

NYCLU

ACLU of New York

DIY House Party Toolkit

Thank you for your interest in raising money for the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU), the New York affiliate of the ACLU. In response to the outpouring of support we've received since the 2016 election, and many requests for information about holding fundraisers on our behalf, we've developed the following toolkit to make it as easy as possible for you to be an NYCLU fundraising ambassador. Feel free to pick and choose which parts of the toolkit to use.

Please reach out to us using the Volunteer Fundraiser Form referenced in the toolkit if you want to request additional support or partnership for your event. In addition, after your event, please fill out the Post-Event Report Form (it's quick) so we can learn as much as possible about the usefulness of our toolkit and the success of your event.

Fundraising tip: You don't need to be an expert on our work to hold a successful event. We have provided some talking points on our work, but the most powerful way you can be an ambassador is by sharing how your own experiences and passions connect to our mission. Make sure your audience knows what inspired you to support the NYCLU. And make sure you share this with us as well in the Volunteer Fundraiser Form.

Thank you so much for being a partner in the ongoing movement to protect and defend civil liberties.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Can the NYCLU partner with, co-sponsor, or promote my event?

Unfortunately, we are not permitted to promote third-party events. However, if you feel there is a compelling interest in us formally partnering with you on your event, [please fill out this form](#) with the details of your event *at least three weeks prior* to the date of your event. We will review and respond to your request; if we choose to co-sponsor then we will promote the event.

2. Do I need permission from the NYCLU to hold a fundraiser?

If you are an established legal entity, in order to ensure alignment with Better Business Bureau standards, in advance of your event [please fill out this form](#) as a written record of how you intend to use the proceeds from your event.

If you are raising money for the NYCLU as an individual, you do not need permission from us, nor do you need to notify us in advance of the event. If you plan to promote your event as a benefit for the NYCLU, you may not use our logo in any promotional content. Its use is reserved for events produced and/or formally endorsed by the NYCLU.

3. Can a representative from NYCLU attend/speak at my event?

While we cannot promise to fulfill every request, we will consider requests for NYCLU representation at third-party events. Participation depends on staff availability as well as the event being aligned with our mission and advocacy objectives. If you'd like to request a NYCLU representative at your event, [please fill out this form](#). Your request date should be *at least three weeks prior* to the date of your event. We will do our best to accommodate your request and let you know a week in advance if someone can come.

4. What's the best way to donate the proceeds from my event?

You may direct people to our online donation page, or collect donations at the event and then make a single, lump sum donation of the proceeds to us, either via our [online donation page](#) or by mailing a check to us. Please make checks payable to: **NYCLU Foundation**, and mail to **New York Civil Liberties Union, attn: Development, 125 Broad Street, 19th Floor, New York, NY 10004**. Following the event, please fill out [this form](#) to tell us how the event went. Also, email contributions@nyclu.org or include a note with your check with the name of your event and the amount of your donation to ensure that we connect your donation with you and your event.

5. Can the NYCLU provide donation receipts to individuals who donate money at my event?

The NYCLU is only permitted to provide donation receipts for donations that are made directly to our organization. If your event attendees write checks out to the NYCLU, and all attendee checks are mailed to the NYCLU, they each will receive a tax acknowledgement letter. If your event attendees donate cash and you keep a record of each donor's name, address and amount of the donation that you submit with the total donations raised, they each will receive a tax acknowledgement letter. However, if cash donations are accepted

from many people and donated all at once via a single check or donation to our website, we cannot issue tax acknowledgement letters but will send the organizer(s) a thank you/acknowledgment letter.

6. Can the NYCLU track my event donations made through the NYCLU's online donation page?

Donors can donate "in honor of" you or your organization using [the tribute gift page](#); and you will receive a letter for each donation made in your honor. Otherwise, we are currently unable to track online donations received on behalf of your event.

7. Can the NYCLU supply a copy of its tax-exempt letter so my event can avoid paying sales taxes on event expenses?

No. While your event is for charitable purposes, the expenses of third-party events are not considered tax-exempt expenses.

8. What is the relationship between the NYCLU and the ACLU?

The New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU) is the New York State affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). Donations made by residents of the state of New York to the NYCLU are shared between the NYCLU and the ACLU and vice versa.

9. What is the difference between making a tax-deductible donation to the NYCLU and becoming an NYCLU member?

Membership contributions go to our 501c4 entity and allow us the greatest flexibility in our work. While not tax-deductible, they enable us to advocate and lobby in legislatures to advance civil liberties.

If you prefer to make a tax-deductible gift, we encourage you to support the NYCLU Foundation by using [this donation link](#). Gifts to the Foundation (our 501c3 entity) support our litigation, communications, advocacy and public education efforts.

10. Can I designate the proceeds from my event to support a specific program or need?

To remain flexible in responding to urgent, rapidly changing needs, we prefer that donations support our general fund. However, as the donor you have the option to indicate (in writing) how you'd like us to use your donation.

11. Can the NYCLU/ACLU provide me with "swag"—promotional items and give-aways—for my event, i.e. buttons, stickers, posters, magnets, etc.?

The ACLU has a distribution company that handles all promotional items. There are a variety of things that can be purchased at <https://shop.aclu.org>. Unfortunately, as a non-profit organization, we do not have the capacity to distribute promotional items.

How You Can Help

1. Join our e-alert list: <https://action.aclu.org/signup/ny-email-updates>, to find out about upcoming actions.
2. Volunteer with the NYCLU: nyclu.org/volunteer. Tell us what skills and expertise you can contribute.
3. Follow us:
 - Facebook: [Facebook.com/NYCLU](https://facebook.com/NYCLU)
 - Twitter: [Twitter.com/NYCLU](https://twitter.com/NYCLU)
 - Instagram: [Instagram.com/NYCLU](https://instagram.com/NYCLU)
4. Become a member of the NYCLU and ACLU: [NYCLU.org/Join](https://nyclu.org/Join)
5. Make a tax-deductible donation to the NYCLU or ACLU: <https://action.aclu.org/give/support-nyclu-1>

A Message from Donna Lieberman, Executive Director

The last three years have been a whirlwind – filled with unprecedented challenges to our rights and liberties on the federal level – but lots of progress in New York. As we continue to fight to insulate New York from the threats coming from the federal government, we need you now more than ever before.



[Your support](#) is crucial to build on some of the **NYCLU's key 2019 wins**:

- *Advancing reproductive rights*: The Reproductive Health Act codified *Roe v. Wade* in New York, moving it out of the penal code and ensuring that women can get an abortion at any point when needed to protect her life or health.
- *Reforming criminal justice*: We are helping end mass incarceration with reforms to our state's bail, discovery and speedy trial laws. These wins have positioned New York as a critical leader in the ACLU's Campaign for Smart Justice.
- *Updating voting laws*: New Yorkers now have improved access to the vote with early voting and automatic voter registration, and we are on track to have same-day registration and "no-excuse" absentee voting.

These advances and more were the result of years of work by the NYCLU, ACLU, our partners—lawyers, advocates, organizers, clients—and you.

[Help us](#) capitalize on this momentum in 2020. Together we will overhaul our draconian parole system, repeal laws that keep police misconduct a secret, defend the Green Light Bill, file even more lawsuits to defend immigrants' rights, and ban the use of facial recognition and other biometric surveillance technologies in schools.

We have our work cut out for us. But I'm confident that the NYCLU and the ACLU will continue to see success. [Your generosity](#) will assist us as we push New York to be a place where rights and dignity for all are commonplace, providing a model for the country.

Cheers,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Donna Lieberman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Donna

Talking Points on NYCLU Work

The NYCLU is the New York affiliate of the American Civil Liberties Union, also known as the ACLU of New York.

The Trump Administration represents a grave threat to our Constitution and democratic institutions. The NYCLU is working to make New York state a guardian of civil rights and civil liberties to set a positive example for the rest of the country. The NYCLU also has an important new opportunity: a new state legislature that should, for the first time in many years, be receptive to civil rights and civil liberties. Below, we highlight a few of our priorities as they relate to specific issue areas and how the legislature can help advance these priorities to benefit ALL New Yorkers.

Protect Immigrant New Yorkers: Immigrants' rights has been a defining issue in our country for the last three years, largely due to the Trump regime's regressive crackdown. The NYCLU has responded by dedicating significant resources to bolster our legal, legislative and public education campaigns in defense of their rights. From the Muslim travel ban to Trump giving federal agencies free reign to dehumanize immigrants, New York has received significant national attention as our state is home to more immigrants and undocumented people than almost any other state in the country. The New York State Legislature can further protect immigrants by:

- prohibiting local governments from serving as agents of ICE.
- preventing ICE arrests at court houses.
- guaranteeing legal counsel for immigrant New Yorkers facing deportation.

Make Policing Transparent and Accountable: New York State has a major issue with regard to police secrecy and lack of accountability for officers when things go wrong. The NYCLU is committed to pushing lawmakers to ensure that that police departments are accountable to the communities they serve through transparency and independent oversight. The following measures are initial steps that can be taken to achieve this goal:

- passing the Police Statistics and Transparency (Police STAT) Act, which would provide public access to critical police data, especially on policing of communities of color and other vulnerable populations.
- repealing Civil Rights Law section 50-a so that the personnel records of police officers, firefighters and corrections officers would be subject to public disclosure.
- ensuring independent investigations when police kill New Yorkers.
- passing the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act (MRTA) to legalize cannabis and reinvest in communities that have been disproportionately impacted by prohibition. Low-level possession of marijuana has generated more than 800,000 arrests since 1996.

Make our Criminal System More Just: After passing historic reforms to our bail, speedy trial and discovery laws in 2019, lawmakers must take further steps to improve our criminal justice system by:

- passing the Humane Alternatives to Long-Term (HALT) Solitary Confinement Act to end the torture of prolonged solitary confinement.
- granting parole based on who a person is when they come before the parole board – including evidence of rehabilitation – and ensuring that older people in prison have the opportunity to be considered for release by the board.
- preventing the suspension of drivers’ licenses for minor defaults in payments or missed court dates.

Stand Up for Students: In 2018, the NYCLU launched the Education Policy Center to advance a civil liberties and anti-racist platform in schools and other institutions that serve young people, and to ensure public schools in New York fulfill their potential as incubators of democratic ideals. The Center’s initial priorities include:

- blocking the school-to-prison pipeline.
- advancing school integration efforts.
- ensuring positive school climates.
- securing comprehensive and inclusive sexuality education across the state.

The Center’s multi-layered approach to promote education equity is what separates the NYCLU from other statewide entities. No other organization uses the range of tactics (legislative advocacy, litigation, organizing and public education) to cover the breath of issues facing young people that the NYCLU addresses. Our youth development programs add to our uniqueness as young people are given opportunities to develop leadership skills from NYCLU professionals, giving us first-hand knowledge of the challenges faced by public school students. By engaging young people from middle school all the way through undergrad, we are developing a pipeline of tomorrow’s civil libertarians and providing a blueprint for likeminded organizations (including ACLU affiliates) that seek to emulate our programming.

Safeguard Privacy and Bodily Autonomy: As threats to digital privacy continue to evolve and become more complex with emerging technologies, the NYCLU has fought – and will continue to fight – to ensure that New Yorkers’ rights extend fully to the digital world. Lawmakers can take steps to safeguard privacy and bodily autonomy by:

- preventing Discriminatory Algorithms by enacting affirmative civil rights protections for the online world and requiring transparency, strong oversight and rigorous review of public automated decision systems.
- protecting Personal Data through privacy laws that (1) shows New Yorkers how their data is collected and used while giving individuals control as to how their data is managed, (2) requires businesses to put client data privacy over their profits, (3) respects First Amendment values.
- curtailing Biometric Surveillance by banning biometric recognition in schools, body cameras and residential premises controlled by landlords.

With regard to bodily autonomy, the NYCLU is lobbying lawmakers to give people who are dying the right to a peaceful death by passing the Medical Aid in Dying Act.

Protect the right to vote: In protecting the electoral franchise, the NYCLU works to maximize voter participation by supporting electoral reforms pertaining to our voter registration system.

These reforms include:

- permitting voter registration on Election Day itself.
- improving early voting to further invite greater participation in the electoral process.
- ensuring voting rights for people on parole.

The equal right to vote can be further secured by combatting electoral regimes, such as “at large” voting and “racial gerrymanders,” that operate to dilute the opportunities of racial minorities to elect the candidates of choice. The NYCLU will continue to litigate against such practices in an effort to convince courts that these gerrymanders raise justiciable controversies allowing courts to invalidate such impermissibly motivated conduct.

Transparency: As we pursue increased transparency from governments and government agencies across New York state, the NYCLU will:

- advocate for reforms to the Freedom of Information Law (FOIL), including elimination of the confidentiality protections for police officers accused of misconduct.
- push for enhanced public reporting in localities around New York, particularly where it would shed light on race-related practices by government entities.
- execute NYCLU’s time-tested strategy of using FOIL requests and published reports to reveal troubling government practices and promote the value of transparency.
- the NYCLU will also pursue an aggressive transparency agenda in Syracuse, aimed at promoting public understanding of the state’s plans, and potential abuses, related to the replacement of [the Interstate 81 viaduct](#).

Defend Trans, Gender Non-Conforming, and Non-Binary New Yorkers: The New York State Legislature needs to protect transgender and gender non-conforming people from the pervasive discrimination faced by their communities while insulating LGBTQ New Yorkers overall from the threats posed by the Trump regime. To this end, lawmakers should:

- expand gender markers to create non-binary gender markers for drivers’ licenses and birth certificates.
- protect students’ gender expression by requiring schools to adopt policies that (1) ensure that school employees treat students consistently with their identity/expression, (2) allow students to participate in single-sex activities and use the single-sex spaces most consistent with their identities and (3) ensure that students’ records accurately reflect their gender.
- repeal the ‘Walking While Trans’ law which has enabled decades of profiling and false arrests of women of color, particularly transgender women.
- End gender identity-based mistreatment in the correctional system that ensures local jails and state correctional facilities adopt best practices to prevent discrimination, harassment for transgender, gender non-conforming, and non-binary New Yorkers.

Know Your Rights:

Links to Online Resources

If you're stopped by immigration officers

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/know-your-rights/palm-card-what-do-if-youre-stopped-immigration-officers-2012>

Demonstrating in NYC

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/know-your-rights/palm-card-know-your-rights-demonstrating-new-york-city-2011>

When you are facing a school suspension

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/know-your-rights/know-your-rights-when-facing-suspension-english-and-spanish-2015>

LGBTQ Rights in Schools

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/know-your-rights/palm-card-lgbtq-rights-schools-2011>

Military recruitment and students' rights

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/know-your-rights/no-student-left-unrecruited-military-recruitment-and-students-rights>

Your right to an attorney

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/know-your-rights/your-right-attorney-if-youre-arrested-and-accused-crime>

Police in schools

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/know-your-rights/know-your-rights-police-schools-english-and-spanish-2011>

If you are stopped by the police

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/know-your-rights/what-do-if-youre-stopped-police-2011>

Teenagers, Health Care, and the Law

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/publications/guide-teenagers-health-care-and-law-english-and-Spanish>

Minors' rights to sexual health services

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/know-your-rights/poster-your-rights-sexual-health-services-2007>

Minors and Mental Health Care

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/know-your-rights/reference-card-minors-and-mental-health-care-2004>

Breastfeeding rights

<https://www.nyclu.org/en/your-rights-breastfeeding>



Post-Event Thank You Email

You can use the sample email below to send your event attendees action items and ways to be further involved with the NYCLU. Feel free to use the template in part or in its entirety. This is a good way to keep supporters engaged in the work we do and an opportunity for the NYCLU to meet new advocates and supporters.

Dear Supporter **[or Attendee Name]**,

Thank you for attending my event, **[event name]** on **[event date]**, which benefitted the work of the ACLU of New York.

Because of your support, we were able to raise a total of **[\$[dollar amount]]**

[Include some of the event highlights and pivotal moments].

Today, now more than ever, people are ready and energized to do the work to **defend justice, promote democracy and fight hate!** Here are some ways to stay informed and involved in the work of the NYCLU:

How You Can Help

- Join our [e-alert list](#) to find out about upcoming actions
- Our executive director, Donna Lieberman, sends special updates to supporters who want to remain connected to our work. Email contributions@nyclu.org to join this special "Donna Update" list.
- Follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#)
- Become a [member](#) of the NYCLU and ACLU
- [Donate](#) to the NYCLU or ACLU
- [Volunteer](#) with the NYCLU

Thank you once again!

Sincerely,

[Your Name]



ACLU of New York

125 Broad Street
212.607.3300
212.607.3318
www.nyclu.org

Connect with us! Join our email list.

Please indicate how you would like to **STAY INFORMED** and **INVOLVED** in our work by checking the below columns. We **BELIEVE IN PRIVACY** and will not share your information.

Name	Email	Informational Updates Periodic updates about significant victories and ongoing work	E-Alert Opportunities to take action online	Volunteer Weekly opportunities to volunteer your time and skills

Please return this form to the NYCLU after your event.



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