



KANSAS FIREWALL FOR FREEDOM

Cities, counties, school districts and other local governments have the power to defend our freedoms. At a time when civil rights and civil liberties are under attack, local governments are critical to building a firewall for freedom. On each and every civil liberties issue, there is a proactive policy step that local governments can take to improve the lives of residents and to defend freedom, justice, and equality. Here are some ideas of impactful policies that local governments have the power to take right now.

INCREASE ACCESS TO VOTING & ELECTION SECURITY

There are already far too many barriers to voting. Anti-voter actions and policies often target and disproportionately impact voters of color, voters with limited English proficiency, voters with disabilities, and other marginalized voters. The ability of municipalities to expand voting access varies depending on state law, but in many states, they offer the best opportunity to strengthen our democracy.

PROTECT PROTEST & NEWSGATHERING

Law enforcement has subjected peaceful protesters and the press to unnecessary violence, intrusive surveillance, and other behavior that threatens protesters right to engage in First Amendment protected activity. Localities should adopt clear rules governing how police respond to peaceful protests.

FUND ABORTION AND/OR ABORTION SUPPORT SERVICES

Municipal funding for abortion care and support services like travel and lodging could be a key ingredient for ensuring abortion seekers are able to access the care they need.

ADOPT LGBTQ-INCLUSIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT POLICIES

Local school boards should adopt policies to protect LGBTQ+ students from discrimination and harassment in the face of attacks on their identity and dignity from the Trump Administration.

ADOPT DEI POLICIES

Although the Trump Administration is seeking to dismantle Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs in the federal government, municipal governments can enact and expand DEI programs within local agencies and incorporate DEI goals into economic tools and policies.

FUND IMMIGRANT LEGAL CONSULTATION, REPRESENTATION, & APPLICATION FEES

The full realization of a person's legal rights and access to essential benefits should not hinge on their ability to afford quality legal advice and representation or application fees. Unfortunately, in the case of persons who are immigrants, too many people's rights and well-being, including the ability to remain in the United States, are compromised by financial limitations. Local funding for immigrant legal consultation, representation, and application fees can ensure persons who are immigrants are treated more justly and equitably, regardless of their ability to pay.

PROMOTE RAPID, COORDINATED LOCAL RESPONSE TO MASS IMMIGRATION RAIDS

The Trump Administration is undertaking a widespread deportation campaign that includes mass immigration raids which are tearing apart families, harming communities, and destabilizing our society and economy. This approach would tear apart families, destroy communities, and destabilize our society and economy. To counteract such destructive actions, localities should develop and coordinate their response efforts to ensure that anyone caught in the deportation dragnet has their rights protected to the maximum extent possible.

PROMOTE CIVIL RIGHTS & LIBERTIES AGAINST "TOUGH ON CRIME" BACKLASH

The narrative that violent crime is on the rise is not supported by data. Localities have the ability to take actions that reduce stops, arrests, and incarceration for trivial and politically motivated infractions, lessen the criminalization of poverty, and curtail abuses of police powers, which fall the most heavily on communities of color, low-income communities, and other marginalized groups.