

some 280 additional communities are considering such an effort. Some resolutions have gone so far as to direct city personnel not to help federal or state officials in activities that could be considered violations of civil rights or civil liberties.

8 “Shoulder-tap”

Approach a few people you know and ask them if they are aware of what’s happening to their liberties. Let them know they can have security and freedom, but they need to let their legislators know of their concerns. Most people value liberty and are troubled by its erosion.

9 Stand up for what you believe in

Don’t allow others to intimidate you and quash your dissent. In discussions of anti-terrorism, add your knowledge and concerns about the unnecessary erosion of our civil liberties. If the infringement of liberties can happen to one person, it can happen to all of us. Maintaining the checks and balances within our government is a tested way to protect both our country and our freedom. Maintaining the rights of individuals doesn’t stop us from taking necessary actions to protect ourselves.

10 Join the ACLU and participate

Your support helps the ACLU spread the message. Your active participation can help even more. You can attend ACLU programs, encourage others to attend, distribute briefing papers and other materials to friends and acquaintances, and visit legislators as part of an ACLU team.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION of OHIO

4506 Chester Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44103
www.acluohio.org
contact@acluohio.org
phone: (216)472 2200

Where Can I Find Out More?

The ACLU website at www.aclu.org has an extensive amount of information on an out of control executive and other recent developments in the ACLU’s struggle to stop the abuse of power. Visit www.aclu.org/safefree/index.html for details.

Sign up for the ACLU of Ohio’s E-Updates at www.acluohio.org to receive the latest local news and action ideas.

To become a member of the ACLU, join online at www.acluohio.org.

10 things you can do about the USA Patriot Act and the abuse of executive power



ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION
of OHIO

Under the current national laws for homeland security there are numerous actual and potential infringements on our civil liberties. These include:

- Government gathering of data on innocent citizens, some who are engaged in activity protected by the Constitution, and some who are not engaged in any political activity
- Government agencies spying on citizens
- Indefinite detention of citizens by law enforcement without being charged and denied of the right to an attorney
- Expanded wiretap authority with minimized judicial supervision of law enforcement
- Covert searches by law enforcement of citizens without notification of the citizens until years later
- Reduced privacy of student records.

The bedrock of America's greatness is our democratic values — freedom, liberty, justice. The rights that derive from these values are what differentiate us from other nations. We need to protect both our security and our civil liberties. Here is what you can do as an individual to help maintain our liberties.

1 Be informed

Watch news shows. Read newspapers, news magazines and online journals to stay abreast of current legislative proposals, judicial rulings, and executive actions that diminish our freedoms. Check the ACLU websites at www.acluohio.org and www.aclu.org. Being informed will help you accomplish the remaining steps below.

2 Write to the U.S. government

Register your support for liberty and your concern over infringements of our rights. Politicians keep track of the number of letters they receive on each topic and it can influence their decisions. You can also make a telephone call and to register your opinion. There are also lots of great tips for writing letters or emails to government officials on the Take Action page at www.acluohio.org.

Attorney General Eric Holder
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530-0001
(202) 514-2001
AskDOJ@usdoj.gov

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500
(202) 456-1414
president@whitehouse.gov

3 Write your members of congress

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202)224-2315
Fax: (202)228-6321
Webform: <http://brown.senate.gov/contact/>

The Honorable George Voinovich
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-3353
Fax (202) 228-1382
Email: senator_voinovich@voinovich.senate.gov

The Honorable (Representative)
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

If you aren't sure who your representative is, you can call your county board of elections or check www.house.gov.

4 Vote

Check the voting records of incumbents and the positions of congressional candidates on anti-terror legislation. Newspapers often publish key votes. You can also check at <http://scorecard.aclu.org>.

5 Write a letter to the editor

Your letter can alert people to the issues and can encourage others to become more active in protecting our liberties. Add your voice to the chorus calling for executive accountability and the end of unchecked power.

6 Host a Living Room Liberties gathering

You provide the space and light refreshments. The Ohio ACLU will provide a speaker or video and will send invitations to people in your area. This kind of face-to-face conversation is very effective in energizing people about the issues. Call us at 216-472-2200 or email contact@acluohio.org.

7 Be alert for local government activity that undermines civil liberties

In some cities, local law enforcement is spying on citizens and maintaining a database of citizen attendance at peaceful meetings such as Amnesty International or the American Friends Service Committee. Local prosecutors may be participating in this activity also. You can write these agencies when you become aware of such surveillance. Some local law enforcement agencies are refusing to participate and they need your support. Write them as well. More than 400 resolutions have passed urging federal authorities to respect the civil rights of local citizens when fighting terrorism, and