

STANDING UP FOR OUR RIGHTS

2019 ACLU of Florida Legislative Priorities

The ACLU of Florida is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to protecting and strengthening the civil rights and liberties of all Floridians. As a nonprofit membership organization with over 170,000 members and supporters in Florida and more than 1.6 million supporters nationwide, we advance this mission through litigation, advocacy, and education.

REFORM FLORIDA'S BROKEN CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM.

Florida's criminal justice system locks too many nonviolent individuals up for far too long and disproportionately impacts individuals of color and those with fewer resources.

We call on the Florida legislature to:

- Allow for judicial discretion in sentencing when individual circumstances demonstrate that the punishment does not fit the crime.
- Enact sentencing and re-entry reforms that would incentivize and reward rehabilitation and reduce recidivism.
- Ensure that a person's driver's license is not suspended for non-driving related offenses.
- Provide for judicial involvement in the determination of whether a child should be prosecuted as an adult.
- Revise our outdated felony theft threshold to ensure that minor property offenses do not constitute a felony.
- Eliminate racial bias in our criminal justice system and ensure that all Floridians enjoy equal freedoms and protections.

PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE.

The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy. We will advocate to ensure that a system of fair and open elections exists in which all qualified citizens — regardless of gender, race, socioeconomic status or any other category — may cast a vote and have it accurately counted. We will oppose any legislation that seeks to disenfranchise eligible voters or makes it more difficult for voters to exercise their fundamental right to vote.

DEFEAT ANTI-IMMIGRANT LEGISLATION AND PROTECT IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN FLORIDA.

Immigrant rights are under attack and we will continue to work tirelessly to defeat anti-immigrant legislation and ensure greater protections for all Floridians, regardless of where you were born. We will continue to vigorously oppose unconstitutional legislation that requires local law enforcement to enforce ICE detainers without any judicial determination of probable cause, and we will forcefully advocate for our most vulnerable populations.

ENSURE NO INDIVIDUAL IS DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR GENDER IDENTITY.

Florida's Civil Rights Act and Fair Housing Act do not adequately address LGBTQ discrimination and need to be amended. While these laws currently protect some Floridians from discrimination, they do not offer adequate protections based on an individual's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression. We will support comprehensive legislation prohibiting discrimination based on actual or perceived sexual orientation and/or gender identity or expression in employment, housing, and public accommodations.

SAFEGUARD A WOMAN'S ABILITY TO DETERMINE WHETHER AND WHEN TO HAVE A CHILD.

Reproductive rights are essential to women's equality, autonomy, economic self-sufficiency, and dignity. We will oppose legislative efforts that seek to erode a woman's constitutional right to abortion and we will be vigilant in protecting a woman's privacy and ability to determine what is right for her.