

DEFENDER'S DEBRIEF

UPDATING YOU ON THE RIGHTS & LIBERTIES THAT YOU DEFEND

ACLUNEBRASKA.ORG / 402.476.8091 / MARCH 2017



ACLU of Nebraska's 2017 Legislative Agenda

OPPOSE

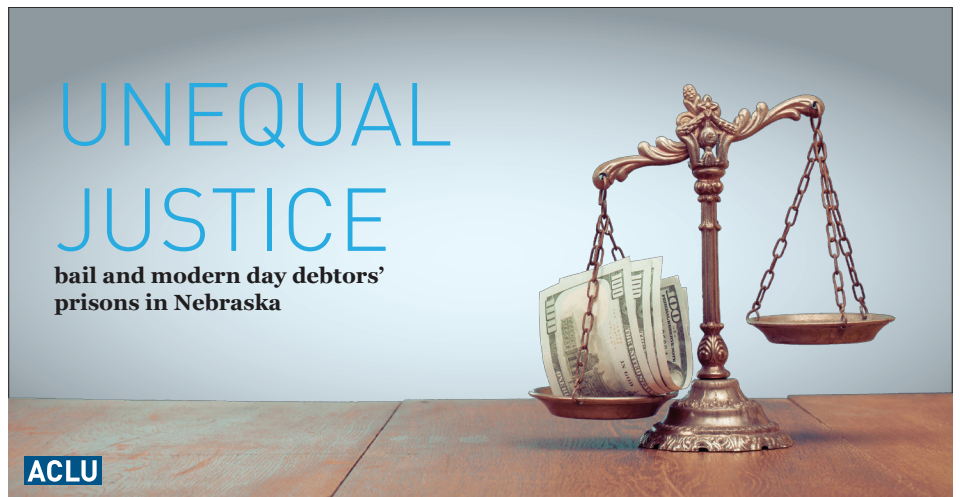
- » Voter ID
- » Forced Speech on Abortion Options
- » Drug Testing for Public Benefits
- » Physical Force Against Students
- » Attacks on Immigrants and Refugees
- » Efforts to Cloak the Death Penalty in Secrecy

SUPPORT

- » Strengthen Equal Pay
- » Voting Rights
- » Eliminate Barriers to Employment and Voting for Former Felons
- » Support for Pregnant and Parenting Students
- » Reform Mandatory Minimums
- » Reduce Solitary Confinement
- » End Modern-Day Debtor's Prisons and Reform Bail
- » Ban Discrimination for LGBTQ Workers
- » Expand Family Planning
- » Allow Medical Marijuana
- » Reform Policy Surveillance Practice

IN THE LEGISLATURE

The 105th Session of the Nebraska Legislature began on January 4, 2017 with **667 bills introduced** and **5 constitutional amendments**. Thanks to the ACLU of Nebraska's over **16,000 activists** and over **4,000 donors** we are ready to meet the challenges and opportunities in this session that impact our civil rights and civil liberties.



In our 2016 policy and legal report "Unequal Justice," we identified how fines and fees in Nebraska's court system impact poor Nebraskans and trap them in a maze with no escape. Policy makers took notice and introduced LB 145 and LB 395 to reform these unconstitutional practices.

Read the full report and learn about those trapped by fines and fees aclunebbraska.org/unequaljustice

IN THE COURTS

Todd and Joel won an incredible court victory in 2015 allowing them to foster five children in need of a loving home. This January, we were back at the Nebraska Supreme Court while the State of Nebraska appeals their case.

Learn more: aclunebbraska.org/toddandjoel



Take Action »

aclunebbraska.org/legislation

DEFEND FREEDOM! ACLUNEBRASKA.ORG/DONATE



Credit: Jake Crandall, Lincoln Journal Star

THE ONLY SWORD & SHIELD WE NEED

For almost 100 years on the national level and for over 50 years right here in Nebraska, the ACLU has never been afraid to speak truth to power and hold our elected leadership accountable. President Donald Trump has vowed to implement an unconstitutional agenda, profoundly at odds with the letter and spirit of the Bill of Rights. The ACLU, our country's constant guardian of freedom and liberty, faces an unprecedented array of challenges.

In an era that seems at times so dark and so chaotic, people are hungry for authentic leadership and real solutions. People are turning to the ACLU, and today we are stronger than ever. With you, we will grow even stronger and become even bolder to meet the challenges that we face.

Our longtime supporters are deepening their investment in our work. Our new supporters are fortifying our multifaceted strategies in the courts, halls of power and public square with vibrant energy and activism. We are overjoyed and overwhelmed by your incredible support. Thank you.

My own path to the ACLU started with

a lightning bolt moment when I was in 4th grade and growing up in rural Seward County as I watched Helen Boosalis run for Governor. Helen inspired me to get involved in politics and stood with me when I announced my campaign for Legislature. After spending eight years in the Nebraska Legislature, leading grassroots campaigns and joining the ACLU of Nebraska, I have never looked back. And today is no different.

I marched with my daughter and my mother for the civil rights of all Nebraskans because I love my community, my state and my country. We have rallied to show solidarity with communities impacted by the new administration. I was honored to speak at many of these rallies, and I always take along my ACLU pocket Constitution and raise it in the air to thunderous applause.

Wherever you are in Nebraska, and no matter how grave the challenges before us may become, know the ACLU will always stand with you wielding the only sword and shield we need to protect our American values - the US Constitution.

In friendship and freedom,

Danielle Conrad
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Defending the Civil Liberties of all Nebraskans

The ACLU's resolve to defend the civil rights and individual freedoms of all Nebraskans remains no matter who holds the reins of power. Here's our plan to defend our rights in the courts, in the legislature and in communities around the state by empowering and educating Nebraskans.

END MASS INCARCERATION with smart reform that ends wasteful, ineffective and racially biased practices.

SECURE FAIRNESS AND EQUALITY FOR LGBT NEBRASKANS

because no one should be discriminated against because of who they are or who they love.

ADVANCE REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM AND EQUAL RIGHTS FOR WOMEN

in workplaces, classrooms and doctor's offices, so a woman has equal opportunities without government interference – including access to abortion and contraception.

DEFEND THE FIRST AMENDMENT

on behalf of journalists, protestors, students and whistleblowers.

PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF IMMIGRANTS & REFUGEES

by challenging policies that discriminate against Muslims, standing up for Dreamers and empowering communities to know their rights with law enforcement and immigration agents.

Take a Stand!

Ways you can take action during this critical time.

aclunebraska.org/howyoucanhelp

DEFEND CIVIL LIBERTIES Just by Going to Work

For decades, I've been a proud supporter and card carrying member of the ACLU. I've also volunteered as a legal observer and served on the board of directors. Defending the basic civil rights and individual freedoms of all Nebraskans is so important to me that each year I go beyond my membership and make a tax-deductible contribution to the ACLU Foundation. **Like my membership, I know a tax-deductible contribution supports the ACLU right here in Nebraska and in places like Flint, Ferguson, Standing Rock or wherever civil rights and civil liberties come under attack.**

As a professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, it just got easier to give to the ACLU of

Nebraska. The entire Nebraska University system now participates in workplace giving through the Community Services Fund of Nebraska. This means university employees can support civil liberties just by going to work and designating a portion of every paycheck towards the ACLU.

It has never been more important to ensure someone is looking out for the Constitution. I'm delighted to have the opportunity to use workplace giving to support the work of the ACLU right here at UNO, but I also know there are scores of other workplaces that give our supporters the same opportunity. **I encourage everyone to ask their employer about workplace giving and paycheck deduction programs through the Community**

Services Fund to support great local organizations like the ACLU of Nebraska.



Joseph S. Brown
Omaha



**Community
Services Fund
of Nebraska**

Make your workplace a
Community Services Fund
worksites!

communityservicesfund.org

In fall of 2016, we asked supporters to weigh in and help guide our work. Here are a few examples of what supporters like you shared.

Supporters Sound Off

WHENEVER THE ACLU STANDS UP FOR OUR CIVIL LIBERTIES, I'M PROUD TO SUPPORT THAT; whether it's Dreamers trying to drive a car or people trying to have a family.

Thanks for leading on tough issues when others don't have the expertise or the willingness to speak to truth or power...**I AM MORE PROUD THAN EVER OF HOW STRONG AND BOLD OUR ACLU OF NEBRASKA IS.**

Almost everything the ACLU does makes me proud to be a supporter. **I'M PARTICULARLY PROUD OF THE ORGANIZATION'S WILLINGNESS TO STAND UP FOR FREEDOM OF SPEECH - NO MATTER THE SPEECH!**

Keep up the good fight!
THE ACLU IS A VITAL PART OF ENSURING OUR STATEWIDE DEMOCRACY REMAINS BOTH INCLUSIVE AND FAIR. I couldn't support the work you're doing more!

What makes me most proud of our Nebraska ACLU is the professional, courageous, compassionate, experienced ACLU leaders who **TIRELESSLY FIGHT UPHILL BATTLES TO PROTECT, DEFEND, AND PROMOTE TRUE DEMOCRACY.**

Thank you for standing up for our constitutional rights... **SOMEONE SAID THAT DEMOCRACY CAN ONLY SURVIVE IF IT HAS CITIZEN VIGILANCE.** You are that citizen.

THE NEXT GENERATION of Civil Rights Leaders

As one of the most exciting advocacy organizations in Nebraska, our applications for interns and law clerks have skyrocketed. **The last two years we have hosted almost 20 students each summer from undergraduate programs and law schools in Nebraska and from around the country including Grinnell College, Wingate and Yale.** Here's what three of our recent interns said about their experience.

Miranda Rogers, UNL Law 2L

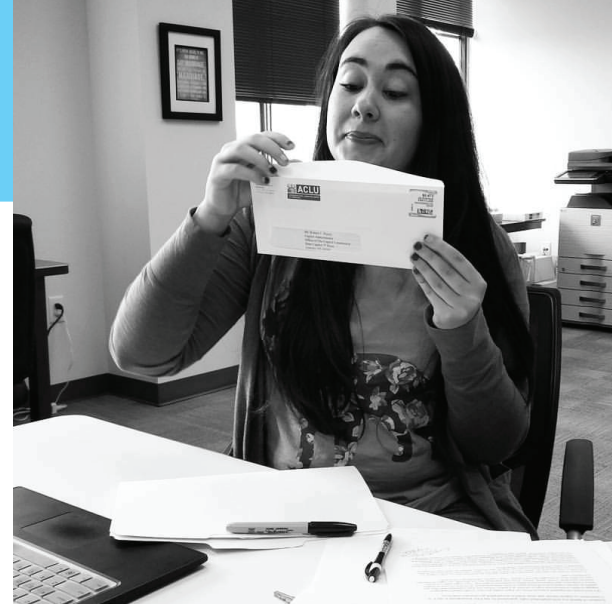
"When I began law school last year my dream was to someday work with the ACLU to ensure the civil rights of all Nebraskans, no matter who they are or what their background is."

Akua Dawes, UNL Junior

"The project I have been working on is an analysis of modern-day debtors' prisons. I am able to learn and discuss some of the very pressing political and social issues in Nebraska while also using my research analysis skills to help bring attention to them."

Casie Youngberg, UNL Law 2L

"I would love to spend the rest of my life working as an intern for Amy Miller and Danielle Conrad. I had admired them from afar at different community and law school events and getting to work with them up close, I am constantly impressed and inspired by their dedication, intelligence, and kindness."



Casie shared a photo of her first letter to a government agency on behalf of someone who contacted the ACLU.

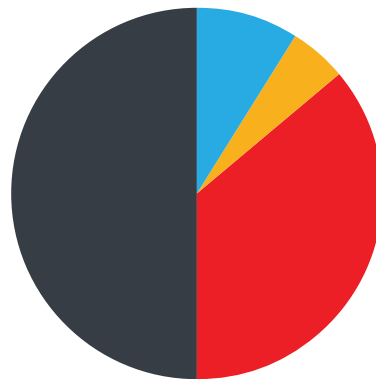
Support the next generation of civil liberties defenders
aclunebraska.org/donate

Thank you for your support

Defending freedom requires substantial financial resources. We rely on the support of generous private donations and foundation grants to make our work possible. We are proud to report that we are fiscally sustainable and strong. Here's a snapshot of our combined financials from fiscal year 2016.

** Please note: We received significant one-time funding this fiscal year that was passed through to the campaign to keep the death penalty repealed.*

EXPENSES \$1,227,215



Fundraising	5%	\$66,545
Management	9%	\$113,483
Program	36%	\$437,687
Death Penalty Ballot Campaign*	50%	\$609,500

REVENUES \$1,213,620



Individual Donors	13%	\$154,810
National Support	22%	\$272,000
Grants	15%	\$178,310
Death Penalty Ballot Campaign*	50%	\$609,500

— 2017 Giving Days | Save the Date —

Give to Lincoln Day
May 18 2017

Omaha Gives
May 24 2017

JOIN OUR BOARD

Board elections are coming up in April. If interested in joining our Board of Directors or to see a list of upcoming meetings visit aclunebraska.org/board

PRIVACY POLICIES

We care about your privacy. View our privacy policy at aclunebraska.org/privacypolicy

IN MEMORIAL Tristan Bonn, who helped spark police reform work in Omaha as a community organizer with the ACLU and as a police auditor, recently passed away. We send our thoughts to her family and express thanks for her good work.