

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Fines & Fees

Driving-related fines and fees can add up. If people can't afford to pay their fines quickly, they can lose their licenses, their jobs and even go to jail. Reforming Minnesota's system of escalating fines and excessive fees would allow people to keep their licenses and stay out of jail for low-level traffic violations.

Forfeiture

Minnesota's forfeiture system is broken. Law enforcement across Minnesota are using seized items to fund their budgets. In 2018 alone, these agencies made more than \$8.2 million from cash and property obtained through civil forfeiture. The people most affected are those with the fewest resources to fight to get their property back. Combining civil forfeiture into the criminal court process will provide stronger due process protections. Reallocating proceeds will address the appearance of "policing for profit."

Privacy

Law enforcement is required to seek warrants before conducting searches. Applying outdated laws to new technologies has created loopholes that compromise the personal privacy rights of Minnesotans.

Drones: Currently, law enforcement can use drones without getting a warrant. Police must get search warrants before using other methods of surveillance, and drones should not be an exception.

Electronic Communication: Under existing Minnesota law, after 180 days, law enforcement can access your emails and text messages – without a warrant – because those emails and texts are considered "abandoned." This loophole should be closed.

Contact Policy Director Julia Decker at jdecker@aclu-mn.org or 952-240-6528 for more information about the ACLU-MN's work.

ABOUT THE ACLU OF MINNESOTA

The American Civil Liberties Union is one of the nation's foremost defenders of civil liberties and civil rights. Founded in 1952 as the Minnesota affiliate of the ACLU, we are a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization with more than 40,000 supporters across the state and more than 1.8 million nationwide.

The ACLU is our nation's guardian of liberty. We work daily in our courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties that the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in this country.

Our mission is to defend and promote the fundamental principles and values embodied in the Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution and the Minnesota Constitution. All Minnesotans have inalienable rights that cannot be taken away by the government or by majority vote. These rights include:

Freedom of speech, press, petition and assembly. Even unpopular expression is protected from government suppression and censorship.

Freedom of religion. Each of us has the right to exercise our own religion, or no religion, free from any government influence or compulsion.

Privacy. We have the right to be free from unwarranted and unwanted government intrusion into our personal and private affairs, papers and possessions.

Due process of law. We have the right to be treated fairly by the government whenever the loss of liberty or property is at stake.

Equality before the law. We have the right to be treated equally regardless of nationality, race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnicity, disability or socioeconomic status.

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