

# ACLU Indiana



## 2026 INDIANA LEGISLATIVE REPORT

# INTRODUCTION

The 2026 session of the Indiana General Assembly was unlike any in recent memory. Lawmakers convened early in December 2025, operating on an expedited timeline **shaped by a mid-decade redistricting fight** following political pressure from Washington. This resulted in a session marked by compressed debate, limited public input, and the rapid movement of major legislation.

In that environment, the ACLU of Indiana's legislative work took on added urgency. Our team tracked fast-moving bills, engaged directly with lawmakers, and mobilized Hoosiers to defend our constitutional rights. The session touched nearly every corner of our civil liberties, including **voting access, free speech and digital privacy, LGBTQ+ rights, reproductive freedom, immigration enforcement, policies affecting unhoused Hoosiers, and beyond.**

This report highlights the major bills we tracked, including what passed and didn't, and where we go from here. While the 2026 session has ended, its consequences will continue to shape Hoosiers' lives long after lawmakers leave the Statehouse.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**93,000+**

MESSAGES SENT  
TO LEGISLATORS

**12,500+**

HOOSIERS TOOK  
ACTION

**73**

DAYS IN  
SESSION

**182**

BILLS WERE  
TRACKED

**16**

BILLS WERE  
TESTIFIED ON

## IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

SEA 76 drastically expands immigration enforcement in Indiana by pressuring local governments, colleges, jails, and law enforcement to cooperate with ICE while expanding the attorney general's power. HEA 1200 added English proficiency and immigration rules for commercial vehicles, SEA 1 imposed new immigration checks tied to public benefits, and SEA 256 mandates nationality-based discrimination across public life. Together, these laws increase the risk of surveillance, exclusion, wrongful detention, and discrimination for immigrant Hoosiers.



### SEA 76

SEA 76 was the largest immigration-related bill of the session, advancing attorney general priorities to expand immigration enforcement across Indiana.

★ *Scorecard Bill*

### WHY SEA 76 MATTERS

- Expands restrictions on “sanctuary” policies and pushes local governments, colleges, and law enforcement toward greater ICE cooperation.
- Requires jails to honor and record ICE detainers, adds new jail oversight, and lets the attorney general sue over noncompliance.
- Adds new immigration-related reporting in public benefits and hospitals, and new workplace enforcement tied to work authorization checks.

### SEA 256

Creates nationality-based rules for contracts, higher education, political activity, and property ownership for countries deemed “adversaries.”

★ *Scorecard Bill*

### WHY SEA 256 MATTERS

- Mandates discrimination based on national origin by treating people from certain countries as presumptive security threats.
- Expands state surveillance and exclusion in higher education, property ownership and leasing, contracting, and political activity.

## More Immigration Legislation

- **HEA 1200:** This BMV bill imposes English proficiency requirements for commercial drivers and creates new penalties for ineligible drivers and businesses that hire or train them.
- **SEA 1:** This Medicaid and SNAP legislation increases immigration-related screening in public benefits programs, requiring status checks, federal reporting, and referrals for some applicants or household members.

## CRIMINAL LEGAL

Lawmakers pushed Indiana's criminal legal system in a harsher, more punitive direction. They advanced policies that expand police powers, criminalize poverty, and make it easier to jail more people before trial, while failing to move reforms that would have better protected civil liberties.

Although some of the most extreme proposals did not become law, the overall trend was clear. Lawmakers continued to prioritize punishment and incarceration over policies that address root causes, strengthen communities, and protect Hoosiers' rights.

### SEJR 1

This proposed constitutional amendment has now passed the legislature twice and will go before voters on the November ballot.

★ *Scorecard Bill*

### WHY SEJR 1 MATTERS

- Creates a new constitutional exception to the right to bail for some noncapital offenses.
- Makes it easier to jail more people before trial by allowing detention based on predicted risk to another person or the community.

**SEA 285**

This bill criminalizes public sheltering and restricts local flexibility to respond with humane, community-based solutions.

★ *Scorecard Bill*

**WHY SEA 285 MATTERS**

- Makes camping or sleeping in public spaces a Class C misdemeanor after a warning, punishing unhoused Indiana residents instead of addressing its root causes.
- Increases the likelihood that unhoused people will face citations, charges, arrests, and continued criminal legal system involvement for conduct tied to survival.
- Limits how local governments can respond while expanding policing, reporting, and surveillance of unhoused communities.

**HEA 1343**

Creates an Indiana National Guard military police force and allows the governor to deploy it with civilian law enforcement powers.

★ *Scorecard Bill*

**WHY HEA 1343 MATTERS**

- Blurs the line between military force and civilian policing, expanding the role of the National Guard into community law enforcement.
- Creates serious civil liberties risks by expanding arrest, search, seizure, and use-of-force authority without the accountability structures Hoosiers expect from civilian policing.

**More Criminal Legal Legislation:**

- **SEA 140:** Expands intimidation to cover doxxing and increases penalties for intimidating legislators.
- **SEA 160:** Makes wearing a mask while committing a crime a sentencing aggravator.
- **SEA 284:** Limits the authority of civilian police oversight boards to an advisory role only.

## FREE SPEECH

### HEA 1408

Conditions access to certain social media platforms on repeated age checks, data collection, and Indiana residency verification.

#### WHY HEA 1408 MATTERS

- Limits access to lawful online speech based on age and Indiana residency verification, with repeated age checks tied to account creation, usage thresholds, and demographic data collection for up to 10 years.
- Pushes Indiana residents to hand over personal information and weakens anonymous speech and privacy online.
- Incentivizes platforms to over-collect data, over-block users, and chill protected speech for both minors and adults.

## LGBTQ+ RIGHTS

### HEA 1389

Protects faith-based refusals in foster care and adoption decisions, even when those refusals can shape who is eligible to provide care.

#### WHY HEA 1389 MATTERS

- Prioritizes religious refusal protections in foster care and adoption, even when those refusals can conflict with the best interests of children.
- Makes it harder to ensure placements are based on a child's safety, stability, and well-being rather than the beliefs of adults or providers.
- Increases the risk that LGBTQ+ youth and other vulnerable children will be placed in non-affirming or less supportive environments.

Even in a short session defined by rushed timelines, some of the most extreme proposals failed to become law. Bills that would have cut early voting, expanded the abortion ban through private enforcement, targeted transgender Hoosiers, opened the door to religious coercion in public schools, authorized new execution methods, and further manipulated political power through redistricting were stopped before reaching the finish line.

Those outcomes show that **advocacy, public opposition, and sustained pressure** can still make a difference. This session, those efforts helped prevent serious harm to voting rights, bodily autonomy, LGBTQ+ rights, religious freedom, and basic democratic accountability.

★ *Scorecard Bill*

## HB 1032

Attempted to redraw Indiana's congressional maps mid-decade with no new population data, a purely political move brought by Washington.

**Why it Matters:** Would have weakened fair representation and reduced transparency, public input, and judicial oversight. The bill failed after strong mass mobilization, with more than **60,000 messages** sent to lawmakers calling for a fairer redistricting process, ultimately leading to bills defeat in a final Senate vote.

## SB 236

Would have targeted abortion medication access, primarily across state lines, through a lawsuit-driven, bounty-style enforcement scheme.

**Why it Matters:** Would have further restricted abortion access, chilled lawful medical care, and encouraged private enforcement qui tam lawsuits. Included "personhood-style" language that could threaten broader reproductive rights.

# BILLS THAT FAILED

## SB 182

Attempted to impose rigid, birth-based definitions of sex in Indiana law, with added restrictions on bathrooms, housing, and identity documents.

**Why it Matters:** Would have increased discrimination, exclusion, and safety risks for transgender and intersex Hoosiers, including identity policing and fines.

## HB 1359

Attempted to reduce Indiana's early voting period from 28 days to 16 days under an amendment during committee.

**Why it Matters:** Would have made voting harder, especially for working Hoosiers and voters in places with longer Election Day lines.

## HB 1086

Attempted to create a state-sanctioned path for displaying the Ten Commandments in public school classrooms.

**Why it Matters:** Would have opened the door to religious coercion in public schools and undermined church-state separation.

## SB 11 & HB 1119

Attempted to expand the death penalty through new methods, including by firing squad and nitrogen hypoxia.

**Why it Matters:** Would have escalated the use of inhumane execution methods and reduced transparency around a punishment that is irreversible.

## READ MORE ABOUT THE BILLS

You can read the **full bill language**, including the ACLU of Indiana's **stance** for, against, or neutral on our **[online Bill Tracker](#)**.

OPPOSE

NEUTRAL

SUPPORT

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD

## HOW WE CHOOSE SCORED BILLS

We share the ACLU of Indiana's position on important civil liberties with legislators throughout session. We then select a range of key civil liberties votes by the full House or Senate to include in our scorecard. The following votes cover a range of issues facing Hoosiers today.

## PURPOSE OF THE SCORECARD

The scorecard serves to inform the public of where legislators stand on civil liberties issues. Legislators may promise many things while running for office, but there is no substitute for an actual vote. The scorecard is not an endorsement or a statement of opposition.

 **Fields with Torch:**  
Voted with ACLU-IN Position

 **Fields Left Blank:**  
Opposed ACLU-IN Position

**A** **Fields with "A":**  
Absent or Did Not Cast Vote

**1** **HEA 1032**  
Mid-Cycle  
Gerrymandering

**2** **SEA 76**  
Immigration  
Enforcement  
Expansion

**3** **SEA 285**  
Criminalizing  
Homelessness

**4** **HEA 1343**  
National Guard  
Military Police Force

**5** **SEA 256**  
Discrimination Against  
People from "Foreign  
Adversary" Nations

**6** **SEJR 1**  
Bail Restriction  
Amendment

SENATE	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6
Alexander, Scott								Holdman, Travis					
Alting, Ron								Hunley, Andrea					
Baldwin, Scott								Jackson, La Keisha					
Bassler, Eric								Johnson, Tyler					
Becker, Vaneta						<b>A</b>		Koch, Eric					
Bohacek, Mike								Leising, Jean					
Bray, Rodric								Maxwell, Randy					
Brown, Liz								Mckinley, Nick	<b>A</b>				<b>A</b>
Buchanan, Brian								Mishler, Ryan					<b>A</b>
Buck, Jim								Niemeyer, Rick					
Busch, Justin						<b>A</b>		Niezgodski, David					
Byrne, Gary								Pol, Rodney		<b>A</b>			
Carrasco, Cyndi								Qaddoura, Fady					
Charbonneau, Ed								Raatz, Jeff					
Clark, Brett								Randolph, Lonnie					
Crider, Michael								Rogers, Linda					
Deery, Spencer								Schmitt, Daryl					
Dernulc, Dan								Spencer, Mark					
Donato, Stacey								Taylor, Greg					
Doriot, Blake		<b>A</b>						Tomes, James					
Ford, J.D.				<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>			Walker, Greg					
Freeman, Aaron				<b>A</b>		<b>A</b>		Walker, Kyle					
Garten, Chris								Yoder, Shelli					
Gaskill, Mike								Young, Michael					
Glick, Susan								Zay, Andy		<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>A</b>
Goode, Greg													

**Note:** The life cycle of any given bill may have several rounds of votes. The most recent vote is recorded in this scorecard and represents how each state senator and state representative last voted.

HOUSE	1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6		1	2	3	4	5	6	
Abbott, David								Hamilton, Carey	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥			Moseley, Charles	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥		
Andrade, Mike	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥				Harris Jr., Earl	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	Novak, Randy	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥		
Aylesworth, Michael								Hatcher, Ragen	🔥	A	A	A	A	🔥	O'Brien, Tim						
Baird, Beau			🔥	A	A			Heaton, Bob							Olthoff, Julie						
Barrett, Bradford								Heine, Dave					A		Pack, Renee	🔥	🔥	🔥		🔥	A
Bartels, Johnn	🔥							Hostettler, Matt			🔥	A	A	A	Patterson, Lindsay		A	🔥			
Bartlett, John	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥		Huston, Todd				A	A	A	Payne, Zach						
Bascom, Garrett								Ireland, Andrew							Pfaff, Tonya	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥		
Bauer, Maureen	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥				Isa, Tony							Pierce, Kyle			🔥			
Behning, Robert								Jackson, Carolyn	🔥	A	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	Pierce, Matt	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥
Borders, Bruce								Jeter, Chris	A						Porter, Greg	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	A
Burton, Alex	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥		🔥		Johnson, Blake	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥		A	Prescott, J.D.						
Campbell, Chris	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥		Jordan, Jack							Pressel, Jim				A		
Carbaugh, Martin						A		Judy, Christopher							Pryor, Cherrish	A	🔥	🔥	🔥		🔥
Cash, Becky	🔥		🔥					Karickhoff, Michael	🔥						Rowray, Elizabeth		A				A
Clere, Edward	🔥	🔥	🔥					King, Joanna							Shackleford, Robin	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥
Commons, Matt			🔥					Klinker, Sheila	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥			Shonkwiler, Alaina						
Criswell, Cory			🔥					Lauer, Ryan			🔥				Slager, Hal						
Culp, Kendell			🔥					Lawson, Ethan					A		Smaltz, Ben						
Dant Chesser, Wendy	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥				Ledbetter, Cindy		A	🔥				Smith, Hunter						
Davis, Michelle				A	A			Lehman, Matt	🔥						Smith, Vernon	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥
DeLaney, Ed	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥			Lindauer, Shane					A		Snow, Craig						A
DeVon, Dale								Lopez, Danny	🔥	🔥		🔥		A	Soliday, Ed						
Dvorak, Ryan	🔥	🔥		🔥				Lucas, Jim							Steuerwald, Greg	🔥					
Engleman, Karen		A						Manning, Ethan		A					Summers, Vanessa	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥
Errington, Sue	🔥	A	🔥	🔥	🔥			May, Chris							Sweet, Lorissa						
Garcia Wilburn, Victoria	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥				Mayfield, Peggy	🔥	A					Teshka, Jake						
Genda, Mark	🔥	🔥	🔥					McGuire, Julie							Thompson, Jeff						
GiaQuinta, Phil	🔥	A	🔥	🔥	🔥			McNamara, Wendy							VanNatter, Heath						
Gore, Mitch	🔥	🔥	A	🔥				Meltzer, Jennifer	🔥		🔥				Wesco, Tim						
Goss-Reaves, Lori			🔥					Miller, Doug					A		Yocum, Tim	🔥		🔥			
Greene, Robb								Miller, Kyle	🔥	A	🔥	🔥			Zimmerman, Alex						
Haggard, Craig			🔥					Moed, Justin	🔥	🔥	🔥	🔥		A							
Hall, Dave	🔥		🔥					Morris, Bob			A										

 Fields with Torch: Voted with ACLU-IN Position

**A** Fields with "A": Absent or Did Not Cast Vote

**2** SEA 76 Immigration Enforcement Expansion

**4** HEA 1343 National Guard Military Police Force

**6** SEJR 1 Bail Restriction Amendment

 Fields Left Blank: Opposed ACLU-IN Position

**1** HEA 1032 Mid-Cycle Gerrymandering

**3** SEA 285 Criminalizing Homelessness

**5** SEA 256 Discrimination Against People from "Foreign Adversary" Nations

# WHAT COMES NEXT?

1

## STAY INFORMED

Follow updates, read our resources, and stay connected so you know what new laws mean and where action is needed.

2

## LEARN AND SHARE

Help others understand how these laws affect Hoosiers. Share trusted information, resources, and stories with your community.

3

## KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

As new laws take effect, rights education will be critical. Make sure you and your community have accurate information and access to support.

4

## SPEAK OUT AND SHOW SUPPORT

Contact officials, attend events, speak out on what's at stake, and show up for impacted communities. Public pressure and visible solidarity matter.

5

## VOLUNTEER WITH US

Volunteers help power this work through outreach, event support, voter engagement, legal observer training, and other advocacy opportunities.