

WE THE PEOPLE





WE THE PEOPLE

means all of us

“Democracy just cannot flourish amid fear. Liberty cannot bloom amid hate. Justice cannot take root amid rage. America must get to work...America has no choice but to do better.”

*-Thurgood Marshall, Former Associate Justice
of the Supreme Court of the United States*

In 2021, the ACLU of Maryland is celebrating a special birthday. It's our 90th year protecting civil liberties and civil rights, and advancing racial justice. With this year being marked by a global pandemic and a re-invigorated national racial justice movement, our efforts have been even more necessary and urgent. Ninety years later, ACLU-MD continues our journey for race equity that began at our founding.

When Activist Elisabeth Gilman and her friends attempted to get some justice for Orphan Jones aka Euel Lee in 1931, the case spurred the first gathering of what would become the ACLU of Maryland. A Black man from Virginia, Lee was racially mistreated, threatened with lynching by a white mob, beaten before he was questioned, brutalized, charged with murder, and denied counsel.

The foundation of our organization was based on racial justice. It played a central role in the ACLU of Maryland's first case. We are now seen as one of America's premier guardians of liberty; our staff, Board of Directors, and other key stakeholders, remain determined to live that commitment each day.



Dana Vickers Shelley



John Alvin Henderson

Back then, we were able to provide Euel Lee some measure of due process, but it wasn't enough. The system of white supremacy and injustice remained and we still see it today. Yet, we are still motivated to dismantle it. We are determined to see the day where everyone has their humanity valued, and their civil liberties and rights respected.

Sadly, our 90th anniversary year is marked by the need to pursue justice for the murder by police of a young Black man, Anton Black, who was killed in 2018 by white officers and a white civilian, also on the Eastern Shore. Today, Anton Black's family seeks justice with the support of the ACLU. They are challenging the systemic role that medical examiners play in justifying police killings, particularly of Black people.

His family described their son, Anton Black, as "loving" and a family-oriented person. He had many dreams like any college student, ranging from enlisting in the military to pursuing modeling and acting. Anton's dreams were just beginning to come true but he was killed before he could fulfill any of them.

The murder of Anton by police made a big impact in his community, leaving many people suffering. The police officers who did this were not held accountable because medical examiners justified the police narrative of what happened. They blamed the killing of Anton on his bipolar disorder as a contributing cause instead of asphyxiation from having multiple bodies weighing down his body.

What can we all do now to make things truly different? To achieve systemic change that overcomes white supremacy? To ensure we aren't faced with the same racist inhumanity after another 90 years in Maryland?

We need change, which is why we developed a four-year strategic plan that has as its centerpiece a fundamentally different way of working. Coalitions are growing across the state – including with equal vigor Western Maryland & the Eastern Shore – that center the leadership and experience of Marylanders directly impacted by state systems that perpetuate injustice. The ACLU of Maryland is committed to centering and investing in this work and together making a deep and lasting impact.

You are a part of an important movement. Together, let's ensure that 90 years from now we have dismantled white supremacy and finally realized rights for all Marylanders.

Yours in liberty and equity,



Dana Vickers Shelley

Executive Director
ACLU of Maryland



John Alvin Henderson

President, Board of Directors
ACLU of Maryland

COVER: *ACLU of Maryland staff members, Sergio España, Sebastian Brown, Jamie Grace Alexander, and Lorena Diaz show support for impactful police reform at a Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability rally in Annapolis. The rally called for legislators to repeal the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights and include real community oversight of police.*

ANNUAL REPORT: *Design credit: Nicole McCann. Content credit: Meredith Curtis Goode, Jenny Trust, and Craig Lee.*



BLACK
KIDS
MATTER



Our goal is to have a public education system where all students can learn, thrive and are prepared to effectively engage in the social, political and economic life of their community.

The right to education is protecting in Maryland's constitution. But there has been a large and growing gap in education funding since the legislature and governor cut the state's education funding formula back in 2008. The ACLU and our partners worked hard to ensure that as the 2020 Blueprint for Maryland's Future law was implemented, schools have the resources to address learning recovery due to the COVID-19 pandemic. And we focused on securing additional funding for school districts with the lowest-wealth that have been the furthest from funding "adequacy."

A key part of our advocacy is the landmark *Bradford v. Maryland State Department of Education* lawsuit, which defends the state constitutional right to an education. The case continues and we are determined to ensure that another generation of Black and Brown students in Baltimore are not held back from realizing their dreams because of unconstitutional and inequitable education funding from the state.

The ACLU has also been advocating with partners to use school police funds instead on restorative approaches and increased support staff, to require comprehensive and disaggregated data for school suspensions and discipline, and to provide needed funds for safe, healthy, modern school buildings.

LEFT: *A hand-drawn and colorful "Black Kids Matter" protest sign is taped to a metal barrier. Photo by Steve Sanchez.*

government accountability

Our goal is to make government accountable by maximizing transparency, establishing limits on governmental power, and strengthening enforcement mechanisms, particularly where there is the greatest opportunity for abuse of power.

2021 saw a massive win on public access to government information when the General Assembly passed Anton's Law, which declares police misconduct records are not personnel records. Named for 19-year-old Anton Black, who was killed by police in Greensboro, MD, Anton's Law allows victims of police brutality to know about misconduct via a Maryland Public Information Act request. Now, along with community partners, we would like to create a comprehensive database where Marylanders can look up officers' complaint and disciplinary history.

Another big win this year came when Black and Latinx officers who blew the whistle on racism against officers within the Prince George's Police Department won their federal lawsuit. Their case also challenged racism against BIPOC community members, and the Black and Latinx officers were subjected to severe retaliation as a result. But ultimately, they won significant policy changes to end biased policing, to impose significant discipline for racist acts committed by police against other officers or community members, and to stop discrimination and retaliation against Black and Latinx officers who challenge police abuse.

RIGHT: *Black and Latinx officer whistleblowers settled their lawsuit against the Prince George's Police Department. They experienced severe retaliation for speaking up about racism and discrimination within PGPD. Plaintiffs pictured with their legal team in front row: Retired Captain Joe Perez, President of the Hispanic National Law Enforcement Association; Lieutenant Sonya Zollicoffer, Vice President of the United Black Police Officers Association; and Lieutenant Thomas Boone, President of the United Black Police Officers Association. Photo credit: Amber Taylor.*



immigrants' rights

Our goal is to ensure all Marylanders are empowered to fully participate in society regardless of citizenship or legal status.

It is dangerous to the lives and due process rights of immigrants, as well as public safety for everyone, for local police to act as arms of the federal government's deportation machine.

That is why we are working with partners to end ICE partnerships with local jurisdictions. Although the Trust Act did not pass in 2021, we did celebrate passage of the more limited Dignity Not Detention Act, which was amended to include extra police protections from Trust. That law now bans private immigration detention centers and prohibits local governments from contracting to house ICE detainees, and also establishes limitations around the harmful 287(g) program. The ACLU is also supporting efforts to ensure legal defense funds and representation for all immigrants.

LEFT: A child and their guardian write welcoming words to immigrants at the Frederick County Unity Rally hosted by the Resources for Immigrant Support and Empowerment (RISE) coalition. Photo credit: Nicole McCann.

individual autonomy

Our goal is to make sure Marylanders can think and speak freely without indiscriminate surveillance and with equitable access to the public square.

2021 was a big year for our individual autonomy goals. Maryland's extreme Law Enforcement Officer's Bill of Rights was repealed and replaced with a statewide law that, among other things, ends the five-day grace period before an officer can be compelled to provide a statement after an incident. It also mandates the creation of Police Accountability Boards in every county. In addition, the first ever statewide use of force standard was passed that raises the legal standard to authorize force when it is necessary and proportional, based on the totality of the circumstances. The new law also requires officers to attempt to de-escalate, intervene to prevent excessive force, and promptly obtain medical help.

There were also important legal victories. The first victory came in a lawsuit brought by Black leaders in Baltimore challenging the use of spy planes to surveil residents by the police department. The second victory came in a case brought by four residents of Baltimore's Harlem Park neighborhood who bravely sued the city and police department after their state and federal constitutional rights were violated during a six-day, multi-block lockdown of their neighborhood. They won a rare apology, and the settlement required damages to be paid and new policies to ensure nothing similar happens again.

Meanwhile, a new 2021 case brings important and novel claims to the court, filed by the family of 19 year old Anton Black, who was murdered by police officers, and the coalition who supports them that charges the Maryland State Medical Examiner's Office with collusion and cover up of the police killing.

RIGHT: *Marylanders show support for impactful police reform at the Maryland Coalition for Justice and Police Accountability rally in Annapolis. The rally called for legislators to repeal the Law Enforcement Officers' Bill of Rights and implement community oversight of police. Photo credit: Lauren Frost.*





legal justice system

Our goal is to realize an equitable system that prioritizes community-centered approaches to public safety and ends our primary reliance on incarceration.

After decades of work, 2021 saw two victories that improve the accessibility of parole for Marylanders who have earned it but who have been blocked from release for many years. First, a settlement in the lawsuit brought by Marylanders given life with parole sentences as children that requires all the decision-makers to take into account the age of children who are sentenced, provide much greater transparency about their decisions and their reasoning, and work more closely together to identify and advance the many deserving candidates toward release. Second, Maryland finally passed legislation to take the politics out of parole by removing the Governor from the parole process.

These are huge wins for Black Marylanders given life with parole sentences and their families. Maryland has some of the worst racial disparities among those serving life with parole sentences in the nation (77 percent) – even worse than states like Alabama and Mississippi. For too long, there have been too many people who deserve to be home with their loved ones still locked inside, but we are working with families and community advocates to change that.

LEFT: Parole reform advocates celebrate in Annapolis after the General Assembly override the Governor's veto of SB 202 to get politics out of parole. Photo credit: Sergio España.

voting rights

Our goal is to have an election infrastructure that guarantees universal suffrage and robust access to the ballot.

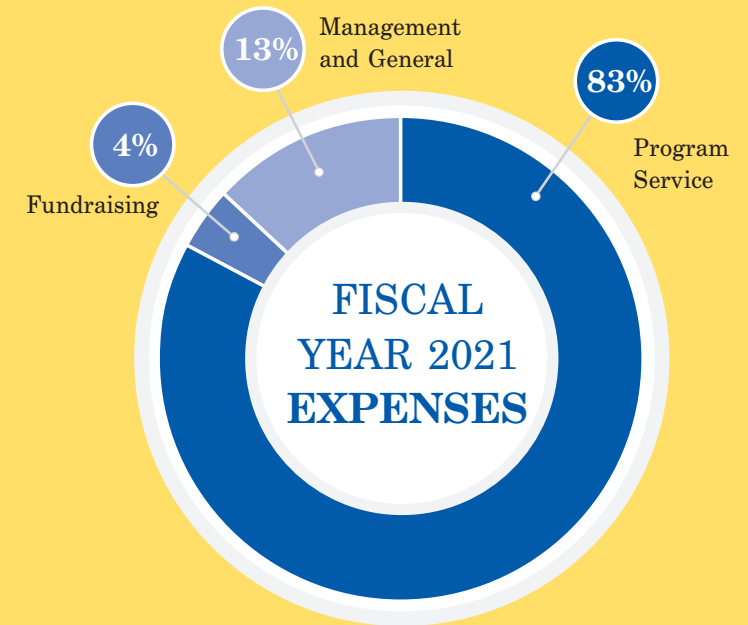
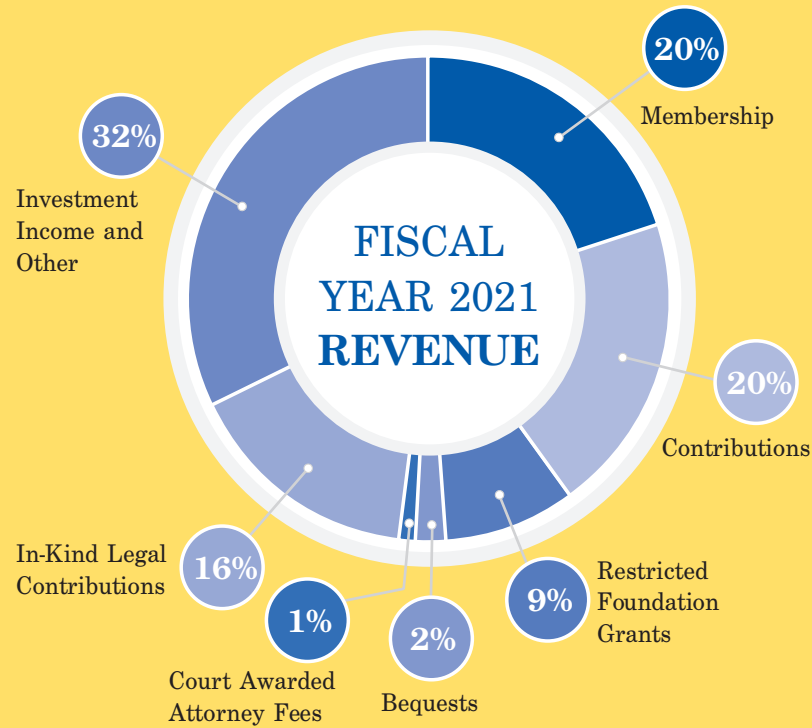
Ultimately, our state needs to restore the right to vote to all Marylanders, including those in jails and prisons. But many people inside still have their right to vote now, which is why passage this year to create better infrastructure and education about that right is so important. The new law requires the State Board of Elections to adopt regulations establishing a program to inform individuals who are incarcerated in a correctional facility and have the right to vote of upcoming elections and how they may exercise their right to vote.

Redistricting is also a priority for the ACLU, and we are paying close attention to jurisdictions across the state to ensure their redistricting plans comply with the racial justice protections of the Voting Rights Act. That is why Black voters in Baltimore County joined with community groups and the ACLU to challenge an illegal redistricting plan there that packed Black voters into one district, even though the diversity of the county has greatly increased. We cannot allow the voices of BIPOC voters to be diluted.

RIGHT: *Picture includes several activists from the Baltimore County Coalition for Fair Maps, Morgan Drayton of Common Cause Maryland, Ericka McDonald of League of Women Voters of Baltimore County, and two individual voters from Baltimore County. ACLU of Maryland Executive Director Dana Vickers Shelley and Anthony Fugett, former president of the Baltimore County NAACP. Photo credit: Meredith Curtis Goode.*



audited financials



SUPPORT AND REVENUE

Membership	\$ 1,649,470
Contributions	1,690,367
Restricted Foundation Grants	791,000
Bequests	142,951
Court Awarded Attorney Fees	103,500
In-Kind Legal Contributions	1,334,019
Investment Income and Other	2,685,387
Total	\$ 8,396,694

EXPENSES

Program Service	\$ 3,825,581
Fundraising	185,161
Management and General	596,572
Total	\$ 4,607,314

ABOVE: Audited financial charts credit: Nicole Miles.

90TH ANNIVERSARY

ACLU Maryland **90 YEARS**

A special thanks to our community of supporters who have made special gifts in honor of ACLU-MD's 90th year.

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IF YOU WISH TO MAKE A DONATION TO OUR 90TH ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN:

1. Send a check to:

ACLU Foundation of Maryland
3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Ste. 350
Baltimore, MD 21211

Please make checks payable to:
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and write "90th Anniversary" in the memo;

2. Text ACLUMD to 41444; or

3. Visit www.aclu-md.org/en/ways-give and select "90th Anniversary Campaign" to give online.

Together, we can make certain that 90 years from now, we have dismantled white supremacy and finally realized rights for all.



What will you give to ensure “WE

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A MEMBERSHIP AND A DONATION?

The ACLU of Maryland consists of two sibling entities: the American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland and the ACLU Foundation of Maryland.

- The American Civil Liberties Union of Maryland is a 501(c)(4), which means that contributions are not tax-deductible and can be used for political lobbying. Membership contributions always fund the Union.
- The ACLU Foundation of Maryland is a 501(c)(3) charity, which means that contributions are tax-deductible and cannot be used for political lobbying. Gifts to the Foundation fund our litigation, communications, advocacy, and public education efforts in Maryland and across the country.

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DONATING TO THE ACLU OF MARYLAND AND THE NATIONAL ACLU?

At the ACLU of Maryland, we work closely with our colleagues at the National ACLU to defend civil liberties in our state and across the country. Gifts to the ACLU of Maryland are shared with the National ACLU, and vice versa.

“WE THE PEOPLE” means all of us?

ONLINE

To make an online membership donation, please go to: www.aclu-md.org and click “DONATE” and then “JOIN”.

To make an online Foundation donation, please go to: www.aclu-md.org and click “DONATE”.

MAIL

ACLU of Maryland, Attn: Development, 3600 Clipper Mill Rd., Ste. 350, Baltimore, MD 21211

Checks should be made out to either the ACLU Foundation of Maryland (for tax-deductible donations) or the ACLU of Maryland (for membership contributions).

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Ask your broker to transfer the securities you wish to donate to the ACLU’s account (#30A121398) at T. Rowe Price (DTC# 0443). Please email development@aclu-md.org or call (410) 889-8550 ext. 153 to inform us so that we can record and properly acknowledge your gift.

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Contact us by email at development@aclu-md.org or call (410) 889-8550 ext. 153 to start the conversation.



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We also thank donors who made gifts below \$1,000 as well as those who wish to remain anonymous.

Every effort has been made to ensure accurate and complete listings of contributors. If you wish to change the way your name is listed, please contact us at development@aclu-md.org.

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