

2026 Priorities

Threats to civil rights and liberties are persistent and increasing, demanding vigilance and bold action. In order to best protect and advance civil rights and liberties, we have strategically prioritized legal, legislative advocacy, education, and power building plans in the following issue areas.

Safeguarding & Advancing Voting Rights Protections

- Safeguard the right to vote through election protection efforts, resisting federal rollbacks to our rights, and protecting against federal interference in our elections.
- Expand access to the vote through implementation of no-excuse absentee voting.
- Monitor and respond to state rollbacks to early voting, election funding, and options to vote.
- Educate Connecticut voters about their voting rights and options to vote.
- Ensure state elections are fair and free by monitoring and advancing full implementation and enforcement of the Connecticut Voting Rights Act.

Enforcing & Expanding the Rights of Immigrants

- Strengthen Connecticut protections for immigrants, including data protections, enforceability of Trust Act, and municipal advocacy.
- Limit cooperation of state government officials with federal immigration enforcement and encourage municipal non-cooperation.
- Enforce immigrant protections in courts and communities and provide technical legal assistance to partners and advocates as needed.
- Combat racial profiling and law enforcement misconduct tied to federal agencies.
- Collaborate with partners to educate the public on immigration “Know Your Rights” materials.

Expanding Data Privacy & Limiting Government Surveillance

- Advocate for strong privacy protections for Connecticut residents, particularly given the federal government’s weaponization and misuse of personal data.
- Restrict the misuse of personal data by advancing state-level data minimization efforts.
- Challenge government surveillance expansion, especially the use of license plate readers and other technologies that track vulnerable communities and chill free speech rights.
- Implement education campaigns for the public on the importance of data privacy, expose government surveillance efforts, and highlight how people can stay safe.

Limiting Government Overreach & Increasing Transparency & Accountability

- Protect against government overreach, especially when the federal government exerts unconstitutional power over the state of Connecticut.
- Advocate for a state Civil Rights Act and a state cause of action for misconduct by a federal official.
- Advocate for and enforce regulations on the usage of the Connecticut National Guard.
- Ensure oversight of state agencies by strengthening transparency of government agencies and holding actors accountable when not following state laws.

Protecting LGBTQIA+ Rights & Ensuring Access to Reproductive Care

- Monitor and challenge rollbacks to LGBTQIA+ rights and reproductive care.
- Educate partners and communities on federal actions that threaten or suppress LGBTQIA+ rights and reproductive care and what that means for Connecticut residents.
- Collaborate with partners to establish state level protections for LGBTQIA+ rights and reproductive rights as federal threats continue.
- Advocate for healthcare data protections & state shield laws to protect reproductive care and the LGBTQIA+ community.

Upholding & Protecting Free Speech

- Defend individuals' rights to express their opinions and assemble peacefully.
- Challenge censorship attempts in all aspects of government.
- Safeguard academic freedom at universities and K-12 schools.
- Continue to be a resource for partners, advocates, and community members on the free speech rights we all hold and provide "Know Your Rights" materials.

Reducing the Scope & Role of the Criminal Legal System

- Advocate for police transparency and accountability and maintain Project Flashlight which centralizes, summarizes, and publishes police data in Connecticut.
- Work with partners to advocate for bail reform and reimagine pretrial justice.
- Work with partners to improve voting access and rights for incarcerated people.
- Continue to address the collateral consequences and harms of the criminal legal system including housing discrimination, prison and jail conditions, prison debt, and the Connecticut Survivors Justice Act.

105 Years of the ACLU and Counting!

In addition to the planned activities above, the ACLU of Connecticut will continue providing technical assistance to nonprofit organizations and activists statewide as they confront escalating attacks on civil rights and liberties at the highest levels of government. We will also remain prepared for rapid response to civil rights and liberties abuses within Connecticut, which have surged under the current presidential administration. We will continue to stay vigilant as the rise of Authoritarianism persists in this country and appreciate your partnership in this work.

We comprise three nonpartisan, nonprofit organizations: the ACLU of Connecticut, a 501(c)(4) organization which does legislative and organizing advocacy work; the ACLU Foundation of Connecticut, a 501(c)(3) which does litigation and public education work; and the ACLU of Connecticut Rise PAC, a non-partisan 527 organization which builds the necessary relationships, public awareness, public narratives, and pressure felt by politicians in order to build the political power of people directly impacted by civil rights and liberties issues.