

ACLU 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

Wisconsin

FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHRIS OTT



President Trump swept into office threatening to turn casual insults into actual injuries to people’s civil rights and civil liberties—but the ACLU leads the fight to tell him NO.

Starting with demands for documents about the president’s actual and potential conflicts of interest, the ACLU has taken more than a hundred legal actions since Donald Trump took office. Our immediate response to his unconstitutional and anti-American Muslim travel ban also knocked him back in court during the first week of his presidency.

But not all our troubles started with last year’s election.

The ACLU has worked for decades on problems that long pre-date the Trump administration. For example, this year here in Wisconsin:

- we sued Milwaukee police to demand an end to racial profiling of tens of thousands of people of color each year;
- we sued the State over the treatment of children at Wisconsin’s Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake detention facilities, winning a preliminary court order that limits the use of solitary confinement, pepper spray, and shackling;
- we sued the state again for the denying health care coverage for transgender state employees
- we fought for voting rights, through our ongoing lawsuit against Wisconsin’s voter ID law, and involvement in the critical challenge to gerrymandering in Wisconsin now under consideration by the US Supreme Court.

And we have more where that came from.

With help from the national ACLU, the ACLU of Wisconsin is laying plans to double our staff, to bring more lawsuits, to do more organizing, to raise more money, to put up a stronger fight at the state capitol, and to tell more people about our work.

We have a maybe once in a lifetime chance to turn the shock and revulsion that so many people feel now into much greater respect for democracy, for civil rights, and civil liberties. But we have to make this a long-term effort, and we can never let down our guard.

Your support of the ACLU makes this possible. Thank you, and please stay in the fight.





A YEAR IN PHOTOS

1. ACLU of Wisconsin legal director Larry Dupuis (second from right) takes questions from reporters following the January announcement of the lawsuit over the conditions at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake juvenile corrections facilities. Dupuis called the treatment of the young people, which includes repeated use of pepper spray and solitary confinement, “not just unconstitutional, but immoral.”

2. ACLU of Wisconsin senior staff attorney Karyn Rotker shares the story of one plaintiff at the announcement in February of the lawsuit challenging the Milwaukee Police Department’s racial profiling and unconstitutional “stop and frisk” policies. The MPD stops tens of thousands of African American and Latino people every year without basis.

3. The ACLU state affiliates work hand in hand with attorneys from the national ACLU projects. The staff pictured here with a plaintiff in the police case represent the state office, the Criminal Law Reform Project, and the Racial Justice Program.

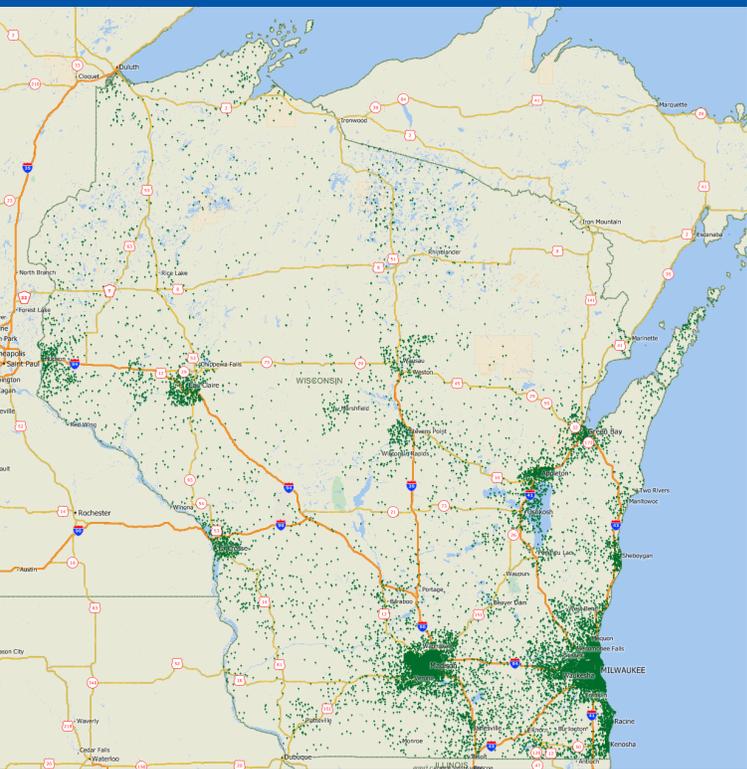
4-5. The year of resistance included a lot of rallies for civil rights and civil liberties across the state. As the ACLU has said from the beginning, Dissent is Patriotic!

6. Summer of 2017 saw the launch of the Summer Justice Initiative where 35 young people gathered for a free two-week intensive camp experience teaching essential leadership and social justice issues, skills and techniques for civic engagement.

7-9. Wisconsinite and ACLU fan Sean Burns of VML ad agency in Chicago created a new version of the state flag for Pride celebrations across the state. If you look closely, you’ll see that the sailor and miner are holding hands behind the state seal. One woman who saw the image at Pridefest in Milwaukee said “they’ve been waiting since 1848 to get married!” The ACLU deals with serious issues every day – it’s nice to be a little sassy once in a while.

10-12. ACLU of Wisconsin staff have worked tirelessly to reach out and educate the community on their civil liberties and civil rights.

ACLU MEMBERSHIP IN WISCONSIN



The national ACLU and state affiliates across the country received an unprecedented outpouring of support immediately following the 2016 election and again at the end of January following the Trump Administration's first "Muslim ban."

Here in Wisconsin our membership more than quadrupled, to over **24,500 households**.

Every green dot on this map represents an ACLU member or donor household. We have supporters in every county and they are ready to fight for civil liberties and civil rights!

FINANCIALS

AUDITED COMBINED FINANCIALS FOR
THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2017.

	REVENUE
Memberships & Donations.....	\$1,321,589
Legal Fees.....	\$169,453
Other Revenue.....	\$2,875
	EXPENSES
Program Services.....	\$499,927
Management & General.....	\$138,581
Development & Fundraising.....	\$155,504
Net assets (end of year).....	\$1,193,290

SUPPORT THE ACLU

HOW WILL YOU CHOOSE TO SUPPORT
THE ACLU OF WISCONSIN?

Membership: Strengthen our lobbying efforts and grassroots activity by becoming a member of the ACLU of Wisconsin! Paying annual dues of \$35 or more entitles you to a membership in the state and national ACLU.

Tax-deductible donations: Your gift to the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and supports litigation and civil rights education in Wisconsin and across the country. The ACLU receives no government funding and does not charge its clients for legal representation. Our work depends entirely on private donations and legal fees earned from successful cases.

Community Shares of Wisconsin and Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee: These organizations raise funds for nonprofits through workplace giving campaigns in both private businesses as well as the public sector through the Combined Campaign.

Bequests and planned gifts: Naming the ACLU as a beneficiary of your will, life insurance policy or retirement fund is a simple and effective way to support the future of civil liberties.

For more information on any of these ways to support the ACLU of Wisconsin, call the Donor Relations Office at (414) 272-4032, ext. 228, or check our website, www.aclu-wi.org.

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WELCOME, ATTORNEYS!

The ACLU of Wisconsin is proud to have brought aboard two staff attorneys to support our litigation work.

Tim Muth joined the ACLU of Wisconsin as a volunteer staff attorney in July 2016 after a 30-year career at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren s.c.

Asma Kadri joined the ACLU of Wisconsin in September 2017. A Kenosha native, Asma worked for judges in both Fairfax, Va., and Washington, D.C. before returning to Wisconsin.



AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WISCONSIN

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION OF WISCONSIN FOUNDATION

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