



ACLU-KY Volunteer Newsletter - October 2026

Happy October! 🍁 The ACLU of Kentucky is gearing up for a fall full of volunteer opportunities, events, and keeping up with the legislature has been discussing during the interim. We'd love to see you at some of our events this fall!

You can learn more about the work the ACLU of Kentucky does at our website, which is linked below!

ACLU-KY WEBSITE

VOTE LIKE YOUR RIGHTS DEPEND ON IT



This election season, the ACLU of Kentucky is pressing a simple message: Vote like your rights depend on it. Nothing is scarier than not doing your civic duty! 🗳️

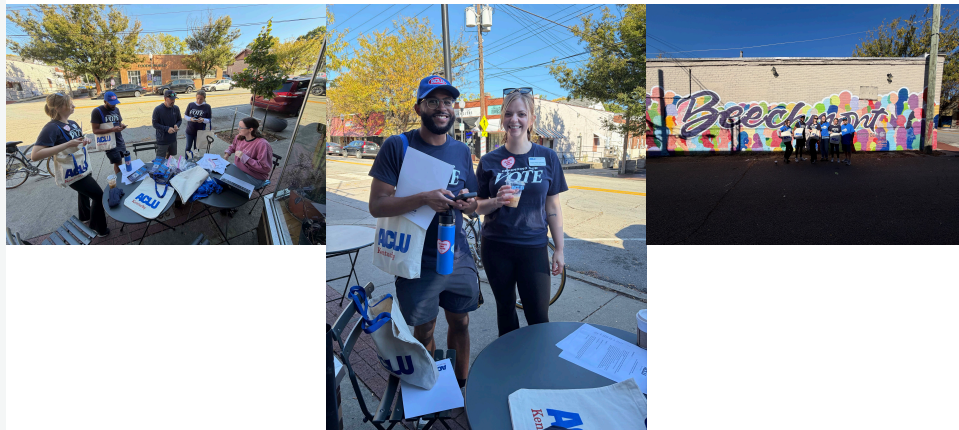
Because elections do more than determine who holds office. They shape the laws that govern our lives, the leaders who enforce them, and the decisions that affect our freedoms long after Election Day is over. Voting is one of the most direct ways each of us can help shape what comes next.

Our new [Commonwealth Voter Campaign](#) webpage will serve as a hub for the information Kentuckians need to participate, including voter registration deadlines, absentee and mail-in ballot information, key election dates, voting resources, and Know Your Rights materials.

We'll also be looking for volunteers to help us take this message directly into communities through canvassing. If you believe voting matters and want to help more Kentuckians make their voices heard, this is an opportunity to do your part to get people to the polls.

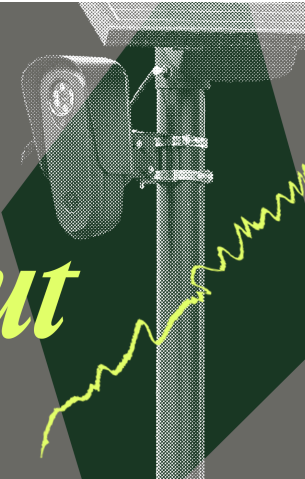
We had our first volunteer canvass this past Saturday! We had new and returning volunteers and would love to have even more come to our next canvass on Saturday, October 24th. We'll meet at Sunergos Coffee at 306 W Woodlawn Avenue in Louisville. You can sign up to join us below!

SIGN UP TO CANVASS



PROTECTING PRIVACY IN AN AGE OF GROWING SURVEILLANCE

*Get the
Flock Out*



As automated license plate readers (ALPRs) and other surveillance technologies expand across Kentucky, the ACLU of Kentucky is working to ensure civil liberties do not become an afterthought.

In September, we testified before the Kentucky General Assembly's Interim Joint Judiciary Committee about the need for stronger privacy protections, meaningful oversight, and clear limits on how law enforcement agencies use Flock cameras and the data they collect. Lawmakers are currently examining whether additional safeguards should be added to Kentucky law as use of the technology grows.

We have also continued raising concerns publicly about misuse of these systems and the broader risk of mass surveillance. Recent incidents in Louisville have underscored why strong, consistent rules matter, while changes to local policy have not eliminated concerns about how widely these technologies can be used.

Technology may change quickly. Constitutional rights should not. We will continue pushing for transparency, accountability, and safeguards that protect Kentuckians' privacy as surveillance tools become more common. Use the link below to tell your legislators you support stronger safeguards on the use of ALPRs in Kentucky.

CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS

Beata Siemionkiewicz, a native and citizen of Poland, was taken into ICE custody at her daughter's home near Chicago in August 2025.

The immigration judge denied her request for a bond suggesting that she had **not proved she was not a “flight risk.”**

ACLU
Kentucky



CHALLENGING PROLONGED ICE DETENTION

The ACLU of Kentucky and ACLU of Illinois are asking a federal court to order the release of Beata Siemionkiewicz, a lawful permanent resident who has lived in the United States for more than 30 years and has been held in ICE custody at the Campbell County Detention Center for more than a year.

Siemionkiewicz was detained in August 2025 and denied bond after an immigration judge placed the burden on her to prove she was not a flight risk or danger to the community. [Our attorneys argue](#) that the government should instead be required to justify keeping her detained.

The lawsuit asks the court to order her immediate release or require a new hearing before an impartial immigration judge where the government must demonstrate why her continued detention is necessary.

“Our mom came to the United States seeking a better life and hoping to enjoy the full benefits of American freedom. We have been emotionally drained to hold together her dream – including keeping her home – as she is being held in a cell hundreds of miles away from us each day.”

**Gabi and Claudia
Siemionkowicz**

Photo: Brian Cassella/Chicago Tribune



FREE SPEECH VICTORY FOR KENTUCKY PARENT

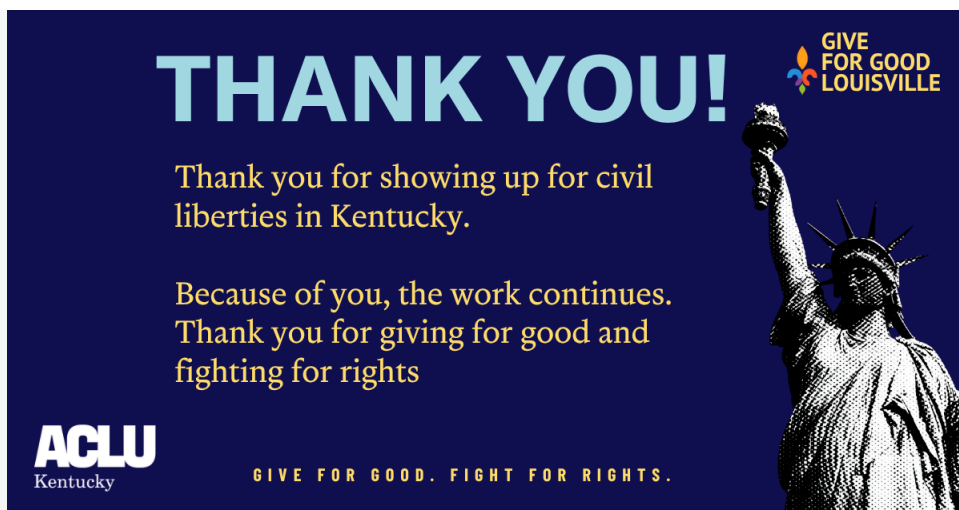
ACLU of Kentucky client Elizabeth Jones has reached a settlement with the Jenkins Independent School District Board of Education after the district admitted to violating her First Amendment Rights.

Jones, a mother of two students in the district, was banned from school property and events in December 2025 because of social media posts school officials found objectionable. The district did not accuse her of making threats or engaging in violence.

Under the settlement, the school board agreed to a permanent injunction preventing it from reinstating the ban based on those posts and will pay \$70,000 in damages and other attorney fees.

The case reinforces a basic First Amendment principle: public officials cannot punish people simply because they dislike or take offense at protected speech.

THANK YOU FOR GIVING FOR GOOD



This year's Give for Good Louisville was an incredible show of support for civil liberties across Kentucky. Thanks to our supporters, the ACLU of Kentucky raised more than \$78,000 to help fuel our work in the courts, at the Capitol, and in communities across the Commonwealth.

Every gift strengthens our ability to defend free speech, protect voting rights, safeguard privacy, advance reproductive freedom, support immigrant communities, and respond when civil liberties are threatened.

We are deeply grateful to everyone who donated, shared our campaign, and encouraged others to give. Your support makes this work possible, and we are proud to have you in this fight with us.

MATERNAL HEALTH/BILL OF RIGHTS



This fall, the ACLU of Kentucky and SisterSong will mark an important milestone: the 5th Annual Maternal Health Luncheon.

The luncheon is set for October 17, 2026 at the University Club on the University of Louisville campus. The event has become an important gathering place for people committed to improving reproductive health and maternal health across Kentucky.

Along with our partners, we're focused on protecting reproductive freedoms to ensure people can make deeply personal health decisions consistent with their own beliefs.

The Maternal Health Luncheon is where those principles become community. We listen to the people experiencing gaps in reproductive care. We learn from one another. We create space for people to see themselves not simply as observers of the movement, but as part of it. Register at the link below.

[REGISTER](#)


And the work continues beyond October. On November 5, ACLU-KY will host the Carl L. Weckind Bill of Rights Dinner, bringing advocates, community leaders, and supporters together to celebrate the continuing fight for freedom, equality, and justice across Kentucky.

This year's dinner comes at an especially meaningful time. Just days after the midterm election, we'll come together not simply to reflect on what happened at the ballot box, but to look ahead at the work still before us.

We're honored to welcome Deborah Archer, President of the National ACLU, as our keynote speaker. One of the nation's leading voices on civil rights, civil liberties, and racial justice, Deborah will help us reflect on what this moment demands and what it will take to build what comes next. Tickets for the event are now on sale. Purchase them at the link below.

[PURCHASE YOUR BILL OF RIGHTS TICKET](#)

POLICY & SCIENCE - THE FIFTH INSTALLMENT OF THE "& SCIENCE" FORUMS



"& Science is a quarterly health forum series hosted by University of Louisville's Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute. The series brings together diverse topics of interest to the community and demonstrates their interconnectedness with health, the environment, & science. Launched in 2025, the first year of the program included topics of Communication, Faith, History, and Food and reached an audience of over 1500 people both in-person and digitally.

ACLU of Kentucky Executive Director, Amber Duke, will be one of the speakers on the Policy & Science panel on Wednesday, October 14 at Simmons College of Kentucky. RSVP at the link below.

RSVP

JUSTICE & THE NEXT 250

ACLU OF KENTUCKY PRESENTS: CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN AMERICA

A PBS documentary from
Ken Burns & Lynn Novick

**JUSTICE
& THE NEXT
250**
ACLU
Kentucky

Join the ACLU of Kentucky on December 2 as we watch the first installment of Ken Burns and Lynn Novick's documentary series that takes a deep dive into the past 250 years of crime, punishment, and the meaning of justice in America. Heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks will be provided. Registration is required.

REGISTER

UPDATE: ARMELLE BONDONGA & KSU STUDENT, AMINA SACK, RELEASED FROM ICE CUSTODY



On Tuesday, October 6, a federal judge ordered the release of Armelle Bondonga, who's been in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody in Southern Indiana for eight weeks. Armelle was arrested by U.S. ICE agents on August 12 when she and her husband appeared for a routine interview as part of the process for getting her marriage-based green card.

Amina Seck, a Kentucky State University basketball player, was arrested and detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for roughly two months. Yesterday a federal immigration judge granted a \$2,500 bond for her release.

[You can read more about Armelle and Amina's stories here.](#)



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