

PARTNER IN THE PROMISE

ACLU

Texas



THE PROMISE OF TEXAS



“What the people want is very simple – they want an America as good as its promise.”

BARBARA JORDAN (1936-1996) – U.S. congresswoman from Texas

There’s no place quite like Texas — with our wide diversity of traditions, landscapes, and communities rooted in shared values of hospitality and opportunity. It’s this beautiful mix of people, place, and possibility that makes our state great.


Our politics tell a very different story. Recent legislative sessions have been the most extreme in our state’s history, with lawmakers defying the will of the people to roll back fundamental civil rights. Their efforts to suppress voting rights, ban reproductive freedom, attack transgender children, expand mass incarceration, whitewash our history, and more, threaten the very foundation of our democracy.

We’re better than this. We, the people, know Texans deserve more.

The ACLU of Texas is the state’s leading civil rights and civil liberties champion. With more than a century of experience, no other organization takes a more comprehensive approach than the ACLU — working across multiple issues in the courts, in the State Capitol, and in communities — to defend and advance the constitutional rights guaranteed to all of us.

We invite you to learn more about the important progress we have made and the tough challenges that we face through 2024. Together, with your support, we will build a Texas as good as its promise.

Join us as a **Partner in the Promise.**



THE ACLU OF TEXAS
TODAY

A WORD FROM LEADERSHIP



“I am proud to continue my support for the ACLU of Texas through the Partner in the Promise campaign. **Our strong integrated advocacy efforts — combining litigation with public education and organizing — enable us to win key court rulings, build collective power, and shift public opinion.** This is why I’m increasing my annual gift and pledging to give through 2024, for the duration of this campaign.”

RANJANA NATARAJAN BOARD CHAIR



“Now is the moment to invest in the ACLU of Texas. I believe this organization has the depth and breadth to fight for equality on so many fronts. That’s why I wanted to lead this team at this point in history. **Our vision includes a road map for comprehensive reform for a better Texas, allowing us to advance essential and resource-intensive initiatives across the civil liberties paradigm.** I hope you’ll partner with us in this crucial work.”

ONI K. BLAIR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BY THE NUMBERS

90,000+
SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS

43,000+
CARD-CARRYING
MEMBERS



23
BOARD MEMBERS



220,000+
EMAIL
SUBSCRIBERS



300+
TRAINED
VOLUNTEERS &
LEGAL OBSERVERS



50+
STAFF



“I was initially drawn to the ACLU’s work on reproductive rights and immigration. But now, as I prioritize places to donate, **I continually return to the idea that nothing else matters if our democracy and civil rights aren’t protected.** The ACLU has always been vital, but it feels even more critical today, tomorrow, and in the years to come.”

EDIE ROGAT MEMBER SINCE NOVEMBER 2016

GROWTH AND DEMOGRAPHICS



The attacks on Texans’ civil liberties have grown exponentially over the past 10 years. But so has our capacity to defend against them. The ACLU of Texas will continue to rise to the moment.

YEAR	STAFF	MEMBERS
2012	14	11,222
2016	28	22,937
2020	58	43,825

The ACLU of Texas proudly represents and reflects the people of this state. Our staff, led by a Black woman, comprises a majority of people of color — including staff who identify as Hispanic / Latinx, Black / African American, Asian, Native / Indigenous / Pacific Islander, Middle Eastern, and Multi-racial. Half of our leadership staff, as well as over half of our Board members are people of color. We are female, male, and non-binary; transgender and cisgender; disabled and

able-bodied. We speak many languages, identify with multiple religious and cultural traditions, and come to this work with many different forms of education and work experience.

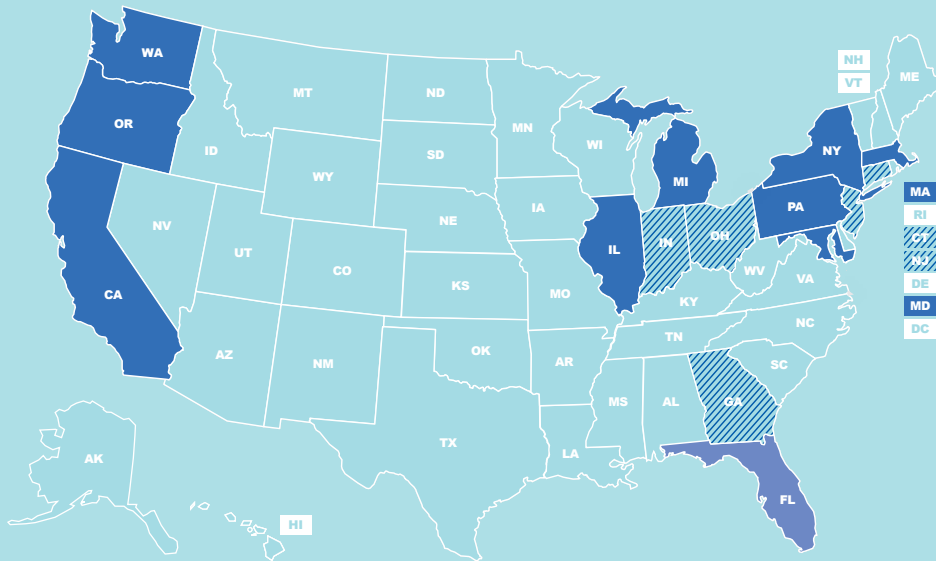
With staff in Dallas, Houston, Austin, El Paso, the Rio Grande Valley, and the Permian Basin — and with Board members in these regions as well as cities like San Antonio, Lubbock, Laredo, and more — we represent Texas from border to border.

Our lived experiences in the many diverse communities we call home serve to ground and guide our work for a better tomorrow.

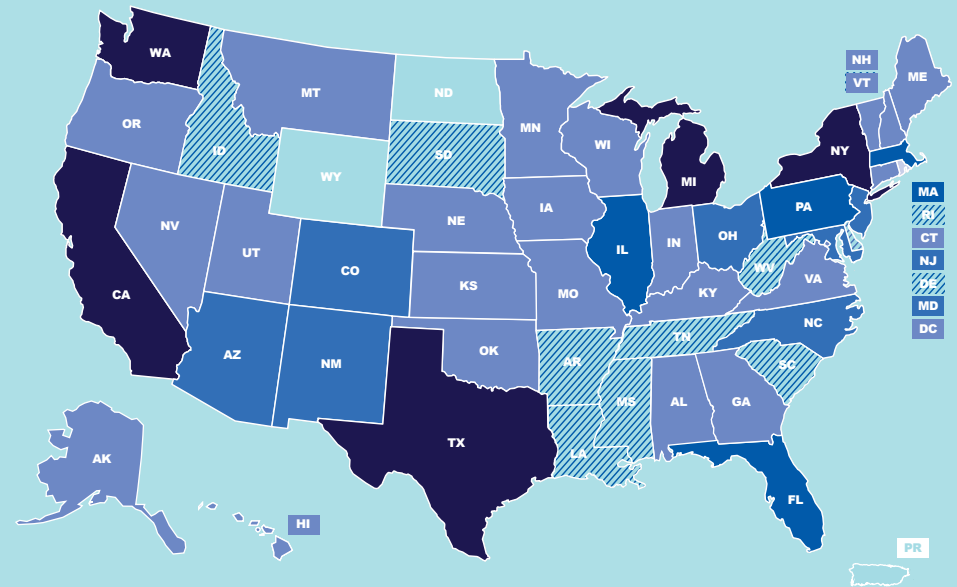
Our commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging reflects our values and informs our work. A strong foundation in these principles and practices is critical to our effectiveness and sustainability.

ACLU GROWTH NATIONWIDE

Affiliate Staff, 2005



Affiliate Staff, 2021



A CENTURY OF HARD-WON BATTLES



Fighting the Mass Deportation of Immigrants

ACLU FOUNDED IN NEW YORK

1920

Freedom of Speech & Literary Expression

UNITED STATES v. ONE BOOK CALLED ULYSSES

1933



Denouncing the Internment of Japanese-Americans

KOREMATSU v. UNITED STATES

1944

Right to Counsel for Criminal Defendants

GIDEON v. WAINWRIGHT

1963



Right to Remain Silent

MIRANDA v. ARIZONA

1966

Upholds *Roe v. Wade* and Protects Right to Abortion

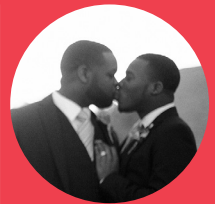
PLANNED PARENTHOOD v. CASEY

1992

Right to Challenge Deportation in Court

IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICES v. ST. CYR

2001



Marriage Equality for Same-Sex Couples

OBERGEFELL v. HODGESON

2015

1925

STATE OF TENNESSEE v. JOHN THOMAS SCOPES

Separation of Church & State in Schools

1938

ACLU ESTABLISHED IN TEXAS

Right to Free Speech & Freedom of Association for Pecan Shellers



1954

BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION

Desegregation of Public Schools



1965

GRISWOLD v. CONNECTICUT

Right to Privacy in Reproductive Health

1967

LOVING v. VIRGINIA
Marriage Equality for Interracial Couples



2000

SANTA FE v. DOE
Freedom of Religion Upheld by Rejection of School Prayers

2003

LAWRENCE v. TEXAS
Privacy & Equal Protection for Lesbian & Gay Adults

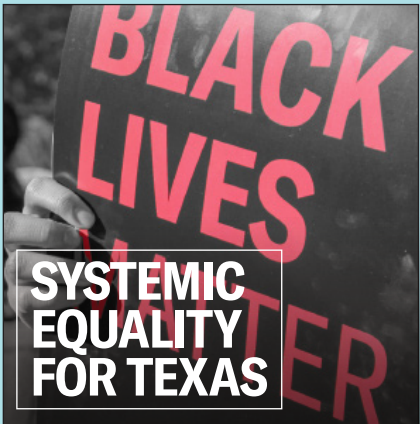
2019

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE v. NEW YORK
No Citizenship Question on the 2020 Census



**PRIORITY ISSUES IN
TEXAS**

STATEWIDE PRIORITIES



SEIZING MOMENTUM TO DRIVE REFORM OF THE CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM

The Texas criminal legal system must be re-envisioned to be fair and free of racial bias, keep our communities safe, and respect the rights of all who come into contact with it.

REDUCE WEALTH-BASED DETENTION

We've seen voters electing a reform-oriented prosecutor in Travis County, Austin City Council voting to reduce its police budget, Houston City Council adopting cite-and-release, and a significant drop in people sent to state prison annually in Dallas County. We'll keep the momentum going.

MAKE FURTHER GAINS IN POLICE REFORM AND ARREST REDUCTION

Through 2024, we will build on the momentum in Dallas and Houston to push for significant reform in police budgets and practices. We will advocate for the passage of policies that would reduce arrests and incarceration.

REDUCE INCARCERATION THROUGH DRUG SENTENCING REFORM

In recent years, Texas has been ground zero for pretrial incarceration reform. We will continue to pressure municipalities for reforms that



reduce the number of people held pretrial and address other drivers of high incarceration rates. The criminal legal reform landscape is changing rapidly, and we see opportunities for advancing long-overdue reforms.

BORDER & IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS

REVERSING THE ASSAULT ON IMMIGRANTS AND BORDER COMMUNITIES

The last administration launched a full-scale campaign to destroy the U.S. asylum system and fostered a culture of impunity by federal immigration agents at the border. The damage wrought will take years to reverse.

STOP UNCONSTITUTIONAL ATTEMPTS BY STATE AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO SET IMMIGRATION LAWS AND ENFORCE ANTI-IMMIGRANT POLICIES

Gov. Abbott insists on scapegoating migrants and terrorizing border communities for his political gain. We sued to stop his executive order allowing state troopers to pull over people 'suspected of driving migrants.' And we warned county officials about participating in the governor's

unconstitutional effort to enforce his authoritarian version of immigration policy.

END THE ATTACK ON IMMIGRANTS' RIGHTS AT THE BORDER AND IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN IMMIGRATION DETENTION

The same night that Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton sued the federal government for pausing certain deportations for 100 days, we intervened in the case. Our affiliate is currently using innovative digital tools to help audiences understand the personal and community impact of detention practices through the Border Humanity Project. We will continue to fight policies — under any administration — that expel children and families



who arrive at the border without any due process or hold them in inhumane conditions.

HALT FURTHER BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION

Border walls blight border communities, destroy local ecosystems, and redirect crossings into the most remote and treacherous areas, where thousands of people in search of safety or economic opportunity have lost their lives. Now that Gov. Abbott has doubled down on the Trump administration's efforts to build a border wall, we must continue to challenge this failed policy.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM

DEFENDING ACCESS TO ABORTION

With the U.S. Supreme Court an unreliable backstop in the fight against abortion restrictions, the anti-abortion movement has been galvanized to implement more attacks on reproductive health care. We'll continue to fight attempts to overturn Roe v. Wade.

STOP ATTACKS ON ABORTION ACCESS AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

We are caught in a city-by-city battle with anti-abortion advocates attempting to pass local abortion bans. As of today, more than 30 cities in Texas have passed such ordinances, with more on the cusp.

GROW THE ABORTION RIGHTS MOVEMENT

We launched the Texas Abortion Access Network (TAAN) in coalition as a training ground for local advocacy. We will use the power of a trained and activated base to fight for access to reproductive health care for all Texans.

EXPAND LITIGATION EFFORTS

After the Texas Legislature passed an extreme six-week ban on abortion during the 2021 regular session, we filed a lawsuit with co-counsel to block this unconstitutional law from taking effect. We will



continue to use advocacy and litigation to defend against attacks on reproductive freedom as local anti-abortion movements sweep Texas.

VOTING RIGHTS

FIGHTING VOTER SUPPRESSION AND THE DISENFRANCHISEMENT OF COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

Texas is changing. The state is more diverse, politically and otherwise, than at any point in living memory. Voter suppression and partisan gerrymandering disproportionately disenfranchise Black, Indigenous, and other voters of color, especially in the absence of the oversight protections of the Voting Rights Act.

STOP NEW VOTING RESTRICTIONS AND CHALLENGE ATTEMPTS TO DISENFRANCHISE VOTERS

Texas legislators filed an unprecedented number of bills on voting rights, including voter suppression measures like banning drive-thru voting, restricting early voting hours,

and emboldening partisan poll watchers. With 2020 census data available, the Texas Legislature also took up redistricting to draw new electoral maps. We will continue fighting in the courts and at the Capitol for fair and equal representation.

CHAMPION VOTING RIGHTS AS A CAUSE TO MOTIVATE OUR SUPPORTERS AND BUILD SUPPORT FOR ELECTORAL WORK

In 2020, we expanded our capacity to work on voting rights with two new staff hires. Since then, voting rights have taken on even greater significance as a cultural flashpoint following the 2020 election. We are



working across teams and in coalition to make voting more accessible, convenient, and safe in Texas, as well as to shine a national light on our state's battle over voting rights.

LGBTQIA+ EQUALITY

PROTECTING GAINS IN LGBTQIA+ EQUALITY FROM NEW ATTACKS

In 2020, the U.S. Supreme Court held that the prohibition of sex discrimination in employment includes discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. Legal gains like these have sparked a fire with national and state-based groups attempting to seize this momentum to codify anti-discrimination protections, including in Texas.

STOP ANTI-LGBTQIA+ LEGISLATION

Texas lawmakers filed the most anti-LGBTQIA+ bills of any state during the 2021 legislative session. We fought and stopped these bills in coalition. But the fight is not over, and we will be there every session to defend against these harmful attacks.

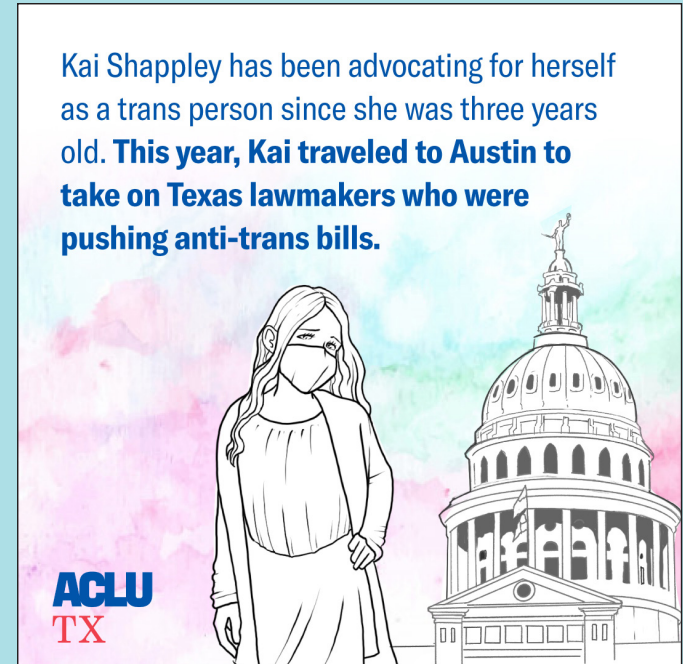
EXPAND NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICIES AND PRACTICES FOR LGBTQIA+ STUDENTS

We will continue to expand our advocacy and litigation efforts on behalf of transgender and gender-non-conforming kids in schools, which have become critical battlegrounds for a safe and affirming environment for young people.

ENHANCE OUR INTERSECTIONAL EQUALITY AGENDA

We will broaden our advocacy efforts to ensure that the equality movement in Texas is responsive to LGBTQIA+ people of color. That work will require us to develop a more inclusive

Kai Shappley has been advocating for herself as a trans person since she was three years old. **This year, Kai traveled to Austin to take on Texas lawmakers who were pushing anti-trans bills.**



political analysis and invest in relationships with Black, Indigenous, and other leaders of color in the movement.

SYSTEMIC EQUALITY

When the U.S. Constitution was written, its promises were not extended to Black people. Systemic Equality is a racial justice agenda that seeks to erase the negative impacts of racism from the original sin of slavery, to Jim Crow, through the present day.

aclutx.org/SystemicEqualityForTexas

The ACLU of Texas played a leading role in launching the Systemic Equality initiative among ACLU affiliates.

PROMOTE RECONCILIATION TO REDUCE HISTORICAL IMPACTS OF SYSTEMIC INEQUALITY

The scars created by colonialism, hundreds of years of slavery, and racially discriminatory policies are deep. Our work will directly address the structural and institutional legacies of that history, which drive injustices like mass incarceration and violent over-policing that disproportionately affect Black Texans.

EXTEND EMPOWERMENT OF BLACK AND BROWN TEXANS

The right to vote is the heart of our democracy, but lawmakers continue to pursue legislation that would make it harder for Black, Indigenous, and other voters of color to cast their ballot. We will work for accessible, convenient, and safe voting through our legal, policy, and advocacy efforts.

INCREASE ACCESS TO HELP CLOSE RACIAL GAPS ACROSS SOCIETY

A lingering global pandemic and a devastating 2021



statewide winter blackout have exacerbated existing wealth gaps between Black and white households, threatening the ability of Black people to survive and thrive. Our work will focus on policies to close those gaps, especially racial economic disparities that emerge from disaster recovery and access to reproductive care.

WIELDING POWER FOR LASTING CHANGE

BUILDING THE POWER TO CHANGE TEXAS

Unless we the people change the distribution of power in Texas, we will always be on defense and unable to produce more than incremental change. With critical elections in 2022 and 2024, we must wield a new kind of power to create a more just, equitable, and inclusive state for all Texans.

SUPPORT ALLIES AND PARTICIPATE IN POWER-BUILDING ACROSS MOVEMENTS

We work with partner organizations, allied lawmakers and their staff, and local community leaders to stop the legislative attacks against voting rights, trans kids, free speech, and other issues. In coalition,

we launched the Texas Abortion Access Network, a grassroots leadership academy that trains people from every corner of the state to advocate for abortion rights in their community.

DEPLOY THE STRENGTH OF OUR BASE TO BUILD POLITICAL POWER

The ACLU of Texas has a large, broad constituency of Texans who care deeply about the future of our state. Working across teams, we activate our base to turn out at hearings and rallies, serve as volunteers and legal observers, contact their elected officials to voice their concerns, and educate their networks about the pressing issues that impact their local communities.



USE DATA STRATEGICALLY AND POWERFULLY

We use smart data to inform public officials about needed change. Our reports on policing in Houston and Dallas, for example, present clear and compelling evidence of the need for major police reform. We also launched the Texas Jails Data Dashboard, an interactive tool demonstrating the enormous cost of pretrial incarceration and the dangers of mass incarceration during a pandemic.



INVESTING IN A BETTER
TEXAS

PARTNER IN THE PROMISE

TEXAS IS A NATIONAL TRENDSETTER

What happens in the Lone Star State often serves as a test for other states and even the federal administration, which is why it is so crucial that the ACLU of Texas continues to shape our politics and expand civil liberties for all Texans.

We're committed to being the unyielding guardian and promoter of freedom, justice, equality, and dignity of all people, particularly for those who are still fighting to secure the full exercise of their civil rights and liberties in Texas.

The ACLU of Texas invites supporters like you to invest in its future with transformational commitments for multiple years.

We ask you to become a Partner in the Promise by committing to our campaign goal of **\$5,000,000** to fund the growing work of the ACLU of Texas through 2024.

GIFT AMOUNT	COMMITMENTS NEEDED
\$1,000,000	1
\$500,000	2
\$250,000	4
\$100,000	10
\$50,000	10
\$25,000	10
\$10,000	25

Visit aclutx.org/PartnerInThePromise to make your commitment today.

THE WAY FORWARD

The ACLU of Texas' Partner in the Promise campaign asks for **multi-year commitments of general operating support**. This type of support is the most effective way to build sustainable organizational capacity.

Functionally, these commitments ensure that we can:

- **SUPPORT OUR PEOPLE** - The work of the ACLU of Texas hinges on our paid staff. Competitive wages, benefits, and professional development help to attract and retain highly qualified employees. Multi-year unrestricted funds provide the stability we need to invest in our best resource: our people.
- **TAKE SMART RISKS** - The political landscape in Texas is constantly shifting and so are the strategies we must develop to navigate it. Secure funding allows us to stay flexible and quickly adapt to new realities, resulting in better tactics and greater impact.
- **PROMOTE LONG-TERM CHANGE** - It takes deliberate, strategic planning to bring about lasting change. Knowing that we have funding available to execute these plans allows us to lead — and win — the toughest civil rights challenges.

Visit aclutx.org/PartnerInThePromise to make your commitment today.

OTHER WAYS TO GIVE

Choose one — or combine a few — to meet charitable objectives, obtain superior tax benefits, and maximize your impact.

Avoid Capital Gains

Donate appreciated stocks or other securities to avoid capital gains and enjoy a charitable deduction* for the full fair market value. Non-deductible gifts to support the ACLU's 501(c)(4) also avoid capital gains.

Succession of Family Assets

Preserve family ownership of key assets while significantly reducing or eliminating gift and estate tax. Place assets in a trust and name charities to receive annual payments over a term of years (often 10 to 20 years). Appreciated trust assets then pass to your heirs without an onerous tax burden.

Maintain Cash Flow

Place securities, real estate, artwork, or business interests in a trust that pays you income for your lifetime. Enjoy capital gain avoidance and a tax deduction for the charitable value of the trust. You can also donate non-income-producing assets such as real estate, artwork, or life insurance without triggering capital gains. Marketable assets are then sold to fund a charitable purpose.

Put Tax Savings To Work

Use your income tax charitable deduction to increase your gift. For example, a \$1 million gift (at a combined federal and state tax rate of 43.4%) might yield a reduction in tax of \$434,000,* which you could use to reach a desired funding level.



*Use your deduction to shelter up to 50% of your adjusted gross income for gifts of cash, or 30% for gifts of appreciated assets, in any single year. Unused deductions can be carried forward for an additional five years. Check with your advisor about the impact of the AMT, and phase-outs that start at incomes of \$309,900 for married couples filing jointly.

This information is not intended to be tax or legal advice. If you are considering a gift, we recommend consulting with your legal and financial advisors to learn how a gift would work in your circumstances.



The people of this state are facing so many injustices, but the ACLU has the promise and strategic plan to right them. Your partnership with the ACLU of Texas has never been more essential or relevant than at this moment. Long-term change requires a significant investment in this organization's people and programs. We thank you for your past support and ask you to join us now for the Texas we know we deserve.

For more information, contact:

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aclutx.org/PartnerInThePromise

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