



PHOTO CREDIT: GLENN RUSSELL



2020 IMPACT

ACLU
Vermont

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RACIAL JUSTICE AND POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

In the midst of nationwide protests against racial injustice and police violence, we released our 10-part action plan for transformative police reform. Additionally, we settled our racial profiling lawsuit against Bennington police, exposed abuses in St. Alban's PD, and supported countless Vermonters working to reimagine policing in their communities.

SMART JUSTICE

Backed by our sustained advocacy, Vermont adopted reforms to its punitive system of "community supervision"—ensuring that far fewer people are unnecessarily returned to prison—and will invest the savings in community-based supports, the most significant overhaul of Vermont's criminal legal system in at least a decade.

POLICE REFORM

Thanks to our advocacy and widespread public support, Vermont enacted the strictest police use of force policy in the country, a landmark victory that helps to ensure police use force only as a last resort.

RIGHTS OF INCARCERATED VERMONTERS

Our lawsuit against the Department of Corrections—on behalf of hundreds of incarcerated Vermonters denied lifesaving Hepatitis C treatment—is moving forward after we won class certification and defeated the state's attempts to dismiss and delay the case.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Demanded—and won—more testing in state prisons, as well as the safe release of more incarcerated Vermonters. Vermont's incarcerated population was reduced by hundreds of people within weeks, including a 50% cut in the women's prison population—proving our Smart Justice goals are within reach.

IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

Settled our lawsuit on behalf of Migrant Justice and its leaders after state DMV officials worked with federal agents to target activists in retaliation for constitutionally-protected activities—putting an end to DMV's long history of entanglement with federal immigration agencies and ensuring greater protections for Vermont's immigrant communities.

BORDER PATROL ACCOUNTABILITY

Won our campaign to persuade Greyhound and other carriers to bar U.S. Border Patrol agents from boarding buses to profile, question, and search passengers. Filed legal challenge to Border Patrol interior checkpoints in northern New England, and preparing to argue separate Vermont Supreme Court challenge to a Border Patrol "roving patrol" stop in Jay, Vermont.

PRIVACY

Helped pass the country's strongest statewide ban on police use of facial recognition software—part of our 10-part police reform plan—to protect Vermonters' privacy and liberties from this invasive and inaccurate technology.

OPEN GOVERNMENT

In support of VTDigger's request for public records from the EB-5 scandal, we joined the Vermont Journalism Trust in challenging the "open litigation" exemption under Vermont's public records law, part of our continuing effort to make government more transparent and accountable.

VOTING

In this critical election year, we successfully advocated for legislation to allow universal mail-in voting for all registered voters in Vermont and joined our national ACLU colleagues in fighting for free and fair elections.



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