

# Never-Regular But Ever-True News from ACLU of Champaign County



[aclu-cu.org](http://aclu-cu.org)

JANUARY 2025

## Dear Members and Friends,

We know, that like us, you are worried. BUT, “***Don’t traumatize, strategize.***” Here at the ACLU we have resolved not to give into the sinking-into-despair-bad-times blues. Let’s focus on what we can do locally to reduce the harm.

One strategy is to ignore threats and rumors and respond to actual policies being enacted. The ACLU of Illinois, along with allied organizations and state government, has erected a powerful firewall to protect immigrants, reproductive and gender-affirming health care, privacy, voting rights, and other civil rights and civil liberties in our state. Our local chapter will continue to work with the

state ACLU, acting as their eyes and ears on the ground in Champaign County to resist efforts to rollback those protections.

New groups are forming around the state to help with this work. Shout-out to our friends in Coles and Clark County who meet at the Charleston Public Library. If you know people in that area who might be interested, they can contact Eileen at [eileen.gebbie@gmail.com](mailto:eileen.gebbie@gmail.com).

## ACTION:

### ACLU WARNS UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ABOUT FIRST AMENDMENT POLICIES ON CAMPUS

The ACLU of Illinois sent a [letter](#) to the leadership at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign calling for a reassessment of new free speech policies adopted last summer. The ACLU warned the University that the new rules are chilling speech that has long taken place on campus – including discipline meted out to students for their involvement in a march on climate change which has been held on campus every year for more than a decade. See a [press release](#) on the letter and coverage at [Illinois Public Media](#) and [WCIA-TV](#).

**YOU CAN HELP! Share this letter widely. Write the UIUC administration and urge them to revise the policy to protect students' First Amendment rights.**

## URBANA SURVEILLANCE ORDINANCE

ACLU of Champaign County supports the ordinance under consideration by the Urbana City Council to regulate the acquisition of surveillance technology by the Urbana Police Department. We feel strongly that surveillance technology should be acquired only with public consent and should include policies that regulate its use. Most Urbana residents we have spoken with want their private data protected. This ordinance has been vetted by the ACLU of Illinois legal staff and our letter to the city is attached to this email.

**READ THE ORDINANCE BY SCROLLING DOWN to PAGE 4:**

<https://mccmeetings.blob.core.usgovcloudapi.net/urbanail-pubu/MEET-Packet-bc637dfc7d1f4c3ca4401b3a1f353dbc.pdf>

**YOU CAN HELP! If you live in Urbana, express your support for the ordinance to the City Council at [CityCouncil@UrbanaIL.Gov](mailto:CityCouncil@UrbanaIL.Gov).**

## RECENT LEGISLATION

The KIND Act passed!

This legislation makes it easier for relatives to take in children in their own family who need foster care. These family members will now receive the same benefits and resources that non-family foster parents receive.

More info: <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/legislation/kinship-demand-kind-act>

Medical Aid in Dying. The proposed legislation will allow a mentally capable, terminally ill adult with a prognosis of six months or less the option to obtain a prescription medication they may decide to take so they can die peacefully and end their suffering. We continue to advocate for this humane approach to end of life care.

More info: <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/legislation/sb-3499-end-life-options-terminally-ill-patients-act>

**YOU CAN HELP! Write or call your state senator and representative and urge them to support this legislation now!**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### **FILM: “PLAN C”**

**Friday Jan. 24 at 6 PM**

Sponsored by U-C Reproductive Justice

Channing-Murray Foundation, 1209 W Oregon St, Urbana

<https://www.ucrj.org/events-1/plan-c>

### **REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE SUMMIT –Saturday Feb. 8.**

9 am – 4 pm.

Unitarian Church (UUCUC)

<https://www.ucrj.org/events-1/reproductive-justice-summit>

**FILM: “Boycott”** sponsored by UC Jews for Ceasefire and CU Muslim Action Committee. A national ACLU staff member is interviewed in the film about First Amendment rights.  
FEB. 8. Channing-Murray. More info: Instagram: ucjews4ceasefire.

**You can join, renew or donate here:** <https://www.aclu-il.org/en/donate>. Instagram: @acluofil

Feel free to share this newsletter with others. Sign up by emailing [info@aclu-cu.org](mailto:info@aclu-cu.org).

Want to get more involved? Email [info@aclu-cu.org](mailto:info@aclu-cu.org)

**NATIONAL NEWS FLASH: ACLU sues Trump administration over birthright citizenship rights!**

**Thanks for supporting ACLU of Champaign County**

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