

***ACLU OF WISCONSIN***

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**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

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**2019**

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT



**CHRISTOPHER OTT**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Thanks to supporters like you, the ACLU is growing in Wisconsin, applying what we learned in 2018 to become stronger and more effective this year, and for the critical challenges shaping up for 2020 and beyond.

## Advocacy.

Early in 2018—with criminal justice reform and the fight against mass incarceration as one of our top priorities—the ACLU of Wisconsin quickly and successfully led a coalition effort that stopped a new prison. We knew that this proposal—with a price tag of 350 million borrowed dollars—would further contribute to Wisconsin’s problem with mass incarceration, creating more space to imprison people who would benefit more from services like treatment for addiction than being locked in a cage. When the State Assembly passed this proposal, we knew that we had to stop it in our State Senate. In a matter of weeks, we organized, and we won.

To accomplish this, we focused first on Wisconsin’s biannual budget process. We held trainings for hundreds of volunteers in four parts of our state to educate people who care about this issue on how they could demand a budget that supports investing in people—not prisons.

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When the state’s powerful Joint Finance Committee held day-long listening sessions throughout the state, we were ready, showing up in force for each and every one. Even in Wisconsin’s difficult political environment, this is a demonstration of what can be done with People Power.

### Legal

Our legal work remains as important as ever. This year, in addition to our work inside of the courts, we prioritized ensuring that all students have access to a safe learning environment at school — free from race- and sex-based discrimination. This work made local and national headlines thanks to a demand letter we sent to the Kenosha Unified School District (KUSD), specifically directed at Tremper High School, in response to body-shaming awards that were given out at an annual cheerleading banquet.

Due, in part, to the large volume of sex- and race-based discrimination complaints we received, we took further action and profiled the situation at Tremper to remind other Wisconsin public schools of their constitutional obligation to protect students from all types of discrimination. Students have a right to an education, and Wisconsin schools must ensure that a hostile environment does not interfere with that right.

This is how the ACLU works. Wins like our victory against the new prison in 2018 reenergize us and light the way forward — but it takes steady, strategic work over months and years to achieve the breakthroughs and victories we need: for criminal justice reform, for educational equity, immigrants’ rights, for racial and gender justice, for voting rights, and much more. Your support powers this work. Thank you so much.





# SMART JUSTICE

Wisconsin

## HITTING THE ROAD!

In the summer of 2019, the ACLU of Wisconsin traveled the state sounding the alarm about Wisconsin's broken criminal justice system and the devastating impact of crimeless revocations. Our tour took us to Eau Claire, Racine, Brown Deer, Oshkosh, Wauwatosa and Green Bay.

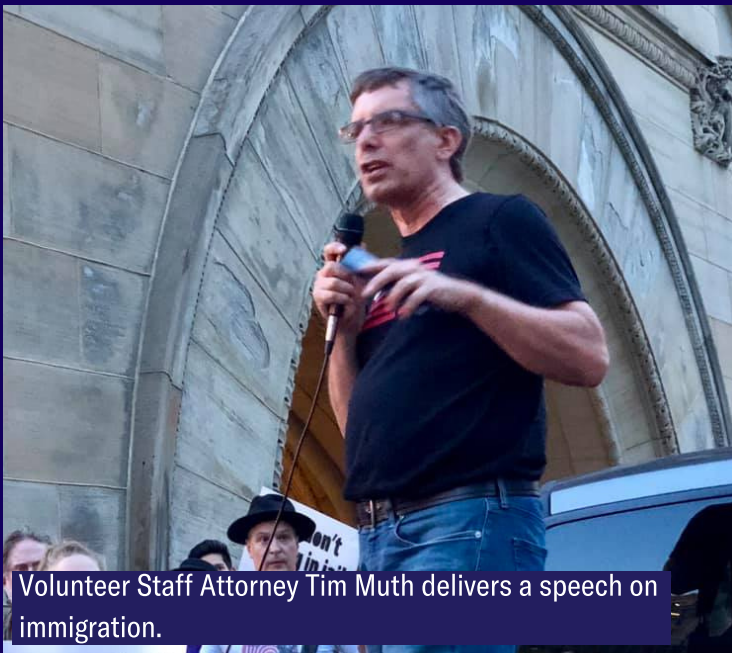
On our tour, we talked with law enforcement leaders and policy experts, business owners and government officials — and the consensus was overwhelming: Wisconsin's crimeless revocation policy is unfair, unjust and in urgent need of reform.



# 2019 IN PHOTOS



Students at 2019 Youth Social Justice Forum.



Volunteer Staff Attorney Tim Muth delivers a speech on immigration.



Smart Justice Statewide Organizer Sean Wilson gives a presentation.

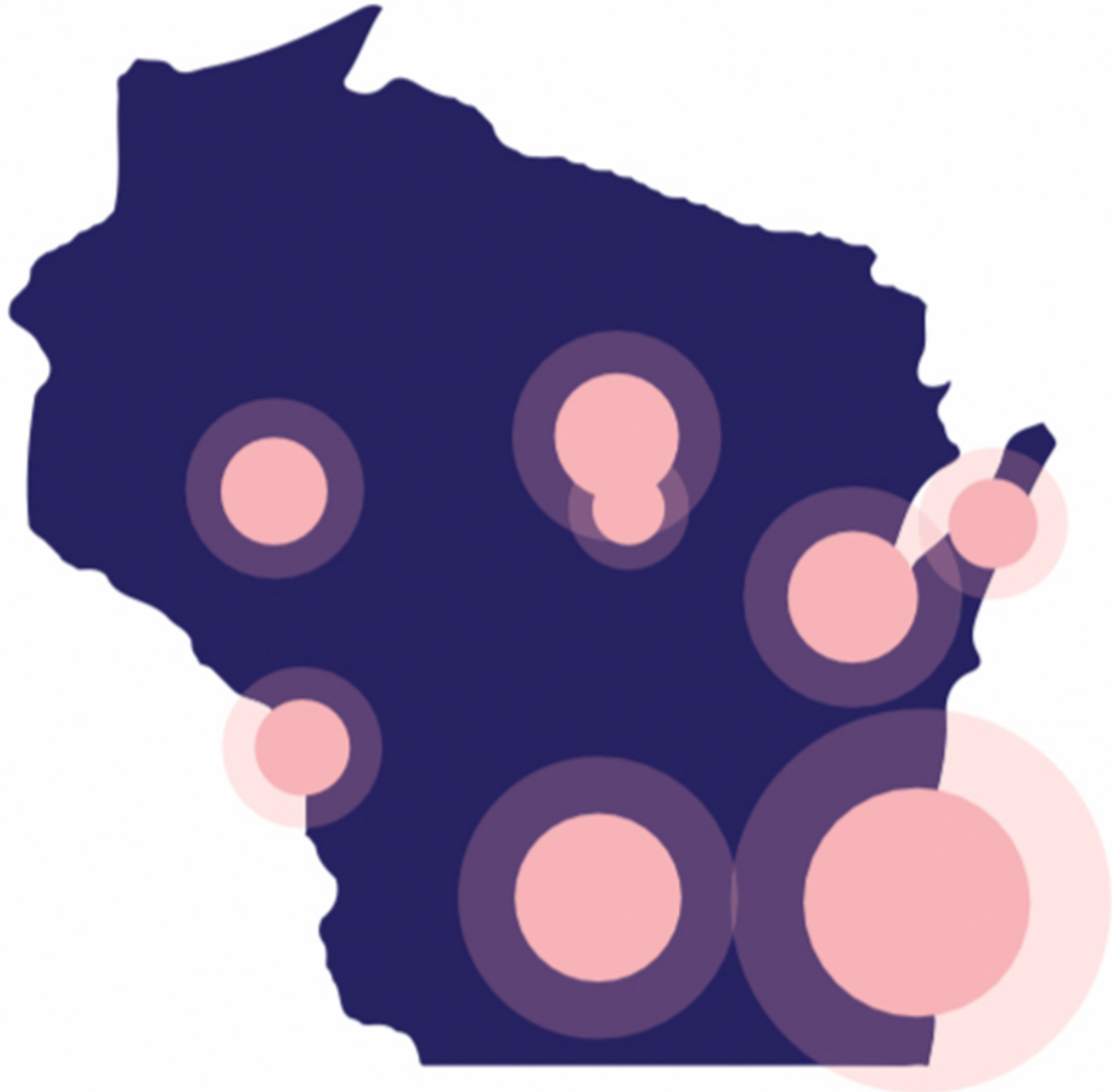


Director of Community Engagement Emilio De Torre testifies in front of the Wisconsin State Legislature.



Students from the Summer Justice Institute share a group hug.

**Thank you to all our members across the state. Without you, our work would not be possible.**



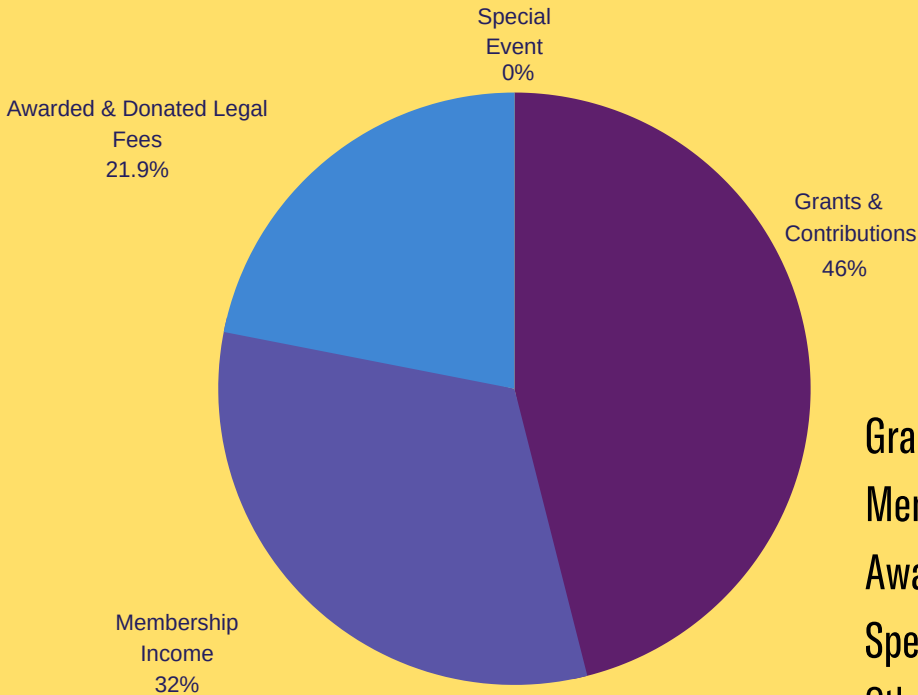
## **NOT A MEMBER YET?**

More than 13,000 people support the ACLU of Wisconsin. With you by our side, we can continue fighting for the rights of all Wisconsinites.

Join today at: <https://action.aclu.org/give/join-aclu-wisconsin>

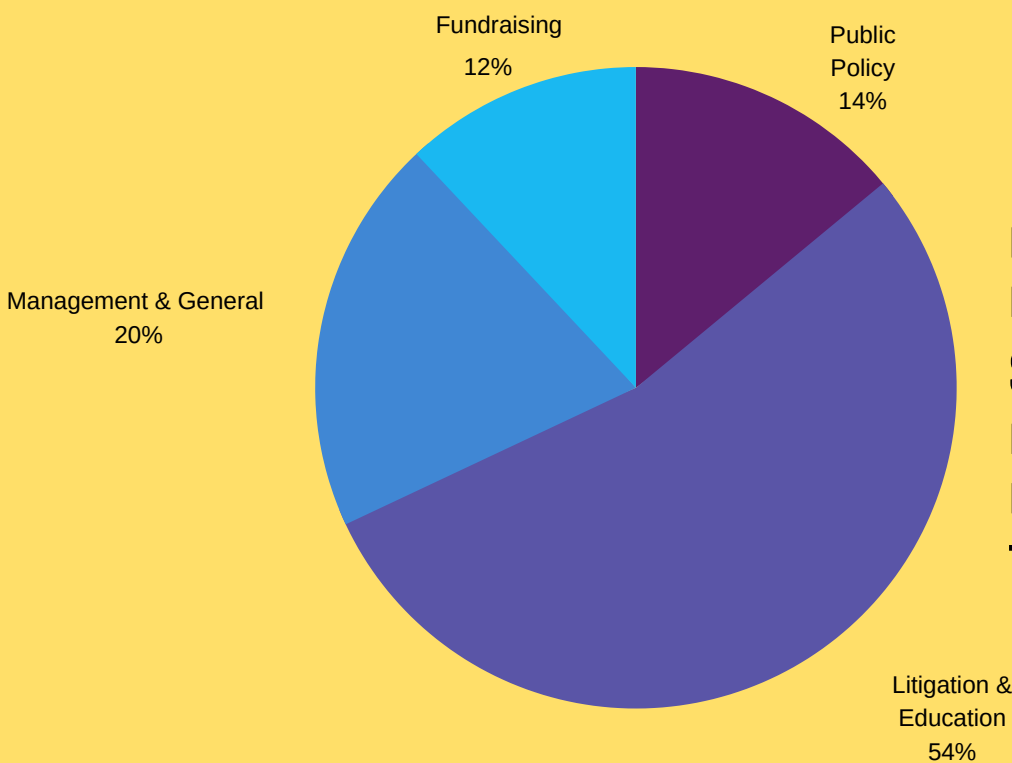
# FINANCIALS

## Support and Revenue



Grants & Contributions: \$1,180,635  
Membership Income: \$827,781  
Awarded & Donated Legal Fees: \$555,843  
Special Event:  
Other Revenue- \$21,327  
**Total Support & Revenue- \$2,585,586**

## Expenses



**Program Services:**  
Public Policy: \$187,539  
Litigation & Education: \$712,261  
**Supporting Activities:**  
Management & General: \$260,311  
Fundraising: \$151,863  
**Total Expenses: \$1,311,974**

AUDITED COMBINED FINANCIALS FOR THE YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2019



# SUPPORT THE ACLU!

## HOW WILL YOU CHOOSE TO SUPPORT THE ACLU OF WISCONSIN?

- **Membership:** Strengthen our lobbying efforts and grassroots activity by becoming a member of the ACLU of Wisconsin! Paying annual dues of \$35 or more entitles you to a membership in the state and national ACLU.
- **Tax-deductible donations:** Your gift to the ACLU of Wisconsin Foundation is tax deductible to the extent allowed by law and supports litigation and civil rights education in Wisconsin and across the country. The ACLU receives no government funding and does not charge its clients for legal representation. Our work depends entirely on private donations and legal fees earned from successful cases.
- **Community Shares of Wisconsin & Community Shares of Greater Milwaukee:** These organizations raise funds for nonprofits through workplace giving campaigns in both private businesses, as well as the public sector through the Combined Campaign.
- **Bequests and planned gifts:** Naming the ACLU as a beneficiary of your will, life insurance policy or retirement fund is a simple and effective way to support the future of civil liberties.

**ACLU**  
**WI**

For more information on any of these ways to support the  
ACLU of Wisconsin, call the Donor Relations Office at  
(414) 272-4032, ext. 218, or check our website,  
[www.aclu-wi.org](http://www.aclu-wi.org).



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# AFFILIATE STAFF

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