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**Subject:** Public Safety Reflection Guide

**Date:** Monday, November 20, 2023 at 12:00:39 PM Pacific Standard Time

**From:** Jackie Yerby, ACLU of Oregon

**To:** ACLU of Oregon

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ACLU Supporter –

Earlier this month, I traveled to Ohio with our Deputy Director, Yvonne Garcia, and ACLU colleagues from around the country to support the ACLU of Ohio in successfully passing a ballot measure that now enshrines abortion and reproductive rights in the Ohio Constitution. I was inspired by Ohioans' energy and commitment to respect people's rights to make their own health care decisions and protect access

to abortion in their state. I'm looking forward to working towards a similar victory in Oregon. We'll be sharing more on that in 2024.

When Yvonne and I canvassed in Cleveland, we knocked on hundreds of doors in Little Italy, Asia Town, and in a historically Black neighborhood, and we spoke to people with varying experiences and from different backgrounds. Some of these conversations were challenging. Many of these conversations reinforced the importance of connecting with people around shared values, even in moments of opposition.

As the year-end holidays approach, many of us will gather with family and friends. Amidst your celebrations, the issues of drug addiction and unsheltered homelessness may come up, as they are top of mind in Oregon and in many areas across the country. Here in Oregon, lack of access to addiction treatment and lack of affordable housing have led to very visible suffering on our streets and in our communities. It is heartbreaking and impossible to ignore.

To encourage leaning into these conversations, your ACLU of Oregon team and partners have created a [reflection guide](#) for you. This guide includes prompts to help you explore your hopes and vision for our communities, and if you'd like to invite loved ones to join you, we included ideas about how to encourage meaningful conversations instead of disagreements.

This guide is meant to be a starting point to facilitate reflection and connecting around shared values. This is not a manual for debate or fact-checking.

If you engage in these conversations, we hope that you name what you're seeing and experiencing, and instead of debating, share what you envision for our communities. We hope that in these conversations, you find common ground and shared values. Also, please set boundaries, listen to your body, and care for your well-being during these conversations, which can, at times, feel difficult, intense, and emotional.

If you are interested in getting more information about these issues and real solutions, please check out our webpage, [Solutions for Safe and Just Communities](#).

Thank you for your ongoing support of our work and commitment to creating an Oregon that is just, equitable, and caring – where all our communities are safe and

thrive.

I hope you have many moments of gratitude and joy with your loved ones this season.

In solidarity,

**Jackie Yerby**

**Pronouns: She, her, hers**

**Community Engagement Director, ACLU of Oregon**

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