



MI.gov/vote

@SWIREDDY
MRI 2020



Freedom, Justice, and Equality. This is what you—our volunteers, community partners, clients, members, and donors—make possible. Your support directly facilitates the victories highlighted in our 2024 Impact Report. With your partnership, the ACLU of Michigan will continue to take on the toughest fights - no matter where they arise or who is in office. Thank you.

2024 IMPACT REPORT

YOUR IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

 **125**
Bills the ACLU of Michigan has lobbied this session.

 **1,400**
ACLU of Michigan activist actions taken to protect voting rights, reproductive rights, and more.

 **5,400**
Hours donated by volunteer attorneys to the ACLU of Michigan for a total estimated value of \$3,542,072.00

 **400,000**
Historically disenfranchised voters contacted with Know Your Rights information to help prevent the spread of voting mis- and dis-information.

Knocking Down Barriers To Abortion Access



In December, our work resulted in the passage of the Reproductive Health Act that repealed many TRAP laws, which are laws that needlessly put restrictions on abortion clinics and restored private insurance coverage of abortion in Michigan. We are now suing to restore Medicaid coverage of abortion. This unconstitutional law unfairly impacts people trying to make ends meet and disproportionately impacts people of color. Ending these decades-old anti-abortion restrictions is now possible since Michigan voters overwhelmingly adopted the Reproductive Freedom for All constitutional amendment, an ACLU of Michigan-led campaign with partners, in 2022.

Ending Trump-Era Detention Without Due Process

In June of 2017, hundreds of Iraqi nationals including Sam Hamama of Sterling Heights were rounded up by ICE for immediate deportation back to Iraq without the chance to argue their case in immigration court. Just days before they were to be kicked out of the country, the ACLU of Michigan and partners won a court order to halt these deportations. In the years since, we filed motion after motion to free these men and women from immigration detention and help them secure hearings in immigration court. On July 31, 2024, we finalized a settlement with the federal government that will help prevent the needless detention of people who have fought to stay with their families and communities rather than being deported to Iraq, where they may face persecution, torture, or even death.



"I am so grateful for the work of the ACLU, which made it possible for me to remain with my wife and four children and become an American citizen rather than languish in detention and possibly be deported to a country where I have not lived for decades."

—Sam Hamama

Protecting the First Amendment, Protecting the Right to Vote



Two men who orchestrated robocalls spreading false information to deter Black Detroiters from voting in 2020 argued that the First Amendment protected their actions when the State of Michigan brought charges against them. The ACLU of Michigan filed a brief explaining that the First Amendment does not protect deliberate lies about voting procedures or the consequences of voting when the purpose of such lies is to disenfranchise voters. The Michigan Supreme Court adopted a rule nearly identical to the ACLU's argument and sent the case back to a lower court to apply this rule. This decision prevents future misuse of free speech protections to justify intentionally misleading political tactics that undermine voting rights and political discourse.

Limiting Racist Facial Recognition Technology in Detroit

Thanks to the persistence of Robert Williams and the ACLU of Michigan, the Detroit Police Department (DPD) now has the strongest policy restricting the use of racially biased facial recognition technology (FRT) in the United States. ACLU-MI filed suit following DPD's wrongful arrest of Mr. Williams in front of his terrified wife and daughters at his Farmington Hills home in 2019. FRT is known to often misidentify people of color. Prior to our groundbreaking settlement, DPD had no policy for use of this faulty technology and had more false arrests due to facial recognition than anywhere in the country. Our settlement and Detroit's new policy is a model for other police departments across the country.



Robert Williams (pictured with his daughter) and his wife are sounding the alarm about the dangers of facial recognition technology following Mr. Williams' unjust arrest and a groundbreaking settlement with the Detroit Police Department.

Defending Public Schools and the Democracy They Sustain



Last November, a federal Court of Appeals agreed with the ACLU of Michigan that a 50-year-old amendment to Michigan's Constitution preserving public funding for public schools is constitutional. This victory is in response to a lawsuit that sought to divert hundreds of millions of tax dollars to private and religious schools throughout the state. Inclusive, well-funded public education is a cornerstone of democracy dating back to our nation's founding. Public education has been under attack in the courts for decades, and, more recently, through a resurgence of book bans targeting literature featuring LGBTQ communities, people of color, and other marginalized groups. ACLU-MI is tracking book bans through a new interactive map on our website and providing resources to empower communities to fight back.

"Your Vote Matters", a mural commissioned by the ACLU-MI, was created by Detroit-based artist Freddy Diaz. Photographed by Bre'Ann White, the piece can be found at the corner of Joy and Piedmont streets in Detroit.