



TEXAS  
CIVIL RIGHTS  
PROJECT

# ALL ROADS LEAD TO DEMOCRACY

2024 IMPACT REPORT



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## ***Mission Statement***

We are Texas lawyers and advocates for Texas communities, boldly serving the movement for equality and justice in and out of the courts.

## ***Vision Statement***

We envision a Texas where all communities thrive with dignity, justice, and without fear.

## ***History***

Texas Civil Rights Project has fought alongside Texas communities for more than three decades. Our legal advocacy is rooted in our long-standing relationships with grassroots community organizations that have first-hand knowledge of the injustices and legal challenges experienced by those with whom they serve. Our model of community lawyering and movement building is drawn directly from TCRP's founding director, Jim Harrington, who fought tirelessly to improve the lives of farm workers in the Rio Grande Valley, first as a community organizer and then as an attorney.

More than thirty years later, we carry this legacy forward as lawyers and advocates fighting alongside Texas communities.

## ***Equity Statement***

Texas Civil Rights Project is committed to fostering a workplace that is full of diverse talent. TCRP recognizes that each individual brings unique perspectives and experiences to our fight for justice in voting, border, and criminal justice rights. We embrace diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging for everyone within and outside TCRP.

# **Letter From The President: All Roads Lead to Democracy**

Reflecting on 2024, I am deeply grateful for my growing family, the resilient Texas Civil Rights Project team, and all of the funders, organizations, communities, and partners– like you– who dig deep to defend and grow an unrelenting movement for justice. That said, I also want to acknowledge the immense challenges we've faced here at home and across the country.

In Texas, lawmakers continue to roll back voter protections, use immigration at our Southern border as a political tool to erode the constitutional rights of all citizens, and permanently debilitate individuals who come into contact with the criminal legal system. To resist these attacks on our communities, we must fight for a world where democracy thrives. For TCRP, all roads lead to democracy, from local action to legislative policy.

As the Texas Attorney General launched politically-motivated investigations and prosecutions against nonprofits in 2024, we saw a harrowing intersection of anti-immigrant policy, threats to voting rights, and the criminalization of marginalized populations. While these may seem like disparate lines of oppression, in this intersection lives a coordinated attack on every Texan's civil liberties. This is not what I want for my daughters, for your family, or for our communities.

I am proud to lead TCRP as our responsive and ever-evolving work has coalesced around three major impact areas. Our overarching strategy addresses voting rights and representative democracy (Voting Rights), immigration systems that prioritize the health and safety of migrants and Texas border communities (Beyond Borders), and a reduction in the harms of over-criminalization and carceral systems (Criminal Legal Program). Working in concert, these bodies of work confront deeply intersectional threats with strategically intersectional responses.

Our purpose is unwavering: to affect positive, lasting change to law and policy that advances and protects the civil rights of everyone in Texas, particularly our state's most vulnerable populations. Our path forward–in every area of work–demands a democratic system that is easily and fairly accessible, holds our leaders accountable, and honors the needs of Texas communities.

With your partnership, we will never stop fighting in the courts, in our communities, and in halls of power for the rights of all Texans to live with dignity and without fear. The coming years will bring many challenges, but we will face them together. I am truly grateful for your ongoing support of TCRP's mission, vision, and commitment. You make this work possible.

In solidarity,



**Rochelle Garza**  
*President*  
*Texas Civil Rights Project*



# ***Election Protection 2024***

## ***Fighting for Free and Fair Elections***

In recent years, the Texas legislature has passed sweeping voter suppression legislation that disproportionately affects communities of color and serves as a blueprint for other anti-voter states—restricting voter registration, raising hurdles to mail-in voting, applying harsh criminal penalties on unwitting voters, volunteers, and election workers and more. These anti-voter measures take a grim toll on our right to free and fair elections.

While many of our allied organizations focus on voter mobilization in election years, TCRP supports a pro-voter ecosystem by providing crucial safeguards for election processes. In 2024, TCRP executed its Election Protection program, a state-wide collaborative effort to ensure mobilized voters have access and equal opportunity to cast their ballots. In coalition and solidarity, TCRP:

- **Led 866-OUR-VOTE hotline efforts for the state of Texas, making legal assistance easily accessible to all Texans**
- **Recruited and trained legal field volunteers and poll monitors to identify and report any issues hindering voter access, often leading to immediate interventions**
- **Provided accurate, reliable information to voters through a robust blueprint of multilingual multimedia engagements, including print media, radio, television, and digital channels**
- **Disseminated voter education materials in Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese and offered four diverse language-based hotlines: English-speaking, Spanish-speaking, Arabic-speaking, and a hotline that provided translation for Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Tagalog, Urdu, Hindi, and Bengali speakers.**



# ELECTION PROTECTION MEDIA REACH



## My Code

**4,397,394** | **6,385**

Impressions

Clicks



## YouTube

**495,000** | **325,000**

Impressions

Views

## Google Display

**16,200** | **1,100**

Impressions

Clicks

## Spotify

**795,751** | **550,025** | **320,341**

Impressions

Reach

Views

## In-House Social Ads

**691,396** | **249,031** | **8,179**

Impressions

Reach

Clicks

# TV



Over the three week campaign, stations across Texas aired **5,699 spots** (combined TV & radio) that delivered airtime value of **\$477,205**, over **15x our investment of \$30,000** through our partnership with Texas Association of Broadcasters' Public Education Program.



We also invested \$30,000 in a combined cable TV and digital campaign with Univision, which resulted in **324,022 televised impressions** and **800,011 digital impressions** of our EP ads.

# ELECTION PROTECTION IN THE FIELD



**565**

Poll Monitors

**95**

Legal Monitors

**526**

Polling Places

**40**

Organizational Partners

**1,228**

Shifts

**35**

Counties

Hotline: **Largest** number of calls in the country

**50** Legal Volunteers

**Voter intimidation & disability access**

Two most significant issues at polling places

# VOTER EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

## HOW CAN A FORMERLY INCARCERATED PERSON IN TEXAS RESTORE THEIR VOTING RIGHTS?

Residents who have been convicted of a felony must have:

- Fully discharged their sentence, including any term of confinement, supervision, or parole, or completed probation;
- Been fully pardoned or otherwise released from being unable to vote.
- AKA Off Paper

If a person is considered an eligible voter, they have the ability to register to vote through the same means as all other eligible voters in the state of Texas.



**866-OUR-VOTE**  
#ProtectOurVote



## CAN I REGISTER IF I'M CURRENTLY HOMELESS OR LIVING IN A SHELTER?

**YES,**  
YOU CAN REGISTER TO VOTE BY LISTING THE LOCATION WHERE YOU "RESIDE" IN TEXAS.

YOU CAN LIST YOUR SHELTER'S ADDRESS ON YOUR VOTER REGISTRATION FORM IF THAT IS YOUR HOME AND THE FIXED PLACE YOU RETURN TO.

IF YOU ARE HOMELESS THEN YOU CAN DESCRIBE THE LOCATION THAT YOU RETURN TO REGULARLY THAT YOU CONSIDER YOUR HOME, SUCH AS BY LISTING YOUR STREET CORNER OR PARK.



**866-OUR-VOTE**  
#ProtectOurVote



## WHAT IF SOMEONE OUTSIDE THE POLLING PLACE IS BEING AGGRESSIVE?

**It is against the law for anyone to attempt to intimidate...**

people while trying to vote, whether within 100 feet of the polling place or outside of 100 feet, period.

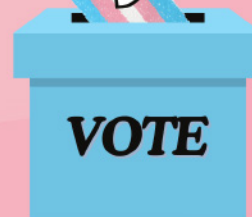
If you see intimidation happening, call 866-OUR-VOTE immediately.



**866-OUR-VOTE**  
#ProtectOurVote



*Let's vote,  
y'all!*



**Transgender and Non-Binary Communities Voting Rights**





# Defending Democracy for All

## Voting Rights Impact Area

Texas legislators continue to create unnecessary fear and confusion amid a broader pattern of anti-democratic measures aimed at disenfranchising and demonizing marginalized communities. Our democracy work continuously strives to expand voter access, engage disaffected voters, and generate civic participation, especially within populations that have experienced historical discrimination. We endeavor to build a robust, inclusive democracy in Texas that reflects our rich diversity, responds to the needs of everyday Texans, and holds our elected officials accountable.

### In the Community

In 2024, our Voting Rights team deepened its efforts to enhance voter access for underrepresented populations. Working with our Democracy from the Ground Up coalition, we successfully established an Elections and Voter Engagement Advisory Committee in Bexar County, instituted jail-based voting in Travis County (expanding previous years' work in Dallas and Harris Counties), and ensured that campus-based voting stayed accessible in Tarrant County despite a hostile county representative.

We strengthened our partnerships with disability rights groups to address the multitude of reported disability access problems during Early Voting and on Election Day. We also co-produced a presentation with a trusted partner on voting issues facing the trans community and spearheaded a strategy to protect the anonymity of trans voters calling the Election Protection hotline.

### In the Courts

In 2024, TCRP litigators successfully invigorated a federal statute protecting citizens from political violence with a significant win in the "Trump Train" case (*Davis v. Cisneros*). In 2020, a caravan of Trump supporters surrounded and threatened a Biden-Harris campaign bus between San Antonio and Austin. In September, we received a verdict on the long-awaited trial: the federal jury found the lead organizer liable for using threats and intimidation to prevent plaintiffs from engaging in support or advocacy of a political candidate. This favorable ruling is the first modern reinforcement of the Ku Klux Klan Act, which affirms that all citizens, regardless of ideology, are protected against politically motivated threats, intimidation, and force, and our democracy is stronger and more resilient for it.



Voting Rights attorneys win positive rulings against SB1 voter restrictions

# ***Demanding Dignity Along the Border***

## ***Beyond Borders Impact Area***

**F**ollowing the virulent rise of anti-immigrant policy and rhetoric in Texas, TCRP's Beyond Borders program has been instrumental in advocating for the humane treatment of migrants and championing the health and perseverance of border communities. We challenge harmful detainment processes and detention systems, resist the militarization and criminalization of border communities, and develop policies and practices that promote respect and safety at the border, highlighting humanity over punishment.

### ***In the Community***

In 2024, TCRP launched Project Lengua, an initiative that empowers a culture of local organizing and community-led action in Southwest Texas. The project leverages digital content and storytelling—supported by in-person organizing engagements—to bridge vast geographical gaps in a critical movement that requires collaboration and solidarity. Through an innovative digital hub, Project Lengua provides community leaders with accurate information, organizing resources, and a support network that recenters the power to initiate change within impacted communities.

If left unchallenged on a local level, policies and propaganda that support institutional violence at the border will remain bolstered by specious narratives. Project Lengua offers a narrative bulwark against extremist ideologies that erode democracy in Texas and celebrates as broadly and enthusiastically as possible border communities' capacity to find ways to thrive through the harshest moments.

### ***In the Courts***

In 2024, TCRP litigators held Customs and Border Patrol liable for the wrongful death of a young man who died in custody due to negligence and lack of medical care. Four years after submitting the administrative complaint and continuing as co-counsel, TCRP finally received a settlement offer of \$2.25 million on behalf of the family. This settlement sets an incredible precedent for holding state and federal agencies accountable for inhumane treatment, but it does not bring back a life. TCRP's legal work in our Beyond Borders program fights to dismantle the policies and processes that permitted the cruelty experienced by this young man and countless others coming into contact with our broken immigration system.



**Border is Beautiful art exhibition celebrates resilience in Texas border communities**

# Challenging Harms of Epidemic Incarceration

## Criminal Legal Program

Through an ongoing resurgence of the “tough-on-crime” narrative, Texas incarcerates more people—more children—than any other state. TCRP’s Criminal Legal Program combats this needless overcriminalization and Texas’ barbaric carceral systems by advocating for alternative community resources that realistically address public health and safety and improve conditions in current institutions to limit rights violations and violence.

### In the Community

In 2024, TCRP became the administrative lead for Finish the 5, an advocacy campaign led by youth organizers and individuals impacted by the carceral system. The ultimate goal of Finish the 5 is to close the five remaining child prisons in Texas and invest in community-based alternatives to incarceration. TCRP has added 12 organizations to the coalition since the beginning of 2024 and maintained robust attendance at coalition convenings.

Due to this coordination, the coalition had the agility and resources to prevent the furtive implementation of a new prison for children. In July, the Travis County Juvenile Probation Department put forth a proposal in a clandestine meeting to secure \$300 million in funding for a new youth jail. Finish the 5 organized over 50 people to attend a Commissioners Court meeting less than a week later to disrupt this atrocity. Following hours of impactful testimony, the Court did not approve funding for the new jail. TCRP, in collaboration with state and local partners, will persist in its demand for alternatives to criminalizing and incarcerating children.

### In the Courts

In 2024, after more than a year of investigation and procedural hurdles, TCRP litigators filed suit on behalf of a mother whose son died at 16 years old in the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. This young man, who had a slew of documented mental health issues, spent five years in a youth prison before being transferred to an adult facility. He died by suicide six months after the transfer. TCRP has filed claims under the Eighth Amendment, the Rehabilitation Act, and the Americans with Disabilities Act to hold agencies and individuals accountable for inhumane and ultimately fatal actions. We aim to increase awareness of the implications of incarceration on mental health, especially for children, and to highlight the harms of incarcerating children at any level.



Finish the 5 youth leaders advocate for juvenile justice at the State Capitol

# MEDIA ENGAGEMENT



## Earned Media

- On the earned media side, over **4,000** media mentions were earned throughout 2024 including media highlights of the Beyond Borders, Criminal Injustice, and Voting Rights teams. The total reach of our media mentions was over **\$162,000,000** in advertising value equivalency (AVE).
- Our earned media efforts also reached an audience of **17.5 billion worldwide**.
- Throughout 2024, the Texas Civil Rights Project was mentioned in **The New York Times, USA Today, Newsweek, The Dallas Morning News, The Associated Press, The Texas Tribune, Bloomberg Law, and NPR**, among various others.

## Social Media

**2,104,008**

Reach

**1,948,442**

Impressions

**96,719**

Engagements



TexasCivilRightsProject



@txcivilrights

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



A critical component of this approach is the ability to engage Texas communities with humility, cultural competency, and an authentic appeal to celebrate our diverse identities, hear challenges, and better understand needs. By building and deepening relationships with community partners, supporters, and those directly impacted by structural violence, TCRP hones its strategy to reflect community priorities, communicate needs to supporters, and position itself to respond when new developments demand swiftly.



***Dia de los Muertos Remembrance***  
*Honoring migrant fatalities at Texas border*



***Civil Rights Night Series***  
***Inaugural Event***  
*Activating community members in Del Rio*



***Launch of collaboration with***  
***Reimagining Safety for Everyone (RISE)***  
*Campaigning to stop police violence in Houston*

# YOUR INVESTMENT MATTERS

Thank you. We reached incredible fundraising milestones in 2024 thanks to the gifts and resources you provided. With your partnership and generosity, we make a powerful collective statement:

## JUSTICE IN TEXAS IS NOT NEGOTIABLE. EVERY COMMUNITY DESERVES TO THRIVE.

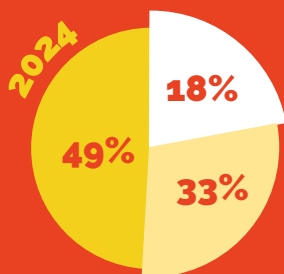
In 2024, you dug deep in your dedication to make Texas a place where justice, equality, and dignity are realities, not just ideals. Thanks to you, together we achieved:

- 10% increase in value of overall gifts
- 30% increase in number of donors
- 11% increase in institutional funding
- Raised more than \$1 million for Texans United for Justice coalition

These contributions are vital to the work that must be done and deeply encouraging as we look to the seasons ahead. Thank you for your commitment to civil rights, the communities we fight to empower, and the work of TCRP.

### Fiscal Year 2024

Projected revenue: \$6,713,150 | Actual revenue: \$7,361,073



Breakdown of **2024** expenses:  
Programs: 49% | Operating: 33%  
Communications and Development: 18%

# **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**



**James Northey | Board Chair**



**Kris Beaulieu**



**Carlos Carrasco**



**Jessica Cisneros**



**Alan Dettlaff**



**Steffanie Evans**



**James Hurd**



**Ina Minjarez**



**Salina Mostajabian, MD**

# JOIN THE MOVEMENT

You can advance the movement for equality and justice by contributing to the Texas Civil Rights Project.

**ONLINE**  
**HERE**

## BY MAIL

Please make checks payable to the Texas Civil Rights Project and mail to:

**Texas Civil Rights Project**  
**PO Box 17757**  
**Austin, TX 78760**

**JOIN THE JUSTICE CORPS HERE, TCRP'S COHORT OF DEDICATED SUSTAINING SUPPORTERS!**

**DO YOU HAVE A DONOR ADVISED FUND? DOES YOUR EMPLOYER OFFER MATCHING GIFTS? CONTACT US!**

To contact TCRP, please reach out to us at

***[development@texascivilrightsproject.org](mailto:development@texascivilrightsproject.org)***

**[SIGN UP FOR THE NEWSLETTER HERE](#)**

We invite you to follow us on Facebook and Instagram (@txcivilrights) for of-the-moment news and updates in this ever-changing landscape.

Visit our website to learn more: [www.txcivilrights.org](http://www.txcivilrights.org)





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