



THE CONNECTICUT MEMO

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INTRODUCTION

This election cycle is unprecedented and is sure to change the course of the nation regardless of the outcome. Freedom is on the ballot. Democracy hangs in the balance.

Although Connecticut typically sees itself as the land of steady habits, a progress making state, and a place where most people enjoy their civil rights and liberties, it is necessary for

the state's advocates to be prepared for a slate of drastic changes.

There are 60 days until the election.

The ACLU of Connecticut has a plan.

Republican nominee Donald Trump and Democratic nominee Vice President Kamala Harris will face off in the 2024

presidential election – and the stakes for our civil rights and liberties are higher than ever. The Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, has introduced Project 2025, a roadmap to take away our freedoms by chipping away at checks and balances. Coupled with the Supreme Court’s recent ruling expanding presidential immunity from criminal prosecution while in office, Project 2025 threatens to dismantle democracy as we know it.

Though the ACLU doesn’t endorse or oppose candidates for elected office, we recognize there will be drastically different realities for the country depending on which candidate wins in November. Regardless of a candidate’s political affiliation, the ACLU and the Connecticut office will stand for any executive action to protect and expand civil rights and liberties, and stand against any executive action that threatens them. Our legal, legislative, and advocacy experts are preparing for any administration by identifying the challenges and opportunities that each candidate brings, and the concrete actions the national ACLU and the Connecticut office will take in response.

Purpose: This memorandum is a companion piece to the [13 ACLU Trump Harris memos](#). There are six (6) Harris memos, and seven (7) about Trump.

This memorandum addresses specifically how certain scenarios affect

the people of Connecticut, and what the ACLU of Connecticut plans to do in these cases. We have a comprehensive plan for the state and in collaboration with national efforts, and we will engage our community partners as the situation calls for it.

This memorandum will be updated and re-distributed in October, to contend with any changes in the electoral cycle and to reflect further detail and strategy from our staff.

This November, freedom is on the ballot. The ACLU of Connecticut, along with other state affiliates and our national office, will continue to fight for our most fundamental rights and liberties in court, in the statehouse, in the streets, and at the ballot box.

We will use every tool in our toolbox to fight for the country we, the people, want to live in. We are creating a state where voters are informed and prepared as they head to the polls, and we are ready with our allies to safeguard the election – from the first votes cast through inauguration, and to respond to all possible outcomes in the coming months and years with precision, strategy, and a lot of “good trouble.”

Overall, our plan is to do everything we can via litigation, advocacy, policy pressure, and public education campaigns to throw sand in the gears of any antidemocratic gains – no matter who wins the election.

SAFEGUARDING THE ELECTION

The country has learned much since the 2020 election.

Progress has been made in protecting our electoral democracy. But there have been steps backwards – including violent attempts to stop certification, election deniers in election administrative positions in local elections, and a host of misinformation and disinformation campaigns in a variety of formats that now includes artificial intelligence.

The ACLU of Connecticut takes seriously our role in safeguarding the 2024 election.

Ensuring access to the ballot: The ACLU of Connecticut will continue to expend significant effort to talk with individual voters and neighborhoods about registering to vote, and helping voters to get a plan to vote – either during early voting periods or on Election Day (November 5, 2024).

We are also focused on ballot equity, and making sure that people can read, understand, and act on the Democratic process through voting in Connecticut. Protecting equal access to the ballot is paramount, and we work internally, in communities, in the statehouse, and with our coalition partners to ensure the integrity of the election process.

The ACLU of Connecticut does not endorse candidates.

Upholding the integrity of the election and certification process: The Trump campaign has signaled recently that their camp may not concede in the event of a Harris victory, despite an electoral college win. This antidemocratic attitude undermines the free and fair elections of the nation. Our policy team and legal team are prepared to challenge any unlawful certification or non-certification of election results.

Specifically, the ACLU of Connecticut is:

- Hosting, joining, and facilitating voter registration opportunities and working to combat voter roll purges
- Monitoring and poised to defeat any voter suppression measures, including challenging the state to create new guidelines and rules as necessary

- Monitoring, investigating, and working to deliver accommodations or relief if voting is disrupted or suppressed anywhere in the state
- Monitoring sites with other non-partisan civic community partners to ensure all eligible voters have their ballots counted
- Our national office and other state affiliates are ensuring this work throughout the country, and we are prepared if called to assist in battleground states

ELECTORAL MATRIX

Electoral Safeguarding Leads:

David McGuire, Executive Director

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THREAT	IMPACT	LIKELIHOOD	ACLU OF CT ACTION	VIABILITY
Mis- & Disinformation	Undermines faith in electoral process & interrupts civic knowledge base	Likely, though not likely from trusted sources (newspapers, registrars, civic orgs with longevity & reputation)	Communications campaigns; press engagement; social media campaigns; working with communities & organizations	Response necessary & possible. See current voter guide & Know Your Rights materials .
Non-nefarious registration issues (e.g., website crash, postmark challenges, administrative errors) – this also includes classic non-nefarious vote by mail issues & other interruptions	Disenfranchises voters; disrupts electoral integrity; can skew election results. Undermines ability to vote.	Potential to occur, but no active threat	Monitoring, communication with other organizations and community leaders, communication with government.	Response necessary & possible. Communications with CT, potential for litigation if no remedies and votes aren't properly counted.
Suspect voter roll purges by govt actors or private actors (e.g., filing lawsuits threatening / urging officials based on flimsy data)	Disenfranchises voters; disrupts electoral integrity; can skew election results; undermines trust in electoral process	Low potential to occur, no active threat	Monitoring, communication with other organizations and community leaders, communication with government.	Response necessary & possible. Public action, policy calls, litigation if no remedies and bad faith actors

THREAT	IMPACT	LIKELIHOOD	ACLU OF CT ACTION	VIABILITY
<p>Efforts to make voting more difficult through suspect admin changes or private lawsuits (e.g., reduced poll locations / drop boxes, hand counting, voter machine bans, new/tightened registration requirements, new voter ID requirements, reduced vote by mail / early voting, procedures that make it difficult to meet ECRA deadline</p>	<p>Undermines election integrity, direct threat to civil rights and liberties. Can skew election results. Marginalizes further those who are historically undermined in voting rights and electoral efforts.</p>	<p>Low potential to occur. No active threats – although there is a public sensitivity due to Bridgeport ballot box issues in prior election cycles and ongoing litigation therein.</p>	<p>Monitor closely, respond to reports, engage with trusted community leaders. Center voices of traditionally marginalized communities and investigate all plausible claims.</p>	<p>Response necessary & possible. Policy advocates and litigation teams key. No public communications until policy action, public action, or lawsuit filed.</p>
<p>"Classic" voter suppression tactics in VBM, early vote, & polling places (e.g., intentionally slow distribution, polling place closure/consolidation/drop box closure/movement, burdensome/illegal practices, voter challenges, intentional misuse of provisional ballots. Voter intimidation/violence (private or government)</p>	<p>Culture of fear/anxiety/panic. Skews election, represents racism/st/classist/ableist challenges to civil rights and liberties. Disenfranchises voters; disrupts electoral integrity; can skew election results. Undermines ability to vote; antidemocratic.</p>	<p>Potential to occur but no active threats. Very closely monitoring. Understandable public anxiety from past election cycles.</p>	<p>Monitor closely, respond to reports, engage with trusted community leaders. Center voices of traditionally marginalized communities and investigate all plausible claims.</p>	<p>Response necessary & possible. Policy advocates and litigation teams key. Policy action, public action, or lawsuit(s) filed. Communications campaigns to bring sunlight to issues.</p>

THREAT	IMPACT	LIKELIHOOD	ACLU OF CT ACTION	VIABILITY
<p>Counting issues:</p> <p>Slow processing of absentee ballots creates opportunity for human error, delegitimization, & delays. Can be due to under-resourced local administrators. Recounting ballots, intent to delay. Count stopped due to political pressure from candidates; litigation; intimidation.</p> <p>Mass rejection of ballots, especially likely for mail-in ballots (e.g., undated envelope, signature match failures, or receipt post Election Day even if timely postmarked). Stolen, seized, or tampered ballots, voter data, & machines.</p>	<p>Stigmatizes voting, disenfranchises and undermines voters who vote absentee and/or are from traditionally marginalized communities.</p> <p>Creates a culture of fear and panic around democratic processes.</p> <p>Undercounting of ballots.</p> <p>Antidemocratic when in bad faith.</p>	<p>Some potential to occur, no active threats – monitoring closely. Understandable public anxiety.</p>	<p>Monitoring, communication with other organizations and community leaders, communication with government.</p>	<p>Response necessary & possible.</p> <p>Public action, policy calls, litigation if no remedies and bad faith actors</p>

PROJECT 2025

Project 2025 Leads:

David McGuire, Executive Director

Dan Barrett, Legal Director

Gus Marks-Hamilton, Campaign & Organizing Manager

B. Rae Perryman, Communications Director

Jess Zaccagnino, Policy Counsel

The people of Connecticut are concerned about Project 2025, a [922-page playbook](#) from the extremist think tank The Heritage Foundation described as “a second American revolution.” This project was originally titled the Presidential Transition Plan, and has been funded well into eight figures. More than 100 organizations make up the Project 2025 Advisory Board.

Project 2025 poses an unprecedented threat to democracy, including reproductive freedoms, LGBTQIA+ rights, the economy, public education, the environment, and public health. These policy proposals are meant to be a roadmap for a second Trump administration and the extremist

movement beyond. At the time of publication, the Trump campaign claims to be distancing themselves from the actual playbook – but not the people or philosophies who guided its several years of work toward publication to completion.

We see beyond these lies, and we have a plan. **We are planning proactively – we don’t have the luxury of waiting to react.**

The ACLU of Connecticut, our fellow affiliates, our national office, and our partner organizations will not bow to antidemocratic tyranny.

Your knowledge of these threats and support of civil rights and liberties is essential.

PROJECT 2025 PRIORITY	IMPACT	ACLU OF CT ACTION	CHANCE OF ACLU SUCCESS
Decimate reproductive rights and healthcare (Comstock; medication abortion; cut Medicare & Medicaid)	Make full reproductive care for Americans entirely impossible	Public action (rallies – including prior to enactment); reactive litigation; pro-active policy pressure to maintain CT as a sanctuary state; outreach and activation of care networks; work with partner orgs	Necessary & possible, especially working with other organizations. Proactive public action is necessary – we should take to the streets before rights get further stripped away. Potential litigation and policy pressure in statehouse & gov mansion.
Crackdown on immigration	Creates a hostile environment for immigrants, Latine people, and other non-white people	Demand executive action to make CT a sanctuary state; be prepared for litigation against USFG; work with care networks to publicly and privately create safe places for all people residing in CT	Chance of success via public support – this is a risky set of actions for ACLU of CT, but necessary and demanding of success and sanctuary for all people residing in CT or who come to reside
Partisan control of entire executive branch and federal governmental agencies	Creates a hostile federal government, undermining autonomy and priorities of individual states; hollows out the machinations of our country’s employment core “by the people”	Prepared for litigation to combat a hostile federal government; policy and advocacy team to demand executive orders of governor to mandate civil rights and liberties in CT; communications and coordination with people and partner organizations	Frustrating tyrannical moves through principled litigation serves to slow the antidemocratic motions of a hostile federal government. Pressure on Governor and electeds must succeed – garnering directed public support is key.
Abolish Department of Education; cut free school meals; abolish Head Start	Hollow out and make infeasible standardized, reality-based, free, public education and nourishment for school-aged children	Policy & communications team to partner with organizations and school districts to codify and standardize state public education	Unclear. More research needed, but a communication and education activation will certainly galvanize families. Partner orgs & families key.
Removal of legal protections based on gender, identity and LGBTQIA+ identification	Creates de facto second class citizens; undermines civil rights and liberties gains; makes discrimination legal	Pressure executive and legislative branches to codify LGBTQIA+, women’s, and other rights in state constitution; potential for litigation in several arenas (employment, etc.)	Public campaigns and pressure will aid in success. Massive media campaigns on this and other rights issues. Potential for policy/state constitution changes and case law establishment. Necessary and possible.

PROJECT 2025 PRIORITY	IMPACT	ACLU OF CT ACTION	CHANCE OF ACLU SUCCESS
<p>Institute work requirements for people reliant on SNAP; further decimate economic protections for people in poverty</p>	<p>Undermines social programs and creates unfair burdens on marginalized people; codify the cycle of poverty; decrease equality of opportunity and upward social mobility</p>	<p>Public campaigns for stopgap social programs (proactive not reactive – must begin/continue mutual aid work well prior to threats); policy pressure & pressure on gov; economic analysis to find ways to continue these protections statewide</p>	<p>Necessary. Work with partner organizations and affected communities, potential to engage academics. Proactive social work necessary - policy movement more likely with public efforts established.</p>
<p>Change overtime rules and overtime pay for some workers</p>	<p>Eliminates labor fairness and creates unlivable wages</p>	<p>Potential for litigation in concert with labor groups and/or unions. Policy pressure and public advocacy necessary. Supporting partner organizations will be key.</p>	<p>Proactive and reactive work matters here. Both strategies are necessary to protect workers. Supporting partner organizations is key to success.</p>

SCENARIO: A TRUMP WIN

Although the ACLU of Connecticut does not endorse candidates, a Trump win in November presents a deep threat to the current civil rights and liberties of the people of Connecticut and of the United States.

Our policy team, communications team, litigators and legal team, partner organizations, supporters, and people in our communities are prepared and determined to stand up boldly for our state in case of what many call a “doomsday” scenario.

Prior to inauguration, the ACLU of Connecticut will put directed and intense pressure on the executive branch of the state – we will continue and ramp up our position as the state’s premier advocates for civil rights and liberties.

We will pressure the executive branch of Connecticut to put measures in place to

deviate from a decimated United States Constitution with changes to our state constitution. We will work with state agencies that normally have roadblocks in place for organizations like ACLU of Connecticut. We have a principled and unyielding **action plan** in place to make it much more difficult for a hostile government to surveil its citizens, get information about people in Connecticut, and bypass processes that make it easy to criminalize people.

We will take to the governor’s mansion, the statehouse, and the streets. We have both **proactive** measures prior to Day 1 of an administration that is hostile to civil rights and liberties, and we have methodological **reactive** measures for the coming months and years.

TRUMP PRIORITY	IMPACT	ACLU OF CT ACTION	CHANCE OF ACLU SUCCESS
<p>Criminal Legal System: A second Trump administration threatens to accelerate mass incarceration, further dehumanize people in our criminal legal system, engage in a death penalty, and reverse many reforms gained over the last two decades. Trump cannot control the charging decisions of state and local prosecutors, but will likely use his power to pressure them – there will also likely be coordinated efforts to make conditions worse for incarcerated people.</p>	<p>Trump’s racist and extremist rhetoric may embolden states that have previously embraced reform to return to failed crime policies, fueling mass incarceration and widening racial inequality.</p>	<p>State and local governments control most of the substantive parts of state criminal legal systems, including policing, prosecution, sentencing, and conditions in prisons and jails. ACLU of CT will: hold state actors accountable (litigation and comms); ensure constitutional protections and implement safeguards immediately (during or after litigation, and in statehouse). Pressure on governor and DOC directly. Continue to advocate for evidence-based solutions to public safety and support data-driven alternatives to incarceration.</p>	<p>Necessary. Our core values and action areas are heavy on the criminal legal system, both front and back end. We must maintain our gains and make more progress, and a second Trump administration should not stymie that. We will take proactive</p>
<p>Law enforcement: A second Trump administration threatens to roll back recent progress on policing and exacerbate the racial injustices of our criminal legal system. Endorsement of violent and authoritarian tactics.</p>	<p>Outsized impact in marginalized communities. Black people are far more likely to experience police use of force and police misconduct, and 3x times more likely to be killed by police than white people. Research shows, militarized policing is aggressively used against people of color. Trump has consistently down-played these racialized harms of policing.</p>	<p>Advocacy and litigation expertise to challenge a second Trump administration’s attempts to empower, arm, and immunize police violence. We will chronicle and illuminate the injustices of a second Trump administration and galvanize public support proactively. Proactive pressure and asks of the governor, including executive orders.</p>	<p>Necessary. Work with partner organizations and affected communities. We cannot and will not be able to let up on this pressure or pressure on the criminal legal system.</p>

TRUMP PRIORITY	IMPACT	ACLU OF CT ACTION	CHANCE OF ACLU SUCCESS
<p>Surveillance, Protest, & Free Speech: In service of his agenda, Trump can also exploit the executive branch's vast and unprecedented powers to spy on Americans' lives with dragnet surveillance of our data. Through Big Brother surveillance programs like Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act (FISA) and Executive Order 12333, which result in mass collection of our private data, and the government's purchase of massive quantities of data from commercial brokers, the federal government can search our private communications and information without a warrant and without meaningful safeguards necessary to protect our rights. There is already a history of law enforcement and intelligence agencies' abuse of these tools.</p>	<p>States do not directly influence the federal surveillance and law enforcement infrastructure, but they can limit the reach of the federal government within their jurisdictions. For example, states can limit – or eliminate – cooperation agreements between state and local law enforcement and federal law enforcement to minimize the grounds on which federal authorities can intervene in protests. They can also prevent voluntary data sharing that could be used for federal surveillance purposes or to support politically motivated investigations and prosecutions.</p> <p>The federal government's goal will be to divide and conquer – to persecute specific individuals, organizations, or groups that are unlikely to generate public sympathy but whose fate can serve as a warning to others and more broadly chill protest and dissent.</p>	<p>Prepared for litigation to combat a hostile federal government; policy and advocacy team to demand executive orders of governor to mandate civil rights and liberties in CT; communications and coordination with people and partner organizations.</p> <p>Intense defense of freedom of speech, freedom of organization, assembly, and protest. Public campaigns about the necessity of validity of opposition to authoritarian governmental actions.</p> <p>ACLU of CT will end or limit participation in joint federal and state and local task forces – like joint terrorism task forces and fusion centers – that enable federal authorities to coordinate with or mobilize state and local resources in abusive surveillance and investigations. We will also urge CT governments to institute and follow best practices on the role of law enforcement during protests. If the administration inappropriately invokes the Insurrection Act to deploy the military in American cities, the ACLU of CT will work with state and local authorities and allies to build a robust political defense of our constitution.</p>	<p>Frustrating tyrannical moves through principled litigation serves to slow the antidemocratic motions of a hostile federal government.</p> <p>Pressure on Governor and electeds must succeed – garnering directed public support is key.</p> <p>We must succeed and are prepared for robust constitutional defense.</p>

TRUMP PRIORITY	IMPACT	ACLU OF CT ACTION	CHANCE OF ACLU SUCCESS
<p>DEI & Racial & Sex-Based Discrimination: Public and private sector entities created DEI programs in direct response to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to combat racism and sexism, and to remedy resulting harms by building workplaces, educational environments, and public contracting programs that reflect and benefit the demographics of this country. A Trump administration has promised to: censor academic discussions of race and sex-based discrimination. Also: Abandoning Civil Rights Enforcement on behalf of historically marginalized groups; Marshalling federal power to ramp up Right-Wing attacks on Equal Opportunity Initiative</p>	<p>These rollbacks of civil rights protections impede students’ and educators’ constitutional rights, and cause palpable harm to educational outcomes and the basic civil liberties of both students and teachers.</p> <p>Research has shown that an inclusive K-12 and college curriculum and environment is a significant contributor to the retention and academic success of not just students of color, but all students. Policies eradicating DEI programming and curricula are not only unlawful; they also actively undermine students’ ability to thrive.</p>	<p>Litigation where possible. Significant pressure on state & local governments to proactively limit discrimination and defend and promote DEI programs and inclusive curricula at the K-12 level. Engage with Yale, UConn, etc. Engage with families and educator groups, and other community partners for proactive public protest and action.</p>	<p>Necessary. Litigation response, advocacy, and analysis – working with families and education groups.</p> <p>Demanding executive order/actions while insisting on vocal, public, sustained pressure on educational institutions and governmental agencies and electeds.</p> <p>Recent Massachusetts legislative win as a guide.</p>
<p>Abortion: Trump will attempt a national abortion band, and will attempt a backdoor national abortion ban through enforcing the Comstock Act. And threats to people’s ability to control their bodies and their reproductive lives don’t stop with attempts to outlaw abortion. For example, Trump has admitted that he was looking at ways to restrict access to contraception.</p>	<p>A second Donald Trump presidency would present an existential threat to abortion access nationwide, imperiling the ability of anyone to get an abortion anywhere in the country under any circumstance.</p> <p>Implications for medical data, privacy, and the ability for doctors to maintain their Hippocratic oath.</p>	<p>Demand Connecticut maintain and fortify its status as an abortion sanctuary state – a safe haven for both patients and providers. Work with local and state orgs and communities, including unofficial whisper networks, to systemically and individually provide abortions for anyone seeking one in the state. Seek to attract abortion providers in the state and enact methodologies of protection. Demand state funding for abortion. Prepared for litigation as necessary, and for sustained public pressure, protests, and proactive public action prior to further loss of constitutional rights.</p>	<p>Necessary to work with patients, providers, and organizations that champion abortion, rights, and provide abortions in the state of Connecticut. Also, working with state officials and offering expert legal representation where necessary can and should be effective. Call to expand shield laws to prevent state employees from voluntarily assisting federal officials carrying out Trump’s assault on abortion. Demand refusal of Comstock enforcement. Demand privacy protections.</p>

TRUMP PRIORITY	IMPACT	ACLU OF CT ACTION	CHANCE OF ACLU SUCCESS
<p>LGBTQIA+ Rights: Removal of currently codified protections from discrimination. Require USFG discrimination, including by banning transgender people from serving openly in the Armed Forces and blocking gender-affirming medical care for trans people in healthcare programs such as Medicare. Employment discrimination and further censorship.</p>	<p>Making communities and governments a hostile place for LGBTQIA+ people is the goal of this administration, with a specific eye on raiding the rights and visibility and safety of transgender people.</p>	<p>Continue our track record of filing lawsuits against those governmental actors that would discriminate against and strip rights from LGBTQIA+ people.</p> <p>Currently coordinating and planning with other organizations and advocates to demand full protection and civil rights and freedom from discrimination.</p> <p>Public action will be necessary, as well as collective and collaborative movement from pro equality, governmental officials.</p>	<p>Necessary. Urging governor, state attorney general, and state legislatures to act now to prohibit the use of state resources to support any criminal prosecutions or other enforcement measures by the federal government unless compelled by federal law. While the end result of this approach may be to merely slow down the enforcement of federal criminal provisions, such as those Project 2025 is advocating for, it could be incredibly significant for the daily lives and futures of LGBTQIA+ people.</p>
<p>Immigration: Trump has indicated his desire to be far more aggressive than in his previous administration. Trump will target residents, citizens, and immigrants who are already contributing members of society and blocking new immigrants from entering the US lawfully. Large scale deportation efforts. Trump has made clear that he will double down on what he did during his presidency.</p>	<p>Massive deportations and targeting of immigrants and people of color will decimate communities, families, and even industries. Normalizing exclusionary policies and rhetoric are delirious to the central promise of this country, and certainly to the people of Connecticut.</p>	<p>Expand existing cooperation with immigrants groups, other states, and national groups to maintain and codify legal protections for immigrants as much as possible. Urge lawmakers, advocates, and others to proactively design programs and set expectations for the protection of immigrant communities.</p> <p>Public showing from non-immigrants that this type of discrimination cannot and will not be tolerated.</p> <p>Increase Spanish and other language, media campaigns and communications so that non-native English speakers can know their rights and that the ACLU of Connecticut is an advocate for them.</p>	<p>Necessary, especially with the help of the black and Puerto Rican caucus in the Connecticut legislature, community groups, and advocacy organizations, and anti-racist public action. Tracking of deportation or immigrant targeting should also be made public. Legal representatives, helping immigrants understand their constitutional rights, including Fourth Amendment.</p>

TRUMP PRIORITY	IMPACT	ACLU OF CT ACTION	CHANCE OF ACLU SUCCESS
<p>Voting Systems & Rights: Trump has indicated his intention to undermine confidence in our election systems regardless of the outcome of the election. Explicit threats to voting rights and our democracy as a whole will include efforts to spread mis- and dis-information on voting, dismantling functional voting systems state by state, tampering with voting rolls, and reducing overall confidence and functionality in our voting systems. Connecticut is behind the curve on voting rights and access and a Trump win could provide the opportunity to push back against this anti-democracy narrative and expand the right to vote, ensuring access to the ballot box for all eligible voters.</p>	<p>These efforts to roll back the right to vote could exclude large swaths of people from voting, capitalize and expand on current voter suppression and intimidation tactics, and include efforts to delegitimize and overturn election results.</p> <p>In Connecticut, this could begin as limiting or undermining efforts at early voting and absentee voting, and end with an undemocratic voting roll purge or other efforts to restrict the rights of our voters at the ballot box.</p>	<p>Direct pressure on the Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of the State to create a voting rights firewall that enshrines current voting rights in Connecticut and paves the way for expansion in the future. Policy push to pass CT Voting Rights Act with an intention to pass unanimously or via supermajority.</p> <p>Reactive litigation in various courts to establish new and fortify previous case law surrounding voting rights, specifically for marginalized groups.</p> <p>Continued work with our statewide Democracy Partners coalition, including public campaigns and focused media.</p> <p>Galvanize voting blocs via geography, region, population group, age, and other affinities for public and private support in Connecticut and throughout New England.</p>	<p>Necessary and very possible. Statewide infrastructure with coalition groups and legislators already exists, and ACLU of Connecticut is a leader in this space.</p>

SCENARIO: A HARRIS WIN

Although the ACLU of Connecticut does not endorse candidates, a Harris win in November presents opportunities to expand progressive reforms in the civil rights and liberties landscape for the people of Connecticut and of the United States.

Our policy team, communications team, litigators and legal team, partner organizations, supporters, and people in our communities are prepared and determined to boldly continue our present work and expand upon our freedoms however possible. Although a Harris win is not a “doomsday” scenario for the people of Connecticut, there are myriad challenges to civil rights and liberties that the ACLU of Connecticut will continue to address.

No matter who wins in November, we will continue and ramp up our position as the state’s premier advocates, and have detailed, **proactive** communication plans drafted to interface with Connecticut’s executive branch and legislators. Reactive litigation and policy work may be necessary, but at nowhere near the scale of a Trump win.

We have a principled and unyielding **action plan** in place to make it much more difficult for a hostile government to surveil its citizens, get information about people in Connecticut, and bypass

processes that make it easy to criminalize people – but direct threats of tyranny under a Harris administration are not imminent at this time.

Criminal Legal System: The ACLU will push the Harris administration to expand progressive reform efforts and challenge draconian approaches to criminal legal policy. In Connecticut, this means working with the legislature and governor to enshrine current practices and continue to press for reforms. Our legal team is currently litigating several cases germane to Department of Correction policies and practices.

Surveillance: The ACLU will push a Harris administration to rein in uses of surveillance that discriminate against people in the United States or invade their privacy. In Connecticut, we will continue to urge the Lamont administration and state legislature to adopt and implement strong guardrails for the use of artificial intelligence. We will continue to challenge abuses of individual rights and freedoms in court, and will have our staff experts on artificial intelligence and policy testify and educate publicly through a robust communications strategy.

Immigration: The ACLU of Connecticut and our community partners will continue to advocate for the civil and

human rights and liberties of migrants and the undocumented population in the state. We will tirelessly advocate for expanded sanctuary policies through the state, and will continue the drum beat against wrongful and mass deportations. Our legal, policy, and communications teams will advocate for reduced information sharing between state agencies and Immigration & Customs Enforcement.

Voting Rights: The ACLU of Connecticut will work to craft and pass the Connecticut Voting Rights Act, and shore up faith in our election systems and democracy. We will support efforts to ensure an accurate 2030 Census, so that all people and populations are counted. Accurate census data ensures more equitable public funding for communities and can support the work of anti-racism in the public sphere.

LGBTQIA+ Rights: A Harris administration is an opportunity to further protect civil rights and liberties for LGBTQIA+ individuals, families, and

children. The ACLU of Connecticut will continue our work in concert with community partners to distinguish Connecticut as a pro-equality state, working alongside the federal government to strengthen and expand these protections. State employees and agencies should be LGBTQIA+ competent, and school districts should be welcoming for LGBTQIA+ students and families. We will continue to build upon the success of our litigators in reforming the criminal legal system to afford gender affirming health care and protections for LGBTQIA+ incarcerated people.

Abortion: The ACLU will expect a Harris administration to pass abortion protection on a federal level. In Connecticut, the ACLU will work in coalition with community partners, the public, and legislators to promote efforts that seek to enshrine and expand reproductive rights in Connecticut.

CONCLUSION & OTHER RESOURCES

Regardless of the outcome in the 2024 election, the ACLU of CT is prepared for specific scenarios, including: election, safeguarding, the electoral matrix, fighting back against specific measures of Project 2025, and putting sustained and directed pressure on the state government of Connecticut to differentiate itself from a tyrannical Trump administration.

We will need you to help get our message out via word-of-mouth, social media, in the news media, and in the streets. We will coordinate with partner organizations and communities to activate one another in every way possible. We have the energy. We have a plan. And we have your support.

Together, we can realize a better future and fight to keep and advance the civil rights and liberties we all hold dear.

Further Resources:

[Know Your Rights in CT](#)

[ACLU on Project 2025](#)

[People's Guide to Project 2025](#)

[NAACP of CT](#)

[League of Women Voters CT](#)

[League of Conservation Voters CT](#)

[Common Cause CT](#)

[AARP of CT](#)

ACLU of CT keeps you updated constantly via social media:

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