

**ACLU**

Kentucky

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MICHAEL BROWN CHARLEENA LYLES PHILANDO CASTILE ERIC GARNER  
MICHELLE CUSSEAU KAYLA MOORE JOHN CRAWFORD III EZELL FORD  
DANTE PARKER LAQUAN MCDONALD TANISHA ANDERSON AKAI  
GURLEY TAMIR RICE RUMAIN BRISBON JERAME REID GEORGE MANN  
MATTHEW AJIBADE FRANK SMART NATASHA MCKENNA TONY ROBINSON ANTHONY HILL  
MYA HALL PHILLIP WHITE ERIC HARRIS SCOTT WILLIAMS  
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FREDDIE GRAY JOSEPH MANN SALVADO ELLSWORTH  
DARRIUS STEWART BILLY RAY DAVIS SAMUEL DUBOSE MICHAEL SABBIE BRIAN KEITH  
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**BLACK  
LIVES  
MATTER**

**JUSTICE FOR BREONNA TAYLOR**



## A NOTE FROM ACLU-KY LEADERSHIP

Breonna Taylor was killed by Louisville Metro Police in the early hours of March 13, 2020, during a botched drug raid. Her shocked family immediately cried out for justice and transparency as they mourned her death. Black Lives Matter Louisville amplified their calls for justice for Breonna, and for her boyfriend Kenneth Walker, who was jailed and charged with attempted murder for one gunshot that hit an officer during the raid that Walker allegedly fired.

The case initially didn't make many headlines locally, and only Black-led organizations mobilized for justice. That changed on May 25, 2020, when we all watched eight minutes and 46 seconds of video showing Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin killing George Floyd under his knee. People throughout the country took to the

streets demanding justice for George, and cries for justice for Breonna Taylor grew louder and pushed the case into the national conversation.

Kentuckians throughout the Commonwealth, from Hazard to Paducah, have joined the movement. In protest after protest, Black people have issued one clear demand: "Stop killing us." We're closing in on nearly 200 consecutive days of protests in Louisville. The community is demanding justice for Breonna, a reduction of LMPD's bloated budget and reallocation of those resources to community needs, and an end to the use of chemical agents and brute force attacks on peaceful protesters and journalists. (Over 50% of the current city budget goes to LMPD.)

The Commonwealth of Kentucky denied Breonna Taylor justice. Attorney General Daniel Cameron

did not recommend to the grand jury any charges directly related to Breonna Taylor's death. Officer Brett Hankison was fired, but two other officers, Myles Cosgrove and Jonathan Mattingly, remain on the police force. We join Breonna's family and the community in protesting and mourning this latest miscarriage of justice in our nation's long history of denying that Black lives matter.

We now find ourselves at the center of the national reckoning around race, while we struggle through a deadly health pandemic that is disproportionately impacting Black communities. The way we respond to what some have called the twin pandemics of racial injustice and the novel coronavirus requires us to root out white supremacy both within our organization and in the broader Commonwealth. As we

demand radical reforms in policing and the criminal legal system, we are examining radical reforms needed to make our internal policies and procedures hold our organization accountable to the values that are central to our mission.

This work is not easy but it is necessary. ACLU-KY Policy Strategist Keturah Herron recently shared these inspiring words with the community: "We promise we will keep this fight going and win it all. We know we are not only fighting against the deadly violence that is integral to policing; we are fighting for a completely different vision of being in community together. We are creating something different."

**Michael Aldridge,**  
Executive Director

**Erin Kennedy Startzman,** President  
Board of Directors



## BREONNA'S LAW NO MORE NO-KNOCKS

No-knock warrants have been a staple of the failed war on drugs, turning communities of color into warzones. They allow police to enter homes without announcing themselves. While Louisville Metro Police officers say they knocked and announced themselves at Breonna Taylor's door on March 13th, Kenneth Walker and dozens of witnesses say they never heard the police identify themselves. While the lack of video footage of this botched raid may prevent us from ever knowing what took place, we know for a fact that too many innocent people like Breonna Taylor have needlessly lost their lives as a result of no-knock warrants.

The ACLU of Kentucky led the fight to end the use of no-knock warrants in Louisville. ACLU-KY Policy Strategist Keturah Herron developed an ordinance banning no-knock warrants in partnership with community

members and Louisville Metro councilmembers. Her dedicated advocacy led to a unanimous vote that permanently bars Louisville Metro Police Department from using these deadly warrants. This victory in June was an important first step in a series of desperately needed changes to address police abuse of power and excessive force against Black people.

After Breonna's Law passed in Louisville, Ms. Tamika Palmer, Breonna's mother, said, "With the passing of Breonna's Law, Breonna will be able to continue to save lives [like she did as an EMT]. That's all she wanted." We're now taking the "no more no knocks" fight to the Kentucky General Assembly because Kentuckians must be safe from deadly no-knock warrants no matter where they live.

Take action: Email your legislators and ask them to support a statewide ban on no-knock warrants. Go to [ACLU-KY.org/BreonnasLaw](https://www.aclu-ky.org/BreonnasLaw).

## PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS FOR BLACK LIVES

The ACLU of Kentucky is proud to work alongside and in partnership with many organizations in the fight for racial justice. We're also inspired by the hundreds of young activists leading the movement for change across the Commonwealth.

### Black-led organizational partners:

All Of Us Or None

Black Lives Matter Louisville

Change Today Change Tomorrow

Diversity At The Table

Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression

Kentucky State Conference of the NAACP

Kentucky Commission on Human Rights

Life Coach Each One Teach One Reentry Fellowship

Louisville Community Bail Fund

Louisville Urban League

### Other partners:

Central Kentucky Showing Up for Racial Justice

Fairness Campaign

JustLeadershipUSA

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth

Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice

Youth Violence Prevention Research Center



## COVID-19 AND CIVIL LIBERTIES

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The novel coronavirus pandemic has upended daily life and imperiled the health and financial security of thousands of Kentuckians. During this unprecedented time, we've been working harder than ever to continue defending the civil rights and liberties of everyone in our commonwealth.

### **KENTUCKY GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

Our staff started working remotely in mid-March, just as the Kentucky General Assembly was coming to a close. After legislators failed to heed our call to pass a budget and go home, our advocacy and communications teams kept members and supporters electronically engaged with and connected to legislators in the final days of the session.

### **PRISONS AND JAILS**

Some of Kentucky's overcrowded prisons and jails have become

COVID-19 hot spots, threatening the health of incarcerated people, corrections employees, and surrounding communities. Some Kentuckians remain incarcerated simply because they cannot afford to pay bail or because they do not have proper immigration documentation.

We filed a lawsuit seeking the release of six medically-vulnerable people incarcerated at Kentucky Correctional Institute for Women. Unfortunately, the court denied our clients relief. We continue to call on Governor Beshear, the Department of Corrections, ICE officials, local jailers, prosecutors, judges, and those in charge of youth facilities to act boldly and swiftly to protect incarcerated people from this potentially fatal disease. Detention should not be a death sentence.

### **VOTING RIGHTS**

For the primary election, Kentucky temporarily dropped several restrictive requirements that would have put voters at dire and unnecessary risk when

voting during the pandemic. After we filed a federal lawsuit to extend those protections through November, state officials reached a bipartisan, common sense agreement. We filed in collaboration with the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law and Covington & Burling on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Kentucky, the Louisville Urban League, the Kentucky State Conference of the NAACP, and several individual voters. The new rules were a win for Kentucky voters who had multiple, safe ways to cast their votes. No one should ever have to choose between their health and exercising their right to vote.

### **ABORTION ACCESS, PRIVACY**

We are staying vigilant of some anti-abortion politicians who have attempted to use this public health crisis to infringe on reproductive freedom. We're also monitoring contract tracing guidelines to make sure they are as minimally restrictive and minimally invasive as possible. For a look at all of our COVID-19 related actions visit our website [ACLU-KY.org/COVID19](https://www.aclu-ky.org/COVID19).



## LEGAL AND ADVOCACY

Our legal and advocacy teams are a constant presence in federal and state court, at the Capitol in Frankfort, and in communities throughout the Commonwealth. They work with lawmakers and policy experts to ensure our state government protects the civil rights and liberties of all people in Kentucky.

### VOTING RIGHTS

The combination of the volatile political environment and COVID-19 has created an unprecedented amount of litigation and confusion about voting. To meet this extraordinary moment, ACLU-KY's Legal and Advocacy Teams have partnered with the 1-866-Our-Vote national Election Protection coalition to ensure every eligible voter can cast a ballot and every vote counts. Our legal fellows recruited attorneys, law students, and other legal professionals to address any potential election emergencies.

Our legal team is also working closely with the national ACLU Voting Rights Project in the weeks after the election as mail-in ballots are counted. The Advocacy Team recruited volunteers to monitor the polls and social media, as well as distribute critical information to voters about their rights and what to do if they run into a problem at the polls.

Our Advocacy Team has two new staff members dedicated to Get Out the Vote efforts. Over the past several months, they've engaged the 175,000 Kentuckians with prior felony convictions whose voting rights were restored by Governor Beshear's Executive Order. With the support of volunteers, we reached tens of thousands of Kentuckians by launching a peer-to-peer text messaging platform and targeted social media advertisements. We also reached voters through direct mail, print advertisements, community organizations, and transit ads.

The Executive Order is a significant step in the right direction; however, it leaves behind over 65,000 Kentuckians and could be reversed by a future governor's order. ACLU-KY will continue working with the General Assembly to permanently remove this draconian measure from the Kentucky Constitution. We successfully ushered this legislation through a key committee with bipartisan support during the last legislative session, and look forward to building on that success in 2021.

### DIRECTLY IMPACTED KENTUCKIANS

People with direct experiences with the criminal legal system, as well as pregnancy, parenting, and abortion, are leading ACLU-KY's work in these areas. 60 directly impacted Kentuckians met with legislators during the 2020 General Assembly. Their stories and ideas for solutions are changing the conversations in

committee rooms and on the House and Senate floors. Due to these efforts, there were no anti-abortion bills signed into law in 2020. This is a first since anti-abortion politicians gained supermajorities in the Kentucky House and Senate four years ago.

Two of our Smart Justice priority bills received final passage and became law. One law expunges charges from people's records if they were acquitted or the charges were dismissed, upholding the principle of "innocent until proven guilty." The second creates incentives for probation to match those of parole, promoting treatment for substance use disorder and supporting work and educational opportunities. This will provide opportunities for folks on probation to get back on their feet, reducing incarceration rates and growing Kentucky's economy.



## LITIGATING FOR BLACK LIVES

We filed a complaint against Louisville Metro Police Department (LMPD) for their repeated use of force and intimidation against peaceful protesters. We were joined in filing by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) and law firm Emery Celli Brinckerhoff Abady Ward & Maazel LLP (ECBAWM). The complaint was filed on behalf of people who were subjected to and injured by LMPD's militaristic response. The suit seeks monetary relief for individual protesters and injunctive relief barring LMPD from engaging in further efforts to silence protesters demanding justice.

LMPD's response to these largely peaceful demonstrations has been violent; throughout the summer and early fall LMPD used tear gas, flashbangs, pepper balls, batons, and other military-grade equipment on protesters. LMPD has engaged in mass arrests by declaring unlawful assemblies, and then surrounding protesters denying them the opportunity to even attempt to comply. LMPD has rounded up dozens of

peaceful protesters at a time and charged them with unwarranted felonies. This lawsuit seeks to ensure these horrific scenes never play out on our streets again. Kentuckians must be able to raise their voices to protect Black lives without fear of police violence.

## ADVOCATING FOR BLACK LIVES

During the 2020 General Assembly, we supported the Maternal Care Act. This legislation addresses the racial disparities in maternal mortality by tracking maternal deaths, requiring Medicaid reimbursement for qualified doula care, and implicit bias training for perinatal medical professionals. Due to structural racism in healthcare, maternal mortality rates are nearly four times higher for Black people compared to their white peers. People of color are three times more likely to die of complications during, or soon after pregnancy, than their white peers. Kentucky's Maternal Care Act was sidelined by the pandemic. We remain committed to this legislation and plan to advance it during the 2021 legislative session.

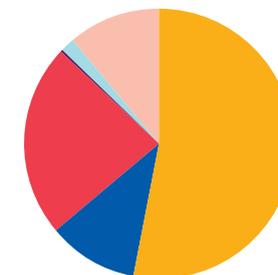
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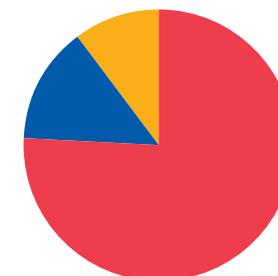
## FINANCIALS



**INCOME:**

- Contributions ..... \$684,991
- Grants ..... \$140,340
- National ACLU Support ..... \$298,655
- Membership ..... \$3,685
- Investment Income & Other ..... \$20,429
- Legal Awards ..... \$141,761

**TOTAL ..... \$1,289,861**



**EXPENSES:**

- Programs ..... \$838,186
- Administration & Management ..... \$154,402
- Fundraising ..... \$110,288

**TOTAL ..... \$1,102,876**

*Consolidated Unaudited Statement for ACLU-KY and ACLU-KY Foundation, Fiscal Year 2020 (April 1, 2019-March 31, 2020)*

## BY THE NUMBERS

**6,219**

Members

**947**

Donors

**1,388**

Donations

**18**

ACLU-KY staff members

**59**

Litigation documents filed

**26**

Demand letters and  
open records requests

**32**

Clients represented

**60**

Directly impacted  
Kentuckians  
met with legislators

**318**

Bills monitored during the  
2020 General Assembly

**2,703**

Emails sent to lawmakers  
by ACLU-KY members and  
supporters

**13**

Bills were amended by  
lawmakers after meeting  
with ACLU-KY staff and  
advocates

**225,000**

Postcards sent to  
kentuckians with past  
felony convictions letting  
them know they are  
eligible to vote



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