

# IMPACT REPORT

YOUR SUPPORT. YOUR IMPACT.

FEBRUARY 2021

ACLU  
Ohio

## SINCE OUR LAST REPORT:

ACTIVE  
LEGAL  
CASES

23

PUBLICATIONS

30

OVER  
17,000

SPEAKING  
ENGAGEMENT  
PARTICIPANTS

4

LEGISLATIVE AND  
POLICY LETTERS  
SUBMITTED



INSIDE:  
END THE DEATH PENALTY  
VICTORY FOR  
TRANSGENDER OHIOANS  
STATEHOUSE-TO-PRISON  
PIPELINE

## FULL SPEED AHEAD

No pandemic can slow us down. Our advocates, organizers, litigators, and volunteers remain full speed ahead, advancing what is fair, just, and right for the people of Ohio. The number of issues we want to tackle at the Ohio Statehouse can be daunting, yes, but we are undeterred. With you, the ACLU of Ohio is fighting for all Ohioans' civil rights and liberties. This Impact Report is just a glimpse into how together – we, the people – are daring to create a more perfect union.

Thank you for your continued support.

J. Bennett Guess  
Executive Director



Learn  
about our  
swift and impactful  
COVID-19 response at  
[acluohio.org/covid19](https://acluohio.org/covid19)

## HUGE VICTORY FOR TRANSGENDER OHIOANS

After years of advocacy and litigation, an Ohio federal judge, in *Ray v. McCloud*, struck down a discriminatory state policy that prevented Ohio-born transgender people from correcting the gender marker on their birth certificates. The ACLU of Ohio, Lambda Legal, National ACLU, and Thompson Hine LLP successfully represented plaintiffs Stacie Ray, Basil Argento, Ashley Breda, and Jane Doe. The victory in Ohio leaves Tennessee as the last state to deny this right to trans people. *"This ruling affirms that the state must recognize the dignity and true identity of every transgender Ohioan,"* said Elizabeth Bonham, ACLU of Ohio staff attorney. *"Our clients faced years of unlawful discrimination, but we now celebrate their perseverance and this long-awaited victory."*

## OHIOANS: IT'S TIME TO END THE DEATH PENALTY

A new poll finds a bipartisan majority of Ohioans want to end the death penalty. The ACLU of Ohio and Ohioans To Stop Executions released a poll in late January showing **59%** of Ohio voters support replacing the death penalty with life in prison without the possibility of parole. **69%** of Democrats and **53%** of Republicans agreed. *"Whether it's racial disparity, fiscal, or innocence concerns, people across the state and across the aisle believe it's time for Ohio to cut ties with the death penalty,"* said Jocelyn Rosnick, ACLU of Ohio policy director.



“

*I'm always about how  
do we collectively  
engage and help  
us all DO and BE  
better."*

Kim Elliott  
Action Team Member  
Cincinnati



“

*I volunteer with the  
ACLU to end wealth-  
based detention  
so that individuals  
will not be unfairly  
punished based  
on the size of  
their bank  
account."*

Rabbi Jonathan Perlman  
Action Team Member  
Cincinnati



## CUT OFF THE STATEHOUSE-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

Two things are certain at the Ohio Statehouse. First, legislators of both parties will express dismay at Ohio's dangerously overcrowded prisons and jails and the billions spent to operate them. Second, legislators will continually support and pass new bills that only contribute to the crisis, negatively impacting Ohio individuals, families, communities, businesses, and taxpayers. The ACLU of Ohio tracks all bills that fuel mass incarceration in our biennial **"Statehouse-to-Prison Pipeline Report,"** with the newest edition released in February. Read the full report at [acluohio.org/pipeline](https://acluohio.org/pipeline).



## THERE'S ZOOM FOR ALL

Join our Webinar Event Series and engage with ACLU staff about pressing matters facing all Ohioans. Register at [acluohio.org/calendar](https://acluohio.org/calendar).

2021 **Webinar  
Event Series**



**The Landscape of Reproductive Rights in Ohio**  
Thursday, March 11, at noon

**Everything You Need to Know about Redistricting**  
Thursday, March 25, at 5 p.m.

**Repealing Ohio's Death Penalty Once and For All**  
Thursday, April 8, at 5 p.m.

**What's Up with the Courts? Litigation Roundup**  
Thursday, May 6, at 5 p.m.

## POWER TO THE PEOPLE

Launched this past year, the ACLU of Ohio's nine regional and campus Action Teams have more than 1,400 active members – and counting. They meet regularly to network, set local agendas, and build ACLU people power statewide. Interested in volunteering? Get connected at [acluohio.org/action](https://acluohio.org/action).



/ACLUOH



@ACLUOHIO



@ACLUOH

ACLUOHIO.ORG

ACLU  
Ohio