

A photograph of a crowd of people at a public event. In the foreground, a man with dark hair and sunglasses, wearing a pink shirt and a pink and white patterned scarf, holds a large yellow sign. The sign features the ACLU logo in the top left corner and the text "THIS IS OUR HOME DREAM ACT NOW" in large, bold, blue letters. At the bottom of the sign, it says "JOIN THE FIGHT. TEXT DREAMACT TO 82623". Another man with grey hair, also wearing a pink and white patterned scarf, is visible behind him. The background is filled with a large crowd of people, some wearing pink shirts, under bright sunlight.

ACLU

Nevada

2018 Impact Report



Hundreds of thousands of people gathered at Sam Boyd Stadium in Las Vegas for the 2018 Women's March, and the ACLU of Nevada was there. As the Trump administration continues to target women's health and reproductive freedom in 2019, the ACLU of Nevada will continue to fight to protect women's rights. (Front and inside cover photos by Miranda Alam for ACLU)

WE THE PEOPLE DARE TO CREATE A MORE PERFECT UNION

ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION

Nevada

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GET INVOLVED AND JOIN THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM

Become a Member

To learn more about how to become a member, visit aclunv.org/join, call our office at 702-366-1226 or email membership@aclunv.org.

Volunteer

Sign up to join one of our volunteer teams to take action whenever our freedoms are at risk. Visit aclunv.org/volunteer.

Donate

The ACLU of Nevada's work would not be possible without the generosity of our supporters. There are many ways to give. Visit aclunv.org/donate for more information.

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Automatic Voter Registration

With approval of Nevada Ballot Question 5, voting rights expand in the Silver State

VICTORY!

The ACLU of Nevada joined the campaign to pass Nevada Ballot Question 5, also known as the Automatic Voter Registration (AVR) Initiative.

Under AVR, eligible Nevada residents will be automatically registered to vote and voters will have their registration updated automatically at the DMV. In Oregon, the first state to adopt Automatic Voter Registration, this policy led to an increase in participation and helped many people cast a ballot who may not have done so otherwise.

The campaign became part of the ACLU's nationwide focus on voting rights, because AVR will make it easier for as many as 700,000 more Nevadans to participate in our elections. Thanks to the ACLU's efforts across the U.S., 2 million more Americans will have access to the ballot in time for the 2020 presidential elections.

In the months leading up to Election Day, ACLU of Nevada staff and volunteers made contact with tens of thousands of voters through phone banking and door-to-door canvassing. Critics of the measure said policies like AVR could open the door to misuse and fraud, but the people of Nevada saw through these scare tactics: The initiative was approved on Election Day with 59.6 percent of voters affirming that registering to vote should never be difficult for members of the armed forces, rural residents, communities of color, young people, or low-income residents.

VOTE

ACLU Voter

PROVIDING PROTECTION FOR NEVADA'S VOTERS

ACLU of Nevada's Legal, Advocacy, and Communications departments, in collaboration with Silver State Voices, the Lawyers' Committee for Civil rights, Common Cause, and the AFL/CIO, ran a nonpartisan voter protection program for the midterm elections, similar to the program we ran for the presidential election in 2016.

The Election Protection Team visited hundreds of polling centers and posted a hotline number for voters to submit complaints on Election Day. They ran command centers at the ACLU of Nevada offices to triage any concerns, and nonpartisan poll watchers on

the ground helped to ensure that problems at polling places were immediately identified and resolved if possible. We had a robust team of lawyers, law students, and other volunteers participate. Having these volunteers in the field allowed us to obtain a deeper understanding of how election day ran and identify areas of concern that can be improved for future elections.

It was a long night: Although polls were scheduled to close at 7 p.m., long lines—hundreds of voters long, in some polling places—kept the team busy until past 10 p.m. A small price to pay to contribute to the fight against voter suppression!



The ACLU of Nevada stepped up to fight for immigrants rights in 2018. We defeated a cruel and unnecessary initiative petition, fought family separation, and worked with coalition partners across the state to protect the constitutional rights of Nevada's immigrant communities. (Wesley Juhl)

HOME MEANS NEVADA

Defeating the Anti-Sanctuary Cities Initiative

The ACLU of Nevada Legal Department successfully sued to stop an anti-immigrant ballot initiative that would have created a constitutional amendment banning “sanctuary cities.” ACLU of Nevada staff had little doubt such a measure would have made immigrant communities more vulnerable to victimization, eroded trust in law enforcement and harmed children and families.

The challenge was based on the fact that the petition was overly broad and was materially misleading to voters. The measure would have forced local and state governments to elevate immigration enforcement above all other local concerns and would have had wide ranging impacts on law enforcement, provision of medical and social

services, and public education. However, the petition drafters failed to inform the voters of these significant impacts.

In January 2018, a district court in Carson City agreed with our arguments and issued an injunction stopping the Secretary of State from placing the initiative on the ballot. The initiative supporters appealed, and the Nevada Supreme Court agreed the ballot description was deceptive and ordered any previously gathered signatures disqualified. Ultimately, the group behind the initiative petition was unable to get the required number of signatures by the June deadline, and the initiative was not on the ballot.

YOUTH CONFINEMENT IN NEVADA

Facility Assessment And Recommendations For Housing Youth Sentenced As Adults

ACLU of Nevada Report

Nevada is approaching a crisis concerning where and how we house youth tried as adults. The Nevada Department of Corrections struggles to meet minimum standards for educational instruction, physical activity and programming to prepare youth for life outside of prison.

Because there are so few young female inmates in the Nevada Department of Corrections, their only housing options are segregation or a transfer out-of-state.

The fact is there is no reason to house youth in adult prisons. Several jurisdictions keep youth in juvenile facilities until they reach the age of majority which leads to long-term financial savings and better outcomes for children. Washington and Oregon, for example, continue to experience a decline in recidivism rates since integrating youth convicted as adults with juvenile offenders.

The Policy Department spent months conducting research, touring facilities and interviewing key officials. Many legislative and regulatory solutions have been



(Nevada Department of Corrections)

proposed to address these issues, but none have been adopted.

The ACLU of Nevada's report highlights the significant consequences of placing a child in the adult system and explores the history of proposed policy solutions and why they failed. The goal is to convince decision makers that adult facilities are unsuitable for this vulnerable population.

The report also forced juvenile justice administrators to admit publicly that the state currently has no housing within the Nevada Department of Corrections for female youthful offenders.

The ACLU of Nevada presented the team's findings to the Legislative Committee on Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice, and the committee voted to accept our recommendation for a comprehensive study of youth placement in adult facilities through a bill draft request for the 2019 session of the Nevada Legislature — a huge success for the ACLU of Nevada.

The ACLU of Nevada will move the discussion forward by presenting reasonable proposals that facilitate the best outcomes for young offenders, serve the interests of public safety, and avoid potential litigation.

READ THE FULL REPORT ONLINE

aclunv.org/reports-and-publications



No government
should **experiment**
on human beings.

LETHAL INJECTION IN NEVADA

Fighting For Transparency

The news that Nevada prisoner Scott Dozier was actively seeking his own execution sent shockwaves through the state. This would have been the first execution in over a decade, and the state had long ran out of the drugs required to carry out a lethal injection and had publicly stated they were unable to get more.

How was the state going to carry out this execution? How were advocates to ensure any executions were carried out in compliance with the Eighth Amendment's prohibition of "cruel and unusual punishment?"

The ACLU of Nevada jumped into action, requesting multiple records from the Nevada Department of Corrections relating to its lethal injection drugs and execution manual. NDOC, however, refused to produce any records in a timely manner.

In light of the fact that NDOC released no information about

this execution (they had not even released the names of the drugs to be used or issued a press release acknowledging an execution would take place), the ACLU of Nevada filed an Emergency Writ of Mandamus asking the First Judicial District Court to order the release of the requested records.

The Writ argued that the purpose of Nevada's Public Records Act is to "foster democratic principles by providing members of the public with access to inspect and copy public books and records to the extent permitted by law," and that refusing to release the documents in a timely manner violated the law. As NDOC seemed prepared to execute Mr. Dozier, at least some of the documents requested by the ACLU of Nevada should have been readily available.

The court agreed and forced NDOC to produce certain readily available documents by the close of business the next day, including the names, quantities, expiration dates, and

manufacturers of the execution drugs.

As a result of this production of documents, the manufacturer of one of the execution drugs, discovered that its drug was planned for use in Mr. Dozier's execution. Alvogen has a strict policy against the use of its drugs in executions and sued NDOC, asking the court for a Temporary Restraining Order just one day before the execution was planned to take place. An order was issued forbidding NDOC to use any of those drugs in the execution. As a result, NDOC could not move forward with the execution.

Subsequently the manufacturers of the two other execution drugs joined Alvogen's lawsuit attempting to stop NDOC from using their drugs for the purposes of executions. All of this was possible because the ACLU of Nevada's Legal Department forced the Department of Corrections to be transparent with the public.

ACLU Nevada

2018 IN NUMBERS

741

COMPLAINTS SUBMITTED
TO THE LEGAL
DEPARTMENT FOR REVIEW

17

THE NUMBER OF NEVADA
SCHOOL DISTRICTS
CONTACTED TO PROTECT
STUDENTS' RIGHTS

700K

NEVADA VOTERS
AFFECTED BY THE
PASSAGE OF AUTOMATIC
VOTER REGISTRATION

20 percent

THE SHARE OF LEGAL
INTAKE SUBMISSIONS
RELATED TO PRISON OR
JAIL CONDITIONS

23 percent

INCREASE IN VOLUNTEERS
IN NORTHERN NEVADA

150+

COMMUNITY MEMBERS
CAME TO ACLU OF
NEVADA'S OFFICES TO
ADVOCATE AGAINST
FAMILY SEPARATIONS

4,685

ACLU OF NEVADA
MEMBERS

28

PUBLIC MEETING AGENDAS
TRACKED EVERY WEEK

111

CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLAINTS
RECEIVED FROM
NORTHERN NEVADA

11,905

FOLLOWERS ON FACEBOOK,
INSTAGRAM, AND TWITTER

FISCAL YEAR 2018 FINANCES

Revenue

Grants and Contributions	\$378,728
National ACLU Support	\$295,276
Program Service Revenue	\$1,071
Net Event Revenue	\$33,386
Administrative Revenue	\$6,000
Interest, Dividends, and Realized Gains	\$92,534
Total	\$806,995

Expenses

Program Costs	\$603,454
Fundraising	\$72,987
Management and Overhead	\$116,878
Total	\$793,319



Reno Student Suspended After Call to Congressman

Political Speech and Students' First Amendment Rights

A 17-year-old Robert McQueen High School junior was suspended in March after Rep. Mark Amodei's office complained to the administration about a call the student made to his office.

Noah had never had so much as a detention before. He had just been elected class secretary/treasurer.

Noah and dozens of his classmates called their representatives during the nationwide school walkouts over gun violence. During his call with Congressman Amodei's office, Noah advocated for the Congressman to vote to raise the minimum age to buy a gun and to ban bump stocks. He then made a passionate plea for members of Congress to "get off their f----- asses" and take action on gun violence and keep students safe.

After this call, a staffer from Congressman Amodei's office called Noah's school and, in an act of

unconstitutional retaliation, reported this conversation as "offensive." Noah was then suspended for two days, even though none of his speech was directed at school staff or other students. He lost his student government position.

In the days before the walkouts, the ACLU of Nevada sent letters to all 17 of Nevada's school districts to remind administrators that students – like everyone else – have a First Amendment right to criticize government officials.

We took Noah's case. The ACLU of Nevada Legal Department sprung into action and sent a demand letter to the school district to overturn and reinstate Noah's position. Noah worked with the Communications and Policy departments and appeared in national news outlets, including the Washington Post and CNN.

The Washoe County School District eventually overturned the suspension and reinstated Noah as secretary/treasurer.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

The ACLU of Nevada's work to reform the state's criminal justice policies continued in 2018. Policy Director Holly Welborn was appointed to the Nevada Sentencing Commission, which evaluates the state's sentencing structure. Legal Director Amy Rose served as the inmate advocate for the Advisory Commission on the Administration of Justice.

Those commitments allow the ACLU of Nevada to pursue meaningful reforms and to work with partners such as the Innocence Project. One proposal is a revival of a bill from 2017 that would require recording of interrogations in certain circumstances

Nevada was selected as a Justice Reinvestment Initiative recipient. JRI looked at all systems in Nevada, including court-by-court data on sentencing, and provide recommendations to the state to better allocate criminal justice spending.

JRI reports indicated that Nevada's imprisonment rate is 15 percent above the national average. There is also concerning data regarding high rates of mental illness among female inmates.

As a result of JRI's research, the ACAJ voted to send 25 recommended reforms to the 2019 Nevada Legislature.

ACLU of Nevada Events

The ACLU of Nevada held two events in 2018 to celebrate civil rights advocacy and litigation: One in Las Vegas in June and one in Reno in November. The events honored former U.S. Senator Richard Bryan with a lifetime achievement award for his dedicated career as a civil servant in the Silver State.

Reno-area high school student Noah Christiansen received the Voice of Tomorrow award for bravely standing his ground when threatened with a school suspension for calling his congressman.

The events also served as a forum for ACLU members and civil liberties supporters to gather and discuss current hot topics, in areas such as immigrants rights, criminal justice reform, and expanding voting rights.

The ACLU of Nevada in 2018 re-introduced Liberties and Libations as a fun new way for members and supporters to get together. Rather than a banquet, these smaller events held at bars and restaurants focus on civil liberty issues that are locally relevant or under fire.

This year we held our first Liberties and Libations at The Mob Museum in Las Vegas, where the ACLU of Nevada met with members who were eager to discuss voting rights expansion. Look out for more of these mixers in 2019!



The ACLU of Nevada gave former U.S. Senator Richard Bryan a lifetime achievement award for decades spent in service to the Silver State. He also served as Nevada governor and attorney general. (Tanya Harvey Photography for ACLU of Nevada)



The ACLU of Nevada staff and interns pose for a photo at the 2018 Celebration of Civil Liberties in Las Vegas. (Tanya Harvey Photography for ACLU of Nevada)

LGBTQ EQUALITY



The ACLU of Nevada, its coalition partners, and volunteers spent more than a year advocating for protections for transgender and gender diverse students. Now all public school students are entitled to a safe and respectful environment. (Wesley Juhl)

In 2017, a law was passed that required Nevada schools to adopt policies to protect Nevada's transgender and gender-diverse public school students. The Nevada Department of Education was tasked with creating regulations to guide districts on how to best meet the needs of students with diverse gender identities.

At the same time, the Clark County School District began drafting their own policy. The ACLU of Nevada joined the working group charged with crafting the policy and advocated for strong protections for this vulnerable population.

The response to the DOE and CCSD policy proposals was immense. Anti-LGBTQ interest groups sent hundreds of people to flood the school board meetings, each of which was up to

eight hours long, ending with the vote being delayed again and again.

The ACLU of Nevada, alongside our coalition partners, organized fiercely to make sure the CCSD meetings were full of people in support of gender-diverse students. We organized phonebanks, press conferences, and rallies. The efforts were ultimately successful in getting the policies passed.

When the time came for the DOE to finalize its regulatory language, we continued our organizing efforts, and after months of tireless work, they voted to adopt the policies.

Now all Nevada students have a right to use the facilities that match their identities and to be called by the correct name and pronouns.

SAFE AND RESPECTFUL

Protections for Transgender and Gender Diverse Students

ACLU

Nevada

www.aclunv.org

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