

IMPACT REPORT

YOUR SUPPORT. YOUR IMPACT.

JUNE 2021

ACLU
Ohio

SINCE OUR LAST REPORT:

ACTIVE
LEGAL
CASES

21

PUBLICATIONS

20

OVER
1,000

ATTENDEES AT
VIRTUAL EVENTS

OVER
20,000

CONSTITUENT
MESSAGES SENT
TO LAWMAKERS

INSIDE:

- NEW BOARD PRESIDENT
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- HONORING THE MEMORY OF JULIE DAVIS
- PROTECTING RIGHTS OF INCARCERATED OHIOANS
- CONGRATULATIONS, MICAELA!

FULL SPEED AHEAD

Every few months, we make a valiant 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.

MEET THE ACLU OF OHIO'S NEW BOARD PRESIDENT

New resource!

FAQ: Correcting the Gender Marker on an Ohio Birth Certificate

[ACLUOhio.org/Trans](https://www.acluohio.org/trans)

Dr. Ebony Speakes-Hall LISW-S, a longtime justice advocate and national leader in the field of social work, was elected president of the ACLU of Ohio on March 20, becoming the first African-American woman to lead our organization's 26-member board of directors.



I have never worked with such brilliant and compassionate people devoted to the complex work of civil liberties and racial justice."

AT LONG LAST, A BIPARTISAN BAIL REFORM BILL INTRODUCED!

In May, bipartisan lawmakers in both chambers introduced comprehensive, companion bail reform bills – Senate Bill 182 and House Bill 315 – to dramatically improve Ohio's pretrial justice system. Thanks to your support, the ACLU of Ohio has long been a leading advocate for bail reform. We have educated hundreds of thousands, built strong coalitions, produced a fiscal impact analysis, launched a bail podcast, created a pretrial justice website, and facilitated statewide public opinion polling. We're enthusiastic supporters of this legislation. When passed, it will reduce Ohio's pretrial incarcerated population, end wealth-based detention, promote greater public safety, strengthen our communities, and save Ohio BIG money – as much as \$264 million annually.

We will do everything in our power to get these bills over the finish line.

In other Statehouse news, we are working to advance the death penalty abolition bills and promote the Ohio Fairness Act. Stay tuned!

REIMAGINING PUBLIC SAFETY

The ACLU of Ohio is confronting a myriad of systemic policing issues in Cincinnati, Cleveland, and Columbus. Each of these local efforts seeks to advance racial justice for Black and Brown Ohioans.

Cincinnati: In partnership with students on the ground, we unveiled findings about how School Resource Officers administer racially disparate discipline in Cincinnati Public Schools. Black students are five times more likely than their white peers to face exclusionary discipline. We call on the Board of Education to implement restorative justice practices and terminate its contract with Cincinnati Police.

Cleveland: The ACLU of Ohio has proudly endorsed Citizens for Safer Cleveland, a coalition seeking to put forth a ballot measure in November to strengthen police accountability. If successful, this initiative will bring increased authority and funding to the Civilian Police Review Board.

Columbus: We recently joined a coalition of legal and advocacy organizations formally requesting the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the Columbus Police Department's (CPD) history of violence and misconduct targeting Black people. In the last five years the CPD has killed more than 30 people, 70% of whom were Black and five were children.

NEW CENTRAL OHIO ORGANIZING POSITION HONORS MEMORY OF JULIE DAVIS

Longtime National ACLU and ACLU of Ohio board member Julie Davis of Columbus, who died in March 2020, left behind a powerful legacy of service and activism, including a generous bequest to strengthen the ACLU. To honor her memory, the ACLU of Ohio established the Julie Davis Organizing Strategist position to build-up people power in Central Ohio that will advance Julie's lifelong commitments to equity, justice, and fairness. Nate Brown, a seasoned organizer, joined our team earlier this year in this important role.

Nate Brown,
the ACLU of Ohio's new
Julie Davis Organizing Strategist
for Central Ohio



Just because you fight doesn't mean you win, but it does mean you are a warrior."

– Julie Davis
(1960-2020)

If you're interested in furthering Julie's legacy mission at the ACLU of Ohio, contact development director Mary Paxton at mpaxton@acluohio.org.

PROTECTING RIGHTS OF INCARCERATED OHIOANS

In April, we sued the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Corrections for illegally garnishing prisoners' emergency relief checks in order to pay court fees. This policy is a blatant violation of the equal protection clause of the Ohio Constitution.

In May, we sued the Ohio Parole Board for allowing victim-related statements to be submitted in secret when determining an individual's eligibility for parole. People seeking parole have a constitutional right to a fair process.



Congratulations, Micaela!

In a time of intense political polarization and conflict, it's relieving to be able to work with an organization that is steadfast in its values and its work to create a more equitable democracy."



Micaela Beatham-Garcia,
director of Ohio University's
ACLU of Ohio campus chapter and
winner of the prestigious
2021 Newman National Civic Fellowship



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