

Liberty
Equality
Justice

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF VIRGINIA

MANY PEOPLE,
ONE SONG:
STRENGTH
IN NUMBERS

Photo by Keith Lane/ACLU

WE ASPIRE TO FORM A MORE PERFECT UNION

We stand on principle and don't back down. The ACLU never yields in its devotion to the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, or the rule of law. We defend everyone's rights. We don't choose sides when it comes to the Constitution. Whether it is due process, the right to protest, or to practice one's religion free from interference from the government, our commitment is to protect the freedoms we are all guaranteed under the law. At the same time, we want to be a constructive participant in public discourse and show how government can keep us both safe and free. To address issues about government action to permit or regulate public protests and demonstrations in a time of increasing violence, we published a comprehensive set of guidelines for public officials to follow in developing rules and making permit decisions that protect free speech while allowing appropriate action to mitigate potential violence.

Observations at **20**
protests and demonstrations

220
Trained Legal
Observers



"The ACLU does a great job protecting civil liberties, such as protecting free speech and privacy rights. The ACLU also protects against indefinite detention, waterboarding, and other forms of torture."
—Dennis Ting, Member

WE SPEAK UP

Whether it's a march in Washington, a town hall meeting in your hometown, a social media account, or a rally in Richmond, the ACLU of Virginia is there to ensure constituents' fair and equal access to elected officials so they can share their views. Our representatives need to hear our voices. We were there in the 1920s arguing for activists' rights to meet and organize, and we'll continue to be on the front lines defending the rights of the people. We're in the courts arguing that individuals' right to express their views to elected officials on social media deserves First Amendment protection as a contemporary method of petitioning the government. We're advising local governments to respect the rights of protestors. We're in the streets with volunteer legal observers ensuring our right to peaceably assemble and protest.



"Growing up in the 60's, it was the work and support of the ACLU that helped people like me feel empowered to protest and speak our mind to gain equal access to opportunities. ACLU of Virginia reminds me that I can't take these rights for granted, and it is important to continue the fight on behalf of those who can't."

—Aida Pacheco,
Board Member

WE ORGANIZE

Since 2011, we've been fighting alongside our pro-choice allies against Virginia's Targeted Restrictions of Abortion Providers (TRAP) law that treats abortion differently than any other medical procedure and imposes unnecessary and burdensome regulations on abortion providers. The Virginia Board of Health in late fall 2016 voted to repeal the worst of the abortion restrictions that caused clinics to close, thanks to the persistent resistance of concerned activists who worked with us and our coalition partners in lobbying the Board. The U.S. Supreme Court's ruling in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*, which found that Texas' TRAP laws imposed an unconstitutional burden on abortion access, provides support for further action to set aside Virginia's burdensome limits on abortion access. With your continued support and activism, we will persist in our efforts to secure and expand access to abortion in Virginia.

WE GROW AND RISE

5,659
grassroots
activists
signed up via
People Power



353
local events hosted by
People Power activists
across Virginia since 2016

604%
INCREASE



Facebook
Followers

446%
INCREASE



Twitter
Followers

166%
INCREASE



Email
Subscribers

% growth in social/email is between 2016-2018



"I am a seventh grader at Tuckahoe Middle school, and I have noticed many of the injustices in the world. As a result, I sit for the pledge in protest...Some of my classmates say I am disrespectful to the troops, but does the flag represent the troops, or does it represent the people as a whole? I believe the latter, and if the people aren't treated fairly, I will protest."

—Henry Haggard,
Activist/Volunteer

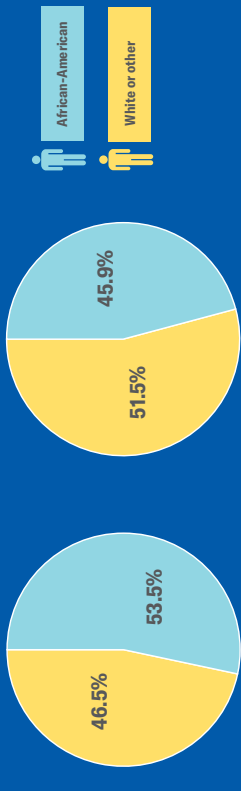
Design by Electric Ink Graphic Design. www.electricink.org

EVERYONE SHOULD BE ABLE TO VOTE

Did you know Virginia does not have a guaranteed right to vote in its state constitution?

This must change, so that every Virginian over 18 can vote in local and state elections. The right to vote is yours, and not something the government should be able to take away or give back if you've been "good."

For more information, and to download our Voting Rights Toolkit, visit www.acluva.org/LetPeopleVoteVA.



When one in five African-Americans are disenfranchised from voting in Virginia, yet an executive order restoration under Gov. Terry McAuliffe granted voting rights back mostly to whites instead, it is clear that restoration is not the way to address the racial impact of disenfranchisement. A constitutional amendment affirming the right to vote is the only answer.

1 in 5

Tell Someone About the ACLU of Virginia's Push for Voting Rights Today by placing this hanger on a friend's or neighbor's door.

WANT MORE HANGERS?
Let us know at acluva@acluva.org.

ACLU
Virginia

WE ENVISION A PATH FORWARD

With the release of “Accountability in Virginia Policing: An Agenda for Reform” and the “Police Practices Reform Advocacy Toolkit,” the ACLU of Virginia has laid a clear path for reform. First, we ensure state laws that protect privacy are enforced (see *Neal v. Fairfax County* at acluva.org). Then, we advocate for a 21st century Fourth Amendment that protects our data in the digital age. Together, we can restore and enhance trust in law enforcement by advocating for increased:

TRANSPARENCY—releasing as much information as possible during police-involved shootings and other use-of-force incidents, engaging in public debate of use-of-force policies, and removing the shroud of secrecy around state executions;

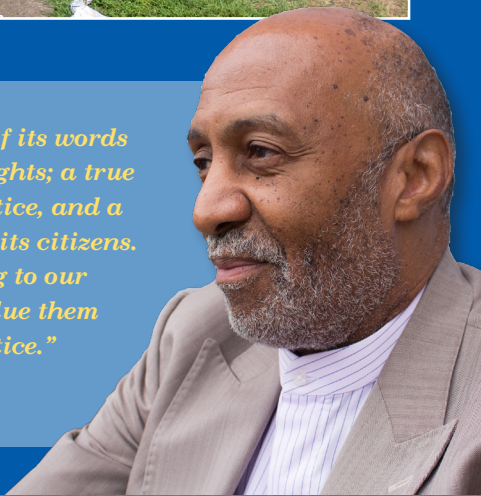
ACCOUNTABILITY—calling for civilian oversight of law enforcement and independent prosecutorial reviews, and improving demographic data collection and reporting for public review to challenge racial profiling and disparate sentencing; and

PROFESSIONALISM—ensuring law enforcement officials are licensed and agencies are accredited, and funding police departments so they are not policing for profit by using fines and forfeitures for agency budgets. We’re meeting law enforcement agencies and going where they are, including the Virginia Sheriffs’ Association conference.



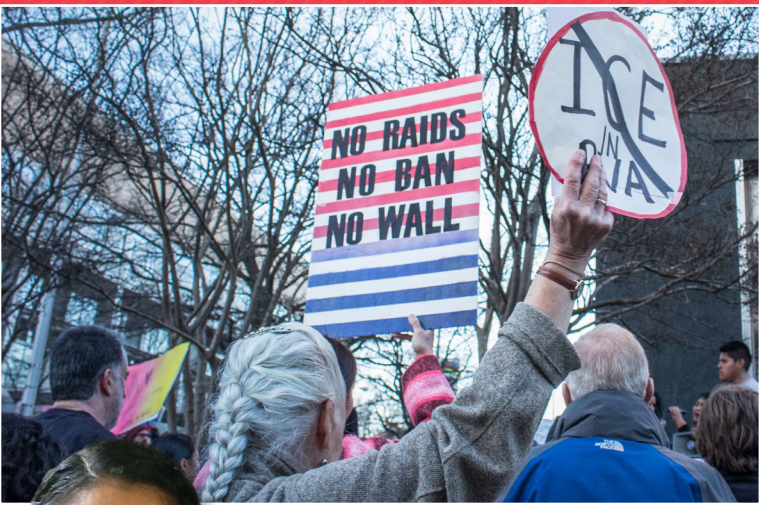
“A democracy is not a democracy because of its words and laws that speak about freedoms and rights; a true democracy must be about words and practice, and a system to hold governments accountable to its citizens. The ACLU of Virginia has been a blessing to our church in our time of need. I, personally, value them as a community partner in fighting for justice.”

—The Rev. Rodney Hunter



WE STAND IN SOLIDARITY

The ACLU of Virginia and its members know all too well that, when we allow the government to deny legal rights and due process to one group of people, all of our rights are threatened. We have been at the forefront of the legal battles against the President’s “Muslim Ban” in all its iterations. Through the ACLU’s People Power volunteer activist network, groups of neighbors in communities throughout Virginia have been advocating for “freedom cities” that protect immigrants’ rights and urging their local sheriffs’ offices to reject the 287(g) program that empowers local law enforcement to enforce federal immigration laws to the detriment of the communities those agencies serve. People have been rallying with their neighbors to show solidarity for our diverse society and to support a path to citizenship for aspiring Americans because immigrants’ rights are human rights.



“When the ACLU stands against our government targeting recent immigrants or those who seek entry, it stands for my mother, an undocumented immigrant domestic worker who eventually became an American citizen. When the ACLU stands against our government denying the liberty (and too often, taking the lives) of black men, it stands for my father, an African-American retired postal worker who came of age in segregated Maryland. Today, people like my parents and countless other individuals live without the liberty and equal treatment guaranteed by our Constitution; what is guaranteed, however, is that the ACLU will continue to stand for them.”

—Vivian Hamilton, Board Member



WE SHARE OUR PERSONAL STORIES

Since 2014, ACLU of Virginia client Gavin Grimm has been fighting in the courts for equal treatment, specifically to use the school bathroom that corresponds to his gender identity. While he may be the face of transgender students’ rights in the national media, many others are also taking action in their communities. Local activists in Loudoun and Prince William counties urged their school boards to add “sexual orientation” and “gender identity” to their school divisions’ non-discrimination policies. Efforts in Prince William were successful, though the ACLU remains concerned about implementation. At a time when we cannot rely on federal government protections for those in the LGBTQ community, we’ll continue working with local activists to end discrimination and advance equality at all levels.

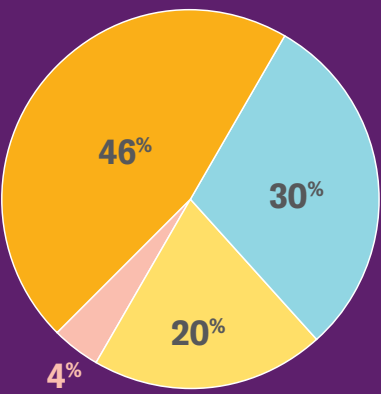
“I support the ACLU of Virginia because of its mission and momentum in tackling the seemingly endless affronts to the fundamental morals and character of a nation that is filled with diverse people, ideas and experiences. There is always integrity and honor in advocating for those who need it most.”

—Osita Iroegbu, Activist



Photo by Geoff Livingston

WE MAKE PROGRESS TOGETHER



REVENUES

C4 contributions: \$1,473,104
C3 contributions: \$972,643
Investment Returns: \$654,658
Grants: \$120,000
TOTAL: \$3,220,405

VOLUNTEER SERVICES

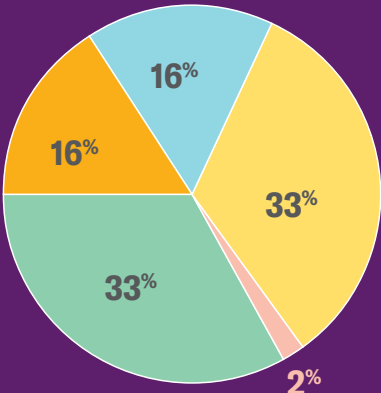


LEGAL: \$169,242



OTHER: \$161,497

TOTAL: \$330,739



EXPENSES

Management: \$224,086
Fundraising: \$215,310
Legal: \$455,451
Legislative: \$33,649
Public Education & Advocacy: \$459,841
TOTAL: \$1,388,337

*Unaudited combined financials for the ACLU of Virginia, a 501(c)(4) tax-exempt non-profit organization, and the ACLU Foundation of Virginia, a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt non-profit organization, for the last fiscal year (April 2017-March 2018). Donations to the ACLU Foundation of Virginia are tax-deductible.



“We are proud to be members of the ACLU because it is the strongest defender of individual rights in our country.”

—Mimi & Bob Laughlin, Members

Thank You

to the scores of new volunteers helping across Virginia: tabling at festivals and events, observing protests and demonstrations, helping in the office, building shelving units, lending technical expertise, researching legal questions, or showing up at local town halls and meetings. We’re glad to have you standing with us for civil liberties and civil rights!

Dare to dream and create a more perfect union with us at www.acluva.org.

We may have different voices, but working together we can create a beautiful song of liberty, equality, and justice.

YES, WE CAN CHANGE THIS!

Many Virginians agree that mass incarceration has gotten out of hand, but who can make a difference?

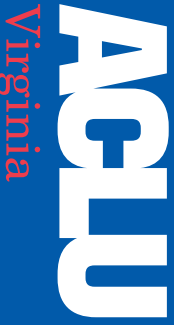
The most powerful person in the criminal justice system in your community is the local, elected prosecutor, known as the Commonwealth’s Attorney (CA).

This person has more power than a judge to impact whether someone is charged with a minor crime or felony, whether cash bail is required, what evidence is shared with defendants before trial, and whether to take someone’s property before a conviction.

Find out more about how you can influence your local prosecutor to focus on the justice in criminal justice, and download our advocacy toolkit at www.acluva.org/SmartJusticeVA.

Tell Someone About the ACLU of Virginia’s Push for Smart Justice Reform Today
by placing this hanger on a friend’s or neighbor’s door.

WANT MORE HANGERS?
Let us know at acluva@acluva.org



701 E. Franklin Street, Suite 1412 • Richmond, VA 23219 • 804.644.8022