



As the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress is gavelled in, the ACLU will engage members to protect the civil liberties and civil rights of their constituents: the right to vote; the right to a harassment-free workplace; the right to a just immigration and criminal system free from abuse and discrimination; and the right to fully-lived equality for LGBTQ and people of all identities.

The ACLU will use its unprecedented reach, mobilize its 3 million members, and use its nearly 100 years of policy and legal expertise to hold elected representatives accountable to not only protect, but to expand civil rights and civil liberties, so that everyone is truly free to fully participate in our democracy.

As in previous years, we will continue to score votes and monitor congressional activity to provide members' constituents a perspective on their civil rights and civil liberties record.

### **Women's Rights**

*Goal:* Protect working people from sexual harassment and other forms of discrimination in Congress and beyond by pushing for comprehensive reforms and protections from harassment in workplaces across the country.

*Legislative Vehicle:* Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act (if not enacted during the 2018 lame duck) and comprehensive harassment reform legislation

- Strengthen and expand existing civil rights protections, remove barriers to reporting, increase transparency, eliminate obstacles to accessing justice, and promote prevention.
- Create new rules to support and empower victims of harassment in the legislative workforce and increase accountability and transparency.

### **Criminal Justice**

*Goal:* Reimagine our justice system to ensure fairness and equity at all stages, from policing to pretrial, and sentencing to reentry.

*Legislative Vehicle:* Sentencing Reform and Corrections Act (SRCA)

- Combines sentencing and prison reform to reduce mass incarceration in the federal jail system.
- Reduces enhanced penalties that apply to people with prior drug convictions, eliminates "three-strikes" mandatory life without parole sentences for drug offenses, gives judges more discretion not to impose mandatory minimums to help ensure they are not applied to individuals who have little or no criminal history.

*Legislative Vehicle:* Oversight hearings

- Examine the Justice Department's "law and order" policies and programs regarding local police departments, including data collection and investigations of police misconduct.

### **Voting Rights**

*Goal:* Advance congressional action that protects and restores the right to vote.

*Legislative Vehicle:* Voting Rights Advancement Act

- Restores the protections of the Voting Rights Act that prevent and combat racial discrimination in voting in federal, state, and local elections.

*Legislative Vehicle:* Voter Empowerment Act

- Expands, protects, and modernizes access to voting by advancing automatic universal voter registration, online registration, same-day voter registration, restoration of voting rights for formerly incarcerated people,

early voting and vote by mail, improvements for voters with disabilities, poll worker recruitment and training, and more.

*Legislative Vehicle:* Democracy Restoration Act (DRA)

- Restores voting rights for 4.7 million formerly-incarcerated individuals who have paid their debt back to society and are living in their community but are still denied the right to vote in federal elections.

*Legislative Vehicle:* Oversight hearings

- Hold hearings on voter suppression practices that have infected the electoral process, including voter ID laws that suppress turnout and impact elections, voter purges, misinformation campaigns (including through social media), closing or changing of polling locations, and problems associated with absentee ballots and provisional ballots.
- Investigate the Justice Department's enforcement of the Voting Rights Act, National Voter Registration Act, and Help America Vote Act.

## **Immigration**

*Goal:* Rein in Trump's detention and deportation force and its unchecked abuse of immigrants. Cut the Department of Homeland Security's massive budget, which disproportionately allocates funds to the sub-agencies that represent the Trump administration's key tools for terrorizing immigrants.

*Legislative Vehicles:* Appropriations; oversight hearings; legislation

- Cut funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), restraining their enforcement budgets, criminalization of immigrants, and militarization of the border and border wall funding.
- Enact permanent protections for long-time residents of the U.S., including Dreamers and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) recipients.
- Protect due process and attacks on immigrants' rights, including the systematic dismantling of the immigration court system and asylum process, expansion of mandatory detention and deportation, and the increased creep of ICE's draconian enforcement regime into other agencies and basic government services.
- Push for oversight and accountability with hearings and investigations into family separation, detention, and entanglement of federal immigration enforcement with state and local law enforcement.

## **LGBTQ Rights**

*Goal:* Provide LGBTQ people with comprehensive, nationwide protection against discrimination in all of the important areas of life, including employment, housing, and education.

*Legislative Vehicle:* Equality Act

- Provides comprehensive, nationwide civil rights protections to LGBTQ people by prohibiting discrimination against individuals on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity; fills gaps in the Civil Rights Act for women and people of color, as well as LGBTQ people.
- Defeats the Trump administration's efforts to dramatically roll-back protections for transgender people through an extremely narrow definition of sex by reaffirming — consistent with decades of legal developments — that discrimination against LGBTQ people is a form of sex discrimination.

## **Russian Interference**

*Goal:* Hold the president and his campaign publicly accountable for any misconduct with Russian interference in the 2016 election, 2018 midterms, and any illegal effort to cover up misconduct.

*Legislative Vehicle:* Oversight hearings

- Call for a full top-to-bottom investigation, with hearings that are open to the public, going into closed session only for the limited purpose of discussing classified information.