

2026

Lobby Day Impact Report

ACLU of Colorado returned to the state capitol for another successful legislative day of action. This lobby day, we mobilized community members alongside partner organizations and pressed lawmakers to rein in mass surveillance, establish consistent jail standards in both municipal and county settings, and defend the civil rights and civil liberties of Coloradans. Our lobby day also provided attendees with the tools and skills needed to push for change independently, empowering everyday Coloradans to proactively advance pro-civil liberties priorities in a variety of settings.

Crucially, our organizers connected youth to lawmakers and policy professionals, building a multi-generational bench of civil rights advocates. We also prioritized outreach to marginalized communities and direct service provider organizations to help ensure that anyone has the skills and confidence necessary to advocate for change in their communities — regardless of their background or experience.

2026 LOBBY DAY By the Numbers

| | |
|---|------------|
| Lobby Day 2026 participants | 110 |
| Lobby lead participants | 10 |
| Virtual training participants | 44 |
| Lobby lead training participants | 6 |
| Total partner organizations | 6 |



Lobby Day attendee takes notes in Lobby Day folder



Summary

This year, our three priorities were to:

- **Deepen** engagement with current activists
- **Foster** a welcoming and accessible experience
- **Build** a political home for civil liberties supporters

Deepen current activists' engagement

Our lobby day provided multiple opportunities to deepen attendees' engagement with civil rights advocacy. This included roles for attendees across a wide spectrum of prior engagement — from casual supporters to deeply engaged volunteers.

While most of our attendees had some familiarity with civil liberties issues in Colorado, many had not yet been activated. This lobby

day was a major turning point for them, where attendees moved from spectator to advocate, engaging with our organization on local civil rights policy.

For attendees already deeply engaged with our work, we empowered them to be lobby leads, where they would escort their peers throughout the capitol and lead in face-to-face conversations with lawmakers. Our organizers were able to train them in intimate small-group virtual trainings, where lobby leads were able to establish direct relationships with ACLU of Colorado staff prior to the event.

Foster a welcoming and accessible experience

We set out to provide comprehensive and hands-on civics education for a diverse range of participants in a safe and welcoming environment. This included youth recruited through partnerships with high schools, universities, and youth-serving organizations, as well as people from other direct-service organizations and previous ACLU of Colorado supporters. Our organizers hosted several virtual trainings before lobby day, ensuring that all participants understood the legislative process regardless of their background or civics

experience. Post-event surveys confirmed that attendees felt increased confidence in engaging with advocacy efforts, and most felt prepared or very prepared.

Attendees broke bread with people from across the state and from a wide range of backgrounds, fostering intergenerational connections and encouraging attendees to network and collaborate with each other.

Build a political home for civil liberties supporters

As data privacy grows increasingly salient, this event was an opportunity to cement our organization as a leader in this issue area. We worked with attendees to lobby legislators on a variety of data privacy legislation, including the Fourth Amendment is Not for Sale Act legislation. This enabled us to remain a relevant “home” for activists in the digital age.

With the connections we cultivated in this year’s lobby day, we continued building momentum throughout the 2026 legislative session. We activated people to email their state legislators via action alerts, encouraged people to testify in future committee hearings on priority bills, and support partners in their legislative work. These post-event actions ensured that people felt they belonged to an ongoing and dynamic movement. Post-event surveys also confirmed that majorities of attendees were likely or very likely to participate in future ACLU of Colorado events.



1: Lobby Day attendees speak with state Senator Julie Gonzales
2: ACLU of Colorado staff
3: Lobby Day attendees outside the senate chamber



Attendee Feedback

Our post event surveys showed that Lobby Day 2026 attendees felt **prepared, confident, and were likely to attend future ACLU of Colorado events.**

“Getting common citizens involved in ways that empower our voice and inspire us to possible next steps to steer policies and bills into the directions we would like to see really represents ‘We the People’ in all the best ways.”

— Lobby Day participant

“I learned so much more about how bills are passed and the jobs and responsibilities of our senators and legislators.”

— Lobby Day participant



Lobby Day attendees and ACLU of Colorado staff wait to speak to lawmakers outside the senate chamber.

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS



Faculty and students at the Colorado State University School of Social Work

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