The ACLU-KY is a vibrant and influential organization. Its creative and multifaceted strategies to protect freedom are made possible by the generous support of its donors and members. Substantial financial resources are essential to pursuing our work. ACLU receives no government funding and never charges for its services. We rely entirely on individual tax-deductible gifts, membership dues, grants, bequests, and periodic court-awarded attorneys’ fees.

Consolidated Audited Statement for ACLU-KY and ACLU-KY Foundation April 1, 2017-March 31, 2018
The First Amendment’s protections allow religious liberty to thrive and safeguard both religion and government from the undue influences of the other. Before you vote, question:

- Will the candidate protect religious liberty by ensuring that laws and governmental practices neither promote religion nor interfere with its free exercise?
- Is the candidate among the 81% of Americans that say the law should not allow companies or other institutions to use religious beliefs to decide whether to offer a service to some people and not others.

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Even though the U.S. Supreme Court has long made clear that the Constitution prohibits religious indoctrination in public schools, violations remain rampant in Kentucky. Our investigation last school year found “Bible Literacy” classes were operating like Sunday Schools in several districts. We put the districts on notice and provided guidance to the Kentucky Department of Education as they developed standards for the classes.

JUSTICE REFORM

Our work to reform Kentucky’s criminal justice system is stronger because we’ve mobilized a group of 50 volunteer, directly-impacted advocates to help lead our fight. Folks from all over the Commonwealth traveled to the Capitol weekly during the legislative session for “Smart on Crime Wednesdays” where they shared their stories with legislators and testified in hearings.

Commonwealth Attorneys have more power than any other single actor to influence criminal justice policies. Before you vote, find out:

- Will the candidate work to end mass incarceration?
- Will the candidate seek justice, not conviction rates?

STRONGER DEFENDER

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- Will the candidate seek justice, not conviction rates?

We’re up against administrations that every day find new ways to undermine the fundamental principles of our democracy and our basic civil liberties. Together, we’ve fought back at every turn. But soon we’ll exercise one of our most powerful rights — the right to elect our representatives.

And there is nothing more terrifying to the anti-democratic forces we’re fighting than a voting public.

THAT’S WHY, RIGHT HERE AND RIGHT NOW, WE’RE ASKING YOU TO BE AN ACLU VOTER.

An ACLU Voter demands that candidates will fight to protect our democracy, end discrimination, expand our rights, and create a nation with liberty and justice for all. We’ve put together this guide to arm you with questions to ask candidates and information to research before you head to the polls. To take the pledge and learn more visit www.aclu.org/voter

STAND UP. BE HEARD. BE COUNTED.

PLEDGE TO BE AN ACLU VOTER

This November, we all have a job to do. Our job is to choose what kind of America we want to live in, what kind of America the next generations will know.
Kentucky politicians are determined to limit a person’s ability to get safe and affordable abortion care. Before you vote, determine:

- Is the candidate one of the 7 in 10 Americans that believes abortion should remain legal?
- Does the candidate believe we should be free to determine what our families look like without government interference?

Racial Justice

Our country’s bold vision of liberty and justice for all has never been fully realized. History shows us that in all of our institutions, people of color have been denied rights on the basis of race. As part of our ongoing work to understand and lift up this history, ACLU-KY board and staff members traveled to Montgomery, AL for the openings of the National Memorial for Peace and Justice and the Legacy Museum to learn more about Kentucky’s history of hundreds of racial terror lynchings. We’re sharing what we learned with our members and supporters across the Commonwealth.

All legislation at the local, state and federal levels, has the potential to have significant and disparate impacts on communities of color. Before you vote, research:

- Are the candidates you are voting for committed to racial justice?
- Do the candidates share your values of equity and equality?

Immigrants’ Rights

Our immigration detention system unnecessarily locks up hundreds of thousands of immigrants every year, exposing people to brutal and inhumane conditions of confinement at massive costs. The national ACLU continues to fight the Trump administration in court to reunite families separated at the border and for an injunction to stop future separations. Our advocacy efforts in Kentucky are focused on blocking proposed discriminatory legislation that would promote racial and ethnic profiling.

Constitutional protections of due process and equal protection embodied in our Constitution and Bill of Rights apply to every person, regardless of immigration status. Before you vote, ask:

- Will federal-level candidates hold the Trump administration accountable for failing to meet the family reunification deadline? Will they resist efforts to expand family detention?
- Do state and local-level candidates understand and respect the line between local law enforcement and federal immigration agents?

Unfortunately, thousands of Kentuckians are prevented from going to the polls this November. Right now, our state bans returning citizens from voting – for life. It’s wrong to exclude people who’ve already completed all of the terms of their sentence and paid their debts to society from participating in our democracy. Everyone deserves a second chance. Join us in our fight to restore voting rights in Kentucky. Can you help make phone calls, meet with your legislator, or share your personal story? Visit our website aclu-ky.org and click on “Act” to fill out our volunteer form.

Reproductive Rights

For the third time in two years, the ACLU has sued Kentucky for blocking access to abortion. We’re representing Kentucky’s sole-remaining abortion clinic in a challenge to a new state law that makes it a crime for doctors to perform a safe and medically proven abortion procedure known as dilation and evacuation, or “D&E.” We are scheduled to go to trial in mid-November.

Kentucky politicians are determined to limit a person’s ability to get safe and affordable abortion care. Before you vote, determine:

- Is the candidate one of the 7 in 10 Americans that believes abortion should remain legal?
- Does the candidate believe we should be free to determine what our families look like without government interference?
HOW YOU CAN HELP

The ACLU works in the courts, legislature, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in this country by the Constitution and the laws of the United States. Join us to project the principles of justice, liberty, democracy, and equality.

MAKE A GIFT

You can defend and advance civil liberties by donating to either the ACLU of Kentucky Union or the ACLU of Kentucky Foundation. Gifts to the ACLU-KY Union support our legislative work and are not tax deductible. Gifts to the ACLU-KY Foundation are tax deductible and support our litigation and public education efforts. Learn more at aclu-ky.org, click on “Donate.”

You can create your own online fundraising campaign with our new DIY Fundraising Platform at aclu.org/issues/join-team-aclu

For more information about supporting the ACLU through your will, trust, or retirement plan, please contact our Gift Planning Office at (877) 867-1025 or legacy@aclu.org

GET INVOLVED

By mobilizing in defense of our civil liberties, volunteers build and strengthen local communities that affirm our American values of respect, equality, and solidarity. Get involved in our legislative work by emailing our field organizer George Eklund at George@aclu-ky.org.

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

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