



# ACLU-MN LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2024

In 2024, the ACLU of Minnesota's strategic priorities include protecting your privacy against invasive surveillance, ending use of flawed facial recognition technology, and reforming qualified immunity. This is a historic opportunity to protect and expand the rights of all Minnesotans for generations.

## Qualified Immunity Reform

Qualified immunity operates as a shield against holding government agents – including police – accountable for violating a person's rights. Even if an officer's conduct causes serious harm, courts are blocked from finding liability in many cases. The ACLU-MN wants to create a path so Minnesotans can sue for violations of their rights in state court.

## Facial Recognition Ban

The ACLU of Minnesota is pushing to end law enforcement's use of facial recognition technology because it allows for indiscriminate surveillance, intensifies racial and gender biases, can target vulnerable groups, and track an individual's movements. This violates our constitutional rights. It is essential to proactively put policies in place that will protect our rights as new and more advanced technology is constantly released.

## Gender Inclusion

The students of Minnesota deserve respectful and inclusive learning environments that value students' gender identity and gender expression. This policy ensures that students who are transgender and gender nonconforming are treated with dignity and have access to school programming and facilities in which they feel comfortable and safe.

## Reverse Warrants

Warrants are supposed to be narrow, specific, and based on probable cause. But reverse warrants let government entities invade people's privacy just because they were at a specific place at a particular time, or because they entered a phrase or keyword into a search engine like Google. This practice can reveal private information such as someone's medical condition, finances, sexual orientation, religious beliefs and more. This practice subjects large groups of innocent people to scrutiny by law enforcement. The ACLU-MN supports a bill to prohibit government entities from requesting or obtaining this information.

## Civil Forfeiture Reform

Currently, police can seize, keep, and sell any private property alleged to have been involved in a crime. The property owner doesn't have to be convicted or arrested before police can legally take money, cars, and other items. Many people can't afford to try to get their property back because it's complicated and expensive. Today, seizures by police are often motivated by profit rather than preventing crime. This law simplifies forfeiture into one criminal process, foregoing Minnesota's varied administrative, civil, and judicial processes.

For more information, contact ACLU-MN Policy Associate Munira Mohamed at: [mmohamed@aclu-mn.org](mailto:mmohamed@aclu-mn.org) or (612) 978-6841. The American Civil Liberties Union of Minnesota is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to defending and expanding the civil rights and civil liberties of all Minnesotans through litigation, legislation, and community engagement.