

RHODE ISLAND CIVIL LIBERTIES

A Bi-Monthly Publication of the American Civil Liberties Union Foundation of RI

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In Countdown to November 4th, RI ACLU Works on Numerous Election Issues

RI ACLU Distributes Voting Rights Card

In an effort to assist voters, the RI ACLU is distributing throughout the state a voting rights card designed to inform people of their rights for next month's general election. The ACLU is also staffing a voting rights hotline through Election Day.

The palm-sized fold-out "voter empowerment card" lists important rights voters have under state law. Cited examples include:

- Voters have the right to cast a "provisional ballot" if a poll worker cannot find their name on the list. Before casting their provisional ballot, voters should make sure that they are in the right polling location so their votes will completely count. (See story at right.)
- The only voters who need to show identification at the polls are first-time voters who registered by mail or in a voter-registration drive and did not provide a verifiable RI driver's license number, state ID number or last four digits of their social security number.
- If you moved to a new city or town within the state after October 5, you can still vote in your old city or town.
- Voters have the right to vote if they are in line when the polls close.

The card lists phone numbers that people with questions about their rights or who experience problems while voting can call, including a toll-free hotline to the ACLU Voting Rights Project, (877) 523-2792.

Copies of the card are available for free by calling the ACLU office at 831-7171. Also, the text of the card, in English and Spanish, can be downloaded from the RI ACLU's website, www.riaclu.org.

Boards of Canvassers Urged to Notify Voters of Polling Location Changes

Calling it "essential" to ensure that the legitimate votes of potentially thousands of voters do not get disqualified on November 4th, the Rhode Island ACLU and Common Cause RI have urged local Boards of Canvassers (BOC) to take steps to notify individually all voters in their communities of their polling location. The request was made in a letter sent by the two groups to all BOCs in the state.

More Voting Rights News on Pages 2 and 3

A person who goes to an incorrect polling place has the right to cast a provisional ballot. However, under current state Board of Elections' regulations, qualified voters who cast such a ballot in their city or town will have only their votes for federal offices counted. Their votes on statewide elections and referenda, and city or town-wide elections and referenda are all thrown out, even when there is no question about their qualifications and residence in the municipality where the ballot was cast.

The joint letter noted that as a result of this policy, potentially thousands of voters who go to the wrong polling place in their community in November will find most of their votes disqualified, with potentially significant consequences. During the most recent primary elections, for example, a number of hotly-contested local races were decided by just a few votes.

Continued on page 4

**2008 Annual Dinner Fast Approaching!
See back page for more details...**

Lawsuit Charges Governor with “Knowing and Willful” Violation of Open Records Law

The RI ACLU has filed a lawsuit charging Governor Donald Carcieri with a “knowing and willful” violation of the Access to Public Records Act, and seeks imposition of a \$1,000 fine against him for the violation. The suit, filed in Superior Court by RI ACLU volunteer attorney Kathleen Managhan, argues that the Governor has failed to turn over records that are clearly public under the law.

Last December, a major snowstorm hit the state when Governor Carcieri was out of the country. Traffic gridlock left some school children stranded on buses for hours. Upon his return, Governor Carcieri announced that Major General Robert Bray, head of the National Guard, would be in charge should similar situations occur in the future. The announcement prompted numerous concerns as to whether it was proper or constitutional for the Governor to give such authority to Bray.

Following up on the dispute, the ACLU filed an open records request, asking the Governor for copies of any documents that, among other things, set out the chain of command for state governance in his absence, described the emergency powers given Maj. Gen. Bray, and that imposed any limits on those powers.

The Governor’s executive counsel, Kernan King, responded by turning over only one document: a news re-

lease that had been issued by the Governor in March in an attempt to answer some of the questions raised in the media about this controversy. King alleged that the only other records responsive to the ACLU’s request were emails that were exempt from public disclosure because they were “internal documents that were created for internal purposes . . . not intended to be publically [sic] disclosed, nor have they been publically [sic] disclosed.”

The ACLU lawsuit seeking fines against the Governor notes that, despite the explanation given about “internal” emails, *the Governor’s own news release contained a direct quote from an email his office had sent to the Providence Journal*. Yet the state refused to release that email to the ACLU even though it had been publicly cited by the Governor.

In addition to a civil fine, the suit seeks a court order requiring release of all other responsive documents in the Governor’s possession, and an award of attorney fees.

RI ACLU executive director Steven Brown called the blanket denial of records “the Governor’s latest lackadaisical approach to open government in his administration.” In July, the Governor vetoed a bill passed overwhelmingly by the General Assembly that would have strengthened the open records law in various respects.

ACLU Sues Board of Elections Over November Election Day Voting

The Rhode Island ACLU has filed a lawsuit challenging the legality of a recently-adopted Board of Elections’ (“Board”) regulation that the ACLU claims may improperly disenfranchise some voters on Election Day. The suit, filed by ACLU volunteer attorney Angel Taveras in R.I. Superior Court, specifically addresses the situation of qualified but unregistered voters who have the right, under state law, to go to their city or town hall on Election Day and cast a limited ballot for President and Vice-President.

Despite the clear wording of the state law, the new regulation allows cities and towns, with Board permission, to have same-day registration and voting for President and Vice-President take place exclusively at locations other than city or town hall. At a public hearing held on the regulation in July, the RI ACLU argued that allowing municipalities to eliminate town hall as the location for same-day voting could cause confusion and hardship for people seeking to exercise their right to vote a limited ballot. The ACLU noted that some people who arrive at their city or town hall to vote on Election Day, only to be told that they must cast their Presidential ballot at a different location, could be dissuaded from voting, or unable to cast their vote due to time, transportation or other difficulties.

The RI ACLU suggested that the Board allow municipalities to designate facilities *in addition to* city or town halls for same day registration and voting if they had concerns about the adequacy of those halls. The suit notes that the Board’s legal counsel also recommended this approach, but the Board unanimously rejected it. The lawsuit seeks a court order declaring the new regulation null and void and barring the Board from implementing it.

In 2004, more than 21,000 Rhode Islanders were eligible to vote for President and Vice-President only, although it is unclear how many of them registered on Election Day. ACLU Attorney Taveras said: “It is important for the Board of Elections to follow state law, and for all city and town halls to be open and available for same day registration and voting for President and Vice-President. If cities and towns want additional sites for same day registration and voting, that is fine, but to protect the rights of voters, they should be additional sites, not alternative sites.”

As this newsletter went to press, a hearing on the ACLU’s suit had not yet been scheduled.

Court Strikes Down Law Used to Remove Candidate's Political Signs

Ruling in an ACLU case, a federal judge has declared unconstitutional a state law that was used by the Town of Richmond to repeatedly remove former Congressional candidate Rod Driver's political signs from private property during the 2006 election. In a 25-page opinion, Judge William Smith agreed with the ACLU that the statute violated Driver's First Amendment rights.

In August 2006, Driver posted a political sign for his candidacy on the private property of supporters across from the Washington County Fair Grounds in Richmond. The sign was taken down, so Driver replaced it, only to find it removed again on several occasions. When Driver complained to police chief Raymond Driscoll about the vandalism, he learned, much to his surprise, that it was the chief himself who had removed the signs. The chief cited a state law banning signs "within the limits of a public highway without first obtaining the written consent of the chief of police."

The lawsuit, filed by ACLU volunteer attorney Richard A. Sinapi, argued that the state law cited by Driscoll was unconstitutional by giving him unbridled discretion to decide whether a sign could be posted. Judge Smith agreed. Although the state argued that the statute was premised on

safety considerations, the judge noted: "The statute makes no mention of traffic safety, or any other purpose justifying the restrictions, and sets forth no standards based on the characteristics of a proposed sign... The state's assertion that the statute sets forth clear standards is simply not supported by the plain language of the statute." He added: "Ultimately, allowing the statute to stand would be an endorsement of a 'trust me because I am the Chief of Police' standard," an argument that has long been rejected by the U.S. Supreme Court.



Driver, who is running for a state legislative seat this year, said he had found it "outrageous that a police chief could decide who may or may not post political signs, and then tear down those he disapproved of." ACLU attorney Sinapi said: "This decision recognizes the dangers to First Amendment values that are present when a public official is given unbridled discretion to decide who may speak and who may not. The court ruling is a victory for all Rhode Islanders who value freedom of speech."

Restraining Order Issued in Challenge to West Warwick Sign Ordinance

In response to a Rhode Island ACLU lawsuit, U.S. District Judge Ernest Torres has entered a temporary restraining order against enforcement of the Town of West Warwick's political sign ordinance. The ordinance had been challenged by ACLU volunteer attorney Richard A. Sinapi on behalf of town resident and state legislative candidate Thomas K. Jones. The order will allow Jones and his supporters to immediately repost political signs on their property, some of which promote his candidacy and others that criticize the proposed controversial construction of a water park in the town.

A day before the September primary election, Acting Building Official Frank Venezia hand-delivered notices to Jones and the homeowners advising them that the signs – which were 32 square feet – were too large and violated the Town's zoning ordinance. They were told to remove the signs within 24 hours or else face steep financial penalties. The RI ACLU immediately wrote a letter to Venezia, arguing that the ordinance was clearly unconstitutional. The building official's response was to send out another warning notice to violators. Rather than risk any fines, Jones had all the signs removed.

The lawsuit argues that the ordinance has been enforced against Jones by town officials in a discriminatory manner. Although signs that he displayed were cited for violating the ordinance, dozens of other similarly-sized political signs supporting other candidates were not cited at all.

The lawsuit makes a number of other legal claims. In addition to arguing that the ordinance is unconstitutionally vague – it limits political signs to eight square feet in one section and four square feet in another – the suit alleges that the ordinance also appears to completely ban the "water park" signs, since only signs that directly support or oppose a candidate or ballot question are explicitly allowed. In light of the vagueness of the law, the ACLU suit claims, residents are unconstitutionally deterred from engaging in political speech.

Finally, the ACLU lawsuit further notes that the ordinance allows various types of non-political signs to be much larger than eight square feet, and calls this discriminatory treatment of political signs a clear violation of the First Amendment. The restraining order bars the Town from enforcing the political sign restrictions to the extent they are more stringent than those imposed on non-political signs, and specifically bars interference with Jones' political signs.

The ACLU will now seek a permanent injunction against enforcement of the ordinance, as well as an award of attorneys' fees.

Polling Locations (continued from page 1)

The ACLU/Common Cause letter further noted that polling location changes are not at all uncommon. For instance, municipalities closed more than 80 polling places between the 2004 and 2008 Presidential primaries.

The two groups acknowledged that the state and municipalities take some steps to try to make voters aware of polling place locations – such as through newspaper advertisements and Web site programs – but “particularly for the poor and elderly, those efforts are likely to be insufficient.” Those voters are also the ones least likely, due to time or transportation difficulties, to be able to get to their correct polling place after they show up at the wrong one, stated the letter.

Pointing out that a record turnout is expected on November 4th, the letter argued that “the reality is that thousands of residents” may not have voted since the last Presidential election four years ago, “and they will not be aware of any polling changes that have taken place since that time.” The groups urged the BOCs to “take steps to individually notify voters of their polling place location by sending out postcards with this information before the upcoming election. To the extent this is deemed too costly or otherwise burdensome, we would encourage at a minimum that you send notices to those voters whose polling location has changed since the 2004 elections.” The Secretary of State’s office echoed the concerns raised by the letter, but there was little positive response from the Boards themselves. Some of them, according to published reports, either denied there was any problem at all or said financial considerations barred them from providing notification to voters. The ACLU will continue to press for action by the local Boards.

Judge Issues Preliminary Ruling in Suit Over Immigration Executive Order

In response to an ACLU lawsuit, a state court judge has, for the time being, partially halted implementation of part of the controversial “immigration executive order” that Governor Donald Carcieri issued in March. Specifically, both the lawsuit, filed by RI ACLU volunteer attorney Randy Olen, and the court decision address the executive order’s requirement that all vendors and contractors with the state participate in the federal employment authorization system known as E-Verify.

The E-Verify program is an internet database run by the Department of Homeland Security that allows employers to verify the employment eligibility of new hires. However, since its launch, the E-Verify program has been riddled with significant flaws, and returns inaccurate information regarding the immigration and employment eligibility status of new hires – and particularly lawful foreign-born workers – at more than a minimal rate. Studies have also shown that the program has a substantial rate of employer abuse, leading to discrimination against potential employees perceived as “foreign.”

In response to the Governor’s order, the Department of Administration sent a notice to all persons and businesses on the state’s vendor registration list at the end of July, requiring them to certify within 45 days that they and their subcontractors are registered with, and use, the E-Verify program. The notice stated that failure to comply would prohibit the recipient from obtaining business from the State in the future and could adversely affect their current contracts.

The ACLU suit was filed on behalf of the Rhode Island Coalition Against Domestic Violence (RICADV) and two Rhode Island College professors – Ann Marie Mumm and Daniel Weisman – who have contracts with the state and object to participation in the program. The suit argues that the Governor exceeded his executive authority in having the order apply to private businesses, and that the order also violates detailed statutes in place governing the state purchasing process.

Noting that the program is being implemented without the adoption of any formal regulations, the suit further claims that implementation of the order, to the extent it is valid, violates the Administrative Procedures Act (APA). That Act requires state agencies to provide advance public notice and an opportunity for public comment before adopting any rules affecting the public.

In a written decision addressing the ACLU’s request for a temporary restraining order, Judge Mark Pfeiffer agreed that the state implemented the program in violation of the APA. He ruled that until regulations were properly adopted, current vendors with the state did not have to register with E-Verify. However, he authorized its use on future vendors on the premise that the rules would be adopted promptly. He also initially rejected the ACLU’s other legal claims. The judge indicated he would issue a final decision by the end of November.

In explaining RICADV’s involvement in the case, executive director Deborah DeBare said: “Our agency prides itself on its diverse staff. We are concerned that mandatory use of the E-Verify program may discourage some applicants, particularly foreign-born citizens, from applying, due to E-Verify’s high error rate. We also provide funds to a number of subcontractors and we will have to expend significant time and effort if we are required to assure that all of them register with and continue to use E-Verify.” Plaintiff Weisman explained that he disapproved of mandatory use of the E-Verify program “in light of its unreliability and the time required to ensure compliance with the program. I also oppose its use as a matter of public policy, particularly in light of its discriminatory impact on naturalized citizens and other foreign-born workers.”

ACLU attorney Olen said: “Whatever the motives behind the Governor’s attempt to address the issue of illegal immigration may be, the executive order’s attempt to legislate by executive fiat is clearly unlawful.”

Immigration Fires Continue to Burn

In addition to the pending lawsuit challenging the Governor's executive order (see story, page 4), the Affiliate has been very active in the past two months on many other immigration issues. Some of them are summarized below:

Courthouse Raid Reverberations: In response to the courthouse raids that took place in July, representatives of the RI Judiciary were quoted as telling its janitorial contractors to check the work authorization status of all their current employees through the E-Verify system. Acknowledging that, under federal law, permissible use of E-Verify is limited to screening only *newly-hired* employees, a court spokesperson had suggested that the companies circumvent this clear restriction simply by firing their current employees and then rehiring them. In a letter to RI Supreme Court Chief Justice Frank Williams, the ACLU noted that "such a blatant subterfuge cannot withstand close scrutiny." Court officials agreed to make clear to the contractors that no such effort should take place.

Rapid REPAT: The Department of Corrections has agreed to examine concerns raised by the ACLU in implementing a program, known as Rapid REPAT, with federal immigration officials. The program allows for the early conditional release from prison – and consequent prompt deportation – of certain non-violent immigrant offenders. To participate in the program, inmates must waive their legal right to have their case reviewed by an immigration judge.

In a letter to DOC officials, the ACLU noted that eligible offenders could include, for example, individuals who have lawfully resided in this country for years and who have lawfully raised their family here. Noting a variety of circumstances under which these inmates might have strong legal grounds for remaining in this country – such as being eligible for asylum – the ACLU emphasized that, without proper counsel, they could unwittingly waive those grounds in

thinking that Rapid REPAT was a "good deal" for them. In order to ensure that inmates have made a knowing and intelligent waiver of their appeal rights, the ACLU urged that all eligible inmates have the ability to consult with immigration counsel before they decide whether to participate in the program.

Discrimination in Public Accommodations: In a highly-publicized incident shortly after the Governor issued his executive order, a Providence store owner demanded that two customers, who had been speaking in Spanish to each other, show their Social Security card to him and threatened to call immigration officials if they didn't. With ACLU guidance, Jose Genao, one of the customers, filed a discrimination complaint with the state and Providence human rights commissions. This month, he settled the complaints when the store owner agreed to issue a public apology and donate \$500 to Latino charities designated by Genao. The settlement obviated the need for any ACLU court action on his behalf.

DMV Regulations: Rejecting ACLU testimony, the DMV has adopted regulations requiring proof of a Social Security number to be presented by any person renewing their license whose SSN is currently not in the DMV's database. The effect of this change is to bar renewals for immigrants who obtained their license during a period when the DMV was accepting Individual Tax Identification Numbers (ITIN) from individuals without an SSN. The ACLU called the change poor public policy that would make the roads less safe, forcing immigrants to go further underground and preventing them from getting car insurance.

ACLU Agrees to Represent Family of Chinese Detainee Who Died at Wyatt Detention Facility

The Rhode Island ACLU has agreed to provide legal representation to the family of Hiu Lui ("Jason") Ng, the 34-year-old Chinese detainee who died in early August while in the custody of immigration officials at the Wyatt Detention Facility in Central Falls. The case will be handled by RI ACLU cooperating attorney John J. McConnell, Jr. of the law firm Motley Rice, LLC.

Attorney McConnell is in the process of gathering information about Ng's death and investigating the potential legal claims. The investigation is projected to take a few months, and any lawsuit is not expected to be filed until that investigation is completed.

For months, Ng had complained of excruciating back pain, and had been relying on the help of other inmates to get around. By mid-July, he could no longer walk or stand, yet

his complaints continued to be largely ignored by prison officials. Ng died as a result of complications from advanced cancer and had a fractured spine, neither of which had been diagnosed or treated by prison officials. Just days before his death, as attorneys sought his release from the prison, government officials belittled claims that he was not being provided adequate medical care.

RI ACLU executive director Steven Brown said: "Mr. Ng's tragic death highlights many serious questions about both the operation of this country's immigration detention system and the adequacy of medical care provided to inmates in that system. We are hopeful that our investigation, and any legal action that may follow from it, will ultimately provide some answers to those questions and help foster meaningful changes to that system in order to avert similar tragedies. His family deserves no less."

News Briefs

Charges Against State House Protesters Dismissed

The state has dismissed “disorderly conduct” charges against two members of the organization People to End Homelessness, who were arrested by Capitol Police while staging a small rally in June in front of the State House to protest the Governor’s budget cuts. Catherine Rhodes and Joseph Freitas had been charged with making “unreasonable noise” by using a bullhorn to express their views at the rally. RI ACLU volunteer attorney Thomas G. Briody represented the protesters. After the charges were dismissed, he was also forced to file court papers to get their bullhorn returned to them. The ACLU is considering further legal action on their behalf.

Privacy Protections for E-Z Pass Urged

At a public forum held by the RI Turnpike and Bridge Authority, ACLU member Eleanor Doumato urged the inclusion of privacy safeguards in the agency’s plans to install an E-ZPass system on the Claiborne Pell Bridge. Specifically, the Affiliate urged the adoption of policies that make confidential any personally identifying information of persons who purchase and use the E-ZPass technology, and that establish limits on the amount of time that toll information collected through the system is maintained.

In other states where E-ZPass has been installed, the toll records have, for example, been subject to subpoena in divorce cases in order to determine a spouse’s whereabouts. The ACLU argued that adoption of a strong privacy policy in advance was critical to prevent misuse of the technology and the information it collects. The Authority has taken the ACLU’s comments under advisement.

Preferential Treatment of Parochial Schools Reversed

ACLU volunteer attorney Sandra Lanni has resolved, at least for this school year, a dispute with the City of Pawtucket for giving parochial schools preferential access to city-owned recreational fields. The problem goes back many years, and some school coaches and parents finally contacted the ACLU after their frustration mounted at being unable to resolve matters on their own.

One major complaint had been that St. Raphael Academy, a parochial school, had been using a city-owned field at no charge for football practice while a nearby public junior high school, Jenks, had been stymied in being able to make use of the field for its own sport practices and games. Similar examples of the City providing preferential treatment to parochial schools were documented. Facing the threat of an ACLU lawsuit, city officials and public and private school representatives sat down with attorney Lanni and the complainants and worked out a resolution for 2008-2009. The City also agreed to adopt formal policies, which currently do not exist, governing use of the recreational fields. The ACLU will be monitoring the City’s actions for any backtracking.

State Agency Grants Sex Discrimination Exemption

Reversing a decision it had made only months earlier, a divided panel of the RI Commission for Human Rights has given Rhode Island College (RIC) permission to discriminate on the basis of sex when hiring for two housekeeping positions at the College’s recreation center.

When RIC first sought an exemption from the state’s Fair Employment Practices Act, it justified its request by claiming that it could not “close off part of the men’s or women’s locker rooms for routine maintenance/cleaning during the course of our 16 hours of operation.” The ACLU testified that the College had failed to justify its request with any concrete information about why alternatives to discriminatory hiring practices were not available to address any legitimate privacy concerns.

In February, the Commission agreed with the ACLU’s arguments. The agency unanimously ruled that the “evidence presented [by RIC] simply is insufficient to meet the decidedly heavy burden of showing that there are no reasonable alternatives to sex-based hiring.”

RIC responded by seeking another hearing to present additional evidence. ACLU Chairperson Jennifer Azevedo testified at that rehearing, arguing that the College had still failed to provide any clear evidence that non-discriminatory alternatives were unavailable. However, by a 2-1 vote, the Commission this month granted RIC’s request. The Affiliate expressed concern about the precedent the decision might set for a wide range of jobs.

High Stakes Testing Proposal Adopted

Discounting testimony from the ACLU, teachers’ unions, school committee members and various advocacy groups, the Board of Regents for Elementary and Secondary Education has adopted a proposal increasing from 10% to 33% the weight that standardized test scores will be given as part of students’ high school graduation requirements in particular subject areas.

By significantly increasing the import of these test scores, the ACLU argued that the new policy would increase “all of the dangers that emanate from a reliance on high stakes testing in the school setting.” Leaving aside basic questions about the testing’s pedagogical value, the Affiliate had noted that high stakes testing has a documented discriminatory impact on racial minorities, students with disabilities and English language learners.

At a series of public hearings, the Board of Regents received testimony from more than a hundred individuals and organizations in opposition to the proposal. Although some modifications were made, the basic thrust of the proposal was adopted. The Affiliate is investigating the possibility of a legal challenge to the rule.

Organizational Notes

AFFILIATE TO CELEBRATE GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

The RI ACLU has begun planning a year-long celebration in 2009 in recognition of the 50th anniversary of the founding of our affiliate. We are contemplating a variety of events throughout Rhode Island, including music, lectures, films, debates, and more.

If you have ideas on the commemoration of our affiliate's 50 year quest to protect Rhode Islanders' constitutional rights, or if you have an interest in volunteering for the celebration, please call the office and let us know. In the months ahead, there will be many and varied tasks to be done. Get involved early. Call and add your name to the list of the ready and willing and help us create a fitting commemoration for this noteworthy occasion.



Look for an announcement in the coming weeks regarding a special RI ACLU-sponsored screening of the film, "The Visitor."

This highly acclaimed character-driven movie, starring Trinity Rep alumnus Richard Jenkins, puts a human face on many issues affecting the immigrant community nationwide and in Rhode Island. Details about the time and place for the screening will be forthcoming.

Cable Show Announcement

The Affiliate's monthly cable show, *Rights of a Free People*, is in full swing. Check below for upcoming show topics and air dates and times. We are always looking to add new people to our production staff, so if you are interested in getting involved, please contact the office at 831-7171 — no experience necessary!

Showtimes:

Channel 13: Tuesdays 10:00pm & Fridays 3:30pm (Channel 32 on Verizon FIOS)

Channel 18: (In Providence) Wednesdays 9:00pm (Channel 31 on Verizon FIOS)

October

U.S. Supreme Court Review

Guests: Anne Mulready — ACLU Board Member and attorney at the RI Disability Law Center
Richard A. Sinapi — ACLU cooperating attorney, Sinapi Formisano & Co.

November

2nd Amendment Debate

Guests: Richard A. Sinapi — ACLU cooperating attorney, Sinapi Formisano & Co.
Thomas Lyons, III — ACLU cooperating attorney, Strauss, Factor, Laing & Lyons
David Strachman — Attorney, McIntyre, Tate & Lynch
Senator Charles Levesque — Attorney, Levesque Law Office

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TWO EASY WAYS YOU CAN MAKE EXTRA MONEY FOR THE RI ACLU

1. HAVE YOUR SPECIAL END-OF-YEAR DONATION PARTIALLY MATCHED

With 2009 just around the corner, we hope you'll consider making a special end-of-year tax-deductible donation to the ACLU Foundation of Rhode Island. As an added incentive, donations received between November 1st and the end of the year will also be partially matched by the Allan Shawn Feinstein Challenge! Send your special gift to: ACLU - 128 Dorrance Street, Suite 220 - Providence, RI 02903, or call the office at 831-7171 for the ease of making a credit card donation. Thanks!!

2. SEND US YOUR SHAW'S AND EASTSIDE MARKETPLACE RECEIPTS

If you shop at either Shaw's Supermarket or Eastside Marketplace, you can help make money for the ACLU. Simply save your receipts and mail them to the RI ACLU office. Both Shaw's and Eastside Marketplace will make donations at the rate of 1% of the total register receipts redeemed. The more receipts redeemed, the more money we raise!

**2008 Annual Dinner to be Held Thursday, November 13th;
Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM) to be Honored
Send in Your Reservations Now!**

This year's annual dinner celebration will take place the evening of Thursday, November 13th in Providence. It will be our honor to present the Civil Libertarian of the Year Award to the Providence Youth Student Movement (PrYSM). This youth-led group is perhaps most noted for being likened to terrorists by First Lady Suzanne Carcieri after group members criticized the Governor's layoffs of all the state's Southeast Asian interpreters. We will also welcome Omar Jadwat, ACLU Staff Attorney with the Immigrants' Rights Project, as our keynote speaker. We invite members and friends to join in the celebration. Send in your RSVP cards or call the ACLU office at 831-7171 for more information.