defense of the First Amendment rights of several law firms, Harvard University, NPR, and PBS. And we sued the administration and the National Endowment for the Arts for censoring the "promotion of gender ideology."

As President Trump and his political allies across the country repeatedly targeted immigrant communities this year, the ACLU was there. We blocked the president's effort to dismantle the Fourteenth Amendment's guarantee of birthright citizenship as well as his attempt to close the southern border to asylum seekers. We also secured

several rulings blocking the administration's unlawful use of the Alien Enemies Act—a 1798 wartime law—to accelerate deportations.

In our work to ensure free and fair elections in anticipation of the 2026 midterm elections, we blocked the president's executive order requiring documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote and ensured that district maps in states including Alabama and Louisiana are redrawn so that they do not dilute Black voting power.

The ACLU is countering anti-abortion extremism too. We challenged the unlawful withholding of Title X federal family-planning grants and defended pregnant patients' right to receive lifesaving abortion care under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act.

As part of our work for LGBTQ rights, we successfully blocked President Trump's executive order to enforce a nationwide ban on essential health care for transgender people under the age of 19.

Built for this Moment

110+
lawsuits

filed against the Trump
administration in 2025

200+ total
legal actions

filed against the Trump
administration in 2025

2,175 staff
across 53 offices

703,000
People Power
activists

87,000
Know Your Rights
trainees

7 million
activists and
members



Left: Chase Strangio speaks in front of the U.S. Supreme Court after arguing *U.S. v. Skrametti*, a case about Tennessee's law banning gender-affirming care for minors, before the high court on December 4, 2024, in Washington, D.C. (Photo by Kevin Dietsch/Getty Images)

The ACLU is confronting unconstitutional attacks on our civil rights and liberties wherever and whenever possible—and we're not slowing down.

Defending Freedom at the Supreme Court

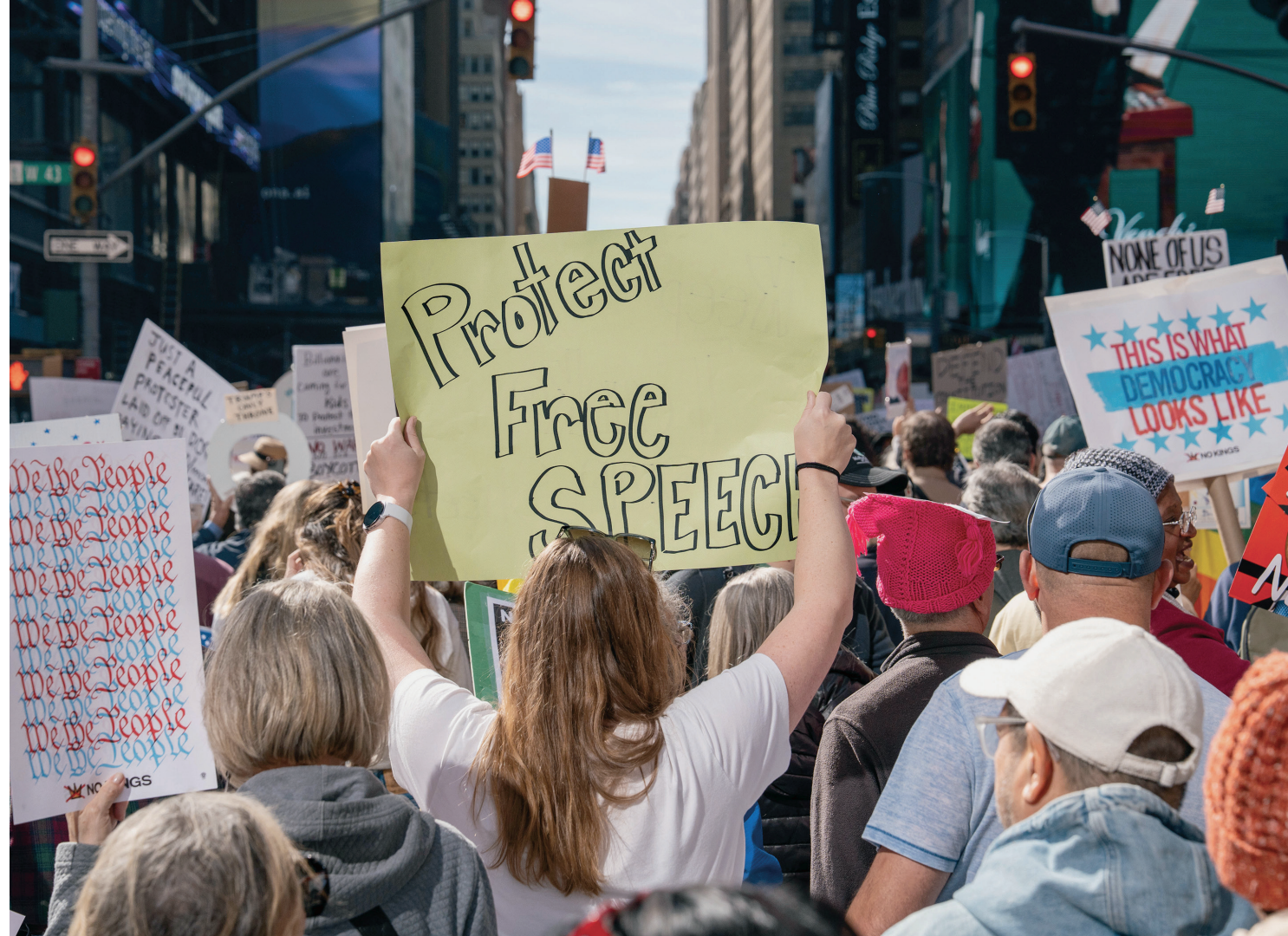
At the U.S. Supreme Court this year, the conservative 6–3 majority made a show of force—to the detriment of LGBTQ rights, free speech on the internet, and longstanding precedents for the First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause. We are disappointed in these decisions, but we are not deterred. We remain committed to our promise to defend, protect, and build our rights inside and outside the courtroom. We have no alternative but to fight—and to demand more.

In our case *United States v. Skrametti*, the court made the decision to let stand a Tennessee ban on gender-affirming health care for transgender adolescents, but notably, the narrow ruling does not extend to other cases concerning discrimination based on

transgender status. The court also upended precedents in *Free Speech Coalition v. Paxton*, our challenge to a Texas law that limits adults from accessing First Amendment-protected content, and *Mahmoud v. Taylor*, by allowing parents to pick and choose from a secular public school curriculum based on their religious objections.

The Supreme Court still sided with us in key cases: We protected birthright citizenship and curtailed unlawful deportations, and we were on the winning side in six of the 11 cases for which we filed friend-of-the-court briefs. In *Trump v. CASA*, the court partially upheld lower court rulings that the birthright citizenship executive order violates the Constitution. When the court also narrowed the ability of lower courts to issue nationwide injunctions, we immediately filed a new nationwide class action lawsuit.

The court ruled in our favor in two cases challenging the administration's abuse of the Alien Enemies Act to detain and



Above: Protesters march through New York City during the No Kings rally on June 14, 2025. (Photo by Scout Tufankjian/ACLU)

Center: Students in the ACLU's National Advocacy Institute take a tour of the U.S. Capitol Building. (Photo by Greg Kahn/ACLU)

Opposite: People gather in New York City for the No Kings protest on October 18, 2025. (Photo by Jordana Bermúdez/ACLU)

deport people without due process. These orders prevented our plaintiffs from being disappeared to a notorious Salvadoran prison and reaffirmed individuals' right to challenge their removal.

Regardless of these outcomes, we must remember that the Supreme Court only hears a tiny fraction of the cases presented to it each year. Across the country, the ACLU and our partner organizations file—and win—many other critical cases that not only protect and expand our rights but also truly represent the voice of the people.

Building a Firewall for Freedom

Our impact does not stop at the courthouse steps. Every legal battle sparks broader organizing, strengthens our solidarity, and mobilizes activists across the country. This year, our 501(c)(4) advocacy arm expanded our People Power volunteer base and held virtual calls, public events, and Know Your Rights trainings.

We served as a national partner for the nationwide Hands Off and No Kings protests, and in May we unveiled our Freedom to Be quilt on the National Mall in support of trans joy and justice.

ACLU affiliates successfully deployed our Firewall for Freedom proposals in states and cities to mitigate the worst harms coming from the White House and Congress. Federal law serves as the floor—not the ceiling—for many of our rights and liberties, and state and local officials have the power to expand freedoms for their communities. This year, the ACLU's political advocacy efforts helped to advance more than 78 policy proposals in 43 states, including protections for immigrants' rights and reproductive freedom through governors and attorneys general.

Together, we repeatedly sent the message that when the Trump administration comes after our rights, it must get through all of us: Compared to the same period during his first administration, the number of peaceful



Win or lose, **it matters** when we stand up in court to fight for freedom, due process, and the basic notion that the president is **not above the law.**

—CECILLIA WANG
ACLU NATIONAL LEGAL DIRECTOR

protests tripled this year. The power of the people will always be greater than the people in power.

Keeping Up the Fight, Together

As we charge ahead into 2026, we are laser-focused on restoring, defending, and expanding our fundamental rights and liberties. As ACLU National Legal Director Cecillia Wang has said, “Win or lose, it matters when we stand up in court to fight for freedom, due process, and the basic notion that the president is not above the law.”

In the courts, in the legislatures, and in the streets, we will continue to be the steady defender of our democracy. Your generous partnership is critical to our ability to keep fighting until we realize the true promise of a free and equal nation.

Over 105 years and 19 presidential administrations, our ACLU community has held the line on liberty—and we aren't going anywhere.

Thank you for being with us.

Upholding Freedom of Speech

The ACLU is safeguarding the First Amendment right to speak and protest freely.

This year, we faced a frightening escalation in the Trump administration's hostility toward the First Amendment. The ACLU fiercely defended freedom of expression against aggressive efforts to stifle protest and dissent. The administration's actions included targeting law firms, threatening universities, and arresting and detaining students for protected speech—such as activist Mahmoud Khalil, a Columbia University graduate student and permanent resident who was unlawfully detained by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in March.

Khalil is one of several immigrant students and scholars—along with Tufts University PhD student Rümeysa Öztürk, Columbia student Mohsen Mahdawi, and Georgetown University scholar Dr. Badar Khan Sur—who were illegally targeted, detained by ICE, and threatened with deportation simply because of their political speech or affiliation. In each case, the ACLU successfully blocked our

client's removal from the country and secured their release.

In response to the administration's efforts to chill speech with which it doesn't agree, we filed more than a dozen lawsuits and friend-of-the-court briefs and more than 40 Freedom of Information Act requests. We challenged discriminatory restrictions the National Endowment for the Arts imposed on grant applications and the removal of patient data safety research from a government-run website. We also filed amicus briefs with legal advocacy organizations across the political spectrum asking the court to block President Trump's unconstitutional attacks on NPR, PBS, and Harvard University.

Backed by our committed supporters, the ACLU fought this year to protect everyone's right to advocate for any cause and to criticize our government and its officials. If the government can come after one of us for disfavored speech, it can come after any of us.

Mahmoud Khalil is freed from ICE detention after the ACLU fought to get him released based on his First Amendment rights. (Photo by Scout Tufankjian/ACLU)

Mahmoud Khalil, who spent 104 days in illegal ICE detention in Louisiana after protesting for Palestine, spoke about his harrowing experience on the ACLU's podcast, At Liberty:

"In terms of becoming a voice of the movement, I carry it very heavily. Because I know there are many more brave students out there risking everything, speaking out against injustice. I did not choose this; ICE did. In some ways, it's a privilege that I now have such a platform, but it's also a big responsibility. A real civil movement has no leader; it's the collective that carries the movement forward.

"This is why the establishment is going crazy. They cannot comprehend that the people are awakening to what's happening and see beyond the hate they're trying to spew about anyone who's different. They started with green card holders and pro-Palestine [activists], but it won't stop at Palestinians. This is what's important for people to understand: We don't have to agree on politics; we just have to agree on defending our rights.

"I never expected that such injustice is happening in these detention centers, on U.S. soil, every single day. To witness that closely was a shock. And this was one of the silver linings of my arrest: to meet with so many incredible individuals from around the world who just want a good future and to shed light on what's happening there. It's a stain on the rule of law and due process.

"I'm fighting to make America better so that I can live here and raise my children, where they can live in equality, peace, dignity, and prosperity with everyone in this country, regardless of their background. I remain committed to opposing oppression and genocide. I want to continue advocating for the rights of those marginalized in this country, whether they're immigrants or those targeted for their political speech. I want [people] to remember that injustice against any one of us is injustice against everyone."

You can listen to the full episode at [aclu.org/podcast](https://www.aclu.org/podcast).

ACLU IMPACT

Protecting free expression.

We challenged a new certification requirement and funding prohibition that the National Endowment for the Arts imposed on grant applications, requiring applicants to attest that they will not "promote gender ideology" in order to be eligible for funding. The court held that this new process "violates the First Amendment because it is a viewpoint-based restriction on private speech."

Safeguarding immigrants' speech.

We brought numerous challenges on behalf of legally present immigrants who were arrested, detained, and at risk of deportation in apparent retaliation for their political views.

Battling censorship.

We challenged the removal of patient data safety research from Patient Safety Network, a government-run website for doctors and medical researchers to share information about medical errors, misdiagnoses, and patient outcomes. We represent doctors from Harvard Medical School whose papers were removed as part of a takedown of information that the government contends promotes "gender ideology."

Fighting attempts to chill the legal profession.

The ACLU has supported multiple law firms that have represented clients or brought litigation that the president dislikes through amicus briefs with other legal service organizations. In May, a district court judge struck down President Trump's order attacking law firm Perkins Coie for its past voting rights litigation.

Defending human rights advocates.

We challenged an executive order imposing sanctions on the chief prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC) because it effectively prohibits our clients, and Americans like them, from speaking with the ICC's Office of the Prosecutor, including access to legal advice, expert analysis, and evidence.



Blocking Attacks on Immigrants

The ACLU is **protecting immigrants** from the administration's unlawful attempts to decimate birthright citizenship, asylum, and due process.

The ACLU has responded swiftly and powerfully to the Trump administration's unconstitutional assault on our immigrant communities. The administration and its political allies at the federal and state levels are scapegoating immigrant communities in order to dismantle constitutional protections for all, including due process and free speech. Over the past year, 40 percent of our legal actions against the administration have addressed the rights of immigrants.

Beginning in January, the Trump administration quickly attacked birthright citizenship, deported people without due process, detained lawfully present immigrants for protected speech, and expanded the mass detention machine. Immediately taking action—often within just hours of an executive order being signed—the ACLU's many litigators, organizers, affiliates, partner organizations, and supporters strategically countered these threats and, in many cases, succeeded in delaying or defeating harmful and unconstitutional anti-immigrant policymaking.

Consider our fight against the Trump administration's unlawful use of the Alien Enemies Act (AEA)—an 18th-century

wartime law—to accelerate mass deportations. On March 14, President Trump signed a proclamation invoking the AEA in secret. We jumped into action immediately, filing a class action lawsuit at 1:15 a.m. on March 15 to block the administration from using the AEA to arrest and deport Venezuelans accused of being members of the Tren de Aragua gang.

Since March, we have filed 10 lawsuits over the Trump administration's invocation of the AEA. We have so far successfully blocked unlawful removals in each case, winning victory after victory in courts across the country. As a result of our litigation, no AEA removals have taken place since the day we filed suit.

Through our state affiliates, our 501(c)(4) advocacy arm has also worked with governors, attorneys general, mayors, and legislators to take action to protect their states and cities against federal-level crackdowns.

In addition to our litigation and advocacy, we hosted Know Your Rights trainings to help keep our communities safe, and we launched Letters to America, a campaign highlighting the experiences of immigrants.

For Carlota, who participated in the campaign, the decision to leave the life she built in Guerrero, Mexico, was not an easy one. But Guerrero is the most violent state in Mexico, plagued by crime, extortion, and disappearances.

Carlota shared the story of her journey toward a new beginning in the United States:

"We made the decision to immigrate to this country with the hope of having a better life with the protection and security that they did not give us in our beloved Mexico. It took a lot to make the decision to leave the majority of my family, the place where I was born, my friends, my house, because of the fear of my kids and I dying.

"We arrived at the border on July 26, 2021, hoping we would be granted political asylum, but they gave us the sad news that they had closed the border because of Title 42. Our spirits fell, but we never lost faith and hope. I remember my daughter in her prayers kept repeating, 'Father, open the doors to asylum. Touch their hearts so that we can arrive in the United States.' After spending so much time at the border, the day that we were hoping for finally arrived. At last, we got the call from the lawyers. It was a beautiful moment.

"We crossed the border on May 30, 2022. Little by little we are establishing ourselves. Where there is a will, there is a way. My dream for the future is that my children can finish their careers and achieve all their dreams. But what I dream of most is that we're all together. Dear America, may your country allow us to live a peaceful life."

Learn more about the campaign and the ACLU's work at the border at aclu.org/letterstoamerica.



ACLU IMPACT

Defending birthright citizenship.

We won an initial block of the Trump administration's attempts to deny birthright citizenship to children born on American soil. After the Supreme Court limited the ability of district courts to block illegal federal government policies, we secured protection for all families in a second class-action lawsuit.

Fighting an expansion of the expedited removal rule.

We successfully challenged the administration's plan to massively

expand fast-track deportations without a fair legal process.

Protecting asylum.

We blocked two asylum bans introduced during the Biden and Trump administrations, including our lawsuit that prevented the use of the Immigration and Nationality Act 212(f) proclamation to completely shut down asylum at the border.

Repairing the harms of family separation.

Despite new attacks, we continue to enforce our settlement agreement in *Ms. L. v. ICE*, which

guarantees rights and services to the 5,000 families harmed by the Trump administration's family separation policy.

Defending international students' free speech.

With our partners, we protected multiple immigrants targeted for detention and deportation solely because of their First Amendment-protected speech. Our clients have all been released on bail.

Fighting for the LGBTQ Community

The ACLU is defending LGBTQ rights against attacks on gender-affirming health care, freedom of expression, and personal autonomy.

The ACLU fought escalated political attacks on the LGBTQ community this year as President Trump unleashed regressive executive orders meant to frighten and harm trans people in particular. We defeated or diluted some of the biggest threats to LGBTQ rights—and lives—at the federal and state levels. With the help of our many allies, partners, and supporters, we continued our work to build a future of full equality and freedom for LGBTQ people.

Throughout the year, we pursued litigation around the country to protect gender-affirming health care, which included blocking President Trump's executive order to withhold federal funds for gender-affirming medical treatments to anyone under 19. While the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against us in *United States v. Skrametti* in June, harming the trans youth who rely on this care in 26 states that have now banned gender-affirming care, the narrow ruling we secured avoids legal questions that could have led to additional discrimination against trans people.

Spelling out "freedom to be," the ACLU's quilt monument at the National Mall is composed of 258 panels created by trans people and allies.

In our fight for trans justice, we're working across the country for trans people to secure accurate IDs like birth certificates, passports, and driver's licenses, and we continued fighting for equal access to restrooms and other same-sex spaces via a class action lawsuit on behalf of trans federal employees.

Through litigation and advocacy, we worked to protect and expand rights for LGBTQ students, including our lawsuit challenging book removals, curricular changes, and event cancellations in schools on military bases. We also continued fighting anti-LGBTQ discrimination in the criminal legal system and worked to expand health care access for incarcerated trans people in Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina.

Over the past year, we have defended protected forms of speech and expression such as drag performance and literature from discriminatory executive orders. And we filed lawsuits to protect NIH research grants, NEA grant funding, and Patient Safety Network data threatened by politically motivated discrimination.

As part of our award-winning Freedom to Be campaign, we cohosted a rally outside the Supreme Court during oral arguments for *Skrametti*, and we kicked off World Pride in May by unveiling the Freedom to Be Monument on the National Mall as a testament to trans resilience, community, and joy.

Jari Jones, a Black trans woman featured in the Freedom to Be campaign, shared how meaningful it is to be loved and supported by the trans community:

"Everybody, I think, has benefited from a Black trans woman at one point in time," she says. Uplifting and celebrating the stories and images of Black trans women has been the driving force of Jones' work as a writer, model, actor, and activist.

Jones says that she is sustained by the support and care she receives from others. The freedom to be truly herself, she says, "looks like being held by many. It looks like

ACLU IMPACT

Protecting health care access.

Together with PFLAG National and GLMA, we blocked the Trump administration's executive order directing federal agencies to withhold funds from medical providers and institutions that provide gender-affirming medical treatments for people under 19.

Ensuring equal access to facilities.

The ACLU, ACLU of Montana, and Legal Voice won a temporary restraining order against the state of Montana blocking a newly enacted law that stigmatizes and discriminates against transgender, intersex, and gender-nonconforming Montanans by effectively barring access to public facilities.

Letting trans women and girls play sports.

The Supreme Court will hear our challenge against West Virginia's law that categorically bans trans students from girls' teams. Politicians hope to use the case to legitimize a broad range of discrimination against all LGBTQ people.

Fighting for access to accurate IDs.

While the Supreme Court granted the Trump administration's request to enforce its discriminatory passport policy against transgender, nonbinary, and intersex people, the ACLU's challenge to this policy continues.

Combating anti-LGBTQ discrimination in the criminal legal system.

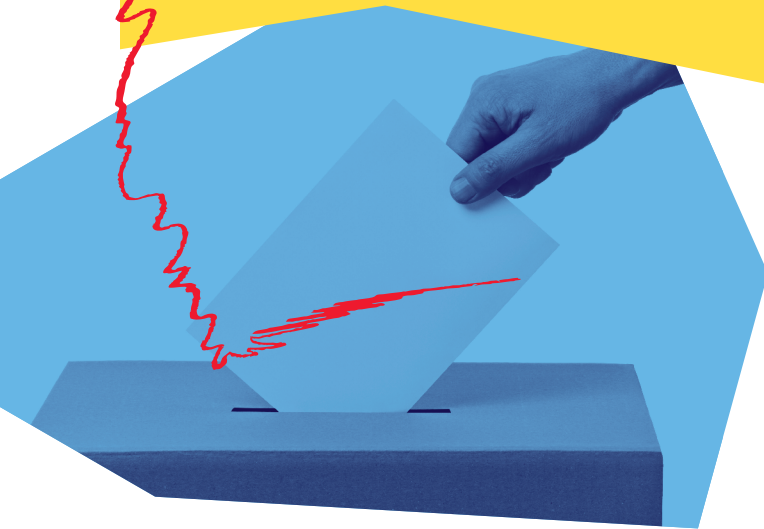
With our partners, we blocked the Federal Bureau of Prisons' (BOP) implementation of an executive order that prohibits gender-affirming medical care and social transition accommodations to trans people in BOP custody.

being protected without hesitation. It looks like going the extra mile for myself, but also for Black trans women in general."

She adds: "We're at the front of the lines of protest. We're trying to make change—and usually that happens out of survival."

Learn more about the Freedom to Be campaign at aclu.org/freedomtobe.

Safeguarding the Vote



Dr. Dorothy Nairne advocates for fair voting districts for her community in Louisiana. (Photo by Lynsey Weatherspoon/ACLU)

ACLU IMPACT

Alabama

Alongside the ACLU of Alabama and the Legal Defense Fund, we prevailed when a three-judge federal court found that Alabama's congressional map both unfairly dilutes Black voting power and was passed with racially discriminatory intent.

Georgia

After the ACLU and our partners intervened, the Georgia Supreme Court upheld a lower court's decision that blocks a rule that would have required the hand counting of ballots across the state, including in general elections.

Louisiana

In October, the ACLU and our partners argued *Callais v. Landry* at the Supreme Court, a pivotal

case that will determine if Black voters in Louisiana can elect candidates of their choice.

Mississippi

In our lawsuit with the ACLU of Mississippi and the Southern Poverty Law Center, a federal court ruled that Mississippi's Supreme Court district lines must be redrawn to ensure that Black voters have an equal opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.

South Carolina

In response to our emergency lawsuit in state court and the threat of additional federal litigation, the South Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles fixed a policy that failed to comply with the federal "motor voter" law and had disenfranchised thousands of young voters.

The ACLU is fighting for fair maps and equal voting access ahead of the 2026 midterm elections.

In 2025, the Trump administration and its political allies across the states have moved aggressively to suppress voting, interfere with elections, and roll back progress on voting access. The right to vote is the bedrock of our democracy. It is at the core of the ACLU's efforts to restore civil rights and liberties more broadly. We have fought back around the clock to ensure that every eligible voter can access the polls safely, fairly, and with the information they need to elect politicians of their choosing.

Along with a coalition of voting rights groups, we blocked portions of President Trump's unconstitutional executive order requiring documentary proof of citizenship to register to vote. This could have disenfranchised millions of voters of color, women, low-income voters, and voters with disabilities.

Ahead of the 2026 midterm elections, we remain committed to ensuring that there will be fair district maps so that voters choose their politicians and not the other way around. In Missouri, we filed a legal challenge to the state's mid-decade redistricting effort, arguing that state officials' attempt to implement a new congressional map for the 2026 midterm elections violates the Missouri Constitution. And in a Texas case, we filed a friend-of-the-court brief arguing that the court should block the state's newly enacted and racially discriminatory 2025 congressional map from going into effect before the 2026 elections.

Looking ahead, to ensure fair elections in the future, we've filed Freedom of Information Act requests seeking information about the administration's communication with states regarding the 2030 census, anticipating the adoption of policies that create unfair representation.

In a victory for Black voters and democracy, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed in full the district court's ruling in our case *Nairne v. Landry* that the state's legislative maps dilute the voting power of Black Louisianans by unfairly dividing communities into state districts with the goal of reducing a group's voting power.

The plaintiff in that case, Dr. Dorothy Nairne—a Louisiana resident, small-business owner, and mother of three—shared in ACLU Magazine why she got involved:

"If you look at all the lists of the best places to live, Louisiana is last for years in a row," said Nairne, who has a degree in African American studies and a doctorate in international development. "Unfair representation is what underpins it all."

In her community, the district lines are so jaggedly drawn that she votes in one district while her neighbors vote in another.

"It's all so random. The way [the lines are] structured is so chaotic and confusing. That makes it harder for the people to organize," she said. "You're on your own, and you feel powerless. That has to change, because everybody will benefit. If a third of your population is underwhelmed and languishing, then that brings everybody down."

Alongside people like Nairne, the ACLU is working to protect the founding belief of a democracy—that every vote should count and count equally.

"Let's not defer anyone's dreams anymore. Our interests are not being met, and our people are stagnating because of it," said Nairne. "We need to level the playing field."

Learn more about our fight to protect voting rights at aclu.org/voting.

Protecting Reproductive Freedom

The ACLU is **blocking restrictions** on abortion care and expanding access in the states.

Three years on, the U.S. Supreme Court's shameful decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* has had a catastrophic impact on people's lives, including the deaths of pregnant people because of state abortion bans. Sixteen states currently have total or near-total bans, stripping more than a quarter of the country of their bodily autonomy.

The Trump administration has amplified the threats to reproductive health by freezing family-planning funds and dropping the government's commitment to lifesaving abortion care, while anti-abortion forces at the state level continue to impede access. The ACLU is working in Congress, in the streets, and in the courts to protect and expand reproductive rights for all.

On the federal level, we succeeded in restoring approximately \$45 million in Title X family planning grants that the administration had withheld. Through advocacy, communications, and legal action, we are once again pushing back against renewed attempts to ban mifepristone, a safe medication used in most abortions. And we are preparing litigation to challenge potential efforts to weaponize the Comstock Act, a 19th-century anti-obscenity law, as a backdoor ban on abortions.

We are expanding access to abortion care for millions by litigating to end restrictions in

states such as Arizona, Missouri, and Ohio that recently passed ballot measures enshrining reproductive rights protections in their state constitutions. To capitalize on recent successes and overwhelming pro-abortion-access sentiment among voters, new affirmative state ballot measures are on the horizon in key states.

Using the ACLU's Firewall for Freedom playbook, our state affiliates have reinforced shield laws, created reliable streams of abortion-access funding, and restricted the sharing of reproductive or sexual health information without consent. We further expanded our Abortion Criminal Defense Initiative to more than 160 criminal defense attorneys in 36 states, who are working to defend as many pregnant people, providers, and funders as possible from abortion-related investigations and prosecutions.

Ghazaleh Moayedi, MD, an ob-gyn and abortion provider in Texas who travels out of state to provide abortion care for people from states where it is banned, explained her activism on behalf of reproductive rights:

"It is my duty as a doctor to advocate and agitate. When *Roe* was overturned and it wasn't clear if Texas law prevented abortion providers from caring for Texans out of state, I sued the state, which was a scary thing to do.

Protesters rallied in front of the Supreme Court as the Justices heard *Medina v. Planned Parenthood South Atlantic*, a case that determined that states could exclude providers from caring for patients who use Medicaid to receive their health care. (Photo by Robyn Stevens Brody/Sipa USA/AP)



"Abortion bans have caused so much anxiety and uncertainty, for both providers and patients. The people I care for now spend weeks or months of their lives worrying whether they can get an abortion and the aftercare they need. People of color, young people, people from rural areas, and people with low socioeconomic status face barriers that add additional stress.

"I've taught abortion care across Texas for many years, and my trainees are now vocally pro-abortion in a way that is refreshing. Abortion is an everyday part of life that is just completely normal."

At the ACLU, we know that abortion is health care. Everyone deserves the fundamental right to make decisions about their bodies. We are in solidarity with the people fighting to preserve, expand, and restore our rights to this basic health care, and we will not stop until every individual has access—no matter where they live.

Learn more about our fight for reproductive freedom at aclu.org/abortion.

ACLU IMPACT

Alabama

We went to court to stop the attorney general from making good on his threat to prosecute people who help Alabamians secure abortion care in states where it is legal, and we secured a final ruling blocking these potential prosecutions.

Arizona

Alongside Planned Parenthood and the Center for Reproductive Rights, we secured an order striking down the state's 15-week abortion ban, which violates the state's 2024 constitutional amendment protecting the fundamental right to abortion.

Idaho

With our partners, we helped secure a consent decree permanently blocking the state attorney general from prosecuting Idaho health care providers for referring their patients for out-of-state legal abortion care.

Missouri

In a case we brought with our partners, a Jackson County circuit court judge issued a preliminary injunction blocking the enforcement of Missouri's abortion bans and several regulations of abortion providers.

Nationwide

The ACLU and our partners took legal action to defend pregnant patients' right to receive—and physicians' right to provide—lifesaving abortion care under the Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act. This federal law requires hospitals with emergency departments to provide stabilizing treatment, including abortion, to patients experiencing medical emergencies.

Defending Disability Rights



The ACLU is protecting the autonomy, health care, and votes of people with disabilities.

President Trump's second term began with a blitz of the regressive executive orders we anticipated, including attacks on the rights of people with disabilities, who are disproportionately harmed when civil rights and liberties are threatened more broadly. The Trump administration took aim at everything from funding for Medicaid to access to the voting booth. The ACLU was prepared for these efforts and responded swiftly.

We launched a sustained campaign to fight the \$880 billion in Medicaid funding cuts that will have a devastating impact on the more than 10 million people with disabilities enrolled in the program. Unfortunately, Congress passed the budget bill, making the biggest cut to Medicaid since it was created in the 1960s and funneling that money to fund the Trump administration's anti-immigration agenda. But we won't back down: The ACLU and our partners hosted events across the

country in August to call out legislators who supported this reckless attack on our health care, our civil liberties, and our very ability to survive. ACLU People Power volunteers mobilized their communities to attend town halls and confront their members of Congress about their decisions.

Attacks on the voting rights of people with disabilities surged this year too. In response, we blocked portions of President Trump's unlawful executive order that seeks to create more restrictive voter registration requirements and other barriers, which could disenfranchise eligible voters with disabilities. We also challenged state-based voter-suppression laws that would make it harder for people with disabilities in low-income communities of color to vote and blocked enforcement of laws that restrict assistance for disabled, blind, and low-literacy voters.

We also successfully challenged the U.S. Department of Education over its letter threatening federal funding cuts for education institutions that engage in DEI efforts, including for students with disabilities.

ACLU IMPACT

Protecting the Head Start program.

We filed a lawsuit challenging the Trump administration's coordinated and unlawful efforts to dismantle the Head Start program, which has transformed the lives of countless families by providing free early-childhood education and childcare to 40 million children, including many with disabilities.

Researching the disability turnout gap.

We conducted a first-of-its-kind nationally representative study focused on the relationship between disability and voter turnout, which showed that the disability turnout gap is larger than previously thought but can be mitigated by state voting policies such as all-mail voting.

Protecting free speech and academic freedom in schools.

With our partners, we successfully challenged the U.S. Department of Education's Dear Colleague

Letter, which threatens federal funding cuts for education institutions nationwide for engaging in diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts—including for students with disabilities.

Providing Know Your Rights materials.

We responded to the Trump administration's attempt to terminate recently hired employees and gut entire agencies with Know Your Rights materials for the hundreds of thousands of employees with disabilities who work at all levels of the federal government.

Revealing the crisis of a rapidly aging prison population.

We collaborated on a report exposing how outdated sentencing laws have left tens of thousands of people imprisoned for decades, creating a humanitarian, fiscal, and operational crisis as U.S. prisons struggle to meet the medical, mental health, and accessibility needs of an aging prison population.

Above, left:
Disability activists
march in New York
in celebration of the
35th anniversary of
the Americans with
Disabilities Act.
(Photo by
Erik McGregor/
Getty Images)

Advances in disability rights pave the way for the protection and expansion of civil rights and liberties for everyone. Through our Disability Rights Program, we strive for a country where people with disabilities are valued, integrated members of society who have full access to education, homes, health care, jobs, families, voting, and civic engagement.

Zoe Brennan-Krohn, director of the ACLU's Disability Rights Program, explained the significance of disability rights in the larger civil rights landscape on the ACLU's podcast, At Liberty:

"I became a lawyer to do public interest work, and the focus of my career has been on disability rights. I'm a person with a disability. I have a lot of family members with disabilities, including loved ones who rely on Medicaid. Disability is often sidelined. That's why I love doing this work at the ACLU, to integrate disability rights into the world of civil rights and civil liberties, where it belongs.

"I want people to know that disability is widespread. Somewhere around a quarter of the country are people with disabilities. Disability encompasses—both in the law and in the community—people with mobility disabilities, people with sensory disabilities, people with psychiatric disabilities or mental illnesses, people with developmental disabilities, people with chronic illnesses, people with age-related disabilities. A lot of people who may not think of themselves as disabled would be protected under disability rights laws. Disability is a fluid identity.

"Folks who care about civil rights and civil liberties should be caring about, acting on, and educating themselves on disability rights issues. This is about the right to live in the community, to be part of the community, to work in the community, and the right of care workers to provide that care—that's the foundational piece to be able to enjoy and exercise the rest of your civil rights."

You can listen to the full episode at aclu.org/podcast.

Dividing Lines

The ACLU's president discusses how transportation and the architecture of a community **reinforce racial inequality**.



ACLU President Deborah N. Archer is a leading expert in civil rights, civil liberties, and racial justice and is an award-winning teacher and legal scholar. Deborah spoke with *ACLU Magazine* about how transportation infrastructure reinforces racial inequality, how the ACLU confronts systemic injustice, and more.

You're an associate dean and professor at NYU's School of Law and you also direct the school's Community Equity Initiative. What are the major themes of your work?

A lot of my research and advocacy focuses on inequality at the intersection of race and space, and the ways that we have deprived communities of color of the resources and support they need to be healthy, thriving, and resilient.

How does thinking about "race and space" inform your work as a civil rights lawyer and an author?

If we expand our understanding of government-sponsored segregation beyond racial covenants and redlining, it's clear that it's not just those invisible lines that perpetuate oppression and inequality—

it's also the physical, literal lines [including highways] that run through our communities. We often ignore those lines because they're part of the architecture of a community, but they're also part of the architecture of racial inequality.

Your new book, Dividing Lines, is focused on transportation. How does transportation connect to the ACLU's work?

Transportation determines who gets to feel like they belong. It determines who enjoys access to all the opportunities and resources that the country provides. It decides who gets to live with safety and dignity. Those are all things that are critical to our work at the ACLU. We're trying to ensure that when the Constitution says "We the People" it really means all of us. To do that work, we have to think about segregation and inequality and injustice in our communities, and how we have built and perpetuated that. Transportation is essential to that conversation and essential to everything that we fight for and value.

How are you thinking about the ACLU's litigation under an administration that seems to believe the rules don't apply to it?

The moment now shows that we can't just focus on legal tools to build equity, because those who oppose racial justice are not just focused on legal tools either. Securing civil rights was always dependent on far more than just having beautiful, powerful language embedded in our laws. The ACLU's model of integrated advocacy means that our work is going to be more impactful and more durable. We're using litigation, but we're also using narrative change and doing broader advocacy work. We're working to help build power in communities, and all of these pieces working together have always resulted in deeper impact.

Leaving a Legacy for Justice

Sonny Bushak packed a lifetime of courage and compassion into his 25 years.

When Anthony Jude "Sonny" Bushak died at age 25 in December 2024, his will included a legacy to the ACLU, a final act of advocacy from someone who never waited for change—he created it.

At his Texas high school, Sonny founded the first gay-straight alliance. As a speaker with PFLAG, he shared his story as a transgender man.

"One of our proudest moments was watching Sonny give a speech at a transgender rights rally on the steps of the governor's mansion," recalled his parents, Matt and Stephanie Bushak.

Living in Round Rock, Texas, a progressive enclave of Austin in a state hostile to the trans community, Sonny understood what it meant to fight for your rights. After he came out at 17, his parents responded with love and action, founding a PFLAG chapter that met in their church.

"We were so proud of him," Matt said. "The courage it takes for a trans person to live their true selves—I couldn't do it."

A 2021 graduate of Southwestern University with a degree in theater arts, Sonny brought

his passion to the stage. One of his favorite roles was Sparky in *Forever Plaid* at the Georgetown Theater. He was also a fan of *Les Misérables*—"as epic and full of emotion as the man himself," his family said.

Despite relentless attacks on trans rights and civil liberties more broadly, Sonny found reassurance in the ACLU, his parents recalled. "Anytime we talked about what's going on out there, he said: 'Don't forget the ACLU is working on it. If anyone is going to help us, it's going to be them.'"

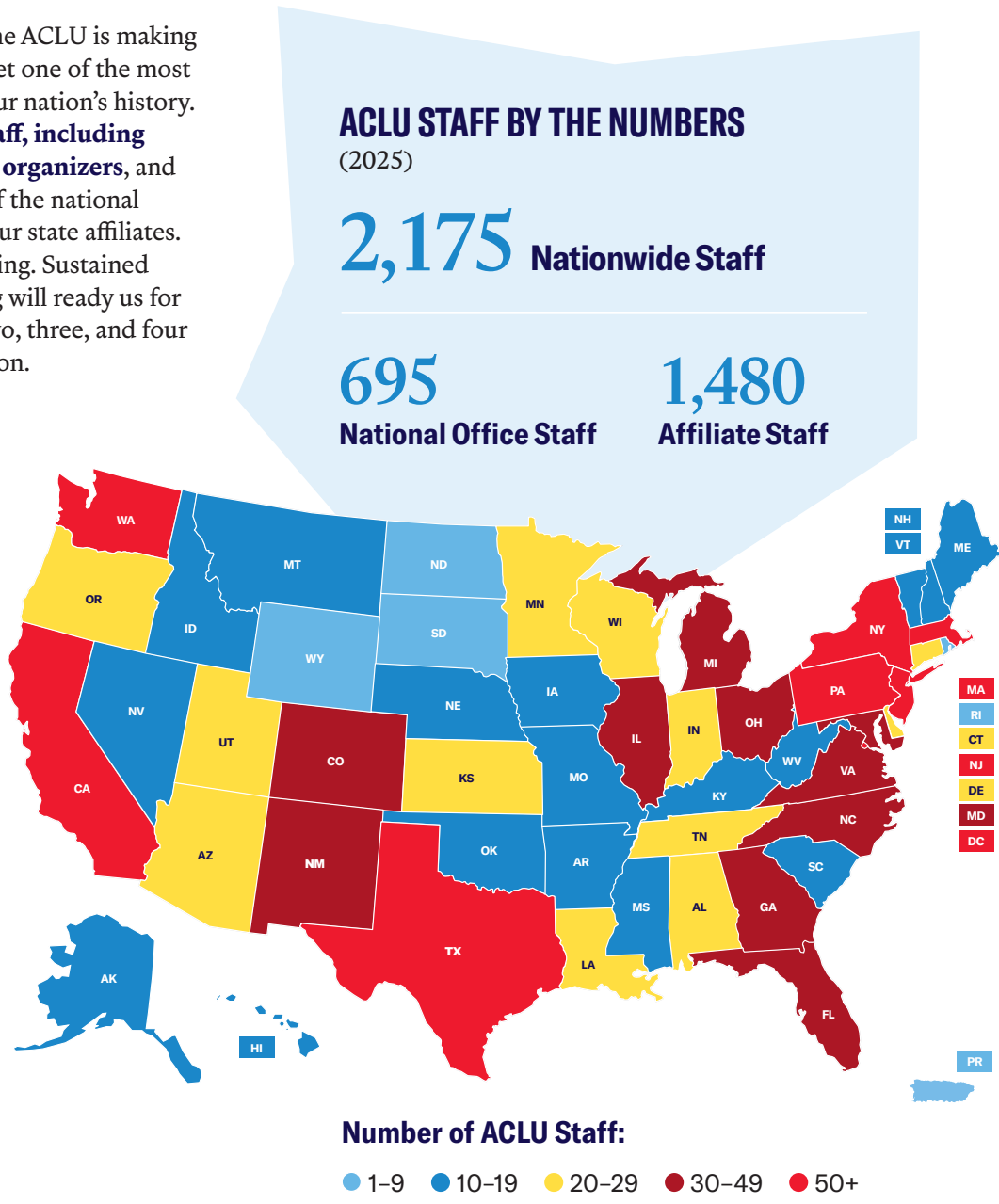
Sonny's parents were moved to learn that his will included a bequest to the ACLU. "We are deeply proud of the man he was and especially proud that Sonny chose to support the ACLU," Matt and Stephanie shared. "We are eternally honored to be his parents and the stewards of his legacy."



Thank You for Resourcing Our Fight

We are grateful to the ACLU’s growing community of donors who are stepping up and saying, “Not on my watch.” We hope your generosity inspires others to join us—because our rights are not guaranteed. They only live on when we defend them.

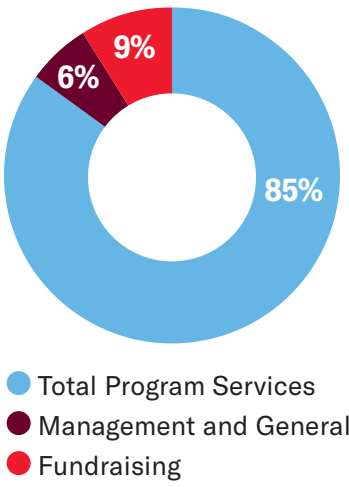
Thanks to your support, the ACLU is making critical investments to meet one of the most challenging moments in our nation’s history. **We are hiring 105 new staff, including additional attorneys and organizers,** and directing more than half of the national programmatic budget to our state affiliates. And this is just the beginning. Sustained monthly and annual giving will ready us for the work ahead in years two, three, and four of the Trump administration.



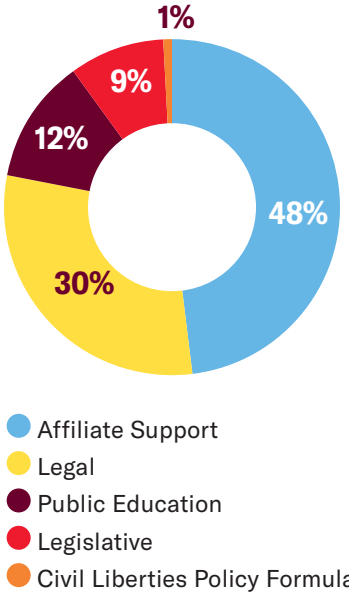
Financial Summary

The ACLU is composed of two organizations: the American Civil Liberties Union (the 501(c)(4) arm), whose focus is legislative work at the federal and state levels, and the ACLU Foundation (the 501(c)(3) arm), whose focus is litigation and public education. Following is the financial summary for the American Civil Liberties Union, the ACLU Foundation, and consolidated entities, including Union subsidiaries and Foundation subsidiaries (page 23), as well as the ACLU Foundation and subsidiary (page 24), for the years ending March 31, 2025, and March 31, 2024. The accounts and activities of ACLU affiliates are not included in these financial statements.

OUR EFFICIENCY



PROGRAM SERVICES



American Civil Liberties Union, ACLU Foundation & Consolidated Entities		
	FY2025	FY2024
Support & Revenue		
Grants & Contributions	\$438,970,121	\$268,466,663
Donated Legal Services	42,651,996	39,504,757
Bequests	70,513,000	47,040,000
Other Revenue	2,438,280	2,078,227
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	\$554,573,397	\$357,089,647
Expenses		
Program Services:		
Legislative	35,913,538	26,973,666
Legal	122,397,226	120,598,711
Public Education	49,942,372	54,409,676
Civil Liberties Policy Formulation	3,233,795	3,096,907
Affiliate Support	195,956,038	114,516,961
Total Program Services	407,442,969	319,595,921
Supporting Services:		
Management & General	29,397,812	27,964,608
Fundraising	44,929,072	35,971,555
Total Supporting Services	74,326,884	63,936,163
TOTAL EXPENSES	481,769,853	383,532,084
Change in Net Assets Before Other Changes	72,803,544	(26,442,437)
Other Changes in Net Assets		
Net Legal Expenses Awarded	7,815,748	7,009,067
Net Investment Income, Gains & Losses	56,177,157	76,447,648
Changes in Value of Split-Interest Agreements	(624,503)	(2,267,843)
Recognition of Affiliates' Share of Pension Liability	2,606,465	1,938,722
Other Components of Post-Retirement Benefit Cost	(345,070)	(227,242)
TOTAL OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	65,629,797	82,900,352
Change in Net Assets	138,433,341	56,457,915
Net Assets		
Beginning	836,213,835	779,755,920
Ending	974,647,176	836,213,835

Financial Summary
continued

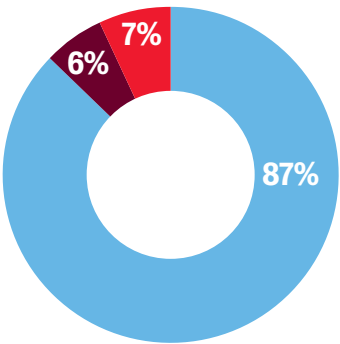
ACLU Foundation has a four-star Charity Navigator rating, meets the highest standards of the Better Business Bureau Wise Giving Alliance, and has been awarded the Platinum Seal of Transparency on Candid.



ACLU Foundation
& Subsidiary

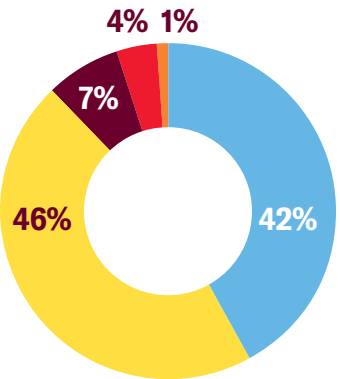
	FY2025	FY2024
Support & Revenue		
Grants & Contributions	\$239,481,319	\$134,949,991
Donated Legal Services	42,651,996	39,504,757
Bequests	48,429,664	34,152,506
Other Revenue	2,202,662	1,808,596
TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE	332,765,641	\$210,415,850
Expenses		
Program Services:		
Legislative	9,378,965	5,236,621
Legal	116,134,065	115,362,727
Public Education	17,461,905	19,065,039
Civil Liberties Policy Formulation	1,925,384	1,804,609
Affiliate Support	105,227,807	62,715,827
Total Program Services	250,128,126	204,184,823
Supporting Services:		
Management & General	17,021,934	16,845,866
Fundraising	21,467,936	18,868,836
Total Supporting Services	38,489,870	35,714,702
TOTAL EXPENSES	288,617,996	239,899,525
Change in Net Assets Before Other Changes	44,147,645	(29,483,675)
Other Changes in Net Assets		
Net Legal Expenses Awarded	7,815,748	7,009,067
Net Investment Income, Gains & Losses	48,371,726	64,828,186
Changes in Value of Split-Interest Agreements	(624,503)	(2,267,843)
Other Components of Post-Retirement Benefit Cost	(132,658)	(76,645)
TOTAL OTHER CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	55,430,313	69,492,765
Change in Net Assets	99,577,958	40,009,090
Net Assets		
Beginning	680,112,195	640,103,105
Ending	779,690,153	680,112,195

OUR EFFICIENCY



- Total Program Services
- Management and General
- Fundraising

PROGRAM SERVICES



- Affiliate Support
- Legal
- Public Education
- Legislative
- Civil Liberties Policy Formulation

How *You* Can Help

The ACLU works in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in this country by the Constitution and the laws of the United States. Join us as we continue the fight for the principles of equality, justice, liberty, and democracy.

HOW TO MAKE A GIFT

You can defend and advance civil liberties by donating to either the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) or the ACLU Foundation. Gifts to the ACLU support our legislative work at the federal and local level and are not tax deductible. Gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible and support our litigation, communications, and public education efforts.

Learn more at aclu.org/donate.

To give by mail:

Please make a check payable to the American Civil Liberties Union or the ACLU Foundation and send to:

ACLU Office of Leadership Gifts
125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004

To make a gift of stock:

Please visit aclu.org/gifts-stock.

For more information about supporting the ACLU through your will, trust, or retirement plan, please contact our Gift Planning Office at (877) 867-1025 or legacy@aclu.org, or visit aclu.org/legacy.

To give through your donor-advised fund:

To recommend a gift through your DAF, please use the information below or visit aclu.org/DAF.

Account Name: American Civil Liberties Union Foundation, Inc.
Tax ID: 13-6213516
Address: 125 Broad Street, 18th Floor
New York, NY 10004

GET INVOLVED

People Power is the ACLU’s platform for grassroots action. By mobilizing in defense of our civil liberties, volunteers build and strengthen local communities that affirm our American values of respect, equality, and solidarity.

Get involved with People Power in your area by visiting peoplepower.org.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

- [aclu](https://facebook.com/aclu)
- [aclu_nationwide](https://twitter.com/aclu_nationwide)
- [aclu_nationwide](https://instagram.com/aclu_nationwide)
- aclu.org/shop

“

These are difficult days, but the ACLU's community of activists, lawyers, and supporters has always been a beacon in challenging times. Together, we must make it clear that we **will never stop fighting for our rights and liberties.**

—ANTHONY D. ROMERO, ACLU EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

