

It's Almost Time to Vote, Delaware!

We understand that voting can be a complicated process, and that Delaware is not immune from the nationwide attack on voting rights. That's why we launched the ACLU Voter Campaign.

ARTICLE BY: MEERA DEVOTTA,
ACLU-DE VOTER CAMPAIGN MANAGER

Every election has direct implications for our communities, and this election season is no different. From police reform to reproductive freedom, the issues that you care about are on the ballot in 2022. The fight for our civil liberties hinges on the outcome of these elections.

Our ACLU Voter campaign focuses on three target areas:

Voter Education

Different communities have different experiences and should see themselves reflected in voter education. By ensuring

that all voters are aware of the different methods of voting available to them, we aim to get as many Delawareans to the polls as possible in the way that is most convenient and accessible for them. We are constantly advocating for and

educating Delaware voters on best practices and policies that increase turnout among groups who face the most barriers to voting.

This year, voter education is particularly important, because Delaware is

implementing three new voter laws for the 2022 elections: early voting, vote by mail, and same day voter registration.

You can learn more about these new (and exciting) voting measures at VoteDelaware.org.

CONT. ON PAGE 3



SUMMER/FALL '22 // WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 4-5 Staff Updates
- 6 Legal Updates
- 7 AG Launches Abortion Helpline

and more!

CONNECTION

ACLU-DE Officers & Staff

Kathleen Epler
President, ACLU-DE

Desmond Baker
Vice President, ACLU-DE

Jennifer Ying
Treasurer, ACLU-DE

Tom O'Brien
Treasurer, ACLF-DE

Adriana Leela Bohm
Equity and Inclusion Officer

Mike Brickner
Executive Director

Dwayne J. Bensing
Legal Director

Melissa Bryson
Development Director

Meera Devotta
Voter Campaign Manager

Shannon Griffin
Senior Policy Advocate

Angela Harris
Operations & Administrative Manager

Priya Hay-Chatterjee
Digital Communications Strategist

Morgan Kelly
Communications Director

Rachael Mead
Development Strategist

Jasmine Minhas
Paralegal

John Reynolds
Clean Slate Delaware Campaign Manager

Javonne Rich
Policy & Advocacy Director

Haneef Salaam
Campaign For Smart Justice Manager



Letter from the ED

rights, bans in other states will undoubtedly impact the First State's healthcare system.


marriage equality, and same-sex relationships.

Dear Friends,

There's no other way to say it: the U.S. Supreme Court has declared open season on some of our most fundamental rights.

Their decision in *Dobbs* to overturn nearly five decades of precedent affirming every person's right to abortion is a travesty. We expect 26 states to ban or severely restrict abortion immediately, with other states to potentially follow. While Delaware has protected abortion

But it's not just abortion rights in the crosshairs—the Court issued opinions this term that curtailed our rights when stopped by the police, the separation of church and state, and our right to fair and proportional representation. In Justice Thomas' concurring opinion in *Dobbs*, he outright called for the Court to overturn other historic precedents protecting rights to contraception,

This tectonic shift in the Court demonstrates the need for the ACLU to work not just through litigation, but through organizing, advocacy, lobbying, and public education. Liberation will not come solely through the courts, but through integrated campaigns that build power to affect change. The path forward is not an easy one, but it is one that we can navigate together. 



First State
Abortion Fund

FIRST STATE ABORTION FUND

Putting abortion access first.

In the wake of the U.S. Supreme Court's devastating ruling, to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and strip Americans of their fundamental right to abortion, reproductive rights advocates have launched the First State Abortion Fund.

The Fund will provide support for people who need access to abortion in Delaware, including costs for the procedure, childcare, and transportation.

Learn more and support this vital work at

FIRSTSTATEABORTIONFUND.ORG

ACLU VOTER CAMPAIGN,
CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE

Voter Engagement

Avenues for engagement will help Delaware take steps toward combating voter suppression and increasing voter participation.

One of the largest populations prevented from engaging in elections are justice-involved individuals. Ending felony disenfranchisement and allowing eligible incarcerated voters to cast ballots remains a campaign priority. In Delaware,

thousands of justice-involved people are disenfranchised every election. Many more are disenfranchised because the rules and regulations around voting eligibility are confusing and cumbersome. Our campaign is actively working to dismantle barriers to prison voting and support the expansion of voting eligibility for those with felony convictions.

Elections and Candidate Information

Through our voter education website, VoteDelaware.org,

we're compiling everything Delaware voters need to know to make their plan to vote. In addition to information on registration, dates, deadlines, alternative methods of voting, and voter assistance, VoteDelaware.org helps Delaware voters learn about our priority issue platforms. VoteDelaware.org also features our 2022 Candidate Questionnaire, designed to help voters find out where their candidates stand on the issues they care about.

Our democracy is stronger and more sustainable when voting is easy, encouraged, and expanded.

The ACLU Voter Campaign is dedicated to advocating for solutions that allow every eligible Delaware voter an accessible way to engage in the voting process. The freedom to vote will always be the fundamental right upon which all our civil liberties rest.

Get involved with Voter Campaign efforts by visiting VoteDelaware.org.



Students who are involved in their communities often feel a sense of inclusion and belonging, leading to better education outcomes and a path of civic engagement that can last far beyond their grade school years. **Scholars Engaged for Action (SEFA) can help with that.**

SEFA is just one part of our larger Equity in Education campaign, a comprehensive initiative designed to support educators, engage parents and caregivers, and empower students. **Learn more about our Equity in Education programs, and how you can bring them to your local schools, at aclu-de.org/eie.**



**BE AN ADVOCATE.
BE EMPOWERED.
BE A SMART JUSTICE AMBASSADOR.**

We invite you to apply to be a Smart Justice Ambassador!

Smart Justice Ambassadors navigate avenues for change and grow the skills necessary to become community advocates on Smart Justice issues such as policing, sentencing, prison, reentry, probation, expungement, and more.

We're looking for ambassadors from each of Delaware's three counties. People who have been directly impacted by the legal system in Delaware are strongly encouraged to apply.

The next Smart Justice Ambassador training will be held on Saturday, October 1, and Sunday, October 2, in Dover, Delaware. All expenses will be covered, including lodging, and ambassadors who complete the training will be compensated with a stipend.

ACLU
Delaware

SMART JUSTICE
Delaware

LEARN MORE & APPLY: [ACLU-DE.ORG/SJA](https://aclu-de.org/sja)



RACHAEL MEAD (SHE/HER)



JASMINE MINHAS (SHE/THEY)

Meet Our Newest Team Members: Rachael & Jasmine!

ARTICLE BY: MORGAN KELLY
ACLU-DE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

The ACLU-DE team continues to grow! We are excited to introduce our newest team members, Rachael Mead and Jasmine Minhas!

Rachael Mead (she/her), Development Strategist

Rachael joined us in May as our first-ever development strategist. Originally from Florida, she has spent the past five years at the Delaware Historical Society, most recently as their donor and grants manager. She brings a background in grant writing and fundraising to the

organization, as well as a unique humanities perspective.


“I’m extremely excited to be joining such a well-regarded organization. I have admired and appreciated the work the ACLU does for a long time, and could not be more thrilled to now be part of the team making that effort possible. My passion for social justice got its start through volunteer work as a teenager. For many years I volunteered with an organization called Camp S.K.A.M.P., a summer camp for children with physical disabilities. That experience continues to inspire me to work harder to preserve

our civil liberties and advance civil rights.”

Jasmine Minhas (she/they), Paralegal

Jasmine is a recent graduate of Bucknell University with a Bachelor of Arts in French, history, and political science. Prior to joining the ACLU of Delaware team, Jasmine has interned for the Sikh Coalition, the Delaware Department of Justice, and the U.S. Senate. Exposure to patterns of inequality and injustice both at home and abroad, alongside the Sikh principles of seva and action against injustice, have driven Jasmine to develop a serious passion for

sociopolitical work and community organizing. Since 2018, she has been an active leader in the gun violence prevention space in Delaware through her work with March For Our Lives. Jasmine’s passion for advocacy and social justice is at the core of all that she is involved with. When she is not planning protests and in meetings, you can find her playing with her beagle, Bruno, and listening to podcasts.

“I am ecstatic to join the ACLU-DE team and have the opportunity to work so closely with such passionate individuals who are motivated to create a better, more equitable and inclusive Delaware.” 



Reintroducing Dwayne: Our New Legal Director!

ARTICLE BY: MORGAN KELLY
ACLU-DE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

We are excited to announce that Dwayne J. Bensing (he/him), former staff attorney, has been promoted to spearhead our legal department as the ACLU-DE's next legal director!

Dwayne joined our team in 2020 after serving for three years with the U.S. Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and two years with the U.S. Department of Justice's

Civil Rights Division.

Dwayne's work with us has included protecting the rights of students, people living in Delaware prisons, people seeking reproductive health care, and more.

"I am so privileged to have found my professional home with our team of advocates at ACLU-DE. I am excited about the opportunity to expand my impact as legal director and hope to advance our pursuit of holding civil rights violators to account." 

MEET OUR INTERNS



AARON MOSELEY-SALDIVAR
HE/HIM
EDUCATION EQUITY FELLOW

Where are you from?

Austin, TX

What's your favorite part of interning for ACLU-DE?

My favorite thing about interning for ACLU-DE is that I am regularly inspired by the great and meaningful work being done by everybody in the organization. It's a wonderful feeling to be reminded of the efforts that people take to make the world a better place.



MAURA T. LINDEN
SHE/HER
LAW CLERK

Where are you from?

Wilmington, DE

What's your favorite part of interning for ACLU-DE?

The best part of being an intern for ACLU-DE is learning about policy and advocacy work from a supportive and enthusiastic team.



KASSIDY BAPTISTE
SHE/HER
VOTER CAMPAIGN INTERN

Where are you from?

Wilmington, DE

What's your favorite part of interning for ACLU-DE?

So far my favorite part about interning at ACLU is the ability to learn my own rights as a student and the language that ACLU uses to make sure every person is respected. On my first day, personal adversities that I faced were expressed in a way that I felt understood and heard.

LEGAL UPDATES


SCI Litigation: 2nd Amended Complaint Filed

ARTICLE BY: JASMINE MINHAS,
ACLU-DE PARALEGAL

In response to additional plaintiffs speaking out on allegations of abuse experienced at Sussex Correctional Institution (SCI), the ACLU of Delaware and Whiteford Taylor Preston (WTP) have filed a second amended complaint in the litigation.

The amended complaint included details from plaintiffs that allege even more violent and targeted attacks on people serving time at SCI as well as serious concerns about retaliation against named plaintiffs.

This litigation is ongoing, and significant updates will continue to be released to media and the public as they happen.

Stay up to date on this case at aclu-de.org/davisvneal. 

**PLAINTIFF KARI LYNN OVERINGTON HOLDS
HER "FCANCER" LICENSE PLATE** →



New Lawsuit: FCANCER Vanity License Plate Censorship

ARTICLE BY: MORGAN KELLY,
ACLU-DE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

In 2020, Delaware resident Kari Lynn Overington reserved a vanity license plate for her vehicle, which she received in 2021. After a grueling battle with breast cancer, this vanity plate was a victory statement about her fight with cancer: FCANCER.

In June 2021, the Delaware Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) sent Kari a letter recalling the license plate because “it does not represent the division or the state in a positive manner.” Over the course of several weeks, Kari attempted to advocate with state officials to allow her to use the FCANCER license plate, but to no avail.

“As a cancer survivor, the fight to end cancer is extremely personal to me,” said Ms. Overington. “I was shocked when the DMV recalled my license plate because fighting cancer in our communities is imperative, and a message I assumed everyone would embrace.”

After getting nowhere by advocating for herself with DMV officials, Kari decided to take the fight to court — without legal representation — citing that the censorship of her license plate violated her right to free speech.

In August 2022, a federal judge in the U.S. District court denied the State’s motion to dismiss the lawsuit,

saying that the case raises “a significant constitutional issue.”

Now, we’re stepping in. The ACLU of Delaware will help Kari see the rest of this lawsuit through. Legal Director Dwayne J. Bensing will be the primary attorney representing Kari Overington in her case moving ahead.

A special thank-you to Terry Loscalzo, Arleigh Helfer, and Alison Gutierrez of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP have joined our case as co-counsel.

Stay up to date on this case at aclu-de.org/fcancer.



What the Heck is Community-Centric Fundraising?

Let's talk about the future of progressive philanthropy and why it's great for all of us.

ARTICLE BY: MELISSA BRYSON,
ACLU-DE DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Non-profit fundraising is undergoing a reckoning. The years of transactional giving are waning and being replaced with a more holistic approach: Community Centric Fundraising.

Community Centric Fundraising (CCF) is a fundraising model that

is grounded in equity and social justice. This method prioritizes the entire community over individual organizations or donors, ensuring that impacted people are centered and community resources are shared.

The ACLU of Delaware is actively engaged in CCF through our collaborative efforts with community-

led and informed organizations, ongoing anti-racist staff learning, and investment in the people who are most affected by the issues we work on. With CCF, we aim to fully center communities and to value all organizers and those who benefit and inform our work above all else. We recognize these stakeholders as essential to our

movements' success — which is an important shift if we are going to remove patriarchy, classism, white supremacy and other structural oppressions from the philanthropic landscape.

We welcome you to join us in investing in this model, and learn more about this shift in fundraising approach at bit.ly/communitycentric. 

We're Proud to Support the New AG Abortion Helpline

This initiative will provide free legal advice & information on abortion care in Delaware.

ARTICLE BY: MORGAN KELLY,
ACLU-DE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR


Attorney General Kathy Jennings has announced the launch of the **Attorney General's Abortion Legal Helpline**, a collaborative initiative led by the Department of Justice with support from nearly a dozen partner law firms, and several nonprofit and advocacy groups including the ACLU of Delaware, Planned Parenthood of Delaware, the

First State Abortion Fund, Delaware NOW (National Organization for Women), Black Mothers in Power, the Southern Delaware Alliance for Racial Justice, and Women's March Sussex.

The Helpline will provide free legal advice to anyone in need of guidance after the Supreme Court's June *Dobbs* decision, including.

The AG's Abortion Legal Helpline can be

reached at (302) 992-8096 or toll-free at (877) 312-2366. In order to ensure anonymity, callers will be asked to leave a message with their question, a callback number,

and any instructions on when or how they prefer to be contacted. Those who prefer not to call may also submit written questions online at de.gov/abortionhelpline. 

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

AG's Abortion Legal Helpline

(302) 992-8096

or toll-free at

(877) 312-2366

de.gov/abortionhelpline





Delaware

100 West 10th Street, Suite 706
Wilmington, DE 19801
www.aclu-de.org



ACLU-DE.org



@ACLUDelaware



@ACLUDelaware



ACLU Delaware



ACLU_DE



ACLUDelaware

Exercise your free speech
rights: send suggestions,
questions, or comments to
mkelly@aclu-de.org.

Nonprofit Organization
US Postage Paid
Wilmington, DE
Permit No. 106

JOIN US AT THE 2022 KANDLER AWARDS CELEBRATION

Building the **Delaware** we *deserve*

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19 AT 6 P.M.

*In-person at the Hockessin Memorial Hall, at Sydney's
Restaurant & Lounge in Milton, or virtual via Zoom*

HONORING OUR '22 KANDLER AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Corie Priest (he/him), *Delaware Department of Justice*

Rebecca Lowe (she/her), *Lewes Public Library & Women's March Sussex*

MORE INFO & TICKETS: ACLU-DE.ORG/KANDLER