

ACLU 2023: Action Report



REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

One month after the Supreme Court's decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, Massachusetts passed best-in-the-nation protections for patients, providers, and helpers seeking or providing abortion and gender-affirming care. To help people understand their rights under the new state law, the ACLU partnered with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, law firms, and other organizations to create and launch the Abortion Legal Hotline. The ACLU also helped train over 150 attorneys participating in the free hotline.

Then, after an unprecedented ruling from an anti-abortion judge in Texas, the ACLU mobilized to defend medication abortion. Our rapid response in Massachusetts included coordinating with Governor Healey and other state leaders to help secure access to mifepristone, briefing stakeholders about the implications of the case, and providing updated legal analysis for the Abortion Legal Hotline.



→ ACLU of Massachusetts Executive Director Carol Rose (center) joins leaders at a press conference following the mifepristone decision.

DIGITAL PRIVACY & SURVEILLANCE

Digital privacy protections are more important than ever, especially in light of efforts to criminalize reproductive and gender-affirming health care. Every day, data brokers buy and sell location information from our cellphones, revealing where we live, work, seek health care, and more. Anyone can buy this data — including anti-abortion extremists and bounty hunters — and use it to harm people. To stop this practice and protect our digital privacy, the ACLU of Massachusetts has launched a first-in-the-nation campaign to ban the sale of cellphone location data with a new piece of legislation called the Location Shield Act.

MEET THE MATCH:

A generous Massachusetts couple will match 100% of your gift, up to \$50,000. Visit the QR code to double your tax-deductible gift. Thank you for your investment in the ACLU!

www.aclum.org/match



→ Door by door, the ACLU of Massachusetts Action Team engaged voters in the new BIPOC to the Ballot Box initiative.

VOTING RIGHTS

The ACLU is challenging voter suppression laws and fighting for fair electoral maps, with dozens of voting rights and redistricting cases across the country and in the U.S. Supreme Court. Here in Massachusetts, the ACLU launched our new BIPOC to the Ballot Box initiative to engage voters in cities and towns with large and growing communities of color. This fall, the ACLU of Massachusetts Action Team had over 2,800 conversations with these voters to highlight local elections, turn out the vote, and lay the groundwork for 2024.

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

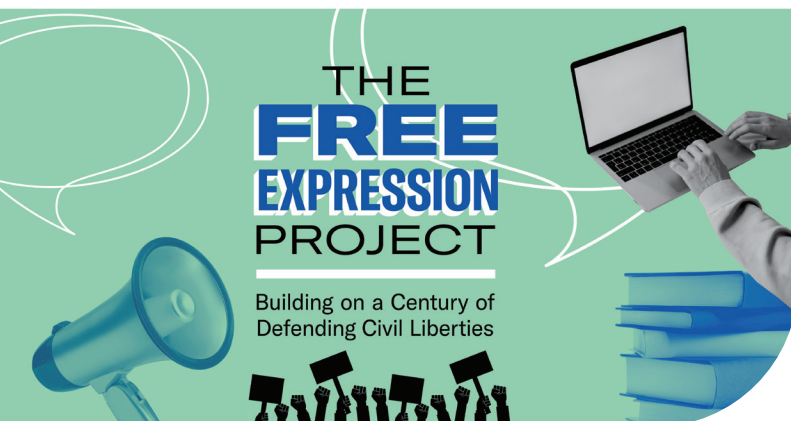
After 20 years of advocacy, the ACLU helped to pass a historic bill permitting all qualified drivers to apply for a license, regardless of immigration status. Shortly thereafter, we defeated an effort to repeal the law at the ballot box. Our work didn't stop there: The ACLU continues to bolster efforts to ensure the new law lives up to its promise through effective privacy regulations, public education, and outreach.

CRIMINAL LAW REFORM

Public health crises require public health solutions — not punishment. In Massachusetts, the ACLU is working to ensure that state and local communities alike invest in proven public health solutions to the devastating opioid crisis. The ACLU of Massachusetts plays a key role in the Massachusetts for Overdose Prevention Centers coalition, a statewide group of major hospitals and providers, leading medical and public health groups, and other organizations committed to establishing such life-saving facilities in our state. Also, we continue to monitor areas like Mass. and Cass in Boston to ensure that the rights of unhoused people are not violated during encampment “sweeps.”

FREE EXPRESSION

More than 100 years ago, the ACLU was founded with a commitment to defending the First Amendment and the right to free expression. Today, leaders and institutions across the political spectrum are trying to stifle dissent and silence views with which they disagree. This year, the ACLU of Massachusetts will launch our Free Expression Project to highlight pressing threats to free expression in the Commonwealth, to explain what we are doing to fight back, and to empower Massachusetts residents with resources about this fundamental right.



→ From Boston to North Brookfield, the ACLU of Massachusetts showed up for LGBTQ pride and equality.

LGBTQ EQUALITY

In the last few years, states have advanced a record number of bills attacking LGBTQ+ people — especially transgender youth. During the 2023 legislative session, the ACLU tracked over 500 anti-LGBTQ bills nationwide. Massachusetts has not been immune to attempts to remove LGBTQ people from public life: This year, a local select board unconstitutionally rescinded the permit for a local Pride celebration because it included a drag show — but an ACLU challenge ensured that North Brookfield's Small Town Pride event could move forward as planned.

Some politicians and school boards are also making moves to ban books — predominately those by LGBTQ and Black authors — from public schools and libraries. This year, the ACLU pushed back against calls for book bans, including by sending a letter to Massachusetts schools to warn of this growing threat and praise officials for resisting censorship campaigns.