

**ACLU OF RHODE ISLAND CANDIDATE SURVEY 2022**

**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR**

*Thank you in advance for participating in our candidate survey. Please respond to the 13 questions below. If you wish to offer explanatory comments to any of the questions, space is available at the end of this questionnaire. If you would like clarification about the ACLU's position on any of these issues, we encourage you to contact our office or visit our web site at [www.riaclu.org](http://www.riaclu.org) for more information.*

*You can return the survey by email to [riaclu@riaclu.org](mailto:riaclu@riaclu.org), by fax to (401) 831-7175, or by mail to ACLU of RI - 128 Dorrance St., Suite 400 - Providence, RI 02903. **Please return by Monday, August 15, 2022.***

Name: Cynthia Mendes

1. Do you support passage of the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act, which would provide Medicaid funding and state employee health insurance coverage for abortion?

YES

2. Do you support a state constitutional amendment that would establish a legal right to an adequate, equitable and meaningful public education?

YES

3. Do you support repeal of the state's photo "Voter ID" law?

YES

4. Do you support requiring a fiscal impact statement for any legislation that establishes new criminal offenses or increases prison sentences for existing criminal offenses?

YES

5. Do you support passage of legislation eliminating the sentence of life imprisonment without the possibility of parole?

YES

6. Do you support reinstatement of a law mandating that police collect data on traffic stops and searches and having an independent analysis of that data to examine racial disparities?

YES

7. Do you support the reduction of state funding for school resource officers and a focus instead on increased counseling and mental health support services in schools?

YES

8. Do you support the passage of legislation that would ban, except in very limited circumstances, the use of out-of-school suspensions on elementary school students?

YES

9. Do you support the passage of legislation that would set limits on the use of “automated license plate reader” surveillance technology by law enforcement?

YES

10. Do you support the passage of legislation that would generally bar school administrators from accessing the camera and microphone of school-loaned computers when students are outside of school?

YES

11. Do you believe businesses should have the right to refuse goods or services to the public on religious grounds if it conflicts with state anti-discrimination laws?

NO

12. Please note any police reform legislation you would actively support.

I am an active supporter of repealing the Law Enforcement Officer’s Bill Of Rights. We already have a Bill of Rights that applies to everyone, but LEOBOR provides special protections to police officers, allowing them to avoid accountability when they break the law.

I also support removing SROs from schools completely.

13. Please indicate any ways you would use your role as Lieutenant Governor to promote civil rights and civil liberties.

As Lieutenant Governor, I will fight, push, pressure, and use all the power I have to repeal LEOBOR, pass the Equality in Abortion Coverage Act, free all nonviolent drug offenders and immediately expunge their records, end cash bail, end solitary confinement, ban for-profit prisons, invest in mental health services and drug overdose prevention through harm reduction policies, protect the right to protest, end predatory lending, and defend our civil liberties.

### **ADDITIONAL COMMENTS**

In my time in the Senate, I leaned heavily on the testimony and reports I received from the ACLU. From redistricting to predatory lending I would rely on the information the ACLU provided and the critiques of a bill they had. I would bring questions to committee meetings as well as to the floor inspired by the communication the ACLU sent to my office. I would also use this in my constituent communication; sometimes referencing the ACLU in my emails, posts, and newsletters. I was a better legislator because of the ACLU's consistent and thorough analysis of legislation. I want to highlight this because as a working-class person who does not have a legal background and yet was deeply committed to voting my values, I can not explain how helpful this was to me.