

ACLU Action Checklist

www.aclu.org/action

The actions listed below are meaningful ways of raising public awareness and shifting policy. They can be undertaken by individuals or groups of interested people.

We hope that you will undertake as many actions as you can, and that you will encourage other people to do so as well.

- Join the ACLU Action Alert Mailing List**
Approximately once a week we send you an update on a time-critical issue and give you the ability to contact your elected representatives. You can sign up at aclu.org/action.
- Support the ACLU**
You can support the work of the ACLU by becoming a member and/or making a financial contribution online at aclu.org/contribute.

Doing so helps support the litigation, legislative lobbying, public education and organizing work of the ACLU.
- Send a Free Fax/Email to your Elected Officials**
The ACLU has developed a number of issue-related Action Alerts that allow you to quickly and easily communicate with your elected officials and members of the current Administration. Get active at aclu.org/action
- Add the ACLU to Your Email Signature**
With a couple mouse clicks, you can support the ACLU and civil liberties each time you send an email: by adding a mention to the ACLU in your signature line, you will encourage your friends and families to get better informed on the issues every time you send an email.
- Get Informed on the Issues**
You can use the main ACLU website as a resource on a broad range of issues. You can sign up for one or both of our two weekly emails (one is action-oriented, the other provides the latest news), or use our fact sheets and flyers on key issues and latest news.
- Tell a friend (or ten)**
You can encourage friends, families and others to become active in the civil liberties movement by visiting our "Tell a Friend" page at and referring them to the ACLU Action Center. You can also talk to people about the issue as you go about your daily life. By talking to people (whether strangers or family members) about the issues you are raising awareness and motivating them to get more involved.
- Vote**
You can vote for candidates who share your belief in a safe and free society. To find out a candidate's voting record, please visit the ACLU's National Freedom Scorecard at scorecard.aclu.org. You can register to vote online at yourvotematters.org.
- Add the ACLU to your Website**
We have created some simple HTML code which you can add to your website in order to create a graphical link to the ACLU site.
- Write a Letter to the Editor**
You can write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper and express your opinion about issues that are being covered (or are noticeably absent). Your letter might very well be printed in the "Letters to the Editor" section, which is the second-most read feature in a newspaper.
- Writing Letters to your Members of Congress**
Members of Congress (and other elected officials) seriously consider written feedback from their constituents. To help you write your elected representatives on these key issues, we've created a section "Writing to Your Members of Congress."

- Distribute Flyers and other Materials**
You can print out materials and distribute them to friends and the public in order to raise awareness about issues. We have assembled a number of flyers that you can print out, copy, and distribute.
- Purchase t-shirts and other promotional materials**
You can purchase T-shirts and other promotional materials at the ACLU Online store (aclu.org/store) and turn yourself (and your friends) into walking billboards for civil liberties.
- Get Trained**
If you wish to be a successful activist, you need to develop skills that will make you effective and efficient. We have compiled a list of training resource to help you.
- Call your Elected Representatives**
In addition to writing your elected representatives, you can also call them and let them know where you stand on the issues. You can contact your Members of Congress through the Capitol Switchboard (202-224-3121).
- Become involved with a local affiliate of the ACLU**
You can become more involved with the local ACLU affiliate in your state. Many affiliates have regular meetings and events. You can find the affiliate in your area at aclu.org/affiliates.
- Meet with your Elected Representatives**
You can meet with elected officials or their representatives and tell them what you think about a certain issue or bill, and to try to get him or her to take action on that issue. If you are interested in helping the ACLU lobby on federal issues, please visit our website at aclu.org/getactive.
- Join a Demonstration**
All across the country people are showing their disapproval of government policies by peacefully demonstrating. You can join these gatherings and add your voice.
- Table at Events**
You can set up a table at public events and provide information on the issue. This is also a great chance to meet like-minded people, talk to them about their concerns and coordinate.
- Start a Letter-Writing Campaign**
Recruit friends and others to write letters to Members of Congress and the State House/Senate on key issues. You can use the Action Alerts and "Writing Your Elected Official" section of our website for guidance.
- Organize a public event**
You can organize public events (such as rallies, speaking forums, town hall meetings, and concerts) to raise awareness about the issues and perhaps even raise funds. By gathering interesting speakers and cool activities (music, dancing, etc.), you not only recruit new members, but you may also get media attention.
- Volunteer**
Many ACLU affiliates rely on volunteers. By volunteering you are not only contributing significantly to the work that needs to be done, you also develop great experience and gain tremendous knowledge about the issues. You can find the affiliate in your area by visiting our website.
- Get a Resolution Passed in Your Community**
Many communities around the country have passed resolutions indicating their commitment to defend civil liberties. These resolutions show politicians at all levels believe that civil liberties must be preserved and that it is possible to be both safe and free. You can learn more about these resolutions or sign up to get more information about how to pass a resolution in your community.



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