ACLU Pennsylvania



2025-2026 ANNUAL REPORT

Hello ACLU-PA supporters,

Democracy describes the relationship between people and their government. Two hundred fifty years ago, a group of people declared their own independence even as they denied basic human rights to others. Throughout our history, we have experienced triumphs and setbacks in our quest to treat all people as equally endowed with the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Much like 1776, today our federal government operates with the same duplicity, denying these rights to some while celebrating these rights as fundamental for others. This is why the perpetual work, inherited by each generation, to dissent and to advocate for a democracy that realizes freedom and justice for all continues.

We continue to face threats to our definition of citizenship, our elections, the promise of due process, our First Amendment rights, and so much more. And what is constantly front of mind is that Pennsylvania sits at the very center of this storm. Our state's "Keystone" nickname has never felt more fitting. As a perennial election battleground, Pennsylvania draws both heightened attention and increasingly sophisticated attacks; with the November midterms on the horizon, this year is no exception. Yet, even amid these challenges, I find solace in knowing that we are not standing idly by or alone. We are prepared to meet whatever the moment demands and have been fighting vigorously to defend our democratic values and sacred constitutional liberties. And we are emboldened to do so each day thanks to supporters like you.

"Democracy is not an inheritance; it is a practice. It calls for practitioners, people willing to show up, speak up, and refuse to look away."



Our individual gift support to the Foundation is up 26% over last year, and nearly 125% from two years ago.

Our membership base reflects an increase of 70% since Trump's second election. Democracy is not an inheritance; it is a practice. It calls for practitioners, people willing to show up, speak up, and refuse to look away. You have shown this! Together, we keep that practice alive.

In this annual report, you'll experience a snapshot of what our staff has accomplished over the past year. You'll read about our ever-important voting rights work; our Fund PA Public Defense Campaign; how we've been responding to growing threats against our immigrant neighbors; and how we're protecting Pennsylvanians' right to free expression. We hope you'll feel (re)inspired by all that we've collectively accomplished and how we are uniquely equipped to meet the moment.

We are forever grateful for your instrumental role in this fight that will always take all of us.

Enjoy today,
Mike Lee
Executive Director



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Did You Know? Legislative Scorecard

The ACLU of Pennsylvania's legislative scorecard is designed to let you know how your state legislators voted on a variety of civil rights and civil liberties-related bills over a two-year legislative session. Scores are out of 100 possible percentage points. Please note: When the legislature is in session, scores will update as new votes are taken.

The ACLU of Pennsylvania is a nonpartisan organization. While we lobby state legislators as part of our 501(c)(4) work, we do not endorse or oppose candidates for elected office, nor do we make financial contributions to candidates.

View scorecard

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Photos captured by Gregory Wright, Erin Ninehouser, and ACLU-PA staff.



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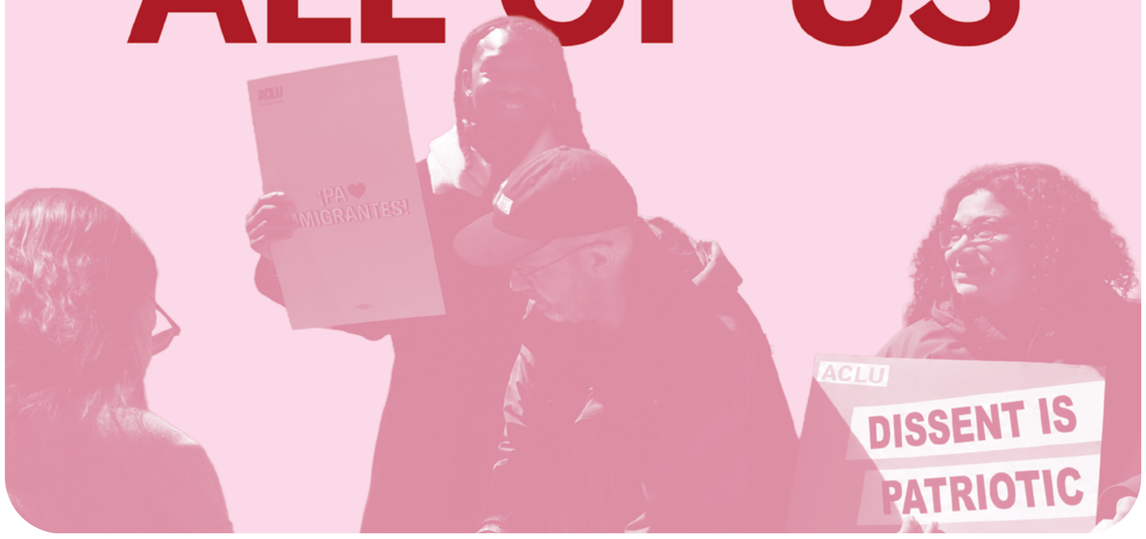
MISSION *and* IDENTITY STATEMENT

The American Civil Liberties Union of Pennsylvania is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, membership organization that serves as an enduring guardian of justice, fairness, and freedom, working to protect civil liberties and advance equity for all.

ACLU-PA defends and promotes the fundamental principles and values protected by the constitutions of the United States and of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania, as well as by national, state and local civil rights laws. For more than 100 years, the ACLU has sought in particular to protect and expand the freedoms of expression, belief and association; voting rights; the separation of church and state; the right to privacy, including reproductive freedom; due process of law, including the rights of the accused and of immigrants; limitations on the power of police; and the right to equal protection for all, including marginalized and historically disadvantaged individuals and groups. In advancing these rights, ACLU-PA strives always to acknowledge and remedy the pervasive and persistent harms of systemic racism.

Integrating litigation, legislative and policy advocacy, organizing, and communications, ACLU-PA's staff and volunteers work both independently and in coalition with those most affected by the issues we address to ensure that threats to liberty and the civil rights of all persons in Pennsylvania are met with stark resistance as we progress toward a more genuine multiracial, multicultural democracy.

IT TAKES ALL OF US



VOLUNTEERS

95
New volunteers onboarded
8 Transparency Project Volunteers

PARTICIPATED IN **36** VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES
(including tabling, canvassing, letter writing campaigns, textbanking/ phonebanking, etc.)

12
Rallies

8
Tabling Events

6
Postcard/ Textbanking Parties

10
County Action Team Meetings

655
Individuals Signed Up for a Training and/or Volunteer Opportunity



LEGAL

17
Cases in State Court
(excluding SCOPA)

3
Cases in SCOPA
(Supreme Court of PA)

25
Cases in Federal Court
(excluding SCOTUS)

2
Cases in SCOTUS
(Supreme Court of the U.S.)

6
Amicus Briefs

1,917
Electronic Intake Requests

79 COOPERATING ATTORNEYS DONATED **3,535 HOURS** OF THEIR TIME

Valued at nearly
$3.2M

LEGISLATIVE

2025-2026 session to date

684
Bills tracked

81
Legislative bill position memos written

3
Capitol lobby days

5
Lobbying trainings hosted

COMMUNICATIONS

1.4M+
Total website views

1.5M
Total social media accounts reached

3.6K
Total mentions in the news

1.6M
Total emails read by supporters

5.4M+
Total paid ads viewed for awareness

10.3K+
Total paid ads clicked to take action



Your Impact

Join us in celebrating the power of our shared impact as we continue working together to protect and advance rights for all. Sustaining this vital work takes tremendous resources—and your time, talents, treasures, and connections make a real difference in securing civil liberties for all Pennsylvanians. Thank you for being part of this mission.

Fundraising 50,614 **Member Donors**

Gifts

194,196

Gifts realized between April 1, 2025, and March 31, 2026
(138k last year).

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS AND BEQUESTS TO ACLU-PA

$5.9M	Union $3.3M	$1M	Attorney Fees $126,500
Foundation support		Grants awarded	

Arnold & Porter · Ballard Spahr LLP · COVINGTON · Dechert LLP · faegre drinker · Hangley Aronchick Segal Pudlin & Schiller · Hogan Lovells · Jules Lobel · KRMFL Civil Rights & Criminal Defense · LGD Langer Grogan & Diver P.C. · ReedSmith · Villanova University · WilmerHale · Winebrake & Santillo

Free Speech

Protecting Speech Preserves Our Democracy

by Steve Loney and Sara Rose

There is a reason free speech is enshrined in our First Amendment. Without this backbone of democracy, it becomes nearly impossible to sustain or defend any other right. Our ability to criticize the government, demand accountability, and advocate for change is not only fundamental but a sacred power bestowed upon us at the birth of our nation. It is how we, the people, contribute to the ongoing work of democracy.

This past fiscal year tested these principles in unthinkable ways. In September 2025, the nation was shaken when Jimmy Kimmel was thrown off the air by the FCC following remarks about the killing of conservative activist and co-founder of Turning Point USA, Charlie Kirk. These events jarred us into a new reality. Suddenly, it became undeniable that under the Trump 2.0 administration, the boundaries of free speech were being redrawn, leaving many to feel that speaking out was a risky act rather than a fundamental right. But our Constitution not only protects us; it compels us to defend our freedoms when they're most at threat. When legal complaints poured in from Pennsylvanians being berated, doxed, and punished for expressing their opinions on Kirk's character, we chose to fight.

One such fight began soon after Kirk's death. A public school employee faced serious discipline for posting a critical comment about Kirk on her personal social media. The school district suspended her for several weeks and insisted that she sign an agreement accepting an unpaid suspension, pay decrease, and shift change as a condition for returning to work. We intervened, sending a demand letter explaining that this retaliation violated her free speech rights. Our aim was to remedy the harm before resorting to litigation, but we made it clear we would file a lawsuit if the district did not reverse course. The district quickly relented, and our client was able to return to her job.

This victory captures the spirit that guided us all year. In the era of rapid democratic backsliding that we are living through, we can never back down from a fight. To yield would be to let the Constitution become a mere piece of paper; every time we push back, we reinforce its promises.

Kirk's death was a time-stopping moment, but it was only a sliver of our fight to defend our First Amendment rights.

Our most notable First Amendment battles over the last year were against the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and its efforts to use "unmasking" subpoenas. These unlawful subpoenas targeted individuals who used anonymity to criticize Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) actions online, and DHS's campaign to silence dissent brought two urgent cases to our desks.

One client simply sent an email to DHS urging the agency to show "human decency" toward an asylum seeker. Another was the administrator of Montco Community Watch, a Facebook and Instagram account that informs the community about ICE's presence and advocates against ICE's destructive actions. DHS demanded their personal data from the tech companies hosting their accounts. It was clear that neither had committed a crime, and their activities were protected by the First Amendment; the federal government's intent was to intimidate and chill their constitutionally protected expression.

For the man who sent the email, the intimidation showed up at his door on a weekday morning. A few weeks after





DHS subpoenaed Google for his personal email account data, two DHS agents and a local uniformed police officer appeared at his home and interrogated him and his wife for 20 minutes about his email to the government employee.

In both cases, DHS withdrew as soon as we challenged them in court, demonstrating once more that fighting back works.

Recognizing a pattern of abuse by DHS, we decided not to end our battle once the agency backed down. Instead, we aimed to protect others from being bullied out of their rights. We demanded that DHS pay our legal fees, asking the courts to send a message that using administrative subpoenas to scare critics is unlawful. We also filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to uncover how many others had been targeted so we can fully expose DHS's behavior to the public. When DHS failed to answer our request for records, we filed another lawsuit to force the release of the information. Our cases garnered such widespread media coverage (including stories in the Washington Post and the New York Times) that Congress held hearings and launched an investigation into DHS's use of administrative subpoenas.

Although many of our fights were to defend people using their voice online, we also defended many who were exercising their First Amendment rights in their communities and in the streets—we even took to the streets as an organization in solidarity with frustrated Americans across the country.

As we represented students at the University of Pittsburgh, we were reminded how vital it is to protect free speech for young people, given that their courage has shaped the pursuit of justice, liberty, and equality throughout countless movements for civil rights and civil liberties. When the university tried to suspend and discipline the campus club Students for Justice in Palestine in retaliation for holding a peaceful library study-in, we sued and won. Our victory affirmed that students at public universities have the right to express themselves and advocate for their causes; their First Amendment protections do not stop at the campus gate.

From legal battles to mobilizing Pennsylvanians and creating urgency for action, we used democratic principles to defend our democracy. At the three No Kings marches we co-sponsored with other advocacy organizations, our team addressed the challenges ahead and rallied attendees to stay engaged and resist.

As our advocacy & policy strategist, Ghadah Makoshi, reminded us all:



"The Trump administration is hammering away, seeing how much of our democracy we'll let them damage before it crumbles. There is no magic solution at this moment. There is no hero coming to save us. There is just us, every single one of us, understanding that upholding democracy is a collective action, and we are ready to meet this moment with urgency. Right now, they want us to fall in line. To be intimidated. To believe there is nothing we can do. But if your voice didn't matter, they wouldn't work so hard to silence it."

Immigrants' Rights

ADVOCATING FOR A SAFE AND WELCOMING PENNSYLVANIA THAT KEEPS ICE OUT

by Alex Domingos

Instilling fear among immigrants and people of color across the country has been central to the Trump administration's agenda. As Trump wages his inhumane mass deportation campaign and expands the indefinite presence of federal ICE agents in our neighborhoods, the ACLU of Pennsylvania has remained steadfast; we continue to defend the rights of immigrants who strengthen our communities on every front.

While legal battles often dominated headlines, our work this year extended far beyond the courtroom. By partnering with advocacy groups, local leaders, and service providers, we drove change in communities across Pennsylvania. Our team concentrated on shaping policy in counties, schools and courts, empowering community members to work with their local officials so that municipal governments do not unnecessarily cooperate with ICE in ways that disrupt lives, target Black and brown communities, or undermine due process. This collective action helped shift policies to protect our immigrant neighbors statewide.

In Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, we have actively consulted with elected officials and community leaders, helping craft legislative packages that limit ICE's presence. Our advocacy and policy team has assisted in mobilizing residents to participate in rallies and city council hearings, demonstrating a powerful, unified force aimed at challenging ICE's destructive and unchecked occupation of our communities. ACLU-PA Senior Staff Attorney Vanessa Stine provided testimony at City Hall, citing the Tenth Amendment's protection of local discretion in immigration enforcement and the Fourth Amendment as the constitutional foundation and legal runway to endorse city-based legislative protections. As Vanessa explained in her testimony, "While immigration enforcement is a federal matter, under the Tenth Amendment, state and local governments can opt out of participation in important and meaningful ways. This is what the ICE Out legislation is grounded in: Philadelphia's choice to minimize its entanglement with abusive and discriminatory federal immigration enforcement programs."



Vanessa Stine at ICE Out of Courts Hearing



IR Rally
Diana Robinson
Make the Road

If implemented, the "ICE Out" legislation, which was a product of the Pennsylvania Immigration Coalition (PIC) and advocates coming together with Councilmembers Kendra Brooks and Rue Landau, would do the following:

- Prohibit ICE and other law enforcement agents from hiding their identity with face coverings and unmarked vehicles; require visible badges; and establish new penalties for impersonating an officer.
- Codify executive orders barring city collaboration with federal immigration enforcement, including banning 287(g) agreements and generally prohibiting city agencies from working with ICE.
- Prevent city agencies from collecting citizenship or immigration status data and prohibit sharing personal data with ICE, protecting residents' confidential information.
- Prohibit discrimination or denial of services based on immigration or citizenship status.
- Bar ICE from using city-owned properties as staging locations for raids and prohibit granting ICE access to city facilities without a judicial warrant.

Beyond our work in Pennsylvania's largest metro areas, we worked alongside our allies to champion statewide efforts that ensure immigrant residents in the Keystone State are valued and protected. In collaboration with PIC partners, our advocacy and policy teams urged state lawmakers to pass a Welcoming Schools policy to guarantee every student equal access to educational resources. ACLU-PA attorneys also issued guidance to schools on fostering inclusive communities and protecting students if ICE agents appeared. The Pennsylvania and U.S. constitutions guarantee education for all children, regardless of immigration status, and this initiative aimed to uphold that right across the commonwealth.

We also took on the challenge of pressuring Gov. Josh Shapiro to end state collaboration with ICE, and we're continuing in this work. Community demands include restricting ICE's access to state databases without a judicial warrant and closing the Abraxas Child Detention Center due to ongoing human rights violations. Although we've been able to celebrate some victories during this past year, we know these battles remain just as relentless as our will. The ACLU-PA, our committed volunteers and supporters, and our network of strong advocates will continue to urge the Shapiro administration to act with political courage, because our immigrant neighbors who enrich the fabric of our state deserve nothing less. These fights will take time, but we have the restless patience and the resolve born from understanding what is at stake if we ever quit.



Pennsylvanians advocate for Welcoming Schools in Harrisburg

Voting Rights

How Our Voting Docket Delivered Victories for Pennsylvania Voters

by Rebecca Cusumano-Seidel and Witold J. Walczak



When Pennsylvanians choose to vote by mail, they are participating in democracy just like those who vote at their polling place on Election Day, and they expect their vote to count. Although mail voting has been a part of our elections since the Civil War, "No excuse" mail voting in Pennsylvania is just seven years old. As with any program expansion, adapting to new demands has required time and trial and error. But with the help of some big court decisions, we've been able to close identified gaps so every eligible Pennsylvania voter can exercise their right confidently.

One challenge in implementing mail voting in the commonwealth has been how county election officials manage mail ballots that have an error on the ballot's outer envelope. Common errors include failing to sign and/or date the envelope, writing the incorrect date (some voters have mistakenly added their birthdate instead of the date signed), or forgetting to place their ballot in the secrecy envelope.

Since 2020, we've brought a series of lawsuits intended to increase the number of mail ballots counted in Pennsylvania. Our position has been simple: eligible voters should not be disenfranchised for meaningless mistakes.

Victories weren't achieved overnight, but in 2025, some of our years-long battles finally yielded decisions that affirmed the rights of Pennsylvania voters. Here is where our fights took us:

1. Pennsylvania State Conference of the NAACP et al. v. Schmidt et al. is a case that began back in 2022. This lawsuit was filed against the Secretary of State and all 67 counties, where we argued that discarding ballots because the voter forgets to write the date, or writes an "incorrect" date, is a violation of the U.S. Constitution and the Civil Rights Act. We established that none of the 67 county boards of elections use the handwritten date for any purpose, which is why we've continued to argue it's unconstitutional to throw out timely-received votes over these inconsequential errors. We're still awaiting a decision by a federal district court, but the good news we received in August 2025 is that a companion case — ***Eakin v. Adams County Board of Elections*** (built off of our arguments and record in *NAACP et al. v. Schmidt*) — received a favorable decision from the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. The court ruled in Eakin that it is unconstitutional to disqualify a ballot that arrives on time at the election office just because the voter forgot the date or miswrote it. As a result, otherwise valid, timely-received mail ballots with this type of error must be counted in PA. While political party intervenors have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to review Eakin, right now, Pennsylvania voters do not have to worry that their mail ballots will be disqualified for merely forgetting to include a meaningless handwritten date.

a. ***Baxter and Kinniry v. Philadelphia Board of Elections*** is another voting rights lawsuit that deals with the same missing date issue. However, Baxter was brought in state court and uses Pennsylvania's Free and Equal Elections Clause as the basis of the argument. A state-level victory in this case would provide stronger protections for Pennsylvania voters than the federal Constitution and would protect voters even if the U.S. Supreme Court grants review in Eakin and overturns the federal constitutional victory. The Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court ruled in the voters' favor, and in September, our senior supervising attorney, Stephen Loney, stood in front of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court (SCOPA) arguing our position for nearly two hours! It was a masterclass performance, and we optimistically await this decision.

2. ***Center for Coalfield Justice et al. v. Washington County Board of Elections*** is a case that stemmed from an April 2024 primary election in which Washington County hid from 259 voters that their timely-received mail ballots were disqualified due to errors on their mail ballot packets. This case is important because it's not just about the right to vote, but also about our fundamental right not to be deprived of important rights, like voting, without due process — and the courts agreed with us. In September 2025, SCOPA ruled that mail-in ballot voters who make a disqualifying error on their mail-in ballot envelope are entitled to receive accurate and timely notice so they have the opportunity to preserve their vote by casting a provisional ballot on Election Day. This means that, at a minimum, counties must update the Pennsylvania Statewide Uniform Registry of Elections (SURE) system with the proper codes that allow voters to track the status of their ballot. As the Pennsylvania Supreme Court noted in its decision, "such minimal process was undoubtedly due."

Following the Center for Coalfield Justice victory, our advocacy and policy team helped to drive a campaign to spread awareness about the court's ruling to all 67 counties. Our goal was not only to alert counties to their basic responsibilities, but also to educate them about notice and cure best practices that help ensure every eligible voter's ballot counts.

ELIGIBLE VOTERS SHOULD NOT BE DISENFRANCHISED FOR MEANINGLESS MISTAKES



ACLU-PA attorneys with Baxter co-counsel following SCOPA arguments

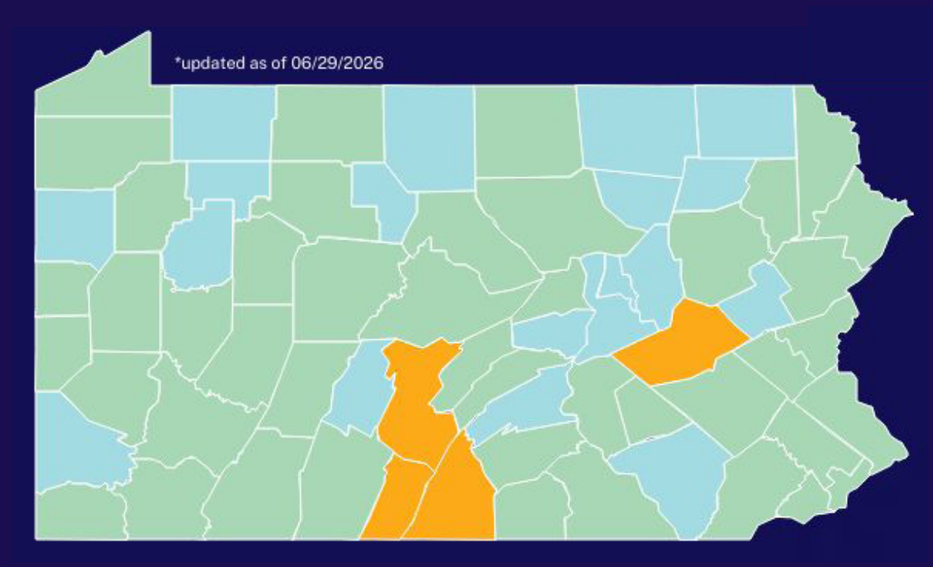
"Notice and cure" means that election offices notify voters about disqualifying mistakes on their mail-in ballots (notice) and give them the opportunity to fix those errors before Election Day (cure). In counties where only notice is provided and curing is not allowed prior to Election Day, voters can still preserve their vote by casting a provisional ballot on Election Day, thanks to our 2024 Pennsylvania Supreme Court victory in *Genser v. Butler County Board of Elections*, which the U.S. Supreme Court refused to disturb.

As part of the campaign, we teamed up with Common Cause Pennsylvania to release a report about the state of mail voting in the commonwealth. *A Noticeable Difference: How Notice and Cure Can Help Pennsylvania Count Every Vote* examines how counties' different notice and cure policies impact their voters. Through our research and tracking, we identified and examined policies of every county and determined which notice and cure policies are the most effective at protecting the franchise.

The good news is that the vast majority of Pennsylvania counties are doing the right thing, and our continued advocacy is working to pull along the straggling counties whose policies are either not in compliance with the law or could be improved for their voters. After the release of our report (and sending a friendly letter to county election officials explaining their obligation to give notice), several counties, such as Lebanon, Westmoreland, and York, adjusted their policies before the primaries to better support voters. The current notice and cure policies of all counties can be found using our digital map tool.

Moving forward, our efforts to push all counties to adopt effective, pro-voter policies will not stop. As our report demonstrates, the automatic return or automatic cancellation/reissuance of mail ballots most effectively achieves the ultimate goal of counting all eligible voters' ballots. The ACLU-PA will continue to work to protect voting rights so that Pennsylvania is a reflective democracy.

Notice and Cure Initiatives by County



Criminal Legal Reform

FUNDING FOR PA PUBLIC DEFENSE IS DUE— AND IT REQUIRES OUR FIGHT ON ALL FRONTS

by Veronica Miller and Ari Shapell

Imagine being accused of a crime and facing the full weight of the criminal legal system, with your freedom, your family, and your future on the line. Now imagine being forced to navigate that system alone, simply because you can't afford a lawyer. In Pennsylvania, this is a reality for far too many.

For over sixty years, the right to have an effective criminal defense attorney represent you in your criminal case has been guaranteed by our Constitution, thanks to the Supreme Court's landmark decision in *Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)*. Yet here in Pennsylvania, the promise of representation remains heartbreakingly unfulfilled. Our state has failed to provide the funding necessary to guarantee effective legal representation for everyone who needs it. Instead, the burden is placed on individual counties, creating a patchwork of justice where accessing your constitutional rights is based on your zip code's resources.

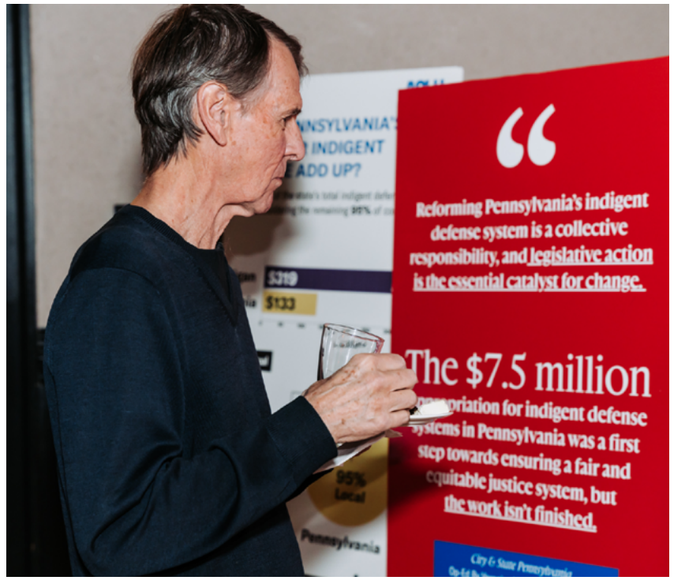
We fund fire departments, emergency medical services, and other essential public services because some needs are simply too important to leave to chance. Criminal legal defense is no different. Yet Pennsylvania has not treated its indigent defense system with the same urgency and assurance, leaving too many people at risk of being abandoned during their greatest moment of need.

The cost of this neglect is seen in the fractures across our communities. People languish in jail for minor offenses. Families are torn apart. Countless Pennsylvanians are pressured into guilty pleas after spending mere moments with a public defender who is sometimes responsible for over 300 clients at once. In these conditions, indigent defense attorneys can barely remember faces, let alone provide the meaningful support that a fight for life and liberty demands. This is not justice; it is a crisis that all three branches of Pennsylvania's government have regretfully recognized over the last three decades.

Despite acknowledgment of our commonwealth's failure by our government leaders, meaningful action has lagged. The cost to close this glaring gap is modest compared to the consequences—just $50 per capita each year could bring us closer to constitutional adequacy. We believe the lives of people in our state are worth far more than the average cost of a tank of gas.

Pennsylvania has only recently begun to invest in public defense, but with inflation, that investment of $7.5 million (1.25% of what's actually needed) barely moves the needle. Unless our leaders act with urgency, lives will continue to be destroyed, victims left unheard, and tax dollars wasted on a system that cannot fulfill its constitutional promise.









“THIS IS MORE THAN A CAMPAIGN. IT’S A MOVEMENT FOR FAIRNESS, JUSTICE, DUE PROCESS, AND DEEPENED TRUST IN OUR LEGAL SYSTEM.”

FUND PA Public Defense

Sign-Up for Campaign Updates

This multi-year campaign aims to tackle one of the biggest failures of the commonwealth—the lack of funding for constitutionally-guaranteed attorneys for Pennsylvanians who can't afford one.

Stay connected and join us in our Fund PA Public Defense campaign.

Sign Up!

That’s why the ACLU of Pennsylvania launched the campaign to Fund PA Public Defense. This ambitious, integrated advocacy strategy pairs our litigation (*Warren v. Commonwealth*) with a powerful push for our legislature to address the problem through budget appropriations. Our goal is simple, yet monumental: to ensure every Pennsylvanian, regardless of wealth or where they live, can rely on a criminal defense attorney when they need one most.

We are calling on the General Assembly to incrementally invest $30 million each year for the next five years, to reach $150 million, which is only a quarter of the $600 million benchmark for constitutionally adequate funding. And we challenge Governor Shapiro to build on the historic progress he began in 2024 when he added what he called a public defense “down payment” to the budget for the first time ever.

This is more than a campaign. It’s a movement for fairness, justice, due process, and deepened trust in our legal system. Without attorneys standing by people in courtrooms when their life and liberty are in critical need, justice will continue to be elusive for us all.

Defense is due, and Pennsylvanians can no longer afford to wait.

Hello supporters of ACLU of PA,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I want to start with a simple but heartfelt thank you. As donors, volunteers, and friends, your work sustains everything we do. None of our impact this year would have been possible without you.

I am honored to have been elected President of the Board, a role I stepped into in December 2025. I feel fortunate to be following such a strong and effective president in Peter Goldberger and to be working alongside our dynamic executive director, Mike Lee. I also happen to be stepping into this role at an advantageous moment: we are just beginning work on a new strategic plan that will guide us for the next three to five years. Coming in at this moment means I get to hear directly from our staff, board, and from you to help build on a legacy of fighting for civil liberties as we chart our path forward.

And this is a moment that demands clarity. By design, this administration wants us to lose faith — in our courts, in our elections, in the power of protest, and in each other. But fighting authoritarianism starts with one rule: we don't fight alone. Thanks to you, we have seen this firsthand. Through events such as three No Kings rallies and vast voting rights election protection work, our donors and members have shown up not just with their dollars, but with their time, and we could not do this work without both.

I am proud of how we have responded to the chaos and the threats to our democracy. From challenging Department of Homeland Security subpoenas at the federal level to highlighting potential right to counsel violations at the county level, we have proven that, with your support, we have the strategies, the tools, and – most importantly – the people to fight back.

As we continue this vital work, including preparing for the coming midterms, we welcome you to visit us online to see all the ways you can get involved. I look forward to meeting many of you in the days ahead, and thank you again for your continued support.



Riley H. Ross III
President



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Ali Szemanski
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Witold "Vic" Walczak
Dr. Tyree Williams
Solomon Furious Worlds

Vision *Statement*

We are working for a future where Pennsylvanians can thrive, secure in the knowledge that their civil liberties and rights are protected—regardless of who they are, what they believe, or the community they come from—and where freedom, equality rooted in equity, and justice are guaranteed for all.



Volunteer Engagement

FRUSTRATED BY THE CHALLENGES TO OUR DEMOCRACY?

So Are We!



ACLU-PA is looking for volunteer activists from across the commonwealth to assist with advancing the mission of the organization. Whether you want to get out in the community, be a part of advocacy efforts, lobby an elected official, or support our work internally, **there is a little something for everyone!**

Community Outreach and Engagement

Whether you are tabling, phone banking, or canvassing, you'll increase ACLU-PA's organizational reach and impact.

Take Action

Be trained and equipped to carry out successful on-the-ground advocacy efforts to advance local and statewide initiatives.

Attend Local Public Meetings/Lobby an Elected Official

Be the eyes and ears of the ACLU-PA. Report on any potential civil liberties issues that emerge; engage with your elected officials through in-district lobbying visits.

Support Our Work Internally

Assist staff with the day-to-day operations of the ACLU-PA—from photographing events to conducting research, collecting data, and helping with general office duties.

You can make a real difference in creating transformational change in Pennsylvania.

For full details: **www.aclupa.org/volunteer/**

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Philanthropy *is* Activism

Give a gift of cash or securities. Make a tax-deductible donation to the ACLU Foundation of Pennsylvania and help fund our litigation, public education, and community engagement work.

- Visit www.aclupa.org/donate
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- Mail your contribution to ACLU of Pennsylvania, P.O. Box 60173, Philadelphia, PA 19102

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