



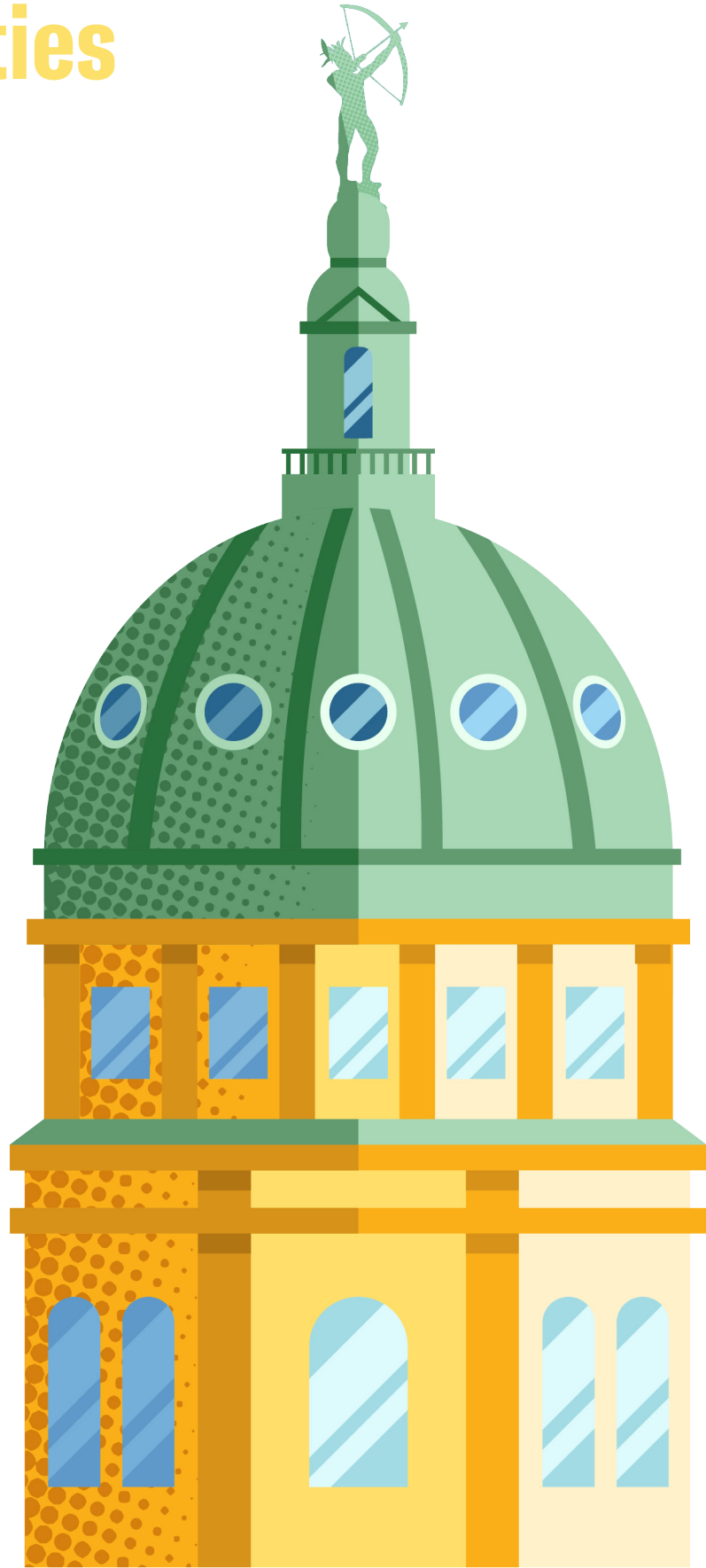
Kansas

# Legislative Priorities

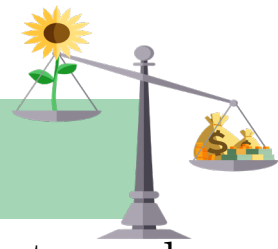
## 2025

The ACLU of Kansas is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that works to preserve and strengthen the civil rights and liberties of every person in Kansas. Our 2025 Kansas legislative agenda advances freedom, defends democracy, and furthers the cause of justice, especially in striking at laws that disproportionately impact people of color and vulnerable Kansans.

We envision a state where the treatment you receive in the criminal legal system is not dependent on your wealth; where bail reform ensures that individuals are not unjustly detained simply because they cannot afford to pay; where proceeds from the legalization of medical cannabis are invested in communities disproportionately impacted by marijuana criminalization; where transgender Kansans can participate fully in community as their authentic selves; where reproductive healthcare decisions are made by patients, not politicians; where our elections are free, fair, and accessible to all eligible voters; and where diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives are protected to foster a fair and just society for all Kansans.



# CRIMINAL LEGAL REFORM: REIMAGINE JUSTICE



Our criminal legal system disproportionately criminalizes, incarcerates, and disenfranchises people of color and those with fewer economic resources. During the 2025 Kansas legislative session, we will advocate for reimagining our criminal legal system. We will support policies that abolish fines and fees for juveniles and policies that reduce the number of individuals detained pre-trial due to inability to pay bail.

## Pretrial Release:

The cash bail system creates a two-tier justice system between those who can pay for their freedom, and those who can't. It keeps poor people in jail, while wealthier people accused of the exact same crime can buy their freedom. People who can't afford to pay bail and must remain in jail pre-trial are at risk of losing their jobs, homes, and even custody of their children. Freedom should not be determined by how much money you have. Amidst ongoing staffing challenges and overcrowding in Kansas jails, detaining people who cannot afford bail makes facilities less safe for everyone, while reducing cash bail has had no impact on crime or public safety in places that have reduced their reliance on cash bail.

The ACLU of Kansas will support bills that use propose reform to the considerations of monetary bond amounts tailored to the individual, as well as any legislation that proposes alternative methods of pretrial efforts that work towards a fair and equitable justice for all.



## Medical Marijuana:

No one should face criminal penalties for pursuing the medical care they need. Thirty-eight states and counting have legalized medical marijuana. Kansas remains only one of 3 states to have no public access regime at all. Kansas can't wait any longer: we must take action to ensure patients are not at risk of incarceration for using treatments that have drastically improved the quality of life for countless people around the world. The ongoing criminalization of marijuana has caused untold damage to communities of color and had deeply harmful impacts on the economic and social fabric of Black communities.

We cannot undo the generational harm created by our state's antiquated, punitive laws. But as marijuana laws begin to change in Kansas, we will support any legislation that pushes for full participation and equity in the regulated medical industry for communities that have been disproportionately harmed by marijuana prohibition and enforcement

## VOTING RIGHTS: **PROTECTING VOTER ACCESS**



The right to vote is fundamental to our democracy. We will advocate for a system of fair and open elections in which all qualified citizens may easily cast a vote and have it accurately counted.

In the past decade, numerous states, often led by Kansas, have attempted or passed legislation limiting the right to vote. These restrictions have included new identification and documentation requirements, cuts to early voting, and purges of voter rolls. Each of these attacks on voting rights disproportionately hurts people of color, students, the elderly, and people with disabilities.

We will oppose any legislation that disenfranchises eligible voters or makes it more difficult for voters to exercise their fundamental right to vote. We will support legislation that expands access for eligible voters and makes it easier to cast a ballot.

## Anti-DEI: **UPHOLDING DIVERSITY, EQUITY, & INCLUSION**

The ACLU of Kansas stands firmly against any legislative efforts that undermine diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) initiatives. We believe these principles initiatives are foundational essential to fostering fair and just communities. We will actively oppose policies that marginalize or exclude individuals based on race, ethnicity, gender, or other identity factors, and we will work to protect programs and practices that promote equitable opportunities for all Kansans.

## Reproductive Justice: **SAFEGUARDING REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS**

Reproductive rights are essential to individual equality, autonomy, economic self-sufficiency, and dignity. We will vigorously oppose any legislative efforts to erode the state constitutional right to reproductive healthcare. Additionally, we will remain vigilant in protecting the privacy and ability of every Kansan to make personal healthcare decisions free from political interference. Ensuring that all Kansans have the right to determine what is best for their bodies and futures is a cornerstone of our advocacy.

## LGBTQ+ RIGHTS: **THE FIGHT FOR EQUALITY**

The ACLU of Kansas will steadfastly oppose any legislation that infringes upon the equality and dignity of LGBTQ+ Kansans. This includes safeguarding their rights to live openly without discrimination, exercise personal autonomy, and enjoy freedom of expression and association. We will oppose bills that seek to exclude transgender and gender non-conforming children from fully participating in their schools and communities. Ensuring that all Kansans can live authentically and without fear is central to our mission.

