

# ACLU Montana

## SUMMER 2024



### IN THIS ISSUE

- [A Letter from the Executive Director](#)
- [Election 2024](#)
- [Indigenous Voting Rights](#)
- [Ways to Get Involved](#)

## STAFF

### Akilah Maya Deernose

Executive Director

### Michelle Cares

Director of Finance & People Operations

### Khadjia Davis

Political Strategist

### Luis Islas

Director of Philanthropy

### Sharen Kickingwoman

Advocacy, Policy, & Organizing Director

### Caelin Marum

Legal Intern

### Krystel Pickens

Paralegal

### Alex Rate

Interim Deputy Director and Legal Director

### Henry Seaton

Lobbyist

### Julie Simmons

Finance Manager

### William Schenck

Donor Engagement Manager

### Marthe VanSickle

Staff Attorney

## BOARD

### Paul McKean, Billings

President

### Zeke Campfield, Missoula

Vice President

### Heather Corson, Billings

Treasurer

### Dennis Taylor, Helena

Secretary

### Cheryl Horn, Harlem

Affiliate Equity Officer

### Alice Boyer, Missoula

Affiliate National Board Representative

### Amber Ellison, Missoula

Law School Representative

### Vickie Christie, Missoula

### Linda Gryczan, Helena

### Bradley HoneyQuill, Bozeman

### Mark Lauburg, Helena

### Anthony Shields, Poplar

### Clark Stirgus, Billings

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## A Letter from the Executive Director 04

## Election 2024 06

## Indigenous Voting Rights in Montana Documentary 08

## VICTORY! Montana Supreme Court Strikes Down Voting Laws Intended to Disenfranchise Indigenous Voters 10

## ACLU of Montana Frequently Asked Questions 12

## Ways to Get Involved 15

## New Staff Highlight 17

## 2024 Rankin Awards 18

## 6 Month Calendar (June-November 2024) 20

## Support Our Work 23

# STAY UP-TO-DATE

Sign up for our emails at [aclumontana.org](https://aclumontana.org)

and follow us on these platforms:

 @aclumontana

 @aclu\_montana

 @aclumt

Cover photo: Little Shell Chippewa Pow Wow in Great Falls, Montana

# A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

*Hello ACLU Friends and Supporters,*

This year, as an election year, holds great opportunity for us to make critical choices about Montana's future. We can choose to be a state where every vote counts. We can choose to be a state where everyone has access to the essential healthcare their healthcare providers deem appropriate. We can choose to be a state where everyone has a bed at night and access to the services they need. We can choose to be a state where transgender individuals are safe and supported. On the other hand, if we choose to not exercise our decision-making power, then the fate of our democracy and the well-being of our communities hang in the balance.

**"We can choose to be a state where every vote counts."**

Across the country and in Montana, we've seen unrelenting efforts by extreme politicians to constrict individual rights and freedoms while discriminating against historically

marginalized groups, from attacks on reproductive freedoms, to mounting anti-trans legislation, to erecting racially discriminatory barriers to voting. With so many crucial civil rights and liberties issues on the line in the coming elections, it is not hyperbole to say that the very foundations of our democracy are at stake. Yet, there is a simple solution to ensure that our democracy survives and that we enjoy a more just and equitable tomorrow: we can choose to vote. Vote informed, vote in elections at every level of government, and get your friends, family, and communities to vote too.

On the following pages, you will learn more about ACLU Montana's efforts to participate in the political process in new and robust ways, from expanding our Advocacy, Policy, and Organizing department to engaging in securing the passage of a ballot initiative to explicitly enshrine the right to abortion in Montana's constitution. You will meet our newest team member, Khadija Davis, a passionate advocate for empowering marginalized communities, who will be leading community engagement efforts as our first ever Political Strategist. And you will find answers to some frequently asked questions, as well as a calendar of notable dates and



*Advocacy Policy and Organizing Director Sharen Kickingwoman (Left) and Executive Director Akilah Deernose (Right) celebrate the launch of the Montanans Securing Reproductive Rights campaign in Helena, Montana.*

upcoming events.

At ACLU Montana, we remain steadfast in our commitment to defending and preserving the civil rights of all Montanans and doing so in a bold and lasting way. Together, we have the power to not only stop further erasure of civil rights, but to advance those rights in alignment with our shared vision of a more just and equitable Montana. Will you join us?

*In Solidarity and  
Enduring Hope,*

**Akilah Deernose**  
Executive Director

**"At ACLU Montana, we remain steadfast in our commitment to defending and preserving the civil rights of all Montanans and doing so in a bold and lasting way."**

# ELECTION 2024

## VOTE LIKE YOUR RIGHTS DEPEND ON IT!

### PAID FOR BY THE ACLU OF MONTANA

Alex Rate, Treasurer

P.O. Box 1968, Missoula, MT 59806

*Curious about this notice? Turn to What is the difference between the ACLU of Montana Foundation and the ACLU of Montana Union? on page 15 for more information.*

Montana has catapulted into the national landscape as a key battleground state for many races and issues in the upcoming 2024 election. Over the next few months, our airwaves and ecosystems will be inundated with campaign ads, some more truthful than others, but one constant theme should ring true: on Tuesday, November 5, Montanans have the opportunity to forge a more fair and equitable future that protects, honors, and promotes civil liberties.

From local school boards all the way to the Montana Supreme Court, from legislative races to a ballot initiative that would affirm reproductive freedom, and from federal congressional races to the

**Our goal is to  
protect the rights  
of all Montanans**



presidency—Montanans will have a vital opportunity to make their voices heard this November. With so much at stake, the ACLU of Montana is making unprecedented investments to ensure that voters understand where candidates stand on the issues they value. Our goal is to protect the rights of all Montanans, including the right to vote, access life-saving healthcare, and to simply exist.

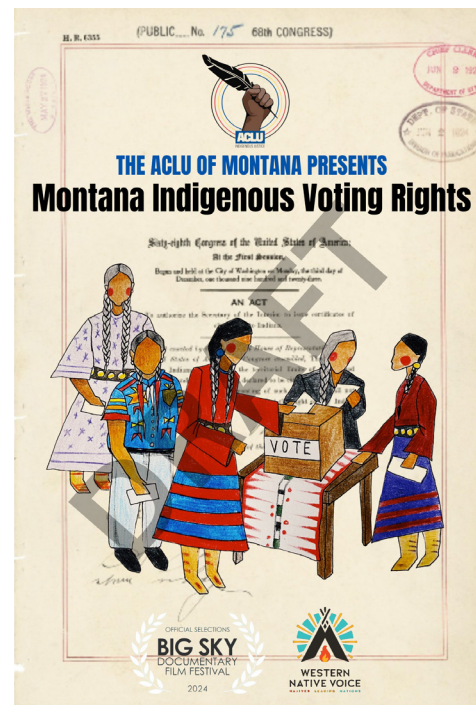
To reinforce our commitment to expanding civil rights for all, we've recently restructured our advocacy work to be involved in every avenue of the political arena, from advocating at the legislature to organizing in communities, and from providing voter education materials to fighting for free and fair elections. Accordingly, we have prioritized our staffing to reflect the necessity of being an electoral player, including adding entirely new positions. With this restructuring, we are prioritizing educating voters on where candidates stand on critical civil rights issues in key legislative

districts and in the Montana Supreme Court races during this electoral cycle. Additionally, as a founding member of Montanans Securing Reproductive Freedom (MSRR), the ACLU of Montana is working to permanently enshrine the right to reproductive healthcare - including abortion - in the Montana Constitution. Visit [mtreproprights.org](http://mtreproprights.org) to learn more about MSRR and get involved.

Innumerable civil rights issues are hanging in the balance, and we cannot count on extremist politicians to protect our rights. These issues include, among others, the Montana Indian Child Welfare Act (MICWA), protecting trans Montanans, and fighting back against attacks on our democracy. Follow us on social media or join our mailing list at [www.aclumontana.org](http://www.aclumontana.org) to stay in the loop.

We also know that, unfortunately, barriers exist for many Montanans to have their voices heard, which is why we will never stop fighting to protect the right to vote. In March we won a landmark victory in *Western Native Voice v. Jacobsen*, a case in which the Montana Supreme Court not only struck down repeated attempts by politicians to disenfranchise Indigenous voters, but reaffirmed the unique and enduring constitutional protections afforded to Montana voters. Learn more about that case on page 10.

And just as we defend the Native vote, we also are doing everything we can to promote it. This election season, we will have a Native Vote Organizer dedicated to getting out



*The Montana Indigenous voting Rights minidocumentary poster features the artwork of Blackfeet-Pend d'Oreille artist Alishon Kelly. The film highlights the Western Native Voice v. Jacobsen case.*

the vote in Indian Country. You can find us screening our Indigenous Voting Rights short documentary, educating the public on civil rights issues, tabling at events, and building people power all across Montana. Check out the calendar on page 20 for some upcoming events we're excited about. We hope to see you there!

Election day somehow feels very far away and also just around the corner. But together, we can build a freer future for Montana on November 5, 2024, and every day after.

# BIG SKY DOCUMENTARY FILM FESTIVAL PREMIERES INDIGENOUS VOTING RIGHTS IN MONTANA DOCUMENTARY

Indigenous voting rights took center stage during the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in May. The ACLU of Montana's mini-documentary, *Indigenous Voting Rights in Montana*, was selected to make its premiere during a two-night showing. The film was included in a lineup alongside films on civic engagement as well as films on Indigenous issues.

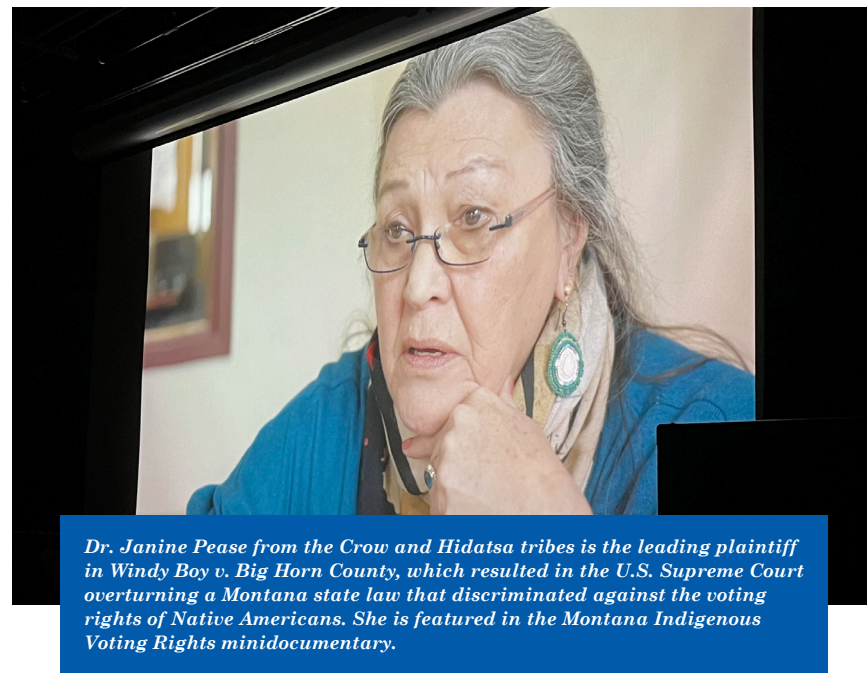
*Indigenous Voting Rights in Montana* focuses on the case *Western Native Voice et al. v. Jacobsen et al.*, which successfully challenged two state laws that disproportionately threatened voting access for Native Americans living

on reservations. HB 176 would have ended Election Day registration and HB 530 would have made it difficult for organizations to provide paid third-party ballot collection services. **Learn more about the Western Native Voice decision on page 10.**

Blackfeet filmmakers, Ivan and Ivy MacDonald filmed ballot collectors from Western Native Voice who travel across rural reservations in harsh weather conditions to register voters and collect ballots. The documentary illustrates just how critical those services are to ensure that Native Americans living on rural reservations are able to



*The ACLU of Montana's documentary, **Indigenous Voting Rights in Montana**, premieres at the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival in Missoula.*



*Dr. Janine Pease from the Crow and Hidatsa tribes is the leading plaintiff in *Windy Boy v. Big Horn County*, which resulted in the U.S. Supreme Court overturning a Montana state law that discriminated against the voting rights of Native Americans. She is featured in the Montana Indigenous Voting Rights minidocumentary.*

exercise their right to vote.

On behalf of Western Native Voice, Montana Native Vote, the Blackfeet Nation, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation, Fort Belknap Indian Community, and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe, the Native American Rights Fund (NARF), the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), the ACLU of Montana, and the Election Law Clinic at Harvard Law School filed the lawsuit challenging the two discriminatory voting laws in Montana and won!

The film was produced by the ACLU of Montana in collaboration with Western Native Voice and will be available to the public. More information to come!

**Western Native Voice et al. v. Jacobsen et al., successfully challenged two state laws that disproportionately threatened voting access for Native Americans living on reservations.**

# VICTORY!

## MONTANA SUPREME COURT STRIKES DOWN VOTING LAWS

INTENDED TO DISENFRANCHISE INDIGENOUS VOTERS

On March 27, 2024, The Montana Supreme Court issued a landmark decision in favor of a coalition of Indigenous organizations and tribes, holding that two state laws hinder Indigenous participation in the state's electoral process and violate the fundamental right to vote under the Montana Constitution. The case, *Western Native Voice et al. v. Jacobsen et al.*, was consolidated with a challenge brought by the Montana Democratic Party and various youth voting organizations.

One law, HB 176, would have ended Election Day registration; the other, HB 530, aimed to prohibit paid third-party ballot assistance.

Indigenous voters living on reservations disproportionately rely upon both Election Day registration and ballot assistance - or the reliance on third parties to deliver voted ballots to an elections office - to cast votes in Montana.

The Montana Supreme Court found that both HB 176 and HB 530 disproportionately and unconstitutionally burdened the voting rights of Indigenous people, in part because it is "much more difficult on average for people living on reservations to either get to a polling place on or before election day or to mail an absentee ballot prior to election day."



*Advocates question a witness during the Western Native Voice trial.*

While this is a victory worth celebrating, **our work is far from done.**

While this is a victory worth celebrating, our work is far from done. The ACLU of Montana will never stop fighting to protect the voting rights of all Montanans, and in particular, Indigenous people who have historically faced unique barriers to the ballot box. We were honored to represent these tribal nations and Indigenous voting organizations alongside the Native American Rights Fund, ACLU-National, and the Harvard Elections Clinic.

**For more information on our IJ work, visit:**  
[ACLUMONTANA.ORG/EN/ISSUES/INDIGENOUS-JUSTICE](https://aclumontana.org/en/issues/indigenous-justice)

**TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR WORK ON VOTING RIGHTS, VISIT**  
[ACLUMONTANA.ORG/EN/ISSUES/VOTING-RIGHTS](https://aclumontana.org/en/issues/voting-rights)



*The ACLU of Montana was honored to represent Western Native Voice, an Indigenous voting rights organization that organizes voters across the State.*



# ACLU OF MONTANA FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## WHAT IS THE ACLU?

For nearly 100 years, the ACLU has been our nation's guardian of liberty, working in courts, legislatures, and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and the laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.

## WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ACLU AND THE ACLU OF MONTANA?

The ACLU, founded in 1920, is a nationwide organization with headquarters in New York, a legislative office in Washington DC, and affiliate offices in every state.

The ACLU of Montana, founded in 1972, is an affiliate of the national ACLU. We work in the courts, the Montana legislature, and communities across the state to protect and extend civil rights for all Montanans..

## HOW DOES THE ACLU OF MONTANA APPROACH ITS WORK?

The ACLU of Montana envisions a fair, equitable, and free Montana that welcomes and celebrates diversity of all kinds. In our Montana, everybody is treated with dignity and respect, and has equal access to rights and freedoms. We work to hold the government accountable to all who live in Montana, with a particular focus on those who have been historically (or continue to be) disenfranchised, including Indigenous people and people of color, immigrants, 2S-LGBTQIA+ individuals and families, people living in poverty, and those with disabilities.

Our top priorities are to reform the criminal legal system and uphold Indigenous justice. We also work to protect immigrant rights, safeguard reproductive freedom, protect and celebrates 2S-LGBTQIA+ people and their families, ensure voting rights, protect free speech, and more.

## OKAY, BUT WHAT DOES ALL THAT REALLY MEAN?

It means that our state has an obligation to Indigenous communities, and we're holding Montana accountable. **See piece on Western Native Voice on page 8 for more.**

It means transgender and non-binary Montanans have a right to live free from legislative attacks, and we're fighting back. Visit [ACLU.ORG/CASES/KALARCHIK-V-MONTANA](https://aclu.org/cases/kalarchik-v-montana) for information on a case involving trans rights that is currently working its way through the courts.

It means Montanans will always have a right to an abortion, and we're working to put that into the state constitution. Visit [MTREPRORIGHTS.ORG](https://mtreproprights.org) to learn more and get involved.

And it means so much more. It means that, with and for communities across Montana, we are fighting to make our vision of a free and fair Montana into a reality.

## HOW DOES THE ACLU OF MONTANA DECIDE WHAT ISSUES TO TAKE ON?

The ACLU of Montana is an integrated advocacy civil rights organization, which means we work in the courts and in political spaces to advocate for the protection and expansion of civil rights. We use our strategic priority issues to guide both our case selection and legislative policy and other political advocacy work as well as taking into account how we can have the great impact to effect long-lasting change in Montana. We engage in what's called strategic ("impact") litigation to challenge unconstitutional laws and state policies in the courts, so that laws that hinder the rights of many people, especially historically marginalized people, do not stay in effect. One example of this type of work is the Western Native Voice case discussed on **page 10**.



*ACLU Montana and Native American Rights Fund (NARF) attorneys and staff with our client, Shauna Yellow Kidney.*

You can find more examples of our casework online at [ACLUMONTANA.ORG/EN/CASES](https://aclumontana.org/en/cases) including:

- *Yellow Kidney, et al. v. Montana Office of Public Instruction, et al.*, challenging the state of Montana's failure to fulfill its constitutional mandate to teach public school students the history and culture of the first peoples of Montana in consultation with local tribes;
- *Van Garderen et al v. State of Montana*, challenging a 2023 Montana law that bans gender-affirming care for trans youth; and
- *All Families Healthcare et al. v. Charlie Brereton*, challenging a Montana statute that unfairly targets abortion clinics with onerous regulatory requirements.

The ACLU of Montana is not a direct service provider or a legal services organization, which means we cannot take on every case we learn about, and we often cannot provide legal advice, legal aid, or other direct services. For those types of resources and services, we encourage people to visit [MONTANABAR.ORG/FOR-THE-PUBLIC/LEGAL-RESOURCES-FAQS](https://MONTANABAR.ORG/FOR-THE-PUBLIC/LEGAL-RESOURCES-FAQS)

Outside of the courts, we work with partner organizations and community members to advocate for laws and public policies that align with our mission and vision, which you can find on our website at [ACLUMONTANA.ORG/EN/ABOUT/MISSION](https://aclumontana.org/en/about/mission).

**The ACLU of Montana envisions a fair, equitable, and free Montana that welcomes and celebrates diversity of all kinds. In our Montana, everybody is treated with dignity and respect, and has equal access to rights and freedoms.**

## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

At the ACLU of Montana, we recognize the power of individuals coming together to drive meaningful progress. Positive change is not only possible but achievable through collective action. Your passion, commitment, and energy are invaluable in our quest to create a Montana that welcomes and celebrates diversity of all kinds; a Montana that is fair, equitable, and free.

Here are several ways you can get involved and make a difference:

**VOTE!** Voting is a fundamental right and remains a powerful tool for shaping the future, both in Montana and across the United States. Make your voice heard by registering to vote and participating in local, state, and national elections. Research candidates' positions on civil rights issues and support those who align with our shared values of equality, justice, and human rights. Encourage others in your community to register and vote, and offer assistance to those who may face barriers to

**We recognize the power of individuals coming together to drive meaningful progress**



casting their ballot. Additionally, stay informed about ballot initiatives and advocacy campaigns that impact civil rights and social justice. Your vote is not only a privilege but also a responsibility—an opportunity to advance the cause of equality and create a more inclusive society for all. To learn more, check out our section on the 2024 election on page 6 and visit [APP.MT.GOV/VOTERINFO](https://APP.MT.GOV/VOTERINFO) to see if you are registered to vote, what your voting address is, where your polling place is, and if you are registered to vote by mail!

**JOIN MONTANANS SECURING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS (MSRR)**, a citizen-led initiative working to secure reproductive rights, including the right to an abortion, for Montanans in our state constitution. Join the ACLU of Montana, Planned Parenthood Advocates of Montana, Forward Montana, the Fairness Project, and supporters from across the state in voting YES on Constitutional Initiative 128 (CI-128) in November and keep the government out of our personal lives. This is an exciting opportunity to protect our rights for generations to come. Now is the time to ensure power remains in the hands of the people of Montana, so everyone has the freedom to prevent, continue, or end a pregnancy should they choose. Visit [MTREPRORIGHTS.ORG](https://MTREPRORIGHTS.ORG) to learn more and get involved.



**SOCIAL MEDIA ENGAGEMENT:** Social media platforms offer powerful tools for raising awareness, mobilizing support, and amplifying our message. Follow our organization on platforms like Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram to stay updated on our latest news, events, and campaigns. Share our posts, videos, and infographics with your networks to spark conversations and inspire action. Additionally, consider joining our online communities and participating in discussions to connect with fellow advocates and exchange ideas. By harnessing the reach and influence of social media, we can reach new audiences, foster dialogue, and catalyze positive change. Connect with all of the ACLU of Montana's social media pages at

 @ACLUMONTANA

 @ACLU\_MONTANA

 @ACLUMT

**PHILANTHROPY:** Financial support is vital for sustaining our organization and expanding our impact. Whether through individual gifts, planned gifts, corporate sponsorships, fundraising events, or online fundraising campaigns, your contributions enable us to continue our advocacy work, provide essential services, and reach more individuals in need. Additionally, we would love to hear about your creative fundraising ideas, such as organizing benefit concerts, charity auctions, connecting us with potential supporters, or online crowdfunding campaigns, to mobilize support and raise awareness for the ACLU of Montana.

TO SHARE YOUR IDEAS, OR TO GET MORE INVOLVED, VISIT  
[ACLUMONTANA.ORG/EN/DONATE](https://ACLUMONTANA.ORG/EN/DONATE)

## NEW STAFF HIGHLIGHT

**Khadija Davis**  
Political Strategist

Meet Khadija Davis, the newest addition to the ACLU of Montana team, bringing with her a powerful blend of passion, experience, and a commitment to justice and racial equity. Raised by a single mother in the heart of Missoula, Montana, Khadija's upbringing shaped her into a fierce advocate for equity and equality. As a Black queer woman, she intimately understands the complex web of systemic oppression, not just in theory, but through lived experience.



Her journey into advocacy began early, driven by a desire to empower marginalized communities. After earning her degree in Central Southwest Asian Studies from the University of Montana, Khadija dove headfirst into service work with AmeriCorps in Boston, MA where she worked for a nonprofit working to advance K-12 educational justice for Boston's Black and Brown youth. In 2021, Khadija moved to Portland, OR to pursue a Master of Public Administration at Portland State University. During graduate school, Khadija was a graduate assistant for the Center for Women's Leadership where she worked as a program manager for an anti-racist and intersectional feminist leadership program for women and non-binary folks in Oregon. Being at the Center for Women's Leadership, Khadija fine-tuned her skills, practices, and frameworks around anti-oppression, intersectionality, and deep systems change processes.

Now, Khadija brings her wealth of experience and firm dedication to the ACLU of Montana. She sees the organization as a natural extension of her personal values, a platform to amplify the voices of the marginalized and fight for justice on all fronts. Beyond her work, Khadija finds solace in yoga, the serenity of gardening, and the joy of sharing laughter with friends. Join us in welcoming Khadija Davis, a force to be reckoned with in the pursuit of a fairer, more equitable world.

# THE 2024 RANKIN AWARDS

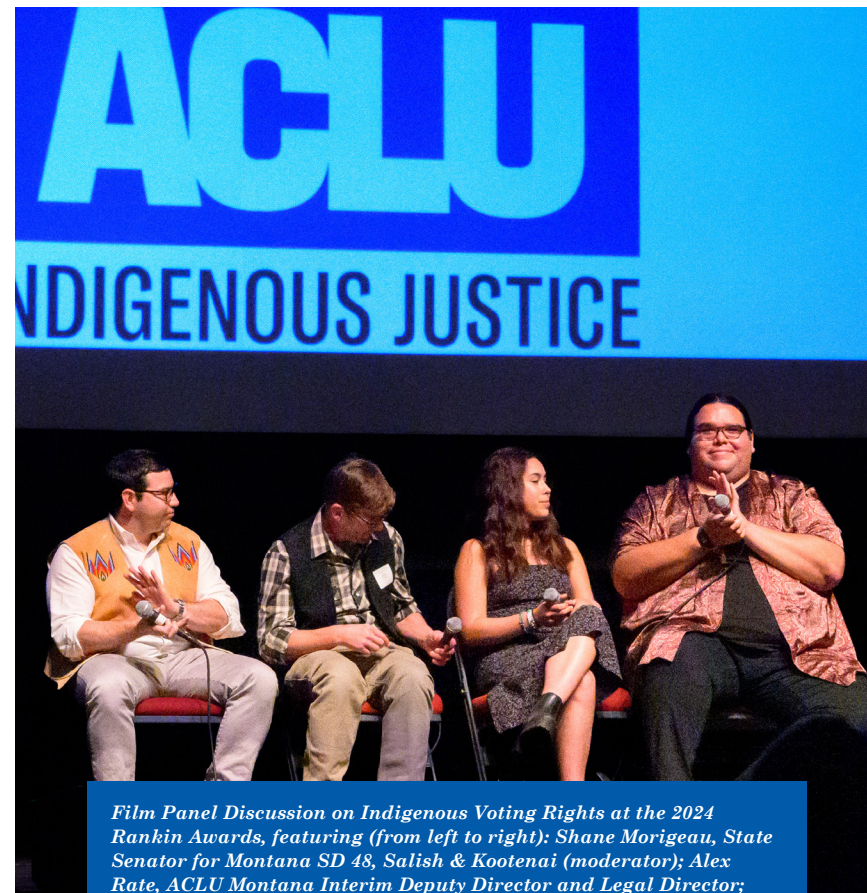


On June 2, the ACLU of Montana proudly presented the 2024 Jeannette Rankin Civil Liberties Award to the members of the Montana Legislature's 2023 American Indian Caucus. We are honored to celebrate the dedication of these Indigenous lawmakers who showcased their commitment to principled and

values-driven leadership during the 2023 Montana legislative session. The 2023 American Indian Caucus demonstrates the strength of character and commitment to principles exemplified by Jeannette Rankin—ACLU's first vice president in the 1920's—and embodied in ACLU's mission and vision. The Montana American Indian Caucus is made up of 11 Indigenous lawmakers who serve in Montana's state legislature. It is one of the legislature's few bipartisan caucuses, composed of four senators and seven representatives representing reservations and tribes all across Montana, including:

- Sen. Mike Fox, D-Hayden, Gro Ventre, Assiniboiné and Chippewa Cree, Hays
- Rep. Donavon Hawk, D-Butte, Crow and Lakota
- Rep. Rhonda Knudsen, R-Culbertson, Turtle Mountain Chippewa
- Sen. Shane Morigeau, D-Missoula, Salish and Kootenai
- Rep. Tyson Running Wolf, D-Browning, Blackfeet
- Sen. Jason Small, R-Busby, Northern Cheyenne
- Rep. Frank Smith, D-Poplar, Assiniboiné and Sioux
- Rep. Sharon Stewart Peregoy, D-Crow Agency, Crow
- Rep. Marvin Weatherwax Jr., D-Browning, Blackfeet
- Sen. Susan Webber, D-Browning, Blackfeet
- Rep. Jonathan Windy Boy, D-Box Elder, Chippewa Cree and Assiniboiné

In addition, the ACLU of Montana honored Lance FourStar for his invaluable contributions in his role as Director of Montana's American Indian Caucus.



*Film Panel Discussion on Indigenous Voting Rights at the 2024 Rankin Awards, featuring (from left to right): Shane Morigeau, State Senator for Montana SD 48, Salish & Kootenai (moderator); Alex Rate, ACLU Montana Interim Deputy Director and Legal Director; Cecelia Spencer, Indigenous youth advocate and student at Hellgate High School, Aaniiih (Gros Ventre) and Selis (Salish) Tribes on her mother's side and Klickitat on her father's side; and Ivan MacDonald, Emmy Award winning filmmaker, Blackfeet.*

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE  
2024 RANKIN AWARDS AT  
[ACLUMONTANA.ORG/EN/  
2024-RANKIN-AWARDS](https://aclumontana.org/en/2024-rankin-awards)

*Photos by: Erin LaMere*

# 6 MONTH CALENDAR

## JUNE - NOVEMBER 2024

### JUNE

June is **2SLGBTQIA+\* Pride Month**, which celebrates the diverse identities and contributions of the 2SLGBTQIA+ community throughout June.

**14**

ACLU of Montana Executive Director Akilah Deernose will be speaking at a Missoula Pride event taking place at 5:00 PM on the Missoula County Courthouse Steps, 200 W Broadway St

**19**

**Juneteenth** commemorates the emancipation of enslaved African Americans on June 19, 1865, and celebrates Black freedom and resilience.

**22**

Crow Native Days (Pow Wow) in Crow Agency

FIND PRIDE EVENTS  
ACROSS MONTANA AT  
[MONTANAPRIDE.ORG/](https://MONTANAPRIDE.ORG/)  
LOCAL-PRESS

*\*2SLGBTQ+ stands for Two Spirit, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans, Queer, and more.*



Photo by: Rebecca Stumpf

### JULY

July is **Disability Pride Month**, which uplifts the achievements and challenges of people with disabilities, promoting acceptance and accessibility throughout July.

**5-7**

Arlee Pow Wow in Arlee

**11-14**

North American Indian Days (Pow Wow) in Browning

### AUGUST

**06**

**Voting Rights Act of 1965** was signed on August 6, prohibiting racial discrimination in voting and enforcing the Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

**09**

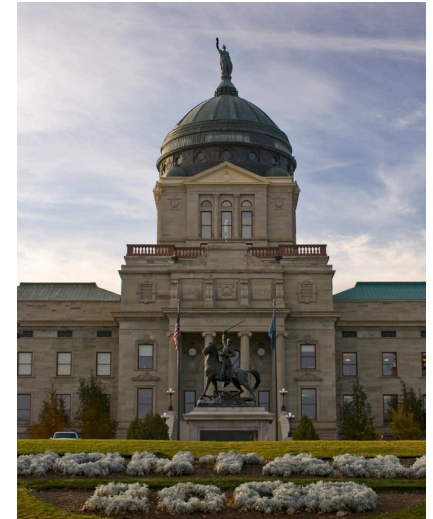
**International Day of the World's Indigenous People** recognizes the rights and cultures of indigenous peoples worldwide.

**15-18**

Montana Two-Spirit Gathering

**18-20**

Crow Fair (Pow Wow) - in Crow Agency



### SEPTEMBER

**05**

ACLU of Montana Supporter Bi-Annual Town Hall

**15**

**Hispanic Heritage Month** (September 15th – October 15th) celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of Hispanic and Latinx Americans.

**22-28**

**Banned Book Week** raises awareness about censorship and celebrates the freedom to read.

**30**

**Orange Shirt Day/National Day for Truth and Reconciliation** honors survivors and victims of residential schools—a system of institutions in Canada and the United States that were established with the primary objective of assimilating Indigenous children into white, Christian culture—promoting reconciliation and understanding.

## OCTOBER

11

**National Coming Out Day** encourages 2SLGBTQ+ individuals to embrace their authentic selves

14

**Indigenous Peoples' Day** acknowledges and celebrates the histories, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples in the Americas.



**Why Indigenous Peoples' Day? Honoring Indigenous Peoples' Day is an effort to tell the truth about our country's history. It's a day to celebrate Indigenous cultures and recognize the fights for justice and autonomy that Indigenous Americans still face.**

## NOVEMBER

November is **Native American and Indigenous Heritage Month**, which recognizes the rich and diverse cultures, histories, and contributions of Native American and Indigenous peoples.

5

**Election Day!** See page 6 for more about the ACLU of Montana's electoral work.

11

**Veterans Day**

# ACLU

AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION  
FOUNDATION

Montana

## SUPPORT OUR WORK!

Make a tax-deductible contribution to the ACLU of Montana Foundation today and protect the civil liberties of people across Montana and across the nation.

### DONATE ONLINE

If you'd like to make an online one-time tax-deductible donation by credit card (Visa, Mastercard, American Express, and Discover), you can simply go to [ACLUMONTANA.ORG/EN/DONATE](https://aclumontana.org/en/donate).

If you wish to donate and do not have an email address or do not wish to provide it, please donate by mail.

### DONATE BY MAIL

You can send checks via U.S. Mail to:

**ACLU of Montana**  
**PO Box 1968**  
**Missoula, MT 59806**

Please make checks payable to:  
**ACLU of Montana Foundation**

## DONOR ADVISED FUNDS

The ACLU Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization and, therefore, eligible to receive distributions from most Donor Advised Funds.

---

## DONATIONS OF STOCK

Because electronic transfers are made without identifying the donor, please alert us in advance about the stock and the number of shares you plan to give or instruct your broker to do so. You may do so by emailing our Director of Philanthropy, Luis Islas, at [ISLASL@ACLUMONTANA.ORG](mailto:ISLASL@ACLUMONTANA.ORG) or our Donor Engagement Manager William Schenck at [SCHENCKW@ACLUMONTANA.ORG](mailto:SCHENCKW@ACLUMONTANA.ORG) with the subject line “Stock Donation” or calling (406) 581-9120.

If you would like to make a gift of securities, instruct your broker to transfer stock to the ACLU Foundation of Montana through our broker, DA Davidson:

**DTC Number: 0361**

**Account Name: ACLU Foundation of Montana**

**Account Number: 11249080**

**Firm Name: DA Davidson**

---

## IRA CHARITABLE ROLLOVER

The IRA Charitable Rollover was made permanent for 2015 and beyond through a provision of the “Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes Act of 2015”.

This allows people age 70½ or older to make direct transfers up to \$100,000 per year to charitable organizations from their Individual Retirement Accounts, without the withdrawal being treated as taxable income.

- **From which accounts can I make transfers?** Transfers must come from your Individual Retirement Account(s) directly to

the ACLU of Montana Foundation. The Charitable Rollover does not apply to 401(k), 403(b), or other retirement plans.

- **To which organizations can I make gifts?** You may make gifts to tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organizations, including the ACLU of Montana Foundation.
- **How do I make an IRA Charitable Rollover?** Contact the financial institution that holds your IRA about how to instruct them to make a direct charitable transfer. You may instruct them to make a distribution to American Civil Liberties Union of Montana, PO Box 1968, Missoula, MT 59806 Tax ID 81-0445339. Please notify us if you would like a sample letter of instruction to send to your financial institution.
- **Benefit of Giving from Your IRA:** Giving directly from your IRA to the ACLU of Montana Foundation is not considered a taxable withdrawal. These gifts will be tax free.

Please note: This information is not intended as tax or legal advice. We recommend that you consult with your legal and financial advisors to learn how a gift would work in your circumstances. Laws and regulations governing all gifts and availability of certain life income gifts vary by state.

---

## LEGACY GIFT | PLANNED GIVING

Providing a future gift to the ACLU of Montana can be an opportunity to advance the values that have been most important to you in your life. You can continue the fight for justice, equality, and fairness for future generations. The ACLU offers numerous opportunities for planned giving. If you'd like to learn more about your options, please contact our Director of Philanthropy Luis Islas, at 406-581-9120 or at [ISLASL@ACLUMONTANA.ORG](mailto:ISLASL@ACLUMONTANA.ORG).

### **LEGACY GIFT | TAX DEDUCTIBLE TRIBUTE**

To make a tribute gift, in honor of someone's memory, please mail a check to our office at: ACLU of Montana, PO Box 1968, Missoula, MT 59806. Tribute gifts processed using the national ACLU online donation form are not tax-deductible.

---

### **ORGANIZATIONAL TAX IDS**

ACLU of Montana Foundation Tax ID #: 81-0445339  
American Civil Liberties Union of Montana Tax ID #: 81-0431527

---

### **WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE ACLU OF MONTANA FOUNDATION AND THE ACLU OF MONTANA?**

The ACLU of Montana Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Foundation gifts fund our litigation and public education efforts. Gifts to the ACLU of Montana Foundation are fully tax-deductible to the donor.

The ACLU of Montana is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit corporation, but gifts to it are not tax-deductible. This is the ACLU of Montana membership organization, and you have to be a member to get your trusty ACLU card. 501(c)(4) monies fund our legislative lobbying and electoral work--important work that cannot be supported by tax-deductible funds. That's why the Election 2024 section of this newsletter, on page 6, is labeled "Paid for by the ACLU of Montana."

If you prefer to make a tax-deductible gift, we encourage you to support the ACLU of Montana Foundation. Gifts to the Foundation support our litigation, communications, advocacy, and public education efforts. Many donors choose to make their larger tax-deductible gifts to the ACLU of Montana Foundation, but also choose to make nondeductible monthly donations to become sustaining members of ACLU National. This allows them to maintain their "card-carrying" membership status with the ACLU and support our important lobbying efforts.

### **WHY DO YOU KEEP DIRECTING ME TO THE NATIONAL ACLU WEBSITE AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR ALL MEMBERSHIP-RELATED INQUIRIES?**

All memberships are handled by the national ACLU office. By being a card-carrying ACLU member, you'll automatically be part of the national ACLU and the ACLU of Montana affiliate. If you would still like to reach out to our office directly, please don't hesitate to contact us at any time!

### **QUESTIONS ABOUT MAKING A GIFT TO THE ACLU OF MONTANA?**

If you have any questions please contact:

Luis Islas, Director of Philanthropy  
E: ISLASL@ACLUMONTANA.ORG

William Schenck, Donor Engagement Manager  
E: SCHENCKW@ACLUMONTANA.ORG



 @aclumontana

 @aclu\_montana

 @aclumt

# ACLU

Montana

PO Box 1968, Missoula, MT 59806 • 406.443.8590 • [aclu@aclumontana.org](mailto:aclu@aclumontana.org)

[aclumontana.org](https://aclumontana.org)