

Americans United For Separation of Church and State

Annual Report 2018



For the first time in 25 years, Americans United welcomed a new president and chief executive officer. Rachel Laser was appointed to the top slot at AU in February and became the first woman and the first non-Christian (she's Jewish) to lead the organization. She's an attorney with a long career in nonprofit activism, including women's health issues, LGBTQ equality, church-state separation and dismantling racism and uncovering its connection to white privilege.

Rachel had a busy but productive 2018 traveling on behalf of AU, visiting chapters and allied organizations, speaking to the public and to the press, meeting members of Congress, hiring new staff and developing a new strategic roadmap for the organization.

The Washington Post

"We need to awaken that awareness, we need to awaken the notion that religious liberty undergirds the separation of church and state. The two can not only coexist but are tied at the waist."

—Rachel Laser, Feb. 21, 2018

Fighting the Use of Religion to Discriminate

THE BIRTH CONTROL BATTLE



In recent years, disputes over access to birth control have erupted all over the country. Americans United continues to be at the forefront of this fight to protect women's access to reproductive health care. In 2018, AU challenged the Trump administration's new rules that would allow employers and universities to deny workers and students access to birth control. AU filed *Irish 4 Reproductive Health v. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services* with the National Women's Law Center and Center for Reproductive Rights, representing University of Notre Dame students who are at risk of losing vital health care.



MASTERPIECE CAKESHOP AND DENIAL OF SERVICES

Americans United worked tirelessly to make it clear that the U.S. Supreme Court's *Masterpiece Cakeshop* ruling did not give all businesses a license to use religion as a basis for discrimination against LGBTQ people, religious minorities and others. AU filed amicus briefs in three similar cases to prevent businesses from slamming their doors shut on customers who don't live by the owners' religious beliefs:

- *Brush & Nib Studio v. City of Phoenix* in Arizona
- *Telescope Media Group v. Lindsey* in Minnesota
- *Lexington-Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission v. Hands On Originals* in Kentucky

AU is also protesting the weaponization of religious freedom against the LGBTQ community in two other cases:

- *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia* in support of the city's decision not to contract with faith-based foster care agencies that discriminate against prospective parents.
- *Doe v. Boyertown Area School District* in support of a Pennsylvania school district's inclusive policy for transgender students.



Taking on Trump

THE KAVANAUGH CONFIRMATION

After Justice Anthony M. Kennedy retired from the U.S. Supreme Court, President Donald Trump nominated Brett Kavanaugh to fill the seat. During the confirmation process, Americans United went to work to call attention to the judge's hostile stance toward church-state separation and fight his nomination:

- Executed "What's at Stake" social media campaign
- Organized faith leader op-ed campaign across the country
- Briefed Senators on Kavanaugh's record
- Led opposition efforts with the education and religious freedom communities
- Mobilized members to urge their Senators to oppose nomination
- Spoke at rallies to raise awareness of his record

Unfortunately, Kavanaugh was confirmed by a narrow Senate vote on Oct. 6.



RNS RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

"Judge Kavanaugh fails to understand that only the separation of church and state can guarantee religious freedom for all Americans. Instead, Judge Kavanaugh appears to be intent on eviscerating this fundamental American value. That fact alone should disqualify him for a seat on the Supreme Court."

—Rachel Laser, July 10, 2018

Media Hits

The Washington Post

The New York Times

EDUCATION WEEK

UNPRECEDENTED INFLUENCE OF THE RELIGIOUS RIGHT

FILED

AU demanded the Trump administration shut down the Evangelical Advisory Board until it complied with federal transparency and open meetings laws; and demanded more information about the board's role in developing public policy.

FILED

AU demanded transparency from the Department of Justice's secretive Religious Liberty Task Force launched by then-Attorney General Jeff Sessions, which was established to use religion to discriminate against women, the LGBTQ community and religious minorities.



THE MUSLIM BAN

Americans United was an outspoken critic of President Donald Trump's Muslim ban at rallies and in the media, calling it cruel and capricious and a violation of religious freedom for all. AU challenged the ban head on in court in *IAAB v. Trump* and filed amicus briefs supporting others who challenged the ban. Although AU and its allies scored many victories when multiple federal courts agreed with us that the Muslim ban was likely unconstitutional, the U.S. Supreme Court ultimately allowed the ban to go into effect, putting the future of AU's case in doubt. But Americans United continues to fight against this religious discrimination.

Action on the Hill

JOHNSON AMENDMENT

Led efforts with faith leaders, nonprofits and members of Congress to ensure houses of worship and charitable nonprofits don't endorse political candidates.

THE DO NO HARM ACT

Led efforts to urge members of Congress to co-sponsor this critical legislation that protects the true meaning of religious freedom and ensures it is used as a shield to protect, not as a sword to harm.

PRIVATE SCHOOL VOUCHERS

Led the national coalition that defeated Congress and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos' efforts to create a federally funded voucher program for private religious schools.

In The States

PROJECT BLITZ

Project Blitz is the state legislative arm of a nationwide political movement by the Religious Right to codify the U.S. as a Christian nation and weaponize religious freedom in order to roll back positive social change. Their strategy is clear: pass an increasingly ambitious set of state laws meant to incrementally redefine religious freedom and undermine the separation of religion and government.

In 2018, Project Blitz's 116-page playbook, replete with 20 model bills, strategy and messaging guidance, was distributed to more than 750 state legislators across America. But AU is fighting back, working tirelessly in the media, on social platforms, with national organizations and in state legislatures to expose the movement, highlight legislation and reveal the threat of Project Blitz.



2018 PROJECT BLITZ BILLS PROPOSED:



In God We Trust: encourage the display of "In God We Trust" in public schools and buildings

26 bills introduced in 13 states; signed into law in 6 states
- Alabama, Arizona, Florida, Louisiana, North Carolina and Tennessee



Bible Class: establish Bible literacy classes in public schools
8 bills introduced in 4 states



Foster Care: allow faith-based, taxpayer-funded foster care agencies to turn away prospective parents or even children because they are the "wrong" religion or LGBTQ
10 bills introduced in 6 states; signed into law in 3 states - Kansas, Oklahoma and South Carolina.



Media Hits



In The Courts

DOES V. BOSSIER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

In Louisiana, Bossier Parish Schools' 23,000 students experienced blatant, widespread violations of their religious freedom on a regular basis – school events were held at churches or involved prayers; teachers punished students for not participating in class prayers; religion was promoted during sporting events; teachers proselytized in classrooms; and religious displays were in classrooms and offices. Americans United stepped in to protect students from religious coercion, suing the school district on Feb. 7 to stop this egregious behavior and ensure all schools are inclusive for all students.

LEGAL VICTORIES



Fields v. Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives:

A federal court in Pennsylvania ruled in August that a policy of barring nontheists from offering invocations during House sessions is discriminatory and unconstitutional.



Caplan v. Town of Acton:

On March 9 the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court stopped Acton town officials from using taxpayer dollars to repair a house of worship.



Freedom From Religion Foundation v. Morris County Board of Chosen Freeholders:

The New Jersey Supreme Court on April 18 ruled that county officials were violating residents' religious freedom and the state constitution by using \$4.5 million in taxpayer money to restore houses of worship.



Shreveport Times

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

"We know that America's public schools – including the ones in Bossier Parish and in every other community around the nation – serve students from a wide array of backgrounds and faiths. To honor our core American values and respect the deeply personal and sacred nature of our religious beliefs, we must ensure that faith is taught in our houses of worship and by parents – not in our public schools. It's the right thing to do to protect our students and religious freedom, and it's what our Constitution requires."

—Rachel Laser op-ed., Feb. 22, 2018

43

LETTERS TO STATE
LEGISLATORS

15

NATIONAL
COALITION LETTERS



773

STATE AND FEDERAL
BILLS TRACKED

11,542

ADVOCACY ACTIONS TAKEN

26



ACTIVE LAWSUITS &
AMICUS BRIEFS FILED



4,622



PEOPLE
WHO
TOOK
ACTION



150+

NATIONWIDE EVENTS AND
SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

361

MEDIA MENTIONS

12,340

NEW SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS



Our country is
strongest when
we are all free to
practice our religion,
or no religion, as we
choose — **without
hurting others.**



Rachel Laser
AU President & CEO



275

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION
PARTNERS



570

CHURCH-STATE VIOLATIONS
INVESTIGATED

Financials

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

ASSETS

Current Assets	\$11,294,69
Property and Equipment	875,028
Other Assets	4,930,774
Total Assets	\$17,100,571

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities	\$2,229,057
Long Term Liabilities	5,807,439
Total Liabilities	\$8,036,496

Net Assets

Unrestricted	\$1,281,697
Unrestricted, Board designated	7,667,634
Temporarily Restricted	114,744
Total Net Assets	\$9,064,075

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$17,100,571**

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2018

REVENUES, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT

Contributions	\$4,493,205
Bequests	2,034,644
Foundations	515,244
Investment Income, Net of Expenses	402,308
Other Revenue	57,201
Total Revenues, Gains and Other Support	\$7,502,602

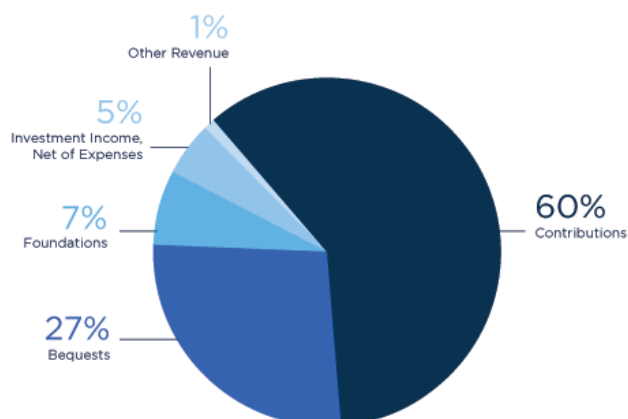
EXPENSES

Program Services	\$4,906,192
Management and General	848,785
Fundraising	1,408,834
Total Expenses	\$7,163,811

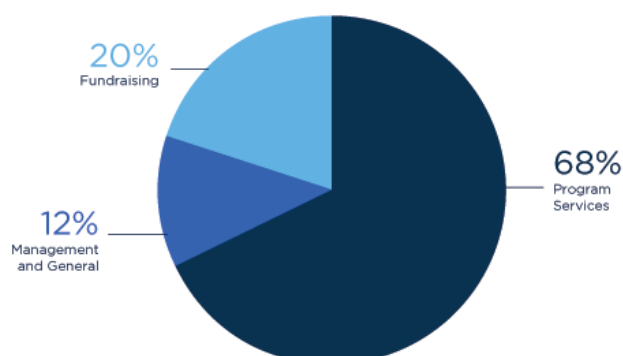
Change in Net Assets before other items	338,791
Other Items	667
Change in Net Assets	\$339,458

Net Assets at Beginning of Year	8,724,617
Net Assets at End of Year	\$9,064,075

REVENUE, GAINS AND OTHER SUPPORT



EXPENSES



AU Contributors for Fiscal Year 2018

GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM ARE GENEROUS DONORS WHO CONTRIBUTED \$1,000 OR MORE.

\$100,000 OR MORE

Deer Creek Foundation
Adam R. Rose
Albert Schneider & Catherine Heron
Fred & Alice Stanback
Lawrence C. Stanback
Eddie Tabash
1 wishes to remain anonymous

\$50,000 TO \$99,999

David Beck & Debra Robins
Borgenicht Foundation
craigslist Charitable Fund
Marvin & Cookie Friedman
Sam Weisman & Nancy Crown
1 wishes to remain anonymous

\$20,000 TO \$49,999

The William C. Bullitt Foundation
Murray Garnick & Teresa Blaxton
The Jana Foundation
Barbara J. Meislin, the Purple Lady
H. van Ameringen Foundation
The William B. Wiener, Jr. Foundation
1 wishes to remain anonymous

\$10,000 TO \$19,999

Tom Barron
Drs. Clifford Beck & Hearee Chung
Dr. Lawrence I. Bonchek
Karen Susan Brown
Charter Charitable Foundation
Scott & Molly Forstall
Richard & Beverly Hermesen
Dennis Hollenbeck & Betty Wright
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Clark & Jane Moeller
Drew D. Perkins
Rifkind Family Foundation
Johanna Ross
Joel Shukovsky
Jill S. Slater
Dr. Robert K. Stoelting
David & Sara Weston
1 wishes to remain anonymous

\$5,000 TO \$9,999

James M. Alexander
Joan & Robert Arnow Fund of the Jewish Communal Fund
Stan & Shelley Balis
Rick Barabino
Jane W. Braus
The Chrysalis Fund
Jaime Colome
David Egen
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Karen M. Peterson
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Dr. David & Linda Reichert
Renaissance Charitable Foundation
Cynthia & Richard Rudder
Diane Suckow & Stephen F. Uhl, Ph.D.
Dorothy & Edwin Sved
Barbara & Norman Tanner
6 wish to remain anonymous

\$2,500 TO \$4,999

45 households supported AU through the Guardians of Freedom in this gift range.

\$1,000 TO \$2,499

354 households supported AU through the Guardians of Freedom in this gift range.

FOUNDATIONS, FUNDS & TRUSTS

The following foundations, funds and trusts also provided Americans United with financial support:

Lou Allstadt & Melinda Hardin
Artist's Endowment of Coastal Community Foundation
The B & L Foundation
Judith & Edwin Cohen Foundation
Crowell Family Foundation
Susan Flicop & Christopher Hill
Fuller/Kelly Foundation
Emanuel & Judith Klein Family Foundation
The MJK Family Foundation
Mosaic Foundation (of R. & P. Heydon)
David & Inez Myers Foundation of Cleveland, Ohio
The Next Culture Initiative
Alicia & Peter Pond
Reynolds Family Foundation
The Max & Tillie Rosenn Foundation
Lloyd S. Rubin
John M. Tubbs Trust
Charles Weyerhaeuser Memorial Foundation
1 wishes to remain anonymous

MADISON SOCIETY

1,883 households supported AU through our monthly giving program. We thank them for their generous ongoing support.

IN MEMORY

We honor the following dedicated members who remembered AU in their estate plans. We extend our condolences to the families and loved ones they left behind:

Evelyn B. Baker
Jean A. Barrett
Anne Behler
Hugo Borresen
Morton & Jane Celler
David Charney
The Rev. Dr. Michael Doren
Prof. Norman Dorsen
Susan Farque
Morton L. Gage

Viola Harris
William & Karen Krueger
Zachary Levy
Diane McCall
Helen Mildner
Lucie Minsk
Don Morris
Seymour Nordenberg
Joseph Padula
Michael F. Schinagel
Matilde & James Taguchi
Eleanor B. Tate
Lee Templin
Barbara Walker Gordon
M. Paul Zimmerman

JEFFERSON CIRCLE

The following dedicated members have joined AU's planned giving program by setting up charitable gift annuities, creating bequests or by making other planned gifts:

Phil & Shirley Arndt
George W. Bauer
Eric Bause
Emile Castanchoa
Esther D. Curtwright
Nancy & Dick Eales
Gabriel & Monica Fried
Donald & Natalie Golden
Sam Gould
F. C. Hoffman
L. Lyle & Marjorie Hylen
Dirk & Karen Iwema
Jeffrey & Sara King
Joel & Patricia Marx
Barbara J. Meislin, the Purple Lady
Maurice F. Meysenburg
Andrew W. Mitchell
Lawrence E. Moore
The Hon. Marvin & Betty Morse
Sidney & Sylvia Rose
Robert Shelton
Richard & Sadie Sky
Wallace White
1 wishes to remain anonymous



Thank you to all our supporters.
Our work would not be possible without your generous investments.

For more information, please visit our website at au.org

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