



Oregon Legislative Session Report

January 21 — June 27, 2025

ACLU Oregon

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A Letter From Our Policy Director



The 2025 Oregon legislative session started on January 21, 2025, just one day after President Trump's second inauguration. Within the first week of his second presidency, Trump unleashed a chaotic horde of executive orders that attacked: immigrants and refugees, including the most basic of constitutional rights like birthright citizenship; pregnant and transgender people; environmental and climate justice; diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives; and much more.

From day one, Trump also issued executive orders related to the military and immigration. This foreshadowed his aggressive deployment of the National Guard and Marines on Los Angeles in June — the apparent purpose being to suppress Angelenos protesting against cruel, unjust, and chaotic ICE raids in their communities.

During these dangerous and tumultuous times for our state and country, the ACLU of Oregon policy team was ready to lead and act. We implemented the Firewall for Freedom strategy that we had started developing with ACLU National in spring 2024.

We were guided by our core values, not fear. Our legislative agenda was rooted in a vision of our state where all Oregonians — including our most vulnerable loved ones and neighbors — are afforded the basic rights to freedom, liberty, justice, and equality.

We fought hard for our state, and we had many victories. We stopped disgraceful attacks on transgender Oregonians. We successfully continued state support of legal representation for immigrants and refugees in deportation proceedings, as well as for refugee resettlement programs. Working in solidarity with young people, educators, and librarians, we protected students' freedom to read, learn, and see themselves and their peers in the books available in their school libraries. We stopped an expansion of Oregon's domestic terrorism bill and also stopped a warrantless drone surveillance bill.

These were not just policy wins; they were acts of community love and resistance. We acted in solidarity with directly-impacted individuals, coalition partners, legislative champions, and thousands of everyday Oregonians.

To each and every person who testified, organized, and raised your voice — thank you. YOU are the firewall for freedom. Because of you, Oregon continues to be a beacon of hope during these dark times. The threats are real. But so is our power. Truly, this is what democracy looks like, how we protect freedom, and how we make Oregon home for all.

With gratitude,
Jessica Maravilla
she/her/ella
ACLU of Oregon Policy Director



2025 Proactive Legislative Priorities



Senate Bill 1098: Freedom to Read

After the heartbreak of the 2024 legislative session ending early, which stopped our beloved Freedom to Read bill, we came back stronger this year and helped pass [Freedom to Read \(Senate Bill 1098\)](#).

As explained in this [one-pager](#), Freedom to Read protects students' rights to read and learn. It prevents book bans and other forms of censorship in Oregon public schools if the ban or censorship constitutes discrimination based on race, national origin, color, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, religion, physical or mental disability, military status, or marital or family status. The bill also requires there be a written explanation in book removal decisions, that challenges are only brought by those within the school district, and creates a librarian specialist support position in the Oregon Education Department.

This law is important because anti-democracy forces have weaponized book bans and censorship across the country. During the last three years, Oregon saw a sharp increase, often targeting materials by or about LGBTQ+ individuals, Black and Indigenous communities, and other people of color. According to the [2024 State Library of Oregon data](#), book challenges increased 44% from the previous year. Just this past December, [two books were removed by individuals with no children in the Grants Pass School District](#).



Thank you to our coalition partners at Penguin Random House for donating books to illustrate to lawmakers what type of content often gets challenged!



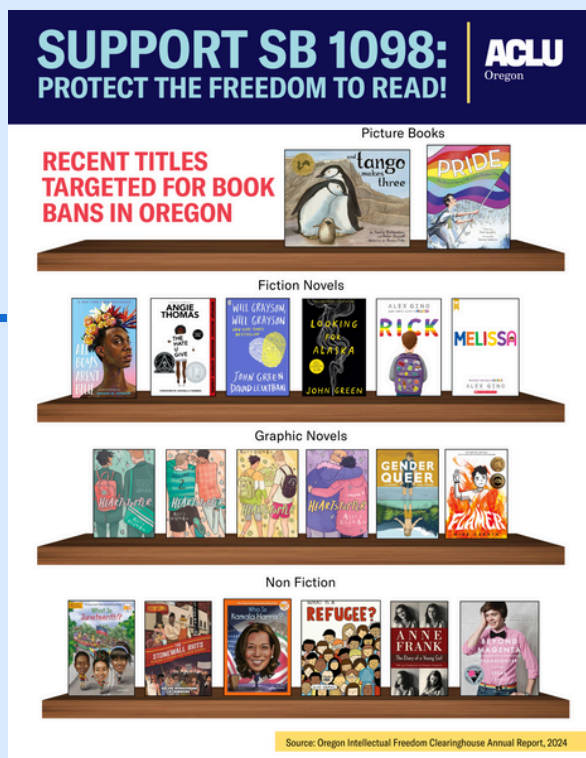
2025 Proactive Legislative Priorities



Senate Bill 1098: Freedom to Read — continued

On Freedom to Read, we built a strong coalition of students, educators, librarians, and organizational partners including: Oregon Library Association, Oregon Education Association, Basic Rights Oregon, Next Up, Unite Oregon, Oregon School Employees Association, Parents Defending Freedom, Penguin Random House, Authors Against Book Bans, and more. We partnered with Senator Lew Frederick (D–SD 22, N/NE Portland), the bill’s chief sponsor and a steadfast legislative leader. The bill had strong support from additional sponsors in both chambers. We recognize Rep. Travis Nelson (D–HD 44, N/NE Portland) who delivered powerful testimony and Rep. Zach Hudson (D–HD 49, Troutdale, Fairview, Wood Village, Northern Gresham, and part of East Portland) who hosted a “Banned Books Library” in his Capitol office to spotlight Oregon’s most frequently challenged books — highlighting what’s at stake for students and communities statewide.

Our community submitted 1,500+ testimonies and 4,500+ emails in support of SB 1098!
Thank you for helping to achieve this victory!



Thank you to Rep. Hudson for displaying a bookshelf of commonly banned books!

2025 Proactive Legislative Priorities — continued

Immigrant and Refugee Budget Requests

Senate Bill 149: Continued Funding for Immigrant and Refugee Services

While [SB 149](#) did not pass, we still secured \$2,000,000 in funding through [HB 5006](#) allowing immigrant and refugee resettlement organizations to continue their work despite harmful federal efforts to destroy such programs. This protects Oregon's ability to welcome and support immigrants and refugees with dignity, fairness, and community-rooted care.

House Bill 2543: Universal Legal Representation for Immigrants and Refugees

[HB 2543](#) was a major victory. Our full \$15 million funding request was secured in the state's budget, sustaining Oregon's [Universal Legal Representation program](#). Since 2022, this program has served over 12,000 people, supporting immigrant and refugee communities against cruel, unjust, and chaotic ICE actions through legal defense, asylum support, and family reunification services.

House Bill 3193: Farmworker Disaster Relief Fund

Although [HB 3193](#) which sought a permanent disaster relief fund did not pass, we secured a \$2 million investment for farmworker disaster relief through the state budget. This funding builds on Oregon's Climate Change Fund, which has assisted over 9,500 agricultural workers during emergencies related to extreme heat or smoke. These funds will help protect the health of essential, predominantly immigrant farmworkers, and thereby strengthen our state's largest industry: agriculture.



2025 Legislative Defense Priorities



Senate Bill 238A: Warrantless Drone Surveillance

Victory! We stopped [SB 238A](#) — the warrantless drones bill! As explained in this [one-pager](#), this bill was a dangerous threat to every Oregonian, especially at a time of federal aggression and fascist attempts to use federal and local law enforcement to target, harass, and imprison immigrants, other vulnerable communities, and people fighting for democracy.

This bill would have dangerously and unnecessarily expanded law enforcement’s authority to use drones for aerial surveillance without a warrant. Existing law already allows police to use drones without a warrant during active crimes or “exigent circumstances” where it would be impracticable to get a warrant. This means police can already freely use drones to de-escalate dangerous situations and protect officer and community safety.

Without explanation about why the changes were needed, this bill’s proponents pushed to allow police and sheriffs to use drones without a warrant in response to any 911 call or an undefined “public safety emergency.” With such vague language, drones could be used for surveillance at protests, to track immigrants, and for many more anti-democratic purposes. Indeed, this June, there were reports that [federal law enforcement used drones capable of surveillance during Los Angeles protests](#). The bill also lacked necessary standards for data retention, security, and public transparency.

ACT NOW:
**Protect basic
privacy rights of
all Oregonians!**



ACLU
OR

ACT NOW:

**Stop Oregon
from becoming
a surveillance
state!**

2025 Legislative Defense Priorities



SB 238A: Warrantless Drone Surveillance — continued

This bill's major proponent was the [Law Enforcement Drone Association](#), a national corporate lobbying organization based in Eugene that is sponsored by police tech companies like [Flock](#). SB 238A's apparent ties to Flock are very concerning. Flock is a company that is creating a nationwide surveillance network of security cameras and drones. Recently, there were reports that a [Texas cop used data from more than 83,000 Flock cameras](#) across the country to track a woman who had an abortion and that [ICE accessed data from more than 5,000 Flock cameras through Illinois cops](#). Corporate police tech companies growing richer off taxpayer dollars **should not** influence state law changes that benefit them and harm everyday Oregonians and our democracy.

Our community helped stop the warrantless drone bill through multiple battles this session. **You sent 1,000+ testimonies and 14,000+ emails against SB 238A!** You helped the Legislature understand the seriousness of the threat posed by unchecked police surveillance technologies.

We are grateful to our coalition partners including: Unite Oregon, Oregon Justice Resource Center, Centro Cultural, Oregon Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, 350PDX, Don't Shoot PDX, Latino Network, Urban League of Portland, Breach Collective, and Latino Policy Council.

We are also deeply thankful to the state lawmakers who stood with us to protect civil liberties and reject warrantless surveillance, including Rep. Thuy Tran (D–HD 45), Rep. Willy Chotzen (D–HD 46), Rep. Farrah Chaichi (D–HD 35), and Rep. Tom Andersen (D–HD 19). At the local level, Portland City Council Vice President Tiffany Koyama Lane (D3), Portland City Councilor Sameer Kanal (D2), Portland City Councilor Angelita Morillo (D3), Beaverton City Councilor Nadia Hasan (Position 6), and Beaverton School Board Member Tammy Carpenter (Zone 7) publicly amplified the dangers of SB 238A and helped defend our collective rights.



Thank you to local leaders, community partners, and activists who spoke at our press conference!

2025 Legislative Defense Priorities — continued

House Bill 2851: Expansion of Oregon's Domestic Terrorism Law

Victory! We stopped [HB 2851](#), which sought to expand [HB 2772](#), a state-level domestic terrorism law passed in 2023 that created a new and stigmatizing “domestic terrorism” label for an expansive list of state crimes that were already illegal. We fought hard against these bills because domestic terrorism laws have been used unfairly to attack Muslim Americans, racial justice and environmental activists, and protestors such as Mahmoud Khalil, among others.

The rapid response of our community through testimony and outreach to lawmakers helped stop HB 2851 in the House Judiciary Committee. This was a critical win because [state-level terrorism laws are being increasingly weaponized to weaken our basic constitutional rights](#).

Solidarity With Immigrant and Refugee Oregonians

Oregon has the strongest statewide immigration sanctuary laws in the nation, first adopted in 1987 and strengthened in 2021, and we ensured these laws were not weakened. Our sanctuary laws limit state and local resources, including police and sheriffs, from being used to aid federal immigration enforcement. Although under Trump's directions, ICE increased detentions across the country, our sanctuary laws along with state programs like [Universal Legal Representation](#) are helping mitigate the cruel and unfair tactics of ICE on people and families in our state.

We are continuing to work closely with partners to identify and address potential violations and develop solutions to strengthen our sanctuary laws. As well, we are a steering committee member of the [Oregon for All](#) immigrant and refugee rights coalition, have developed robust [Know Your Rights](#) training materials to protect immigrant rights, and work closely with partners like [Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition \(PIRC\)](#) and [Asylum Seekers Solidarity Collective](#) on coordinated rapid response efforts to ICE attacks on Oregonians.

Who is PIRC?

We support immigrant rights through direct assistance, education, legal support, advocacy, and community organizing. Since 2005, the Portland Immigrant Rights Coalition (PIRC) has been on the front lines, defending the rights of immigrants in our community. Since 2005, PIRC has demonstrated its ability to mobilize large numbers of people, provide crucial services during critical moments (like ICE raids), and adapt its structure to meet evolving needs.

HOTLINE:

If you know anyone who has been detained by ICE, you think you see ICE, or you need immigration resources, call the PIRC hotline - 1-888-622-1510. The hotline is generally answered every day between 7am and 8pm.

1-888-622-1510



You can support impacted community members by volunteering with PIRC.

Sign up at www.pircoregon.org/get-involved/

2025 Legislative Defense Priorities — continued

Solidarity with LGBTQ+ Oregonians

Similar to national trends, multiple anti-trans bills were introduced by ultra-conservative Oregon state legislators.

The bills sought to weaken the basic rights of trans people, including the right to make one's private healthcare choices and equal ability to participate in school sports. With our partners, we ensured that none of these bills saw the light of day.

As well, we are leading the [Equal Rights for All](#) ballot measure campaign, the purpose of which is to affirm freedom, equality, and personal autonomy — including abortion and reproductive health rights, trans rights and related healthcare decisions, and same-gender marriage rights — in the Oregon State Constitution.

Please [join us](#) in this campaign!

EQUAL

RIGHTS FOR ALL



Sign up to volunteer with us at www.equalrightsoregon.com/!



Community Engagement and Advocacy

At the ACLU of Oregon, our mission is to “take action together to protect and advance our civil liberties and civil rights for a more just, equitable, and caring democracy in Oregon.” We do this by acting together as a community.

Our victories this legislative session were possible because you made our collective voice heard and power felt!

Over 7,400 ACLU of Oregon community members sent more than 22,200 emails to Oregon lawmakers.

Over 1,500 people submitted written testimony in support of SB 1098 — Freedom to Read, and over 1,000 people submitted written testimony opposing SB 238 — the warrantless drone bill.

Our community and partners testified at legislative hearings and press conferences. Local school board members and city councilors, parents, retired healthcare providers, attorneys, and everyday Oregonians spoke at three legislative hearings, as well as at three town halls with Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield. ACLU of Oregon supporters in Bend also joined an additional town hall with state lawmakers to push back on drone surveillance!

From February through June, more than 600 people signed up to volunteer with the ACLU of Oregon, with many expressing interest in supporting our policy team’s work!



Looking Ahead

Continuing the budget conversation, surveillance, and privacy

Federal Reconciliation Budget Bill:

Congressional Republicans are continuing to advance the Reconciliation Bill, the so-called One Big, Beautiful Bill, that attacks our democracy, civil liberties, and civil rights. As of June 27, 2025, the bill proposes cutting Medicaid by at least \$600 billion; contains provisions requiring states to turn their backs on vulnerable communities including immigrants and trans people in exchange for federal funding; and includes \$100+ billion for federal law enforcement so they can further escalate their harassment and imprisonment of immigrants and refugees, make private prison executives richer off our tax dollars, and continue eroding due process. It also contains provisions barring states from regulating artificial intelligence, even though this technology poses serious questions in critical areas including privacy rights, worker's rights, and environmental impacts. We will continue working with ACLU National, as well as partners and supporters across our state, to push back on the Reconciliation Bill, and if it is passed, we will work on solutions to mitigate its harmful impacts on Oregonians.



Warrantless Drone Bill:

At the state level, we anticipate that proponents of warrantless drone surveillance, led by police tech corporations and their lobbyists, will try to bring this legislation back during 2026. We will continue educating and organizing our community and engaging lawmakers to ensure that Oregon upholds the rights to privacy, protest, and community safety.

Protect Oregon Now:

This legislative session, we joined over 40 organizations under the Protect Oregon Now banner to call for a just and resilient state budget. Our state's budget is a values document, one that should reflect Oregon's commitment to justice, equity, and community well-being. While lawmakers made some progress in incorporating these values into the state budget, too many essential services were cut and untapped resources were left on the table. Looking ahead, we will continue to push for bold action — for our state to invest in programs that help all Oregonians thrive.

Legislator Spotlight

Representative Willy Chotzen (D — HD 46, SE Portland)



Representative Willy Chotzen stood up for civil rights and civil liberties throughout this session. He championed [HB 2008](#), which strengthens Oregon's consumer data privacy laws by limiting the collection of data from minors under 16 years of age and prohibiting the sale of people's precise geolocation data. A former public defender, Rep. Chotzen channeled his experience into leadership on criminal system reform, including simplifying the process to [erase](#) certain juvenile court records to give young Oregonians a second chance, as well as on surveillance issues and [strengthening local democracy](#).

Representative Cyrus Javadi (R — HD 32, North Coast)

Representative Cyrus Javadi supported the Freedom to Read bill by sharing the story of his son, who grew up in rural Oregon and who read books to help him understand his identity as a young gay man. The Representative illustrated the importance of our young people having access to books of diverse authors, viewpoints, and content and seeing themselves in the books available to them. Thank you Representative Javadi for protecting the freedom to read and learn for Oregon students.



Representative Thuy Tran (D — District 45, NE and SE Portland)



Representative Thuy Tran brings her experiences as a doctor, mom, small business owner, immigrant, and Lieutenant Colonel in the National Guard into her legislative service. Rep. Tran co-sponsored HB2543 to continue funding for our statewide universal legal representation for immigrants and refugees in deportation proceedings, and she helped defend Oregon's vital immigrant sanctuary laws. The Representative also was a fierce advocate against warrantless drone surveillance and courageously spoke out against rising authoritarianism and fascism at the federal level. We recognize Rep. Tran for serving with principle, compassion, and bold resistance.

IN MEMORIAM — Senator Aaron Woods (D — SD 13, Wilsonville, King City, Sherwood, Tigard, and Metzger)

We remember Senator Aaron Woods who passed away in April. Sen. Woods will be remembered for his deep heart for public service, dedication to community, and bringing steadfast thoughtfulness, compassion, and integrity to his service as a state legislator.



Call to Action



Members, volunteers, and partners — we want to hear from YOU!

The ACLU of Oregon's heart and strength comes from our 47,000+ members and donors supporters statewide!

Our victories for everyday Oregonians is possible because you take action to hold elected officials accountable to defending our freedoms and values.

You can support the ACLU of Oregon in many ways — all are important:

Consider becoming a [member or donor supporter](#).

Sign up to become a [volunteer](#) with the ACLU of Oregon — whether with immigrant and refugee rights, abortion rights, LGBTQ+ rights, police accountability, our policy work, or more. Please sign up on our [general volunteer form](#).

Learn about, support, and volunteer with our [Equal Rights for All](#) ballot measure campaign, the purpose of which is to affirm freedom, equality, and personal autonomy — including abortion and reproductive health rights, trans rights and related healthcare decisions, and same-gender marriage — in the Oregon State Constitution. Please [join us](#) in this campaign!

Thank you for helping the ACLU of Oregon create an Oregon of greater justice, equity, and care!



PO BOX 40585
Portland, OR
97240
www.aclu-or.org
info@aclu-or.org

SCAN TO JOIN!

Or go to
<https://tinyurl.com/joinacluor>



Appendix



VISIT THIS SPREADSHEET

to check out bill information, testimonies, and other documents relevant to this report.