

IMPACT REPORT

YOUR SUPPORT. YOUR IMPACT.



SINCE OUR LAST REPORT:

Active Legal Cases

18

Publications

18

8

Testimony provided

OVER 1,500

Constituent messages sent to lawmakers

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A message from our Executive Director, Ben

Every few months, we attempt to distill the impactful work of the ACLU of Ohio into a few short paragraphs. This brief report could never fully capture the breadth and depth of statewide advocacy, new and ongoing litigation, community organizing, and public education undertaken on dozens of fronts. Every day, we, the people, are making powerful inroads to hold the line on civil liberties and move the ball for civil rights. As a member and donor, you make every change-daring dream a reality.

Thank you for your continued support.

J. Bennett Guess
Executive Director



Want to impact change for generations to come? Include the ACLU of Ohio in your estate plan and commit to fighting for freedom and defending democracy with a strong legacy. Please email contact@acluohio.org and our Development Department will follow up with more information.

Amending Ohio's Constitution to Protect Abortion Access

HUGE NEWS: Ohioans for Reproductive freedom, a campaign formed by the ACLU of Ohio, Abortion Fund of Ohio, New Voices for Reproductive Justice, Ohio Women's Alliance, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Ohio, Preterm-Cleveland, Pro-Choice Ohio, and Urge - working in coordination with Ohio Physicians for Reproductive Rights - filed language with the Ohio Attorney General's office, putting forth a ballot proposal that would amend Ohio's Constitution to explicitly protect abortion access in our state.

We are committed to a broad-tent, large and diverse coalition, prioritizing deep community partnerships that are grounded in the sacred work of protecting reproductive freedom for the communities most impacted by bans and barriers to legal and local abortion care.

To make sure we are never again at the mercy of changing courts, we must pass a referendum to expressly secure the right to reproductive freedom in our state constitution. Our approach is inclusive, non-partisan, data-driven, research-informed and rooted in compassion. We know that Ohioans support abortion access and that we have a clear pro-choice majority of voters. This campaign will be led by and for the people of Ohio.

We need you to join the fight! This is an all-hands-on-deck effort. Please sign up to volunteer for signature collection or make a campaign contribution at OhioReproBallot.org.



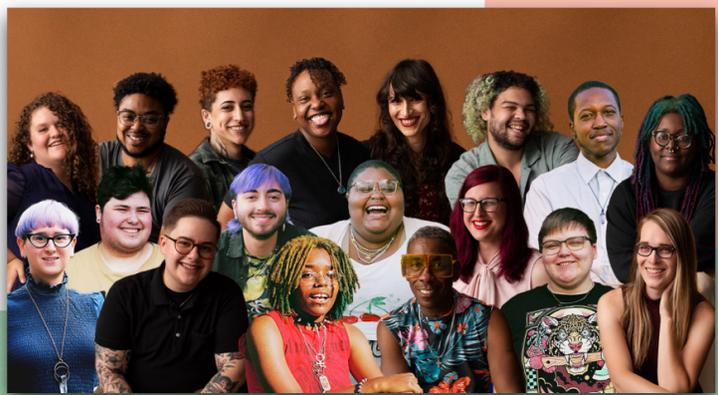
Southeast Ohio Expansion

We closed out 2022 by hiring our first full-time staff member in Southeast Ohio! A recent graduate of Marietta University, Natalie Johnson is leading our grassroots efforts in cities and towns throughout the Appalachian region to connect with rural communities about the issues of concern to them in the lead up to the 2024 election. This hyperlocal program signals a culture shift toward engaging Ohioans who may have historically been disengaged from typical ACLU issues. Our goal is to focus on the voting rights landscape - with a specific focus on building trust in our election process by illuminating how votes are counted and certified in order to combat disinformation and discredited theories of voter fraud and "stolen elections". We know that trust takes time, and we are new to the region, so the first phase is deep listening within eleven specific Southeast Ohio counties. In Natalie's words, "positive change can be made to communities by fostering collective power through the people."

Trans Spotlight 2.0

Together with Equality Ohio and TransOhio, we unveiled the second iteration of our Transgender Spotlight series in October. This multimedia project shines a light on the vibrancy and joy of the trans and gender non-conforming (TGNC) community in Ohio through powerful images, video content, and direct interviews. Featuring photos by Columbus-area photographers, Emma Parker and Micah Mitchell, the continuation of the Transgender Spotlight project focuses on centering the diverse voices and experiences of TGNC Ohioans, while educating others on the need for inclusive, pro-LGBTQ+ policies. Launched during LGBTQ+ History Month, the series offers both a reflection on far we have come and a window to the path ahead. As states across the country - including Ohio - face a slew of anti-trans legislation that has crept its way into state legislatures, the ACLU continues to firmly support and fight for the lives and legacies of LGBTQ+ individuals.

Check out the series at ACLUOhio.org/Trans.



Listening Process Report

Speak Up, Ohio, We're Listening! Last summer, we embarked on an ambitious statewide listening campaign. Through online surveys and deep community conversations, we heard from more than 4,000 Ohioans about the issues that matter most to them. The information we collected, anecdotal stories we heard, and connections we made were invaluable to our mission. As we began our data analysis, we saw three clear trends emerge: across the board participants are 1) furious about Ohio's redistricting process and want to end gerrymandering, 2) horrified by the attacks on bodily autonomy - including abortion access and LGBTQ+ rights, and 3) supportive of common-sense reforms in our criminal legal system.

This listening campaign enabled us to further expanding our statewide Action Team membership and building tremendous power in the process. The responses will help inform our campaign priorities and organizing structures moving forward.

Read the full analysis at ACLUOhio.org/SpeakUp.



New voting resources!

Understanding Ohio's strict voter ID law.
ACLUOhio.org/Vote



ACLU is for the Children

The ACLU of Ohio is continuing to broaden our strong commitment to the future of Ohio. During the past year, we have collaborated on over a dozen Campus Action Teams, started our TikTok account, and partnered in the Kids Deserve Safe Schools coalition. We have met enthusiastic and brilliant young Ohioans from all corners of the state - building the foundation for the next generation of civil liberties activism through people-led movements.



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