

IMPACT

REPORT

YOUR SUPPORT. YOUR IMPACT.

ACLU
Ohio

SINCE OUR LAST REPORT:

Active
Legal
Cases

18

Videos
Produced

43

12

Legislative
Testimony
Provided

OVER
11,000

Constituent
messages sent
to lawmakers

Inside:

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A message from our Executive Director, Ben

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.

Ben

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 Team will follow up with more information.



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Victory for Public Safety in Columbus!

The brightest spot of the May Primary Election was the **landslide victory** of Issue 5, a local ballot measure in Columbus that passed with 77% of the vote. *The Community Crisis Response Amendment* will ensure the creation of an alternative crisis response system to meet the health and safety needs of community members experiencing behavioral health, homelessness, or other crises. The ACLU of Ohio made a significant financial investment to ensure that this policy would become reality, and as a founding member of the Columbus Safety Collective Campaign, **we are so proud of our volunteers and every resident who voted to reduce the over-reliance of law enforcement and to embrace compassionate community care.**



ACLU of Ohio Takes on ICE

This spring we filed a class action lawsuit against Immigrations and Custom Enforcement (ICE), Customs and Border Patrol, and the Department of Homeland Security for their unlawful policy and practice of conducting warrantless arrests without probable cause. In June, our attorneys spent several days in federal court urging the judge to grant a preliminary injunction ordering federal immigration agents to halt their dangerous actions and blatant disregard of federal law. The facts of our case read like a dystopian novel; this vicious campaign of ICE targeting Ohio residents and tearing families apart must stop now.

Days after we filed our legal actions against ICE, we released a research report, *ICE in Ohio*, showing a dramatic expansion of ICE contracts during the first year of President Trump's second term.

Over the course of 2025, our policy experts sent 38 public records requests to county commissioners, sheriff's offices, county jails, and local police departments, and we found that the landscape of local governments partnering with federal immigration agents has shifted severely in a 12-month period. We are urging officials to cut ties, withdraw from existing contracts, and end partnerships with ICE.

The ACLU of Ohio is pushing back to stop the rounding up of our neighbors by untrained, unqualified, lawless agents. ICE serves as a supersized deportation force working to undermine public safety, destabilize communities, and enforce Trump's inhumane anti-immigrant agenda.

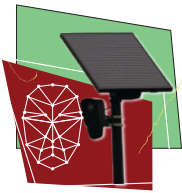


Urge Governor DeWine to Use Clemency Powers

Time is running out. Governor DeWine must use his executive powers to grant clemency to individuals on Ohio’s death row before it’s too late. Ohio is scheduled to carry out 30 executions in the months immediately following his departure from office at the beginning of 2027, and the urgency of this situation cannot be overstated. As Trump seeks to ramp up executions nationwide, **the ACLU of Ohio is deploying a multi-prong approach to address Ohio’s broken capital punishment system and abolish the death penalty.**



End Government Spying



The ACLU of Ohio has 4 words for local governments partnering with shadowy surveillance companies: **get the flock out.** We are urging municipalities across the state to reject drag-net surveillance and cease renewal of contracts that allow technology companies to mass surveil Ohioans with zero oversight, transparency, or accountability. From Athens to Cleveland, we are fighting back against the “Big Brother” cameras in our streets.

Drag is NOT a Crime

Right now, there is legislation in the Ohio Statehouse that would effectively ban most drag performances in Ohio. House Bill 249 is full of vague, overbroad, provisions that would create a chilling effect on freedom of expression. **Drag is protected speech** just like any other art form. Dance, fashion, and music are all protected by the First Amendment. The ACLU of Ohio will continue to fight this harmful bill.



Election Corner

The Weaponization of the Ohio Constitution

Just before breaking for summer recess, Ohio lawmakers rushed through Senate Joint Resolution 10 which will put a constitutional amendment on the November ballot to enshrine strict voter ID laws in our state constitution. Ohio already has the strictest photo ID law in the country, and this effort is nothing more than a transparent ploy by Republican lawmakers to maintain their power and sway the governor’s race. The 2026 Midterms were always going to be high-stakes, and we cannot overstate how important voter turnout will be for the future of our civil liberties. **We must all show up to vote for our values and fight for our rights.**

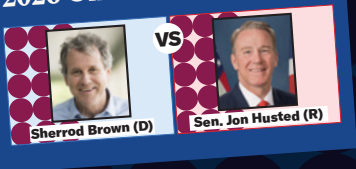
New Candidate Profiles!

One aspect of our 2026 political engagement plan is to educate voters about candidates in key contests: Ohio governor race, Ohio U.S. Senate race, Ohio U.S. House District 1, and Ohio U.S. House District 9. We tracked down their positions on voter ID laws, abortion access, ICE partnership, and public safety to ensure that all Ohioans are aware of how our choices at the ballot box have consequences for public policy. **Keep an eye out – they’ll be debuting soon!**

2026 Ohio Governor Race



2026 Ohio U.S. Senate Race



2026 U.S. House Race



2026 U.S. House Race



For more information on the 2026 Midterm Election, and all things voting in Ohio, please visit: **ACLUOhio.org/vote**

YOUR VOTE
MATTERS

