

# LIBERTY

Spring 2017

ACLU of North Carolina Newsletter



## How ‘We The People’ Must Protect Civil Rights in the Trump Era

**“W**e’re in for the fight of our lives,” ACLU National Executive Director Anthony Romero said in the days after Donald Trump was elected president. Trump’s campaign promises – on immigration enforcement, Muslim rights, abortion rights, torture, freedom of the press, and more – represent egregious and unconstitutional threats to all our civil rights and civil liberties.

Now, months into the Trump administration, many of those campaign promises have become government policy, and the American Civil Liberties Union and our supporters are on the front lines of the resistance. But thanks to an

unprecedented outpouring of support, the ACLU and our North Carolina affiliate are stronger and better prepared than ever – with more than 2.5 million members across the country and more than 30,000 in North Carolina – to fight for the rights of everyone.

When President Trump signed his discriminatory travel ban on Muslims – blocking the entry of nationals from seven majority Muslim countries for 90 days – ACLU attorneys around the country sprang into action. The ACLU and other organizations immediately challenged the executive order in court. That night a federal judge in New York issued a stay blocking President Trump’s

discriminatory policy from taking effect and preventing refugees and immigrants from being deported – handing the Trump administration its first defeat in court.

But countless people remained stranded and divided from their families in the aftermath.


They included Ali Asghar and Shahla Ahmadi, who were planning to travel from their home in Iran to Charlotte that week to visit their son, Saeed, a PhD student at North Carolina State University, and daughter, Maryam, a graduate of UNC Charlotte, so their family could celebrate the Persian New Year together in March. Even though

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# Now more than ever, we need you with us

**W**e are living in a critical time for the civil rights and civil liberties that we all cherish. The opening months of 2017 and the Trump administration have brought an attempted Muslim ban, threats to criminalize peaceful protest, encroachment on privacy, and new attacks on the rights of immigrants, LGBTQ people, and others. The pace of challenges to constitutional liberties at the state level has been no less alarming.

Our response has been swift and sure: we fight in court, we wrangle and cajole in the legislature, and we speak out in the public square. But we cannot do this work alone.

Thanks to you, in the months since the 2016 election, the membership of the ACLU, both in North Carolina and across the country, has more than doubled, allowing us to hire new staff and expand our capacity to take legal action, advocate to lawmakers, and organize and educate the public.

I am so honored that so many North Carolinians look to the ACLU in these uncertain times, and we in turn will be looking to you to help carry out this crucial work — to call your representatives, to speak out, to protest in the streets, and to continue supporting the ACLU in any way you can.

We may not win every battle, but we persevere in the struggle because we believe in the ideal of civil rights and civil liberties for all, and a democratic government as the path to those ideals. This is a tough fight, but we are up for it, and we are in it for the long haul.

Know this: You can count on the ACLU-NC to remain proud, principled, and unflinching in our work. In turn, we will count on you—our members, volunteers, donors, allies and friends—for your support and engagement. Together we can push back against confusion and fear and defend the civil rights and liberties of all North Carolinians. ■■



**Karen Anderson**  
 ACLU of North Carolina Executive Director

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## We The People *continued from page 1*

Ali Asghar and Shahla Ahmadi were able to travel from Iran to Charlotte to be with their children to celebrate the Persian New Year after a federal court blocked President Trump's unconstitutional travel ban on Muslims. From left: Maryam Ahmadi, Shahla Ahmadi, Ali Asghar, ACLU-NC Charlotte chapter president Brandy Haynes, attorney Ben Snyder, and Saeed Ahmadi with his daughter.



both parents had valid travel visas, they were told they would not be allowed to board their connecting flight in Europe because of the travel ban.

Saeed contacted the ACLU of North Carolina for assistance, and our office was able to connect him with local immigration attorney and ACLU member Ben Snyder, who provided counsel and guidance to the family. After a federal court blocked officials from enforcing the travel ban, the Ahmadis were able to make new travel arrangements and finally landed safely at Charlotte Douglas airport, where family members and Snyder were waiting.

To expose how Trump administration officials are interpreting and executing the president's unconstitutional order, the ACLU-NC in February filed a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request with the local U.S. Customs and Border Protection office in Atlanta as part of a coordinated nationwide effort by ACLU affiliates.

The ACLU-NC's legal department has also been working with partners across the state to protect the rights of Latino immigrants amid new threats, including raids by federal immigration agents in North Carolina. ACLU-

NC attorneys are conducting know-your-rights trainings across the state, distributing information on best practices for interacting with law enforcement, and helping to train attorneys and activists on how to support their local communities.

The ACLU will continue to defend basic freedoms and hold this administration accountable for every unlawful or unconstitutional measure they propose. We will use the courts as one avenue to aggressively advance our agenda, but we cannot do it alone. We will rely on the support of our card-carrying members for direct citizen action, including protests, petitions, and lobbying.

In North Carolina, the ACLU-NC, our supporters and countless others have proudly marched in the streets – at Women's Marches on January 21, the Moral March in Raleigh on February 11, and other events – to give voices to those who know that our basic American values are being tested and to send a message that this extremist agenda will be opposed at every step.



## People Power

The ACLU has launched a major new grassroots mobilization platform, **PeoplePower.org**, to help organize the growing number of people who believe that **President Trump's actions cannot go unchallenged.** **PeoplePower.org** uses digital tools to communicate with and help train volunteers to resist **President Trump's unlawful policies across the country.** Visit **PeoplePower.org** to learn more.



# N.C. Passes Fake Repeal of HB 2. What Happens Next?

**F**or more than a year, lawmakers refused to do the right thing and fully repeal House Bill 2, the horrendous anti-LGBT law that banned many transgender people from restrooms and other public facilities matching their gender and that prohibited local municipalities from extending nondiscrimination protections to LGBT people.

On March 30, they finally took action. Unfortunately, it wasn't the action thousands of North Carolinians across the state have been fighting for.

Instead – one year and one week after legislators hastily passed HB 2 without proper vetting or public input – the legislature and a new North Carolina governor, Roy Cooper, rushed to pass yet another bad law, again with scant public notice or debate.

*“The state is letting us know that they value basketball over the lives and safety of every trans person in North Carolina.”*

Joaquin Carcaño,  
lead plaintiff in the ACLU's  
lawsuit against HB 2

House Bill 142 is not a real repeal of HB 2, and it doesn't leave North Carolina the way it was before HB 2. Instead, it keeps in place many of the harmful parts of HB 2 and doubles down on the dangerous lie that transgender people are a threat to safety and privacy.

HB 142 seeks to prevent public schools and local governments from adopting good policies guaranteeing that transgender people can access facilities matching their gender. It also says that local governments cannot pass ordinances protecting LGBT people - or

anyone else - from discrimination in employment or public places until 2020.

This is not a true repeal of HB 2 but rather a shameful backroom deal that continues to play politics with the lives of LGBT North Carolinians, especially transgender people.





Joaquin Carcaño calls for a full repeal of HB 2.

The ACLU-NC joined transgender advocates and other allies at the General Assembly the day the bill was passed to urge lawmakers to reject this bad deal and repeal all of HB 2. Minutes after HB 142 was passed, we led a group to the Governor’s Mansion to hand deliver a letter that unsuccessfully urged Gov. Roy Cooper to veto the bill.

In the end, it was economic interests and the prospect of losing NCAA tournament events – and not the lives of LGBT North Carolinians – that persuaded lawmakers to act.

“The state is letting us know that they value basketball over the lives and safety of every trans person in North Carolina,” said Joaquin Carcaño, a transgender man who is the lead plaintiff in the ACLU and Lambda Legal’s federal lawsuit against HB 2 and who bravely told a room full of legislators that HB 142 would continue to endanger transgender North Carolinians. “Our lives, our rights have been compromised.”

HB 142 does do one very important thing: Even though schools and local governments may not be able to adopt good policies to proactively protect transgender people from discrimination and harassment, they can no longer block transgender people from using facilities that match their gender. In other words, transgender people in North Carolina can now use restrooms and other facilities that match their gender, and neither schools nor

local governments should prevent you from doing so.

Lawmakers claim this new bill will reduce discrimination. We must hold them to that promise. If you or your children are students and identify as transgender, ask your school officials to confirm that transgender students won’t be blocked from using facilities matching their gender. If you are a state or local government employee, ask your employer. If you regularly need to visit state or local government offices, ask them. And if you experience any denials or problems, contact the ACLU immediately.

Your voices matter. Every email, phone call, and tweet made a difference in this hard battle. And we will continue to fight in court and beyond for transgender people and the entire LGBT community. Our lawsuit against HB 2, which includes claims for the damages inflicted by the

law, will continue, and our legal team will seek to amend the lawsuit to challenge HB 142 as well.

North Carolina’s leaders may have turned their backs on LGBT North Carolinians, but we will not. We see you, we stand with you, and we will continue to work hard every day to defend your rights. ■■



ACLU-NC Policy Director Sarah Gillooly delivers a letter asking Gov. Cooper to veto HB 142.

# ACLU-NC at the 2017 General Assembly

**W**hen the North Carolina General Assembly returned to Raleigh for its 2017 session, they were greeted by a new face at the ACLU of North Carolina. Sarah Gillooly joined the ACLU-NC in December as our organization’s new Policy Director, where she oversees our policy, legislative, and organizing agenda.

Sarah previously served as a Strategic Manager for Health Finance at Planned Parenthood Federation of America in Washington, D.C., where she worked with health care providers across the country to help them leverage the policy opportunities and address the challenges of a changing health care economy. She previously worked for Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri, where she managed lobbying and public policy for the state’s largest provider of reproductive and sexual health care. She also founded the Public Policy Project at PROMO, Missouri’s statewide LGBT advocacy organization.

Originally from Jacksonville, Florida, Sarah says she was eager to have an opportunity to work in the South at such a pivotal time. “As a queer and gender-nonconforming white woman, I’ve always known that my liberation was bound up in the liberation of the South,” she says. “As I watched the outcry in North Carolina over HB 2 and the community rise up in response, I felt called to come home to the South.”



ACLU-NC Policy Director  
Sarah Gillooly

Along with ACLU-NC Policy Counsel Susanna Birdsong, Sarah is lobbying lawmakers on dozens of bills and a wide range of civil liberties issues from HB 2 (pages 4–5) to reproductive freedom (page 7). Here are some other issues we’re working on:

**Youth Justice:** The ACLU-NC is working with coalition partners to finally “raise the age” of juvenile jurisdiction in North Carolina, one of only two states in the nation that still automatically charges all 16- and 17-year-olds as adults, regardless of the severity of the crime.

The outdated practice means young people who commit even minor offenses are housed in adult jails and prisons, and if convicted, saddled with a lifelong adult criminal record. The bipartisan HB 280 would raise the age of juvenile jurisdiction to include 16- and 17-year-olds for low-level felonies and misdemeanors. The bill mirrors evidence-based recommendations made by a commission created by North Carolina Chief Justice Mark Martin after a series of statewide hearings and consultation with a wide range of experts.

**Police Accountability:** The ACLU-NC is advocating for several proposals that would make local law enforcement agencies more accountable to the communities they serve, such as amending the state body camera law to allow greater public access, and expanding the power and authority of citizen review boards (HB 165). We are also working to amend a problematic so-

called “Blue Lives Matter” bill (HB 181) that would enhance penalties for crimes against police officers by making them hate crimes, despite a decline in crimes against police and more than a dozen statutes already addressing such offenses. The ACLU-NC is instead urging the legislature to tackle the very real and pressing problem of how low-income communities and people of color are targeted by biased policing.

**Immigration:** The ACLU-NC is working to combat racial profiling and safeguard the rights of all North Carolinians, regardless of immigration status, by opposing HB 63 and SB 145, which would limit due process rights for some immigrants and create costly and burdensome rules for the enforcement of state immigration laws. This legislation would unconstitutionally deny bail to undocumented immigrants for whom federal officials have issued a detainer and allow the state to deny transportation funding and other tax revenues to local governments that limit their role in federal immigration enforcement.

**Free Speech:** The ACLU-NC is speaking out against a bill (HB 249) that sponsors say will combat “economic terrorism” but in reality is part of a wave of legislation across the country that seeks to criminalize peaceful protestors who exercise their First Amendment rights.

**Voting Rights:** The ACLU-NC is supporting bipartisan legislation, HB 200, that would advance nonpartisan redistricting reform. Partisan gerrymandering has greatly damaged the political accountability that comes through meaningful representation and elections, and the ACLU-NC supports nonpartisan redistricting to ensure the constitutionally protected principle of one person, one vote. ■■■

# ACLU Lawsuit Challenges Unconstitutional N.C. Abortion Ban

The ACLU and other reproductive rights organizations are representing a group of abortion providers in a legal challenge to North Carolina's unconstitutional law that prevents doctors from providing abortion care to a woman after the twentieth week of pregnancy.

In the lawsuit, the ACLU, the Center for Reproductive Rights, and Planned Parenthood argue that North Carolina's law clearly violates a woman's constitutional right to an abortion and must be struck down.

A woman may seek an abortion after the twentieth week of pregnancy for a number of reasons, from delays in finding out she is pregnant, to not being able to afford the procedure, to a lack of doctors who provide abortion care near her, or barriers put in place by politicians, such as bans on abortion coverage.

"As a physician, not being able to provide a woman the care she needs because of an arbitrary deadline based on politics, not medicine, is devastating," said Dr. Elizabeth Deans, one of the plaintiffs in the case. "A woman and her doctor should be the ones making medical decisions throughout her pregnancy. But this law enables politicians to intrude into the patient-physician relationship and prevents doctors from providing our patients with high-quality care when they need it."

North Carolina's law contains only an extremely narrow exception for immediate medical emergencies that puts women's health at risk. The ban forces physicians caring for a woman with a high-risk pregnancy to delay necessary care until her condition imposes an immediate threat of



death or major medical damage. The ban also contains no exceptions for a woman who receives a diagnosis that the fetus will not survive after birth.

"A woman must be able to make health decisions at different points in her pregnancy that are best for her circumstances, including whether to end a pregnancy, without interference from politicians," said Irena Como, ACLU-NC Staff Attorney. "It is just plain wrong to force a woman in need of medical care to travel long distances out of her home state, or to prevent her from receiving that care altogether."

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that it is unconstitutional to ban abortion before viability. In 2016, North Carolina amended its law to further narrow health exceptions to the 20-week ban — following a five year period when the state enacted 13 abortion restrictions. ■

## Reproductive Rights at the General Assembly

The ACLU-NC and partners are supporting the Whole Woman's Health Act, introduced in April, which would help ensure that people who decide to have an abortion can access safe, respectful care—no matter where they live. Already this legislative session we have seen several bills that would impose needless and potentially harmful barriers in the path of a woman seeking the care that she and her doctor have decided is right for her. The Whole Woman's Health Act would fulfill the promise of the Supreme Court's 2016 decision in *Whole Woman's Health v. Hellerstedt*—that the right to safe abortion is not just a right on paper, but a reality for all. Visit [acluofnc.org](http://acluofnc.org) to learn more.

# Full Appeals Court Hears ACLU Challenge to Coercive Prayer Practice

All members of the public – regardless of their personal religious beliefs – should feel welcome when they attend meetings of their local government. But for years in Rowan County that was not the case. The local county commissioners routinely coerced members of the public to participate in sectarian prayers – and in doing so, they violated the Constitution.

That was the central argument ACLU-NC Legal Director Chris Brook made to all 15 judges on the U.S. Court

of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit on March 22 during arguments in a lawsuit the ACLU-NC filed four years ago on behalf of three Rowan County residents. Brook asked the judges to uphold a lower court ruling that found Rowan County’s practice unconstitutional.

From 2007 to 2013, the commissioners routinely opened meetings by directing members of the public to stand and join them in prayers that overwhelmingly advanced beliefs specific to one religion, Christianity.

This practice put residents with different beliefs in an untenable situation: participate in a sectarian prayer that went against their deeply held beliefs or fear being discriminated against by those public officials when they didn’t.

During the March 22 arguments in Richmond, Virginia, several judges expressed skepticism that such a practice was compatible with the First Amendment’s protection of religious liberty for all and asked how the practice didn’t discriminate against religious minorities who give public comment at meetings.

From the beginning, Nan Lund, Bob Voelker, and Liesa Montag-Siegel, the three plaintiffs in the case, have been clear about their goals. “We in Rowan County have to be welcoming to people of all beliefs,” said Bob on the courthouse steps after the arguments. ■



ACLU-NC clients Bob Voelker, Nan Lund, and Liesa Montag-Siegel outside court on March 22 after arguments in their challenge to Rowan County’s coercive prayer policy.

## No One Should Be Fired Because of Who They Love



Lonnie Billard and Rich Donham

was so popular with the student body that in 2012 he was named the school’s Teacher of the Year after being nominated by students.

Then in October 2014 Lonnie wrote a Facebook post announcing that he and his longtime partner, Rich Donham, who often accompanied Lonnie to school events and was well-

known in the Charlotte Catholic community, had decided to get married. Later that year – on Christmas Day – Lonnie learned that he had been terminated because of the Catholic Church’s opposition to same-sex marriage.

“I was devastated,” says Lonnie. “I loved being part of the Charlotte Catholic school community, and I love to teach. The classroom has always felt like home to me.”

In January, the ACLU and the law firm Tin Fulton Walker & Owen filed a federal lawsuit on Lonnie’s behalf, arguing that his firing violates Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, which prohibits employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of sex and other characteristics.

“I don’t think my commitment to my husband has any bearing on my work in the classroom,” Lonnie said. “I have never hidden the fact that I’m gay and my relationship with Rich was no secret at school. But whether or not the school previously knew that I am gay is not the point. People should be able to fall in love and get married without risking their jobs.”

Lonnie says one of the reasons that he took legal action is because he hopes his case can protect others from being fired or discriminated against because of who they love. ■



# Unequal Justice

ACLU of North Carolina hires a Criminal Justice Debt Fellow to uncover how a broken criminal justice system impacts and imprisons low-income people.

In North Carolina and states across the country, low-income people are imprisoned because they lack the ability to pay bail or court fines and fees. This has created a two-tier justice system that routinely denies poor people their constitutional right to counsel. These practices are illegal, create hardships for those who already struggle to afford basic necessities, and are not an effective use of public resources.

This practice happens at various points in the criminal justice system. First, it can happen to people who are awaiting trial. Individuals are forced to sit in jail for months—even years—while their case proceeds because they cannot afford to pay the bail amount that has been set, while those with more financial resources pay their bail and regain their freedom to go to work, school, and be with their families while awaiting trial.



Cristina Becker

Second, some people who have been adjudicated and found guilty but not sentenced to jail time still end up serving time because they were unable to pay their court fee.

These modern-day debtors' prisons exact a devastating human toll, undermine civil rights, and must end.

Last fall the ACLU of North Carolina hired Cristina Becker as our Criminal Justice Debt Fellow to uncover

how excessive court fees have created a racially-skewed, two-tiered system of justice in which the poor receive harsher, longer punishments for committing the same crimes as the rich, simply because they are poor.

After graduating from law school, Cristina served as an Assistant Public Defender for over two years at the Mecklenburg County Public Defender's Office in Charlotte, North Carolina. In that role she represented low-income teenage and adult defendants in criminal cases. Now at the ACLU of North Carolina, Cristina has already started her work observing courtrooms across the state, gathering critical data, and crafting best practices for assessing court fines and fees. ■

## Racial Bias Exacerbates School-to-Prison Pipeline in Wake

The video was only nine seconds long, but it spoke volumes. A Snapchat video taken at Rolesville High School in Wake County in January captured the moment when a uniformed police officer picked up and body slammed a 15-year-old African American student, who suffered a concussion when her head hit the floor. The incident quickly went viral.



"This kind of force, especially with kids in schools, is never justified," ACLU-NC Staff Attorney Irena Como told media outlets.

The incident at Rolesville High brought national attention to an issue the ACLU-NC and other civil rights groups have sounded the alarm on for years: the discriminatory and disproportionate treatment Black students in Wake County face in school disciplinary matters.

A mountain of evidence has shown that Black students in Wake County are consistently suspended and sent into the

court system from school at much higher rates than their white peers.

Since 2010, for example, Black students have received between 64 and 76% of school-based referrals to juvenile delinquency court, despite representing only 25% of the total student body. The presence of armed and uniformed law enforcement officers in

every Wake County high school and most middle schools plays a significant role. The odds of being arrested for fighting are almost twice as high for Black students as compared to other students in the system.

For six years community and civil rights groups have urged the U.S. Education Department's Civil Rights Office to investigate Wake County schools. In January, following the Rolesville incident, the ACLU-NC and coalition partners again urged the federal government to take action against such persistent and insidious discrimination. ■

# ACLU-North Carolina Board Elections

## Meet the Candidates

### Joseph Blocher Durham, NC

*Law Professor, Duke Law School*

I have devoted my career to the Constitution, and I would be honored by the chance to help defend it as a member of the ACLU-NC Board. As a law professor, my scholarship and teaching are focused on issues that are central to the ACLU's mission, including free speech, Equal Protection, racial justice, and the death penalty. As a lawyer, I have briefed cases on those and other issues, including in the U.S. Supreme Court and North Carolina Supreme Court. I have also defended constitutional principles in the court of public opinion, for example by writing op-eds for the News & Observer and New York Times. And as a North Carolina native, I'm particularly committed to seeing those principles vindicated here.

### Jimmy (James Edward) Creech Raleigh, NC

*Former ordained clergy in The United Methodist Church; retired*

For nearly 30 years, I've advocated for the full civil and human rights and social acceptance of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. I have challenged religion-based bigotry in both the religious and civil contexts. With religion increasingly being used to justify and legally sanction discrimination, it is imperative that the ACLU continue and expand its defense of

the U.S. Constitution's separation of Church and State. This applies also to restrictions on women's health care, the siphoning of tax dollars away from public education to private religious schools, and the persecution of religious minorities. I would like to serve on the board and work on these challenges to achieve a truly free and just civil society by sharing my insight and experience in this area.

### Beth Dehghan Cary, NC

*Family business owner, President of WomenNC and NC Coalition for CEDAW president*

I am honored to have been nominated to serve on the ACLU-NC Board of Directors. My half a century of activism and strong belief in Universal Declaration of Human Rights and CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women) aligns me with many ACLU objectives. I have been a member of the United Nations Commission on status of women (CSW) NGO community, and active participants of the CSW annual session in New York since 1995. I have also served in many local nonprofits and agencies' such as Wake Women Commission and UNA-Wake. I am the founder of NC Coalition for CEDAW and WomenNC to protect women human rights in NC by passage of CEDAW in NC communities. My global experiences as an immigrant woman along with my local activism

would help me to make contributions to the ACLU-NC's mission.

### Patti Digh Hendersonville, NC

*Author, Speaker, and Social Justice Educator*

Author of eight books, I've had extensive experience in corporate, nonprofit, educational, and community strategy around equity issues, speaking and working in 40 U.S. states and 60 countries. I was the founding VP of International/Diversity Programs for the Society for Human Resource Management, with 300,000 members worldwide. After the Charleston murders in 2015, I created classes that have trained over 7,000 individuals on systemic racism. I am also the mother of a transgender teenage son, and want to work to ensure that HB2 can never happen again. I bring to the Board significant communication, management, and organizational development skills. Serving on the ACLU-NC Board would be an honor and opportunity to deepen my over 30 years of service to this field.

### Bridget R. Gaudette Durham, NC

*Nonprofit Management Professional/Master's of Public Administration*

I strongly support the ACLU-NC's mission to preserve and defend the guarantees of individual liberty found in the Constitution.

With the current national administration and the damage done by the former N.C. administration, now is the time to step up and be more active in supporting organizations that are protecting our rights. I am a genderqueer person of color and new mother, so I come at this from that perspective. I have a Master's in Public Administration with a concentration in nonprofit management. Because of the latter and the fact that I have served on both local and national boards of directors, I am very familiar with how to govern, oversee and secure resources necessary for the organization to carry out its mission.

### Anne Gordon Chapel Hill, NC

*Senior Lecturing Fellow/ Director of Externships, Duke Law School*

When I decided to move to North Carolina, one of my first thoughts was, "How can I get on the board of the ACLU?" Having worked with the ACLU in both Michigan and California, the ACLU has long been integral to my knowledge of – and dedication to – local and national civil liberties issues. I bring a perspective as both a lawyer and teacher to issues such as mass incarceration, immigration, and education. I pride myself on bringing people together who share a dedication to social justice issues. My personal interests include speaking Spanish, raising

my kids in bilingual public schools, and volunteering with local nonprofit and political organizations. I would love to bring my skills, passion, and experience to the ACLU in my new home.

### Beth Klein Greensboro, NC

*Attorney*

Advocating for others has always been important to me. Before becoming an attorney, I worked with individuals leaving the federal prison system and then with adults who had been adjudicated wards of the state. In my opinion, there is not an organization that has advocated more for those facing the restriction of their civil liberties, than the ACLU. Such work is needed now more than ever, particularly in light of our Legislature and the policies coming out of Washington. It has been an honor to serve on the Board for the last three years and I would be grateful if given the opportunity to serve a second term.

### Anne-Maria B. Makhulu Durham, NC

*Associate Prof. of Cultural Anthropology and African and African American Studies, Duke University*

I'm a recently naturalized American following 30 years living on an F-1 student visa, Employment Authorization, and finally a green card that afforded me the right to remain, live, and work in the U.S. I understand all too well the challenges

for migrants and immigrants when the Trump administration's travel bans continue to have an impact on the lives of those trying to make a better life for themselves and their families. I also know what it is like to be stateless. My father fled South Africa in the 1960s going into exile and finally emigrating to the United Kingdom. I would serve as someone with subject matter expertise at a time when the ACLU is so heavily focused on fighting legislation restricting immigration.

**Lori Messinger**  
**Carolina Beach, NC**  
*Associate Vice Chancellor for Community Engagement and Professor of Social Work at UNC Wilmington*

As an American Jew, a woman, a lesbian, and a social work educator, I have been a longtime supporter of the American Civil Liberties Union. I believe that civil rights and liberties are perhaps the most important elements of American identity, as they insure our democracy by supporting the voice of all people who hold stigmatized identities. As someone who teaches about social welfare policy, service on the ACLU-NC Board works well with my professional expectations, keeping me "in the know" about civil rights issues and concerns in the state, while allowing me to contribute my policy analysis and advocacy skills to the board. While civil rights issues have always been important in the U.S., the need to protect our freedoms right now is especially pressing.

**Vera Norton**  
**Concord, NC**  
*Non-Medical Caregiver (Current), Canvassing Team Leader (Former)*

I want to serve on the Board of Directors simply because the ACLU is important to me. As a transgender woman in North Carolina, the spark of activism was ignited within me when I accepted a canvassing position to raise money for the ACLU's civil rights battles. And I would be hard pressed to think of an organization more deserving of my time and effort, more worth the occasional jeers, harsh words, and even harsher summer weather. I feel my empathy, integrity, and ability to strike a chord in people to listen, even if they don't agree, could make me a valuable addition to the board. And I would be honored to join the ACLU's near century long legacy of protecting all our freedoms.

**Mitchell Price**  
**Carrboro, NC**  
*Director of Donor Engagement for Planned Parenthood South Atlantic*

As a nonprofit professional, I understand the vital role that boards fill. Board members serve as ambassadors, fundraisers, advisors, connectors, and team members. At Planned Parenthood South Atlantic, I serve as a senior member of the development department and have primary responsibility for creating and executing engaging donor events that build and deepen relationships with supporters and contribute to overall fundraising efforts. For the last 16 years I have had the opportunity to build great relationships

with supporters and work with them to make transformational gifts to our organization. It would be my honor to serve another term on the ACLU-NC board. I believe in the mission of the ACLU in standing up for the underrepresented and oppressed and achieving a more fair and just society.

**Deborah Snowdon**  
**Denver, NC**

I feel honored and well-qualified to be considered as an ACLU-NC Board member. I have a Master's Degree in Social Work, a BA in Political Science, and a year of law school. I have served as a Guardian Ad Litem, a rape crisis counselor, a counselor for pregnant, homeless women, and I volunteer extensively throughout the community. I want to serve on ACLU's Board so that I can bring my skills and passion for social justice to an organization that I greatly admire. I am currently involved with the League of Women Voters' Redistricting Team, and am acting as a liaison between undocumented immigrants and local law enforcement. These activities highlight my unique ability to serve as a bridge between diverse groups and perspectives.



## ACLU-NC Board of Directors Ballot

Please vote by marking one square next to each candidate you support. Each member may vote for up to seven (7) candidates on this ballot. Two members at the same address who share a joint membership should use both squares.

INDIVIDUAL JOINT

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Joseph Blocher
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jimmy Creech
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beth Dehghan
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Patti Digh
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bridget Gaudette
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anne Gordon
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Beth Klein
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Anne-Maria Makhulu
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lori Messinger
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Vera Norton
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mitchel Price
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Deborah Snowdon

Please clip and send along with your name(s) and return address to:

ACLU-NC Board Elections,  
 PO Box 28004  
 Raleigh, NC 27611-8004

**Who Can Vote** Under the bylaws of the ACLU-NC, only current dues paying members of the ACLU-NC can vote in board elections.

**Instructions for Voting** The candidates are listed in alphabetical order. We have 12 candidates running to fill 7 open seats on our Board of Directors. Each ACLU member may vote for up to 7 candidates. For "individual" memberships, vote for a maximum of 7 candidates. For "joint" memberships (two members with the same mailing address), each member may vote for a maximum of 7 candidates, with one member voting for up to 7 candidates under the column marked "individual" and the second member voting for a maximum of 7 candidates under the column marked "joint." A member cannot vote for the same candidate twice. Voting for more than 7 candidates will disqualify your ballot. You can return your ballot with the enclosed envelope to P.O. Box 28004, Raleigh, NC, 27611-8004. Please include your name and return address so we can verify your membership status. You can also cast your vote in person at the ACLU-NC's Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, May 21. See back page for details.

**Deadline** We must receive your ballot by Friday, May 19, or you can vote in person at our Annual Membership Meeting on Sunday, May 21. See back page for details.



P.O. Box 28004  
Raleigh, NC 27611

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## Join Us!

### Annual Membership Meeting and Open House May 21

Now more than ever “We The People” must respond to attacks on people’s rights rapidly, and with the strongest voice possible.

Join us for a “We The People” Open House on Sunday, May 21, at Marbles Kids Museum in Raleigh to hear about our work in North Carolina, meet our hardworking staff and board members, and learn how you can get involved.

Learn more and RSVP at [acluofnc.org](http://acluofnc.org).

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