

MEET THE ACLU OF NEVADA



ACLU stands for **American Civil Liberties Union**. The ACLU is a nationwide organization that advocates for civil liberties and civil rights of all people in the United States.

Civil liberties and civil rights are the basic rights guaranteed to all people by law and protect citizens from actions by government that are illegal under constitutional law.

The **ACLU of Nevada** is an affiliate of the national ACLU, and it was founded in 1966. It is the only organization in Nevada dedicated solely to protecting the Constitutional rights and liberties of every individual in the state.

The ACLU looks specifically to the **Bill of Rights**, the first ten Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, and the civil rights Amendments to determine what issues it works on. The ACLU of Nevada also looks to the Nevada Constitution.

The ACLU of Nevada supports expanding the **rights of individuals with respect to the government**, such as:

	Amendment
Free Speech Religious Freedom Government-Funded Religion	1 st
Freedom of Assembly Right to Protest	
Ballot Initiatives and Referenda	1 st
Open Meetings and Public Records	1 st
Gun Rights	2 nd
Drug Law Reform Juvenile Justice	4 th , 5 th & 6 th
Privacy	1 st , 3 rd , 4 th & 14 th
Reproductive Rights	
Capital Punishment	8 th
Prisoner's Rights	
LGBT Rights Immigrant's Rights Disability Rights	14 th
Racial Justice Women's Rights Children's Rights	
Voting Rights	15 th & 19 th

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The ACLU is **supported by dues** from members and **donations** from individuals. We do not receive any government funding.

The ACLU has **500,000 members nationwide**. The ACLU of Nevada has roughly **2,000 members** and an annual budget of \$800,000. The ACLU of Nevada is a joint entity comprised of both 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) nonprofit organizations.

The ACLU of Nevada has **7 full-time and 3 part-time** staff between its two offices in Reno and Las Vegas. Our resources are leveraged through relationships with contract and cooperating attorneys, as well as a robust legal internship program. We are governed by a statewide Board of Directors.

Through **lobbying** on legislation and regulations, **litigating**, and **educating** the public, we work on a broad array of issues affecting individual freedom.

We receive approximately **2,000 requests for legal help** each year. Although we are unable to directly assist the vast majority, we do respond to each request with information and referrals that we hope will help. **The ACLU is not a general legal aid agency** and does not handle cases unless there is a core constitutional law principle at issue.

On average, we have **10 active cases** and are involved with **30 legal advocacy projects** each year. Our cases address significant civil liberties or civil rights issues and have a broad potential impact.

At the 2011 legislative session, the ACLU of Nevada **supported 63 bills** and initially **opposed over 70 bills**. Of the bills we supported, the Legislature passed 42 and the governor signed 35. Only 9 bills that we ultimately opposed became law.