



Ohio Civil Liberties Snapshot

Tens of thousands lose their right to vote and don't know it!

So, you got a little busy last Election Day and didn't have time to vote. Come to think of it, you may have also missed the election before that one. Not a big deal, right? Well, in Ohio, the Secretary of State has removed thousands of voters from the rolls for this very reason.

In April, Demos, an equality focused public policy organization, and the ACLU of Ohio filed a lawsuit to demand that Ohio stop illegally removing voters from its voter registration rolls in violation of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA).

As Daniel P. Tokaji, a law professor at The Ohio State University's Moritz College of Law and former ACLU of Ohio board member said, "There is no legal basis for purging eligible voters simply because they have not voted."

Yet in 2015, Ohio conducted a massive voter purge for this very reason. Voter registrations have been cancelled for those who have not voted in three successive federal elections or in the intervening local elections. In Cuyahoga County alone, approximately 40,000 people were purged, disproportionately from low-income neighborhoods and communities of color.

"We have spoken to purged voters from around the state who tried to vote in the November 2015 local election and



were turned away," said Freda Levenson, ACLU of Ohio legal director. "The already widespread disenfranchisement that has resulted from this process is likely to be much worse in a presidential election year."

When all eyes turn to Ohio in 2016, the ACLU will fight to ensure that all Ohioans have the right to vote. Whether it's expanding voting days and hours for people who rely on these early opportunities to cast their ballot or reinstating the thousands of voters whose registrations were purged, the ACLU will always defend your fundamental right to cast a ballot. Questions? Visit ACLU of Ohio's Vote Center: www.acluohio.org/vote.

The Constitution Still Applies: RNC Playbook

While the ACLU's recently released RNC Playbook doesn't contain the Xs and Os most people think of when they hear the word "playbook," this comprehensive guide to civil liberties will be your key to both offensive and



defensive strategies during the RNC. The rhetoric is heating up and our Playbook answers your questions about demonstrations, free speech zones, surveillance and monitoring technologies, police encounters, and search and seizure.

The city of Cleveland anticipates 50,000 people coming to northeast Ohio during the week of the convention. When we have a high stakes national security event like this one, you will always find the ACLU at the intersection of security and civil liberties. The RNC Playbook is an essential guide for civil liberties advocates, as well as anyone attending the convention. The best way to defend our rights is to know what they are and to stand strong on those principles.

View the playbook at www.acluohio.org/rnc.

Solitary Confinement: Cruel and Inhumane Treatment

Imagine being locked away in a prison cell the size of your bathroom for 23 hours a day. You eat your meals in this room, lit constantly by artificial light. You have limited access to reading and television. On any given day in Ohio prisons, 2,952 people are in solitary confinement and 743 suffer from mental illness. A federal judge once said that putting people with mental illness in solitary is the mental equivalent of putting an asthmatic in a place with little air to breathe.

HELP US END SOLITARY CONFINEMENT IN OHIO

www.acluohio.org/solitary



In May, collaborating with Disability Rights Ohio, we released the report, “Shining a Light on Solitary Confinement: Why Ohio Needs Reform.” We discuss the harsh

realities of solitary confinement, and the consequences it has for those suffering from mental illness who are locked away to languish—broken by this horrific system. Reducing reliance on solitary confinement and increasing effective mental health treatment and rehabilitative programming is essential to preparing people for their release back into the community. Solitary confinement is damaging to prisoners, ineffective, costly, and makes us less safe.

ACLU Wins: Ends Indiscriminate Shackling of Children in Court

We are stronger together! In Late March, the ACLU of Ohio celebrated a victory for juvenile justice with the adoption of a new Supreme Court of Ohio rule prohibiting the automatic shackling of children appearing in juvenile court. Innocent until proven guilty now applies to Ohio children.

After three years of hard work, our collective effort has paid off. In December 2015, we called on the public and other child advocates and organizations to submit comments to the Supreme Court of Ohio in support of Rule 5.01. **The response was resounding—our members and supporters submitted over 1,200 public comments. Thank you!**

We remain profoundly grateful for your support of our mission and work. People in Ohio count on us to protect their civil liberties because we can count on you. Support our work at www.acluohio.org/donate.

Questions are Answered: A Teen’s Guide to Accessing Healthcare

Did you know that teens spend on average nine hours a day on social media? The ACLU of Ohio partnered with young leaders in our community to reach teens where they go for answers.



In April, the ACLU of Ohio teamed up with an extraordinary group of young people to write, direct, and star in our newest resource, “Your Health and the

Law: A Video Guide for Teens.” Our popular written teen health guide has been a useful resource for more than 10 years, helping teenagers, parents, educators, and medical professionals understand the complex legal issues surrounding teen health. Now, this information is easily accessible—just a click away. Take a look; you will be impressed!

Questions about teens’ access to healthcare?

www.acluohio.org/teen-health-guide/videos

Stop Criminalizing Poverty, Silencing Speech

The ACLU of Ohio will not be deterred in its fight to stop the criminalization of poverty. Attempts by two northeast Ohio cities to silence people who were asking for help have gone down to defeat. It has become convenient for big cities to enact anti-panhandling ordinances in the guise of protecting downtown businesses.

Akron’s attempts to require people to register with the city if they wanted to panhandle was counter to the right of free speech that these individuals have under the Constitution. Even worse, Youngstown had a blanket ban on all panhandling. The ACLU of Ohio’s continued perseverance to fight efforts by cities such as Youngstown and Akron sends a clear message—we will continue to fight for people who are most vulnerable, for people who have no voice or whose voices are not heard.