

# ACLU

Northern  
California

A stylized illustration featuring the Statue of Liberty at the top, holding a torch with a yellow flame. A large rainbow arches from the top left towards the torch. Below the statue, a diverse group of people is depicted in a triangular frame. The group includes a young boy pointing, a man in a yellow shirt, a woman in a white shirt, a man in a hoodie carrying a large basket of oranges, a man in a white shirt carrying a box of green beans, and a woman in a white shirt in the foreground. A brown bear is also present, holding a fish. The background of the triangle shows a landscape with green hills and a blue sky. The entire illustration is set against a background of red and white stripes on the left and a solid yellow background on the right.

## 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

MOVING  
FORWARD

ACLU OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
**2019 ANNUAL REPORT**

*“The way to right  
wrongs is to turn  
the light of truth  
upon them.”*

*—Ida B. Wells, freedom  
fighter and journalist*

**ACLU**  
Northern  
California

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# MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER

Dear ACLU supporter,

We hope that you, your family, and your community are safe and healthy in these difficult times.

This Annual Report shares just a few of the highlights and accomplishments of the work of the ACLU of Northern California in 2019. We hope you share our pride in the work and forward progress you make possible.


**We are moving forward toward the future we dare to create.** America’s democracy is a work in progress. Through every lawsuit we file, every bill we sponsor, every training we hold, we are moving forward toward the future we dare to create. Through persistence and hard work, our predecessors, all of us today, and future generations will keep moving that vision forward.

**We are moving forward in the face of Trump.** In the fourth year of the Trump presidency, we continue to defend against the cruelty and the utter disregard of the Constitution and the rule of law that continue to emanate from his administration. But we have also been able to turn our response to catapult progressive change—especially in California.

**We are moving forward during the COVID-19 pandemic.** We are hard at work addressing a myriad of urgent and emergent issues. Much of this response builds on long-standing ACLU work and goals—for example, ensuring universal access to voting rights and reducing dramatically the number of people who are detained or incarcerated. Please visit [aclunc.org](http://aclunc.org) for updates on our current work.

**We are moving forward toward our vision of a more perfect union.** We can move forward because of the courage of our clients, the tenacity of our partners, the hard work of our staff, and the support of ACLU supporters like you. Your support—financial, moral, and civic—is what makes this work possible.

Thank you for all you do.

  
Abdi Soltani  
Executive Director

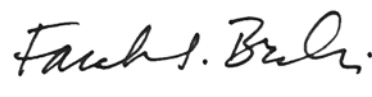
  
Farah Brelvi  
2020 Chair of the Boards



Photo by Bethanie Hines



# THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

By the time this report is in your hands, we will be several months into the COVID-19 pandemic. There will be more loss, more attempts to curtail the rights of our most vulnerable, and, with hard work, many more wins for civil liberties.

Just as we have responded to threat after threat from the Trump administration since his inauguration and the first Muslim ban, the ACLU has acted quickly to protect rights and safeguard democracy during this pandemic.

**Your support has enabled us to respond to rapidly-evolving threats**, whether created or amplified by the current crisis, while also sustaining our ongoing, core work. And because of the support of our donors, we will continue our fight at full force, even with the financial uncertainties ahead.

**Contributions from donors in Northern California are shared between your home affiliate and the national ACLU.** The stories in this Annual Report focus on our work in Northern California. Much of this work is done in partnership with other grassroots and legal organizations, some of whom are highlighted in the pages of this report. Your support also creates a more powerful ACLU nationwide.

**This year marks the national ACLU’s centennial**—and with 100 years of experience defending freedom in times of crisis, the ACLU continues to mobilize our 1,700 staff across the country to litigate, advocate, and educate. As of late May 2020, we have taken over 120 legal actions in response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

As we address the ongoing attacks to civil liberties that are compounded by the pandemic, we redouble our efforts to:

- Expand the right to vote by ensuring universal access to vote-by-mail.
- Protect access to abortion as essential health care.
- Get our most at-risk community members out of immigrant detention facilities and dramatically reduce populations in prisons and jails.

Once again, thank you. Your support empowers the ACLU to fight numerous battles on many fronts. Together, we will continue our unrelenting defense of freedom and justice for all.

  
Cori Stell  
Director of Development

# 2019

## BY THE NUMBERS

**>500 Public Records Act requests** primarily to law enforcement agencies regarding police misconduct records

**>60 cases and amicus briefs**

**4.6 million eligible but unregistered California voters** who will benefit from the new law we co-sponsored that expands Election Day registration to every polling site in CA

**56,700 voters** who speak **14 different languages** will receive new or increased language assistance as a result of our litigation

**290 participants** in Conference and Lobby Day

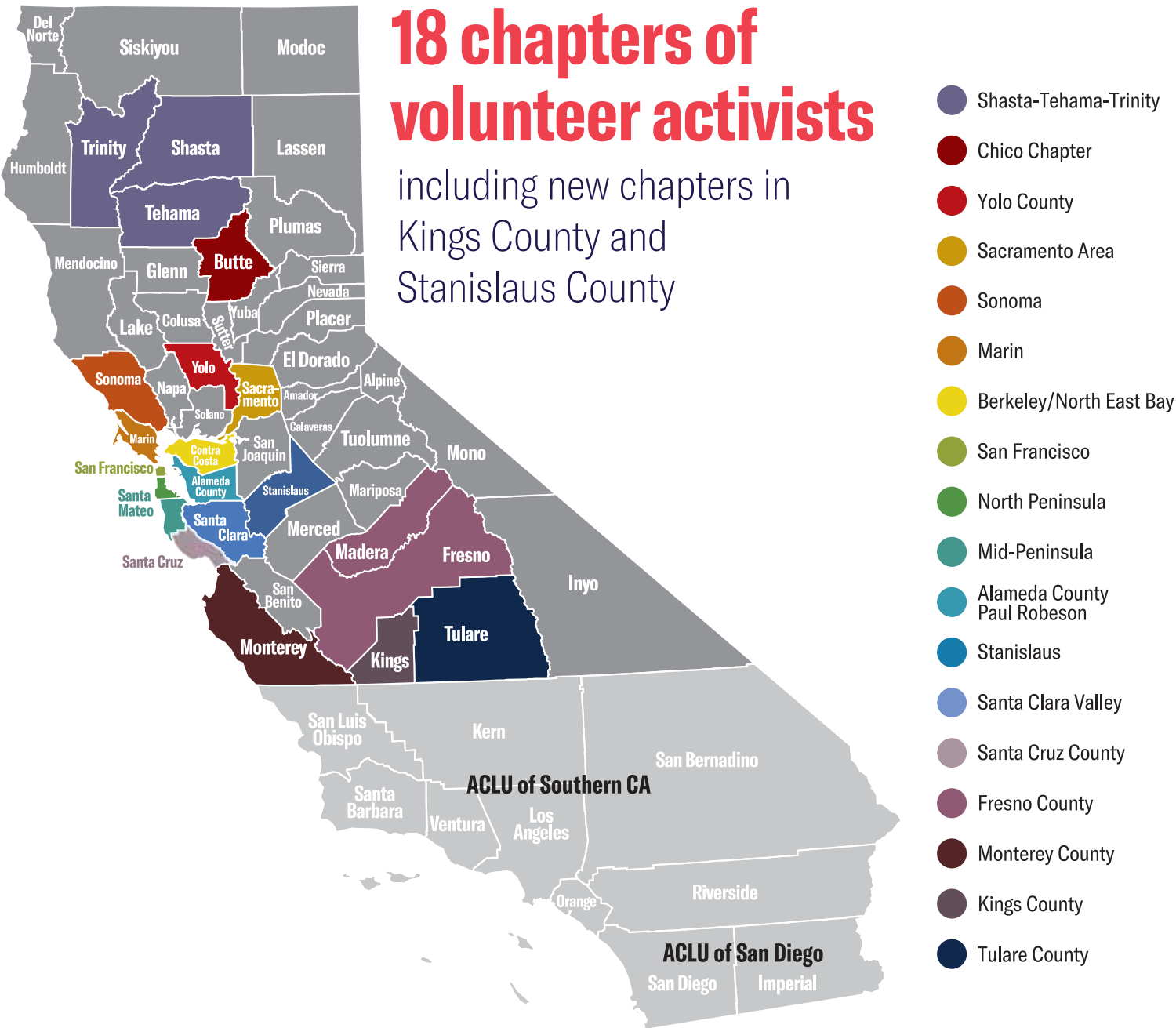
**14,442 articles** published about the ACLU-NC's legal, policy, organizing, and legislative advocacy work

**Monitored 849 bills** (see page 8 for details)

**206 young people** attended our first-ever California Advocacy Institute

**140,000 ACLU members** in Northern California alone

**18 chapters of volunteer activists** including new chapters in Kings County and Stanislaus County





2019

## HIGHLIGHTS NATIONWIDE

### CALIFORNIA

The rest of this  
Annual Report  
highlights  
accomplishments  
across our issues

### CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Won ruling from state's highest court striking  
down death penalty as racially biased

Filed first-ever ACLU lawsuit  
against the \$2 billion, private,  
for-profit bail bond industry

### IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

Secured court decision that local  
law enforcement does not have the  
authority to detain people for ICE

### VOTING RIGHTS

Filed suit to stop state's blatant  
attempts at suppressing voter  
registration

### PRIVACY & TECHNOLOGY

Expanded right to privacy protection  
to cell phone location data through  
state court litigation

### U.S. SUPREME COURT

Blocked citizenship question on 2020 census  
Argued first SCOTUS case involving civil rights  
of transgender people

### ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Filed lawsuit challenging automatic  
suspensions of driver's licenses of  
people with unpaid traffic tickets

### VOTING RIGHTS

Won lawsuit to fully implement the 2018  
Amendment 4 victory for voting rights of  
formerly incarcerated people

### FIRST AMENDMENT

Filed lawsuit on behalf of five journalists  
covering the U.S.-Mexico border who were  
detained by DHS in an unprecedented  
attack on freedom of the press

### WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Sued Frontier Airlines for systematically denying  
its employees basic accommodations for  
pregnancy and breastfeeding

### IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

Challenged Trump's diversion of federal  
funds for the illegal border wall

### REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

Blocked near-total  
abortion ban

2019

CALIFORNIA  
LEGISLATIVE  
SUMMARY



3,033 **BILLS INTRODUCED  
IN THE CALIFORNIA  
LEGISLATURE**



**BILLS WE MONITORED 849**



**BILLS WE SUPPORTED 134**



**BILLS WE OPPOSED 78**



**WE SPONSORED 15 BILLS**



**8 WENT TO THE GOVERNOR**



**ALL 8 WERE SIGNED INTO LAW**  
**(SEE OPPOSITE PAGE)**



GOV. NEWSOM SIGNED KEY  
CALIFORNIA BILLS IN 2019

**SIGNED AB 392 (WEBER): POLICE USE OF FORCE**

AB 392 establishes one of the strongest police use of force laws in the country by requiring that officers use deadly force only when absolutely necessary to protect themselves or others from immediate harm.

**SIGNED SB 72 (UMBERG): ELECTION DAY REGISTRATION**

SB 72 ensures that every eligible voter can cast a ballot on Election Day by allowing Californians to register to vote at all polling sites in the state.

**SIGNED SB 24 (LEYVA): ABORTION ACCESS ON PUBLIC UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES**

SB 24 makes California the first state in the country to make medication abortion available at all public university student health centers.

**SIGNED AB 45 (STONE): COPAYS FOR HEALTHCARE IN JAILS & PRISONS**

AB 45 abolishes medical and dental copays, which pose harmful barriers to healthcare access, in California prisons and county jails. California will be the first state to eliminate copays in county jails.

**SIGNED AB 1215 (TING): FACIAL RECOGNITION & POLICE BODY CAMERAS**

AB 1215 prevents police body cameras from being exploited for mass surveillance of the public by prohibiting law enforcement agencies from using facial recognition and other biometric tracking technology in connection with body cams through 2022.

**SIGNED SB 136 (WEINER): 1-YR SENTENCE ENHANCEMENT**

SB 136 fights mass incarceration by dismantling a cruel, costly, and ineffective sentence enhancement that adds an extra year to an individual’s base sentence for each prior prison or felony jail term they already served.

**SIGNED AB 1600 (KALRA): PITCHESS REFORM**

AB 1600 improves fairness in criminal cases by updating the currently slow and cumbersome procedures by which a criminal defense attorney gets access to relevant information about past misconduct by the law enforcement officers involved in a case.

**SIGNED SB 310 (SKINNER): JURY SERVICE**

SB 310 promotes racial justice, civic engagement, and fairness and legitimacy in California’s jury system by expanding the pool of eligible jurors and allowing people with prior felony convictions to serve on juries.

## VOTING RIGHTS

At a time when the ACLU is challenging the Trump administration and states across the country that are actively trying to restrict voting rights, here in California the ACLU is advocating to make voting more accessible.

### SAME DAY VOTER REGISTRATION

California has historically had one of the lower voter registration rates in the nation. People of color, lower-income residents, young adults, people with limited English proficiency, and people with disabilities are overrepresented among those who are eligible to vote but are not registered.

California has recently made significant strides to expand access to voter registration through policies the ACLU has championed, including expansion of automatic voter registration at the Department of Motor Vehicles, which is taking hold. Yet, as of February 2020, 4.6 million eligible Californians still remained unregistered.

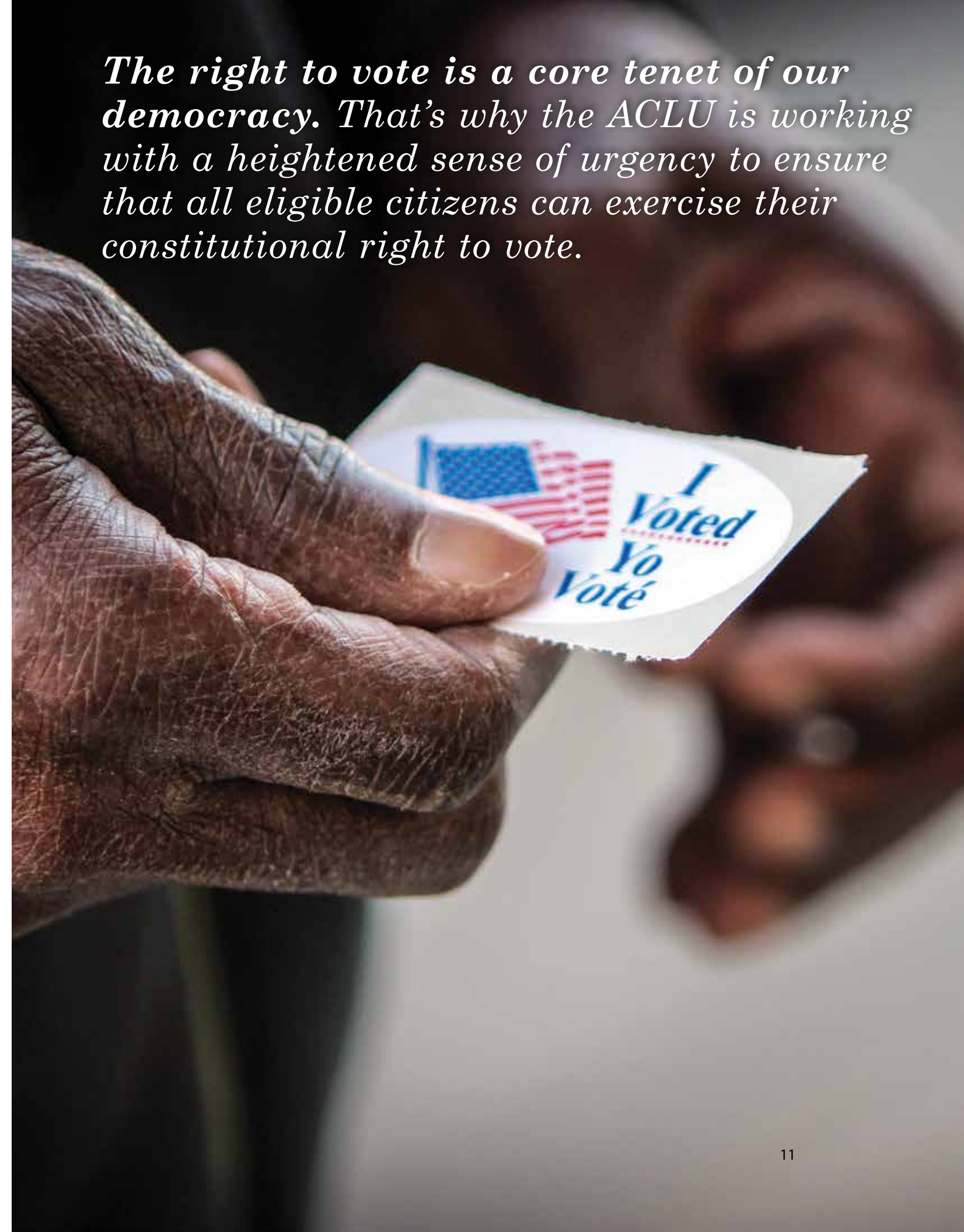
To encourage greater electoral involvement, the ACLU of Northern California co-sponsored SB 72, a new state law that expanded Election Day registration to every polling site in the state. SB 72 was passed with bipartisan support and in partnership with Common Cause California and the League of Women Voters of California. Election Day registration available at every polling site is a transformative change to our elections. It allows unregistered voters who tune in late to the campaign to step into the process and allows any voter who has moved or encounters an error in their registration to reregister and participate.

### INCREASING ACCESS FOR LIMITED-ENGLISH PROFICIENT VOTERS

In November 2019, the ACLU Foundation of Northern California and our legal partners won a significant victory for limited-English language speakers. A California Court of Appeal judge ruled in *Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles et al v. Secretary of State Padilla* that the state used improper thresholds to determine which groups receive translated voting materials. The judge agreed that California had denied speakers of several Asian languages ballots and other voting assistance in their native tongues.

*Because of our victory, an additional 56,700 voters, who speak 14 different languages, will receive new or increased language assistance.*

*The right to vote is a core tenet of our democracy. That's why the ACLU is working with a heightened sense of urgency to ensure that all eligible citizens can exercise their constitutional right to vote.*





***“I hope that lawmakers across the country take notice and implement similar legislation. I am fed up with the harassment and violence perpetrated on our communities by police officers who are supposed to protect and serve.”***

*–Kori McCoy, brother of Willie McCoy, whom Vallejo police killed while he was sleeping in his car*



# CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

The ACLU works on the full range of criminal justice issues, from police contact in the community through court proceedings and sentencing. In 2019, we passed a major law raising the bar on police use of force and reached a significant settlement on the right to counsel.

## HOLDING POLICE ACCOUNTABLE FOR USE OF DEADLY FORCE

In February 2019, six Vallejo police officers killed 20-year-old Willie McCoy, firing 55 rounds within 3.5 seconds while the rapper slept in his car. The City of Vallejo hired an investigator who concluded that the fatal shooting was “reasonable.”

At the time, “reasonableness” was the legal threshold police officers had to meet to justify killing someone.

The ACLU of California joined more than 100 family members who lost loved ones to police violence, including Willie McCoy’s brother, Kori to advocate for a new law to raise that threshold. The “California Act to Save Lives” (AB 392) moved California from having one of the deadliest use of force laws in the U.S. to having one of the strongest.

Police now should use deadly force only when it is necessary to prevent death or serious injury. The law makes it easier to hold accountable officers who kill people unnecessarily. They could face firing, or in some cases, criminal prosecution.

## SEA CHANGE IN ACCESS TO COUNSEL

For years, Fresno County’s Public Defender’s Office was short-staffed, resulting in many defendants receiving ineffective counsel. This crisis disproportionately impacted people of color, who are overrepresented in the criminal justice system.

In 2015, the ACLU Foundation of Northern California and the national ACLU Foundation filed *Phillips v. State of California*, a lawsuit against California and Fresno County to overhaul the County’s public defense system to meet U.S. and California constitutional standards.

In February 2020, we reached a settlement that impacts not just Fresno County but the entire state. California was one of only four states that did not fund trial-level public defense services. Our settlement changed that. Gov. Gavin Newsom proposed funding in his budget to expand the Office of the State Public Defender (OSPD), which previously handled only death penalty appeals. OSPD will now provide training and technical assistance to California counties on trial-level indigent criminal defense matters.

As part of the settlement, Fresno County agreed to maintain increased funding and reporting requirements for four years.

This settlement represents a paradigm shift in the delivery of public defender services in California.



## GENDER, SEXUALITY, AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE

As a queer, non-binary MD/PhD student at UCSF, Matt Ryan took it personally upon learning that the university planned an extensive affiliation with Dignity Health that would have imposed Catholic health care restrictions on University of California providers and patients.

The Catholic health system denies gender-affirming care for transgender patients. It also denies comprehensive reproductive health services (abortion, miscarriage management, contraception and *in vitro* fertilization).

Matt became a leader in the campaign, led by the ACLU Foundation of Northern California and UCSF faculty and students, to stop the affiliation.

Matt organized across departments and professional schools to galvanize public comments at a UC Regents meeting, part of a strong wave of opposition from UCSF faculty, staff, students, and community members.

The campaign underscored how Catholic hospitals' rules have tied the hands of providers, discriminated against patients, and led to infection and even death.

Faced with this opposition, UCSF dropped the proposal. But the story doesn't end there.

When we dug deeper, the ACLU Foundation of Northern California learned that all UC campuses with medical schools already had such partnerships and signed contracts requiring UC staff to comply with Catholic doctrine rather than evidence-based medicine. We are demanding that the UC Regents terminate these contracts and refrain from any new affiliations that would impose religious restrictions on UC, a public university.

At a time of federal attacks on reproductive rights and LGBTQ people, UC must join California's fight to protect inclusive, evidence-based health care, not undermine it. The ACLU staunchly defends religious freedom, but religious freedom does not include the right to discriminate against or harm others. We are working to ensure that Californians can access the care they need, free of religious restrictions.

Matt continues to lead at UCSF, amplifying students' and faculty members' opposition to partnerships that deny health care equity.

*“Now is the time to double down on support for health care equity. The current debate with UC Health has huge implications for whether academic medical centers choose to partner with Catholic health care systems at the expense of comprehensive reproductive and gender-affirming care.”*

*—Matt Ryan, MD/PhD student at UCSF, and Co-Chair of the Graduate & Postdoc Queer Alliance*



Photo by Christina Hernandez





## TECHNOLOGY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

For more than a decade, the ACLU Foundation of Northern California has advocated for community control over decisions to deploy surveillance technologies. A major emerging issue the ACLU has put on the map is facial recognition.

In 2019, we won significant victories. Following an ACLU-organized campaign involving a diverse coalition of 30 civil rights and community groups, San Francisco adopted an ACLU-inspired ordinance prohibiting use of facial recognition surveillance, becoming the first U.S. city to do so. Oakland and Berkeley quickly followed, as did other cities nationwide. These bans are part of ordinances giving communities control over decisions about whether governments deploy a wider range of technology, including automated license plate readers.

Building on these victories, we successfully passed landmark ACLU-sponsored legislation, AB 1215. This state law prevents thousands of police body cameras from being transformed into roving face surveillance devices. The law ensures that body cameras, which have been touted as police accountability tools, cannot be twisted into surveillance systems.

The city ordinances and AB 1215 set strong digital-age standards for public safety. Importantly, they also give community members like Sameena Usman of the Council on American-Islamic Relations' San Francisco Bay Area Office (CAIR-SFBA) a seat at the table when decisions about surveillance are being made. Documented evidence of law enforcement surveilling mosques makes this a personal issue for Sameena. She's been a key ACLU partner, mobilizing Muslim community members to attend hearings, meet with elected officials, and write letters concerning surveillance.

Sameena recognizes that surveillance technologies, such as facial recognition, could radically and massively expand the government's ability to track us going about our daily lives, and further fuel a criminal justice system that already disproportionately targets political activists, immigrants, people of color, and others whom government officials consider suspect. As Sameena says, "No one should be monitored for exercising their First Amendment rights, whether that's practicing religion or free speech."

*"Banning the use of facial recognition technology is critical for all of us and is especially concerning for the Muslim community, which has been targeted for surveillance."*

—Sameena Usman, Government Relations Coordinator,  
Council on American-Islamic Relations' San Francisco  
Bay Area Office



## RACIAL AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE

Discriminatory enforcement of laws against people because of their race or economic status is a longstanding problem that the ACLU Foundation of Northern California has addressed for decades. In 2019, we won critical victories for African Americans in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood and unhoused individuals throughout California.

### FIGHTING RACIAL PROFILING

In 2013, San Francisco police partnered with the Drug Enforcement Administration, ostensibly to crack down on drug sales near schools in the Tenderloin. In the process, they violated the Equal Protection Clause by targeting only Black people for enforcement. An expert analysis credited by the federal court in the criminal cases concluded that the result—that all 37 individuals who were charged and prosecuted pursuant to the operation were Black—could not be explained by chance.

Although federal prosecutors eventually dropped charges after the extreme racial disparities in arrestees emerged in the criminal cases, those lawsuits dragged on for years, causing financial hardships and stress for the individuals we later represented in a civil rights case for racially selective enforcement, including Tiffany Cross. She, like other plaintiffs, struggled to maintain employment and faced the possibility of separation from her young children, as well as the stigma of being targeted because of her race.

The ACLU Foundation of Northern California then brought a civil suit against San Francisco for racially-biased policing.

The City agreed to a \$225,000 settlement compensating seven of those arrested. The settlement also requires a new category for “racial bias” on police citizen complaint forms, one more step in our effort to make it easier for racial profiling victims to seek justice.

### PROTECTING UNHOUSED PEOPLE'S PROPERTY

Patricia Morris has lost everything she's owned. At least five times. Caltrans destroyed the former physical therapist's belongings—tent, bedding, medical paperwork—in sweeps of encampments on Caltrans land.

The ACLU Foundation of Northern California and other civil rights organizations filed a class action lawsuit on behalf of Patricia and other unhoused people in Oakland, Berkeley, and Emeryville for unreasonable seizure of property and denial of due process.

We've reached a settlement, pending court approval. Caltrans will establish a \$1.3 million fund to compensate people whose property was improperly taken. Caltrans will pay \$700,000 to fund, for seven years, a staff position at a local non-profit to assist individuals affected by sweeps. Caltrans will provide advance notice of the dates and times of sweeps, adhere to specific requirements for what can and can't be taken, store people's belongings, and help people recover them.

The settlement gives Patricia and many others a ray of hope.



*“I’m glad, I mean it’s great!  
Finally, somebody is hearing us!”*

*– ACLU client Patricia Morris, as interviewed on KPIX  
regarding our settlement with Caltrans about sweeps of  
unhoused people’s property*



## IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

The ACLU has sued to stop Trump's anti-immigrant policies, like the Muslim ban, the border wall, family separation, and the asylum ban. But much of the ACLU's work also happens with state legislation and local advocacy.

Because of advocacy and organizing by the ACLU and other civil rights groups, California has the nation's strongest pro-immigrant laws preventing state and local resources from being used for mass deportation, and requiring accountability from law enforcement agencies that choose to work with ICE.

We worked hard to pass the California Values Act, which prohibits police and sheriffs' officers from engaging in immigration enforcement, and limits use of critical public safety resources for immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant. We also were instrumental in the passage of the TRUTH Act, which requires public forums to be held in localities where law enforcement agencies provide ICE access to information on individuals potentially subject to deportation.

If unenforced, these laws are just symbolic. That's why the ACLU of Northern California is organizing to ensure they are implemented. Our work in rural Stanislaus County is a good example.

Members of the ACLU's new Stanislaus County Chapter partnered with ACLU staff to encourage attendance at the county's 2019 TRUTH Act forum. We publicized the forum and prepared residents to share public comments. Numerous chapter members, like retired therapist Tom Crain, participated in the packed forum, advocating for more than two hours that the sheriff cease all voluntary cooperation with ICE and that the Board of Supervisors pass an ordinance prohibiting the sheriff from working with ICE.

After we learned that the sheriff's department was sharing information obtained through problematic license plate reader technology, we, alongside community leaders and partners, urged the department to opt out of providing the data to ICE. The department was unaware of data sharing, and the sheriff agreed to cease the practice.

Our work in Stanislaus County is far from over. But the participation of passionate and engaged ACLU chapter members like Tom has made our advocacy more effective.

*"I want to engage local communities  
and do what I can to help  
immigrants feel safe."*

*—Tom Crain, Board Chair,  
ACLU Stanislaus County Chapter*





## EDUCATION EQUITY

From California's northern coast to its southern desert, we're ensuring that school and government officials recognize the rights of some of the most vulnerable young people in the state.

### RIGHTS OF NATIVE STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

For over 15 years, ACLU-NC has partnered with North Coast tribes on educational equity issues, including racially hostile climates and disproportionate discipline. It's not just about lawsuits; today, we're focusing on working with Tribal communities to understand and use the law to ensure all children have equal access to education.

Alisha Johnson struggled with school administrators at her eldest child's Humboldt county elementary school who stonewalled when she sought to obtain an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a legally required plan for a student with disabilities. She knew that schools don't inform members of tribal communities about their educational rights, especially when it comes to students with disabilities.

So, Alisha was excited to work with her organization, the Northern California Indian Development Council, in partnership with the ACLU Foundation of Northern California and the Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund, to organize a training for Humboldt and Del Norte county parents, caretakers, and service providers on the rights of students with disabilities.

This training program is one part of the ACLU-NC's deepening partnership for Indigenous educational equity. In August 2019, we conducted five in-depth trainings, reaching more than 100 people.

The trainings made an impact. Parents like Alisha have used the knowledge and confidence gained to advocate for the rights of their children, and they are looking forward to future opportunities to share the skills and information with others.

### REMOVING YOUTH FROM THE SCHOOL-TO-PRISON PIPELINE

At a time when juvenile crime has decreased dramatically, Riverside County's Youth Accountability Team (YAT) is a relic of a zero-tolerance past. YAT subjected minors, some as young as 12, to surprise searches, unannounced home visits, and restrictions on who targeted youth could speak to and where they could go. Their offenses? Non-criminal acts like school tardiness, low grades, or cursing.

Corey Jackson is the CEO of the Riverside County mentoring and youth development organization Sigma Beta Xi. When he learned of the YAT program, he joined a class action lawsuit filed by the three California ACLU affiliates and our partners. Corey recognized that YAT fast-tracked students, mostly Black and Latinx, into the school-to-prison pipeline.

In a historic settlement, Riverside County agreed to no longer enroll youth in YAT for adolescent, non-criminal behavior. And in a model for juvenile justice programs nationally, the county also agreed that youths accused of committing crimes will receive due process protections, including appointment of a defense lawyer, upon referral to diversion programs like YAT. For Corey, the settlement shows that change is possible.



*“The trainings opened people’s eyes and gave them tools and resources for help. They’re vital for the education of our children.”*

*—Alisha Johnson, Program Assistant at Northern California Indian Development Council, and participant in disability rights training*

Artist statement from Lyn Risling, who created the above Ifeektávaan (Truth Bearer) illustration: "The California Native woman in the painting represents a strong seeker and protector of truth as well as of beauty, balance, and harmony. 'Ifeektávaan' is a Karuk word that can be translated as 'Truth Bearer.' In creating this painting for the California Indian Legal Services 45th Anniversary in 2012, I was inspired by the traditional images and meanings of the 'Lady Justice,' who symbolizes the moral force in judicial systems."



# CENTRAL VALLEY

The ACLU of Northern California is committed to increasing access to justice in the Central Valley. In 2018, we opened a Sacramento Metro Region office to address civil liberties issues in the area. And we've expanded our Fresno office to build the power of civil rights advocates in the region.

## HOLDING SACRAMENTO'S SHERIFF ACCOUNTABLE

Sacramento Sheriff Scott Jones acts as if his department is above the laws he's sworn to enforce.

After sheriff's deputies killed Mikel McIntyre, an African American man who was experiencing a mental health crisis, the County's Inspector General determined that the officers used excessive and unnecessary force and recommended broader reforms. Sheriff Jones responded by locking the Inspector General out of all department facilities, including the county jail.

We're part of a coalition advocating that existing state law requires the Board of Supervisors to exercise oversight of the Sheriff. The coalition's advocacy has led to the appointment of a new Inspector General with increased authority to engage in meaningful oversight.

At a critical time during this public debate, Sheriff Jones unlawfully blocked Black Lives Matter leaders from posting comments on his official Facebook page. We filed suit on behalf of those activists and won a preliminary injunction to restore their right to post and participate in that online forum.

## ENSURING VOTING RIGHTS IN FRESNO

In preparation for the November 2020 election, we've advocated and organized intensively in Fresno County to ensure equitable implementation of the Voter's Choice Act (VCA). This 2016 law replaces neighborhood polling places with fewer voting centers, expands early voting, and requires that all registered voters receive mail-in ballots.

We want all the county's eligible voters—especially people of color, limited English speakers, people with disabilities, and low-income individuals—to understand and shape the implementation of these changes. In early 2019, we organized a coalition of civil rights, ethnic, and community organizations to advocate with the County Registrar for appropriate voting center locations. We also secured the creation and distribution of VCA educational materials by the county in non-English languages, including in Spanish and Hmong.

*“The Central Valley’s 6.5 million residents face some of California’s worst civil liberties abuses but have had the fewest resources to defend their rights. That’s changing with a growing civil rights presence in the region by the ACLU and our partners.”*

*—Abdi Soltani, Executive Director, ACLU of Northern California*





## ACLU ADVOCACY INSTITUTES: ENGAGING YOUTH ACTIVISTS

The ACLU Advocacy Institute equips ambitious young activists, ages 15-24, with the tools they need to fight for change in their communities. Our students learn new ways to wield power and voice in the democratic process and to connect with other young people to grow and sustain their advocacy.

In summer 2019, the Institute in Washington, D.C. grew from 950 to 1,300 students and, for the first time, featured programming for college students. In October, we held the first-ever Advocacy Institute in California, which engaged more than 200 youth from all parts of the state. We were excited to build on the Institute's founding principles of equity and inclusion, with a large and diverse group of young people, and a commitment to a deep investment in training, learning from, and empowering the next generation of frontline civil libertarians.

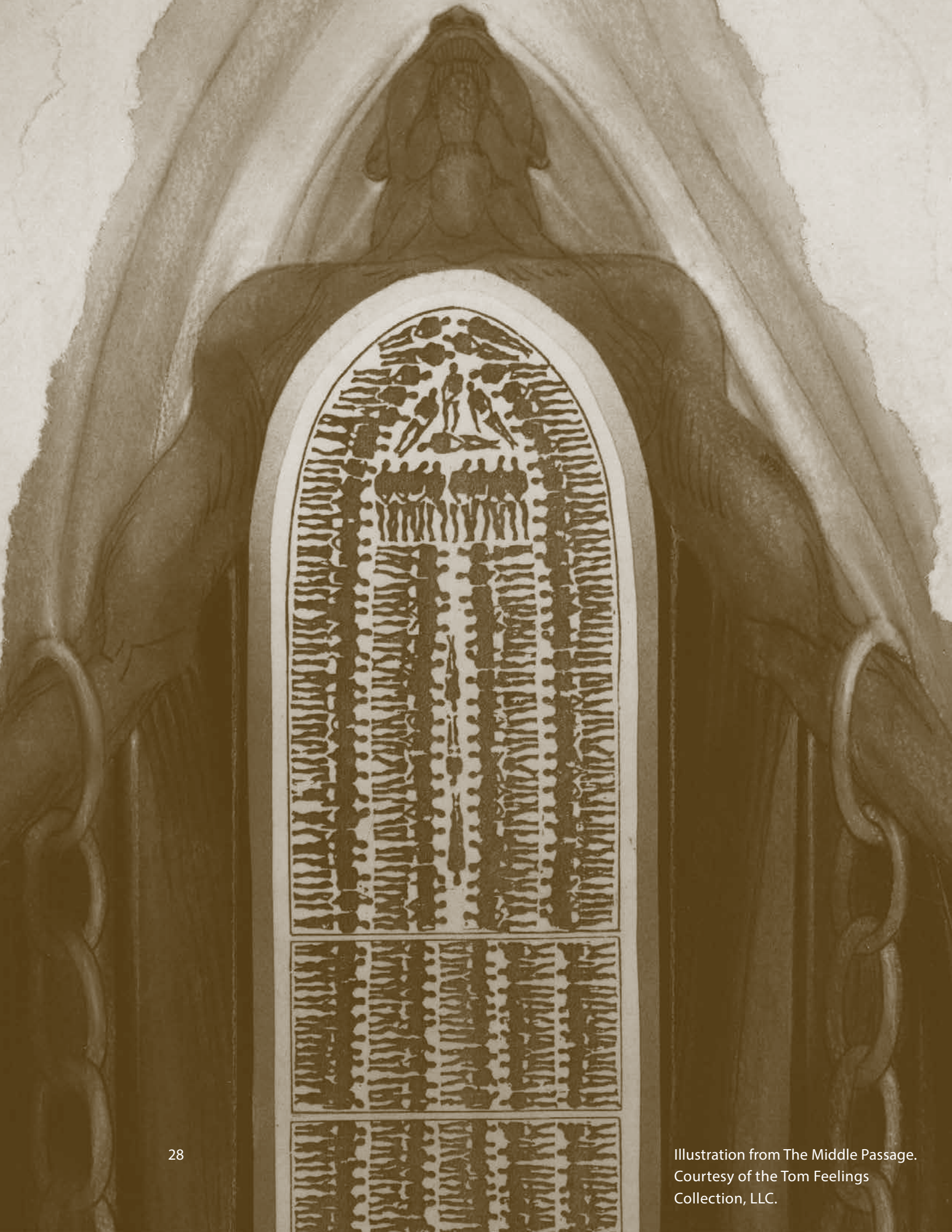
ACLU of Northern California donors supported financial aid for many high school and college students from our region, including Javier Damian (see lower photo on opposite page).



*“I totally, completely loved this program. I’ve been into advocacy for quite a while, but I didn’t know how to further pursue those interests. **The ACLU Institute was the perfect way to do so.**”*

*–Javier Damian (front), age 16, taking a selfie with new friends*





## **GOLD CHAINS** | THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF SLAVERY IN CALIFORNIA





In 1619, Africans were forcibly transported to Jamestown, VA, and sold to colonists, beginning centuries of bondage and servitude. Marking the 400th year in 2019 since this heinous beginning, the ACLU Foundation of Northern California set out to uncover our own state's obscured history of slavery. After months of research, we launched Gold Chains: The Hidden History of Slavery in California, a project that uses multimedia storytelling, including video and historical archives, to bring this hidden history to light. We were honored to collaborate with KQED, the California Historical Society, Equal Justice Society, and author Laura Atkins.

At its core, the Gold Chains Project is about making connections between the seeds of white supremacy planted in California's past and the racial and social injustice that informs much of the ACLU's civil rights work today. As a legal organization, we focused particularly on how white supremacy influenced state laws and the courts. Gold Chains reinforces the integrated advocacy that the ACLU of Northern California practices daily to advance civil rights, civil liberties, and equal justice for all.

The Gold Chains Project has engendered a robust following on social media, garnering more than 2 million likes, tweets, and other digital interactions. Press coverage has applauded its value as a much needed and informative resource for understanding our state's complex racial history.

### EXPLORE

[WWW.GOLDCHAINS.CA.ORG](http://WWW.GOLDCHAINS.CA.ORG)

 <p><b>White Supremacist In Chief</b></p> <p>The first elected governor of California, Peter Hardeman Burnett, advocated for the genocide of Native people and tried to ban blacks from the state.</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">LISTEN AND LEARN</a> ◀</p>	 <p><b>From Enslaved to Entrepreneur</b></p> <p>Bridget "Biddy" Mason was brought as a slave to California. She sued for her freedom and her family's and won in what became a landmark court case.</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">WATCH VIDEO</a> ▶</p>	 <p><b>Rosa: Kidnapped, Sold, and Killed</b></p> <p>Looking to satisfy demands for cheap household labor, California passed a law that encouraged the kidnapping of Native Children.</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">LISTEN AND LEARN</a> ◀</p>	 <p><b>Cultural Genocide</b></p> <p>"Kill the Indian ... and save the man" was the founding mission of Indian Boarding Schools, a massive government project that warehoused thousands of children in state-run institutions.</p> <p><a href="#">READ MORE</a></p> <p><a href="#">LISTEN AND LEARN</a> ◀</p>
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[EXPLORE ALL STORIES](#)



# THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

## VOLUNTEERS

Each year, hundreds of people volunteer their time with the ACLU of Northern California. Here we recognize some of the most dedicated volunteers who spent the most time with us in 2019.

## CIVIL LIBERTIES COUNSELORS

Grace Allen  
Leah Bahramipour  
Alexander Goldstein  
Sarah Halabe  
Lynn Halcomb  
Richard Idriss  
Jaden Jarmel-Schneider  
Patricia Kouba  
Jerry Lewis  
Gowri Nayar  
Jordan Payne  
Sean Ross  
Adele Sylar  
Kyra Thordsen

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Berkeley North East Bay  
Chico  
Fresno County  
Kings County  
Marin County  
Mid-Peninsula  
Monterey County  
North Peninsula  
Sacramento Area  
San Francisco  
Santa Clara Valley  
Santa Cruz County  
Shasta-Tehama-Trinity  
Sonoma County  
Stanislaus County  
Tulare County  
Yolo County

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Bethany Bonsu  
Theresa Cheng  
Alyssa Daatio  
Kiah Duggins  
Jennifer Fine  
Elena Goldstein  
Megan Jones  
Daniel Ki  
Roya Khosravi  
Camila Mojica  
Zachariah Oquenda  
Enrique Ramirez-Martinez  
Ayesha Rasheed  
Mukund Rathi  
Anna Rodriguez  
Mastoureh Sarhangabadi  
Annie Sloan  
Shreya Tewari  
Thomas Westphal

## ORGANIZING VOLUNTEERS

Rae Dand  
Kat Dean  
Kira Kmetz  
DD (Danielle) Mattison  
Jack Merk  
Linda Ostrom  
Juan Salinas  
James Sedlak  
Sana Sethi  
Jen Woo

## COOPERATING LAW FIRMS

We thank the following law firms who donated services in 2019. Your hard work and commitment are deeply appreciated by the ACLU community.

Coblentz Patch Duffy & Bass LLP  
Cooley LLP  
Covington & Burling, LLP  
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP  
Durie Tangri, LLP  
Fenwick & West  
Gibson Dunn  
Goodwin Procter  
Keker, Van Nest & Peters, LLP  
King & Spalding  
Latham and Watkins, LLP  
Morgan, Lewis & Bockius, LLP  
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Munger, Tolles & Olson, LLP  
Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe  
O' Melveny & Myers, LLP  
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Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, LLP  
Riley Safer Holmes & Cancila, LLP  
Rogers Joseph O'Donnell, PC  
Sheppard Mullin  
Sullivan & Cromwell, LLP  
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Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati



Members of our 2019 boards. Photo by Pauline Schindler.

# OUR BOARDS

## AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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Veronica Diaz  
Peter Gelblum  
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Maria Hekker  
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## AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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## PHILANTHROPIC DEVELOPMENT VOLUNTEERS

In 2019, the ACLU Foundation of Northern California Board of Directors, the ACLU of Northern California Board of Directors, and the additional philanthropic development volunteers listed below served as ambassadors for the organization, stewarding relationships with ACLU supporters. We are grateful for their commitment to advancing the ACLU mission.

James B. Blume  
Marlene De Lancie  
Milton Estes  
Dick Grosboll  
Marshall Krause  
Dennis McNally  
Zone Sage  
Alice Schaffer Smith  
Beverly Tucker

## STAFF

For a list of ACLU-NC staff in our four offices, including photos and biographies, please visit [www.aclunc.org/about/staff](http://www.aclunc.org/about/staff).



# WAYS OF GIVING

You can support the work of the ACLU Foundation of Northern California (Foundation) or ACLU of Northern California (Union) in any of these ways:

**CASH OR CREDIT CARDS:** The Foundation and Union are pleased to accept your single donation or your recurring monthly or quarterly gift via cash, check, or credit card (Visa, Discover, Mastercard, or American Express) at any time. Gifts may be made via mail or online at [www.aclunc.org](http://www.aclunc.org).

**WORKPLACE GIVING/PAYROLL DEDUCTION:** You may choose to designate the ACLU Foundation of Northern California through your workplace giving campaign or via United Way Donor Option.

**GIFTS OF STOCK OR SECURITIES:** You may make a gift of appreciated stock, securities, or mutual fund shares to the Foundation or Union. Call the Development Department for information about the easiest ways to make stock gifts.

**INSURANCE AND RETIREMENT ACCOUNTS:** You may designate the ACLU Foundation of Northern California or ACLU of Northern California as beneficiary of your life insurance policy, IRA, retirement plan, or pension.

**BEQUESTS:** In your will or revocable living trust, you may designate the ACLU Foundation of Northern California or ACLU of Northern California as beneficiary of part or all of your estate.

**GIFT ANNUITIES:** You may use cash or securities to make a gift to the ACLU Foundation of Northern California and receive fixed annual payments (a portion of which can be tax-exempt) for life and a substantial tax deduction.

**CHARITABLE TRUSTS:** You can establish a charitable trust that benefits the ACLU Foundation of Northern California while providing tax advantages and a variety of financial planning options for you and your family.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WAYS TO SUPPORT THE ACLU, CONTACT DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT CORI STELL AT (415) 621-2493 OR [GIVING@ACLUNC.ORG](mailto:giving@aclunc.org).**



# DEVELOPMENT AND FINANCIAL REPORT

## ABOUT SOURCES OF INCOME AND HOW WE ADVANCE WORK IN CALIFORNIA AND NATIONWIDE

The ACLU Foundation of Northern California (Foundation) and the ACLU of Northern California (Union) are separately incorporated nonprofit organizations operating in Northern California. The Foundation conducts litigation and public education programs in support of civil liberties. The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization, so contributions to it are tax-deductible to the extent allowed by law. The Union conducts membership outreach and organizing, legislative advocacy, and lobbying. It is supported primarily by membership dues. It is a 501(c)(4) organization, which means that donations to it are not tax-deductible.

The majority of funding for the Foundation and the Union comes from individuals like you. The organizations' effectiveness and impact depend entirely upon private donations, foundation grants, bequests, and membership dues from individuals who are dedicated to advancing civil liberties for all. Neither the Foundation nor Union receive government funding, except the Foundation may receive court-awarded attorneys' fees from successful cases. The Foundation never charges clients for legal representation.

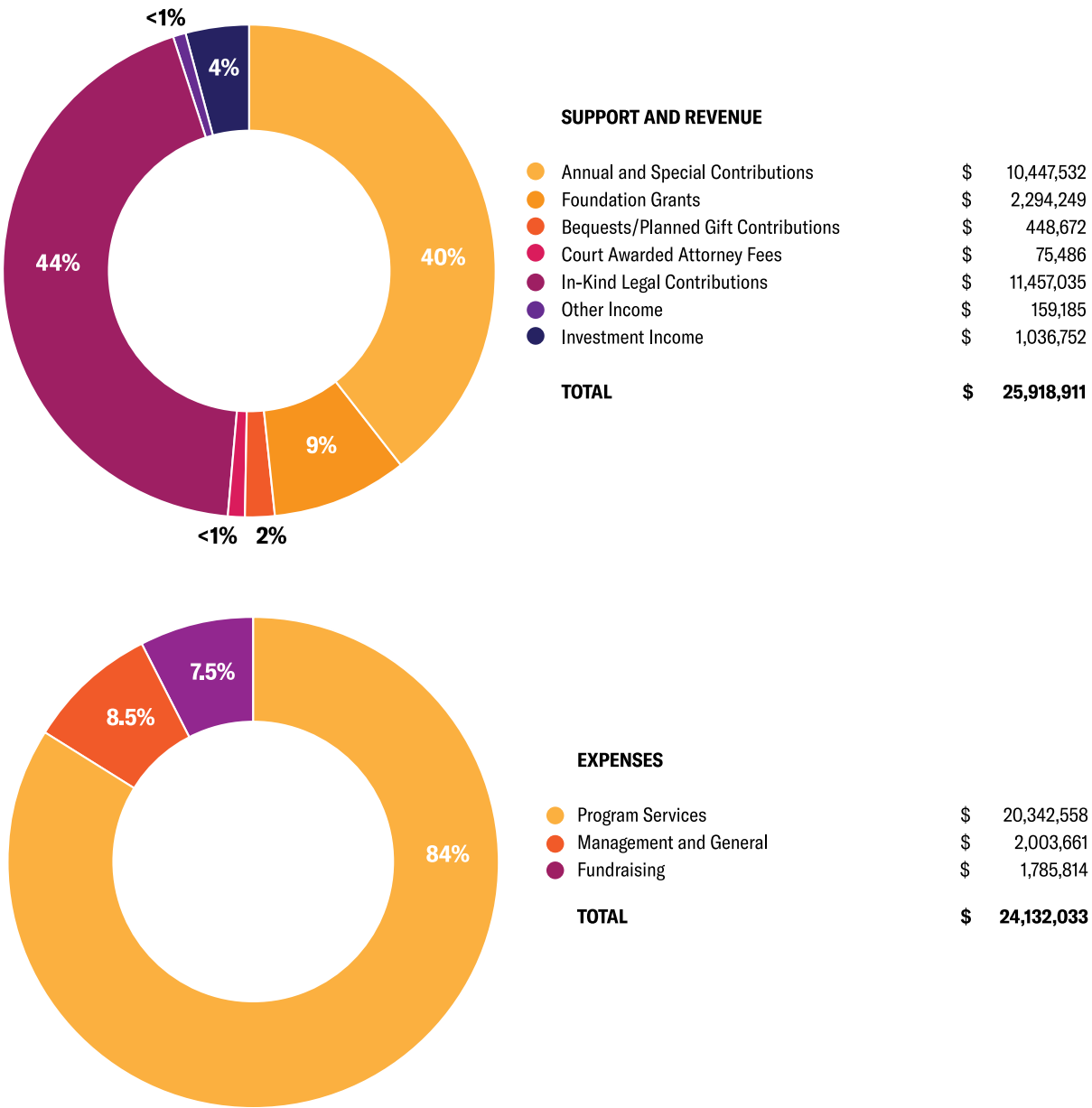
The national ACLU Foundation and the ACLU Foundation of Northern California share all tax-deductible donations. And the national ACLU and the ACLU of Northern California share all membership dues. A portion of the national share of gifts is allocated to help other ACLU affiliate offices around the country that otherwise would be unable to address the serious threats to civil liberties in their states.





ACLU FOUNDATION OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
Operating Income and Expenses

April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

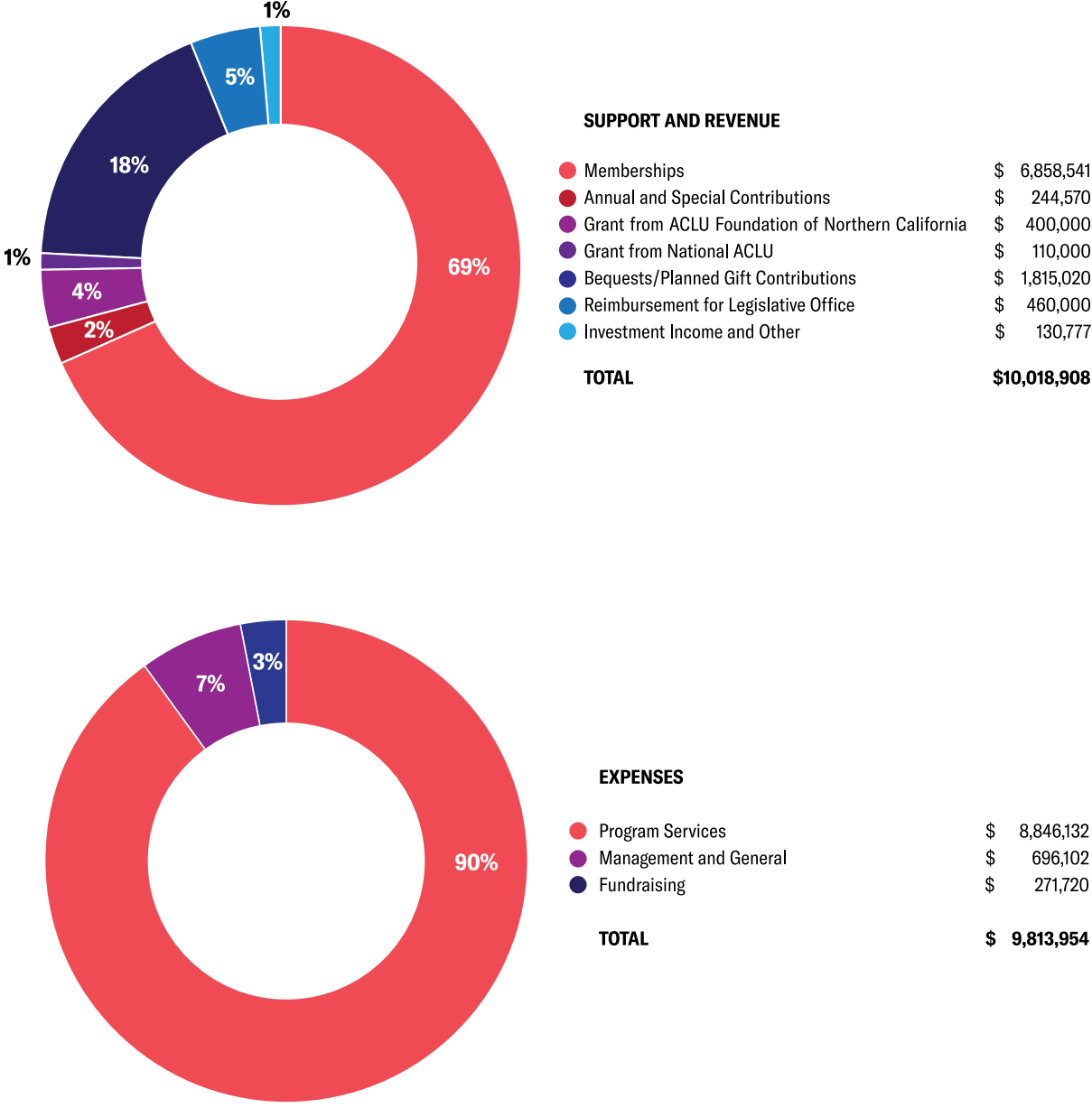


CONTINUED GROWTH AND INVESTMENT: OUR PLAN THROUGH 2020 AND BEYOND

The ACLU Foundation of Northern California and ACLU of Northern California boards have each adopted a Strategic Framework to guide our growth and investment through 2020 and beyond. With your generous support, we have been able to make a plan for expansions in program and capacity, while also providing for sustainability to see long-term litigation and projects through.

ACLU OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA  
Operating Income and Expenses

April 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019



The cost of membership acquisition and renewal are covered by the National ACLU.

Source: The charts on pages 34 and 35 are based on Audited Financial Statements, and underlying accounting data provided to the auditor, Leaf & Cole, LLP, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2019.

A complete copy of the FY2018-19 Audited Financial Statements is available at [www.aclunc.org](http://www.aclunc.org) or by writing: ACLU-NC, 39 Drumm Street, San Francisco, CA 94111.



*“Justice is what  
love looks like  
in public.”  
–Cornel West*

THIS REPORT FOCUSES ON 2019.  
FOR OUR RESPONSE TO COVID-19, SEE:  
[WWW.ACLUNC.ORG/COVID](http://WWW.ACLUNC.ORG/COVID)  
[WWW.ACLUNC.ORG/NATIONWIDE/COVID](http://WWW.ACLUNC.ORG/NATIONWIDE/COVID)





The background of the lower half of the page features a series of thick, wavy, horizontal stripes in red and white, reminiscent of the American flag. The stripes curve upwards from the bottom left towards the right side of the page.

**ACLU**

Northern  
California

FOR MORE INFORMATION,  
VISIT [WWW.ACLUNC.ORG](http://WWW.ACLUNC.ORG)  
OR CONTACT [GIVING@ACLUNC.ORG](mailto:GIVING@ACLUNC.ORG)