

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – FEBRUARY 19, 2025

LATEST STATISTICS

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters						
USBP	Demographic	FY 2019 Totals	FY 2020 Totals	FY 2021 Totals	FY 2022 Totals	FY 2023 Totals
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	76,020	30,557	144,834	149,093	131,519
	Family Units	473,682	52,230	451,087	482,962	621,311
	Single Adult	301,806	317,864	1,063,285	1,574,381	1,293,008
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		851,508	400,651	1,659,206	2,206,436	2,045,838

Data Sources: <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	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	10,697	11,940	12,456	7,483	9,355	7,926	7,632	7,693	6,662	5,624	6,397	5,839	99,704
	Family Units	84,411	82,676	101,707	39,806	45,972	45,987	40,160	41,819	27,817	16,080	15,544	13,599	555,578
	Single Adult	93,641	96,490	135,577	76,926	85,314	83,560	81,103	68,393	49,053	34,696	36,068	34,420	875,241
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		188,749	191,106	249,740	124,215	140,641	137,473	128,895	117,905	83,532	56,400	58,009	53,858	1,530,523

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

U.S. Border Patrol Southwest Border Encounters FY2025						
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	5,878	5,766	6,115	2,748	20,507
	Family Units	15,239	12,250	14,266	7,096	48,851
	Single Adult	35,407	28,600	26,935	19,272	110,214
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		56,524	46,616	47,316	29,116	179,572

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

Summary of the deportation numbers under the Obama, Trump, and Biden administrations

- ❖ Obama Administration:
 - ❖ First term: approximately 3.2 million deportations (removals and returns)
 - ❖ Second term: approximately 2.1 million deportations (removals and returns)
- ❖ Trump Administration:
 - ❖ Fiscal years 2017-2020: approximately 2 million deportations (removals and returns)
- ❖ Biden Administration:
 - ❖ Fiscal year 2021: 59,000 deportations
 - ❖ Fiscal year 2022: 72,000 deportations
 - ❖ Fiscal year 2023: 143,000 deportations
 - ❖ Fiscal year 2024: 271,484 deportations
- ❖ Sources: <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2024/jan/04/ron-desantis/ron-desantis-is-right-barack-obama-deported-more-p/> ; <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/deportations-by-ice-10-year-high-in-2024-surpassing-trump-era-peak/> ; <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2024/12/20/biden-immigrant-removals-surge-deportation/77102103007/>

IMMIGRATION-RELATED EXECUTIVE ORDERS

Trump issues a slew of immigration-related executive orders on first day of new term

By Julia Ainsley, Didi Martinez and Laura Strickler, NBC News, 1/20/2025

- ❖ End birthright citizenship for future children born to mothers who are in the United States unlawfully or temporarily unless the child's father is here legally and permanently
- ❖ Direct federal agencies to identify countries that do not provide sufficient information on their nationals and to bar those nationals from entry to the U.S.
- ❖ Send the military to the border by declaring a national emergency
- ❖ Halt all refugee admissions into the United States until policy "aligns" with U.S. interests
- ❖ Designate cartels and migrant gangs MS-13 and Tren de Aragua as foreign terrorist organizations
- ❖ Restrict federal funds from sanctuary cities and potentially take legal action against them
- ❖ Require immigrants unlawfully in the United States to register and be fingerprinted
- ❖ End the CBP One program and the parole program for Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans
- ❖ Deny public benefits to unauthorized immigrants
- ❖ Reinstate the "Remain in Mexico" policy
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/politics-news/trump-issue-10-executive-orders-immigration-taking-office-rcna188385>

ACLU files lawsuit against Trump order that seeks to end birthright citizenship

By Bart Jansen, USA TODAY, 1/21/2025

- ❖ On January 20, 2025, advocacy groups, led by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), filed a federal lawsuit against President Donald Trump's executive order to halt the automatic granting of citizenship to children born in the United States. The order denies citizenship to children born in the U.S. if their mothers were unlawfully present or temporarily lawful, and the father wasn't a citizen or legal permanent resident.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2025/01/21/donald-trump-birthright-citizenship-aclu-lawsuit/77844980007/>

Twenty-two States Sue to Stop Trump's Birthright Citizenship Order

By Mattathias Schwartz and Mike Baker, New York Times, 1/21/2025

- ❖ Attorneys general from 22 states have sued President Trump to block an executive order that refuses to recognize U.S.-born children of unauthorized immigrants as citizens. Eighteen states and two cities filed a lawsuit in Massachusetts, arguing that birthright citizenship under the 14th Amendment is automatic. Four other states filed a second lawsuit in Washington. Signed by Trump on his first day back in office, the order declares that future children born to undocumented immigrants will not be treated as citizens. The order extends to children of some legally present mothers, such as foreign students or tourists. The order could deny citizenship to 150,000 newborn children each year. The order does not take effect for 30 days, allowing executive-branch agencies to prepare while courts decide on its legality.
- ❖ Source: https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/21/us/trump-birthright-citizenship.html?unlocked_article_code=1.rE4.VFYR.8eks4Z7ArOYA&smid=url-share

Trump shuts down immigration app, dashing migrants' hopes of entering U.S.

By Terrian Spurs and Jonathan Mejia, Fox 26 Houston, 1/20/2025 ; By Alexandra Mendoza, The San Diego Union-Tribune, 1/12/2025 ; By Suzanne Gamboa and Gabe Gutierrez, NBC News, 1/20/2025; By Julie Watson and Megan Janetsky, AP, 1/20/2025

- ❖ The CBP One app was a mobile application introduced by the Biden administration to streamline the asylum process for migrants. It allowed migrants to notify the U.S. government of their intention to arrive at a port of entry and schedule appointments to seek asylum. This system aimed to create an orderly process and reduce illegal border crossings. President Trump canceled the CBP One app on his first day back in office. The app's functionalities were discontinued, and all existing appointments were canceled. CBP said that in December, it processed about 44,000 asylum-seekers through information submitted through the app. From Jan. 2023 to Dec. 2024, more than 936,500 people had scheduled appointments, CBP said.
- ❖ Sources: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/us/cbp-one-app-shut-down-by-trump-administration/ar-AA1xxs0p> ; <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2025/01/12/trump-has-threatened-to-end-cbp-one-making-asylum-appointments-more-coveted-than-ever/> ; <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/trump-shuts-cbp-one-immigration-app-dashing-migrants-hopes-entering-us-rcna188448> ; <https://apnews.com/article/trump-immigration-cbp-one-border-app-652854b5f2a4e6ccd6ee2ccc729cbb55>

Recap: Trump lands two victories, faces new legal challenges

By Phillip M. Bailey, Marina Pitofsky, Francesca Chambers, Riley Beggin, Aysha Bagchi, Zac Anderson and Swapna Venugopal Ramaswamy, USA TODAY, 1/23/2025

- ❖ On January 23, 2025, U.S. District Judge John Coughenour in Seattle at the urgency of four democratic-led states issued a temporary restraining order preventing the administration from enforcing the order.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2025/01/23/trump-live-updates-hannity/77881674007>

Trump shuts off access to asylum, plans to send 10,000 troops to border

By Nick Miroff, Dan Lamothe, Maria Sacchetti and Marianne LeVine, Washington Post, 1/22/2025; By Lolita C. Baldor, Tara Copp and The Associated Press, 1/23/2025

- ❖ President Donald Trump is preparing to send around 10,000 troops to the southern border, where they will support Border Patrol agents under new orders to shut off access to asylum. The order directs border agents to block entry to migrants on the grounds that they have passed through countries where communicable diseases are present, without citing any specific health threat. The Defense Department will send at least 1,500 additional active-duty ground troops to the southern border in what could be the first of several waves of deployments, said acting defense secretary Robert Salesses. Those forces will bolster about 2,500 who already were there. On January 23, 2025 the Pentagon said it has begun deploying 1,500 active duty troops to help secure the southern border.
- ❖ Sources: <https://wapo.st/4aKni6d> ; <https://fortune.com/2025/01/23/pentagon-deploying-1500-active-duty-troops-secure-us-mexico-border/>

What is happening at the border right now? Latest includes ICE allowed to arrest in churches

By Jeff Abbott, El Paso Times, 1/21/2025

- ❖ Military Deployment: Trump sent federal troops to the U.S.-Mexico border to support Border Patrol agents and target gangs and drug cartels.
- ❖ CBP One App Termination: The CBP One app, which allowed migrants to schedule asylum appointments, was shut down.
- ❖ Remain in Mexico Program: Trump seeks to reinstate the Migrant Protection Protocols, requiring asylum seekers to wait in Mexico.
- ❖ ICE Arrests in Sensitive Areas: Federal immigration authorities are now permitted to carry out arrests near schools and churches.
- ❖ Gulf of Mexico Renaming: Trump ordered the renaming of the "Gulf of Mexico" to the "Gulf of America" for U.S. federal documents.
- ❖ Reception Centers: Mexico is constructing temporary facilities to receive deported Mexican nationals.
- ❖ Hiring Freeze: Trump issued an executive order to freeze federal hiring, excluding immigration enforcement and national security roles.
- ❖ National Emergency: Trump declared a national emergency at the southern border to address drug trafficking and irregular migration, deploying military personnel and expanding border wall construction.
- ❖ Source: https://www.elpasotimes.com/story/news/immigration/2025/01/21/is-trump-closing-the-border-latest-details-amid-executive-orders/77848879007/?utm_source=ptx1-DailyBriefing&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=daily-briefing&utm_term=hero&utm_content=1278TM-E-NLETTER65

Trump expected to invoke obscure 18th century wartime law for mass deportations

By Ted Hesson and Kristina Cooke, Reuters, 2/3/2025

- ❖ President Trump plans to invoke the 1798 Alien Enemies Act to deport alleged gang members without court hearings, potentially bypassing due process rights. This aggressive immigration crackdown includes redirecting military resources to support mass deportation efforts and expanding fast-track deportation processes. The administration aims to designate criminal cartels and gangs as terrorist organizations, using the Alien Enemies Act to deport those deemed part of an "invasion." This move, expected to face legal challenges, seeks to address immigration court backlogs and limited detention space. Despite past legal hurdles, the administration is preparing for potential implementation to increase deportation efficiency.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/02/03/donald-trump-alien-enemies-act-deportations/78177312007/>

Trump's order seeking to block birthright citizenship to face next legal hurdle

By Laura Romero and Peter Charalambous, ABC News, 2/3/2025

- ❖ President Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship faces legal challenges this week, with three federal judges set to consider blocking the order. The Department of Justice argues that birthright citizenship incentivizes illegal immigration and that Trump's order aims to correct "misimpressions" of the Fourteenth Amendment. U.S. District Judge John Coughenour, who previously blocked the order, will decide whether to issue a preliminary injunction. The order seeks to clarify that children of undocumented or temporary immigrants are not entitled to birthright citizenship. The hearings will provide the first opportunity for DOJ lawyers to defend Trump's executive order.
- ❖ Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/trumps-order-seeking-block-birthright-citizenship-face-legal/story?id=118408982>

ACLU files lawsuit challenging Trump's move to close U.S. asylum system

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 2/4/2025

- ❖ The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) has filed a federal lawsuit challenging President Trump's executive order that effectively shuts down the American asylum system by allowing summary deportations without asylum requests. Trump's order, justified by labeling the situation an "invasion," aims to enhance border security and restrict asylum claims. The ACLU argues that this violates legal obligations to protect those fleeing persecution. This marks the first legal challenge against Trump's immigration crackdown. Despite previous restrictions by former President Biden, Trump's order is more extensive. While illegal border crossings have decreased, the ACLU seeks to block the enforcement of Trump's order.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-asylum-aclu-lawsuit/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Second judge orders temporary halt to Trump's effort to end birthright citizenship

By the Associated Press, 2/5/2025

- ❖ A federal judge has issued a second temporary pause on President Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship for those born in the US to undocumented immigrants. US District Judge Deborah Boardman stated no court has supported Trump's interpretation of the 14th Amendment. The order had already been temporarily halted due to a separate lawsuit. The current lawsuit, brought by immigrant-rights groups and expectant mothers, argues that birthright citizenship is fundamental to American democracy. The Trump administration claims that children of noncitizens are not entitled to citizenship. Alongside 22 states opposing the order, 18 Republican attorneys general are seeking to defend it.
- ❖ Source: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/05/judge-trump-birthright-citizenship?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1

Third federal judge blocks Trump's birthright citizenship executive order

By Melissa Quinn, CBS News, 2/10/2025

- ❖ A federal judge in New Hampshire, Joseph Laplante, blocked President Trump's executive order to end birthright citizenship, making him the third judge to do so amid multiple legal challenges. This follows similar rulings by judges in Washington and Maryland. The order, which denies U.S. citizenship to children born to mothers in the country unlawfully or temporarily, has faced at least eight lawsuits. The American Civil Liberties Union argues that the order is unconstitutional, while the Justice Department maintains Trump's authority to eliminate birthright citizenship. The injunction temporarily halts the enforcement of the order nationwide.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-birthright-citizenship-executive-order-blocked-judge/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

IMMIGRATION ARRESTS

Trump administration strips schools, churches of immigration enforcement protections

By Ximena Bustillo and Sergio Martínez-Beltrán, NPR, 1/21/2025

- ❖ The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has implemented a new policy allowing immigration authorities to conduct arrests in schools, healthcare facilities, and places of worship. This new directive rescinds Biden-era guidance that created "protected areas" where immigration enforcement was limited. DHS spokesperson stated that criminals will no longer be able to hide in schools and churches. A second directive terminates categorical parole programs, including the humanitarian parole program for people from Nicaragua, Cuba, Haiti, and Venezuela.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/01/21/nx-s1-5269899/trump-immigration-enforcement-schools-churches>

Trump steps up immigration crackdown, warns city, state officials against interference

By Sarah N. Lynch, Andrew Goudsward and Gabriella Borter, Reuters, 1/23/2025

- ❖ President Trump's administration has directed U.S. prosecutors to criminally investigate state and local officials who resist immigration enforcement efforts. The memo, authored by Acting Deputy Attorney General Emil Bove, signals an aggressive stance on immigration policies and raises the prospect of criminal charges for those who interfere.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/trump-administration-criminally-probe-officials-who-resist-immigration-actions-2025-01-22/>

DHS allows US Marshals, DEA and ATF to carry out immigration enforcement

By Luke Barr, ABC News, 1/23/2025

- ❖ The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is allowing certain Department of Justice law enforcement agencies, including the DEA, ATF, US Marshals Service, and Federal Bureau of Prisons, to carry out immigration enforcement functions. This new directive grants these agencies the same authority as the FBI.
- ❖ Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/dhs-allows-us-marshals-dea-atf-carry-immigration/story?id=118022307>

Here are the cities where ICE raids are taking place

By Marlene Lenthag, NBC News, 1/27/2025

- ❖ Following President Trump's return to office, ICE has intensified immigration enforcement operations in major U.S. cities. On Sunday, January 26, ICE arrested 956 people, although an NBC News report found nearly 1,200 arrests, with only 613 considered "criminal arrests." The following day, ICE reported 1,179 arrests and 853 detainees. Since the inauguration, there have been at least 4,829 arrests, averaging 753 per day, compared to 282 under the previous administration. ICE aims to conduct major raids in three cities per week, with recent operations in Chicago, New York City, and other major cities.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/are-cities-ice-raids-are-taking-place-rcna189390>

ICE to conduct major immigration operations in three cities per week

By Julia Ainsley, NBC News, 1/28/2025

- ❖ Federal enforcement agencies are targeting three U.S. cities per week for large-scale immigration arrests, with Aurora, Colorado, next in line. This week, ICE and other federal law enforcement agencies began operations in Chicago on Sunday and New York City on Tuesday. Acting ICE Director Caleb Vitello directed field offices to increase daily arrests to a goal of 1,200 to 1,500, leading to more "collateral arrests" of migrants with no criminal records. On Sunday, nearly half of the 1,200 arrests were not considered "criminal" arrests.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/ice-conduct-major-immigration-operations-three-cities-week-rcna189608>

By the numbers: A look at how recent immigration arrests compare to past efforts

By José Luis Adriano and María Ramos Pacheco, Dallas Morning News, 2/3/2025

- ❖ President Trump's administration has intensified immigration enforcement, leading to a significant increase in arrests of undocumented individuals. Since January 22, ICE has arrested over 8,200 people, with a daily average of 827 arrests—more than double the previous year's daily average of 310. The Dallas ICE office led the nation with 10,450 arrests in fiscal year 2024. Experts are concerned about the accuracy of the rapidly reported daily statistics, and while the focus is on public safety and national security threats, the data does not specify how many arrested had criminal histories. The U.S. saw a record influx of over 2.8 million international migrants in 2024, with Texas receiving about 320,000.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/immigration/2025/01/29/by-the-numbers-a-look-at-how-recent-immigration-arrests-compare-to-past-efforts/>

Immigration arrests in churches? Some clergy say not so fast

By Andrea Castillo, Los Angeles Times, 1/29/2025

- ❖ With the Trump administration allowing immigration agents to make arrests in places of worship, faith leaders in Southern California are prepared to aid and shelter immigrants. Guillermo Torres of Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice emphasized their commitment to love and support their neighbors. This new policy rescinded a 2011 memo restricting arrests in sensitive locations. Some faith groups, like Quaker congregations, have sued the Department of Homeland Security, citing harm to religious liberty. Faith leaders are organizing "know your rights" training, labeling buildings as private property, and providing pro bono legal support. During Trump's first term, over 800 churches offered sanctuary, and leaders expect a similar response now. Despite fears, some leaders believe the policy will only target serious criminals, while others prepare for the worst. At least one arrest has occurred on church grounds, highlighting the potential impact of the policy change. Prominent faith leaders, including Pope Francis, have condemned the administration's approach to immigration.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.latimes.com/politics/story/2025-01-29/faith-leaders-react-after-trump-rescinds-memo-preventing-immigration-arrests-in-churches>

25 members of Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua arrested by ICE

By Luke Barr, ABC News, 1/28/2025

- ❖ On Monday, January 27, ICE arrested 969 individuals, including 25 members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua and a convicted member of MS-13 in Dallas. The Trump administration, emphasizing consequences for illegal entry, aims to launch the largest mass deportation operation in U.S. history. Despite a focus on deporting violent offenders, officials have acknowledged that non-criminal immigrants are also being deported. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem participated in enforcement operations in New York City, witnessing both criminal and civil actions. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt defended the measures, stating that anyone entering the U.S. illegally is considered a criminal by the administration.
- ❖ Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/25-members-tren-de-aragua-arrested-ice/story?id=118194113>

US agents raid New Jersey worksite as Trump escalates immigration crackdown

By Kanishka Singh, Reuters, 1/24/2025

- ❖ U.S. immigration agents conducted a raid at a Newark, New Jersey, worksite, detaining both undocumented migrants and American citizens, including a military veteran. Mayor Ras Baraka criticized the operation, stating that ICE agents failed to produce a warrant and violated the detainees' constitutional rights. The raid is part of President Trump's executive orders aimed at clamping down on illegal immigration. White House spokesperson Karoline Leavitt reported that 538 individuals were arrested, including members of a Venezuelan prison gang and convicted sex offenders. Newark, a city with sanctuary policies, has been at the forefront of resisting federal immigration enforcement. Studies show that immigrants, including those undocumented, do not commit crimes at higher rates than native-born Americans.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-agents-raid-new-jersey-business-detaining-migrants-citizens-mayor-says-2025-01-24/>

Navajo Nation leaders raise alarm over reports of Indigenous people being questioned and detained during immigration sweeps

By Alaa Elassar, CNN, 1/27/2025

- ❖ At least 15 Indigenous people in Arizona and New Mexico have reported being stopped, questioned, or detained by federal law enforcement during immigration raids, causing panic in tribal communities. The Trump administration's increased efforts to arrest undocumented immigrants nationwide have led to confusion and fear among Diné/Navajo and other Indigenous people, with some detainees being asked to produce proof of citizenship. Navajo Nation officials are investigating the incidents and advising community members to carry state-issued identification and tribal documents. This situation has reopened wounds for Indigenous people who have long faced systemic injustices and underscores the importance of maintaining respect and dignity for all individuals, regardless of immigration status.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/01/27/us/navajo-detained-ice-indigenous-immigration-trump/index.html>

Some migrants arrested in recent immigration crackdown have been released back into U.S.

By Julia Ainsley, NBC News, 2/3/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration has aggressively promoted the arrests of over 8,000 immigrants since Inauguration Day as part of a mass deportation effort. However, due to limited space in ICE detention facilities and federal court orders against indefinite detention, some detainees have been released back into the U.S. under a monitoring program. Despite Trump's promise to end "catch-and-release" policies, ICE continues to release some migrants, especially those not deemed public safety threats. The administration is considering expanding the ankle monitor program to address detention capacity issues, while prioritizing the detention of immigrants with serious criminal convictions.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/people-caught-trump-immigration-crackdown-released-us-rcna186360>

Trump administration preparing to restart immigrant family detention

By Julia Ainsley, NBC News, 2/7/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration is resuming the detention of migrant families, which could increase arrests of children and teens. ICE plans to contract private prison companies to restart family detention facilities. Previous administrations also detained families, but the Biden administration ended this practice in early 2021. Existing facilities in Texas may be repurposed, though ICE faces budget challenges. Tens of thousands of migrants in the U.S. with final removal orders could be detained and deported, potentially separating mixed-status families. Trump's administration is under pressure to boost deportation numbers, a key campaign promise.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/trump-administration-preparing-restart-immigrant-family-detention-rcna191230>

White House pressures ICE to pick up pace of migrant arrests, sources say

By Priscilla Alvarez, CNN, 2/7/2025

- ❖ In the early weeks of President Trump's second term, the White House has touted the arrests of thousands of undocumented immigrants but is frustrated with ICE for not meeting targets. Senior officials, including Stephen Miller, Tom Homan, and Kristi Noem, are pushing ICE to ramp up efforts, despite resource and personnel challenges. The administration aims to deport millions of undocumented immigrants and is exploring new measures, such as using military bases for detention. ICE is under pressure to increase deportation numbers, with daily apprehensions already surpassing last year's average. The administration is also seeking additional funding from Congress to expand detention capacity, including at Guantanamo Bay.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/07/politics/ice-arrests-pressure/index.html>

How Latino evangelical leaders are preparing for possible immigration enforcement in churches

By Deepa Bharath, Associated Press, 2/7/2025

- ❖ Bishop Ebli De La Rosa and other Latino evangelical leaders are deeply concerned about the Trump administration's new orders, which remove policies that restricted immigration enforcement in sensitive locations such as schools and houses of worship. This has placed many undocumented pastors at risk of deportation, prompting congregations to prepare laypeople to take over if needed. Faith leaders worry about the sanctity of their sacred spaces and the trauma these actions cause to families and communities. They urge the administration to reconsider and highlight the importance of compassion and support for immigrants in their churches.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/how-latino-evangelical-leaders-are-preparing-for-possible-immigration-enforcement-in-churches>

DEPORTATIONS

Trump eyes asylum agreement with El Salvador to deport migrants there

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 1/27/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration is developing a "Safe Third Country" agreement with El Salvador to deport non-Salvadoran migrants there, blocking them from seeking asylum in the U.S. This plan would revive an earlier agreement terminated by the Biden administration. If implemented, it would enable the U.S. to deport migrants from countries like Venezuela, which limit U.S. deportations. The agreement includes deporting suspected members of the Venezuelan gang Tren de Aragua. The Trump administration has already begun an aggressive immigration crackdown, including military involvement at the southern border and reinstating the "Remain-in-Mexico" policy. Secretary of State Marco Rubio is scheduled to visit El Salvador to discuss the agreement.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-eyes-asylum-agreement-el-salvador-deportation-migrants/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Colombia Agrees to Accept Deportation Flights After Trump Threatens Tariffs

By Genevieve Glatky, Simon Romero and Annie Correal, New York Times, 1/26/2025

- ❖ Under threats from President Trump, including steep tariffs, Colombian President Gustavo Petro agreed to allow U.S. military planes to fly deportees into Colombia after initially turning two transports back. The two leaders had engaged in a war of words over the weekend, leading Trump to announce a barrage of tariffs and sanctions. After Petro agreed to Trump's terms, the White House stated that tariffs would be "held in reserve," but visa sanctions would remain until the first planeload of deportees arrived in Colombia. Petro emphasized the need for dignified treatment of deportees and remained open to nonmilitary flights.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/26/world/americas/colombia-us-deportation-flights.html?smid=url-share>

U.S. Begins Migrant Flights to Guantanamo Bay

By Tarini Parti, Nancy A. Youssef and Michelle Hackman, Wall Street Journal, 2/4/2025

- ❖ The first flight carrying detained migrants from the U.S. to Guantanamo Bay landed at the American naval base in Cuba, marking the beginning of the Trump administration's plan to expand a small migrant detention center there. The facility, which can now hold up to 120 migrants, is set to expand to accommodate up to 30,000. Approximately 200 Marines have been dispatched to assist with the expansion. The use of military aircraft for deportations, including to Guantanamo, raises legal and human rights concerns, with advocacy groups criticizing the move for potential rights violations and indefinite detentions. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem stated that due process would be followed for detained migrants.
- ❖ Source: https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trump-immigration-policy-guantanamo-bay-migrant-flights-9fec8df3?st=DYBDpv&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink

Amid ICE enforcement, immigration courts face estimated backlog of 3.7 million cases

By Bennett Haeberle, Lisa Capitanini and Nathan Halder, NBC News Chicago, 2/4/2025

- ❖ U.S. Marshals mistakenly apprehended Raul Lopez Garcia, an undocumented immigrant, while searching for his son, Jose Ramos, on criminal charges. This incident occurred in Elgin, near Chicago, and was part of a broader wave of immigration arrests under President Trump's intensified enforcement campaign. Lopez Garcia's arrest adds to an overwhelmed immigration system, with a backlog exceeding 3.7 million cases. His detention in an ICE facility highlights the system's strain and the uncertainty faced by families. The massive backlog may take years to clear, even with additional judges, complicating the Trump administration's fast-tracked deportation plans.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcchicago.com/investigations/amid-ice-enforcement-immigration-courts-face-estimated-backlog-of-3-7-million-cases/3665780/>

Court blocks administration from deporting 3 Venezuelan immigrants held in New Mexico to Guantanamo Bay

By the Associated Press, 2/10/2025

- ❖ A federal court blocked the Trump administration from transferring three Venezuelan immigrants detained in New Mexico to Guantanamo Bay, citing concerns over legal process and counsel access. The detainees were accused of having connections to the Tren de Aragua gang, which their lawyers claim are false. The temporary restraining order was granted by Judge Kenneth J. Gonzales and will be revisited in the coming weeks. The lawsuit, filed by several advocacy groups, highlights fears of Guantanamo being used as a "legal black hole" for detainees. Since Trump's recent inauguration, over 8,000 people have been arrested in immigration enforcement actions.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/3-venezuelan-immigrants-court-blocks-administration-deporting-guantanamo-bay/>

Trump's promised immigration raids hit Colorado cities

By Trevor Hughes and Rick Jervis, USA TODAY, 2/5/2025

- ❖ Federal agents conducted early morning raids in Denver and Aurora, targeting more than 100 reported Venezuelan gang members, marking one of the largest ICE operations since President Trump's second term began. The raids, part of "Operation Aurora," led to multiple detentions, though exact numbers are unclear. The ICE operation faced criticism from immigrant-rights groups, who claimed agents were indiscriminately targeting undocumented immigrants without criminal backgrounds. The raids, which did not involve local police due to Colorado's state law, have heightened tensions and concerns within the immigrant community, while officials stress their commitment to public safety.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/02/05/colorado-ice-raid-targets-immigrant-gang-members/78248926007/>

US immigration is gaming Google to create a mirage of mass deportations

By Dara Kerr, The Guardian, 2/6/2025

- ❖ Reports of mass immigration arrests across the US have been widespread, but many of these ICE operations are old, with press releases from previous years being updated to appear recent. This tactic seems to be intended to create fear and misinformation among communities. An immigration lawyer and a tech expert found that ICE has been updating the timestamps on archived press releases, causing them to rank higher in Google search results. This has led to confusion and panic, despite many of these operations having occurred years ago. The strategy appears to be aimed at misleading the public and maintaining a narrative of active and aggressive enforcement actions.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/06/ice-us-immigration-deportations-google>

DETENTION CENTERS

Prison Company Accused by U.S. of Retaliating Against Detained Immigrants

By Josh Eidelson, Bloomberg, 1/13/2025

- ❖ Geo Group Inc. is accused by the US government of violating federal labor law by retaliating against immigrant detainees who supported work stoppages. The National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) claims Geo Group punished detainees with solitary confinement for protesting pay and working conditions. Detainees at a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement facility in California performed cleaning and maintenance jobs for \$1 per day. Geo Group denies the allegations, stating participation in the Voluntary Work Program does not make detainees "employees."
- ❖ Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/prison-company-accused-us-retaliating-235121894.html>

ICE shuts down programs offering services to illegal immigrants, citing 'immense' costs

By Adam Shaw and Bill Melugin, Fox News, 12/30/2024

- ❖ ICE shut down the Wraparound Stabilization Service (WSS) and the Young Adult Case Management Program (YACMP) due to high costs and minimal improvement in compliance rates. The WSS, started in February 2020, aimed to offer psychosocial and behavioral health support. The YACMP, started in 2023, provided legal services and social service referrals to 18- and 19-year-old migrants but was found to be misaligned with ICE's mission.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/ice-scraps-social-service-programs-illegal-immigrants-citing-immense-cost>

Trump official declines to say whether women, children to be held at Guantanamo

By Reuters, 2/2/2025

- ❖ Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem declined to confirm whether women, children, and families would be held at the expanded Guantanamo Bay detention center, stating that the federal government would utilize all available facilities according to the law. President Trump announced the expansion to accommodate 30,000 detainees, and his administration plans to start moving migrants there within 30 days. The administration aims to target "the worst of the worst" with criminal arrest warrants. Noem emphasized the plan to follow U.S. law and not hold detainees indefinitely. The expansion has raised concerns and criticism from Democratic officials and human rights groups. ICE has also received approval to detain migrants at other military installations.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-ie/news/us/trump-official-declines-to-say-whether-women-children-to-be-held-at-guantanamo/ar-AA1yhVir>

Federal prisons being used to detain people arrested in Trump's immigration crackdown

By Michael R. Sisak, Associated Press, 2/7/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration is using federal prisons to detain individuals arrested in its immigration crackdown, returning to a controversial strategy from his first term. The Bureau of Prisons is assisting ICE by housing detainees but declined to disclose specifics. This move could strain the already troubled prison system. Immigration detainees are also being sent to Guantanamo Bay, raising human rights concerns. Amid Trump's vow to deport millions, ICE has increased daily arrests significantly. An ongoing lawsuit and investigations highlight allegations of mistreatment in federal prisons. President Nayib Bukele of El Salvador offered to house U.S. detainees, but legal issues remain.
- ❖ Source: <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-federal-prisons-trump-25d676a6ebbf139ae04a75cd91be7e8>

Migrants arriving at Guantánamo Bay are entering a 'legal black hole', refugee groups warn

By Ariana Baio, The Independent, 2/9/2025

- ❖ Immigration advocacy groups are demanding the Trump administration release the identities and details of over three dozen migrants sent to Guantánamo Bay, fearing they are being placed in a "legal black hole." These migrants, deemed "high threat" and "criminals," were transferred to ease pressure on domestic detention centers. Advocacy groups seek transparency and legal access for the detained individuals. An executive order expanded Guantánamo Bay's capacity to hold up to 30,000 migrants. While officials promise humane treatment and temporary housing, concerns persist about the harsh conditions and legal rights of the detainees.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/migrants-deportation-guantanamo-bay-refugee-legal-b2694971.html>

ACLU demands access to Guantanamo immigrant detention center

By Lauren Villagran, USA TODAY, 2/7/2025

- ❖ The ACLU is demanding that attorneys be granted access to immigrants transferred to Guantanamo Bay, arguing that using the prison as a "legal black hole" is forbidden by law. Since January, the Trump administration has moved about two dozen immigrant detainees to the facility and plans to hold up to 30,000. The ACLU insists that detainees would have the right to legal counsel if they were on U.S. soil and that their rights cannot be erased by relocating them. Immigration attorneys have long criticized the limited access to legal counsel for detainees, and this move to Guantanamo exacerbates the issue. The ACLU is seeking confidential, unmonitored phone calls and in-person visits for the detainees.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/02/07/aclu-demands-attorney-immigrants-guantanamo/78327975007/>

TEXAS IN THE NEWS

Texas Gov. Abbott orders DPS tactical strike teams to assist federal illegal immigration enforcement efforts

By Greg Wehner, Fox News, 1/28/2025

- ❖ Texas Governor Greg Abbott has directed the state's Department of Public Safety (DPS) tactical strike teams to assist with the Trump administration's operation to locate and arrest nearly 5,400 criminal illegal immigrants statewide. Abbott stated that these teams will work with Homeland Security agencies to track down individuals with active warrants across Texas. This directive comes as Austin Police Chief Lisa Davis announced that her department will not assist federal agents with civil immigration enforcement efforts. Austin City Council member Vanessa Fuentes supported this decision, emphasizing the need to focus on local crime instead of participating in ICE raids. Despite this, recent ICE operations in Austin targeted "wanted violent offenders," according to federal officials.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/us/texas-gov-abbott-orders-dps-tactical-strike-teams-assist-federal-illegal-immigration-enforcement-efforts>

Trump administration freezes millions in funding for migrant charities in Texas

By Benjamin Wermund, Austin Bureau, 1/30/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration has frozen hundreds of millions in migrant aid funding, with nearly a quarter allocated to Texas nonprofits and cities. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem's order halts federal grants for municipalities and nonprofits aiding asylum-seekers, citing concerns about illegal activities. Texas received \$62.4 million in grants last year, with significant amounts going to Catholic Charities and El Paso County. The funding pause impacts organizations caring for migrants vetted by federal officials. Critics, including U.S. Rep. Joaquin Castro, call the freeze "sabotage." Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton has targeted groups like Annunciation House, accusing them of illegal activities. The Texas Supreme Court is considering the case, while legal experts emphasize the critical role of these organizations in managing migration and providing essential services.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/trump-migrant-funding-freeze-20066403.php>

Federal aid freeze causes whiplash for San Antonio nonprofits, agencies

By Iris Dimmick, San Antonio Report, 1/29/2025

- ❖ Organizations receiving federal funding breathed a sigh of relief as the Trump administration rescinded its funding freeze on Wednesday, January 29. The freeze had initially paused federal grants and loans, leading to emergency meetings and temporary shutdowns of online portals. A U.S. judge had temporarily paused the freeze until a February 3rd hearing, but the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) ultimately rescinded the freeze with a memo from acting director Matthew Vaeth. The City of San Antonio, which includes \$325.5 million in federal funds in its fiscal year 2025 budget, will continue operations while monitoring the situation. Despite the recall, nonprofits were impacted, with some experiencing interruptions. Lawsuits were filed against the freeze, and local leaders plan to discuss the issue in D.C. Mayor Ron Nirenberg emphasized the importance of these funds for the community and the need to stay informed about potential impacts.
- ❖ Source: https://sanantonioreport.org/san-antonios-social-safety-nets-in-limbo-under-looming-federal-aid-funding-freeze/?mc_cid=902c7bb6b9

Texas National Guard deputized to make immigration arrests

By Anders Hagstrom Fox News, 2/3/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration has reached an agreement granting the Texas National Guard authority to make immigration arrests with a U.S. immigration officer or Border Patrol agent present. Announced by Texas Governor Greg Abbott, the deal aims to boost border security and is effective immediately. This move is part of Trump's broader effort to curb illegal immigration, including issuing executive orders to overhaul U.S. immigration law and policy, and deploying active-duty troops to the border. Trump's administration has emphasized deporting migrants with criminal backgrounds and ties to gangs or terrorist organizations.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/texas-national-guard-deputized-make-immigration-arrests>

What to know about ICE deportation raids in Texas and what's changing under Trump

By Benjamin Wermund, Austin Bureau, 2/10/2025

- ❖ President Trump's mass deportation effort initially targets criminals but also includes anyone in the country without authorization. Trump has lifted restrictions on arrests around churches, schools, and other sensitive zones, and has set arrest quotas for ICE agents. The administration is working to deputize state and local police to assist with arrests. ICE agents, now making approximately 1,000 arrests a day, will eventually target broader groups. Although agents must follow certain legal procedures, including obtaining warrants to enter homes and businesses, the Trump administration's approach marks a significant shift from previous administrations' policies. Citizens are reminded of their constitutional rights during these enforcement actions.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/ice-deportation-raids-20154301.php>

Will the feds pick up the tab for Texas' \$11 billion border crackdown? Republicans are pushing it

By Benjamin Wermund, Austin Bureau, 2/10/2025

- ❖ Texas Governor Greg Abbott is pushing for reimbursement of the \$11 billion the state has spent on border security efforts, as he visits Washington, D.C. to make his case. Texas Republicans in Congress, including U.S. Reps. Roger Williams and Dan Crenshaw, have introduced bills to seek reimbursement from the federal government. The state's delegation, led by U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, is leveraging their numbers to push for funding in upcoming government spending bills. Texas' border security expenses have primarily been for personnel, border wall construction, and transporting migrants out of state, with Governor Abbott arguing these costs should have been covered by the federal government.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/texas/article/abbott-congress-border-crackdown-funding-20154499.php>

ILLINOIS IN THE NEWS

Chicago to be ground zero for mass deportations, Trump border czar tells Illinois Republicans

By Tina Sfondeles, Chicago Sun-Times, 12/10/2024

- ❖ Chicago is set to be the starting point for mass deportations, as announced by Trump's border czar, Tom Homan.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nprillinois.org/illinois/2024-12-10/chicago-to-be-ground-zero-for-mass-deportations-trump-border-czar-tells-illinois-republicans>

Chicago church stops hosting in-person Spanish services amid fears of mass deportations from Trump administration

By Laura Rodríguez Presa, Chicago Tribune, 1/2/2025

- ❖ Chicago faith leaders have stopped hosting in-person Spanish services due to fears of mass deportations, moving services online to protect their community.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/01/02/chicago-immigration-deportation-fears-trump/>

Chicago City Council to Consider Scaling Back Protections for Undocumented Immigrants as Trump Plans Mass Deportations

By Heather Cherone, PBS News, 1/9/2025

- ❖ Chicago City Council will vote on amending the Welcoming City ordinance to allow police cooperation with federal immigration agents in certain cases, despite opposition from Mayor Brandon Johnson.
- ❖ Source: <https://news.wttw.com/2025/01/09/chicago-city-council-consider-scaling-back-protections-undocumented-immigrants-trump>

Chicago activists protest President Donald Trump's mass-deportation plan

By Sharda Gray, CBS Chicago, 1/12/2025

- ❖ Chicago activists are protesting Trump's mass-deportation plan, urging local leaders to stand against it.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/chicago-activists-protest-trump-mass-deportation-plan/>

Justice Department sues Chicago and Illinois over 'sanctuary' laws

By Joel Rose, NPR, 2/6/2025

- ❖ The Department of Justice is suing the City of Chicago, the state of Illinois, and Cook County over their "sanctuary laws" that limit cooperation with immigration authorities. The lawsuit accuses these jurisdictions of deliberately impeding federal immigration officers. Illinois Governor JB Pritzker defended the state's policies, stating they comply with federal law.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/02/06/nx-s1-5288871/justice-department-sues-chicago-and-illinois-over-sanctuary-laws>

UNDOCUMENTED STUDENTS

Public schools try to protect undocumented students from Trump immigration raids

By Adam Edelman and Daniella Silva, NBC News, 1/28/2025

- ❖ At least eight large public school districts across the U.S. have vowed to protect undocumented immigrant students and their families from President Trump's mass deportation push. The Trump administration has removed restrictions preventing ICE from conducting raids in sensitive locations, including schools. This has led to increased fears among teachers and families, prompting districts in major cities like Chicago and Denver to issue guidance to prevent ICE agents from entering school grounds without proper credentials and warrants. Some districts, such as in Philadelphia and Salt Lake City, have also issued guidance to protect students' information.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/public-schools-undocumented-students-trump-immigration-raids-rcna189466>

Oklahoma education board approves rule to ask immigration status of students, parents

By Murray Evans and Alexia Aston, USA TODAY, 1/28/2025

- ❖ The Oklahoma State Board of Education approved a proposal requiring parents to report their immigration status or proof of citizenship when enrolling their children in public schools. The rule, which still needs legislative and gubernatorial approval, mandates school districts to report the total number of undocumented students to the state without revealing personal information. Despite the *Plyler v. Doe* ruling guaranteeing all students the right to enroll in public schools regardless of immigration status, this proposal has sparked protests and criticism. Hundreds of protesters, including teachers and Latino community members, gathered to oppose the policy, arguing it creates fear and disrupts learning. Oklahoma Superintendent Ryan Walters emphasized the need for transparency and compliance with federal laws. Meanwhile, advocates stress the importance of knowing one's rights and preparing for potential immigration enforcement actions.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/01/28/oklahoma-education-board-immigration-rule/78005968007/>

Schools poised to be major front line in Trump immigration crackdown

By Lexi Lonas Cochran, The Hill, 2/4/2025

- ❖ Oklahoma is moving to require proof of citizenship for public school students' guardians, while California is distributing "know your rights" cards to immigrant families as schools become a front line in President Trump's immigration crackdown. With ICE now allowed to enter schools, administrators and families are reacting differently across states, with blue states working to shield students and red states embracing Trump's policies. This disparity may increase educational inequalities, as some students feel unsafe and avoid attending school. Schools in supportive areas of Trump's policies face balancing politics and student rights, while others emphasize creating safe learning environments through transparency and remote learning options.
- ❖ Source: <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/5123667-schools-ice-trump-immigration-crackdown-california-oklahoma-florida/>

NYC Mayor Eric Adams' memo on possible ICE raids prompts schools chancellor to reach out to immigrant families

By Lisa Rozner, CBS New York, 2/9/2025

- ❖ New York City Schools Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos urged immigrant families not to keep their children home from school, amidst confusion created by Mayor Eric Adams' memo on how city agencies should handle Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) visits. Advocacy groups accuse the mayor of enabling mass deportations and creating fear within immigrant communities. The memo directs city employees to ask for officers' identification and a warrant if ICE agents arrive. Aviles-Ramos reassured that non-local law enforcement is not allowed in schools without a judicial warrant. City Hall is finalizing further guidance to ensure safety while addressing concerns over public safety and legal compliance.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/newyork/news/ice-raids-new-york-city-public-schools-eric-adams/>

Texas Warns Parents Over Immigration Raids on School Buses

By Billal Rahman, NewsWeek, 2/6/2025

- ❖ The Alice Independent School District in South Texas warned parents that U.S. Border Patrol agents may board school buses to conduct immigration checks, potentially leading to the detention or deportation of students without legal status. This follows President Trump's executive order granting ICE authority to conduct raids in sensitive locations, such as schools and places of worship. Critics argue these raids create fear and may violate constitutional protections. The district is considering measures to support detained students, while schools nationwide are on edge amid the policy shift. The policy change has prompted emotional concerns from educators and communities about the impact on students and their families.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.newsweek.com/texas-school-district-bus-immigration-enforcement-2027086>

LAKEN RILEY ACT

- ❖ The Laken Riley Act is a piece of legislation named after Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student who was tragically murdered by an undocumented immigrant in Georgia. The bill aims to address illegal immigration by mandating the detention and deportation of undocumented immigrants who are charged with certain crimes.
- ❖ Bill highlights include:
 - Mandatory Detention: DHS must detain non-U.S. nationals arrested for crimes like burglary and theft.
 - State Authority: State attorneys general can sue the federal government over harmful immigration policies.
 - Expanded Enforcement: Detention is required for noncitizens charged with or convicted of specific crimes, even without a conviction.
- ❖ The bill has bipartisan support but faces criticism over potential civil rights violations and excessive power to state attorneys general. It has passed the House and is under debate in the Senate, with discussions on possible amendments.
- ❖ On January 20, 2025, the Senate passed the Laken Riley Act with a 64-35 vote.
- ❖ On January 22, 2025, the US Congress has passed the Laken Riley Act. The measure cruised through the House by a vote of 263 to 156. It now heads to the White House for President Donald Trump to sign into law.
- ❖ Sources: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/laken-riley-act-house-passes-immigration-bill/>; <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/29>; <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/laken-riley-act-senate-vote-schumer/>; <https://chicago.suntimes.com/editorials/2025/01/14/laken-riley-act-immigration-bill-undocumented-migrants-theft-ice-enforcement-editorial>; <https://thehill.com/homenews/senate/5083249-senate-laken-riley-bill-immigration/>; <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/senate-passes-laken-riley-act-crack-down-immigration-rcna188226>; <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cj482l0kw7qo>

New Immigration Law Signed By Trump Likely Unconstitutional

By Stuart Anderson, Forbes, 2/2/2025

- ❖ The Laken Riley Act, signed by President Trump, grants new powers to state attorneys general to block visas for foreign nationals, a move likely unconstitutional as it interferes with the president's authority to conduct foreign policy. This law also overlooks the federal attorney general's role in coordinating with the secretary of state on deportations and visa issuance. Despite limited scrutiny in Congress, the legislation mandates the detention of undocumented immigrants arrested for certain crimes and allows state attorneys general to sue to block visas for countries not accepting deportees. Legal experts argue the law's constitutionality is questionable, as it potentially grants state officials foreign policy powers reserved for the executive branch.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/stuartanderson/2025/02/02/new-immigration-law-signed-by-trump-likely-unconstitutional/>

Temporary Protected Status (TPS) / Keeping Families Together program

Another 1 million not deported because Biden granted temporary protective status

By Bethany Blankley, The Center Square 12/18/2024

- ❖ The Biden Administration granted Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to approximately 1,095,115 foreign nationals from various countries as of September 30, 2024.
- ❖ Source: https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article_a8a0b3a4-bd50-11ef-b8e7-0bfca184e94a.html

Biden Extends Deportation Protections to Immigrants From Venezuela, Ukraine

By Michelle Hackman, Wall Street Journal, 1/10/2025

- ❖ President Biden extended TPS for roughly 900,000 people from countries including Venezuela and Ukraine, shielding them from deportation for the first 18 months of the Trump administration.
- ❖ Source: https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/biden-extends-deportation-protections-to-immigrants-from-venezuela-ukraine-90984910?st=voCcPw&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink

U.S. refunding application fees for Biden immigration program for spouses of citizens

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 1/7/2025

- ❖ The U.S. government will refund application fees for the Keeping Families Together program, which was struck down in federal court. Approximately 94,000 unauthorized immigrants married to American citizens will receive refunds totaling about \$55 million.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/biden-immigration-program-spouses-refund/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Trump administration ends temporary immigration program for thousands of Venezuelans

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 2/2/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration has decided to end the Temporary Protected Status (TPS) program for Venezuelans, which currently protects over 600,000 migrants from deportation. This move will result in an estimated 350,000 Venezuelans losing their work permits and deportation protections within two months of the official announcement. The decision is part of a broader crackdown on illegal immigration and humanitarian programs. While some Venezuelans will retain TPS protections until September, they could also be phased out. The administration argues that TPS encourages illegal immigration, despite acknowledging ongoing issues in Venezuela. Critics, including some Republican lawmakers, urge a solution for law-abiding Venezuelan TPS holders seeking freedom.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-administration-ends-temporary-immigration-program-venezuela/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

MIGRANT SHELTERS

Texas Supreme Court to decide legal battle over El Paso migrant shelter's future

By Alejandro Serrano, Texas Tribune, 1/13/2025

- ❖ The Texas Supreme Court is deciding the future of Annunciation House, an El Paso migrant shelter, amid legal battles over alleged state law violations.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/01/13/texas-annunciation-house-migrant-shelter-paxton-lawsuit-supreme-court/>

NYC to close 13 migrant shelters by June 2025; new Bronx facility to open

By Amanda Geffner, FOX 5 NY, 1/15/2025

- ❖ One year after launching "Migrants in America: In Their Own Words," NYC plans to shut down 13 emergency migrant shelters by June, removing around 10,000 beds for asylum seekers. Mayor Eric Adams announced the closures as part of a broader effort to address the asylum seeker crisis, while also opening a new facility in the Bronx for single adult male migrants. The city has seen a decline in the number of asylum seekers in shelters, currently at its lowest point in over 18 months. Despite the closures, the administration aims to continue supporting migrants on their journey toward the American Dream.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.fox5ny.com/news/nyc-close-13-migrant-shelters-june-2025-new-bronx-facility-open>

Lawmaker: Fed funds threatened for migrant assistance programs under GOP-led Congress

By Sandra Sanchez, Border Report, 1/31/2025

- ❖ U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar, D-Texas, has warned that federal funding for the FEMA Shelter and Services Program, which reimburses municipalities and nonprofits for migrant assistance, is at risk of not being funded by Congress under the new Trump administration. Although a recent order to pause funding was rescinded, current House proposals suggest zero funding for the program, while the Senate proposes \$600 million for Fiscal Year 2025. Cuellar emphasized the potential impact on organizations like Catholic Charities Rio Grande Valley, which relies on federal support but plans to continue its work with volunteers and donations if funding is cut. The situation remains uncertain as lawmakers debate the fiscal budget.
- ❖ Allocations in Fiscal Year 2024 for the FEMA Shelter and Services Program included:
- ❖ Catholic Charities Rio Grande Valley: \$7.4 million.
- ❖ City of McAllen: \$3.9 million.
- ❖ City of El Paso: \$2.09 million.
- ❖ City of Brownsville: \$1.9 million
- ❖ Team Brownsville: \$360,000.
- ❖ Mission Border Hope, Eagle Pass: \$12 million.
- ❖ Holding Institute, Laredo: \$2.5 million.
- ❖ El Paso County: \$4.5 million.
- ❖ Catholic Diocese of El Paso: \$150,000
- ❖ Catholic Charities, Diocese of San Diego: \$19.6 million
- ❖ Catholic Charities San Antonio: \$10.8 million
- ❖ Catholic Charities, Diocese of Laredo: \$1.6 million
- ❖ Source: <https://www.borderreport.com/immigration/migrant-centers/lawmaker-fed-funds-threatened-for-migrant-assistance-programs-under-gop-led-congress/>

ICE aims to lower US immigration detention standards to encourage more sheriffs to aid crackdown

By Ted Hesson, Reuters, 2/1/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration plans to lower detention standards to encourage more U.S. sheriffs to provide jail space for detaining immigrants. This move, announced by border czar Tom Homan, would allow sheriffs to use state-level standards instead of stricter ICE guidelines. The administration aims to support its wide-ranging crackdown on illegal immigration, redirecting military resources and increasing ICE arrests, especially in sanctuary cities. Additionally, the administration plans to add more detention beds at facilities in Guantanamo Bay and Aurora, Colorado. Homan called on sheriffs to join the 287(g) program, enhancing collaboration with ICE.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/trump-administration-aims-lower-immigration-detention-standards-let-more-jails-2025-02-01/>

City of San Antonio to shut down Migrant Resource Center

By Halee Powers, Content Gatherer; Katrina Webber, Reporter; and Azian Bermea, Photojournalist, KSAT12 San Antonio, 2/3/2025

- ❖ The City of San Antonio announced it will phase out the Migrant Resource Center (MRC) due to a significant decline in migrant arrivals. Effective immediately, the MRC will no longer accept new arrivals. The center, which opened in 2022, provided navigation, case management services, local transportation, food, commodities, and internet access for migrants transitioning through San Antonio. City Manager Erik Walsh stated the reduced number of migrants no longer justifies the center's operational costs. District 10 City Councilman Marc Whyte supported the decision, citing concerns over financial burdens and the focus on delivering services to residents.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.ksat.com/news/local/2025/02/03/city-of-san-antonio-set-to-shutdown-migrant-resource-center/>

It was time to close San Antonio's Migrant Resource Center

By Express-News Editorial Board, 2/10/2025

- ❖ San Antonio's Migrant Resource Center (MRC) has closed, ending a unique, controversial, and successful ad hoc operation by the city. The MRC provided a centralized place for nearly 451,000 migrants to regroup before moving to their final destinations. Despite challenges and strain on nearby residents, the MRC demonstrated San Antonio's compassion amid national polarization over immigration. It reflected national failures in border security and immigration reform. The closure follows changes in asylum policies under President Trump. Although not perfect, the MRC was praised as a model for other cities and showcased effective local response to a national issue. Its doors are now closed, but its mission was deemed a success.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/editorial/article/san-antonio-migrant-resource-center-closure-20153944.php>

In pursuit of Annunciation House, Paxton tramples religious liberty

By Express-News Editorial Board, 2/7/2025

- ❖ Annunciation House in El Paso, which has provided shelter and aid to immigrants for nearly 50 years, is facing threats from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, who accuses it of being a "stash house" for human smuggling. This case, currently before the Texas Supreme Court, raises significant issues about religious expression and the state's power over nonprofits. Paxton's actions have caused concern for businesses, as the El Paso Chamber of Commerce argues that such pressure could be applied to any entity. Despite no criminal charges against the shelter, the attorney general's office continues to seek its shutdown, raising fears of political interference and threats to religious liberty.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/opinion/editorial/article/texas-religious-liberty-ken-paxton-20151053.php>

DEVELOPING STORIES

'Look in the mirror': Vance knocks Catholic organization for criticizing Trump immigration policy

By Sudiksha Kochi, USA TODAY, 1/26/25

- ❖ Vice President JD Vance criticized the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops after they opposed President Trump's rollback of a rule limiting immigration enforcement near places of worship and schools. Bishop Mark J. Seitz and other Catholic leaders argued that such enforcement in sensitive areas is harmful. Vance defended the policy, stating that violent criminals must be apprehended regardless of their immigration status. He also accused the bishops of prioritizing funding over humanitarian concerns. Vance discussed other issues, including the confirmation of Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth and Tulsi Gabbard's nomination for director of national intelligence, emphasizing the need for trusted intelligence services.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/01/26/vance-knocks-conference-catholic-bishops/77956648007/>

Donald Trump's border czar says he is in talks with third-party nations to take deported migrants

By Rob Crilly, DAILYMAIL.COM, 1/6/2025

- ❖ Tom Homan, Trump's incoming border czar, is negotiating with third-party nations to accept deported migrants whose home countries won't take them back.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14253021/trump-tom-homan-border-czar-migrants.html?ITO=applenews-us>

Trump's border czar Tom Homan wants a tip line to catch immigrants in US illegally

By Sarah D. Wire, USA TODAY, 1/14/2025

- ❖ Homan proposes a hotline for Americans to report undocumented immigrants suspected of crimes.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/elections/2025/01/14/new-border-czar-hotline-immigrants-illegally/77667781007/>

Trump administration will close down the Darien Gap, incoming border czar Tom Homan says

By Gabe Gutierrez and Olympia Sonnier, NBC News, 1/10/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration plans to shut down the Darien Gap and ramp up deportations, including "collateral arrests" and workplace roundups.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/donald-trump/trump-administration-close-darien-gap-tom-homan-rcna186769>

Mass deportations could endanger Kansas' meat economy: 'It would be a ghost town'

By Frank Morris, KCUR / NPR, 1/6/2025

- ❖ Mass deportations proposed by the incoming Trump Administration could endanger Kansas' meat economy. The beef industry is already struggling with a chronic labor shortage, especially in southwest Kansas.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.kcur.org/news/2025-01-06/mass-deportations-could-cripple-kansas-meat-economy-it-would-be-a-ghost-town>

Mexico creating app for migrants to send alerts if detained in US

By Russell Contreras, Axios, 12/29/2024

- ❖ Mexico is developing an app called "Alert Button" to help migrants alert their relatives and consulates if detained by U.S. immigration authorities.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.axios.com/2024/12/29/mexico-app-migrants-immigration-us-deportations>

Maquiladora sites to help Mexican border town shelter deported migrants

By Sandra Sanchez, CBS News, 1/13/2025

- ❖ The Mexican border town of Piedras Negras is preparing to house deported migrants in former maquiladora warehouses.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbs42.com/border-report-tour/maquiladora-sites-to-help-mexican-border-town-shelter-deported-migrants/>

Trump fired four top immigration court officials hours after taking office

By Julia Ainsley, NBC News, 1/21/2024

- ❖ The Trump administration fired four top officials at the Justice Department's Executive Office of Immigration Review, which oversees U.S. immigration courts, without warning.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/trump-fired-four-top-immigration-court-officials-hours-taking-office-rcna188637>

The Five Biggest Roadblocks to Trump's Immigration Agenda

By Michelle Hackman and Tarini Parti, Wall Street Journal, 1/1/2025

- ❖ Immigration-court backlog: Most immigrants can't be deported without a court hearing, but the backlog is so severe that hearings are scheduled as far out as 2029. Experts estimate that 5,000 more judges are needed to handle the cases.
- ❖ Lack of ICE agents: ICE has about 6,000 agents and can detain around 40,000 immigrants at a time, but this is insufficient for mass deportations.
- ❖ Blue-state resistance: Democratic-led cities often resist cooperating with federal immigration authorities, making it harder for ICE to make arrests. Sanctuary-city policies limit local cooperation, requiring ICE to find alternative methods for enforcement.
- ❖ Lack of cooperation from foreign countries: Deporting immigrants is complicated by the diverse origins of migrants and strained diplomatic relations. Agreements with third countries for deportations are rare and difficult to secure.
- ❖ Legal challenges: Many proposed changes to immigration policy require congressional approval or constitutional amendments. Trump's advisers plan to test the limits of the law to push their agenda.
- ❖ Source: https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/the-five-biggest-roadblocks-to-trumps-immigration-agenda-5bf75c43?st=vjje1g&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink

Which industries are most vulnerable to Trump's immigration crackdown?

By Megan Cerullo, edited by Alain Sherter, CBS News, 1/23/2025

- ❖ President Trump has tasked federal agencies with easing prices for U.S. consumers, but experts warn that his immigration crackdown could drive up inflation and hurt businesses by shrinking the workforce.
- ❖ Labor Supply Reduction: A decrease in labor supply could lead to higher wages and inflation, especially in the food sector.
- ❖ Agriculture: Undocumented immigrants make up about 20% of the workforce, with some farms relying on them for up to 50% of labor.
- ❖ Construction: Home renovations and landscaping businesses could face labor shortages.
- ❖ Food Service: Restaurants may need to raise wages, leading to higher menu prices.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/donald-trump-immigration-inflation-economy/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

'No rebuilding without them': Trump's immigration crackdown will affect disaster recovery

By Nina Lakhani, The Guardian, 2/2/2025

- ❖ Trump's immigration crackdown could severely disrupt recovery efforts after climate-fueled disasters, as many skilled disaster-restoration workers are immigrants. These workers, essential for rebuilding communities affected by wildfires, hurricanes, and other extreme weather events, face potential mass deportations. This policy threatens labor shortages in critical sectors, including disaster recovery, construction, and hospitality. Experts warn that without immigrant workers, recovery efforts will stall, leaving families in prolonged displacement. Additionally, Trump's consideration to shut down FEMA could exacerbate the situation, further hindering disaster response and recovery across the country.
- ❖ Source: <https://grist.org/extreme-weather/no-rebuilding-without-them-trumps-immigration-crackdown-will-affect-disaster-recovery/>

Haitian families are fleeing Springfield before Trump returns to White House

By James Liddell, Independent, 11/18/2024

- ❖ Haitian families in Springfield, Ohio, are reportedly leaving due to fears of mass deportations following President Trump's re-election. Despite having Temporary Protected Status (TPS), many Haitians are worried about losing their legal status under Trump's administration. Community leaders and volunteers have been assisting those leaving by helping them secure transportation. During his campaign, Trump made false claims about Haitians in Springfield, further fueling fears. Trump's appointment of South Dakota Governor Kristi Noem as Secretary of Homeland Security has also raised concerns. Meanwhile, violence and unrest in Haiti's capital, Port-au-Prince, continue to escalate.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/springfield-haiti-trump-migrants-election-b2649206.html>

California lawmakers approve \$50M for Trump lawsuits, immigrant aid

By Lindsey Holden, Politico, 2/3/2025

- ❖ California lawmakers approved a bill package allocating \$50 million to challenge President Trump's policies in court and provide legal aid for immigrants. Emerging from a special session called by Governor Gavin Newsom, the proposals passed along party lines. Assembly Speaker Robert Rivas emphasized the contributions of undocumented immigrants to California, while Republicans argued against confronting Trump amid the need for federal aid for wildfire recovery. Trump's deputy press secretary criticized the state's actions. Democrats highlighted the importance of protecting federal funds and shared personal immigrant stories. The legal aid funding aims to prepare for potential enforcement actions affecting various immigrant communities.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/03/california-trump-lawsuits-immigrant-aid-00202256?cid=apn>

Cartels respond to Trump border crackdown with terrifying tactics

By James Cirrone, DAILYMAIL, 2/4/2025

- ❖ Mexican drug cartels are reportedly planning to attack U.S. Border Patrol agents using kamikaze drones and explosives as President Trump intensifies immigration enforcement. Internal government memos have alerted border agents to be vigilant and carry proper equipment, including rifles and first aid kits. Cartel threats come amid Trump's deployment of additional troops to the border and increased security measures. Both U.S. and Mexican governments are strengthening enforcement efforts, with Mexico sending more national guard troops to combat drug trafficking. These developments are part of Trump's broader mass deportation campaign and border security crackdown.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-14358999/cartels-trump-immigration-crackdown-kamikaze-drones.html?ITO=applenews-us>

Legal experts warn of 'constitutional crisis' as JD Vance and Elon Musk question judges' authority over Trump

By Alexandra Marquez, NBC News, 2/9/2025

- ❖ Legal and constitutional experts warned of a potential "constitutional crisis" after Vice President JD Vance suggested that judges don't have jurisdiction over President Trump's "legitimate power." Vance's statement, posted on X, raised concerns about the executive branch potentially ignoring court orders, which could undermine the rule of law. This issue has emerged amidst ongoing legal challenges to Trump's executive orders, with several already halted by judges. Experts emphasize that the judiciary determines the lawfulness of executive actions, and non-compliance by the executive could lead to a breakdown of the constitutional system. Congress may need to intervene through impeachment if the executive branch disregards judicial authority.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/white-house/legal-experts-constitutional-crisis-vance-musk-judicial-rulings-trump-rcna191387>

More active duty troops will head to US-Mexico border, bringing the total to 3,600

By Lolita C. Baldor, Associated Press, 2/7/2025

- ❖ The Pentagon plans to deploy an additional 1,500 active duty soldiers to the southern border, increasing the total to approximately 3,600 troops. This deployment, including a logistics brigade from Fort Liberty, is in response to President Trump's executive orders on immigration enforcement. The troops will support the Border Patrol by installing barriers and providing logistical and intelligence assistance. Additionally, about 500 Marines will be sent to Guantanamo Bay to help prepare the facility for detained migrants. This follows an initial deployment of 1,600 active duty troops and nearly 500 more soldiers expected to join soon.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/article/more-active-duty-troops-will-head-to-us-mexico-20154243.php>

Border Focus Pulls DOJ Resources From Terrorism, White Collar

By Suzanne Monyak, Bloomberg Law, 2/10/2025

- ❖ The Justice Department and federal law enforcement agencies are redirecting resources from traditional priorities such as terrorism and white-collar crime to focus on immigration enforcement under President Trump. This shift includes reassigning prosecutors to border districts, involving the FBI's joint terrorism task forces, and allowing US Marshals and DEA agents to make immigration arrests. These changes have raised concerns from congressional Democrats and experts about potentially neglecting other crucial missions. The heightened focus on immigration aims to support Trump's crackdown on illegal migration, but could strain resources and impact other law enforcement efforts.
- ❖ Source: <https://news.bloomberglaw.com/us-law-week/border-focus-pulls-doj-resources-from-terrorism-white-collar>

San Antonio employer on mass deportations: 'It would be impossible to find other workers'

By Shari Biediger, San Antonio Report, 2/10/2025

- ❖ In San Antonio, many workers in the food and beverage industry, including a specific restaurant, are undocumented immigrants from various countries. With ICE's recent efforts to arrest and deport such individuals, concerns about the economic impact on the city and its reliance on low-wage labor have risen. The construction, agriculture, and hospitality sectors, which heavily depend on undocumented workers, could face severe labor shortages, increased costs, and potential shutdowns. Economists and business owners worry that mass deportations could lead to significant disruptions similar to the COVID-19 pandemic, highlighting the broader implications for the local and national economy.
- ❖ Source: <https://sanantonioreport.org/san-antonio-employer-mass-deportations-fears-labor-wages/>

San Francisco sues Trump, alleging 'authoritarian' threats against sanctuary cities

By Dustin Gardiner and Blake Jones, Politico, 2/7/2025

- ❖ A coalition of blue cities and counties, led by San Francisco, is filing a lawsuit against the Trump administration over threats to penalize local governments for protecting undocumented immigrants from deportation. San Francisco City Attorney David Chiu argues that Trump's efforts to cut off federal funding and prosecute local officials who resist his mass-deportation agenda are illegal. The lawsuit contends that Trump's actions undermine local authority and public safety. Other plaintiffs include Santa Clara County, Portland, New Haven, and King County. This legal challenge responds to Trump's immigration-related executive orders and aims to defend sanctuary laws previously upheld by federal courts.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/02/07/san-francisco-sues-trump-sanctuary-cities-00203155?cid=apn>

People are impersonating ICE agents to threaten others amid Trump's immigration crackdown

By Clarissa-Jan Lim, MSNBC, 2/7/2025

- ❖ In the wake of President Trump's immigration crackdown, authorities in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina have arrested individuals impersonating ICE agents. These incidents have heightened fears among communities. In North Carolina, Carl Bennett Jr. was charged with rape and impersonation after threatening to deport a woman. In South Carolina, Sean Michael-Emmrich Johnson was charged with impersonation and kidnapping after harassing a Latino driver. In Philadelphia, a Temple University student and others posed as ICE agents. ICE condemned these impersonations, emphasizing that criminal charges can be pursued at multiple levels for such actions.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.msnbc.com/top-stories/latest/ice-agents-impersonate-officers-trump-immigration-raids-rcna191206>

'Border czar' Tom Homan threatens military action against Mexican cartels if necessary

By Kyra Phillips and Meredith Deliso, ABC News, 2/6/2025

- ❖ Tom Homan, Trump's "border czar," stated that the U.S. military would respond forcefully if Mexican cartels target American troops at the southern border, emphasizing that the military can "wipe them off the face of the Earth." Trump declared a national emergency at the border and designated cartels as terrorist organizations. Homan discussed increased raids targeting undocumented migrants, primarily criminals, and defended the administration's immigration policies. He stressed that legitimate asylum claims should be made at ports of entry, criticizing fraudulent claims that strain the system.
- ❖ Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/border-czar-tom-homan-threatens-military-action-mexican/story?id=118537218>

US homeland chief seeks to deputize IRS agents for immigration enforcement

By Ted Hesson, Reuters, 2/10/2025

- ❖ The U.S. Department of Homeland Security wants to deputize some Internal Revenue Service criminal investigators and other Treasury Department personnel to perform immigration enforcement, according to a DHS document and an agency spokesperson. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem sent a letter on February 7 to Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent to request agents to help dig in to human trafficking networks, find businesses hiring workers in the U.S. illegally, and assist with other immigration-related tasks. The IRS is responsible for the collection of taxes and enforcement of related laws, but its criminal investigators also work to uncover drug trafficking, money-laundering and corruption.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-homeland-chief-seeks-deputize-irs-agents-immigration-enforcement-2025-02-10/>

Refugee resettlement groups challenge Trump's program freeze

By Chris Kenning, USA TODAY, 2/10/2025

- ❖ Several U.S. refugee resettlement organizations asked a federal judge on Monday to restore the U.S. refugee program, arguing President Donald Trump's indefinite suspension is unlawful and is causing irreparable harm. The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington State, challenges Trump's pause of the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program. The president said the break was necessary to determine if it "aligns with the interests of the United States," with a report due every 90 days on whether the program should be resumed. The new litigation, which asks the court to declare Trump's suspension illegal, enjoin its implementation and restore refugee-related funding, was filed by Church World Service, HIAS, Lutheran Community Services Northwest and nine impacted individuals.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/02/10/advocates-sue-restore-refugee-resettlement-trump/78395078007/>

Trump is expanding 'expedited removals' in his mass deportation push. Here's what to know.

By Benjamin Wermund, Austin Bureau, 2/11/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration is expanding the use of expedited removal, allowing ICE to quickly deport certain immigrants without court cases. Traditionally used along the southern border, expedited removal now targets immigrants nationwide who have been in the U.S. for less than two years without legal status. This power, used more than 193,000 times by the Biden administration, is expected to be a key tool in Trump's mass deportation efforts. Trump used expedited removal to deport hundreds of thousands of migrants — including more than 163,000 in 2019 — his administration only used it to remove 17 people from the interior of the country during his first term. Immigrants can still claim a fear of persecution and seek asylum if they pass a credible fear interview. Trump's plan includes potentially canceling protections for migrants paroled by Biden and expanding expedited removal, raising concerns about racial profiling and legal challenges.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/politics/texas/article/trump-deportations-expedited-removal-20160426.php>

Pope Francis calls Trump's mass deportation program a 'major crisis,' backs Catholic migrant aid

By Benjamin Wermund, Austin Bureau, 2/11/2025

- ❖ Pope Francis has criticized President Trump's mass deportation efforts and voiced support for those aiding migrants, as Texas Republicans push to close Catholic shelters along the border. In an open letter to U.S. bishops, the pope praised efforts to protect and defend migrants and refugees, urging against discrimination. This comes as Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton seeks to shut down Annunciation House in El Paso and Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley, accusing them of illegal activities. The Trump administration has also frozen millions in migrant aid funding, impacting Texas nonprofits. The pope emphasized that deporting migrants fleeing extreme conditions damages their dignity and leaves them vulnerable. Archbishop Timothy Broglio highlighted that targeting faith-based border work infringes on religious freedom.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/politics/texas/article/pope-francis-trump-deportations-20160858.php>

'Major crisis': Pope Francis rebukes Trump mass deportation efforts

By Anna Betts and agency, The Guardian, 2/11/2025

- ❖ Pope Francis has criticized the Trump administration's mass deportation efforts and immigration policies, calling them a "major crisis" that harms human dignity. In a letter to U.S. bishops, he urged against narratives that discriminate against migrants and refugees, and condemned measures that equate illegal status with criminality. Francis acknowledged the need for national security but emphasized that deporting those fleeing poverty and persecution damages dignity and leaves people vulnerable. He also criticized Vice President JD Vance's defense of deportations. Since Trump's second term began, over 8,000 undocumented immigrants have been arrested, with some held in federal prisons and Guantánamo Bay. Francis appointed Bishop Edward Weisenburger, an advocate for immigrants, as the new archbishop of Detroit.
- ❖ Source: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/feb/11/pope-francis-trump-mass-deportations-immigration?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1

Congress could more than double its border spending in new Senate plan

By James Osborne, Washington Bureau, 2/11/2025

- ❖ Congress is considering a plan to allocate up to \$175 billion over the next ten years to expand the U.S.-Mexico border deportation system under President Trump. The Senate will review a budget resolution by Sen. Lindsey Graham, directing funds to increase detention beds, hire more Border Patrol and ICE officers, and complete the border wall. If approved, this funding would significantly boost immigration enforcement, particularly in South Texas and border regions, and more than double the current budget for Border Patrol and ICE. The resolution also proposes investments in state and local law enforcement to support the immigration crackdown. The plan includes additional defense spending and unspecified cuts to other government programs.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.houstonchronicle.com/politics/article/congress-border-spending-budget-trump-20160526.php>

27 religious groups sue Trump administration to protect houses of worship from immigration arrests

By The Associated Press, 2/11/2025

- ❖ More than two-dozen Christian and Jewish groups representing millions of Americans — ranging from the Episcopal Church and the Union for Reform Judaism to the Mennonites and Unitarian Universalists — filed a federal court lawsuit Tuesday challenging a Trump administration move giving immigration agents more leeway to make arrests at houses of worship. The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Washington, contends that the new policy is spreading fear of raids, thus lowering attendance at worship services and other valuable church programs. The result, says the suit, infringes on the groups' religious freedom — namely their ability to minister to migrants, including those in the United States illegally. The new lawsuit echoes and expands on some of the arguments made in a similar lawsuit filed Jan. 27 by five Quaker congregations and later joined by the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship and a Sikh temple. It is currently pending in U.S. District Court in Maryland. The plaintiffs in the new lawsuit represent a vastly larger swath of American worshippers — including more than 1 million followers of Reform Judaism, the estimated 1.5 million Episcopalians in 6,700 congregations nationwide, nearly 1.1 million members of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the estimated 1.5 million active members of the African Methodist Episcopal Church — the country's oldest predominantly Black denomination. Among the other plaintiffs are the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), with more than 3,000 congregations; the Church of the Brethren, with more than 780 congregations; the Convención Bautista Hispana de Texas, encompassing about 1,100 Hispanic Baptist churches; the Friends General Conference, an association of regional Quaker organizations; the Mennonite Church USA, with about 50,000 members; the Unitarian Universalist Association, with more than 1,000 congregations; the United Synagogue of Conservative Judaism, with more than 500 U.S. congregations; and regional branches of the United Methodist Church and the United Church of Christ.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/christian-jewish-religious-groups-sue-trump-houses-worship-rcna191654>

Lawyers helping migrant children facing deportation ordered by Trump administration to "stop all work"

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 2/19/2025

- ❖ Legal services groups representing thousands of migrant children facing deportation were ordered by the Trump administration to halt their government-funded work, affecting around 26,000 children across the U.S. The Acacia Center for Justice, with nearly 100 subcontractors, received the directive, which stops funding for "know your rights" sessions and legal screenings. Legal groups protested the decision, arguing it leaves children vulnerable in the immigration system. The administration is also tightening the vetting process for sponsors and expanding collaboration between the refugee agency and ICE. Critics argue these actions will discourage sponsorship and leave unaccompanied children at risk of exploitation and trafficking.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/lawyers-migrant-children-facing-deportation-ordered-halt-work-trump-administration/>

U.S. pauses immigration applications for certain migrants welcomed under Biden

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 2/19/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration has indefinitely paused immigration applications from migrants from Latin America and Ukraine allowed into the U.S. under Biden-era programs, citing fraud and security concerns. This affects migrants in several programs, including the Uniting for Ukraine policy, which brought in approximately 240,000 Ukrainians, and the CHNV program, which allowed 530,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans, and Venezuelans into the U.S. The pause affects migrants who were applying for benefits like Temporary Protected Status, asylum, and green cards. The directive was issued by USCIS to address fraud and national security concerns, impacting migrants' ability to move into another legal status.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/u-s-pauses-immigration-applications-for-certain-migrants-welcomed-under-biden/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

New Immigration and Customs Enforcement data shows administration isn't just arresting criminals

By Laura Strickler, NBC News, 2/19/2025

- ❖ The Trump administration has promised to prioritize the "worst first" in deportations, yet more than 1,800 detainees without criminal convictions or pending charges were added to ICE custody in the first two weeks of February, comprising 41% of the 4,422 new detainees. During fiscal year 2024, the Biden administration made 113,431 immigration arrests, with only 28% involving individuals without criminal records. ICE detention centers are nearing capacity, with detainee numbers rising from 39,238 to 41,169 in mid-February. Only 13% of current detainees face expedited removal, while the rest await lengthy deportation proceedings amid a 3.6 million case backlog in immigration courts. The Trump administration plans to transfer up to 30,000 detainees to Guantanamo Bay, having already moved 112 individuals. Recent data shows a rise in detainees with criminal charges to over 16,500 and highlights ICE's focus on alleged criminality in public messaging. The majority of new detainees are male, with only 22 females booked in the past two weeks. ICE has also ceased tracking the number of transgender detainees.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/new-ice-data-shows-administration-isnt-just-arresting-criminals-rcna192656>

Soldiers are arriving at the border — but hardly any migrants are crossing

By Arelis R. Hernández, Washington Post, 2/18/2025

- ❖ 3,600 active-duty soldiers (U.S. Army and Marines) sent to patrol the U.S.-Mexico border. Border Patrol agents in Del Rio and Eagle Pass apprehending fewer than 50 people a day since late January, compared to 5,000 daily in 2023. Illegal crossings plummeting due to Mexico's enforcement and Biden administration policies. Border apprehensions expected to drop to fewer than 300,000 in 2025, a level unseen since 2017. Troops helping with border barriers, intelligence on cartel activity, and reinforcing security. Texas migrant shelters nearly empty due to the drop in crossings. Nonprofits shifting efforts to facilities and partners in Mexico.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/02/15/border-soldiers-texas-migrants-trump/>

The latest on Trump's immigration crackdown — and the reality of limited resources

By Suzanne Gamboa, Julia Ainsley, Laura Strickler and Didi Martinez, NBC News, 2/14/2025

- ❖ Recent Actions and Arrests
 - Since taking office, Trump's administration has seen 8,768 arrests (as of Feb. 3).
 - ICE targets 1,200-1,400 arrests daily but achieved only 1,179 on Jan. 27, dropping to 300 by early February.
 - Arrests have been taking place in several major cities, including New York, Chicago and Denver.
 - DHS aims to deport 2,700 immigrants daily to meet Trump's goal of deporting "millions and millions."
- ❖ Deportations and Logistics
 - 5,693 deportations as of Feb. 3.
 - ICE's average cost during the Biden administration for deporting a single person was about \$10,500, including arrest, detention and the deportation flight.
 - Current capacity: 41,500 detainees at 106 facilities, costing \$57,378 per bed annually.
 - Administration wants to use Guantánamo Bay for up to 30,000 migrants; 112 already detained there.
- ❖ Resource Limitations and Costs
 - ICE operating under the same budget as of Jan. 19 (\$9.4 billion for FY2024).
 - In a 2023 budget hearing testimony, the acting ICE Director said deportation flights cost \$17,000 per flight hour for 135 people deported and last about five hours.
 - Republicans propose \$175 billion (Senate) and \$110 billion (House) for border security and immigration.
- ❖ Administration's Strategy
 - Expanding manpower by involving IRS, FBI, DEA, and other agencies.
 - Deputizing IRS agents to investigate employers hiring illegal workers.
 - Military and ICE Air flights used for deportations.
- ❖ Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/trumps-immigration-crackdown-numbers-deportations-arrests-rcna191851>

RESOURCES

What to Do If Immigration Comes to Your Workplace

By the National Employment Law Project, 2024

- ❖ The National Employment Law Project provides a comprehensive guide for employers on how to handle immigration enforcement actions at their workplaces. It covers common immigration actions, recommendations for preparation, and employers' rights and responsibilities. The guide also offers practical steps for responding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) actions, such as Form I-9 audits and raids. For more information visit: <https://www.nelp.org/insights-research/what-to-do-if-immigration-comes-to-your-workplace/>
- ❖ Download their guide here: <https://www.nelp.org/app/uploads/2017/07/Employer-Guide-What-To-Do-If-Immigration-Comes-To-Your-Workplace.pdf>

Gov. Abbott's Executive Order Will Increase Distrust in Texas Health Systems, Diminish Health Outcomes, and Harm State Economy

By Every Texan, 2024

- ❖ Every Texan has put together resources in response to Governor Abbott's Executive Order #46, which requires hospitals and acute care offices to ask patients about their immigration status. Every Texan has developed resource cards in English and Spanish to help spread this message, and they are working to oppose the executive order and any related legislation. For more information visit: <https://everytexan.org/2024/08/09/gov-abbotts-executive-order-will-increase-distrust-in-texas-health-systems-diminish-health-outcomes-and-harm-state-economy/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=33d8d991-0d66-49c0-b800-c1bd1b322d98>
- ❖ **Resource Card in English** – Can hospitals ask about your immigration status: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1SPWrgAY0_mpkVjJQFa75Btbxb2ZUsitl/view?usp=sharing
- ❖ **Resource Card in Spanish** – Pueden los hospitales preguntar sobre tu estatus migratorio: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1YuV0eGDLgCdx0zShWEsvGBOlUmagvALi/view?usp=sharing>

A Guide for Employers: What to Do if Immigration Comes to Your Workplace

- ❖ **For Employers:** A Guide for Employers: What to Do if Immigration Comes to Your Workplace (National Immigration Law Center, 2024)
- ❖ Download your copy here: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/a-guide-for-employers-what-to-do-if-immigration-comes-to-your-workplace/>
- ❖ **For Nonprofits:** Guidance to Nonprofits Regarding Immigration Enforcement (New York Lawyers for the Public Interest, 2019)
- ❖ Download your copy here: <https://www.nylpi.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/2019-Nonprofits-Guidance-Regarding-Immigration-Enforcement-R1A.pdf>