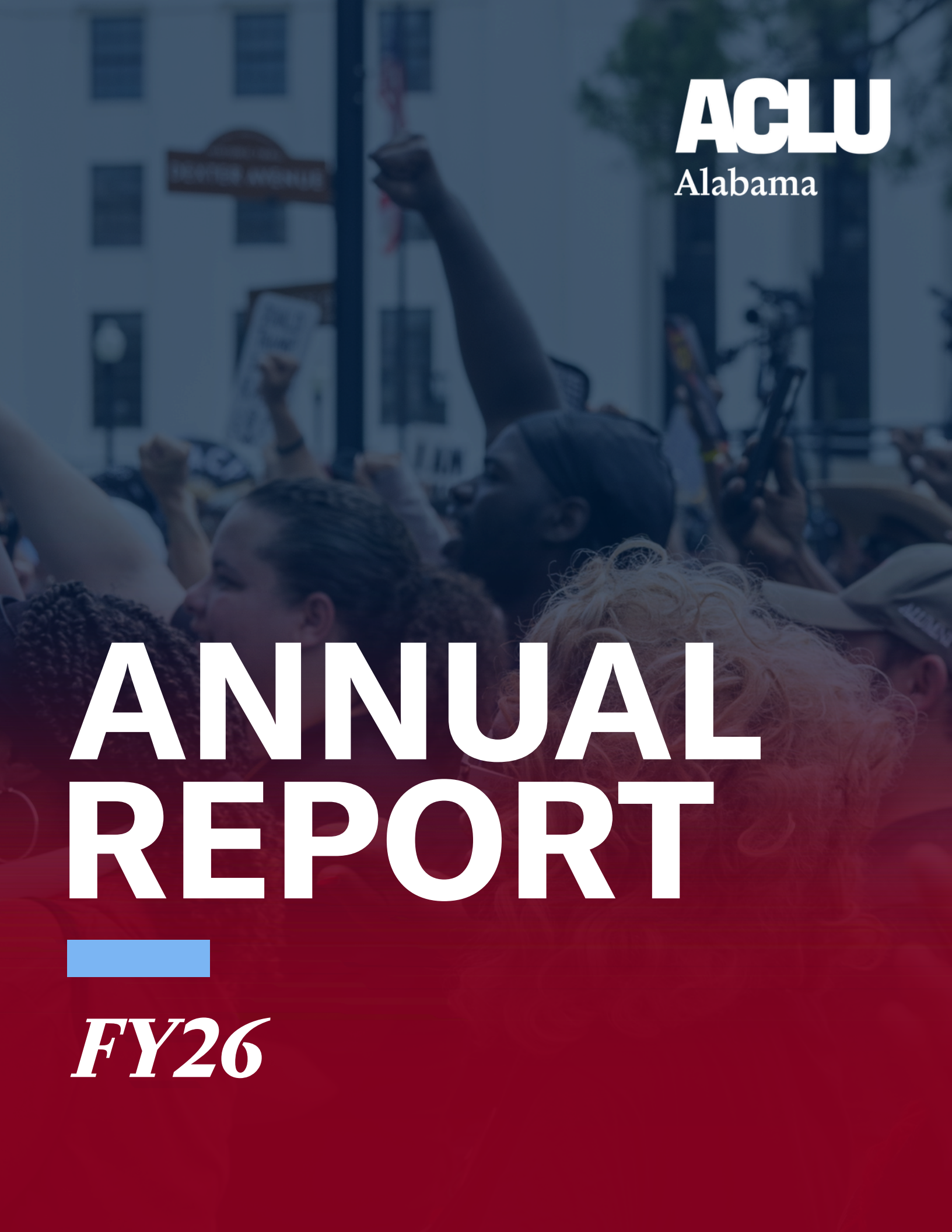


The background of the entire page is a photograph of a protest or rally. A crowd of people is visible, with several individuals raising their fists in the air. In the background, a building with a sign that reads "REVOLUTION WALKER" can be seen. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

ACLU
Alabama

ANNUAL REPORT



FY26

A Letter From the Executive Director



This has been a year of reckoning. With the rolling back of voting rights across our state and nation, and the fight for due process and the birthright of citizens, people are weary. Yet these times, although unprecedented, are not unfamiliar. Our organization was founded at the height of the Civil Rights Movement, but the ACLU's investment in Alabama began in the 1930s during the Scottsboro Boys trials. What we have learned over the past six decades is that these times fortify us. We have weathered this storm before, and through our collective determination, we will emerge from this fight stronger than ever, and with a shared vision of the true promise of this nation.

Despite the challenges of this moment, our affiliate has not slowed down. We deepened our voting rights work through Project M.O.V.E., expanding our presence in Black barbershops, churches, and HBCU campuses across the state to build the kind of trust that voter education requires. When the Governor called a special session in the wake of *Callais*, our legal and legislative teams responded immediately, coordinating with partners to hold a protest and monitor committee hearings, and mobilizing thousands of Alabamians at the "All Roads Lead to the South" rally in Montgomery. Our fight for fair maps continues in *Allen v. Milligan* and *Stone v. Allen*, and we remain committed to that fight as we were the day we filed.

This year also brought real progress beyond the courtroom. We held our "Moms Matter" listening sessions across Alabama to hear directly from Black women about their pregnancy and birth experiences; and published a Maternal Health Report based on those findings. We traveled across the state through our "Atoning Alabama" workshop series to educate families and advocates about the opaque pardons and parole system; and released an updated Parole Watch Report. And in March, we stood up for democracy by partnering on No Kings Day 3, with staff speaking at events in Birmingham, Huntsville, Montgomery, and Mobile.

We know that the road ahead will not be easy. The legal and political tools that protected Black Alabamians' voting power for decades are under direct assault, and our opponents have made clear that they will not stop pursuing maps and policies that dilute the power of Black voters. But we have never measured this work in single court rulings or legislative sessions. We measure it in decades: in the trust we build year after year, in the leaders we develop, and in the communities who know that when we show up, we do so with integrity and for the long haul.

Thank you for staying with us in this fight. Sixty-one years in, your support is what makes this work possible, and we are deeply grateful for your continued partnership on the long road toward a more just and equitable Alabama.

In Community,
JaTaune Bosby Gilchrist

Our Team

Staff

Executive Team

JaTaune Bosby Gilchrist, *Executive Director*

A.J. Reese, *Chief Financial Officer*

Kim Robinson, *Chief of Staff*

Senior Leadership Team

Alison Mollman, *Legal Director*

A’Niya Robinson, *Policy and Organizing Director*

Kayla Sloan, *Communications Director*

Ellen McCartney, *Development Director*

Communications

Justala Simpson, *Communications Strategist*

Adam Muhlendorf, *Press Strategist*

Operations

Teresa Galloway, *Accounting Clerk*

Asia Muhammad, *Finance and Facilities Administrator*

Legal

Paul Rand, *Senior Attorney*

Nichelle Cunningham, *Paralegal*

Simone Hampton, *Legal Fellow*

Courtlyn McMeans, *Smart Justice Organizing Coordinator*

Policy & Organizing

Samuel Duff, *Voting Rights Policy Strategist*

Celsa Stallworth, *Organizing Manager*

Board of Directors

Kindred Motes, *Board Chair*

Ana Delia Espino

Carmarion Anderson

Carlos Javier Torres

Carmen Chambers

Dr. Denise Davis-Maye

Glory McLaughlin

Heather Fann

Jerome Dees

Joel Sogol

Michelle Browder

Pastor Richard Williams

Reverend Julie Conrady

Stephanie Gilmore

Teumbay Barnes

Yamini Bhat

Our Staff



A.J. Reese
Chief Financial Officer



Kim Robinson
Chief of Staff



Alison Mollman
Legal Director



A'Niya Robinson
Policy & Advocacy Director



Kayla Sloan
Communications Director



Ellen McCartney
Development Director



Justala Dean
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Courtlyn McMeans
Smart Justice Organizing Coordinator



Samuel Duff
Voting Rights Policy Strategist



Celsa Stallworth
Organizing Manager

60 Years Later...

Still Fighting!

All Roads Lead to the South



On May 16, 2026, the ACLU of Alabama served as a central organizer of All Roads Lead to the South, a National Day of Action for voting rights in Montgomery, Alabama. The rally was held in direct response to the Supreme Court's *Callais* decision and subsequent redistricting efforts to disenfranchise Black voters.

The event drew over 5,000 people, including national politicians, activists, and civil rights dignitaries. Our Executive Director JaTaune Bosby Gilchrist took the stage as one of the day's speakers to remind participants that the power always resides with the people. Rev. Dr. Bernice A. King also joined the rally, continuing her parents' legacy and the movement they helped lead in Montgomery.

More than 90 civil rights, voting rights, faith, labor, and community organizations participated in the rally, sending a powerful message to the people and institutions disenfranchising Black voters. Rooted in the tradition of Freedom Summer, the rally launched a sustained summer of organizing, including voter mobilization, civic education, economic pressure, legal advocacy, and direct action—with Alabama at the center of the national conversation.



Voting Rights



REDISTRICTING LEGISLATION

Following the Supreme Court's April 2026 ruling in *Louisiana v. Callais*, Alabama immediately moved to reinstate the same congressional map that courts had already struck down as intentionally racially discriminatory.

The ACLU of Alabama spent three years litigating *Allen v. Milligan* before securing a landmark 2023 Supreme Court victory that established Congressional District 2 as a second majority-Black district in a state where Black residents make up over 26% of the population but have long been under-represented in just one of seven congressional seats. After *Callais*, the lower federal court stood firm, reiterating that Alabama's 2023 map was the product of intentional discrimination, and blocked its use with a preliminary injunction. However, the Supreme Court intervened on the shadow docket, effectively reversed its own ruling from 2023, and restored Alabama's racially discriminatory map for the 2026 elections.

The ACLU of Alabama responded with full force: in the courts, in the legislature, and in the community, alongside more than 90 organizations at "All Roads Lead to the South", and in communities across the state. The case is set for trial in 2027 for a full merits review.

"Alabama's political leadership has made it absolutely clear that without protections for Black voters in place, they will not stop pursuing a congressional map that results in a delegation without Black representation — even after votes to the contrary are cast and counted. The Supreme Court may have granted Alabama's request, but it has not changed the facts and what we know to be true. The fight for equity and justice continues, and we will continue to show up wherever the work demands."

-JaTaune Bosby Gilchrist, Executive Director

FIGHTING FOR VOTING RIGHTS IN THE STATE HOUSE

During the 2026 Legislative Session, our policy team worked alongside Senator Linda Coleman-Madison to help pass SB24, which creates a clearer, standardized pathway for restoring voting rights to people who lost them due to a conviction. The bill requires the Board of Pardons and Paroles and the Secretary of State to jointly publish plain-language instructions and an electronic application for a Certificate of Eligibility to Register to Vote, and to notify individuals directly once their rights are restored so they can be added back to the poll list.

SB24 passed the Alabama House 78-3 and cleared the Senate 33-0 on a final concurrence vote, reflecting the broad, bipartisan recognition that restoring civic participation is a critical part of successful reentry. With the law set to take effect October 1, 2026, our team's advocacy helped ensure that eligible Alabamians will access full participation in their communities and democracy. Moving forward, we are planning workshops and canvassing efforts to engage and educate impacted communities, ensuring the bill takes immediate effect.

VOTER EDUCATION: PROJECT MOVE

Our flagship voter engagement initiative, Project M.O.V.E., is now in its third year. In addition to voter activation events at HBCU homecomings and football games, over the past year the program expanded to include community conversations in Black barbershops and churches across the state. This work was done in close partnership with community leaders and activists, allowing the affiliate to build trust with historically marginalized voters.

Through our college base building initiative, the affiliate is also doing direct outreach on HBCU campuses where students have consistently identified voting rights as their number one concern. The program is actively working to establish ACLU chapters on campuses across the state and equip students with resources for their own grassroots organizing efforts, building a leadership pipeline that extends the program's reach. Data gathered through these community events is being saved in NGP/VAN, making future outreach more targeted and effective. After three years of showing up, Black Alabamians now recognize the ACLU of Alabama as a voting rights advocate and trusted, expected presence at voting rights events, which has been the most meaningful measure of the program's impact.



Community Activation

SELMA JUBILEE

The ACLU of Alabama is a proud supporter of Selma Jubilee, an annual celebration of the brave foot soldiers who marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge on Bloody Sunday to defend voting rights. Our Executive Director JaTaune Bosby Gilchrist spoke at the foot of the bridge for this year's 61st anniversary, reminding participants that the fight for fair access to the ballot box is far from over. Our staff marched alongside foot soldiers, activists, organizers, politicians, and national ACLU staffers during this year's re-enactment, demonstrating our solidarity and commitment to the work ahead.



DAY OF SERVICE

One of the most meaningful traditions our affiliate has established around Jubilee is our day of service, where staff volunteers to clean and help with home repairs for a foot soldier living in the Selma area. This year we assisted Miss Annie Pearl Avery alongside GS Construction who built Miss Avery a new wheelchair ramp so that she could more easily access her home.



NO KINGS DAY 3

On March 28, 2026, the ACLU of Alabama played a central role in No Kings Day 3 (NKD3), the largest single-day demonstration of its kind in Alabama's history. We helped to organize and elevate rallies across four cities, Birmingham, Montgomery, Huntsville, and Mobile, giving Alabamians a visible, unified platform to stand up for democracy and civil liberties. The turnout exceeded expectations at every location, a clear signal of just how many people across our state are ready to be part of this fight.

In Birmingham, roughly 7,000 people gathered at Railroad Park, making it one of the largest political demonstrations in recent Alabama history. Our Executive Director, JaTaune Bosby Gilchrist, addressed the crowd, reinforcing the ACLU of Alabama's role as a trusted, visible defender of democracy. In Montgomery, around 1,000 demonstrators rallied outside the State Capitol, where our organizing manager, Celsa Stallworth, spoke, and in Huntsville and parks across North Alabama, hundreds to thousands more gathered to hear remarks from our voting rights policy strategist, Sam Duff.

Beyond the size of the crowds, NKD3 reflected something deeper: a growing, energized base of Alabamians willing to show up in community for the causes our affiliate fights for every day in the courtroom and the state house. It gave us new entry points into communities across the state and reaffirmed the ACLU of Alabama's place at the center of the movement for a more just and inclusive democracy.



Maternal Health

MOMS MATTER LISTENING SESSIONS

Last summer, the ACLU of Alabama held six “Moms Matter” listening sessions in rural and urban communities across the state to hear directly from Black women about their experiences with prenatal, pregnancy, and postpartum care. Facilitated by a trained social worker and coordinated by our policy and organizing director, 145 women spoke candidly about barriers to care, from lack of insurance and limited hospital access to being dismissed by providers and harmed by miscommunication within the healthcare system. A consistent theme emerged across every session: Black women are too often not treated as experts on their own bodies and health.

These stories are now driving real action. Our policy and organizing team compiled and analyzed the data collected across all six sessions to create a comprehensive maternal health report which will impact legislation and advocacy. Recognizing that legislative change alone cannot meet every need these women raised, we are also building a communications and resource strategy, including a dedicated space on our website for maternal health resources set to launch later this year. The voices and stories shared in these listening sessions are shaping not just our policy agenda, but our entire approach to maternal health advocacy in Alabama.



THE MOMS MATTER REPORT: OUR 2025 LISTENING TOUR FINDINGS

After more than a year of conversations held with women across the state to learn about their healthcare experiences, the ACLU of Alabama has released our comprehensive report on the dire state of reproductive and maternal care in Alabama. This report is more than just numbers. It is rooted in the real, lived experience of Black women in Alabama and provides actionable policy solutions based on our findings.

“Alabama is one of the most dangerous places in America to be pregnant and give birth, especially for Black women. The fall of *Roe* and the closure of maternity units across the state have made accessing care even more difficult. Alabama must rethink how we approach maternal health, but that work shouldn't begin in committee rooms in Montgomery. It should begin in the living rooms and community centers where families have been navigating this reality every day.

-JaTaune Bosby Gilchrist, Executive Director

“Over the past year, we made it a point to listen to women in communities across Alabama, and despite their geographic, cultural, and economic differences, their experiences were remarkably similar. They told us they struggled to get appointments, couldn't afford to take time away from work, didn't feel heard when they sought care, and often didn't know where to turn for help. Their stories didn't just tell us what was wrong; they pointed us toward what needs to change.

-A'Niya Robinson, Policy and Organizing Director

Key Findings

Through our listening sessions, story forms, and surveys, we identified persistent barriers that prevent pregnant people, especially those in rural and underserved areas, from accessing safe, timely, and respectful maternal healthcare in Alabama.

These findings highlight the gaps in the healthcare system, the consequences of provider shortages, and the ways community infrastructure fails to support pregnant and postpartum people.

01. Access to Care is Severely Limited Across Rural Areas

Participants consistently described how a lack of available services created delays during pregnancy, labor, and postpartum care. In Selma, the shortage of OB/GYNs forces many pregnant patients to travel to Montgomery or Birmingham for even routine services. The absence of a NICU means that infants in distress must be transported hours away, wasting precious time. The closure of the labor and delivery unit in Shelby County further strained access, leaving entire counties without immediate birthing options.



*
34% of Alabama counties are maternal health deserts.

*According to study published by Alabama Atlas, 2025

I am concerned about the hospital closures and lack of accessible care in Alabama. I live 30 minutes from my hospital. The hospital 3 minutes from my house closed it's ob/gyn unit.

A Mom in Alabama

Moms Matter Listening Sessions

Our 2025 Listening Tour Findings



ACLU Alabama

Policy Recommendations



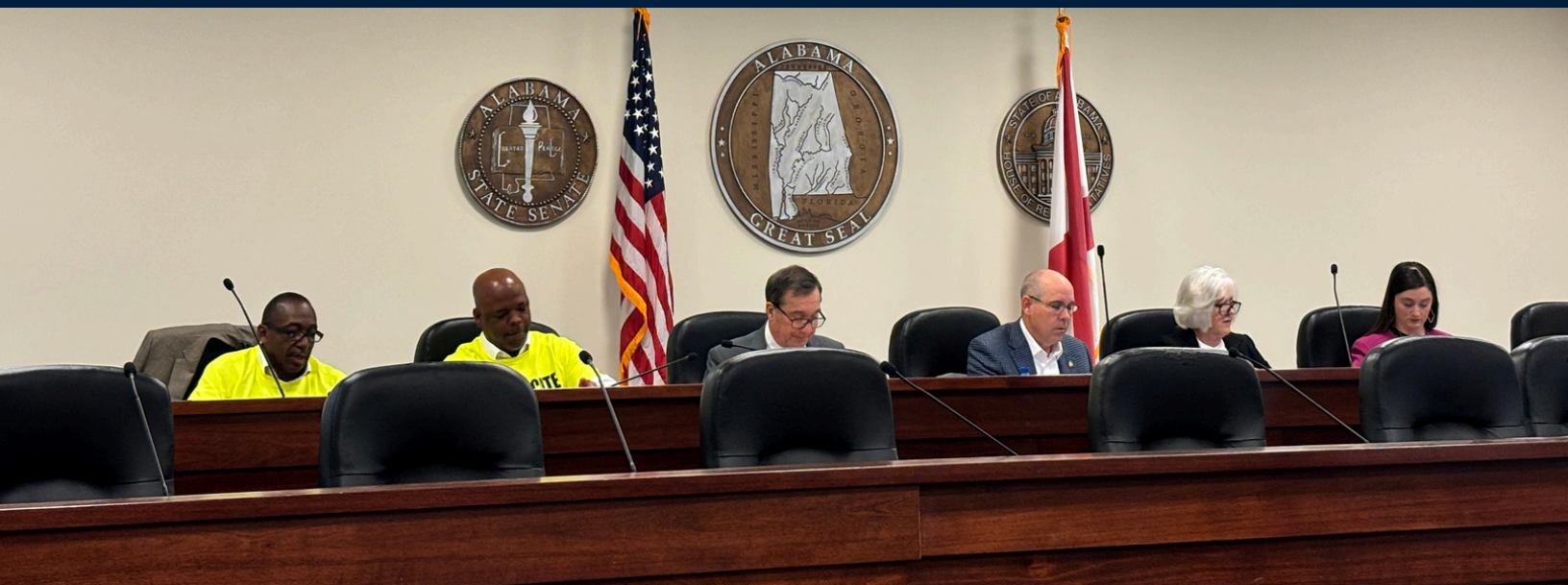
One of the goals of these listening sessions was to hear directly from the people most impacted by Alabama's maternal health crisis. The proposals below are meant to address the experiences they shared. To assist state level policymakers, local officials, and members of the community in identifying areas to focus their attention, we have divided our recommendations into two sets: (1) those requiring statutory change; and (2) those available to hospitals, medical facilities, providers, and everyday Alabamians without statewide legislation.

Parole Reform

ATONING ALABAMA WORKSHOPS

In 2023, Alabama's parole board approved only 8% of applicants, even though 80% met the board's own guidelines for release. To understand the human impact of this crisis, the ACLU of Alabama staff attended hundreds of parole hearings, gathering data that became our first Parole Watch Report. What we witnessed at those hearings revealed another urgent need: most families and supporters arrived unprepared, unsure of how hearings worked, what materials to bring, or what to expect from a system with little public information available to guide them.

In response, we launched "Atoning Alabama," an educational workshop series for the families and supporters of incarcerated people. Led by paralegal Nichelle Cunningham, an expert on Alabama's parole system with firsthand experience observing hundreds of hearings, each workshop covered what to expect at hearings, how to advocate effectively for incarcerated loved ones, and the process for restoring rights after release. Held in communities across the state, including Mobile, Birmingham, Huntsville, Tuscaloosa, and Montgomery, these sessions allowed us to reach people in their own communities. Beyond equipping advocates with practical knowledge, each workshop gathered data on participants' experiences with the parole system, strengthening the evidence base that informs our ongoing push for meaningful parole reform in Alabama.



CRIMINAL LEGAL REFORM WINS IN THE STATE HOUSE

This session, we secured meaningful wins for criminal legal reform. HB86 updates parole consideration to include an inmate's employment status and education gained while incarcerated. SB240 would allow a person who is incarcerated to attend their parole hearing virtually. We also secured a major voting rights win with the passage of SB24, a bill that creates a clearer, more standardized pathway for restoring voting rights for people who lost them due to a conviction. This session made it abundantly clear that our communities want to see better access to the polls for 2026 and beyond.

PAROLE WATCH REPORT

Our team remains dedicated to the fight for improved and transparent parole and pardons practices in the state of Alabama. In our most recent Parole Watch Report, set to be released in Fall 2026, our findings reveal that there are still systemic injustices that the Alabama Bureau of Pardons and Paroles has yet to address. From gender and racial disparities in parole grant rates to internal safety concerns inside ADOC, it is clear that the fight is not over. We will continue to show up for Alabama's incarcerated community and ensure that their lives are being valued and their rights are being honored.



In the Courts

STONE V. ALLEN

Stone challenges the drawing of Alabama's state Senate map as racially discriminatory and raises legal issues similar to those in *Milligan* (page 6). A federal court ordered the State to use a court-drawn map for Senate Districts 25 and 26 rather than the State's 2021 map. However, after *Callais* (page 6), the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals has since stayed that injunction, allowing Alabama to use its 2021 map while the case remains pending on appeal. Our legal team has asked the 11th Circuit to vacate the stay entirely, which would allow us to return to the trial court and seek a new injunction. We remain committed to seeing this fight through for the voters of Senate Districts 25 and 26.



POINTER V. PHELPS

When the University of Alabama shut down two student-run magazines, "1956," a publication by and for Black students, and "Alice," which focuses on women and gender issues, we joined NAACP Legal Defense Fund (LDF) and the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC) to defend the students' First Amendment rights. In May, a federal judge denied our motion for a preliminary injunction, reasoning that the university's decision to open or close the magazines was the university's own protected speech rather than a violation of the students' rights. Our legal team has appealed the ruling to the 11th Circuit, continuing to stand up for the free expression of Black and gender diverse students on Alabama's campuses.



NAACP V. MARSHALL

Alongside the NAACP LDF, SPLC, the Campaign Legal Center, and the Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program, we continue to challenge a state law that would criminalize routine, essential help with absentee voting applications and support for voters with disabilities. After winning a preliminary injunction in the federal district court, the case moved to the 11th Circuit, which asked the Alabama Supreme Court to weigh in on key questions of state law. We are now awaiting that opinion before appellate arguments move forward, and we remain steadfast in defending every Alabamian's right to get the help they need to vote.

RATCHFORD V. CHAMBLEY

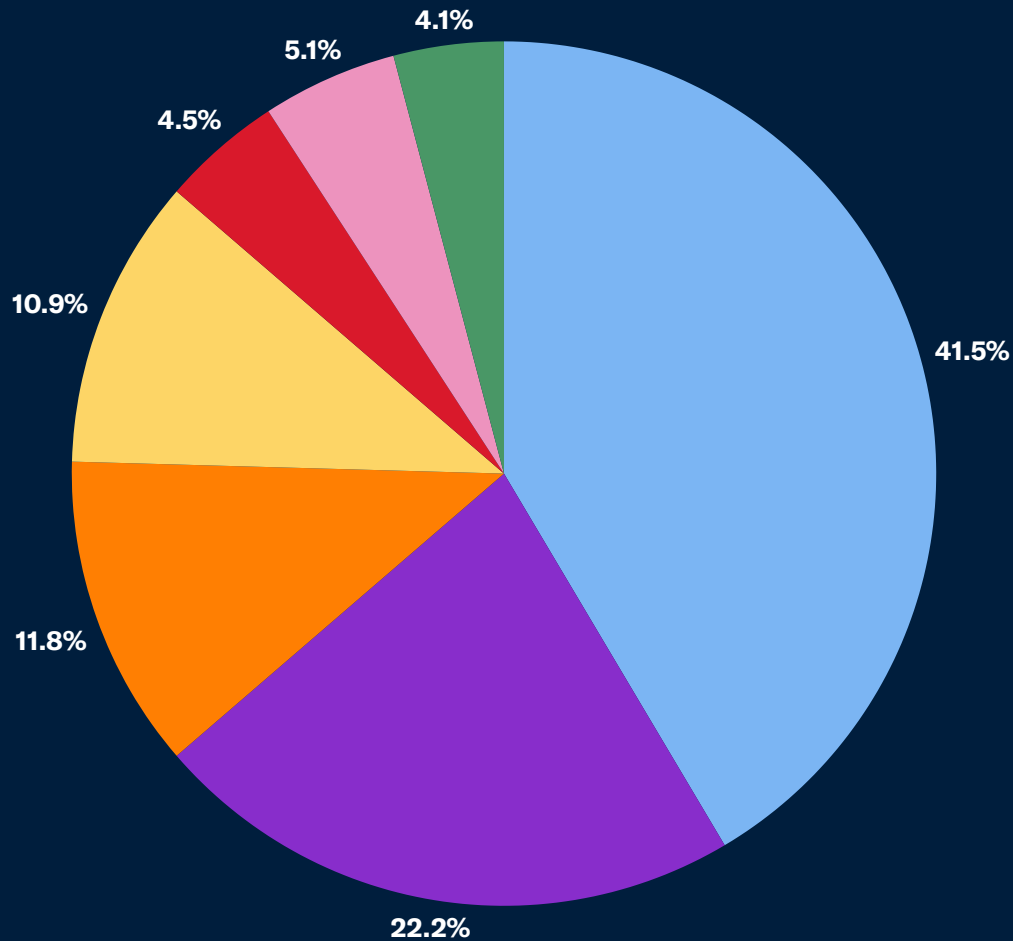
In 2025, our legal team filed a Section 1983 civil rights complaint in federal district court on behalf of two clients whose First Amendment rights were violated when they were improperly arrested at a Chambers County School Board meeting. This year, the magistrate judge issued a report and recommendation allowing multiple claims to move forward against the defendants. We will continue to seek damages and relief for our clients in the coming year.

CAPITAL CASEWORK

Our legal team continues to represent clients on Alabama's death row, currently serving as counsel of record in four cases at various stages of the state post-conviction (Rule 32) process. This work involves building comprehensive petitions grounded in expert testimony to challenge convictions and death sentences on constitutional and factual grounds. Our attorneys maintain regular, in-person relationships with clients, a practice made possible by our presence on the ground in Alabama. This year, we deepened our network of expert partners across the country and strengthened collaborations with allied organizations working on death penalty appeals.



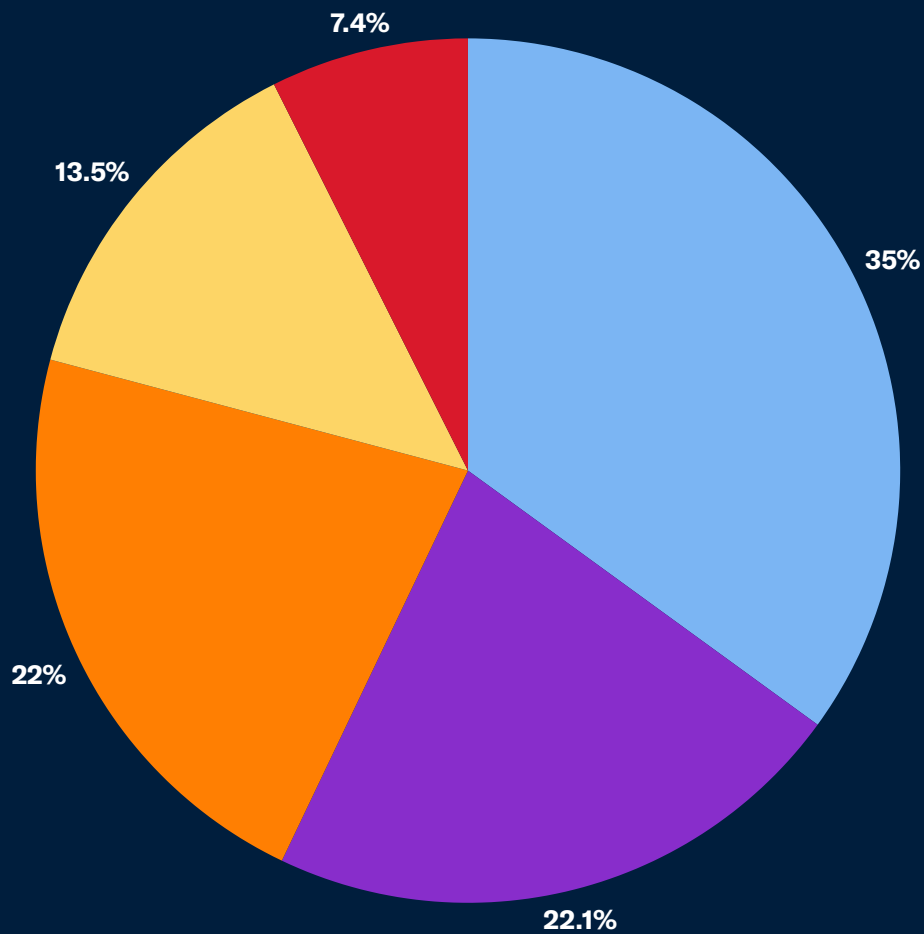
2025 - 2026 Budget



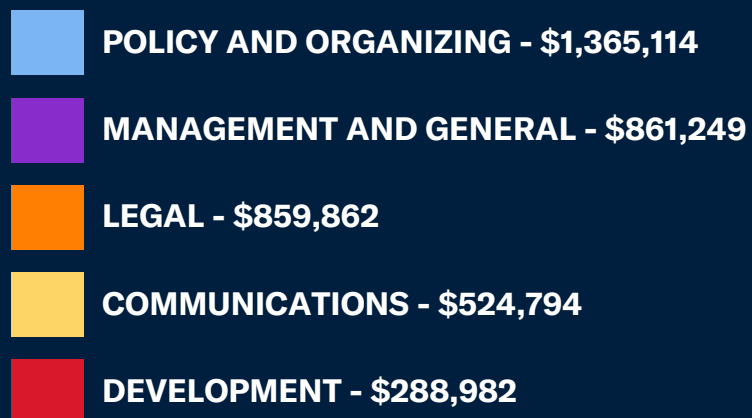
FY26 BUDGET - \$3,400,000



2025 - 2026 Expenses



2025-2026 EXPENSES - \$3,900,000





We the People

DEFEND AND PROTECT OUR CIVIL LIBERTIES IN ALABAMA.

BECOME A MEMBER.

Members provide flexible financial support allowing us to defend freedom at every turn. For as little as \$20 per year, you will be a card-carrying member of the ACLU, proudly joining our state and national work. From Montgomery to D.C., you will be a part of our movement.



MAKE A DONATION.

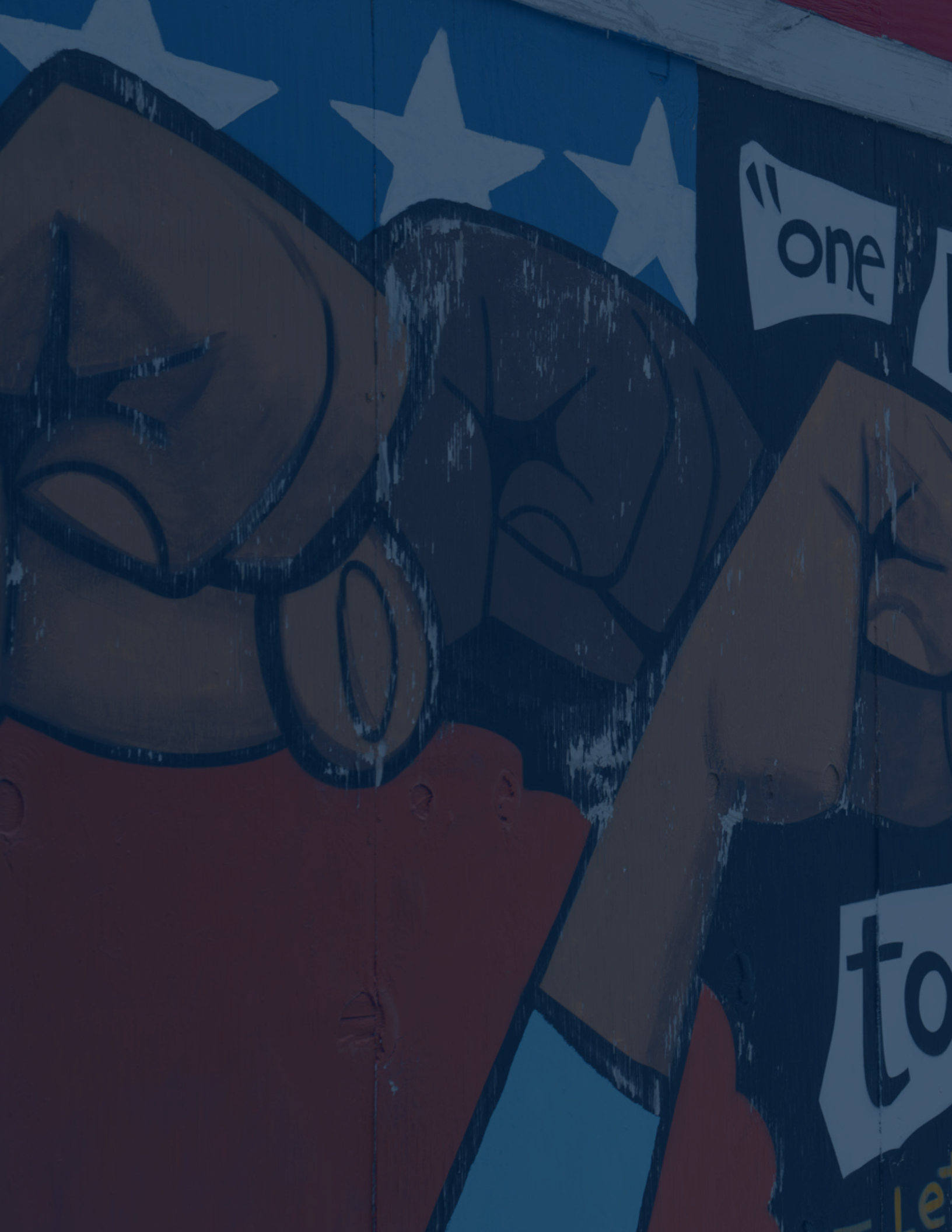
The ACLU of Alabama Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. Your tax-deductible gift will support a wide range of our work, including litigation, advocacy, and public education. We rely on our donors to support all of our strategic initiatives.



TAKE ACTION.

Lend us your time, your talent, and your voice. Sign up for our email action network so you can find out first about urgent actions, petitions, protests, and other volunteer opportunities. We need an activist core to help us protect civil rights and civil liberties in Alabama.





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EQUITY

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