

Protecting Abortion in Delaware At All Costs

Two years after Roe v. Wade was overturned, the fight for reproductive freedom continues.

HELEN SALITA, CAMPAIGN MANAGER



This June will mark two years since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. Amid the continuing nationwide crisis around reproductive healthcare, Delaware has the opportunity to enhance abortion protection and ensure abortion services are accessible for all who need it. It's up to all of us to make sure that opportunity becomes a reality.

Currently, abortion costs create substantive financial burdens for vulnerable community members. Even people with health insurance

may not be able to shoulder the additional cost of a medical procedure, meaning they may have to shift critical funds for rent, food, childcare, transportation, or other medical expenses. In order for abortion care to truly be accessible for all, this financial barrier must be removed.

House Substitute 1 for House Bill 110 (HS 1 for HB 110) would require most insurance plans in the state – private, state, and most critically Medicaid – to cover the cost of an abortion without passing

CONT. ON PAGE 3

We The People

SPRING/SUMMER '24 // WHAT'S INSIDE:

- 4 Pledge to Vote in Your School Board Election This Year on Tuesday, May 14
- 6 New Staff Highlight
- 7 Another Successful Do More 24 Fundraiser!

and more!

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Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends —

2024 is going to be a landmark election year as Delawareans vote on key races like president, U.S. representative, U.S. senator, governor, state legislative leaders, school board members, and much more. But as we head into this election year, we are reminded that the First State is hardly the first when it comes to accessible voting laws.

Due to partisan gridlock and calculated legal challenges, Delaware has seen a rollback of no-excuse vote by mail, early in-person voting, our permanent absentee voter list, and same-day voter registration. Our state is also in a minority of states that permanently disenfranchise some people who have had contact with the criminal legal system and does not allow people on probation or parole to vote.

With all these restrictions combined, Delaware's voting laws are closer to Alabama and Mississippi's rather than Maryland and New Jersey's.

And that's exactly why the ACLU of Delaware and our coalition partners recently announced a long-term constitutional amendment campaign to modernize our voting laws and ensure every eligible voter can cast their ballot easily and securely. We recognize that amending our state constitution is no small feat, and requires sustained community organizing, political pressure, and public education to ensure passage.

We stand ready to make sure Delaware's democracy is one that works for all of us. Stay tuned for updates about our campaign and how you can get involved coming soon.

2024 Board of Directors Election

DEADLINE to vote: Friday, May 10 at 11:59p

ACLU of Delaware members have the opportunity to elect new members to our board of directors. The board represents you by helping us keep to the mission of protecting and expanding freedom and justice throughout the state.

Visit action.aclu.org/board-elections to select up to 4 candidates for election to the ACLU-DE Board of Directors. New board members will be announced at our Annual Meeting on Wed, May 15.



OUR SMART JUSTICE AMBASSADORS SHOW UP YEAR AFTER YEAR TO HELP US RAISE VITAL FUNDING FOR JUSTICE REFORM!

Another Successful Do More 24 Fundraiser This Year!

MELISSA BRYSON, DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

Thank you to the entire ACLU of Delaware community for helping us raise over \$20,000 on this year's 24-hour day of giving! These funds will protect democracy – your generosity helps us achieve our mission of promoting justice and equality for all individuals.

We fight to protect and expand access to voting rights, equitable education, reproductive freedom, justice

reform, and more. Right now, our team is hard at work in the fight to protect people living in Delaware prisons, challenge racially-motivated voter suppression, demand action on police accountability, increase equity in education, and answer every attack on our fundamental freedoms with the principled determination and relentlessness that is the hallmark of the

ACLU of Delaware. We want to spotlight the incredible work our Do More 24 Ambassadors and our Smart Justice Ambassadors did this year! Thank you for your dedication and support of this event! Our Smart Justice Ambassadors also devoted their time during the event making phone calls to supporters and community members. We couldn't have

done it without you! We are so grateful that you chose to support us during Delaware's biggest giving day of the year. We hope to continue growing our community and achieving our goals with the support of donors like you. Thank you for being a part of our community-driven fundraising effort.

NEW STAFF HIGHLIGHT

Our latest addition to the ACLU-DE staff was asked: *“What key issues are you most excited to be working on?”*



ESHA SHAH
COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

First, I am so excited to officially be a team member! I have been involved with the ACLU of Delaware since the 2022 midterm elections, where I was a social media ambassador to mobilize the community to vote, and then I canvassed during the 2023 school board elections.

Voting rights work is the reason I was drawn to the organization, and I am grateful to work on the recent launch of our voting rights constitutional amendment campaign to expand access to voting across the state.

I've also witnessed a lot of

impactful work across other issues areas in my role thus far, including powerful panels on probation reform in New Castle and Lewes, impressive leadership via our Smart Justice Ambassadors, and advocacy on Senate Substitute 1 for Senate Bill 4 to eliminate systemic barriers that prevent those recently released from prison from successful reentry into our communities.

The ACLU of Delaware sincerely embodies the idea of people power and to be amongst a team that values the power of the people and expansion of civil rights and liberties is simply an honor.

PROTECTING ABORTION IN DELAWARE AT ALL COSTS, CONT. FROM FRONT PAGE

along the financial burden of care to patients. The purpose of HS 1 for HB 110 is simple but critical: it guarantees real access to abortion care for young people, low-income people, those who live far from medical providers, and disabled people.

There is broad support for this bill; a poll from December 2023 found that 55% of Delawareans support requiring insurance plans to cover abortion care. Despite this majority support, HS 1 for HB 110 has stalled in Dover and the funds for this bill have yet to be appropriated.

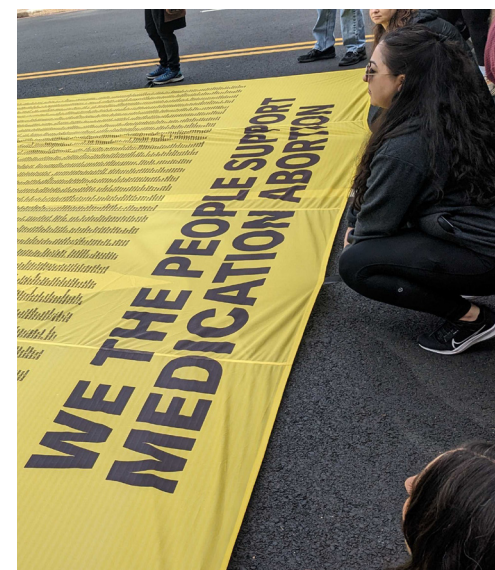
Funding abortion care through Medicaid, private, and state insurance will benefit Delawarrians in many ways. It works to break down socioeconomic barriers and address racial disparities in reproductive health. It gives individuals control over their long-term financial security

by deciding if or when to have children. Ultimately, it reaffirms Delaware's commitment to every individual's bodily autonomy by ensuring all have access to care.

It is time for us all – citizens, advocates, and lawmakers – to get involved and work together to fund and pass HS 1 for HB 110.



ACLU-DE STAFF AND BOARD WERE PRESENT AT THE RECENT MARCH 26 SUPREME COURT RALLY IN SUPPORT OF ABORTION CARE.



Protecting abortion isn't just about making it legal; it's about breaking the barriers to access."
—Melissa Bryson, ACLU-DE Development Director

BREAK THE CYCLE

REFORM THE SYSTEM ACLU Delaware

TAKE ACTION

Delaware Needs Probation Reform NOW

ABORTION ACCESS

EVERY WOMAN. EVERY STATE

ACLU

KEEP ABORTIO

TAKE ACTION NOW TO SUPPORT HS 1 FOR HB 110! action.aclu.org/hs1hb110

Pledge to Vote in Your School Board Election This Year on Tuesday, May 14

Voting is the foundation of our democracy; schools are the heart of our communities

ANDREW BERNSTEIN, COZEN VOTING RIGHTS FELLOW



Every issue that you care about, every issue that our communities care about, and every issue that affects our daily lives is impacted by one simple action: a vote.

Local elections don't often make big headlines. However, decisions made at the local level often have a big impact on neighborhoods and communities.

Like school boards.

School board members hold great power when it comes to making decisions that can affect a community for generations to come — but the real power is ours. We are the ones who elect school board members to those positions. We are the ones who choose the people that will represent our

communities and our children.

School board elections are a vital part of ensuring children in Delaware have access to an equitable education. School board candidates should reflect their communities, understand the needs of their district's students, and be willing to listen and learn in order to make effective change in our schools.

The ACLU of Delaware's VoteDelaware.org website contains essential information on school board candidates and where they stand on issues like budget equity, restorative discipline, inclusion in schools, and health and safety. You can also visit the site to learn more about your district's polling location, voter eligibility, and ways to cast your ballot.

Whether you have children in school or not, your voice matters, because our kids are Delaware's future. Learn where your school board candidates stand on the issues you care about, **then take the pledge to vote in the Delaware School Board Elections on Tuesday, May 14, 2024.**

ELECTION DAY

5/14/2024

Polls are open from 7a - 8p.

Learn more at VoteDelaware.org



Strengthening Bonds: The Power of Family Engagement in Education

Read the latest from our Education Equity blog series!

EQUETTA JONES, PRINCIPAL AT LOVE CREEK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

For students, an environment that truly fosters learning and development is about far more than the classroom they're in or the curriculum they're taught. It's about more than students themselves — it's about families.

Trusting families produce trusting students. That's why school leaders must be aware of the role they play in creating spaces that promote inclusivity and engagement of students as well as their larger networks of loved ones as well.

Read the full blog on our website:
www.aclu-de.org

ACLU Delaware 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

YOU'RE INVITED

Wed, May 15 | 7 - 8 p.m.

Virtual via Zoom + Facebook Livestream

The ACLU of Delaware team invites you to attend our 2024 annual meeting to learn what we're working on and how we're addressing some of the most critical issues in our state.

Join us to learn more about our current work on probation reform, record expungement, immigrants' rights, tenants' rights, students' rights, and our recently launched campaign to constitutionally enshrine Delawareans' right to an accessible voting system featuring input from some of our most valued community partners and advocates.

action.aclu.org/annual-meeting

