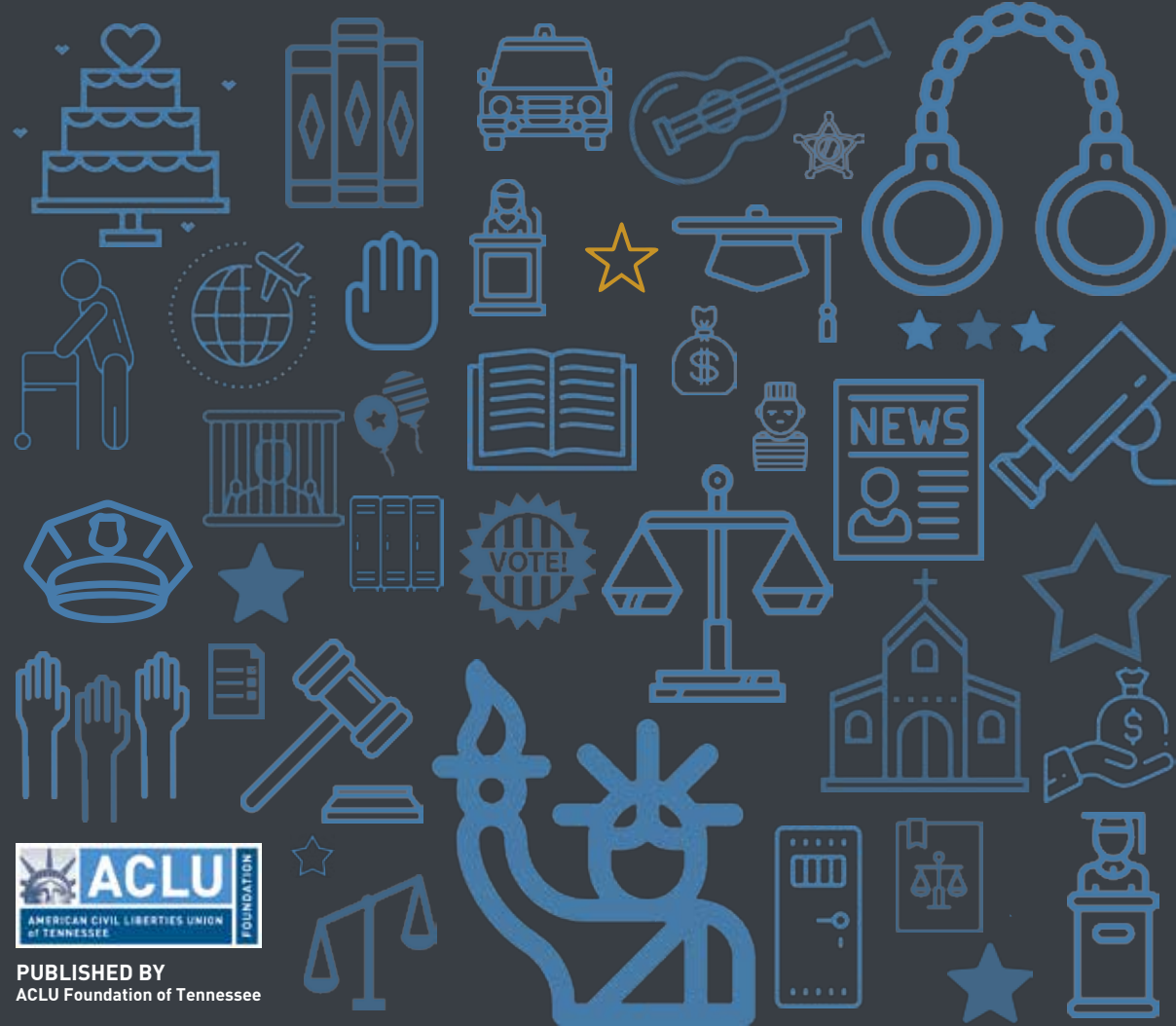




2016 - 2017



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**This report covers ACLU-TN's work during the fiscal
year running from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017.**

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Where do we go from here?

Dear friends, old and new,

It's 2017 and America is different.

The assaults on our civil liberties and civil rights are relentless both in Tennessee and across the country. The White House's egregious executive orders and actions are fueling dangerous and unconstitutional practices nationwide.

But the ACLU is not backing down. We remain vigilant. We aren't going anywhere.

Our network of state affiliates are in courtrooms, in state legislatures and Congress, and on the street successfully confronting these challenges. We are harnessing the energy of hundreds of thousands of old and new supporters who are using their voices to protect and promote freedom and fairness.

This year, in addition to presenting highlights of our hard-won victories, we want to make a promise to you:

The ACLU has never, and will never, abandon its mission to fiercely defend the

Bill of Rights and translate those guarantees into reality for everyone. For nearly 100 years, we have stood up to American presidents of both parties to ensure that our country makes good on its founding promise as the land of the free. As an organization, we've seen nearly a century of progress and setbacks — and we've always risen to the challenge and kept up the fight.

America's promise of freedom and fairness is its hallmark. But promises must be kept. That's why the ACLU is here — to ensure that the American promise of liberty and justice for all becomes a reality.

As we have since the founding of the ACLU of Tennessee almost fifty years ago, **we continue to pursue our promise to fight for racial equity and a for a more fair and equal criminal justice system.**

We promise to continue to advocate for the right of immigrants and refugees to be treated with fairness and dignity.

We promise to continue to stand up for your right to express yourself freely — including your right to protest, your right

to love whom you love, and your right to worship, or not, as you choose.

We promise to continue to defend the very bedrock of our democracy: the right to vote.

We know that there are challenging times ahead of us. But for the last century, the ACLU has remained vigilant. We are ready for what lies ahead.

All of us — our staff of strategic and tenacious advocates and litigators, our board of directors and office volunteers, our members and our supporters — are prepared to keep our promise and fight the good fight for our hard-won freedoms and rights.

With your confidence in our work and your continued support, we will prevail.

With many thanks,

HEDY WEINBERG
Executive Director

SUSAN L. KAY
President

We are

for justice

... processing 1,342 complaints, investigating 74 cases, & filing 5 lawsuits.



for advocacy

... speaking at 42 events, generating 1,618 news stories & giving 118 interviews.



for equality

... lobbying on over 60 bills, defeating 20 harmful legislative actions and working to pass 10 pro-civil liberties measures.



for making a difference

... engaging 32,385 action alert subscribers, 7 cooperating attorneys and 18 volunteers, law clerks and interns.



for each other

... empowering 12,130 members & donors from all 95 counties in Tennessee.



WE ARE the **ACLU** of **TENNESSEE**

ACLU OF TENNESSEE / A YEAR IN REVIEW

April 1, 2016

March 31, 2017

JUVENILE JUSTICE

ACLU-TN joins lawsuit to end the use of youth solitary confinement in Rutherford County



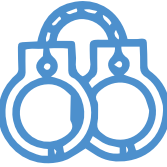
JUVENILE JUSTICE

ACLU-TN intervenes when 11 elementary school children are arrested in Murfreesboro to ensure access to counsel



PRISONERS' RIGHTS

ACLU-TN files class action lawsuit against the Tennessee Dept. of Corrections for systematically denying treatment to thousands of prisoners with Hepatitis C



POLICE PRACTICES

ACLU-TN hosts our annual meeting, "Broken Policing: Windows for Change," in Nashville



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

TCSJ hosts statewide "Putting Justice in Our Justice System" forums in Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville



REFUGEE RIGHTS

ACLU-TN helps bring home a Nashville-bound Iraqi refugee family stranded in the days after Trump's first Muslim Ban

LGBT EQUALITY

ACLU-TN and our allies successfully mobilize opposition to the "transgender bathroom bill" for the 2nd legislative session in a row



REPRO RIGHTS

ACLU-TN and partners successfully mobilize opposition and lobby against a measure prohibiting abortions after a fetal heartbeat is detected — as early as 6 weeks into a pregnancy



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

ACLU-TN's first young-professional networking event, "Pints & Progress," Presented by Young Tennesseans for ACLU" takes place in Nashville



FAIR TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS

ACLU urges the Dept. of Homeland Security to reject Knox County Sheriff Jimmy Jones's 287(g) application

SPRING

SUMMER

FALL

WINTER

SPRING



GENDER EQUALITY

ACLU-TN files complaint with U.S. Dept. of Education's Office for Civil Rights regarding Sumner County Schools' discriminatory transgender policies

REPRO RIGHTS

ACLU-TN works on campaign to educate health care and social service providers, law enforcement and legal advocates to end Tennessee's fetal assault law



FREE SPEECH

ACLU-TN settles *Young v. Giles Board of Education* in a win for free speech & LGBT equality



VOTING RIGHTS

ACLU-TN distributes thousands of voter empowerment resources statewide as a part of our "Let People Vote" campaign



VOTING RIGHTS

ACLU-TN urges Tennessee Secretary of State to allow thousands of voters who had been purged from voter rolls due to inactivity to cast provisional ballots on Election Day



DRUG LAW REFORM

ACLU-TN supports initiatives to pass marijuana decriminalization ordinances in Memphis and Nashville



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

ACLU-TN files FOIA request with 49 other ACLU affiliates to expose if Trump officials are executing the Muslim ban in violation of a court order



CRIMINAL JUSTICE

TCSJ drafts and helps pass juvenile expungement and driver's license revocation reform laws



GOVERNMENT SURVEILLANCE

ACLU-TN files lawsuit challenging Memphis police's use of a "blacklist" requiring local activists to have a police escort at City Hall



LGBT EQUALITY

ACLU-TN lobbies to defeat the "LGBT Erasure" bill, eventually urging Gov. Haslam to veto the legislation. Despite public outcry, he signs the discriminatory measure into law

CIVIL LIBERTIES MILESTONES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM



The question is not ‘is [an individual officer] a racist?’
The question is:
What about our culture and the messages that we give to our police make them so afraid of [black men]?



-- ACLU Deputy Legal Director
Jeffery Robinson, speaking at ACLU-TN's
annual meeting, "Broken Policing, Windows
for Change," in Nashville

EQUITY & JUSTICE. COMMUNITY FIRST.

From lobbying at the state legislature for bills that would reform unfair driver's license revocation, shut down the school-to-prison pipeline and help people with criminal records get jobs, to supporting local marijuana decriminalization ordinances, ACLU-TN fights for criminal justice reform and racial equity.

FIGHTING FOR JUVENILE JUSTICE REFORM

We joined a lawsuit after a fifteen-year-old boy was held in isolation for five days at a Rutherford County juvenile center, expanding the suit to a class action and winning a preliminary injunction prohibiting the county from subjecting children to solitary confinement while our case proceeds. We also intervened when eleven children were arrested at their Murfreesboro elementary school for allegedly failing to stop a fight weeks earlier. ACLU-TN worked with the families to ensure they had access to counsel. The district attorney ultimately dismissed the charges.

A STATEWIDE COALITION FOR SENSIBLE REFORM

We joined with the Beacon Center of Tennessee, the Tennessee County Services Association, Goodwill Industries and the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce to form the Tennessee Coalition for Sensible Justice, a non-partisan group supporting common-sense reforms that enhance public safety and promote rehabilitation and re-entry. In our first year, we successfully lobbied for reforms to driver's license revocation and juvenile expungement.

PROTECTING PRISONERS WITH HEPATITIS C

With our partners, we filed a federal class action lawsuit challenging the Tennessee Department of Corrections' systematic denial of treatment to inmates with Hepatitis C, which violates the Constitution's protection against cruel and unusual punishment. We have also asked that TDOC develop a new plan for diagnosis and treatment that complies with the community standard of care.

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

“Expelling people like me from public spaces does nothing to protect anyone's privacy. Forcing trans students into separate spaces sends the message that trans people should be ashamed of themselves and their bodies.”

-- Henry Seaton,
ACLU-TN LGBTQ organizer

SPEAK YOUR MIND. BE YOURSELF.

Two of ACLU's tentpole issues – free speech and LGBT equality – center around the idea that the Constitution empowers each of us to freely express ourselves – without the threat of government interference. ACLU-TN has proudly defended that right to free expression for nearly 50 years.

HALTING GOVERNMENT SPYING ON PROTESTERS

We sued to stop the City of Memphis from requiring blacklisted local political activists to be escorted by police when visiting City Hall, a violation of not only the First Amendment but of a 1978 ACLU-TN consent decree prohibiting the Memphis government from monitoring constitutionally-protected political activities. That consent decree was the result of a lawsuit we filed after discovering that the city's domestic intelligence unit had spied on local political groups for years. The case is pending.

DEFENDING LGBT SPEECH & GENDER EXPRESSION

We defended the gender expression of a Sumner County student, filing a complaint with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights, and hired an LGBTQ organizer to help defend gender equality and more at the legislature. And in a victory for free speech, we settled a federal lawsuit on behalf of a Giles County student who was banned from wearing a pro-LGBT shirt to school.

PROTECTING SPEECH ON COLLEGE CAMPUSES

From cancelled speakers to protests and counter protests, First Amendment guarantees are being hotly debated on university campuses. We successfully lobbied in support of the "Campus Free Speech Protection Act," which reinforces the guarantees of free expression and gives public university students the "broadest possible latitude" to discuss issues at school. Tennessee's new law is being hailed as one of the most comprehensive in the nation.

VOTING RIGHTS

“ One investigation found that in Davidson County alone more than 19,000 people had been purged from voter rolls for inactivity over a three-year period. ”

-- ACLU-TN on why we called on the Tennessee secretary of state to allow purged voters to cast their ballots.

STAND UP AND BE COUNTED.

Since 2008, states across the country, including Tennessee, have passed voter suppression measures to make it harder for Americans – particularly people of color, the elderly, students and people with disabilities – to exercise their fundamental right to cast a ballot.

ENSURING ALL VOICES ARE HEARD IN TENNESSEE

In the weeks before the election, we sent a letter to Tennessee Secretary of State Tre Hargett calling on his office to allow thousands of voters wrongfully purged from voter rolls due to inactivity to cast provisional ballots. The voters' removal defied a recent Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals decision striking down the practice of purging voters based on their failure to vote in prior elections as a violation of the National Voter Registration Act. We continue to work with partner organizations to correct this problem for future elections.

LET PEOPLE VOTE

In Tennessee this election season, we worked hard to protect rights at the ballot box by distributing tens of thousands of free voting rights resources across the state through our "Let People Vote" campaign. We also created and distributed a flyer informing indigent voters how to obtain a free photo ID for voting purposes, and that they can still vote even if they do not have a photo ID or the funds to obtain the documents necessary to get one.

ACLU VOTING RIGHTS VICTORIES ACROSS THE U.S.

After years of struggle, ACLU prevailed against North Carolina's notorious voter suppression law, struck down by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in July. ACLU also repeatedly vanquished Kansas voter suppression laws targeting poor and minority individuals and secured reforms to online voter registration in multiple states.

FAIR TREATMENT OF IMMIGRANTS

“Laid bare, this ... is no more than the president promised before and after his election: naked, invidious discrimination against Muslims.”

-- The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals, ruling that Trump's Muslim Ban is unconstitutional

OPEN ARMS. WELCOME NEIGHBORS.

As president, Donald Trump has unleashed dangerous attacks on immigrants and refugees – from signing two Muslim ban executive orders to launching massive ICE deportations – and ACLU has sprung into action to fight back against assaults on equality and justice in Tennessee and beyond.

ACLU TO TRUMP: “WE’LL SEE YOU IN COURT”

When Donald Trump signed an executive order suspending Syrian refugee resettlement and banning entry of nationals from seven majority-Muslim countries, ACLU immediately took action, filing a lawsuit challenging the ban as violating the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses of the U.S. Constitution. Soon after, a federal district court judge blocked Trump's ban, and when Trump signed a second discriminatory order, ACLU challenged and successfully halted it as well. The Supreme Court has agreed to hear the case, and ACLU will once again deliver on our election night promise to “see [Trump] in court.”

287(g) IN KNOX COUNTY

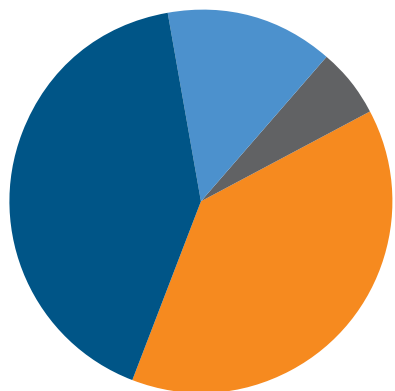
After Knox County Sheriff Jimmy Jones applied for the 287(g) immigration enforcement program, we urged the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to reject the application, citing his office's track record of threatening constitutional violations and of allegations of abuse. We lobbied the Knox County Commission to pressure Jones to withdraw his request, but the application was approved. We will continue to monitor the Knox County Sheriff's Office for civil rights violations of the program.

FIGHTING RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION IN TENNESSEE

With 50 other ACLU affiliates, we filed a Freedom of Information Act request with our local U.S. Customs and Border Protection office to expose if the Trump administration was executing the Muslim ban in violation of federal stays. We also circulated “Know Your Rights” materials for immigrants and refugees across the state and led empowerment workshops for Muslim communities.

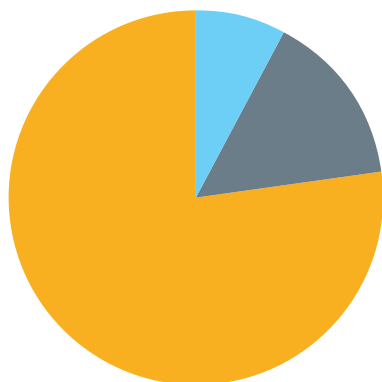
Support & Revenue

Contributions	41%
Grants	14%
Shared Revenue	38%
Other Income	7%



Expenses

Program Services	83%
Management and General	15%
Development	8%



Consolidated audited statement of activities for the ACLU of Tennessee and the ACLU Foundation of Tennessee, Fiscal Year 2016-2017 (April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017)

A note on our support

The elections in November brought about uncertain times in our country. With our democracy seemingly under siege at the local, state, and federal levels, our base took action and supported the ACLU at unprecedented levels. We have seen an increase in activism, volunteerism and financial support.

We will use this additional support to grow our capacity and advance civil liberties and civil rights for all those who call America home.

HOW TO SUPPORT THE ACLU OF TENNESSEE

Take a stand now to protect freedom, justice and equality.



P.O. Box 120160
Nashville, TN 37212
615-320-7142
www.aclu-tn.org

MAKE A GIFT TODAY

Make a tax-deductible gift to the ACLU Foundation of Tennessee online at www.aclu-tn.org by clicking "DONATE," or mail your gift to:

ACLU Foundation of Tennessee
P.O. Box 120160
Nashville, TN 37212

ACLU-TN also accepts gifts of stock, securities or mutual fund shares; please call our development office to obtain transfer information.

LEAVE A LEGACY

Planned gifts, such as bequests, help sustain the ACLU for generations to come. In addition to designating the ACLU as a beneficiary in a will or revocable living trust, donors may also designate the ACLU or ACLU Foundation as a beneficiary of a life insurance policy, IRA or pension.

For more information about giving opportunities, please contact Associate Development Director Sarah Howard at 615-320-7142 x 308.

TAKE ACTION

Make your voice heard through our online action network and protect civil liberties in your community and across the country. Sign up today at <http://bit.ly/ACLUtNEmail> (case sensitive).

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

- FACEBOOK: [facebook.com/ACLUtN](https://www.facebook.com/ACLUtN)
- TWITTER: @aclutn
- YOUTUBE: <http://bit.ly/aclutnYTb> (case sensitive)

CREATING A PATH FORWARD

Where do we go from here?

2017-18

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITY ISSUES

What We're Fighting For:

- + Criminal Justice Reform
- + Access to the Ballot Box
- + Fair Treatment of Immigrants and Refugees
- + LGBT and Gender Equality
- + Reproductive Justice
- + The First Amendment

ACLU-TN CASES TO WATCH

& the Constitutional Rights Each One Protects

- Graham v. Parker* (Prisoner's Rights, 8th Amendment)
- Blanchard v. Memphis* (Free Speech, Government Surveillance)
- Doe v. Hommrich* (Juvenile Justice Reform, 8th Amendment)
- Tennessee v. U.S. Department of State* (Fair Treatment of Immigrants)
- Adams & Boyle, P.C. v. Slatery* (Reproductive Justice)

Thank you.

We've been able to do this much because of the steadfast support from ACLU members and supporters across the state.

We are humbled and grateful that you are fighting with us. Know that you will be crucial to our success in the next year.

And we promise you —

We won't back down.

UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

Aug. - Dec.	ACLU-TN's statewide "Freedom Forum" series
10/7/17	ACLU-TN annual meeting, featuring Dale Ho, ACLU Voting Rights Project Director
11/30/17	"The Constitution Uncorked" annual fundraiser
1/9/18	Tennessee legislative session begins

