

IMPACT

REPORT

YOUR SUPPORT. YOUR IMPACT.



SINCE OUR LAST REPORT:

Active Legal Cases

21

Events and Trainings

49

24

Legislative Testimony Provided

OVER 22,000

Constituent messages sent to lawmakers

Inside:

- OSU Case Update
- \$100K Match Wrap Up
- Advocating for Transparency
- Lakewood Ordinance
- Dayton People Power
- ACLU Condemns S.B. 293
- Town Hall Wrap Up
- Voter Impact Fund

A message from our Executive Director, Ben

Dear Friends –

These are grueling, frightening times for all who care about freedom, justice, and the preservation of democracy. We're seeing unprecedented attacks on the rule of law and separation of powers. We're witnessing cruelty and mockery toward our society's most vulnerable.

But, across the ACLU, we continue the fight every day, in the most strategic ways, to safeguard our Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

Here, we uplift some of our recent impact, and underscore our promise that the ACLU of Ohio remains relentlessly engaged and forever determined.

Thanks for standing with us, always.

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 give@acluohio.org and our Donor Relations Department will follow up with more information.



Donate Here

Victory in Free Speech Case Challenging Ohio State University



On January 14, a federal judge in the Southern District of Ohio upheld critical First Amendment rights by ruling in favor of our client, an Ohio State University student expelled without a hearing for engaging in protected political speech. This victory upholds a foundational concept of our Constitution: Political opinions may not be silenced or punished merely because they may give offense. **Our universities must remain spaces open for political discourse and the exchanging of diverse ideas, perspectives, and thought.**

Tremendous Support During Match Donation

Thanks to a generous donor, all donations made to the ACLU of Ohio from mid-December 2025, through the end of January 2026, were matched up to \$100,000. We are thrilled to share that we not only met but exceeded our match goal! **Giving is a form of protest – Thank you for taking action by supporting our work.**



Advocating for Government Transparency

The ACLU of Ohio filed a lawsuit with the Reproductive Rights Law Initiative at Case Western Reserve University in December 2025 after the Ohio Department of Health failed to fulfill our request for communications pertaining to the Toledo Women's Center. Together, we are asking the Supreme Court of Ohio to order ODH to comply with Ohio's public records laws and provide the public information requested.

Lakewood City Council Supports Trans Community and Allies



In October 2025, Lakewood City Council unanimously voted to enact the Gender Freedom Resolution and additional administrative policy that takes a critical step forward to support LGBTQ+ residents. Specifically, the Gender Freedom Resolution protects communities who receive gender-affirming healthcare from external investigations that seek personal patient information, as well as ensures city employees will receive the training they need to protect this private information, among other provisions. This is a clear example of how local municipalities can champion the rights and liberties of their residents, especially during attacks from the federal and state levels.

In October, we held a **Power & Purpose** event in partnership with ACLU National in Dayton. More than forty individuals attended this day-long training to learn about effective organizing and how to have persuasive conversations and build connections in their communities. Power & Purpose equipped activists with the tools and resources needed to hit the ground running and turn outrage into action.

Building People Power in Dayton



On December 19, Governor DeWine signed Senate Bill 293, a law which closes the post-election window for mailed ballots to be delivered to the Board of Elections. This anti-democratic bill also includes a litany of voting restrictions that place undue burdens on both elections officials and voters. SB 293's voter purge provisions are specifically dangerous, leading to the wrongful removals of eligible voters and violation of federal law. In January, the ACLU of Ohio and partners sent a letter to Secretary LaRose alerting him of compliance issues with the National Voter Registration Act.

ACLU of Ohio Condemns Signing of SB 293

On the 44th anniversary of Ohio's death penalty law taking effect, **more than twenty former lawmakers** sent a letter to current Ohio General Assembly members **expressing support for abolition**. The ACLU of Ohio has advocated for repealing the death penalty since 1981, and when those responsible for our current capital punishment system say it must go, **it is critical that state lawmakers listen**.

Architects of Ohio's Death Penalty Call For Repeal

Town Hall Wrap Up



We wrapped up our seven-city Town Hall tour introducing the ACLU of Ohio's new Strategic Plan. Staff and Board Members traveled statewide to strengthen connections, mobilize communities, and share our blueprint for the road ahead with **hundreds** of attendees. We are ready to put our multi-year plan into action with intention and a commitment to our core mission of preserving civil liberties for all Ohioans, **especially in the face of unprecedented attacks on our democracy**.

We are proud to present our new Voter Impact Fund, a critical initiative created specifically to ensure we remain a trusted leader and resource in campaign and political engagement for years to come. By giving to the Voter Impact Fund, you are directly supporting our highly impactful c4 work. This includes advocating for or against the passage of statewide and local ballot measures and continuing to provide important candidate and electoral information for voters. Visit [ACLUOhio.org/Donate](https://acluohio.org/Donate) to give today.

ACLU of Ohio Launches Voter Impact Fund

