

Forstag Is A Phony. He Doesn't Make A Living Fighting Fires, He's A Lobbyist For Radical Left-Wing Special Interests That Want To Defund The Police, Give Amnesty To Criminal Illegal Aliens, Allow Children To Get Sex Changes And Let Men Compete In Women's Sports And Use Girls' Locker Rooms.

Forstag's Work As A Lobbyist For Progressive Interests:

In 2020, Forstag Joined The ACLU Of Montana As A Legislative Program Manager. He Focused On The Areas Of Criminal Justice Reform, Voting Rights, Indigenous Justice, Immigrant Rights, And The State Budget. “Managed advocacy and policy for ACLU-Montana on policy issues relating to criminal justice reform, voting rights, indigenous justice, immigrant rights and the state budget throughout the 2021 Montana Legislative Session. Work included full time lobbying at the Montana Capitol, organizing and mobilizing ACLU of Montana membership, and coordinating coalition work with partner organizations. Managed and participated in coalitions working on criminal justice reform, immigrants' rights and voting rights.” (Sam Forstag, [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

	Legislative Program Manager ACLU of Montana · Full-time Dec 2020 - May 2021 · 6 mos Helena, Montana, United States Managed advocacy and policy for ACLU-Montana on policy issues relating to criminal justice reform, voting rights, indigenous justice, immigrant rights and the state budget throughout the 2021 Montana Legislative Session. Work included full time lobbying at the Montana Capitol, organizing and mobilizing ACLU of Montana membership, and coordinating coalition work with partner organizations. Managed and participated in coalitions working on criminal justice reform, immigrants' rights and voting rights.
---	--

(Sam Forstag, [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

From 2021 To 2024, Forstag Worked As Partner For The Montan Based Lobbying Firm Central House Strategies. “Organized and advocated for policy changes to make Montana a more just and free place for poor, working and marginalized people. Helped build and and run the Montana Coalition to Solve Homelessness from 2022 - 2024. Worked with organizations like the Poverello Center, Montana Food Bank Network, Montana Innocence Project, Montana Library Association, Planned Parenthood of Montana, Life Flight Network, and municipal governments to build, organize and manage coalitions. Worked with lawmakers and people from across the political spectrum to draft & pass laws that make our state a more just, compassionate and generous place.” (Sam Forstag, [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 4/27/26)



Partner

Central House Strategies · Full-time

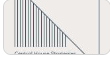
Nov 2021 - Apr 2024 · 2 yrs 6 mos

Montana

Organized and advocated for policy changes to make Montana a more just and free place for poor, working and marginalized people. Helped build and run the Montana Coalition to Solve Homelessness from 2022 - 2024. Worked with organizations like the Poverello Center, Montana Food Bank Network, Montana Innocence Project, Montana Library Association, Planned Parenthood of Montana, Life Flight Network, and municipal governments to build, organize and manage coalitions. Worked with lawmakers and people from across the political spectrum to draft & pass laws that make our state a more just, compassionate and generous place.

From 2022 - 2023, my colleagues and I helped draft, introduce and pass policies to:

- Provide \$5M to help homeless shelters serve unhoused Montanans
- Extend & expand funding for public libraries despite repeated attempts to cut their funding
- Stop kids in the carceral system from being saddled with endless, arbitrary fines, fees, and debts
- Secure funding and staff time for getting post-medical care for unhoused Montanans
- Reform eyewitness ID lineups to prevent wrongful convictions
- Prevent the death penalty from being reinstituted in Montana
- Stop attempts to criminalize librarians and teachers for doing their jobs
- Prevent attempts to severely restrict/end sex ed in schools
- Stopped numerous bills that attempted to erode basic protections for renters, and mitigating harm where we couldn't
- Fought legislation trying to erode the rights of marginalized Montanans.



central house strategies

Rossi started Central House Strategies, LLC in August of 2020. After a decade of working in the non-profit policy and advocacy realm, Rossi realized there were true gaps that needed...

(Sam Forstag, [LinkedIn](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

ACLU On The Issues

The ACLU Has Advocated For “Shifting Power To The People” And Away From Law Enforcement

The ACLU Has Advocated For “Shifting Power To The People” And Away From Law Enforcement. “We want a world in which people have an equal right to go about their lives without invasive, humiliating, or violent encounters with the police regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, or disability. To achieve this world, the ACLU works to increase individual rights against police violence and oppression, while shifting power to people impacted by police overreach to build better models for public safety.” (“Public Safety And Freedom From Police Overreach,” [ACLU](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

- **ACLU: “We Must Reduce The Role, Resources And Power Of Police And Invest In Alternatives.”** “To bring an end to racist, violent policing and to empower communities of color to heal, repair the harms caused by policing, and build safe and thriving communities we must reduce the role, resources and power of police and invest in alternatives.” (“Smart Justice,” [ACLU](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

- **Policing:** To bring an end to racist, violent policing and to empower communities of color to heal, repair the harms caused by policing, and build safe and thriving communities we must reduce the role, resources and power of police and invest in alternatives.

(“Smart Justice,” [ACLU](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

NOTE: The ACLU has removed their page on “reducing the roles, resources and power of the police” page from their website.

A Former “Policing Policy Advisor” For The ACLU Called For Defunding The Police

ACLU NEWS & COMMENTARY: “Defunding The Police Will Actually Make Us Safer.”

(Paige Fernandez, “Defunding The Police Will Actually Make Us Safer,” [ACLU](#), 6/11/20)

NEWS & COMMENTARY

Defunding the Police Will Actually Make Us Safer

Policing in this country evolved from slave patrols. It has never been a neutral institution.

(Paige Fernandez, “Defunding The Police Will Actually Make Us Safer,” [ACLU](#), 6/11/20)

Paige Fernandez, A Former Policing Policy Advisor For The ACLU, Advocated For Defunding The Police Entirely. “For too long, the focus on police reform has been dominated by reforms that try to reduce the harms of policing rather than rethink the overall role of police in society. But six years after the Black Lives Matter movement rose to national attention, activists across the country are coming together to demand what many have known has been the solution all along: defund the police.” (Paige Fernandez, “Defunding The Police Will Actually Make Us Safer,” [ACLU](#), 6/11/20)

The ACLU Has Advocated For Bail Reform, Fighting To Lessen Or Remove Bail Requirements Outright For Accused Individuals

The ACLU Has Advocated For Bail Reform, Fighting To Lessen Or Remove Bail Requirements Outright For Accused Individuals. “After an arrest — wrongful or not — a person’s ability to leave jail and return home to fight the charges typically depends on access to money. That’s because, in virtually all jurisdictions, people must pay cash bail to secure their freedom. Bail is often set at levels far too high for the average person to afford, and as a result, thousands of people await trial in jail for months or years when they could’ve otherwise been safely at home. Meanwhile, wealthy people accused of the same crimes can buy their ticket to freedom. How much money you have shouldn’t determine whether or not you are behind bars. There are plenty of other ways to ensure people stay on top of their court requirements without imposing unnecessary jail time that can derail the lives of people accused of crimes and the lives of their families. The ACLU continues to advocate for fair and just bail systems and challenge cash bail schemes that violate the Constitution.” (“Bail Reform,” [ACLU](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

What's at Stake

After an arrest — wrongful or not — a person’s ability to leave jail and return home to fight the charges typically depends on access to money. That’s because, in virtually all jurisdictions, people must pay cash bail to secure their freedom. Bail is often set at levels far too high for the average person to afford, and as a result, thousands of people await trial in jail for months or years when they could’ve otherwise been safely at home. Meanwhile, wealthy people accused of the same crimes can buy their ticket to freedom.

How much money you have shouldn’t determine whether or not you are behind bars. There are plenty of other ways to ensure people stay on top of their court requirements without imposing unnecessary jail time that can derail the lives of people accused of crimes and the lives of their families. The ACLU continues to advocate for fair and just bail systems and challenge cash bail schemes that violate the Constitution.



- **The ACLU Has Suggested “Providing” Both Housing And Transportation For Accused Individuals As An Alternative To Cash Bail.** “Providing transportation, reminder phone calls, housing, substance abuse recovery programs, or issuing unsecured bonds, are but some of the ways to promise to return to court that is not tied to money. These supportive approaches are proven to help people return to court at the same rate or an even higher rate than cash bail. Eliminating discriminatory cash bail laws allows judges to rely on evidence, an individual’s circumstances, and an assessment of public safety to determine the need for pre-trial detention and limit it to circumstances when it is actually needed.” (“Bail Reform,” [ACLU](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

The ALCU Has Advocated For The Complete Healthcare Coverage, Including Under Taxpayer Funded Plans, For Transition-Related Care

The ALCU Has Advocated For The Complete Healthcare Coverage, Including Under Taxpayer Funded Plans, For Transition-Related Care. “The ACLU LGBT Project seeks to eliminate barriers that transgender people face in receiving health care, including treatments specifically related to gender transition and gender affirmation. Transition-related health care continues to be explicitly excluded from many public health care programs and private insurance policies. Even once these exclusions are lifted, we must also work to ensure that trans people have meaningful, comprehensive access to transition-related care without burdensome and unnecessary preconditions and limitations on the types of care provided.” (“Transgender People And Healthcare,” [ACLU](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

What's at Stake

The ACLU LGBT Project seeks to eliminate barriers that transgender people face in receiving health care, including treatments specifically related to gender transition and gender affirmation. Transition-related health care continues to be explicitly excluded from many public health care programs and private insurance policies. Even once these exclusions are lifted, we must also work to ensure that trans people have meaningful, comprehensive access to transition-related care without burdensome and unnecessary preconditions and limitations on the types of care provided.

Need help?

[Fill out our confidential online form](#)

For non-LGBT issues, please contact your [local ACLU affiliate](#).



(“Transgender People And Healthcare,” [ACLU](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

The ACLU Has Supported Providing “Gender Affirming Care” For Minors

The ACLU Has Supported Providing “Gender Affirming Care” For Minors. “In the last several years, politicians have put trans youth in this country at serious risk of being denied gender-affirming care through bans targeting them, their families, and their doctors. This is a fight for the fundamental right of all people to be themselves – to be respected, to be loved, and to be given a chance to build the future they and their family deserve. Support from their families and their doctors is a critical part of helping transgender adolescents succeed in school, establish healthy relationships with their friends and family, and live authentically as themselves. We all want what’s best for our children, and families with transgender youth are no different. Please join us and take the pledge today to support the freedom to be and stay up to date on the ACLU’s work. If you are a parent or a guardian yourself – or simply an adult who cares – join us: Take our pledge to defend our freedom.” (“Take The Pledge: Support Trans Youth Now,” [ACLU](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

The ACLU Has Advocated For Pathway To Citizenship For All “Aspiring Americans” Living In The United States, Irrespective Of Their Legal Status

The ACLU Has Advocated For Pathway To Citizenship For All “Aspiring Americans” Living In The United States, Irrespective Of Their Legal Status. “The ACLU believes that all immigration reform must create a welcoming roadmap to citizenship for aspiring Americans living in and contributing to the United States. Fundamental fairness as guaranteed by the Constitution requires that these individuals be brought within the legal embrace of U.S. citizenship. The United States must protect the rights of workers vulnerable to abuse, including temporary workers (or guest workers) and unauthorized workers; end state and local intrusions into immigration policy and enforcement; and ban racial profiling at all levels of government.” (“Road To Citizenship,” [ACLU](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

What's at Stake

The ACLU believes that all immigration reform must create a welcoming roadmap to citizenship for aspiring Americans living in and contributing to the United States. Fundamental fairness as guaranteed by the Constitution requires that these individuals be brought within the legal embrace of U.S. citizenship. **The United States must protect the rights of workers vulnerable to abuse, including temporary workers (or guest workers) and unauthorized workers; end state and local intrusions into immigration policy and enforcement; and ban racial profiling at all levels of government.**



(“Road To Citizenship,” [ACLU](#), Accessed 4/27/26)

Forstag’s Work As A Lobbyist

In 2021, Forstag Advocated Against A Bill In The Montana Legislature That Would Have Prevented Allowing Biological Men To Compete In Women’s Sports

In 2021, Forstag Urged Montanans To Tell Their Representatives To Vote No On HB 112. (Sam Forstag, [Facebook](#), 3/20/21)



(Sam Forstag, [Facebook](#), 3/20/21)

NOTE: *Forstag's personal Facebook account is no longer publicly accessible.*

HB 112 Prevents Biological Men From Competing In Women's School Sports. "Gov. Greg Gianforte has signed a bill that places restrictions on transgender students who want to participate in school sports, making Montana the latest state to adopt such a measure. The governor's office did not hold a ceremony or release a statement about the bill signing Friday. The news was first reported by Montana Public Radio after the bill's status was updated on the Legislature's official tracking system. House Bill 112 was the subject of intense and emotional debate for the duration of the legislative session, which adjourned at the end of April. ... According the bill's text, HB112 requires sports teams to be defined by athletes' 'biological sex' and explicitly states that women's sports teams may not include students 'of the male sex,' a misrepresentation of girls and women who are transgender. The bill does not make exceptions for transgender girls who have not yet begun puberty or women who are taking hormone therapies to lower their testosterone levels in accordance with NCAA policy for transgender women athletes." (Mara Silvers, "Gianforte Signs Bill Restricting Transgender Athletes," [Montana Free Press](#), 5/7/21)

In 2021, Forstag Advocated Against A Bill That Would Have Prohibited Transgender Related Care For Minors

In 2021, Forstag Urged Montanans To Tell Their Representatives To Vote No On HB 427. ([Facebook](#), 3/20/21)



([Facebook](#), 3/20/21)

NOTE: *Forstag's personal Facebook account is no longer publicly accessible.*

HB 427 Banned Physicians And Health Care Professionals From Providing Youth With Gender Affirming Surgeries. “During the afternoon floor session, lawmakers in the Senate passed a motion to indefinitely postpone action on House Bill 427, which would have banned physicians and health care professionals from providing youth with gender affirming surgeries, such as mastectomies or breast augmentations, while also prohibiting them from referring patients to receive treatment elsewhere. The bill was the more recent version of a proposal introduced earlier in the session, HB 113, which would have banned a wider range of medical care for youth diagnosed with gender dysphoria. That measure narrowly failed to pass the House.” (Mara Silvers, “Split Movement For Bills Restricting Transgender Youth And Athletes,” [Montana Free Press](#), 4/20/21)

In 2017, Forstag Posted A Catalyst Montana Post Calling On Montanans To Tell Their Representatives To Vote Against HB 609. ([Facebook](#), 3/25/17)



([Facebook](#), 3/25/17)

NOTE: Forstag's personal Facebook account is no longer publicly accessible.

HB 609 Would Create A Public Referendum That If Passed, Would Require School Students To Use The Bathrooms And Locker Rooms That Matched Their Gender At Birth. "A House panel on Monday rejected a bill regarding transgender bathrooms that would have had the public vote on a referendum setting policy for people using public school locker rooms and other government buildings. The move prompted the bill's sponsor, the Montana Family Foundation, to say it will now gather the signatures to bring the issue to the ballot. House Bill 609, also known as the 'Montana Locker Room Privacy Act,' carried by Rep. Carl Glimm, R-Kila, would define sex as 'a person's immutable biological sex as objectively determined by anatomy and genetics existing at the time of birth.'" (Phil Drake, "House Panel Turns Down Transgender Bathroom Bill," [Great Falls Tribune](#), 3/27/17)