

CITIZENS' LOBBYING GUIDE AND LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

ACLU

Kentucky

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The American Civil Liberties Union is freedom's watchdog.

Our team works in courts, the state legislature, city councils, and with grassroots activists to defend the civil rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in Kentucky by the United States and Kentucky Constitutions.

At the state house, the ACLU-KY teams work with legislators to propose new bills, make bills better, and defeat harmful legislation. We also connect legislators with people directly affected by certain policies so lawmakers can learn about the real-life impacts of legislation, from mass incarceration, to racial equity in healthcare, to reproductive freedom.

This guide is a toolkit to help you understand how laws are made and how you can get engaged with the legislative process.

MEET THE ACLU TEAM

The ACLU-KY advocacy and communications teams are in Frankfort most days during the legislative session.

ADVOCACY



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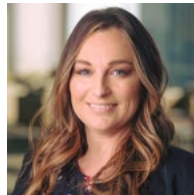
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THE KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

ABOUT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

There are two types of lawmakers in Kentucky: senators and representatives. Representatives work in the House of Representatives (or “House”) and senators work in the Senate. The House and Senate are known as chambers. Together, they make the Kentucky General Assembly.

Representatives and senators are elected by Kentucky voters. Representatives serve two-year terms and senators serve four-year terms.

Some lawmakers have more influence than others. One good indicator for how much power a lawmaker holds is how long they have been in office. Other factors that determine one’s power is whether or not their political party is in the majority, and whether or not they serve in a leadership position or chair a committee.

The General Assembly is the legislative branch of Kentucky’s state government, meaning it is responsible for creating and changing laws. The Governor is the head of the executive branch, which is responsible for enforcing laws. If the legislature passes a bill and the Governor signs it, the bill becomes law.

We must dissent
because
**AMERICA CAN
DO BETTER,**
because America
has no choice
but to do better.

- Thurgood Marshall



USEFUL TERMS

AMENDMENT

A change or addition to a bill. Amendments proposed in committee must be voted on by the committee. Amendments proposed to a full chamber must be voted on by the entire chamber.

BILL

A written proposal to create a new law, modify an existing law, or repeal an existing law.

COMMITTEE SUB

A change or addition to legislation in committee.

ORDERS OF THE DAY

The order of bills to be reviewed on a certain day.

COMMITTEE

A group of legislators that focuses on a specific set of issues. A chairperson is in charge of a committee and decides which bills are discussed in their committee. If the chair allows a bill to be heard, the committee can debate the bill and make changes. The committee then votes to decide if they want the bill to move forward in the legislative process or stop there, “dying” in committee.

SINE DIE






The end of the legislative session, or adjournment, without a date set to reconvene. Sine die is Latin for “without day.” It is pronounced “sigh-knee die.”

COMMITTEES IN THE LEGISLATURE

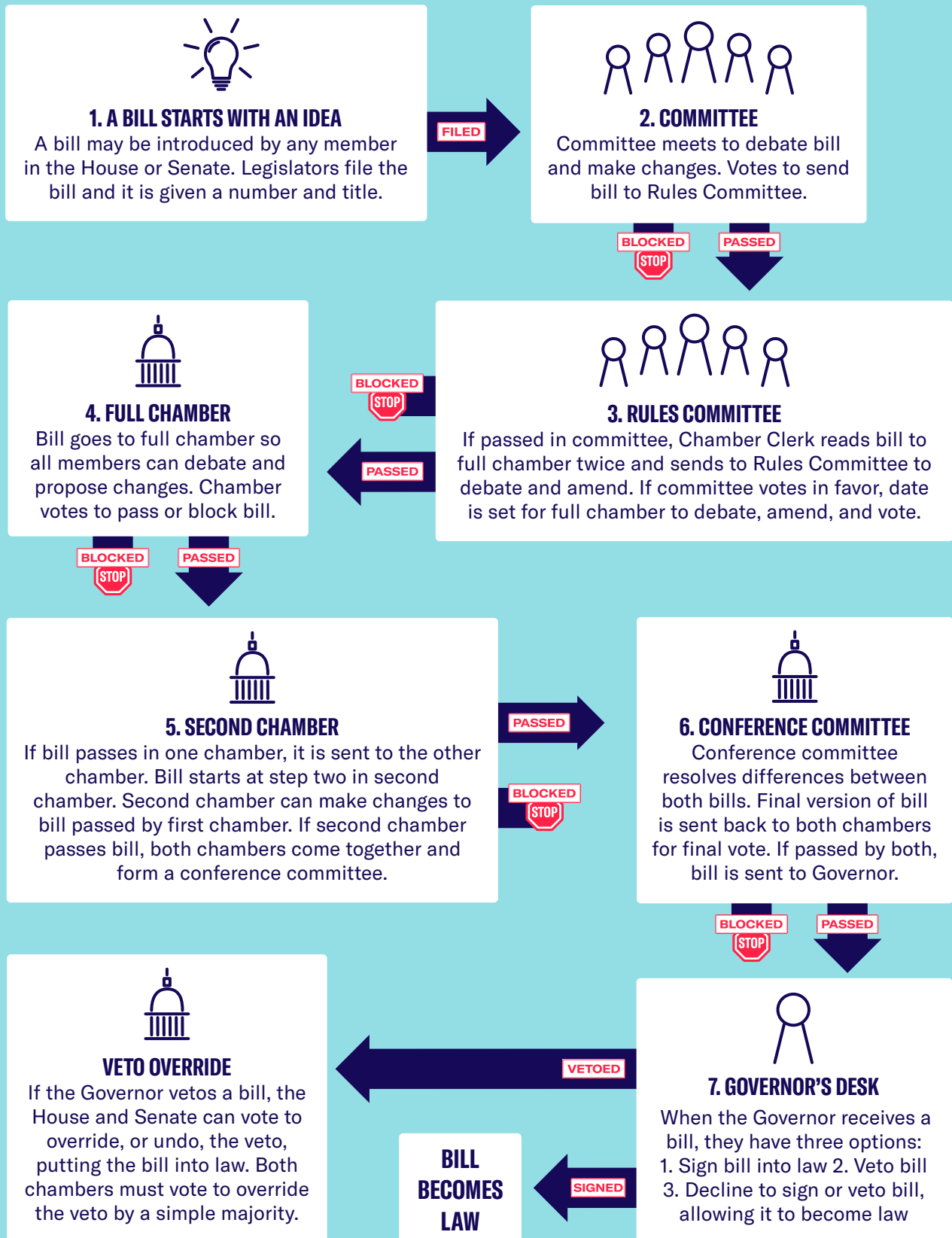
There are dozens of committees in the House and Senate. Committees focus on a specific set of issues and are the first place a bill is reviewed and changed.

Each committee meets at the same time each week during the legislative session. They meet monthly in the time between sessions. The chairperson of any committee can call special meetings at their discretion. Committee meetings typically last for two hours and are open to the public. The number of members varies from committee to committee, but there are typically between 10 and 25 members.

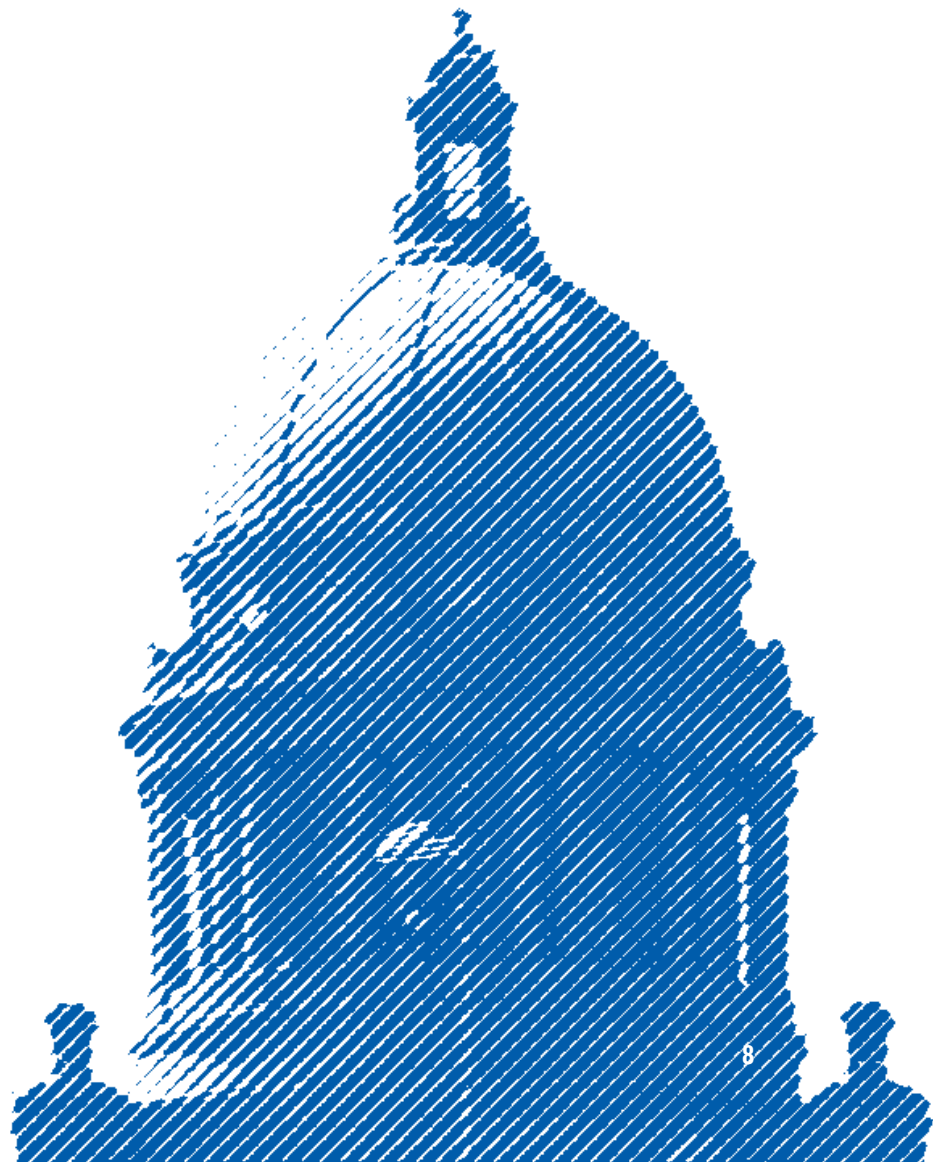
While there are dozens of committees, only a few handle legislation that directly affects civil rights and liberties:

					
HOUSE	Education	Health & Family Services	Judiciary	State Gov't & Local Gov't	Veterans, Military Affairs, & Public Protection
SENATE	Education	Health & Welfare	Judiciary	State & Local Government	Veterans, Military Affairs, & Public Protection

HOW IDEAS BECOME LAWS IN KY



CONNECTING WITH LEGISLATORS AND SHARING YOUR STORY



MEETING WITH LEGISLATORS

1. SCHEDULING A MEETING

Call your legislator's office to make an appointment. Be prepared to provide your name, address, desired time to meet, and what you would like to talk about.

Call (502) 564-8100 to schedule an appointment. You do not need to know your legislator's name.

2. PLANNING A MEETING

Establish goals for the meeting and what role folks see themselves playing in the meeting.

Talk about what folks are comfortable sharing, especially if it involves personal stories.

Consider time restraints.

If you met with a lawmaker about a civil rights issue, we'd love to hear how it went!

Share your story with us by emailing Info@ACLU-KY.org or writing to 325 W. Main St., Suite 2210, Louisville, KY 40202.

3. AT THE MEETING

Prepare

Practice what you will say, look over relevant materials, and know what you are comfortable sharing. Consider the amount of time you have. Make plans for what you will do if the lawmaker becomes unfriendly or if you run out of time.

Be courteous

Arrive about 15 minutes early. Stay positive throughout the meeting. A lawmaker may disagree with you, but it is important not to become angry or rude.

Be clear

Plainly state how you feel about an issue and what actions you want the lawmaker to take.

Be quick

Meetings with lawmakers typically take 15 to 30 minutes. It is important to stay on topic. If you are sharing a personal story, keep it between 2 and 5 minutes.

Followup

Send a thank you letter to the lawmaker and staff members with whom you met. Be sure to mention the topic you discussed, your position on the issue, and what actions you would like them to take.

MINI-LOBBY DAYS

Mini-lobby days are weekly, ACLU-sponsored events. During a mini-lobby day, several engaged Kentuckians meet our team at the Capitol. We help them connect with legislators so they can share their stories and tell lawmakers about policy issues that directly affect them.

Some lobby days are dedicated to specific issue areas, including justice reform, reproductive freedom, immigrants' rights, and abolition of the death penalty. Learn more about our mini-lobby days and find out when they are at ACLU-KY.org.

WRITING TO LEGISLATORS

Writing to legislators is one of the most effective ways to share your story, what you think about a certain policy, and what actions you would like lawmakers to take.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

Be courteous

Address legislators by their title and full name.

Be clear

State the purpose of the letter. Be sure to include what you think about a certain policy and what specific actions you would like the legislator to take. If you have a personal story related to the policy you are writing about, sharing it can add credibility to your letter and help legislators understand how their actions affect people.

Stay focused

Focus on your main message. You should be able to tie anything you discuss in your letter to your main message.

Restate and thank

At the end of your letter, restate your main message and the specific steps you would like the legislator to take. Close the letter by thanking them for taking the time to read your letter and letting them know how they can reach you if they would like to talk more.

Followup

If you receive a response, followup with them.

SAMPLE LETTER

Your Name
Your Address
Your Phone Number
Your Email

Legislator's Name
Legislator's Address

Dear Honorable (Full Name),

State the reason for your letter in the first sentence and the bill number you would like them to support or oppose. Follow with a brief description of the bill. Mention you are a voter in their district. Let them know this issue is important to you.

State reasons they should support your position. Use facts and references when appropriate to strengthen your argument. Use citations when necessary to enhance the letter's credibility. You can also share a personal story if you have been affected by an issue related to the bill you are writing about.

Be brief, specific, and concise. It is best to write about only one bill at a time and limit your letter to one page. Keep the letter positive and never threaten political or other consequences.

Thank them for their consideration of your request. Lastly tell them you look forward to their response to this issue and how they can reach you.

Sincerely,

Sign your name

Type your name

Optional: Type your job title or organization if related to why you are writing to them

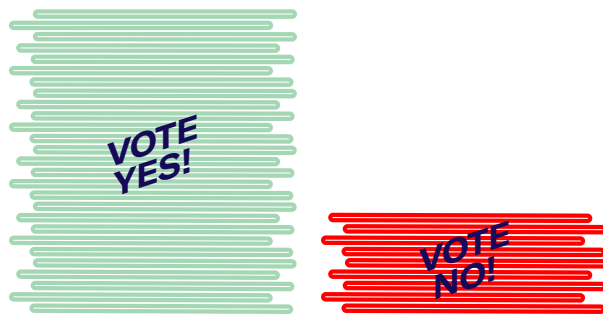
PHONE CALLS AND SOCIAL MEDIA

PHONE CALLS

Phone calls are an extremely effective way to share your views with legislators. This is a great option if lawmakers are about to vote on a bill or if you do not have the time to write a letter or meet in person.

If you call to tell them you think they should vote yes or no on a certain bill, your legislator will receive a physical piece of green or red paper representing your view.

These are called “green slips” and “red slips.” When several people call about a bill, a legislator will have stacks of each color paper. Many lawmakers say they are influenced by how many green or red slips they receive. These slips are what make phone calls so effective.



LEGISLATIVE MESSAGE LINE

Call 1-800-372-7181 to send a message to your legislators. It is helpful to know the specific bill number you are calling about.

Be prepared to share your address so the operator can send your message to the right office. It only takes 2 to 3 minutes and you do not have to know your legislator’s name.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is an effective way to generate attention for a particular cause. Here are some tips for using social media effectively:

Be visual

People are more likely to share posts that have photos, videos, or graphics.

Be positive

Stay positive to make posts more relatable and encourage people to get involved. If every post says a certain bill is the end of the world, people will feel helpless and won’t believe it when there really is a truly horrible bill.

“Thank you @atticascott4ky for filing legislation to improve healthcare outcomes for pregnant people of color! Call your legislator at 1-800-372-7181 and tell them to support the Maternal CARE Act. #KYGA20”

Engage with others

Engaging with others exposes more people to the conversation and shows lawmakers that people really care about a certain issue. Here are some easy ways to engage:

- Share other peoples’ posts and retweet tweets.
- Like their posts and tweets.
- Tag people and groups that are directly tied to what you are discussing.
- Give positive shoutouts to lawmakers, volunteers, and organizations.
- Comment on a post or reply to a tweet if you have something relevant, informative, and important to contribute to the discussion.
- Use hashtags so more people can see your posts. If you’re tweeting about something related to the General Assembly during the 2020 legislative session, use #KYGA20.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Newspapers are always looking for new voices. Anyone can submit a letter, and many get published.

Letters to the Editor are an effective way to call attention to an issue and reach a broad audience. Most newspapers post letters online in addition to printing them. Sharing the online version of a letter on social media is a great way to spread your message even further.

TIPS TO REMEMBER

- Respond to recent news or recently published letters to the editor (reply within 2 days for daily papers or before the next issue for weekly papers and magazines).
- Keep it short and focused.
- You may send the letter to multiple papers.
- Use verified facts.
- Balance criticisms with positives.
- Cite sources when appropriate.
- Do not over-exaggerate.
- Visit the paper's website to find out how to submit the letter, how long it can be, and more.

SAMPLE LETTER

Dear Editor,

The onslaught of laws focusing on denying reproductive health care rights is a concerted campaign against women. These laws are not grounded in science or evidence-based medicine.

The American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists believes that access to family-planning counseling and to the full array of contraceptives is a basic and essential component of preventive health care for women.

Efforts to defund Planned Parenthood, which provides cervical cancer and mammography screening, contraception and other preventive care to millions of women, are egregious and disproportionately hurt poor women.

As physicians for women's health care, ob-gyns see firsthand the havoc that punitive ideology-based laws have on the health of women and their families. These ill-conceived laws are based on the pretext of protecting health, but they do anything but that.

Mandating that women be legally forced to undergo transvaginal ultrasound or any other medical procedure against their will and against their physician's judgment is an outrageous violation of patient autonomy and the confidential doctor-patient relationship. Decreasing access to family planning and contraception will only increase unintended pregnancies and negatively affect family and societal health.

Politicians were not elected to, nor should they, legislate the practice of medicine or dictate the parameters of the doctor-patient relationship. Our message to politicians is unequivocal: Get out of our exam rooms.

James T. Breedon
President, American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
Washington, May 22, 2012

2020

LEGISLATIVE

PRIORITIES

Legislative priorities are bills that the ACLU of Kentucky is working to pass during the 2020 legislative session.

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The ACLU of Kentucky is supporting legislation in three key areas during the 2020 session:



JUSTICE REFORM



REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM



JUVENILE JUSTICE

JUSTICE REFORM

SUCCESSFUL SUPERVISION

Kentuckians under supervision need a fair shot at getting back on their feet. Reforming the state's systems of probation and parole will reduce the skyrocketing number of incarcerated people.

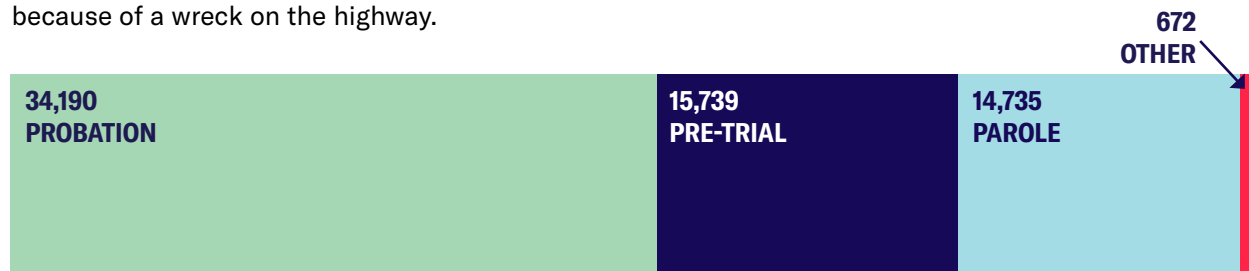
THE PROBLEM

More than 50,000 Kentuckians are on probation or parole and are at risk of returning to jail or prison because of simple technical violations. Violations happen when a probationer or parolee breaks the conditions of their supervision. They can be as simple as arriving late to a meeting because of a wreck on the highway.

THE SOLUTION

We support legislation reforming Kentucky's community supervision to allow formerly incarcerated people a fair chance at successfully reintegrating into their communities by:

- Providing alternatives to prison and jails for people who fail to meet all conditions of their release all of the time.
- Providing incentives to probationers similar to those offered to parolees (i.e. credit for education, volunteering, or participation in a recovery program).
- Implementing a fairer system for paying fines and fees to offer people released from jail or prison a better chance to get on their feet.
- Extending the same due process afforded to Kentuckians accused of a crime to people facing a return to prison or jail for alleged violations.

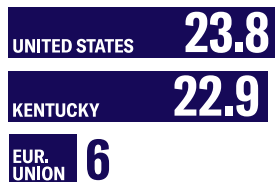


REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

THE PROBLEM

The U.S. has the highest rate of maternal mortality among the world's wealthiest countries.

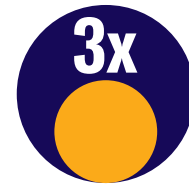
People of color are three times more likely to die from complications during or after pregnancy than their white peers. African Americans are four times more likely to die than their white peers.



Maternal mortality rate per 100,000 births.



U.S. maternal mortality rate rose 26% from 2010-14.



Pregnant people of color have 3x the maternal mortality rate.



Black infants are twice as likely to die before their first birthday than non-Hispanic



Maternal and infant mortality happens to pregnant people of color of all incomes.

STRUCTURAL RACISM IN HEALTHCARE

Mortality rates are higher for all pregnant people of color due to structural racism in

THE SOLUTION – Maternal CARE Act

We support the Maternal CARE Act, which would address the racial disparities in maternal mortality in three keys ways:



Address racial bias in medicine by requiring implicit bias training



Increase access to doulas by allowing people to use Medicare to pay for their services



Increase understanding of the causes of maternal and infant mortality by establishing transparent processes to review each case

WHAT IS IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING?

Implicit bias is an automatic and subconscious feeling or attitude about a certain group of people. It does not come from a place of negative intent, but results in unequal treatment. Implicit bias training teaches people how to identify their subconscious patterns of biased thinking and change those patterns to eliminate discriminatory behaviors.

WHAT ARE DOULAS?

Doulas inform and advocate for pregnant people before, during, and after birth. Doulas provide individualized and culturally-specific education about pregnancy and childcare, and ways to reduce stress and promote a healthy pregnancy. They visit patients at home during and after pregnancy, and are present during labor and delivery to ensure the patient receives the care they need.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

A variety of Kentucky laws treats kids like adults in our justice system. These laws hurt all families, but have a disproportionate impact on Black kids.

To make much-needed reforms to reduce racial disparities, we need accurate data to get a better understanding of how we got here and how to address it.

THE PROBLEM

Juvenile justice reform from past General Assemblies has resulted in significant reductions in the number of detained youth. Unfortunately, racial disparities have increased.

We need a system that treats kids like kids, not adults.

THE SOLUTION

Children who have been accused of acting out should be supported with access to services. We need legislation that allows advocates and the state to collect data to understand where current supports are failing these children and their families.

2020

LEGISLATIVE

GOALS

Legislative goals relate to issues that are core to the ACLU of Kentucky's mission. We are laying the groundwork to reach these goals during future legislative sessions by helping lawmakers understand these issues, working with stakeholders, and collaborating with allies.

LEGISLATIVE GOALS

The ACLU of Kentucky is committed to the longterm fight for civil liberties, and will focus in four broad areas during the 2020 legislative session.

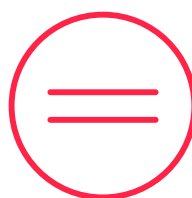
We are laying the groundwork for future success on these issues by helping lawmakers understand them, learning from those directly affected by them, and collaborating with ally organizations.



**JUSTICE
REFORM**



**RACIAL
JUSTICE**



**LGBTQ
EQUALITY**



**VOTING
RIGHTS**

JUSTICE REFORM

ENDING THE DEATH PENALTY

The ACLU of Kentucky supports full abolition of the death penalty. Until full abolition is achieved, we must stop sentencing people to death who have severe mental disabilities.

EXPANDING EXPUNGEMENT

The ACLU of Kentucky supports updating our laws so more Kentuckians have the opportunity to earn a second chance.

ACCESS TO RECOVERY SERVICES

Time is of the essence when people with substance use disorder seek treatment, and bureaucratic delays can be life-threatening.

The ACLU of Kentucky supports removing prior authorization requirements. Removing this barrier will save lives. It will also reduce the number of incarcerated Kentuckians by giving people a real chance to get the treatment they need.

ALTERNATIVES TO INCARCERATION

Kentucky's incarceration rates are skyrocketing, causing deadly overcrowding in jails and prisons. If Kentucky were a country, it would have the third-highest rate of women's incarceration in the world. Kentucky has the second-highest rate of children affected by parental incarceration. These rates are even worse for people of color.

The ACLU of Kentucky supports reforming Kentucky's system of injustice by changing police practices, increasing alternatives to incarceration, improving probation and parole, and strengthening re-entry programs.

JUVENILE JUSTICE

Reforms have reduced youth incarceration rates, but racial disparities have drastically increased.

The ACLU of Kentucky supports policies that treat Kentucky kids like kids, and not adults. Kentucky's youth need access to community programs, trauma-informed counseling, and equitable education.

RACIAL JUSTICE

RACIAL IMPACT STATEMENTS

The ACLU of Kentucky supports the inclusion of racial impact statements in proposed legislation.

Many laws, even those that may appear neutral on their face, have disparate impacts on black and brown Kentuckians. Adding a data-driven analysis to proposed legislation would allow lawmakers to fully understand the potential effects legislation could have on Kentuckians of color.

LGBTQ EQUALITY

STATEWIDE FAIRNESS

Fairness laws protect LGBTQ Kentuckians from discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodation. Some cities in Kentucky have local ordinances offering these protections.

The ACLU of Kentucky supports a statewide Fairness law to protect all LGBTQ Kentuckians from discrimination, no matter where they live.

BANNING CONVERSION THERAPY

Kentucky's LGBTQ youth can be forced into "conversion therapy." This practice seeks to change a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. The American Psychological Association has proven this "therapy" is ineffective and often leads to depression, isolation, substance use disorder, suicidality, and more.

The ACLU of Kentucky supports banning the use of conversion therapy on Kentucky's young people.

VOTING RIGHTS

RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS

Kentucky bars some individuals with past felony convictions from voting, even after completing their full sentence, probation, and parole. This practice weakens democracy and disproportionately keeps Kentuckians of color from exercising their right to vote.

Governor Beshear signed an executive order restoring the voting rights of roughly 212,000 people with past felony convictions who had completed their full sentences, probation, and parole. That order was a good step forward, but leaves behind more than 100,000 others. It could also be easily reversed with an executive order from a future governor.

The ACLU of Kentucky supports amending the Kentucky Constitution to grant all Kentuckians the right to vote by automatically restoring voting rights to people currently denied them.

2020

AREAS OF

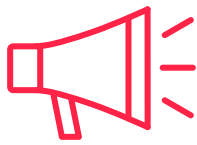
DEFENSE

Lawmakers file several bills during the legislative session that threaten Kentuckians' civil rights and liberties. The ACLU of Kentucky is committed to stopping these bills to protect the civil rights and liberties guaranteed to all people in Kentucky by the U.S. and Kentucky Constitutions.

AREAS OF DEFENSE

Lawmakers file hundreds of bills every year, and the vast majority of them do not move forward. Some civil rights and liberties are under constant attack from lawmakers.

We are committed to stopping problematic bills in six key areas during the 2020 session:



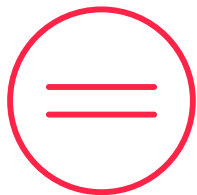
**FREEDOM OF
SPEECH**



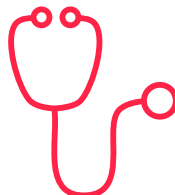
**IMMIGRANTS'
RIGHTS**



**JUSTICE
REFORM**



**LGBTQ
EQUALITY**



**REPRODUCTIVE
FREEDOM**



**VOTING
RIGHTS**

FREEDOM OF SPEECH

Lawmakers frequently undermine the right to free speech guaranteed by the 1st Amendment.

SILENCING KENTUCKY VOICES

The “Silencing Kentucky Voices Act” would make protesting on infrastructure - like pipelines - a felony punishable by up to 5 years in prison.

This bill was filed in late 2019 shortly after a fatal pipeline explosion in Danville, and Louisville Gas & Electric’s push to build a pipeline through Bernheim Forest. It would also penalize people who help protesters in any way, including providing water or first aid.

Similar laws have been promoted by energy groups in other states.

CHURCH AND STATE

Lawmakers frequently claim they are protecting religious freedom when they are really restricting free speech and indicating state endorsement of specific religious beliefs. Some laws passed in other years using this technique include:

- Religious Freedom Restoration Act
- Mandated display of ‘In God We Trust’ in all public schools
- Bible Literacy classes

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

Families belong together and all people in Kentucky should feel safe living in their communities, regardless of their skin color or country of origin.

FAMILY SEPARATION BILL

Senate Bill 1, the Family Separation Bill, would force local law enforcement agencies and almost all public employees to “support the enforcement of federal immigration law.”

This bill would increase racial profiling and put our fellow Kentuckians at greater risk for deportation. It would also interfere with students' educations, separate Kentucky families, and stress our already weak foster care system.

The Family Separation Bill would also imperil county budgets. Forcing local law enforcement agencies to enforce federal immigration laws exposes them to lawsuits in cases of constitutional violations.



WHAT WOULD THE FAMILY SEPARATION BILL DO?

- Force almost all public employees, from staff at domestic violence shelters to hospital employees, to engage in federal immigration law enforcement.
- Deny college admission to students without proper documentation. Some senators are seeking to also deny admission to DREAMers, or DACA recipients.
- Allow all constitutional officers to formally challenge people or agencies they believe are not enforcing the law.
- Create a system of fear, intimidation, and racial profiling against Kentuckians of color.
- Imperil county budgets by exposing them to costly lawsuits.

JUSTICE REFORM

SENTENCING ENHANCEMENTS

The ACLU of Kentucky opposes bill that would increase the number of incarcerated people.

The General Assembly frequently passes legislation that defines new crimes and increases the punishments for existing crimes. Decades of these types of bills are partly to blame for deadly overcrowding in Kentucky's jails and prisons.

LGBTQ EQUALITY

LGBTQ youth are some of Kentucky's most vulnerable people. The ACLU of Kentucky opposes all legislation restricting the rights of LGBTQ people.

BATHROOM BILL

Transgender students are the target of a renewed attempt to restrict and regulate their access to restrooms and locker rooms in their schools. The bill is being brought back after failing in past years.

Lawmakers are pushing these discriminatory policies in the name of privacy and safety. It is already illegal to enter a bathroom or locker room for the purposes of harming someone or invading someone's privacy. Nothing in this bill would change that. All this bill would do is discriminate against transgender youth for being who they know themselves to truly be.

WHAT WOULD THE BATHROOM BILL DO?

- Force students to use the bathroom based on their biological sex at birth, not their gender identity.
- Allow students to sue their school if it allows their transgender peers to use bathrooms or locker rooms that correspond with their gender identity.

HEALTHCARE DISCRIMINATION

Some lawmakers want politics in your doctor's office. One piece of proposed legislation would make it illegal for parents to seek transgender-affirming medical care for their children under the age of 18.

As of the January 6, 2020, this legislation had not been filed. Visit ACLU-KY.org to stay up to date.

2019 was a record-breaking year for Fairness in Kentucky! Six cities passed a Fairness ordinance, bringing the total to 17.

Fairness protections prohibit discrimination against LGBTQ people in housing, employment, and public accommodation. These ordinances are an important step in the right direction, but it's time for Kentucky lawmakers to adopt a statewide Fairness law that protects all LGBTQ Kentuckians, no matter where they live.

**DID
YOU
KNOW?**

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

Kentucky lawmakers regularly pass laws restricting access to abortion. The ACLU of Kentucky opposes all policies that put politics between a patient and their doctor.

ANTI-CHOICE CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

This bill would add political language to Kentucky's constitution about abortion. It would assert there is no legal right to an abortion guaranteed by the Kentucky Constitution.

People must be fully informed before making important healthcare decisions, and politics must stay out of the exam room.

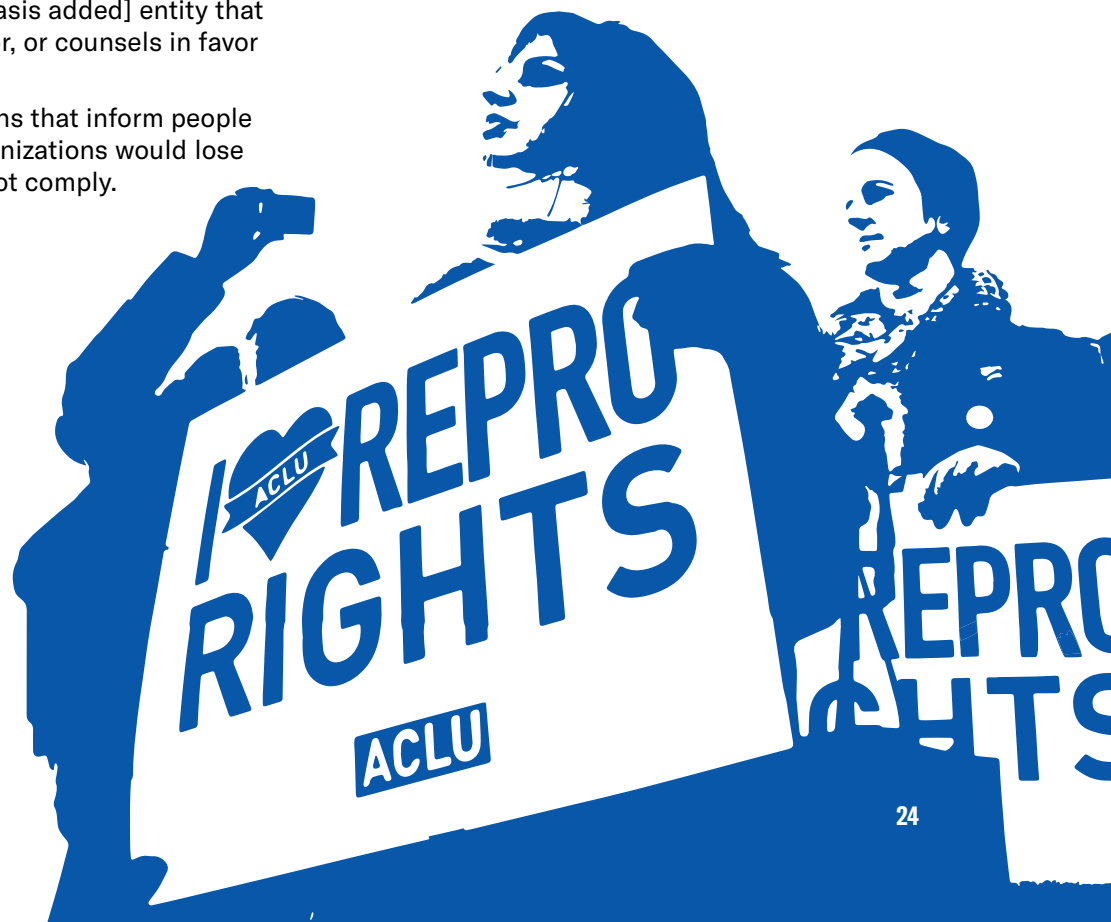
ABORTION RESTRICTIONS OFTEN FALL INTO 3 CATEGORIES:

1. Bans on certain medical procedures
2. Bans depending on the patient's reason for seeking the abortion
3. Unnecessary regulations that do not improve patient health outcomes, but do make it difficult or impossible for clinics to obtain a license to operate.

PUBLIC FUNDING PROHIBITION

This bill would "prohibit the payment of public agency funds to *any* [emphasis added] entity that performs, induces, refers for, or counsels in favor of abortions."

This bill targets organizations that inform people of their options. These organizations would lose crucial funding if they do not comply.



VOTING RIGHTS

Every eligible voter should easily be able to vote and all votes should count.

MANDATORY VOTER I.D. BILL

Photo I.D. laws are a form of voter suppression. SB2, the Mandatory Voter ID Bill, would require people to present an official photo I.D. issued by the government or a university to vote. This is a solution to a non-existent problem based on unfounded claims of “voter fraud”.

There have only been 31 credible allegations of voter impersonation in the country – the only type of voter fraud a photo ID can prevent – between 2000 and 2017. More than 1 billion ballots were cast in that same time.

VOTER PURGE

Kentucky’s Secretary of State has been ordered to clean up the voting rolls by a federal court. The Secretary is trying to rush this process and purge voters before the 2020 general elections.

Removing people from the rolls must be done as slowly and as carefully as possible. Purges remove voters who are not supposed to be removed. Ohio was set to purge 235,000 registered voters and was incorrect 20% of the time.

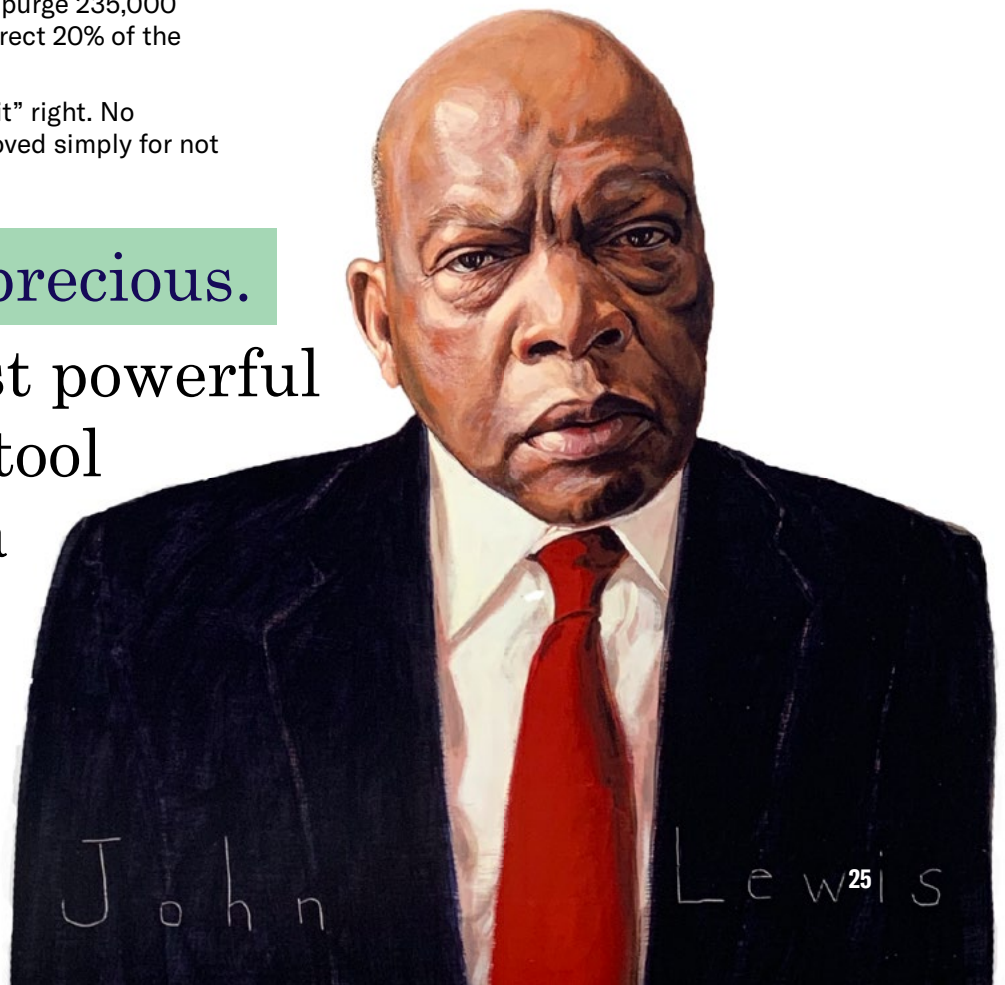
Voting is not a “use it or lose it” right. No registered voter should be removed simply for not participating in elections.

THE REAL EFFECTS OF MANDATORY VOTER I.D.:

- Photo ID requirements reduce turnout by 2-3% by making it more difficult to vote.
- Acquiring a photo I.D. takes time and money (transportation, lost wages, childcare).
- Providing photo I.D.s at no cost to voters requires significant government resources.

The vote is precious.

It is the most powerful non-violent tool we have in a democracy.



RESOURCES

FOLLOW US:

Stay up-to-date with the latest news from the General Assembly and see how you can get involved.

@ACLUofKY



TAKE ACTION:

Visit ACLU-KY.org to sign up for email action alerts, send a message to your legislators, and view the calendar of events.

ACCESSING THE CAPITOL:

All visitors must go through security. Be prepared to present a photo I.D.

700 Capitol Avenue
Frankfort, KY 40601

PHOTOS:

1. Cover. Kentucky Tourism.
 2. Page 4. Bill Pugliano, Getty Images.
 3. Page 8. Kentucky Tourism.
 4. Page 16. VPR.org, "Education Officials Balk At Scott's Latest Plan For School Savings In Vermont." 2018.
 5. Page 25. Photo of painting by Robert Shetterly. 2010.
- All other photos and graphics are original artwork of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky.*

HOW TO VOTE:

All eligible voters must register by the voter registration deadlines to cast a ballot.

PRIMARY ELECTION

Election Day: April 20, 2020

Registration deadline: May 19, 2020

GENERAL ELECTION

Election Day: November 3, 2020

Registration deadline: Not yet set

GoVoteKY.com

Visit GoVoteKY.com to:

- register to vote
- see where to vote
- view a sample ballot

VOTING RIGHTS RESTORATION

Do you have a past felony conviction?

Visit ACLU-KY.org/En/News/Restoration to see what you need to do to vote in the next election.

SEE WHO REPRESENTS YOU:

LOCAL OFFICIALS

Visit Kentucky.gov/Government/Pages/Local

STATE OFFICIALS

Visit LRC.KY.gov

**WE THE PEOPLE
DARE TO CREATE A
MORE PERFECT UNION.**

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Updated January 8, 2020

ACLU Kentucky