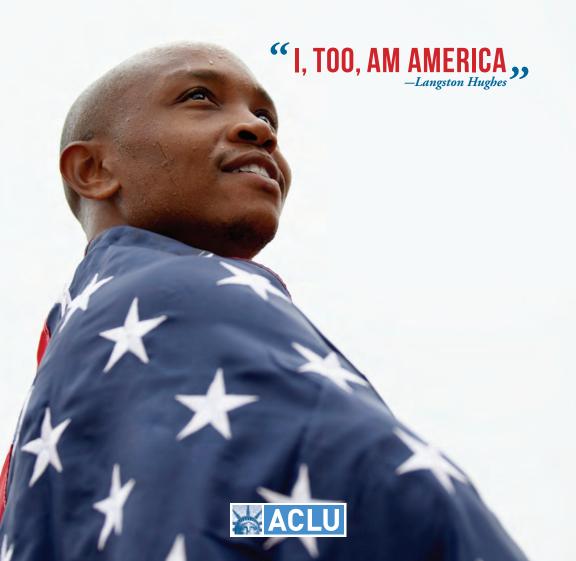
THE AMERICAN DREAM

2016 ACLU-WA ANNUAL REPORT





OUR DREAM

One nation with liberty and justice for all — for rich and poor, for blacks and browns, for Muslims, for our LGBT brothers and sisters. For all of us.

America's promise of freedom and fairness is its glory and renown. But promises must be kept. That's why the ACLU is here. And so long as we have enough people like you willing to stand up for our rights, America will be called a democracy.

We'd like to share with you our dream for the future... and the steps we are taking toward reaching it — with your help.

a country where every vote counts

Voting is at the heart of our democracy, yet in the 2016 presidential election more than a dozen states faced new, unconstitutional voter restriction laws. The ACLU is challenging hurdles to registration, cutbacks on early voting, and excessive voter identification requirements across the country.

In Washington, we filed a lawsuit challenging the City of Pasco's at-large election system which unlawfully dilutes the vote of Latinos in City Council elections. This case follows our tremendous victory in Yakima which ensured that all residents have a meaningful vote in elections and resulted in the first Latinos being elected to City Council.

DEMOCRACY







JANUARY 2017

\$	M	T	W	T	F	S
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29	30	31				A O L L L

a country where religion isn't used to discriminate

Religious freedom is a fundamental American principle. But religious beliefs do not give anyone the right to ignore the law. Curt Freed and Robert Ingersoll became engaged in December 2012 soon after marriage equality passed in Washington. While planning their wedding, Robert went to their favorite florist, only to be refused by the owner because of her "relationship with Jesus."

The ACLU-WA filed suit on the couple's behalf, and a lower court ruled the florist had violated the state's anti-discrimination law; the case is now pending before the Washington Supreme Court. Businesses serving the general public cannot be allowed to refuse to serve the millions of Americans who are gay.

EQUALITY





FEBRUARY 2017

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a country where police protect & serve everyone

Antonio Zambrano-Montes. John T. Williams. Michael Brown. Eric Garner. In 2016 more than 200 black people were killed by police around the country.

The ACLU has long fought for police accountability and to end excessive violence and killings, especially of unarmed black and brown people, by the police officers sworn to protect them. We call for a major culture shift — bias-free policing, de-escalation training, and laws that hold all police officers fully accountable for unjustified assaults and shootings.

BEING SAFE & FREE



SAFE & FREE

MARCH 2017	9
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a country where the government doesn't execute its citizens

It's impossible to create a perfect government system that would determine who lives and who dies without mistake, bias, or arbitrariness. In Washington, black defendants are four-and-a-half times more likely to receive the death penalty than white defendants, and the likelihood of facing execution depends more on the county where the crime occurred than on the number of victims.

For these reasons the ACLU challenged the constitutionality of the death penalty in a case before the WA State Supreme Court, and we continue to urge legislators to repeal the law outright. The imperfection of humanity demands our justice be tempered.

HUMANITY





WHY DO YOU SUPPORT THE ACLU?

The ACLU is creating the world I want to live in.

Because the ACLU represents one of the few hopeful signs that justice may actually prevail, because you stand up for those who can't stand on their own.

If not me... who?

Because democracy is a work in progress.

WHY DO YOU SUPPORT THE ACLU?

The ACLU stands up for each of us and all of us.

I might not agree with everything the ACLU fights for, but that's not the point.
All rights for everyone need to be protected and I can't pick and choose.

Liberty is precious, fragile, and if not defended, fleeting.

a country that uses incarceration as a last resort

At any given time, approximately 60% of the people in Washington jails have not been convicted of a crime. They are locked up simply because they cannot afford bail. Forcing people to stay in jail before their trial is contrary to the fundamental American principle that one is innocent until proven guilty.

Jailing people before trial, even for a few days, seriously harms their prospects in court. They are more likely to receive a sentence of jail or prison, and for a longer time, than those who are free before their trial. The ACLU-WA is working to reform our state's treatment of people before trial so fewer people are unnecessarily held behind bars.

FREEDOM



FREEDOM



MAY 2017

\$	M	T	W	T	F	\$
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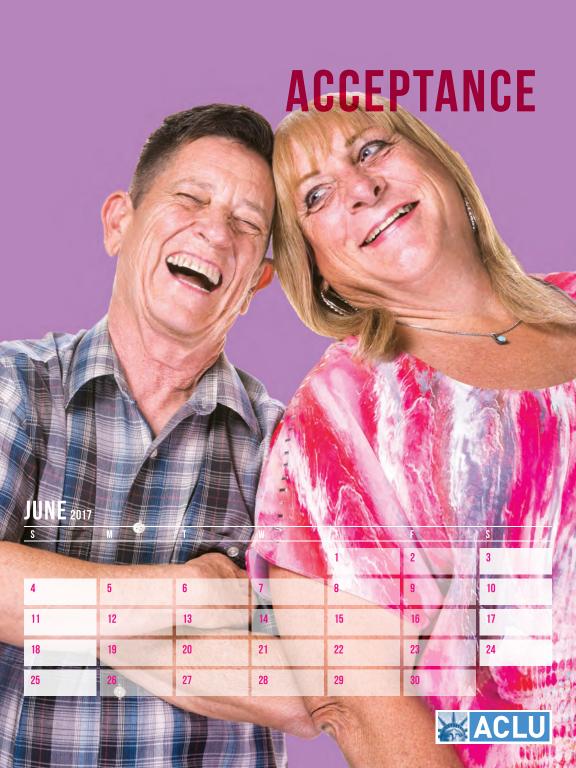
a country where everyone is free to be who they are

Transgender people are like everyone else. They need to eat, sleep, love and be loved, hold a job, and have a home. They are our neighbors, co-workers, fellow students, and family members. Living in a body inconsistent with your gender identify is not a choice, and transgender people must be welcome to use facilities that match who they are. More than just a basic human right, it is the law.

The ACLU has fought anti-transgender bills in 17 states, including Washington, this past year — and we will continue to fight to ensure that all people are truly free to be who they are.

ACCEPTANCE





a country where everyone has access to the health care they need

Increasingly, health care providers in Washington are being taken over by religious health care systems which may significantly limit access to reproductive and end-of-life care. Today 45% of hospital beds in the state are in religiously affiliated hospitals. Even public hospitals in Washington are not providing abortion services as they are required to do by law.

In the ACLU-WA's lawsuit against Skagit Regional Health, the court found that public hospitals in Washington that provide maternity services must also provide abortions. We are now working to ensure that all public hospitals in Washington comply with the law. And in the legislature we are calling for the statewide protection of the patient-physician relationship so that doctors can provide their best care no matter who their employer may be.

CHOICE





a country that doesn't treat every social problem as a crime

Every 25 seconds in the United States, someone is arrested for the simple act of possessing drugs for their personal use. Police make more arrests for drug possession than for any other crime — more than 1.25 million arrests each year. On any given day at least 137,000 men and women are behind bars in the U.S. for drug possession. Their criminal records can lock them out of jobs, housing, education, welfare assistance, voting, and much more. Unsurprisingly, those impacted are disproportionately communities of color and the poor.

The ACLU works for new approaches that treat drug use as a public health concern, not a criminal justice matter, such as Seattle's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program. LEAD keeps low-level drug offenders out of the criminal justice system and instead offers them an opportunity to receive support services to keep them from re-offending.

TRANSFORMATION





WHY DO YOU SUPPORT THE ACLU?

I see the ACLU as insurance for the Bill of Rights.

Because the ACLU preserves the rights of all people, regardless of viewpoint, but especially those who do not have the ability to stand up for themselves.

Don't quit. We depend on you.

WHY DO YOU SUPPORT THE ACLU?

Because I love America!

To me there is no more important organization in the USA today.

Because I care about my freedom and yours as an American.

a country where schools treat all students fairly

Sadly, for a growing number of students the path to incarceration begins in school. "Zero tolerance" policies for disruptive behavior have resulted in skyrocketing suspension and expulsion rates, with more than 40,000 Washington students excluded from school this past year. The impact falls most heavily on students of color: African American and Native American students are suspended and expelled at twice the rate of white students. With each overly harsh punishment, students come closer and closer to dropping out of school.

The ACLU-WA is working to reduce schools' over-reliance on suspending, expelling, and criminalizing youth and instead address student misbehavior with positive approaches to discipline.

EDUCATION





a country that stands up for the most vulnerable

Each year, thousands of children, many fleeing violence in their home country, arrive at our doorstep. These children, some as young as three, face deportation hearings alone with no legal representation. In a language they do not speak, against a professional prosecutor hired by our government, these children are asked to defend themselves.

This past year, the ACLU brought a lawsuit on their behalf. Sadly, the federal court ruled that if children believe that they have a right to an appointed lawyer, they have to appeal that in their individual case. Despite this loss, we will continue to fight. An immigration court system that requires children to defend themselves is fundamentally unfair and violates due process.

COMPASSION





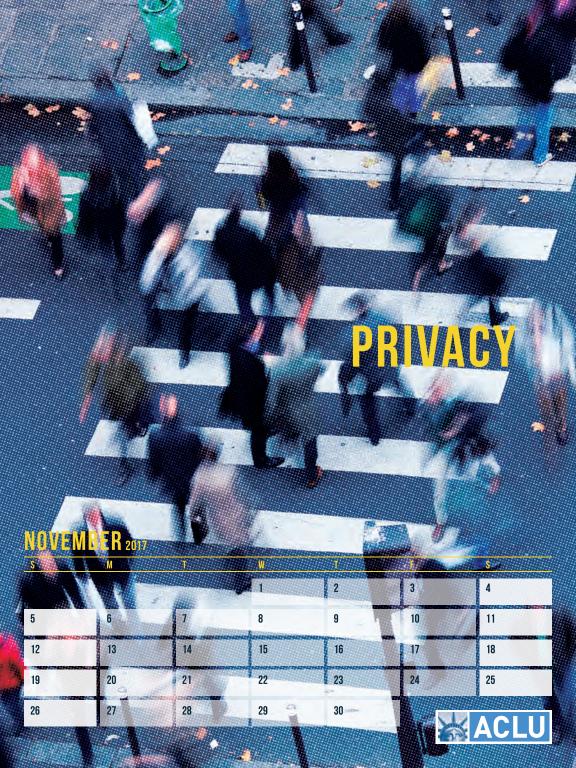
a country where we are free from government surveillance

NSA spying systems ... cellphone trackers ... license plate scanners ... networks of cameras. New technologies are making it easier for the government to track where you are going and what you are doing. The ACLU opposes government surveillance without individual suspicion and is working to pass laws to rein in the growing "surveillance society."

Our new website, "TheyAreWatching.org" provides information about cutting-edge surveillance technologies and the threats they pose to privacy, free speech, and other civil liberties. The site catalogs the surveillance systems that local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies most commonly deploy and is a resource for activists and researchers nationwide.

PRIVACY





a country where people aren't jailed for being poor

Up to 90% of people charged with felonies in Washington are declared indigent by the courts. Still, nearly every person convicted receives a bill for Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs), the fines and fees imposed by the court on top of sentences. LFOs average \$2,540 per case and accrue interest at a usurious 12% a year — including while a person is incarcerated. Failure to pay can mean re-arrest simply for the "crime" of being poor.

The ACLU-WA won a lawsuit against Benton County, where approximately 20% of the people in county jail had been there because they couldn't pay their LFOs. We now hope to bring statewide reform of LFOs through the legislature.

FAIRNESS



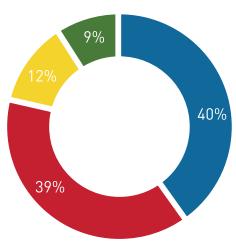


WHY DO YOU SUPPORT THE ACLU?

"The Jewish holiday of Tisha B'Av commemorates a time when the temple in Jerusalem was allowed to be torn apart by a community wrecked by senseless hatred. Spending a day in contemplation, I realized that the injustice we see today — in prisons, in policing, in racial hatred — is the closest analog to that today, and it has the same ability to destroy what we hold dear. The ACLU is my cause of choice for addressing these issues; this donation is in honor of the holiday, and is my prayer that we can build a more just, more sensible, less hateful world."

ACLU OF WASHINGTON & FOUNDATION 2015-2016 COMBINED OPERATING BUDGET*





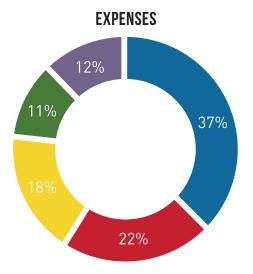








TOTAL SUPPORT & REVENUE \$4,216,763















TOTAL EXPENSES \$4,072,804

^{*}Unaudited. Audited statements will be available in early fall.

CIVIL LIBERTIES INDEX

44,655	Number of Washington students excluded from school in 2016 due to excessive use of suspensions and expulsions
2 x	How much more likely students who have been suspended are to drop out of school
1967	The year the ACLU won Loving v. Virginia, lifting all state bans on interracial marriage
2015	The year the ACLU won <i>Obergefell v. Hodges</i> which guaranteed the fundamental right to marry for same-sex couples in America
2016	The year the WA Supreme Court will hear the ACLU's arguments about a florist denying a same-sex couple flowers for their wedding
17	Number of states in which the ACLU fought anti-transgender bills in 2016
6	Number of constitutional amendments that protect the right to vote
17	Number of states that had restrictive voting laws in place for the 2016 presidential election
189	Number of electoral votes those states wielded out of the 270 necessary to win the presidency

CIVIL LIBERTIES INDEX

Number of arrests made in the U.S. for drug possession a year

The percentage of people in county jails in Washington who simply can't pay their bail

Amount we spend each year in the U.S. to keep people incarcerated

Percent interest charged annually on legal financial obligations (LFOs) in WA

Number of black people killed by police around the country in 2015

Percent of those cases in which a police officer was charged with a crime

Amount each WA death sentence costs more than life without possibility of parole

Percent of Washington state death penalty sentences reversed

Number of states that have abolished the death penalty

With the exception of the Department of Justice, the entity that has argued before the U.S. Supreme Court more than any other in history

Number of ACLU members, activists, and supporters across the country

1.25 MILLION

60%

\$80 BILLION

12%

346

3%

\$1 MILLION+

80%

19

THE ACLU

1 MILLION

VOLUNTEERS

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