



I WILL
VOTE IN TEN
YEARS

20

YEAR IN REVIEW

18

ACLU
Oklahoma

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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Looking back on my sixth year as Executive Director of the ACLU of Oklahoma, it is clear that our affiliate not only stood its ground on civil liberties, we successfully worked to expand the rights of Oklahomans. We've committed ourselves to protecting freedom in a political environment that is often among the most hostile in the nation for civil liberties. We have been forged in the fire and are stronger for it.

Thanks to the legislative and electoral accomplishments of our ongoing Campaign for Smart Justice Oklahoma is moving toward a more fair and just criminal justice system. Oklahomans are better protected from needlessly harsh prosecution over minor crimes like simple possession and property crimes thanks to the ACLU's leadership in the campaign to pass State Question 780. Fewer Oklahomans will have to choose between bail or a court appointed lawyer, meaning the accused will be able to return to their families and their work while awaiting trial without having to surrender their Constitutional right to a lawyer. Organizers have worked across the state to ensure reform is at the center of our electoral conversations. This is all just the beginning of our multi-year campaign.

In this report, you will read about so much that is new within the ACLU of OK—our organizational growth and recent ambitious initiatives—but you will also see the steadfast, ongoing resolve to safeguard democratic values which make the ACLU a force to be reckoned with in the courthouse, the capitol and all parts between.

It is with your volunteerism and your financial support that we are able to continue this work. That is precisely why I'm deeply grateful to every one of our members and donors. For every hour volunteered, and every dollar donated we are stronger. The ACLU of Oklahoma you know today is a testament to you and I look forward to moving onward with all of you.

Ryan Kiesel

MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT

When I was elected to the position of Board President at the ACLU of Oklahoma in 2016, I could not have imagined the constitutional crises soon to come. Following the election of Donald J. Trump, we have faced many challenges to our civil rights and civil liberties. While we have endured highs and lows in this ongoing fight, knowing the team we have assembled and the vast support we have, I remain optimistic.

The ACLU of Oklahoma challenges injustices from small-town government agencies, to our State Legislature and Governor, all the way up to the highest levels of the Trump administration. That's the power of the ACLU on display -- and when we stick to our core constitutional values, we are able to bring accountability to every single level of government. We not only defend our freedoms, but we work to expand them as well. 2018 has been an unprecedented year of growth for the ACLU of Oklahoma. In a year's time, we saw our staff double, we saw our volunteer involvement swell across the state, and we saw a wave of bipartisan support for our criminal justice work. Most notably, we saw an overwhelming response to our calls to action from everyday Oklahomans passionately fighting to protect our civil liberties.

It is the people of Oklahoma who make the ACLU strong, and I am proud of all we have accomplished together this year. Thank you for your generosity, and thank you for your steadfast defense of democracy.

Mike Redman



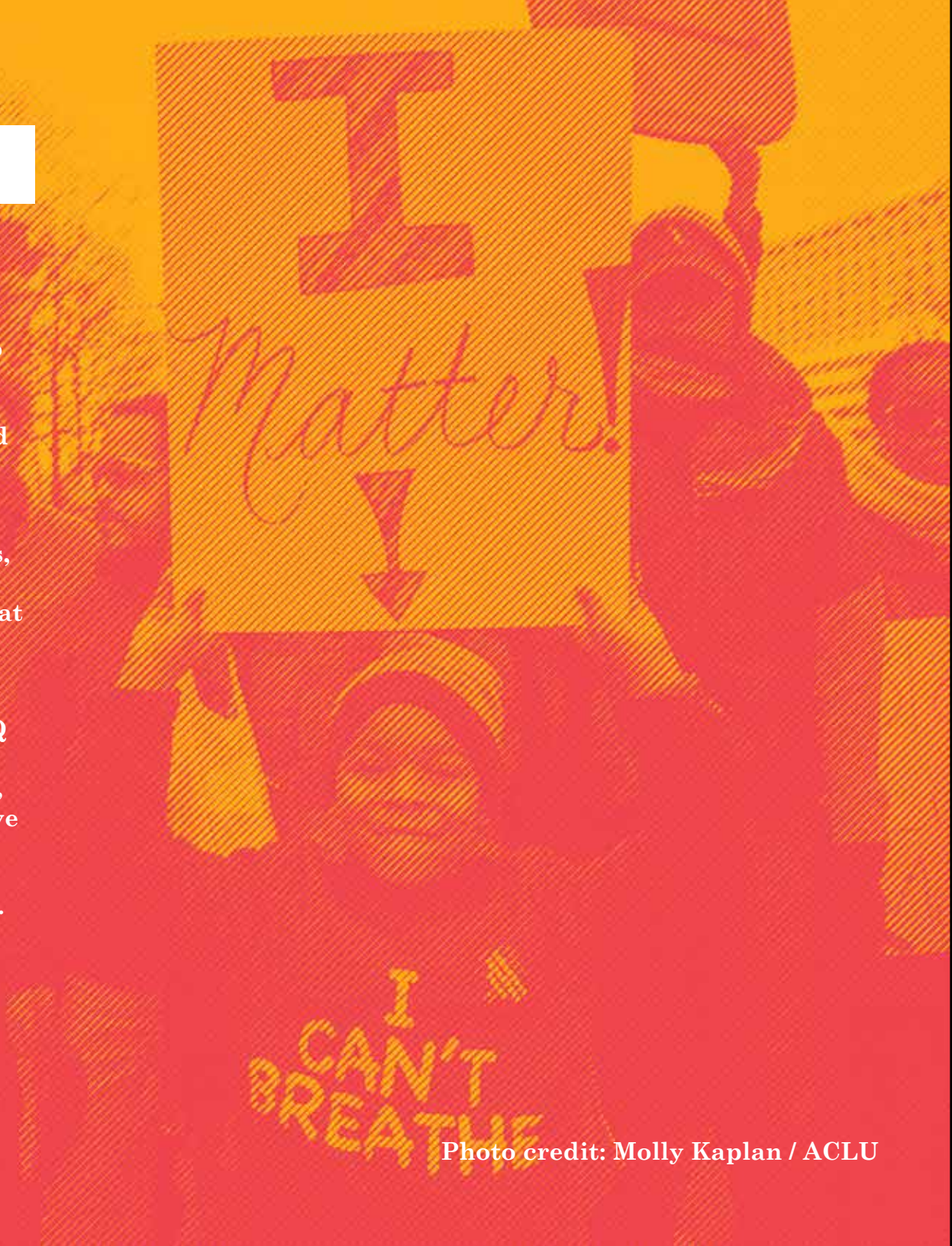
Photo credit: Keith Lane /ACLU

MISSION AND VISION STATEMENT

The ACLU of Oklahoma is an affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, a national not-for-profit, non-partisan, voluntary organization founded in 1920. Its purpose is to protect those rights guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. The Oklahoma affiliate was established in 1964 and opened its first headquarters in 1973.

For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has been our nation's guardian of liberty, working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and the laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.

Whether it's achieving full equality for LGBTQ people, establishing new privacy protections for our digital age, ending mass incarceration, preserving the right to vote or the right to have an abortion, the ACLU takes up the toughest civil liberties cases and issues to defend all people from government abuse and overreach.



AFFILIATE STAFF

- Ryan Kiesel, Executive Director
- Allie Shinn, Deputy Director
- Jill Webb, Legal Director
- Bryan Newell, Operations Director
- Nicole McAfee, Smart Justice Campaign Manager
- Megan Lambert, Staff Attorney
- Randy Bowman, Of Council
- Danielle Williams, Major Gifts Officer
- Cassidy Fallik, Smart Justice Campaign Communications Coordinator
- Mauree Turner, Smart Justice Campaign Regional Field Director
- Nick Singer, Smart Justice Campaign Regional Field Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mike Redman, President
- Sarah Adams-Cornell, Vice President
- James Nimmo, Secretary
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- David Glover
- Amber Hurst
- Melissa Lujan
- Ed Romo
- Jihan Abdul-Haqq
- Tina Pena
- Seth Bryant
- Marjan Seirafi-Pour
- Tedd Adams
- Doug McBee
- Veronica Laizure
- Sage Mauldin
- Alison Black
- Michelle Bui
- Lorrie Bamford
- Joshua Greenhaw

2018 ANGIE DEBO CIVIL LIBERTARIAN OF THE YEARS AWARD

This year, the ACLU of Oklahoma honored Oklahoma Dreamers as the Angie Debo Civil Libertarians of the Year. This award, accepted jointly by Dream Act Oklahoma and Dream Action Oklahoma, was given in recognition and celebration of the courage and tenacity displayed by these groups and individuals in the pursuit of immigration reform.



Photo credit: Cassidy Fallik

— OUR WORK IN ACTION



Photo credit: Jake Phelps

The ACLU of Oklahoma's Campaign for Smart Justice (CSJ) is a multi-year effort to reduce the U.S. jail and prison population by 50% and to combat racial disparities in the justice system. In 2018 Oklahoma moved into first place for highest incarceration in the nation, a shameful distinction that was decades in the making. The ACLU's initiative aims to change the unsuccessful "tough on crime" narrative and based on the overwhelming public cry for change, the people are on our side.

Oklahoma is determined to have some of the greatest potential for growth in reducing incarceration rates, and the CSJ continues to work with a coalition of bipartisan allies to transform Oklahoma's approach to crime, corrections and rehabilitation.

If you'd like to learn more about the Campaign for Smart Justice mission and our work in D.A. races, please visit <https://yourdaok.org/>

CAMPAIGN FOR SMART JUSTICE



BY THE

NUMBERS

1,000

VOTERS CONTACTED
BY PHONE

100+

VOTERS ATTENDED
SMART JUSTICE EVENTS

2,500

DOORS KNOCKED

13,631

PIECES OF MAIL DELIVERED



The ACLU of Oklahoma undertakes litigation when we believe it to be the best way to advance civil liberties. Our legal team focuses on cases that could have a wide-spread impact on people's civil liberties by setting a legal precedent or influencing the policies and actions of public officials. The ACLU of Oklahoma can provide direct legal representation to people or file amicus briefs addressing civil liberties issues in existing cases. In ACLU cases, the attorneys represent clients free of charge.

We are committed to the fight for freedom and the protection of constitutional rights for generations to come, and legal precedent through the courts is among the most efficient means of enshrining our rights. The ACLU accepts cases regarding principles of individual freedom, protection against arbitrary government action, freedom of religion, freedom of speech and press, due process of law, equal protection, and privacy.

LEGAL

DEPARTMENT

BY THE

NUMBERS

300+

RIGHTS VIOLATIONS REPORTED

9

CASES FILED
IN 2018

7

ONGOING CASES

18

COOPERATING ATTORNEYS



ONGOING

LITIGATION

- ***Center for Media & Democracy v. Hunter [Pruitt]***: Following Attorney General Scott Pruitt's attempts to hide public records concerning his interactions with certain parts of the energy industry, we represented and continue to represent Center for Media and Democracy in an open records lawsuit. It has also resulted in the production of about 20,000 pages of previously withheld records and has uncovered significant misconduct by Pruitt and his office that has national ramifications.
- ***Casilao v Schumacher***: ACLU-OK, in partnership with Legal Aid at Work and the Equal Justice Center, has filed suit on behalf of workers recruited from the Philippines to work in Clinton, Oklahoma under the H-2B guest worker program. Plaintiffs allege they were paid so little they could not cover their expenses in Oklahoma, or repay the funds they borrowed to pay the recruiters, or send money home, as they had planned. Among the defendants are the operators of a Holiday Inn Express, a Montana Mike's Steakhouse, and the Water Zoo.
- ***McCraw, et al. v. City of Oklahoma City***: The City of Oklahoma City passed an ordinance aimed at curbing panhandling on city medians, but which is very overbroad, infringing on a wide variety of free speech. We filed a federal court challenge on behalf of seven plaintiffs who include individuals, a political party, and media outlet. Not only is the ordinance a superficial reaction to the systemic problem of poverty, but it is also an affront to the free speech rights of all those living in Oklahoma City.
- ***Tondalao Hall***: Tondalao is a domestic violence survivor and mother of three who was sentenced to 30 years in prison for failing to stop the crimes her abuser committed against their children. The abuser, Robert Braxton accepted a guilty plea deal and never served a day in prison after his sentencing. Tondalao has served her time in prison since 2006. The ACLU of Oklahoma's legal team has represented Hall in a multifaceted campaign aimed at securing her release. Our campaign challenges Tondalao's disproportionate sentence and advocates against scapegoating victims for their batterers' crimes.
- ***Christian Alcoholics and Addicts in Recovery et al v. Copeland et al***: The ACLU of Oklahoma filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of individuals forced into unpaid labor, dangerous working conditions, cruel treatment, and unsanitary living conditions while participating in the Drug Alcohol Recovery Program. Plaintiffs were led to believe their time in the program would be focused on addiction recovery. Instead, these plaintiffs were forced into a human trafficking scheme and remained under threat of prison sentences if they did not complete the program by providing hundreds or thousands of hours of unpaid labor.
- ***Elquitt v. Regalado et al***: The Oklahoma chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR-OK) and the ACLU of Oklahoma filed a federal lawsuit on behalf of a Tulsa Muslim woman refused entry to the Tulsa County Courthouse because of her hijab. The lawsuit alleges that the Tulsa County Sheriff's Office violated Suha Elquitt's rights under the First Amendment and under Oklahoma's Religious Freedom Restoration Act.
- ***Fleming v. Hyde***: As in *Ramey v. Sutton*, we won an Oklahoma Supreme Court recognition of Fleming's rights as a non-biological mother, and further expanded the scope of rights available to non-traditional families. We are still litigating a second appeal that is similar to this case in *Eldredge v. Taylor (II)* in which we won an appeal representing Julie Eldredge. Julie was the first woman in Oklahoma to have any form of same-sex parental rights recognized, after her former partner attempted to terminate her parental rights and force an adoption.



Photo credit: Cassidy Fallik

The ACLU of Oklahoma works to advance civil liberties at the Oklahoma Capitol throughout each legislative session. Our staff tracked 248 bills in 2018. Along with our volunteers and allied organizations, we lobbied to defeat legislation that threatened to undermine our freedoms, while working to progress legislation that would protect or expand our civil rights. While we know we can always rightly anticipate a long list of proposed legislation intended to stunt LGBTQ rights, reproductive freedom, privacy rights and more, the full fire power of the ACLU of Oklahoma is a force to be reckoned with.

ACLU coordinates with bipartisan allies in state and local government, and non partisan organizations, and deploys volunteers as needed, to influence the lawmaking process. Any given action alert will be heard by our nearly 10,000 frequent respondents and the ACLU can count on our network of civil-rights-focused organizations. It is, of course, thanks to our 5,085 dedicated members that our political advocacy can win, and we are grateful every day to share our passion with civil liberties with each of them. Much of the political advocacy work within the ACLU falls under our 501(c)4.

POLITICAL

ADVOCACY

BY THE

NUMBERS

5,085

**ACLU OF OKLAHOMA
ACTIVE MEMBERS**

21,154

EMAIL LIST SUBSCRIBERS

248

BILLS TRACKED

9,608

ACTION ALERT RESPONSES IN OK

12

**DAYS OF PROTESTS PROTECTED BY
LEGAL OBSERVERS**

Outreach is an important part of our three-pronged approach to advancing civil rights. At the ACLU of Oklahoma, we believe an active and informed citizenry is the best defense of our civil liberties.

The Legislature and the Courts are powerful tools, but it is only with the support of the public that we reach our greatest achievements.

We offer as part of our Education and Outreach Program, among other things, town hall meetings, trainings, speakers, and panels. We also offer several “Know Your Rights” publications, which are designed to educate the public on a wide range of civil liberties issues. We strive to continually expand all our publications, and update the existing ones as necessary. The ACLU of Oklahoma makes our resources available to the public in the form of printed and web material, by having a presence at public and private events to table, distribute material and by providing speakers.

COMMUNITY

OUTREACH

2019 Legislative Issues to Watch

- **Religious refusals:** In recent years states across the U.S. have seen a spike in proposals for “religious refusal” legislation, with Oklahoma among the most fervent proponents. To be absolutely clear, everyone in this country has a right to their sincerely held religious beliefs. There is no right, however, to impede civil rights. Religious refusal efforts are expected to continue, so remain watchful as we move into the 2019 session and beyond.
- **10 Commandments:** Oklahoma has tried, unsuccessfully, to install a Ten Commandments monument on capitol grounds multiple times. Each effort has resulted in an ACLU court victory. It is inconsistent with both the Oklahoman and United States constitutions to favor a particular faith over another using government resources, but we do expect this issue to persist. Expect more news on Oklahoma’s Ten Commandments monument to come.
- **Reproductive Rights:** The legislative issue we know to anticipate each year is the degradation of abortion rights. Those rights closely associated with creating one’s own family when and how one wishes are constantly under attack, but this year was unique. For the first time in a decade the Oklahoma legislature did not successfully pass any direct abortion restrictions. While we know attacks on these rights will persist, the issue is truly at a turning point. We encourage you to watch this issue in the next legislative session.
- **Trans Rights:** The ACLU champions transgender people’s right to be themselves. We’re fighting discrimination in employment, housing, and public places, including restrooms. We’re working to make sure trans people get the health care they need and we’re challenging obstacles to changing the gender marker on identification documents and obtaining legal name changes. We’re fighting to protect the rights and safety of transgender people in prison, jail, and detention facilities as well as the right of trans and gender nonconforming students to be treated with respect at school. Finally, we’re working to secure the rights of transgender parents.
- **Immigrants Rights:** When the government has the power to deny legal rights and due process to one vulnerable group, everyone’s rights are at risk. The ACLU is dedicated to expanding and enforcing the civil liberties and civil rights of immigrants and to combating public and private discrimination against them. The ACLU has been at the forefront of almost every major legal struggle on behalf of immigrants’ rights, focusing on challenging laws that deny immigrants access to the courts, impose indefinite and mandatory detention, and discriminate on the basis of nationality.

— FINANCIALS



Photo credit: Jessica Podraza

The ACLU of Oklahoma is comprised of two organizational entities: the ACLU of Oklahoma and the ACLU of Oklahoma Foundation. Together, these two entities allow the ACLU to advance civil rights through a three pronged approach using litigation, public education, and lobbying.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

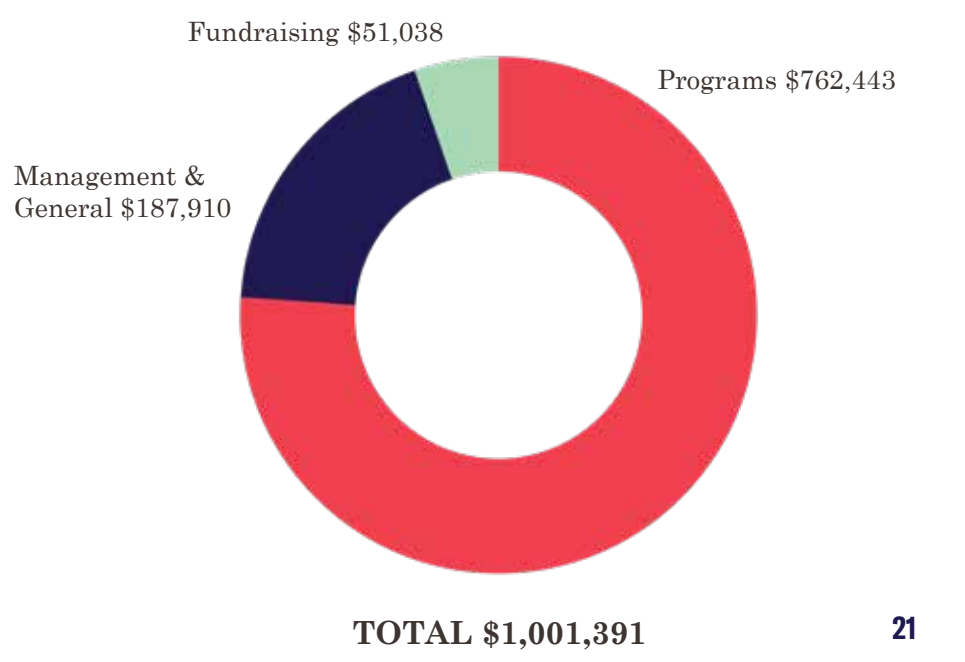
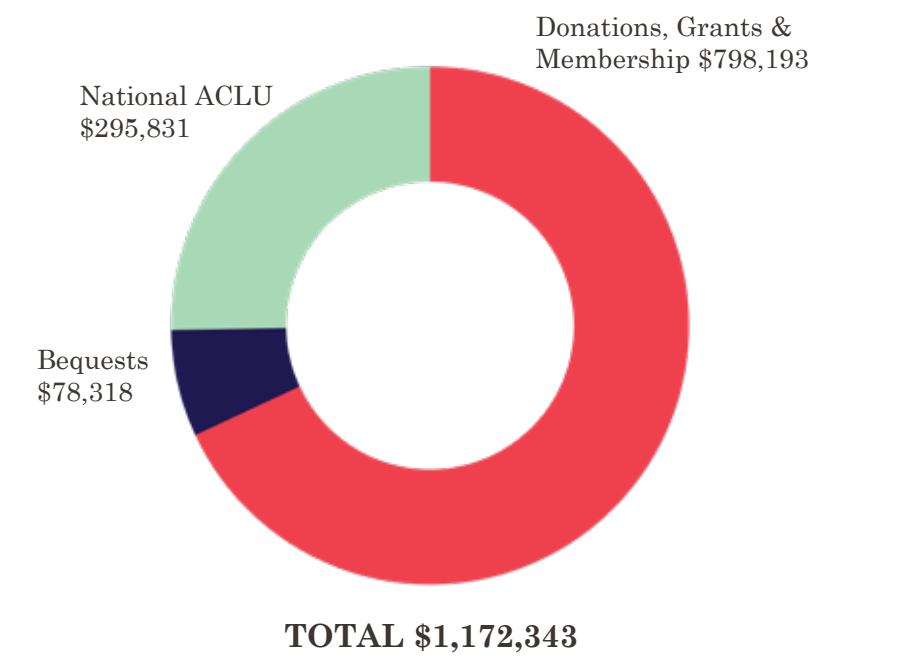
ACLU membership dues fall under Union funding, so when you receive your trusty ACLU membership card, those dues have supported legislative advocacy and lobbying. The Union is registered as a 501(c)4, and as such donations to the Union are not tax deductible.

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION

All of the ACLU’s litigation work and public education falls under the Foundation. The Foundation is registered as a 501(c)3, therefore all gifts to the Foundation are tax deductible.

SUPPORT & REVENUE

OVERALL EXPENSES



— TAKE ACTION



Photo credit: Nicole McAfee

JOIN THE FIGHT

Every day across the nation, the ACLU is called on to defend all those freedoms guaranteed in the Constitution and the Bill of Rights. There's never been a more important time for freedom-loving people to support the ACLU and our effective work to protect civil liberties. Take your stand and help us defend people's rights. Here are some ideas to get you started.

1 MAKE A GIFT

Planned Giving: Providing for a future gift to the ACLU can be an opportunity to advance the values that have been most important to you in your life. You can continue the fight for justice, equality, and fairness for future generations. To discuss your planned giving options please contact dwilliams@acluok.org.

Guardians Of Liberty: By joining the Guardians of Liberty program, monthly gifts of even modest amounts can grow to provide the support we need to continue to fight for all our freedoms.

Leadership Giving: Putting the essential mission of the ACLU into action is only possible with the support of those who are willing to invest in the fight for freedom. By making a significant tax-deductible gift you, together with the ACLU, create a powerful force for change, impacting the lives of millions of people across Oklahoma and across the nation.

2 GET INVOLVED

Join our team of dedicated and active volunteers! No matter where you live in Oklahoma, we need your help! Register on our website or email acluok@acluok.org to hear about the latest opportunities, and help us determine how best to use your skills in the service of the Constitution!

3 JOIN THE CONVERSATION



