



# MID-YEAR IMPACT REPORT

We're only halfway through 2025, and FIRE's impact this year is anything but middle of the road. With your support, we're standing up for free speech on the national stage, defending everyday Americans facing censorship in their communities, and forging a path forward on cutting-edge issues like artificial intelligence.

***HERE'S A LOOK AT WHAT  
YOUR SUPPORT HAS MADE  
POSSIBLE SO FAR THIS YEAR.***



## DEFENDING OUR RIGHTS

Through relentless advocacy both in and out of court, FIRE has notched **38 victories for everyday Americans** whose speech rights were under attack. In one of our biggest wins, our lawsuit helped ensure that 54,000 community college professors in California are no longer facing a DEI mandate for classroom instruction.

We also secured victories on behalf of individuals like:



### ***KIMBERLY DIEI***

Kimberly is a former Tennessee graduate student who won a \$250,000 settlement after nearly being expelled for quoting Cardi B on social media.



### ***LARS JENSEN***

Lars is a Nevada math professor whom the Ninth Circuit ruled was unconstitutionally punished for criticizing his school's decision to lower its math standards.



### ***JOEL BASSOFF***

Joel worked with FIRE to win a policy change after he was banned from a town council meeting for waving a small American flag.

## POLICY GAINS

Since January, FIRE has won legislative victories in Colorado, Virginia, North Dakota, Arkansas, Maryland, Illinois, and Utah, defending expressive rights for AI users, bolstering due process protections on campus, and more — **wins that shore up First Amendment rights for millions.**

Our broader policy work continues to gain momentum on campus as well, with four new institutions joining our prestigious list of “green light” universities after eliminating their restrictive speech codes with the help of our policy team.

## SHAPING THE NARRATIVE

FIRE’s principled expertise is more in demand than ever. That’s why, in just six months, we’ve received **more than 9,000 media mentions** in outlets such as CNN, Fox News, The New York Times, and The Wall Street Journal.

Whether we’re speaking about the Trump administration’s actions, censorship on social media, or ongoing battles against DEI mandates, we are leading the conversation back to nonpartisan free speech principles and sound First Amendment analysis.



# 2025 BY THE NUMBERS



**38**  
VICTORIES



**7**  
STATE LEGISLATIVE WINS



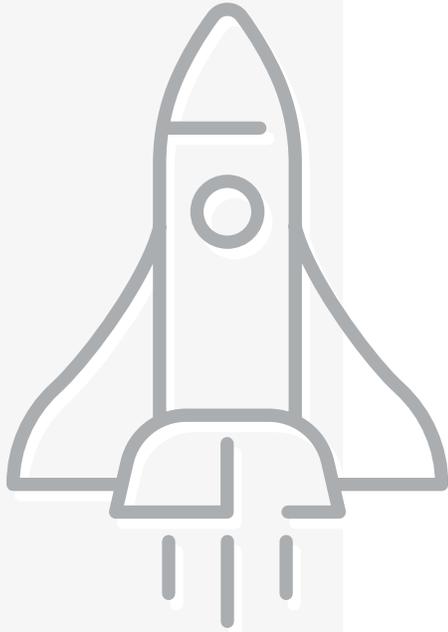
**22**  
REFORMED POLICIES



**9K+**  
MEDIA MENTIONS



**1.5M+**  
SOCIAL MEDIA  
ENGAGEMENTS



## CUTTING-EDGE RESEARCH

We've produced groundbreaking research, including our brand-new **Students Under FIRE Database** and new editions of our quarterly National Speech Index. To fuel the upcoming release of our 2025-26 College Free Speech Rankings, we've also collected piles of data that will continue to prompt much-needed campus reform.

And we aren't stopping with our own research. FIRE recently announced a **new partnership with the Cosmos Institute** on a \$1 million grant program to back open-source AI projects that widen the marketplace of ideas and promote truth-seeking.

## EMPOWERING ADVOCATES

So far in 2025, your support has helped us advance the free speech movement through innovative outreach and education. FIRE helped launch pro-free speech alumni groups at schools like the University of Washington and UT Austin, expanded our internship programs, and brought civil discourse workshops to eight campuses, including Northwestern and MIT.

We also continued reaching Americans both in person and online. FIRE has engaged with **over 1.5 million social media users**, and we put on several fun events around the country. Later this month, we'll host our second annual **Free Speech Forum**, a week-long event for high schoolers to receive an in-depth understanding of the First Amendment, engage in civil discourse, and leave equipped to advocate for free speech in their communities.



## THANK YOU!

None of these achievements would be possible without the incredible generosity of our donors. Thank you for standing with FIRE. With principled supporters like you by our side, we'll keep fighting for free speech — and keep winning — in 2025 and beyond.