

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – MAY 22, 2024

U.S. BORDER PATROL STATISTICS

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2019		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	76,020
	Family Units	473,682
	Single Adult	301,806
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		851,508

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2020		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	30,557
	Family Units	52,230
	Single Adult	317,864
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		400,651

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2021		
USBP	Demographic	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	144,834
	Family Units	451,087
	Single Adult	1,063,285
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		1,659,206

Data Sources: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy-2019> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/sw-border-migration/fy2020> ; <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2022														
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	12,625	13,745	11,704	8,607	11,779	13,892	11,857	14,420	14,929	13,003	10,993	11,539	149,093
	Family Units	41,556	43,279	49,437	30,419	25,165	34,052	37,082	51,166	44,071	42,851	39,305	44,579	482,962
	Single Adult	104,932	109,991	109,461	108,851	122,226	163,237	154,565	158,784	133,399	125,980	131,476	151,479	1,574,381
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		159,113	167,015	170,602	147,877	159,063	211,181	203,504	224,370	192,399	181,834	181,774	207,597	2,206,436

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2023														
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	11,654	12,780	11,829	9,034	10,418	11,852	11,062	9,442	6,732	10,035	13,527	13,154	131,519
	Family Units	46,745	49,827	60,843	25,829	25,643	33,269	46,555	45,026	31,271	60,165	93,111	103,027	621,311
	Single Adult	146,735	145,073	149,346	94,650	94,460	118,551	126,304	116,914	61,535	62,442	74,416	102,582	1,293,008
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		205,134	207,680	222,018	129,513	130,521	163,672	183,921	171,382	99,538	132,642	181,054	218,763	2,045,838

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2024										
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	Total	
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	10,699	11,939	12,455	7,483	9,358	7,925	7,635	67,494	
	Family Units	84,407	82,678	101,710	39,807	45,972	45,988	40,159	440,721	
	Single Adult	93,648	96,490	135,571	76,929	85,304	83,558	81,090	652,590	
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		188,754	191,107	249,736	124,219	140,634	137,471	128,884	1,160,805	

Data Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/southwest-land-border-encounters>

LATEST NEWS

Operation Lone Star Deploys Drone Technology To Stop Illegal Crossings

By the Office of the Texas Governor, Press Release, May 17, 2024

- ❖ As of May 17, Texas has bused:
 - Over 12,500 migrants to Washington, D.C. since April 2022
 - Over 44,500 migrants to New York City since August 2022
 - Over 36,000 migrants to Chicago since August 2022
 - Over 3,400 migrants to Philadelphia since November 2022
 - Over 18,800 migrants to Denver since May 18 2023
 - Over 1,500 migrants to Los Angeles since June 14 2023
- ❖ Press Release Source: <https://gov.texas.gov/news/post/operation-lone-star-deploys-drone-technology-to-stop-illegal-crossings>

A quieter border eases pressure on Biden, with a hand from Mexico

By Nick Miroff, Washington Post, April 30, 2024

- ❖ In April, U.S. border agents have encountered about 130,000 migrants who entered illegally from Mexico, a level that is high by historical standards but lower than February and March, according to the latest U.S. enforcement data obtained by The Washington Post. U.S. officials say a crackdown on migrants by the Mexican government is the biggest factor. Using military patrols and highway checkpoints, Mexican authorities have been intercepting roughly 8,000 U.S.-bound migrants per day, according to officials in both countries.
- ❖ Source: <https://wapo.st/3y2lkxk>

Trump explains his militaristic plan to deport 15-20 million people

By Zachary B. Wolf, CNN, May 1, 2024

- ❖ Former President Donald Trump gave such a rare sit-down to Time magazine and he was asked about what a potential second Trump term would bring, including on the thorny issue of immigration.
- ❖ **Trump avoided specifics on most topics:** He did not commit to the full “Project 2025” effort his supporters envision to gut the perceived “deep state” by reclassifying a much larger portion of the federal government as political appointees. “We’re looking at a lot of different things. Civil service is both very good and very bad,” he said.
- ❖ **On other topics, he deflected:** Trump insisted he would leave the issue of abortion rights up to states, even if it meant allowing them to jail women who seek abortions. “You’ll have to speak to the individual states,” he said. While at rallies he has referred to people jailed for storming the US Capitol as “hostages,” he did not commit to pardoning every one of them. “If somebody was evil and bad, I would look at that differently,” he said.
- ❖ **He said his ‘dictator’ promise was a joke:** And some of his more outlandish comments, he said, were just jokes. He said to put his repeated pledge to declare himself “dictator for a day” into this category. “That was said sarcastically. That was meant as a joke,” he said.
- ❖ **But on deporting millions of people, he went into detail:** The topic on which Trump had the most concrete details is his plan to deport many millions of undocumented immigrants. Trump repeated false claims that many migrants are former prisoners or have been institutionalized in their home countries. CNN has reported there is no data to support the idea that a rise in immigrants drives a rise in crime. Most measures of violent crime in the US have actually been falling. While he didn’t use the derogatory term, Trump pointed to “Operation Wetback,” the deportation initiative taken along the border with Mexico during the Eisenhower administration, as a model. In 1954, border officials worked with local law enforcement to, they claimed, round up more than 1 million Mexican nationals and move them to the Mexico side of the border.
- ❖ **Trump promised mass deportation in 2016 too:** While he did not employ an Eisenhower-like effort the first time he was president, Trump is bringing the pledge back. Trump told Time he would target between 15 million and 20 million people who he said are undocumented in the US. The exact number of undocumented immigrants is not clear. It is probably smaller than Trump says.
- ❖ **Trump was asked if his effort would include the military:** “It would,” Trump said, adding, “when we talk military, generally speaking, I talk National Guard.” He added that he would “have no problem using the military, per se,” although he thinks the National Guard would suffice.
- ❖ **What about massive migrant camps?** Trump tried to downplay the idea that there would be massive camps of detained migrants like those described to The New York Times by his immigration policy mastermind Stephen Miller, since, according to Trump, he would be deporting people so fast. “We’re not leaving them in the country. We’re bringing them out,” he said. When asked under what authority he would make all of this happen, Trump suggested he would use federal money to pressure local police.
- ❖ Read the full interview published by Time, here: <https://time.com/6972021/donald-trump-2024-election-interview/>
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2024/05/01/politics/trump-immigration-what-matters/index.html>

How many U.S. families could be affected by Trump's vows to do mass deportations?

By *Suzanne Gamboa and Joe Murphy, NBC News, May 2, 2024*

- ❖ Former President Donald Trump is sticking to a campaign promise to launch “the largest domestic deportation operation in American history,” which could tear apart millions of American families that are a mix of citizens and noncitizens. Out of 130 million U.S. households, about 5.6 million — or 1 in 25 — include undocumented immigrants, according to Pew Research Center data provided to NBC News. In an interview with Time magazine, Trump reiterated his campaign trail promise to rid the country of people without legal permission to be here. He said he would first use the National Guard and local police, and then the military if warranted, to force the immigrants “back from where they came.” “These are people that aren’t legally in our country. This is an invasion of our country. An invasion like probably no country has ever seen before,” he told Time. There are about 20 million people in households with mixed immigration statuses, including about 10.3 million people who are undocumented and 9.7 million others who are either citizens or other immigrants with a form of legal permission to live in the U.S., according to Pew Research Center data. Most undocumented immigrants have been here on average for 16 years, with the number varying by state; in California, the average time is 20.3 years. There are about 825,000 undocumented children who are 17 years and younger in the U.S., according to the data. Additionally, there are more than 3.4 million undocumented immigrants in the country with U.S.-born children younger than 18.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/many-us-families-impacted-trumps-vows-mass-deportations-rcna150038>

Scoop: Biden beefs up border team as pressure builds

By *Stef W. Kight and Alex Thompson, Axios, May 3, 2024*

- ❖ The Biden administration is eyeing a new point guard on border issues, with plans to bring in the Department of Homeland Security's Blas Nuñez-Neto, Axios has learned. A lack of ownership among senior White House officials on the border has hampered President Biden's ability to respond to what has become one of his most vulnerable election issues. Nuñez-Neto has been closely involved with border issues as assistant secretary for border and immigration policy at DHS. The precise timing of his move to the White House is unclear. It's the second border-related move involving senior White House personnel in recent months, after years of the administration struggling to get a handle on historic levels of migration. The move comes as Biden's administration considers executive actions on immigration and the border — and as voters continue to rank illegal immigration as a top concern heading into the Nov. 5 election. Nuñez-Neto, an immigrant born in Argentina, is a leading advocate for the administration in its efforts to deal with the historic numbers of migrants and asylum seekers arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border. He played a central role in the Senate negotiations over the bipartisan border deal that ultimately was killed by Republicans and former President Trump. Nuñez-Neto has worked in various roles related to the border — on Capitol Hill, at Customs and Border Protection and as a researcher at Rand Corporation.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.axios.com/2024/05/03/biden-builds-border-team-immigration-pressure-election>

Biden expands ObamaCare to ‘Dreamers’

By *Rafael Bernal, The Hill, May 3, 2024*

- ❖ The Biden administration announced a rule Friday morning [May 3] that will allow certain “Dreamers” to access the ObamaCare marketplace. Under the rule, active recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) will be eligible to enroll in a qualified health plan or a basic health plan under the Affordable Care Act (ACA), and some forms of financial assistance. “This final rule reflects the president’s key commitment to protecting ‘Dreamers’ and DACA recipients. He is focused on providing them with the support they need to thrive and reach their fullest potential,” Neera Tanden, director of the Domestic Policy Council, told reporters Thursday [May 2]. “This final rule also reflects the president’s belief that health care is a right — not a privilege — for all Americans, that it should extend to DACA recipients just like the rest of us. The new rule comes after months of speculation over executive actions the Biden administration might take on immigration issues, from potentially cracking down on asylum at the border to making work permits available to certain immigrants living in the country illegally. As of September, there were 544,690 enrollees, though the Migration Policy Institute estimates 1,161,000 people would be eligible for DACA as of 2022. DACA recipients had previously been excluded from ObamaCare benefits, though other foreign nationals in deferred action programs were not. CMS estimates the new rule will lead to 100,000 newly eligible DACA recipients enrolling in either a marketplace plan or a basic health program.
- ❖ Source: <https://thehill.com/latino/4639985-biden-obamacare-dreamers-affordable-care-act-daca/>

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp signs immigration enforcement bill pushed following Laken Riley's killing

By Rafael Romo, Shawn Nottingham and Kaanita Iyer, CNN, May 1, 2024

- ❖ Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp on Wednesday, May 1, signed immigration enforcement legislation pushed in the wake of nursing student Laken Riley's death. Kemp said at the signing that the legislation, which was sent to his desk in late March, "became one of our top priorities following the senseless death of Laken Riley," who was found dead on the University of Georgia's campus in February. After Jose Antonio Ibarra, an undocumented immigrant from Venezuela, was charged with the murder of Riley, Republican lawmakers have used the incident to push for stricter immigration policies. "If you enter our country illegally and proceed to commit further crimes in our communities, we will not allow your crimes to go unanswered," Kemp said at the signing. The measure signed Wednesday, May 1, HB 1105, requires local and state law officials to verify the immigration status of those over the age of 18 who have been arrested, those in detention or those who an "officer has probable cause to believe" have committed a crime. Local law enforcement agencies who do not cooperate with immigration officials could lose state funding, and local officials who do not work with immigration authorities could face misdemeanor charges.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2024/05/01/politics/georgia-kemp-immigration-laken-riley/index.html>

Florida Loses \$ 12 Billion Plus In Year 1 Of Its Anti-Immigration Law

By Andy J. Semotiuk, Forbes, April 29, 2024

- ❖ Enter Florida's law addressing the problem: SB1718. This legislation, introduced by Governor Ron DeSantis a year ago, made using E-Verify mandatory for any employer with 25 or more employees, imposed enforceable penalties for those employing undocumented aliens, and enhanced penalties for human smuggling. Additionally, this bill prohibited local governments from issuing Identification Cards (ID) to illegal aliens, invalidated ID cards issued to undocumented aliens in other states, and required hospitals to collect and submit data on the costs of providing healthcare to illegal aliens. There are about 130,000 undocumented immigrants married to Florida U.S. citizens and up to 200,000 seasonal and migrant undocumented workers. The problem is that the first year cost of all this 'enforcement,' primarily aimed at these 330,000 individuals in Florida will exceed \$ 12 billion, according to the Florida Policy Institute.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/andyjsemotiuk/2024/04/29/florida-loses--12-billion-plus-in--year-1-of-its-anti-immigration-law/?sh=7f1f73614214>

Migrant apprehensions are down at the Texas border. Have state policies had an impact?

By Alejandro Serrano, Graphics by Yuriko Schumacher, Texas Tribune, April 22, 2024

- ❖ During the 2023 fiscal year, Texas on average accounted for roughly 59% of migrant encounters along the southwest border. During the first half of the 2024 fiscal year, which began in October, Texas has on average accounted for 43% of migrant encounters. Texas shares about 1,250 miles of border with Mexico and is home to five of the nine Border Patrol sectors along the southern border — the El Paso Sector also includes New Mexico's 180 miles of the border. In November, non-Texas sectors recorded roughly 104,000 migrant encounters compared to about 87,000 recorded in Texas' five sectors. Texas saw more encounters in December than the other states, but the trend flipped back again in January, when Border Patrol agents in Texas encountered fewer migrants than agents elsewhere along the southern border, according to Border Patrol figures. The biggest decrease in encounters occurred in the Del Rio sector, which includes Eagle Pass, where agents recorded more than 70,000 migrant encounters in December compared to fewer than 20,000 in each of the first months of 2024, according to Border Patrol figures. Meanwhile, the San Diego and Tucson sectors have recorded consistent increases since last summer until recent tiny dips. The recent trend comes three years after Abbott began flooding the Texas-Mexico border with state troopers and National Guard soldiers through Operation Lone Star. Since then, the state has allocated more than \$11 billion of taxpayer money for Operation Lone Star, said gubernatorial spokesperson Andrew Mahaleris. That money has also paid for the transporting of more than 100,000 migrants to cities like New York and Chicago, placing 70,000 rolls of concertina wire along the border, and beginning construction on a military base that may reportedly cost more than \$400 million.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/04/22/texas-border-migrant-apprehensions-abbott-operation-lone-star/>

Legal Options for Responding to Texas AG Harrassment of Non-Profit Organization

By Jerry Wesevich and Robert Doggett, April 19, 2024

- ❖ Jerry Wesevich, the lawyer for Annunciation House, spoke about the legal and practical concerns as of April 2024 regarding Texas AG vs Texas Non-profits via ZOOM. Robert Doggett, another attorney from Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid (TRLA), joined in with comments. During the meeting, Jerry Wesevich gave a history of what has been happening regarding Annunciation House and discussed legal options non-profit organizations should consider taking.
- ❖ **STEPS NONPROFITS SHOULD CONSIDER IN ORDER**
 - 1) Rapid Response Plan
 - If Law Enforcement Officers Arrive:
 - a) Do not resist force
 - b) Do not consent to anything
 - c) Copy every document they show you
 - d) Always call management immediately
 - 2) Physical Security (failed to take notes on this)
 - 3) Document Management
 - Destroying Documents can be a crime if destroyed after requested
 - a) What is a document?
 - b) What must be recorded?
 - c) Electronic or paper?
 - d) Meeting details?
 - e) Who can access it?
 - f) How long retained? Documents can be destroyed periodically if they are not necessary to hold on to.
 - 4) Attorney Contacts
 - a) Alert existing counsel
 - b) Case file library promotes efficiency
 - c) Access to voluntary pool
 - d) Uniqueness of each case
 - 5) Press Strategy
 - a) Public statements are evidence, including social media, websites, interviews (Be careful about what you say publically. There are supporters of AG Paxton.)
 - b) Gauge community support
 - c) Fairness message
 - d) Timing
 - 6) Corporate Requirements
 - a) Current bylaws and board of directors
 - b) Financial statements
 - c) IRS
 - d) State taxes
 - e) Grant compliance

MIGRANT RESOURCE CENTER – SAN ANTONIO, TX

Editorial: Federal funds for Migrant Resource Center are late, but welcome

By Express-News Editorial Board, April 18, 2024

- ❖ San Antonio is getting \$14 million in much-needed funding to continue operating its Migrant Resource Center. That announcement came April 12 from U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Laredo, on the heels of last month's passage of a \$1.2 trillion federal budget package. The budget agreement averted a partial government shutdown and freed the dollars San Antonio needed to keep the migrant facility running. Immigration is a federal issue, but it impacts local communities. Since 2021, more than 600,000 asylum-seekers have passed through San Antonio on the way to their final destination in the United States. Faced with that kind of humanitarian challenge, San Antonio stepped up and created the Migrant Resource Center. Since September 2022, Catholic Charities of San Antonio has operated the facility under a contract with the city. The facility provides emergency shelter, food, transportation and support services to migrants. As long as the need persists, the center must continue operating. The new allocation provides \$10.8 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency to Catholic Charities and \$3 million to the city of San Antonio. More funding is expected to follow. In 2022, a few months after the opening of the Migrant Resource Center, Mayor Ron Nirenberg defined the city's approach to the influx of asylum-seekers in San Antonio.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/editorial/article/migrant-center-san-antonio-19406796.php>

City Council's lone Republican wants Migrant Resource Center shut down

By Molly Smith, San Antonio Express-News, April 20, 2024

- ❖ More than 228,000 asylum seekers passed through San Antonio last year, and most of them spent time at the Migrant Resource Center on San Pedro Avenue. As City Council Member Marc Whyte tells it, those migrants flocked here because of the 71,000-square-foot facility, which city officials opened nearly two years ago. "If you look at the numbers, we have never had the amount of people coming to San Antonio that we have before we had the Migrant Resource Center," Whyte told KLRN's "On the Record" on March 28. "The numbers drastically increased after we had the Migrant Resource Center." Rounding out his argument, the first-term District 10 council member added, "My position is, if the migrant network knows there is no facility here for them to come to and get all the supplies and things that they get, the flow will at least be minimized." If it were up to Whyte, the 10-member City Council's lone Republican, the city would close the Migrant Resource Center. The month before the center [Migrant Resource Center] opened, almost 19,500 migrants came through San Antonio, up from just over 6,700 the year before, according to city figures. The number of arrivals rose to 23,611 the following month, July 2022. Overall, 260,841 migrants came through San Antonio in 2022, which was more than double 2021's total. Since the start of this year, more than 23,100 migrants have spent time at the Migrant Resource Center or have gone directly to the airport or bus station. Last year, the city spent nearly \$12.7 million on migrant services, including expenses related to the San Pedro Avenue facility.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/article/migrant-resource-center-marc-whyte-19395953.php>

San Antonio is shutting down migrant center at airport as border crossings tumble

By Megan Rodriguez, San Antonio, Express-News, April 23, 2024

- ❖ The Airport Transfer Center — which operates out of a city-owned building on the northern edge of San Antonio International Airport's 2,600-acre property — will close May 1. City officials also are cutting the number of police officers at the airport and the 700-bed Migrant Resource Center on San Pedro Avenue, which provides food, clothing, showers, temporary shelter and legal guidance to asylum-seekers. The city pays rent on the resource center, which is also called Centro de Bienvenida, and covers the costs of janitorial and security services. Catholic Charities of San Antonio runs day-to-day operations. The changes are meant to "align operational needs with the current number of arrivals," City Manager Erik Walsh said in a memo to Mayor Ron Nirenberg and City Council. Migrant crossings into Texas began plunging in January. Since then, the number of asylum-seekers making their way through San Antonio has declined 77%, Walsh said. From January through this month, nearly 24,000 migrants have come through the city, according to a city dashboard, compared with 44,000 migrants in the same period last year. More than 228,000 asylum-seekers passed through San Antonio in 2023. The city opened the Airport Transfer Center on May 12 of last year, the day after the end of Title 42, a pandemic-era federal public health policy that was used to quickly expel asylum-seekers from the United States. City officials were worried that the policy's demise would lead to a sharp increase in the number of people crossing the border and put the airport — which was already crowded with migrants — under even more pressure. When the Migrant Resource Center hit its maximum capacity, some of the overflow went to the transfer center. Under normal conditions, migrants were shuttled to the transfer center six hours before their flights, but some had to stay there for up to two days because of flight delays. When the airport facility is closed, Catholic Charities will be responsible for instructing migrants at the MRC on what to do when they arrive at the airport. CEO Antonio Fernandez said the nonprofit is still sorting out how it will contend with the May 1 changes.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/sa-shuts-down-migrant-airport-transfer-center-19418197.php>

CBP ONE APP

CBP Releases March 2024 Monthly Update

By U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Press Release, April 12, 2024

- ❖ The CBP One™ mobile application remains a key component of DHS's efforts to incentivize noncitizens to use lawful, safe, humane, and orderly pathways and processes. The CBP One™ app allows noncitizens throughout central or northern Mexico who lack documents sufficient for admission to the United States to schedule an appointment and remain in place until presenting at a preferred port of entry for their appointment, reducing migrants' need to crowd into immediate border areas. In March, CBP processed 44,000 individuals through appointments at ports of entry utilizing advanced information submitted in CBP One™. Since the appointment scheduling function in CBP One™ was introduced in January 2023 through the end of March 2024, more than 547,000 individuals have successfully scheduled appointments to present at ports of entry using CBP One™ instead of risking their lives in the hands of smugglers. The top nationalities who have been processed are Venezuelan, Haitian, and Mexican.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-releases-march-2024-monthly-update#:~:text=Since%20the%20appointment%20scheduling%20function,in%20the%20hands%20of%20smugglers.>

SENATE BILL 4 (SB 4)

Texas, Biden administration take their battle over new immigration law to federal appeals court

By *Alejandro Serrano, Texas Tribune, April 3, 2024*

- ❖ As of April 3, 2024, a three-judge panel from the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans is hearing arguments from Texas and the federal government about whether to continue blocking Senate Bill 4 (SB 4) from going into effect. The panel previously ruled to keep SB 4 on hold until it could rule on whether the law is constitutional.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2024/04/03/texas-senate-bill-4-appeals-court-hearing-immigration/#:~:text=REUTERS/Justin%20Hamel,whether%20the%20law%20is%20constitutional>.

AG Ken Paxton says Texas 'did not make any concession' during hearing on Senate Bill 4

By *Hogan Gore, Austin American-Statesman, April 4, 2024*

- ❖ Attorney General Ken Paxton is defending his office after the state's solicitor general during a court hearing on Texas' immigration policy said the state might have "gone too far" with Senate Bill 4, a policy that would authorize state and local law enforcement officers to arrest, detain and deport people suspected of entering the U.S. in Texas from Mexico without legal authorization. "Texas did not say SB4 'went too far'—just the opposite," Paxton said in a statement. "In context, it was clear that the matter of whether Texas went too far in light of the Arizona v United States SCOTUS decision was the question before the Court. "As counsel explained, Texas has gone as far as Arizona v United States allows."
- ❖ Source: <https://www.statesman.com/story/news/politics/state/2024/04/04/ken-paxton-texas-sb4-immigration-law-us-mexico-border/73202880007/>

ASYLUM SEEKERS

Civil rights groups call for funds for representation in immigration court

By *Rafael Bernal, The Hill, April 22, 2024*

- ❖ A coalition of more than 100 civil rights and immigrant rights groups are calling on Congress to fund legal representation for foreign nationals in immigrant detention. In a letter to the top appropriators in the House and Senate on Monday, April 22 — Sens. Patty Murray (D-Wash.) and Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Reps. Kay Granger (R-Texas) and Rosa DeLauro (D-Conn.) — the organizations said Congress should allocate \$400 million for immigrant representation. Immigrants who are detained and put in removal proceedings currently have scant due process rights and no right to a government-appointed attorney. "Studies have revealed that immigrants represented by legal counsel are five times more likely to obtain legal relief, while detained individuals are up to 10.5 times more likely to achieve a favorable outcome with legal representation," wrote the groups, led by Fairness to Freedom, the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA) and the Vera Institute of Justice. "In fact, only 10 percent of people without representation in deportation proceedings initiated since 2001 have had successful case outcomes, compared to 63 percent of people with representation." The civil rights groups were joined in the letter by seven local governments and elected officials: Salt Lake City Mayor Erin Mendenhall, the Denver mayor's office, the Chicago, Seattle and New Orleans city offices for immigrants and human rights, the city of Santa Ana, Calif., and the city clerk of North Miami, Fla.
- ❖ Read the letter here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kHwXe3UhveCI2m38937voNCq8SaDTwfy/view>
- ❖ Source: <https://thehill.com/latino/4611610-civil-rights-groups-call-for-funds-for-representation-in-immigration-court/>

Biden Weighs Giving Legal Status to Immigrant Spouses of U.S. Citizens

By *Michelle Hackman, The Wall Street Journal, April 22, 2024*

- ❖ Officials inside the White House and at the Department of Homeland Security have been studying a range of proposals to provide work permits or deportation relief for millions of undocumented immigrants who have lived and worked in the U.S. for a long time. They have zeroed in on the population of mixed-status families, where typically the children and one parent are U.S. citizens, because they believe that demographic is the most compelling, according to administration officials and advocates who have spoken with them. There are an estimated 1.1 million undocumented immigrants married to U.S. citizens, according to Fwd.us, an immigration advocacy group. Though immigrants can typically qualify for green cards when they marry American citizens, these spouses are barred under immigration law for any number of reasons, most commonly if they entered the country illegally more than once or used forged legal documentation. Some of these infractions, advocates say, happen when immigrants are young children but can still result in lifelong bans. Though the announcement of a program isn't imminent, officials say, the White House has discussed timing it before the election as a sort of one-two punch following an executive order that would likely upset immigration advocates.
- ❖ Source: https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/biden-weighs-giving-legal-status-to-immigrant-spouses-of-u-s-citizens-04277843?st=2t6tsxmwhzfrft&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink

Migrants indicted in Texas over alleged border breach after judge dismissed charges

By the Associated Press, April 23, 2024

- ❖ A Texas grand jury indicted more than 140 migrants on misdemeanor rioting charges over an alleged mass attempt to breach the U.S.-Mexico border, a day after a judge threw out the cases. No injuries were reported during the alleged breach on April 12 in El Paso, which authorities say began when someone in the group cut through a razor wire barrier. Mass arrests also followed a separate episode in the Texas border city in March. On Monday, April 22, a county judge had thrown out the charges against those who were arrested this month, ruling there was insufficient probable cause. A public defender representing the migrants had argued there was not enough evidence and accused authorities of trying to make headlines. “The citizens of El Paso, through the grand jury, essentially overruled the judge’s ruling and found probable cause to believe that the riots did occur,” El Paso County District Attorney Bill Hicks told reporters Tuesday, April 23. Kelli Childress-Diaz, the El Paso Public Defender who is representing the 141 defendants, said she wasn’t surprised. “I imagine they had that already prepared before the hearing even started yesterday,” she said. If convicted, those charged could each face up to 180 days in county jail and a fine of up to \$2,000. Those in jail still face federal charges, and Hicks said U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents could still pick them up from jail to process them on an illegal entry offense.
- ❖ Source: <https://apnews.com/article/el-paso-texas-migrants-arrested-39f88577d688584f481a0ac69342d365>

Legal status for Martha's Vineyard migrants? Probably not what DeSantis had in mind

By Guillermo Contreras, San Antonio Express-News, April 24, 2024

- ❖ Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis’ flights of 49 migrants from San Antonio to Martha’s Vineyard in September 2022 may have had an unintended consequence — legal status for the asylum-seekers. A lawyer for several of the migrants said U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has begun issuing letters saying they have bona fide claims that they were crime victims and granting them work permits. The determination comes after Bexar County Sheriff Javier Salazar certified the migrants in October 2022 as victims of crimes resulting in mental or physical abuse. Lawyers for the migrants allege contractors working for DeSantis made false promises to lure the immigrants onto two chartered flights to Martha’s Vineyard. DeSantis was following the lead of fellow Republican Gov. Greg Abbott of Texas, who has bused thousands of migrants from the Texas-Mexico border to Chicago, New York, Denver, Philadelphia and Washington, D.C. “We are grateful that the migrants’ cooperation with the Bexar County Sheriff’s Office has been recognized,” Rachel Self, a Boston attorney representing several of the immigrants, said in a statement. “Despite Sheriff Salazar and his team conducting a thorough investigation across multiple states with more than fifty witnesses, and providing the findings and recommending prosecution to Bexar County District Attorney Gonzales over eight months ago, no action has been taken,” she said. But Pete Gallego, a spokesman for DA Joe Gonzales, said prosecutors haven’t been sitting on their hands. “Our staff carefully reviews every case, but we are particularly careful in reviewing all the evidence at our disposal when a case is unique and generates more interest than is typical,” he said in a statement. “This particular has taken significant time because of the number of witness interviews that were done and the statements that were taken.” Translating witness statements and interview transcripts from Spanish to English took a significant amount of time, he said. “Once our office completes a full analysis of the evidence that has been provided to us, the office will move closer to a decision on whether sufficient evidence exists to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that a crime occurred,” Gallego said.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/martha-s-vineyard-migrants-deemed-victims-get-19420233.php>

Border Patrol says it’s ready for new migrant surge in El Paso

By Julian Resendiz, Border Report, April 25, 2024

- ❖ A new cargo train carrying hundreds of migrants atop boxcars arrived Thursday morning [April 25] in Juarez, Mexico, the third mass arrival of asylum-seekers to the region in the past three days. Some U.S. officials are attributing the surge to a concerted effort by transnational criminal organizations to profit from foreign citizens fleeing economic and public safety crises in their countries. “We have seen multiple small groups of people arriving at different times throughout the night and day,” said Claudio Herrera-Baeza, a spokesman for the Border Patrol in El Paso. “All these migrants are being pushed by disinformation on social media. [...] They believe that once they cross this border they will put in for asylum and be free to go. The reality is these migrants are going to be processed for removal.” The El Paso border has been relatively calm in the past two months, with migrant encounters averaging between 800 to 1,000 a day and the population at processing facilities at under 3,000 despite a mandate to screen anyone who comes across.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.borderreport.com/immigration/border-patrol-says-its-ready-for-new-migrant-surge-in-el-paso/>

Coast Guard rescues 8 migrant children from sinking raft on Rio Grande

By *Victoria Lopez, MySA.com, April 29, 2024*

- ❖ A group of migrant children were rescued from a sinking raft along the Rio Grande last week. A crew with the United States Coast Guard found the group of children alone in the raft that was taking on water. The rescue happened on Tuesday, April 23, on the Rio Grande near McAllen. The U.S. Coast Guard says the children ranged in age from 6 to 13, according to a news release. At around 8:30 p.m., a 29-foot-response boat crew from Coast Guard Maritime Safety and Security Team Houston was patrolling the region when it encountered a group of children on a raft with one adult. Officials say the group was attempting to cross the river nearby. As the Coast Guard approached, the alleged adult smuggler jumped overboard and deflated the raft before they swam back to the Mexican side of the river. The children were left behind on the raft that had begun to take on water and sink. All eight children were safely brought to shore. They have since been transferred to the custody of United States Customs and Border Protection personnel for further processing. No injuries were reported in the incident, according to the release. Coast Guard boat crews are deployed to the area to assist the CBP, primarily conducting search and rescue. The Coast Guard also monitors non-citizen movements on and near the river.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.mysanantonio.com/news/south-texas/article/rio-grande-children-rescue-19428432.php>

San Diego is now the top border region for migrant arrivals

By *Andrea Castillo, Los Angeles Times, April 25, 2024*

- ❖ For the first time in decades, San Diego has become the top region along the southern border for migrant arrivals. Migrant arrests in San Diego reached 8,989 for the week ending April 16, according to figures the agency posted on X. Meanwhile, Tucson — which previously had been the top region for crossings — had 7,500 arrests for the week ending April 19. The numbers appear to be growing. San Diego Chief Border Patrol Agent Patricia McGurk-Daniel wrote on X that 9,513 migrants were arrested as of Tuesday, a 36% increase from two weeks prior. San Diego hasn't been the top region for migrant arrests since at least October 1999, according to monthly agency figures. The last full year San Diego was the top region was 1997.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2024-04-25/san-diego-surpasses-tucson-as-top-border-region-for-migrant-arrivals>

IMMIGRATION DETENTION CENTERS

Ballooning immigrant detention enrages advocates

By *Rafael Bernal, The Hill, April 25, 2024*

- ❖ Human rights advocates see the Biden administration's expansion of detention-reliant immigration enforcement as a betrayal, guided by political headwinds rather than operational necessities. In a letter to President Biden delivered Thursday, April 15, 200 organizations voiced "outrage over your administration's expansion of the cruel and unnecessary immigration detention system." The groups, most of them longtime opponents of the practice of immigration detention, are incensed over skyrocketing detention spending, with \$3.4 billion destined to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) detention bed space in the \$1.2 trillion federal spending package Biden signed in March. Under current enforcement procedures, foreign nationals who are slated for removal — deportation — are generally detained pending their return flight. Deportees-in-waiting can be jailed regardless of whether they also have a criminal record, even if their immigration violations are entirely administrative, for instance in the case of visa overstays. In fiscal 2023, ICE conducted 170,590 administrative arrests, and 43 percent of those arrested had prior criminal convictions or pending charges. A year prior, only 32.5 percent of foreign nationals arrested by ICE had some sort of criminal history, according to official figures. According to the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), a government data tracker housed at Syracuse University, 61.3 percent of ICE detainees as of April 7 have no criminal record, and "many more have only minor offenses, including traffic violations."
- ❖ Source: <https://thehill.com/latino/4621399-immigrant-detention-advocates-border-biden/>

DEVELOPING STORIES

The real migrant bus king of North America isn't the Texas governor. It's Mexico's president.

By *Lauren Villagran, USA TODAY, April 28, 2024*

- ❖ The Biden administration and Texas are taking credit for an unusual springtime lull in illegal border crossings, with the White House touting its legal pathways and Gov. Greg Abbott championing his troops and concertina wire. But analysts, immigrant advocates and migrants themselves say it's Mexico blocking the path north. Mexico President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's immigration agency has intensified a busing program that aims to hurt migrants' chances of reaching the U.S. border — or at least delay their arrival — by apprehending them on highways, train routes and airports and shipping them to the southernmost part of his country.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2024/04/28/migrant-bus-operation-in-mexico/73438134007/>

Texas investigating guard member after border shooting incident

By Todd South, *Army Times*, April 20, 2024

- ❖ Texas officials are investigating a shooting at the U.S.-Mexico border near El Paso that involved a National Guard soldier assigned to Operation Lone Star, the Texas-led border security mission. “Early on the afternoon of 14 April, a National Guard service member assigned to Operation Lone Star discharged a weapon in a border-related incident,” Texas Military Department officials told *Army Times* in an emailed statement. “The incident is under investigation. More information will be made available as the investigation progresses.” Operation Lone Star is a border security mission launched by Gov. Greg Abbott in 2021 and run by the Texas Military Department and Texas Department of Public Safety that also uses Texas Army National Guard soldiers. At least 14 states with Republican governors have committed their Guard troops to support the operation in Texas. The website *NewsNation* first reported the incident Monday after the outlet obtained a U.S. Border Patrol bulletin. The bulletin, shown during the *NewsNation* video report, shows that the incident began about 1:10 p.m. April 14, when a Border Patrol agent was notified by Army personnel that “a migrant was seen stabbing another migrant on the Mexico side of the U.S. border wall in the El Paso Sector near the Ysleta Station.” The National Guard member shot a suspect, who then “fled back into Mexico,” according to the bulletin. The Texas Department of Safety contained the scene and two people who had been wounded were treated for non-life-threatening injuries, according to the bulletin. The news outlet reported that the soldier who fired at the migrant was with the Indiana National Guard. “The Indiana National Guard is aware of the incident that happened Sunday, April 14,” Indiana National Guard officials told *Army Times* in an emailed statement. “We support and care for our soldiers and airmen supporting Operation Lone Star.” Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb announced the deployment of 50 Indiana National Guard soldiers to support Operation Lone Star in February. Their 10-month mission began earlier this month, Indiana Guard officials confirmed. Between October 2020 and October 2023, 300 Indiana Guardsmen have served in federal missions at the border. Officials did not provide unit details or specifics of Indiana Guard soldiers’ duties in the current mission.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/border-mexico/article/border-national-guard-shooting-19413245.php>

Texas truck inspections costing border industry \$32 million a day, Juarez official says

By Julian Resendiz, *Border Report*, April 29, 2024

- ❖ Juarez industry officials say commercial truck delays at El Paso border crossings are costing them up to \$32 million a day. The delays started on Saturday [April 28] when the Texas Department of Public Safety resumed enhanced safety inspections of all trucks coming across from Mexico at the Ysleta port of entry and the Bridge of the Americas. Thor Salayandia, an official with the Mexican Chamber of Industry, said hundreds of trucks with parts and goods headed to the United States remain stranded in line at border crossings or had to turn back with their loads to the factories. The drivers are also bearing an economic cost, in addition to being the ones forced to wait six to eight hours in the cabs of idling trucks.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.borderreport.com/news/trade/texas-truck-inspections-costing-border-industry-32-million-a-day-juarez-official-says/>

Border Patrol Agents Joked About Killing Migrant Children, Records Show

By Roque Planas, *HuffPost*, April 30, 2024

- ❖ U.S. Border Patrol agents freely used the derogatory slur “tonk” to describe unauthorized migrants on government computers, at times while joking about killing or beating them, according to emails and text messages disclosed to *HuffPost* under the Freedom of Information Act. The documents, from 2017 to 2020, reveal yet another instance of the Border Patrol’s use of a slang term that officials in Washington have condemned but have struggled to stamp out. This is the second disclosure that Border Patrol personnel used the word in internal communications since *HuffPost* first requested a global search of its use among Border Patrol agents four years ago. The origin of the term is uncertain, but most insiders believe it comes from the sound made by bashing an arrested migrant’s head with a government-issued flashlight. Some of the records reference that origin story, with one agent writing: “ah, savor the sound.” Use of the term remained surprisingly common among both rank-and-file agents and those in leadership positions, the records show. Many agents appeared to use the term as a synonym for unauthorized migrants, with little apparent derogatory intent. “Make sure to change the country of citizenship to match your tonk, (i.e. Honduras) ...” one agent wrote in a May 21, 2019, email explaining a new data collection tool. Many agents wrote the term in all caps to highlight it. Several described COVID-19 as “Tonk flu,” with one agent telling a colleague, “Hope you’re wearing a mask, don’t let those dirty TONKS get you sick.” Border Patrol agents who used the slur at times gloated about migrants’ misfortunes or made references to beating them. In one instance, agents joked about killing migrant children in their custody. “The use of any derogatory language toward or in reference to others is unacceptable and will not be tolerated,” a Customs and Border Protection spokesperson wrote to *HuffPost* in an email.
- ❖ Source: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/border-patrol-agents-joked-about-killing-migrant-children-records-show_n_662bfa3fe4b0ab66ede493de

U.S. and Mexico will boost deportation flights and enforcement to crack down on illegal migration

By Seung Min Kim, Associated Press, April 30, 2024

- ❖ President Joe Biden and Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador are moving swiftly on new steps to crack down on illegal migration that include tougher enforcement on railways, buses and in airports as well as increased repatriation flights for migrants from both the U.S. and Mexico. The two leaders previewed the measures in a joint statement following a call on Sunday, April 28, which centered on their joint efforts to “effectively manage” migration and the U.S.-Mexico border. Biden and López Obrador said they are directing their national security aides to “immediately implement concrete measures” to reduce the number of illegal border crossings. An administration official said the U.S. and Mexico will increase enforcement measures that would prevent major modes of transportation from being used to facilitate illegal migration to the border, as well as the number of repatriation flights that would return migrants to their home countries.
- ❖ Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/wireStory/us-mexico-boost-deportation-flights-enforcement-crack-illegal-109787118>

U.S. announces new rule to empower asylum officials to reject more migrants earlier in process

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, May 9, 2024

- ❖ The Biden administration announced a new regulation Thursday, May 9, aimed at allowing immigration officials to more quickly identify and deport migrants who are ineligible for U.S. asylum earlier in the process. The regulation by the Department of Homeland Security would apply to migrants who ask for asylum after crossing the U.S.-Mexico border illegally. At this point, as a proposed regulation, it must go through a public comment period before taking effect. It would instruct government asylum officers to apply certain barriers to asylum that are already part of U.S. law during so-called credible fear interviews, the first step in the years-long asylum process. Those who pass these interviews are allowed to seek asylum before an immigration judge, while those who fail them can be deported expeditiously. Migrants barred under U.S. law from asylum include those who may pose a danger to public safety or national security. The rule would allow officials to reject and deport migrants in these categories soon after they cross the border. Separately, DHS also issued new guidance Thursday [May 9] to asylum officers instructing them to disqualify migrants from asylum earlier on in the immigration process if they are able to relocate to other parts of their home country where they may be safe.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/us-new-rule-empowers-asylum-officials-to-reject-more-migrants-earlier-in-process/#:~:text=U.S.,announces%20new%20rule%20to%20empower%20asylum%20officials,more%20migrants%20earlier%20in%20process&text=The%20Biden%20administration%20announced%20a,asylum%20earlier%20in%20the%20process>

How Far Trump Would Go

By Eric Cortellessa, Palm Beach, Fla., TIME Magazine, April 30, 2024

- ❖ To carry out a deportation operation designed to **remove more than 11 million people** from the country, Trump told me [the TIME interviewer], he would be willing to **build migrant detention camps** and **deploy the U.S. military**, both at the border and inland. For an operation of that scale, Trump says he would rely mostly on the **National Guard** to round up and remove undocumented migrants throughout the country. “If they weren’t able to, then I’d use [other parts of] the military,” he says. When I ask if that means he would override the **Posse Comitatus Act—an 1878 law that prohibits the use of military force on civilians**—Trump seems unmoved by the weight of the statute. “Well, these aren’t civilians,” he says. “These are people that aren’t legally in our country.” He would also seek help from local police and says he would deny funding for jurisdictions that decline to adopt his policies.
- ❖ How Far Trump Would Go: <https://time.com/6972021/donald-trump-2024-election-interview/>
- ❖ Read the Full Transcripts of Donald Trump’s Interviews With TIME: <https://time.com/6972022/donald-trump-transcript-2024-election/>
- ❖ Fact-Checking What Donald Trump Said in His 2024 Interviews With TIME: <https://time.com/6972024/donald-trump-fact-check-2024-election-interview/>

Judge dismisses over 200 cases related to March 21 migrant border 'riot' in El Paso

By Adam Powel, El Paso Times, May 9, 2024

- ❖ More than 200 cases against migrants alleged to have been involved in the March 21 "riot" at the U.S.-Mexico border have been dismissed. County Court of Law Judge Ruben Morales dismissed the 211 cases following a hearing Wednesday, May 8, in which Public Defender Kelli Childress asserted the misdemeanors had improperly wound their way to Morales' court. The crux of Childress' argument centered around the fact that when the cases were moved from district court to county, there was no corresponding transfer order, which is required to confer jurisdiction over a case to another court.
- ❖ Sources: <https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/local/2024/05/08/over-200-border-riot-cases-in-el-paso-thrown-out-over-technicality-migrants/73620450007/>

Police tracking crimes near Migrant Center linked to Venezuelan gang

By SBG San Antonio Staff Reports, FOX News San Antonio, May 8, 2024

- ❖ For months police have been investigating cases involving prostitution, counterfeit documents, and theft. Reporters uncovered some of the cases have been linked to a notorious Venezuelan gang. Teams of detectives working the area around the Migrant Resource Center have been encountering individuals with distinctive tattoos featuring a nautical compass, an eye, a rose, and a clock face. All are associated with a Venezuelan gang called Tren de Aragua, known for human trafficking and violence.
- ❖ Source: <https://foxsanantonio.com/news/local/police-tracking-crimes-near-migrant-center-linked-to-venezuelan-gang-05-09-2024>

Illegal border crossings in Texas have gone down, but smuggling remains a problem

By Robert Arnold and Adrian Montes, NBC News Houston, May 13, 2024

- ❖ Data from Customs and Border Protection shows illegal border crossings have been going down since January. This data shows a drop in every sector along Texas' border with Mexico, while sectors in Arizona and California are seeing sharp increases. CBP data shows an overall 2.5-percent drop in illegal crossings during the first six months of fiscal year 2024, when compared to the same time period last year. The largest single month drop came between December 2023 and January 2024. This data also shows what appears to be a shift in where the majority of crossings are now happening along the border. Every Border Patrol sector in Texas saw a drop this fiscal year compared to last, while the Tucson saw a 133-percent increase and the San Diego sector saw a 69-percent increase. "In Texas alone, we've had a 72% decrease in illegal border crossings," said Lt. Chris Olivarez with the Texas Department of Public Safety.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.click2houston.com/news/investigates/2024/05/13/illegal-border-crossings-in-texas-have-gone-down-but-smuggling-remains-a-problem/>

Senate Democrats revive bipartisan border security bill as GOP vows to block it again

By Sahil Kapur, Scott Wong and Frank Thorp V, NBC News, May 20, 2024

- ❖ Senate Democrats plan to force a vote Thursday, May 23, on the bipartisan border security package that Republicans blocked this year, an attempt to flip the script on immigration politics, a major vulnerability for President Joe Biden. The legislation, negotiated by Republican and Democratic senators, is designed to reduce border crossings, raise the bar for migrants to qualify for asylum and quickly turn away those who fail to meet it. It empowers the president to shut down the border if certain triggers are met. If it becomes law, it would be the most sweeping set of migration restrictions in decades. Biden has endorsed the bill.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senate-democrats-revive-bipartisan-border-security-bill-gop-vows-block-rcna153045>

Federal judge orders ICE to end 'knock and talk' arrests of immigrants in Southern California

By Andrea Castillo, Los Angeles Times, May 17, 2024

- ❖ A federal judge in Los Angeles has ruled that a tactic used by federal immigration agents in Southern California to arrest people in their homes without a judicial warrant is unconstitutional and must end. The judgment — issued against the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency — involves so-called knock and talk practices. The order applies only to ICE's Los Angeles field office, which includes the counties of Los Angeles, Orange, San Bernardino, Riverside, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. An expert witness said that available data showed ICE's knock and talk methods accounted for at least 8% of arrests in 2022. U.S. District Judge Otis D. Wright II rejected ICE's argument that its agents could enter the private areas surrounding a home to knock on the door because mail carriers and delivery people routinely do so.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2024-05-17/federal-court-ends-ice-practice-of-arresting-los-angeles-immigrants-at-home>

New immigration court docket aims to speed up removals of newly arrived migrants

By Rebecca Santana and Elliot Spagat, Chicago Tribune, May 17, 2024

- ❖ The Biden administration said Thursday, May 16, that a new fast-track docket in immigration courts will cut the time it takes to decide asylum claims from years to months for some single adults. Migrants who settle in five cities — Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and New York — will be placed in a "recent arrivals docket" that aims to have judges rule on their claims within 180 days, instead of the four years or so that it currently takes. The bottlenecked courts are believed to be a significant incentive for more people to come, especially those with weak claims. The Justice Department has assigned 10 judges to the effort. Authorities said the five cities were chosen because judges there had some availability to hear cases and because they were big destinations for migrants.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2024/05/17/new-immigration-court-docket-migrant-removals/>

US Justice Department sues Oklahoma over immigration enforcement law

By Ted Hesson, Reuters, May 21, 2024

- ❖ The U.S. Justice Department sued Oklahoma on Tuesday over the state's new immigration enforcement law, saying it unlawfully encroaches on the federal government's power to regulate immigration. The law, signed by Republican Governor Kevin Stitt this month, empowers state and local law enforcement officers to arrest immigrants suspected of being in the U.S. illegally. It is set to take effect on July 1. Under the Oklahoma law, opens new tab, a person found guilty of being in the state without legal immigration status faces a misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a fine of \$500. The person also is required to leave the state within 72 hours of conviction or release from custody. A second offense is a felony that could result in up to two years in prison and a fine of \$1,000.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/us-justice-department-sues-oklahoma-over-immigration-enforcement-law-2024-05-21/>

Operation Lone Star explained: What's happening in Eagle Pass, Texas?

By Rick Jervis, Carlie Procell and Stephen J. Beard, USA TODAY, May 22, 2024

- ❖ Nearly three months after Eagle Pass, Texas, became the focal point of a state-federal clash over immigration and border security policy, several related issues including public access to a city park, a chain of buoys in the Rio Grande, and local law enforcement's ability to arrest and deport suspected migrants, remain subject to debate and legal battles. Central to these issues is Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's "Operation Lone Star" (OLS), an \$11 billion border initiative kicked off shortly after President Joe Biden took office and rolled back immigration policies set by former President Donald Trump. This article explains what Operation Lone Star is and the issues surrounding the city of Eagle Pass, TX.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/graphics/2024/05/22/operation-lone-star-explained/72943319007/>