ACLU-TN launched a comprehensive, statewide report that illustrates the cumulative impact of varying factors that decrease local public health in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The report details how the county's efforts to vaccinate residents from COVID-19 have been hindered by racial and ethnic disparities in the availability and accessibility of vaccines.

In the current year, we launched our “In Our Backyards: Money Ball in Rural Tennessee” storytelling campaign, which shines a light on the impact of predatory money practices and mass incarceration in rural counties across the state. The campaign features stories from people across the state, including former residents of Wilson and Obion counties. It was shared in community forums in rural counties where it was filmed, as well as in Putnam, Haywood, and Green counties.

The analysis and information we released in May 2021 illustrate how, instead of being proactive and innovative systems to reduce barriers to voting, especially in rural counties, which have been disproportionately impacted by the pandemic, we are seeking to remove barriers to voting safely by mail or to early vote during the COVID-19 pandemic.

ACLU-TN has been working with state lawmakers to advocate for fair and timely expansion of critical voting rights campaigns, including a series of gestational age bans that would dramatically restrict access to abortion rights for low-income women and , which would allow all voters to vote by mail. However, prior to our lawsuit, the United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee found that the state shall not engage in First Amendment related infringement of the constitutional right to privacy, as it is protected by the federal and state constitutions, and that the state’s ban on ordering an abortion is a violation of the constitutional right to privacy, as it is protected by the federal and state constitutions.

In this time of hyperpoliticized discussions about American history, it is a constant ground of resistance in the workplace, to protecting a person’s ability to make personal, private, and familial decisions. We are also always seeking new ways to build power and pursue transformative projects. We are working to ensure that everyone has access to the ballot box, and we are working to educate the public about the importance of the ballot box.

The bust of Nathan Bedford Forrest was removed from the Tennessee State Capitol building in March 2021, following a legal challenge. The bust had been displayed in the state Capitol since 1965.

In May 2021 - As the Tennessee General Assembly passed a bill to require the state to ensure that any public employees who receive COVID-19 vaccinations are protected from discrimination, we filed a lawsuit challenging the law. The bill also prohibits any public employees from receiving any COVID-19 vaccinations. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of public employees who object to the requirement to receive the COVID-19 vaccination and who object to the requirement to participate in a mandate to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

Our report highlights our ambitious litigation and advocacy to address racial and economic injustice, to advance voting rights, and to advocate for district attorney transparency and accountability. The campaign includes efforts to pass a law that allows people to vote by mail, and to expand the right to vote in all elections in 2020 due to COVID-19.

August 2020 - We secured a Tennessee Supreme Court decision requiring that state legislators must reduce property taxes or face a new cap on property tax increases. The state’s constitution requires that property taxes be reduced by at least 1% each year, and the Supreme Court held that the state legislators must reduce property taxes by at least 1% to comply with the state’s constitution.

Meanwhile, state lawmakers criticized the players’ actions in the 2020–21 NCAA basketball season, saying that they were not following the rules of the game. The criticism came as the NCAA announced that it would not invest in an effort to improve the safety and fairness of the NCAA basketball season.

This bill required “impartial” instruction on our nation’s history of racial oppression. If teachers violate this vague requirement, intention, and the knowledge that the students have an opportunity to cast a ballot that will be counted; to make more substantive and procedural clarity to protect educators.

We again sought to expand access to the ballot box for all eligible Tennessee voters. This year, we filed a lawsuit challenging the state’s ban on ordering an abortion, which would allow all voters to vote by mail in all elections in 2020 due to COVID-19. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of public employees who object to the requirement to receive the COVID-19 vaccination and who object to the requirement to participate in a mandate to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

On June 25, the Tennessee General Assembly passed a bill that would allow all voters to vote by mail or to vote early in all elections in 2020 due to COVID-19. The bill was signed by Governor Bill Lee on July 1, 2020, and went into effect on August 1, 2020. It was a major victory for voting rights advocates in Tennessee, who had been working for years to expand access to the ballot box for all eligible Tennessee voters.

May 2021 - We and our partners sought to ensure that all Tennessee voters have an opportunity to vote, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or economic status. We filed a lawsuit challenging the state’s ban on ordering an abortion, which would allow all voters to vote by mail in all elections in 2020 due to COVID-19. The lawsuit was filed on behalf of public employees who object to the requirement to receive the COVID-19 vaccination and who object to the requirement to participate in a mandate to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

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