



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

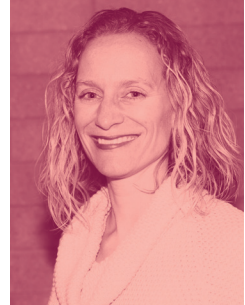
ACLU
Utah

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we inch towards the end of 2021 and reflect back on the year, there is much to applaud. It deserves mentioning that multiple victories were achieved during a pandemic, requiring lobbying over Zoom, lunchtime strategy meetings on a picnic bench behind our office building, and coordinating schedules to space out staff needing to access the office.

During 2021, our legal team fought hard, and won big, in more than one case where Utahns experienced serious violations of their civil rights. These victories impact all of us as they will change the way Utahns are policed, while also providing some justice for our clients. We also created a Campaigns Department that has already mobilized Utahns to rally for abortion access, speak out against gerrymandering, and learn more about utilizing their legal rights. Looking all the way back to the 2021 Legislative Session, we stopped several bills that would have harmed civil rights and civil liberties for Utahns, and also championed significant legislative wins – like eliminating the most damaging provisions of Utah’s English-only law.

The ACLU of Utah is heading into 2022 with a fierce and dedicated team, and continues to grow! We are excited to welcome several new team members, and watch them thrive under the mentorship of our incredible ACLU of Utah staff. There is no denying that challenges await us; we hear from community members who have experienced injustices and harm every day. We also anticipate more than one attack on civil rights and civil liberties during the 2022 Legislative Session. With the support and shared dedication of our members, donors, and community partners, we will be ready to defend and expand rights and liberties for everyone in Utah.



Brittney Nystrom
Executive Director

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INTERVIEW WITH A SMART JUSTICE LEGISLATIVE FELLOW NICKELIS DEJONG

During the 2021 Legislative Session, Nikk served as the ACLU of Utah's Smart Justice Legislative Fellow and helped to pass HB290 Probation and Parole Amendments using his unique approach to lobbying and testifying. You may have seen Nikk explaining why parole reform is important in television commercials and social media campaigns we produced to promote this legislation, as well as participating in Ask Me Anything videos and radio interviews. We sat down with Nikk to ask him about his experience passing this legislation and his vision for the future of criminal legal reform in Utah.



“
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”

Q: How did you get involved with probation and parole work with the ACLU of Utah? Why is this issue important?

A: I got involved in this issue because I am an impacted person whose life has been affected in many ways by the criminal legal system. I also have countless friends and family who this matter affects as well.

Q: What was it like to testify in front of a legislative committee in support of HB290?

A: The testifying was pretty straight forward, but I had to learn a lot about the legislative process. Luckily, having my background knowledge of parole and probation assisted me tremendously.

Q: Explain your experience working with legislators and key players to get the bill passed.

A: My first-person interactions outside the ACLU were limited due to COVID and the restrictions created by the virus, so that's why we relied more on television commercials, videos, and media interviews to get our message out.

Q: What do you see as next steps in the fight to end mass incarceration in Utah?

A: Passing HB290 was a good first step, but there is much more work to do on mental illness and substance abuse to make sure we treat the issue instead of incarcerating the issue.

REDISTRICTING REPORT

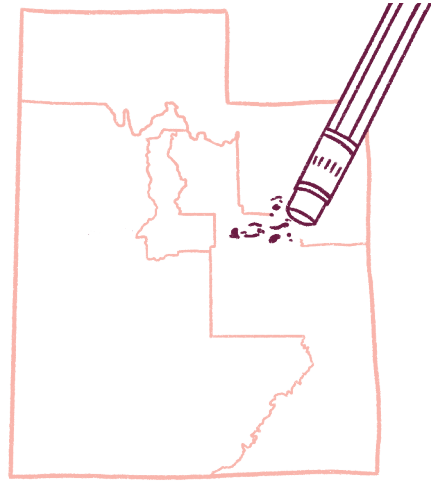
This November, the Utah State Legislature brought our state's redistricting process to a heartbreaking end. Instead of adopting nonpartisan, independently drawn maps, lawmakers chose to draw their own lines in a bid to protect their own power. For us and the many Utahns who advocated for fair maps, this outcome brought disappointment and frustration. But despite the setback (and after taking a few deep breaths), we also saw much hope for participatory democracy in Utah. But first, let's take a brief moment to remember how we got here.

2018

Proposition 4 is passed into law by a majority of Utah voters, with the ACLU of Utah's support. This ballot initiative creates an Independent Redistricting Commission to remedy the partisan gerrymandering for which Utah legislators are notorious.

2020

During the 2020 Utah General Legislative Session, organizers of Prop 4 strike a deal with lawmakers to prevent a legislative repeal of the new Independent Redistricting Commission. The compromise keeps the Commission, but gives lawmakers the power to decide whether or not to adopt the Commission's maps.



2021

The Legislative Redistricting Committee and the Independent Redistricting Commission begin holding public hearings around the state, but stark differences between the two become apparent. The Independent Commission gathers robust public feedback on how to keep communities together. The Legislative Redistricting Committee sets a prohibitively high bar for the public to submit maps, decides to use incumbency data, and votes not to consider feedback from Utahns on what comprises their communities of interest.

The ACLU of Utah and our coalition partners encourage Utahns across the state to attend public meetings, give feedback, and ask the Legislature to adopt Commission maps. Over remarkable public outcry, legislators ultimately ignore public support of Commission maps. Instead, they reveal their own maps, drawn amidst much secrecy, and hurriedly pass them into law.

Though this long journey ended in public outrage, we at the ACLU of Utah know this is far from a final defeat. The unprecedented levels of public engagement we saw throughout this process signal real opportunity for Utahns to join together and become part of the decision-making processes that impact our lives. Thousands of Utahns supported Proposition 4, submitted feedback to the Commission, and traveled from around the state to pack committee hearing rooms on Utah's Capitol Hill in support of fair maps! So the ACLU of Utah team is rolling up our sleeves and getting to work, and this is where we need you!

With the 2022 Legislative Session approaching in January, we need to keep the momentum going. Sign up to receive our Legislative Action Alerts and follow us on social media to get all the info you need to participate in the legislative process and engage with us on the civil rights issues you care about.

BY THE NUMBERS

11 Public
Speaking
Engagements

697 New
Donors

5,242 Total
Members

150
Bills tracked
and reviewed

767
Requests for assistance
received and processed

8
Lawsuits in active litigation
or recently resolved

67
Bills testified
or amended

11,735 Facebook
Followers

5,951 Twitter
Followers

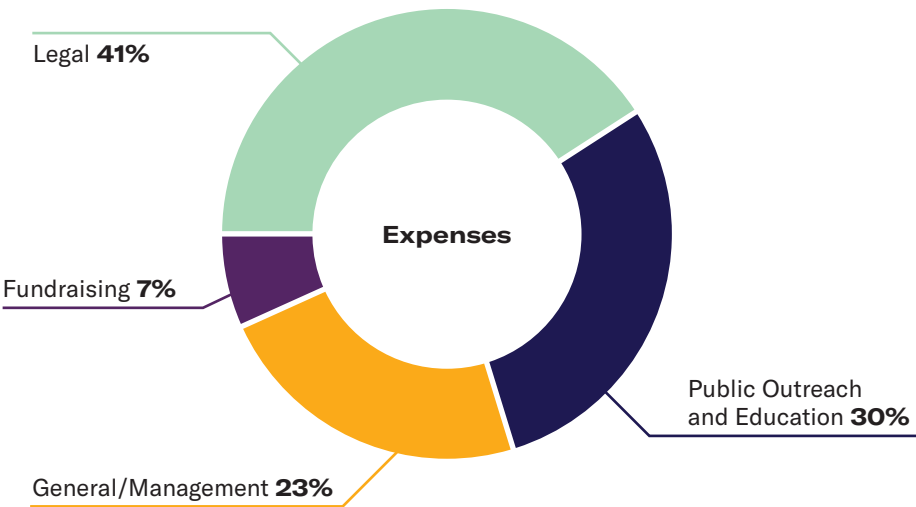
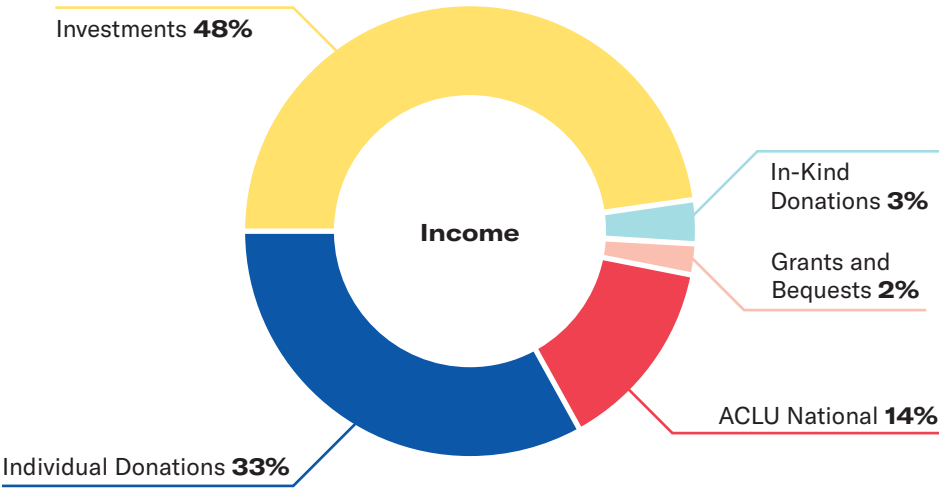
3,995 Instagram
Followers

164 Media
Hits

6 Op-eds

FINANCIALS

Data for Fiscal Year 2021: April 1, 2020 - March 31, 2021.



Financial data is unaudited and may be incomplete.

THANK YOU

The ACLU of Utah's work is possible because of the thousands of individuals in Utah who supported us this year: New Members, Monthly Sustainers, and Long-time Donors.

Your continued support will ensure the ACLU of Utah is able to maintain the fight for constitutional rights and freedoms for everyone living in or visiting Utah.

JOIN THE FIGHT

Volunteer

The ACLU provides multiple opportunities throughout the year to volunteer, both in-person and virtually.

Visit www.acluutah.org/volunteer-or-intern to check out our current volunteer opportunities.

Take Action

Sign up for ACLU Action Alerts at <https://acluutah.org/actionalert>.

Follow the ACLU of Utah's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/aclu.utah.

Give

Looking for a unique holiday gift? Help defend Utah's constitutional rights by providing an ACLU gift membership to a friend or loved one.

Make an honorary gift as a tribute or memorial to a friend or loved one.

To give by mail, please make checks payable to ACLU of Utah and send to 355 North 300 West, Salt Lake City, UT 84103.

To make an online donation visit: <http://action.aclu.org/give/support-aclu-utah>.

For more information regarding donations, please contact our office at 801-871-0330 or aclu@acluutah.org.





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