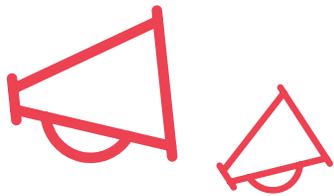


2019

# LEGISLATIVE LOOKBACK

New Yorkers went to the polls last fall to send a strong message to Albany: we demand a state government that stands up to the Trump administration and protects all New Yorkers.

In this year's historic and prolific legislative session, Albany listened. Along with many other accomplishments, lawmakers tackled nearly three-quarters of the important civil liberties issues that the NYCLU called for before session began. Here's what Albany produced this session, and some of the unfinished business we still need to fight for.



ALBANY  
HEARD  
YOU ON



## Making Voting More Accessible

- Early voting: New Yorkers will now have nine extra days before Election Day to vote in person.
- Electronic poll books: No more paper voter rolls means shorter lines and less confusion at the polls.
- No-excuse absentee balloting: We are one step closer to being able to vote absentee for any reason.
- Same-day voter registration: If voters approve, New Yorkers may be able to register and cast a vote in the same visit as soon as 2022.



## Strengthening Reproductive Rights and Personal Autonomy

- Protecting the right to abortion: The Reproductive Health Act decriminalizes abortion and enshrines protections for abortion in New York's public health law.
- Access to contraception: The Comprehensive Contraceptive Coverage Act ensures timely and affordable access to contraception, helping people plan for their families and their futures.



## Protecting Immigrant New Yorkers

- Immigrant driver's licenses: The Green Light Bill allows undocumented New Yorkers to qualify for a driver's license, helping to ensure a traffic stop doesn't lead to ICE involvement or family separation.
- Justice for Farmworkers: After a Jim-Crow era carveout denied farmworkers the same protections as other workers, they now have a statutory right to organize, a day of rest, the ability to earn overtime, and more.



## Equal Justice Under the Law

- Criminal Discovery and Speedy Trial: Prosecutors are no longer allowed to withhold critical evidence from people charged with crimes, which made it almost impossible to mount a defense – and prosecutors are now required to make good faith efforts to keep cases from dragging along unfairly.
- Bail: New York fell short of eliminating cash bail, but solid reforms mean the vast majority of New Yorkers will not be stuck in jail before trial simply because they cannot pay.



## Fighting Hate and Discrimination

- Protections for Transgender and Gender Non-Confirming New Yorkers: The passage of the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act solidifies protections by explicitly adding gender identity and expression to state anti-discrimination law.
- Human Rights Law Fix: Millions of public school students are once again protected from discrimination in their schools.

# WHERE THE FIGHT CONTINUES

# 1

## Increasing Police Transparency

- Very little governs how New York law enforcement agencies record and make available critical information about police encounters and abuses. The Police Statistics and Transparency (STAT) Act is an important step to build trust between police and the communities they serve.
- New York has the country's most secretive law shielding police misconduct, known as 50-a. Repealing it will help to hold officers accountable and shine a light on police practices.

# 2

## Legalizing Marijuana

Too many largely Black and Brown New Yorkers have suffered criminal consequences as a result of marijuana prohibition. It is time to legalize cannabis sale and use, and ensure the financial benefits go to communities hit hardest by criminalization.

# 3

## Banning Biometric Identification Technology in Schools

Surveillance technology like facial recognition is not only inaccurate, it is racially-biased and leaves sensitive data vulnerable to inadvertent and inappropriate disclosure. Lawmakers must enact a moratorium on such technology in schools, which should offer students support, not suspicion.

# 5

## Protecting the Right to a Peaceful Death

The Medical Aid in Dying Act will give people facing terminal illness the right to make decisions about their own body and health care when it is most needed.

## Eliminating Long-Term Solitary Confinement

Lawmakers must officially end prolonged and dangerous isolation in jails and prisons. The HALT Solitary Confinement Act will limit solitary confinement periods, and bar its use for vulnerable populations like youth, pregnant women, older New Yorkers, and people with disabilities.

# 4

## Implementing Automatic Voter Registration

Eligible New Yorkers should be able to seamlessly register to vote when interacting with government agencies.

# 7

## Providing Comprehensive Sex Education in Schools

Providing students across New York with medically-accurate and affirming information about sexuality is an essential way to build a culture of consent, prevent sexual violence, reduce health disparities, and improve academic and social outcomes.

# 8

## Prevent Police from Doing ICE's Bidding

Albany must take action to keep state and local police throughout New York out of the business of immigration enforcement.

For more information, and to join the NYCLU in gearing up for the next legislative session, visit: [www.nyclu.org](http://www.nyclu.org)