

# ACLU Action Summit Focus Issues

The ACLU Action Summit will focus on four local civil liberties issues of concern to folks in our region. Our hope is that the afternoon's workshops will give people the necessary information and resources to petition local, state and federal governments to protect civil rights and civil liberties.

Once we have gained insights from the individual workshops, we will convene to strategize together about *how* to be most effective in pressing our issues in a state-of-the-art organizing training. A not-to-be-missed session, especially after hearing from our inspirational keynote speaker John Lewis!

## BORDER JUSTICE

Noon - 1:30 pm

## TAXED 2 DEATH

### Border Justice: Stopping the Militarization of Our Border

Law enforcement along the border becomes more militarized and harsh by the day, threatening the civil rights of individuals and communities living in the border region.

Even so, the movement for immigration reform rarely takes into account border-related abuses. As residents of the border region, **we have a unique opportunity to advocate for a safe, humane and just border policy.**

A panel of activists and victims of governmental abuse will illustrate the many ways that border policy runs afoul of the Constitution, from physical abuse of travelers at ports of entry, to costly and inhumane detention practices, to harassment of motorists at interior checkpoints. Workshop panelists and participants will then discuss how ACLU members and supporters can make a difference in turning the tide against these practices.

Panelists include:

- **Pedro Rios**, American Friends Service Committee
- **Nitya Ramirez**, Escondido Human Rights Committee
- A speaker from the **San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium**



The Border Patrol has declared the authority to set up temporary or permanent checkpoints anywhere within 100 miles from the border, effectively creating a "4<sup>th</sup> Amendment-Free Zone" for two out of every three Americans.



### Taxed 2 Death: The High Cost of the Death Penalty

With California in dire financial straits, isn't it time that our public officials disclose the true cost of the death penalty?

Did you know...

**1 death penalty trial = 22 deputy sheriff salaries for a year**

**1 death penalty trial = 93,000 flu vaccinations**

**California spends at least \$135 million a year more than it would cost for the alternative sentencing system (permanent imprisonment)**

**Of the 677 inmates on death row, 39 were sentenced in San Diego County**

**San Diego taxpayers spend an estimated \$1.1 million for each death penalty trial the District Attorney's office prosecutes**

The financial and social costs of the death penalty represent an unnecessary burden to local taxpayers. The California Commission on the Fair Administration of Justice, a nonpartisan blue ribbon advisory board set up by the state senate to examine the costs of administering the death penalty, contends the extra money taxpayers waste on the death penalty does not provide adequate funding for defense attorneys, has a costly appeals process, and **puts innocent people at risk for execution.**



New San Quentin execution chamber.

For an informative and provocative look at the death penalty and its hidden costs to taxpayers and to learn what you can do to change the equation, join:

- **Jeanne Woodford**, former warden of San Quentin's death row and former Undersecretary of the Department of Corrections
- **Kent Peters**, California People of Faith
- **Tom Goldstein**, exoneree

To learn more before the workshop, visit [taxed2death.org](http://taxed2death.org).

## EDUCATION EQUALITY

2:45 - 4:15 pm

## FAITH & MARRIAGE EQUALITY

### Quality Education: A matter of equity and economic survival

In order to survive in today's and tomorrow's economy, all kids need to be prepared for post-secondary training. Most of today's jobs are classified as "skilled," and most require post-high school training, such as apprenticeships, career-technical schools, or advanced academic programs. Currently, in San Diego County only four in ten high school seniors complete the rigorous "A-G" curriculum that prepares students for college and careers. This is a far lower percentage than other large counties in the state.

San Diego is projected to be one of the top ten cities in the U.S. for job growth through 2025, with many of the new jobs centered in the emerging high-tech companies in the region. At the current rate, our students aren't being prepared to meet the workforce demand to support our changing economy.

For this reason, it is imperative that we **increase the educational opportunities**

**and achievements of all students** so that everyone is prepared for post-secondary training in an apprenticeship, community college or university program. We have identified disparities of opportunity and resources between the county's school districts and within school districts. If we are to benefit our communities, economy, and democracy, we must work to improve

the educational condition of the most disadvantaged students and schools.

Join a cutting-edge strategic planning session with a dynamic panel composed of educators, students, and the biotech industry. [See website for updated list of panelists.]

Help San Diego County address the need for a more rigorous, relevant and quality education that prepares students to compete in the changing economy, college and career. To learn more before the workshop, visit [educatesandiego.org](http://educatesandiego.org).

School District	Graduation Rate	A-G Completion Rate of Graduates
Carlsbad	97%	49%
Escondido	87%	32%
Grossmont	90%	37%
Oceanside	95%	27%
Poway	96%	57%
San Diego	82%	39%
San Dieguito	96%	74%
San Marcos	90%	43%
Sweetwater	89%	37%
Vista	59%	21%

### The Faith Community & Marriage Equality

For more than seventy years the ACLU has been fighting for LGBT rights to ensure that members of the LGBT community enjoy the fundamental freedoms embodied in our nation's Constitution and Bill of Rights. This past year, we celebrated a historic California Supreme Court ruling ending the illegal ban on same-sex marriages...only to have it snatched away in November when—by a narrow majority—California voters approved writing discrimination into our state Constitution.

Many theories have been propounded for the failure to stop Proposition 8, including the campaign's lack of success in communicating the importance of marriage equality to communities of color and of faith. According to a post-election voter survey conducted by David Binder Research, the voters cited the religious belief that marriage is between a man and a woman as a primary reason for voting yes on 8. **Voters who worship regularly were strongly more likely to support Prop 8, by a 70% to 30%.**

Proposition 8's roller-coaster trajectory provides us with many lessons for future initiative campaigns. In this workshop, panelists will discuss ways to improve the lines of communications between all communities and to highlight the similarities between civil rights movements.

The town-hall format will encourage the grappling with tough, deeply-held convictions and questions in an interactive dialogue, and will include voices from the faith community and leaders who can speak to the important role of faith communities in the quest for equal rights for the LGBT community.

Join:

- **Rev. Madison Shockley**, Pilgrim United Church of Christ in Carlsbad
- **Lei-Chala Wilson**, President, NAACP of San Diego
- [See website for updated list of panelists.]



Rev. Shockley has performed 8 same-sex marriages, and is moved by how meaningful the ceremony has been for each couple.

## ACLU Action Summit Registration by Mail

Register and pay online at [www.aclusandiego.org](http://www.aclusandiego.org) or clip this form and mail to: P.O. Box 87131 San Diego, CA 92138-7131.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

### Workshop Registration (choose *one* for each session)

Session 1:  Border Justice *or*  Taxed 2 Death Session 2:  Quality Education *or*  Marriage Equality

Enclosed is my contribution for \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
or

Please charge my  Visa  MasterCard  AmEx in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV Code (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Billing Address + ZIP (required) \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE (required for credit card) \_\_\_\_\_

### Suggested Contribution Levels

- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 30 Early-Bird Registration, before March 31<sup>st</sup>
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 40 April 1-17
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 50 at-door registration
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 15 Student (please bring ID) or low-income
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25 lunch only
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 500 Friend
- \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 1000 Sponsor

Please make checks payable to ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties.

