



Photo Credit: Front Cover: John Timonicki/The Boston Globe

LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

“SEE YOU IN COURT.”

Last January, the ACLU promised the Trump administration that we would counter any and all attempts to dismantle civil rights and civil liberties in America.

We kept that promise. In the courts, in the legislature, and on the streets, the ACLU and our supporters have worked to defend and protect our rights, our values, and each other.

First, it was the Muslim ban. Next, deportations of immigrants. Then came the Trump administration’s assault on people of color through the pursuit of regressive “tough on crime” policies and attacks on voting rights. Their war on civil liberties continued with an attempt to strip transgender people of the right to serve in the military. And they attacked women, targeting access to abortion, contraception, and health care.

At each point, the ACLU fought back. Your support makes it possible for the ACLU to resist the rising tide of racism, xenophobia, gender bias, and bigotry here in Massachusetts and throughout the country.

Looking ahead, we know the fight will only intensify. Despair and fatigue will threaten our resolve. But we won’t give up; we never do. Our country is looking to the ACLU to turn the tide against authoritarianism. This is our moment in history.

The ACLU needs you in this fight.

With the deepest gratitude,

CAROL ROSE,
Executive Director, ACLU of Massachusetts

P.S. Because we do not accept money from the government, we depend entirely on you – ACLU supporters – to ensure our independence and our strength. Every contribution you make to ACLU of Massachusetts is shared with our network in all fifty states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.





Photo Credit: Scott Eisen

WE ARE IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

Victory!

The ACLU of Massachusetts filed a friend-of-the-court brief in [Lunn v. Commonwealth](#), in which the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court ruled that local law enforcement cannot detain or incarcerate immigrants simply because the federal government requested it.

Every person living in this country deserves to feel safe and free, regardless of their immigration status. That is why the ACLU of Massachusetts has redoubled our efforts to protect the constitutional rights of all Massachusetts residents from the Trump administration's cruel anti-immigrant agenda.

At the State House, we remain outspoken advocates for the [Safe Communities Act \(SCA\)](#). The SCA enhances public safety by building trust between local law enforcement officials and immigrant communities, ensuring that local police do not become part of the Trump administration's indiscriminate deportation machine.

In the courts, the ACLU of Massachusetts provided legal support in the high-profile case of detained immigrant Francisco Rodriguez-Guardado – a longtime Chelsea resident, MIT janitor, and father of four American citizen children. While the federal government allowed Rodriguez to remain in the US for over a decade after he fled gang violence in El Salvador, the Trump administration denied his most recent request to renew his stay. After more than five months in detention, Rodriguez was released in December, allowing him to return home to his family while awaiting a new hearing next summer.

The ACLU of Massachusetts launched the Immigrant Protection Project of Western Massachusetts (IPP) in April to match immigrants in underserved areas of western Massachusetts with needed legal assistance. Since its opening, the IPP has helped over 180 immigrants seeking legal counsel as part of our critical efforts to defend families against Trump's deportation scheme.

PHOTO ABOVE:
UMass Dartmouth Professor, Mazdak Tootkaboni, is embraced at Boston's Logan Airport following his release from detention after the first Muslim ban.

PHOTO TOP RIGHT:
ACLU of Massachusetts Legal Director Matthew Segal.



Photo Credit: Angela Rowlings/AP

WE ARE JUSTICE REFORM

For decades, the criminal legal system has unfairly targeted poor people, people of color, and people who struggle with addiction. Overreliance on incarceration and punitive policies has fueled endemic poverty in our communities and perpetuated racism and inequality.

In Massachusetts, we are working to build a better justice system, one that works fairly for everyone and favors rehabilitation over punishment.

This May, after [years of litigation](#), the ACLU of Massachusetts, with the state public defender's office and law firm Fick & Marx LLP, won dismissals for over 21,000 cases tainted by corrupt state drug lab chemist Annie Dookhan. This victory was the [largest dismissal](#) of wrongful convictions in the nation's history. The same legal team is now poised to secure [another 8,000 dismissals](#) in a separate but equally disturbing case of evidence tampering and prosecutorial misconduct.

On Beacon Hill, we pushed the state's first major criminal justice reform legislation in decades through the [House](#) and [Senate](#). The bill is now being negotiated in conference committee and will, among other things, begin to repeal mandatory minimum sentences for some drug offenses. The reforms would be a significant step forward in ending the

failed and costly drug war by focusing resources on treatment rather than retribution.

The ACLU also prevented amendments to the bill that would have expanded warrantless government surveillance powers. With the help of our supporters across the state who sprang into action and contacted their legislators, we were able to defeat the amendments and protect against warrantless wiretapping of ordinary Massachusetts residents.

LANDMARK YEAR FOR JUSTICE REFORM:
21,000 TAINTED CASES WERE DISMISSED IN MAY.
BY DECEMBER, 8,000 MORE CASES WERE SLATED FOR DISMISSAL.

In December, the ACLU of Massachusetts launched "[What a Difference a DA Makes](#)," a voter education campaign to highlight the role of district attorneys (DAs) in the state's criminal legal system. DAs are among the most powerful elected officials, with the ability to choose who gets charged with a crime and what offense they are charged with. Leading up to the 2018 election, the campaign will be focused on giving residents the tools to elect DAs who represent our state's values of fairness and justice.



Photo Credit: Nasser Eledroos

WE ARE FREEDOM FROM SURVEILLANCE

We live in an era defined by rapid technological innovation. While new technologies have improved our lives in many respects, they also have left us more vulnerable to attacks on personal privacy through unchecked surveillance and government overreach.

Through a combination of research, advocacy, and litigation, the ACLU of Massachusetts [Technology for Liberty Project](#) works to ensure that privacy protections keep pace with 21st century technologies.

In October, we partnered with the City of Somerville to implement the [Executive Policy on Surveillance Technology](#). This policy requires the police department to undergo a multi-step review process, including public hearings, before implementing any new surveillance technology. In the face of increasing government surveillance, this policy provides a framework for transparency, accountability, and community involvement in policing that we hope to replicate in communities across the state.

In an effort to prevent warrantless government surveillance, [the ACLU argued](#) before the United States Supreme Court that tracking cell phone users without a warrant is a constitutional violation. The ACLU of Massachusetts laid the groundwork for this argument in 2014, when we won a historic victory in [Commonwealth](#)

v. Augustine. In *Augustine*, the Massachusetts high court ruled that law enforcement cannot obtain cell site location information (CSLI) without a warrant. The outcome of the ACLU's current litigation in the Supreme Court will have far-reaching implications for privacy in the digital age.



Photo Credit: Olivia Santoro

Nasser Eledroos, ACLU of Massachusetts Technology Fellow, speaking at the Net Neutrality Rally in December.

In December, the Trump-appointed chairman of the Federal Communications Commission cast the deciding vote to repeal net neutrality regulations. This discouraging blow to a free and open internet gives internet service providers (ISPs) the power to control access to digital content based on profitability or political preference. But the battle isn't over. The ACLU and other advocates including many state attorneys general are suing to restore [net neutrality](#). While the legal battle plays out, the ACLU of Massachusetts will continue to advocate for an open internet, urging supporters to pressure their legislators to keep the internet free and open for everyone.



Photo Credit: Nasser Eledroos

WE ARE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Reproductive freedom – including abortion rights, access to contraception, and protection for pregnant workers against discrimination – is a pillar of gender equality.

This fall, the Trump administration issued two new rules allowing employers to refuse [contraceptive coverage](#) based on religious or moral objections. The new regulations, which will impact over thirty percent of the entire insurance market – including many women who work for big employers such as universities and hospitals – amount to little more than government-endorsed gender discrimination. The ACLU of Massachusetts filed a brief in support of the Massachusetts Attorney General's lawsuit against the regulations, arguing that they violate the Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment.

After months of lobbying from the ACLU of Massachusetts, Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts, and NARAL Pro-Choice Massachusetts, and in collaboration with major health care providers, the state legislature passed and enacted the Contraceptive ACCESS Act in November. The ACCESS Act safeguards and expands access to free contraceptive care for Massachusetts residents, countering federal rollbacks to contraceptive coverage.

Our advocacy on Beacon Hill led to another triumph for reproductive justice and gender equality with the passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act. The Act, which was signed into law this summer, protects pregnant workers from employer discrimination and ensures reasonable on-the-job accommodations. We believe no one should be forced to choose between their job and a healthy pregnancy.

“No woman should ever be denied health care because her employer’s religious beliefs or moral objections are prioritized over her medical needs.”

— Carol Rose, Executive Director

PHOTO TOP LEFT: Net neutrality protest outside the Verizon Store in downtown Boston.

PHOTO ABOVE: Lawmakers and advocates, including ACLU of Massachusetts Legislative Director Gavi Wolfe, celebrate the passage of the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act.



Photo Credit: Nasser Eldrous

WE ARE FREE SPEECH

Democracy relies on freedom of expression and association. As the Trump administration continues its blistering assault on freedom of speech, press, and assembly, the ACLU remains steadfast in our commitment to defend these First Amendment principles.

Tens of thousands of people descended on the Boston Common in August for two rallies: one organized by rumored white nationalists and attended by several dozen people at the Parkman Bandstand, and the other an ‘anti-hate’ rally organized by Black women and attended by ACLU staff and supporters. Unfortunately, journalists’ access to the Bandstand was limited due to unconstitutional police restrictions. As a result, an ACLU-led network of press rights groups issued a letter to the City of Boston and Boston

Police Department, demanding press access at future public events. The city agreed, and at a second rally in November, the ACLU dispatched a team of volunteer legal observers to ensure that there were no violations of First Amendment-protected freedom of the press.

The ACLU’s legal team again went to work in defense of free speech later this fall when former White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci threatened to sue Tufts University graduate student Camilo Caballero. The confrontation was born from two op-eds written by Caballero in *The Tufts Daily*, expressing his view that Scaramucci was an unfit candidate for a university advisory board. The ACLU of Massachusetts represented Caballero, and Scaramucci eventually withdrew from consideration for the Tufts advisory board.



DEFENDING FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

Photo Courtesy: of Camilo Caballero



Photo Credit: James Touchistas

WE ARE VOTING RIGHTS

One of the most essential promises of our democracy is the freedom to vote – a right that has been curtailed for many based on their race and class. The ACLU is deeply invested in protecting every eligible voter’s right to the ballot box.

We took a stand against Massachusetts’ voter registration cutoff law, which disenfranchises thousands of voters across the state in each election. In Chelsea Collaborative v. Galvin, we challenged the arbitrary rule that cuts off registration 20 days ahead of an election. The Suffolk Superior Court ruled in our favor, finding the law unconstitutional.

Following the victory, we began advocating within the state legislature for passage of the Election Day Registration Act to establish same-day voter registration to replace the 20-day cutoff law. If passed, the legislation will guarantee that all voters in the Commonwealth can make their voices heard at the ballot box.

PHOTO ABOVE: ACLU of Massachusetts Executive Director, Carol Rose, introduces staff at the ACLU Freedom Agenda Lobby Day.

PHOTO RIGHT: Volunteers enable us to hold events like the Freedom Agenda Lobby Day, where 200 people met with their lawmakers to support ACLU-backed legislation.

PHOTO LOWER LEFT: ACLU worked with Camilo Caballero after he faced a legal threat for writing critical op-eds about Anthony Scaramucci.



Photo Credit: James Touchistas

VOLUNTEERS ENABLE US TO HOLD EVENTS LIKE THE FREEDOM AGENDA LOBBY DAY, WHERE 200 PEOPLE MET WITH THEIR LAWMAKERS TO SUPPORT ACLU-BACKED LEGISLATION.



WE ARE THE RESISTANCE

Photo Credit: Ellen Shubb

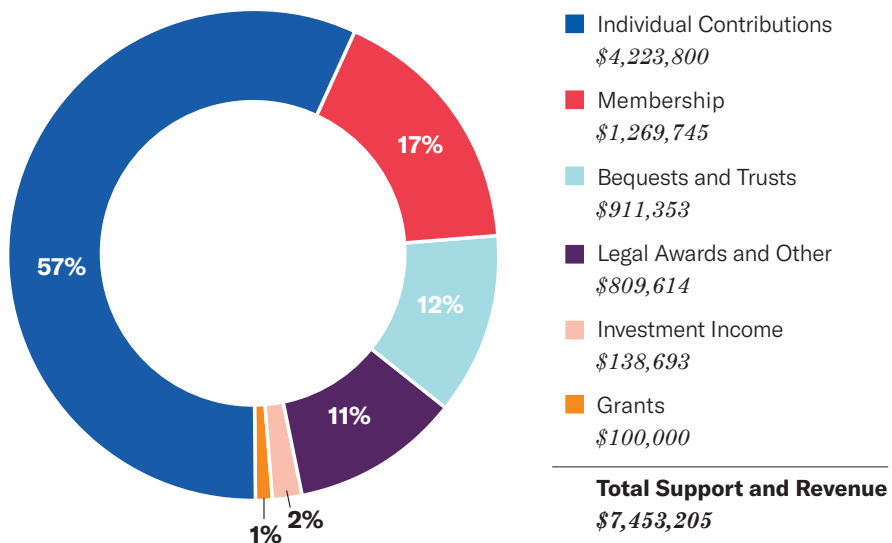
The ACLU's work is made possible by the financial support of our members. The ACLU is stronger than ever before, thanks to the nearly 1,600,000 members, activists, and philanthropists across the country.

Thank you to the 80,000 individuals in Massachusetts who contributed to the ACLU this year in defense of liberty, justice, and equality. This record-making support represents a quintupling of our supporters and illustrates what is possible when we rise together. This is what resistance looks like.

The ACLU does not accept funding from city, state, or federal governments. This ensures the ACLU's financial autonomy and underscores the need for your individual support.

Thank you for being a critical part of the resistance. The ACLU needs you in this fight.

ACLU OF MASSACHUSETTS & FOUNDATION COMBINED FY2017 SUPPORT & REVENUE



For comprehensive audited financials, visit aclum.org/2017

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Photo Credit: Book Cover: Ellen Shubb



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