

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – OCTOBER 15, 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 FY 2025													
USBP	Demographic	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	Total	
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	5,876	5,765	6,118	2,747	733	631	790	1,008	639	452	24,759	
	Family Units	15,241	12,248	14,265	7,096	809	468	534	460	278	318	51,717	
	Single Adult	35,403	28,599	26,942	19,262	6,808	6,082	7,052	7,255	5,153	3,831	146,387	
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		56,520	46,612	47,325	29,105	8,350	7,181	8,376	8,723	6,070	4,601	222,863	

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

Immigration Quick Facts - Detention

By the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), 10/7/25

As of September 21, 2025, 59,762 individuals are held in ICE detention facilities. As of September 15, Texas leads with 13,415 detainees, followed by Louisiana (7,493), California (3,801), Georgia (3,022) and Arizona (2,690).

Source: <https://tracreports.org/immigration/quickfacts/detention.html>

Illegal crossings along U.S.-Mexico border plummet to lowest annual level since 1970

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 10/6/25

Unlawful crossings along the U.S.-Mexico border in fiscal year 2025 plummeted to the lowest annual level since the early 1970s, amid the administration's sweeping clampdown on illegal immigration, internal federal statistics obtained by CBS News show. U.S. Border Patrol agents recorded nearly 238,000 apprehensions of migrants crossing the southern border illegally in fiscal year 2025, which began in October of last year and ended on Sept. 30, according to the preliminary Department of Homeland Security data, which has not been previously reported. The number is the lowest annual tally recorded by Border Patrol since fiscal year 1970, when the agency reported roughly 202,000 apprehensions along the U.S.-Mexico border, historical figures indicate. The internal DHS figures show Border Patrol made nearly 8,400 apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico border in September, an increase from 6,300 in August and 4,600 in July, a monthly record low.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/illegal-crossings-immigration-us-mexico-southern-border-lowest-level-1970-trump-dhs/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

POPE LEO XIV

Pope Leo criticizes Trump's hardline immigration policies: 'I don't know if that's pro-life'

By the Guardian, 10/1/25

On Tuesday, September 30, Pope Leo, the first American pope elected in May to succeed the late Pope Francis, criticized President Donald Trump's hardline immigration policies, questioning their alignment with the Catholic church's pro-life teachings, which emphasize the sanctity of life from conception to natural death—a core belief of its 1.4 billion members. Speaking from Castel Gandolfo, Leo stated, "Someone who says I am against abortion but I am in agreement with the inhuman treatment of immigrants in the United States, I don't know if that's pro-life," and similarly challenged support for the death penalty under the same label. Responding to controversy over the Chicago archdiocese's decision to honor Democratic Senator Dick Durbin, a supporter of abortion rights, Leo urged consideration of Durbin's broader contributions, particularly to immigration reform. Amid backlash from conservative Catholics, including Bishop Thomas John Paprocki, Durbin declined the Keep Hope Alive award scheduled for 3 November. Cardinal Blase Cupich lamented the deepening divisions within the U.S. Catholic community and praised Durbin's nearly 30-year Senate career, noting his decision not to seek re-election in 2026.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/oct/01/pope-leo-trump-immigration-policies>

White House pushes back on Pope Leo's statement that immigrants are subject to 'inhuman treatment' in the US

By Irie Sentner, Politico, 10/1/2025

The Trump administration is once again at odds with the Vatican after Pope Leo XIV, the American-born pontiff, questioned whether support for the "inhuman treatment of immigrants" and the death penalty aligns with Catholic pro-life teachings. His remarks followed controversy over the Chicago Archdiocese's plan to honor Illinois Senator Dick Durbin, a Democrat who supports abortion rights. Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, a devout Catholic, rejected claims of inhumane treatment and defended the administration's immigration enforcement, which includes widespread raids and public messaging such as a Valentine's Day post stating, "Roses are red, violets are blue, come here illegally, and we'll deport you." Vice President JD Vance, also Catholic, previously clashed with the late Pope Francis over similar policies and recently argued that undocumented immigrants contribute to longer emergency room wait times. The White House continues to emphasize its commitment to law enforcement and national security amid growing tensions with Catholic leadership.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/01/white-house-pushes-back-on-pope-leos-statement-that-immigrants-are-subject-to-inhuman-treatment-in-the-u-s-00590470?cid=apn>

Pope Leo, after Trump criticism, urges Catholics to help immigrants

By Reuters, 10/5/25

Pope Leo, the first U.S. pontiff, urged the world's 1.4 billion Catholics on Sunday to embrace immigrants with compassion, days after criticizing President Donald Trump's hard-line immigration policies on September 30 for potentially conflicting with the Church's pro-life teachings. Speaking to thousands of pilgrims in St. Peter's Square during a holy year event for migrants that drew over 10,000 attendees from 95 countries, Leo called for an end to "the coldness of indifference or the stigma of discrimination" and described the Church as entering a "new missionary age" of hospitality and solidarity.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/world/the-vatican/pope-leo-trump-urges-catholics-help-immigrants-rcna235683>

Pope Leo tells US bishops to address Trump's immigration crackdown

By Joshua McElwee, Reuters, 10/8/25

During a Wednesday (October 7) meeting at the Vatican, Pope Leo—the first U.S. pope—urged visiting U.S. bishops to firmly address President Donald Trump's hardline immigration policies, expressing deep personal concern and encouraging the U.S. Bishops' Conference to speak out strongly. The meeting included bishops and social workers from the U.S.-Mexico border, and Leo was handed dozens of letters from immigrants detailing fears of deportation, including one from a family with two undocumented members afraid to leave their home.

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/pope-leo-tells-us-bishops-092238367.html>

DEPORTATIONS

Trump's Immigration Push Diverts U.S. Agents From Drug, Money and Sex-Crime Cases

By Steve Fisher and Vera Bergengruen, Wall Street Journal, 10/6/25

Under President Trump's second-term directive to accelerate deportations, thousands of federal agents—including those from Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the FBI, and even the Postal Service—have been reassigned from traditional roles to immigration enforcement, with a goal of removing 3,000 undocumented migrants per day. This shift has led to the disbanding of a child-trafficking team in El Paso, the redirection of a Kansas fentanyl task force, and the understaffing of key highway checkpoints, including one on Arizona's State Route 82. Federal prosecution referrals have dropped: DEA by 10%, U.S. Marshals by nearly 13%, and ATF by 14% between May and June. In Houston, at least six senior HSI agents have resigned, and over 100 FBI agents were reassigned to Washington, with nearly half of resulting arrests immigration-related.

Source: https://www.wsj.com/politics/policy/trumps-immigration-push-diverts-u-s-agents-from-drug-money-and-sex-crime-cases-90b37cc9?st=XVnWRq&reflink=desktopwebshare_permalink

D.C. archbishop calls U.S. immigration crackdown a 'governmental assault'

By Jasmine Golden, Washington Post, 9/29/25

On September 28, hundreds gathered for a two-hour prayer procession through Washington, D.C., culminating in a packed Mass at the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, which seats about 1,000 and was filled to overflow. The event, organized for National Migration Week and the 111th World Day of Migrants and Refugees, featured seven stops and highlighted the theme "Migrants, Missionaries of Hope." Cardinal Robert McElroy delivered a 10-minute homily condemning President Trump's immigration policies, which have led to over 943 immigrant detainments during a 30-day crime emergency. The procession began at Shrine of the Sacred Heart, a parish with a high immigrant population, where recent detentions have caused some parishioners to avoid attending Mass.

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/dc-md-va/2025/09/29/dc-reflection-procession-mass-catholic/>

Florida officials announce more than 6,000 immigration arrests

By Kate Payne, Associated Press, 9/26/25

Over the past five months, Florida law enforcement officials have made over 6,000 immigration-related arrests, including more than 700 by St. Johns County officers and 350 during a four-day operation in central Florida, as part of a broader effort to support President Donald Trump's mass deportation agenda. The Department of Homeland Security announced nearly \$30 million in reimbursements to Florida—\$10 million for local agencies and \$28.5 million for state-level partners—while ICE is distributing \$1.7 billion nationwide. Florida leads the country with 326 of the 1,036 active 287(g) agreements, empowering over 4,700 deputized officers. These efforts build on similar operations in Los Angeles (5,000 arrests over three months) and Washington, D.C. (940 arrests in one month), and coincide with the opening of a second state-run immigration detention facility east of Jacksonville.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/florida-immigration-enforcement-arrests-ice-dd94f190a272b597a3f5425bdebf2f36>

Expedited removals are sidelining legal rights in immigration cases

By Artem Kolisnichenko, The Hill, 10/1/25

In September, a federal judge condemned the deportation of West African migrants to Ghana, criticizing the administration's use of "fast-track deportation" without full immigration court hearings and warning it may violate non-refoulement, the international ban on sending people to places of danger. The judge highlighted that some migrants had open appeals and motions, making their removal a "systemic bypass of rules." The Immigration and Nationality Act permits expedited deportation only in limited cases, such as border arrests without asylum claims, yet these migrants had lived in the U.S. for months or years. The ruling comes amid a record 3.5 million case backlog and an average four-year wait for hearings, often used to justify fast deportations. Texas, which handles nearly half of all immigration hearings, and Florida, where fast-track removals are central to Gov. Ron DeSantis's campaign, are key battlegrounds.

Source: <https://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/5529041-expedited-removals-are-sidelining-legal-rights-in-immigration-cases/>

Trump administration prepares to offer money to unaccompanied migrant teenagers to voluntarily leave US

By Priscilla Alvarez, CNN, 10/3/25

The Department of Homeland Security is preparing to offer unaccompanied migrant children aged 14 and older a \$2,500 resettlement stipend if they voluntarily leave the U.S., expanding on the Trump administration's existing \$1,000 exit bonus for undocumented adults. The option, initially targeting 17-year-olds, requires approval from an immigration judge and payment is issued upon arrival in the child's home country. As of October 2, around 2,100 children were in HHS custody, and this initiative follows a blocked attempt in August to deport dozens of Guatemalan children, some without parental knowledge. Critics argue the policy undermines protections under the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act and risks returning children to unsafe conditions, while ICE maintains the program is strictly voluntary and intended to support informed decisions and reintegration.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/10/03/politics/unaccompanied-migrant-kids-payments>

Deportation protections for 300,000 Venezuelans denied again by US Supreme Court

By Ariana Figueroa, Idaho Capital Sun, 10/5/25

On Friday, October 3, the U.S. Supreme Court voted 6-3 to grant President Donald Trump's request to pause a lower court ruling, allowing his administration to strip Temporary Protected Status (TPS) from over 300,000 Venezuelans and proceed with mass deportations. The ruling overrides a federal judge's finding that DHS Secretary Kristi Noem lacked authority to revoke TPS, which had been granted under President Joe Biden in 2021 and 2023 and was set to last until October 2026. All three liberal justices dissented, with Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson criticizing the use of the emergency "shadow docket" and warning of "gratuitous, and harmful interference" while lives hang in the balance. TPS, renewed every 18 months, protects immigrants from deportation and grants work permits when their home countries face violence, instability, or disasters. This marks the second time since May that the Supreme Court has allowed the Trump administration to proceed with ending TPS for Venezuelans, though the case in the Northern District of California remains ongoing.

Source: <https://idahocapitalsun.com/2025/10/05/repub/deportation-protections-for-300000-venezuelans-denied-again-by-us-supreme-court/>

40% of arrests in D.C. federal crackdown have been immigration-related, data shows

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez and Nicole Sganga, CBS News, 10/3/25

Since early August, President Trump's federal law enforcement surge in Washington, D.C. has led to over 3,550 arrests, with nearly 40% (about 1,400) classified as immigration-related administrative arrests by ICE. The operation also resulted in 13 homicide arrests, nearly 500 narcotics arrests, about 300 firearms-related arrests, and over two dozen sex-related charges, alongside the seizure of 300 illegal guns, 650 misdemeanor citations, and 300 traffic citations. ICE agents visited more than 130 work sites, and 3,000 personnel from nearly two dozen agencies—including 1,300 National Guard troops and 250 DHS agents—were deployed. A CBS News analysis showed violent crime dropped by nearly 50% in the first three weeks compared to the same period in 2024. A similar surge in Memphis has involved 650 personnel, yielding 93 arrests (69 criminal and 24 immigration-related) with violent crime down 32% year-over-year. Tennessee's statewide cooperation with ICE includes over 20 agencies in the 287(g) program. In Chicago, Operation Midway Blitz has led to over 900 immigration arrests, and Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry has requested 1,000 National Guardsmen to address crime in cities like New Orleans and Baton Rouge. President Trump has suggested deploying troops to other "unsafe" cities, including Portland, where federal agents have already reinforced an ICE facility.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-dc-immigration-arrests/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

ICE spends millions on ads to recruit police for mass deportation efforts

By Thomas Beaumont and Rebecca Santana, Associated Press, 10/6/25

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is spending millions of dollars on television advertising in select metro areas around the country. The campaign— airing in more than a dozen cities, including Chicago, Seattle and Atlanta — is part of ICE's \$30 billion initiative to hire 10,000 more deportation officers by the end of the year to supercharge deportations. The money is part of the \$76.5 billion sought by Trump's administration for ICE — a 10-fold increase in its current budget — as part of the sweeping, multitrillion-dollar tax breaks and spending cuts bill enacted in July. ICE is already offering bonuses of up to \$50,000 for new recruits and other benefits such as tuition reimbursement as it seeks to fast-track hiring. The 30-second spots began running in mid-September in Albuquerque, New Mexico; Boston; Chicago; Denver; New York; Philadelphia; Sacramento, California; Seattle; and Washington, D.C. Adding to the list a week ago: Atlanta; Dallas; El Paso, Texas; Houston; Miami; Salt Lake City; and San Antonio. As of Monday, October 6, total spending on the ads had topped \$6.5 million, with the most spent since mid-September being \$853,745 in the Seattle area. However, Atlanta saw the most in the past week, more than \$947,000, according to AdImpact.

Source: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/ice-spends-millions-on-ads-to-recruit-police-for-mass-deportation-efforts>

DETENTION CENTERS

ICE detainees death toll reaches 16 amid concerns over ‘horrendous’ conditions

By Maya Yang, The Guardian, 9/26/25

Since President Trump’s return to office in January 2025, at least 16 people have died in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) custody, including 15 officially reported deaths and one fatal shooting at a Dallas facility that also left two detainees wounded. Among the deceased were Ismael Ayala-Uribe, a 39-year-old former “Dreamer,” and a 42-year-old Honduran national in New York. ICE detention numbers surged from 39,238 on January 26 to a record 60,000 in August, with 59,762 held as of September 25. Under the Biden administration, 26 detainees died over 48 months (0.54 deaths/month), while Trump’s second term has seen nearly 1.88 deaths/month.

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/26/ice-detention-death-toll-trump?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1

Georgia senators demand answers on more than a dozen deaths in immigration detention

By Ximena Bustillo, NPR, 9/23/25

Georgia Senators Jon Ossoff and Raphael Warnock have called on Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem to address conditions in immigration detention centers following 15 detainee deaths since President Trump took office, including 10 between January and June—the highest six-month death rate on record. ICE reported over 50,000 people in detention this summer despite having only 46,000 beds, prompting expansion into military bases and facilities in Indiana, Nebraska, and Louisiana. Recent deaths include a Mexican national on August 31 (press release issued two days later), a detainee on September 8 (release issued seven days later), and another man who died Thursday in Nassau County.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/09/23/nx-s1-5549411/ossoff-warnock-noem-immigration-detention-death>

Children left short of clean water and sleep amid ‘prolonged’ detention by ICE, watchdog groups allege

By Alexandra Villarreal, The Guardian, 9/28/25

A court filing on September 15 revealed alarming conditions at the South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas—the only known ICE facility currently detaining families—where children have been held for two to three months, exceeding the legal 20-day limit, and one family was detained for 45 days, released, then re-detained. The facility, operated by CoreCivic with projected annual revenue of \$180 million through March 2030, has a capacity of 2,400 but currently holds fewer. Monitors reported lack of clean drinking water, sleep deprivation due to constant lighting and noise, inadequate medical care including a child with appendicitis left untreated for six hours, limited hygiene products, emotional abuse, and poor education limited to one hour daily. One child reportedly engaged in self-harm due to distress.

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/28/ice-detention-texas-children?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1

Florida receives \$38 million in federal funds from ICE for illegal immigration crackdown

By Ana Goñi-Lessan, USA TODAY NETWORK, 9/26/25

At a September 26 press conference in Tallahassee, ICE Deputy Director Madison Sheahan announced Florida will receive a total of \$38,575,905 in federal immigration-related reimbursements—\$28,570,240 for state-level partners and \$10,005,665 for local agencies—under the Trump administration’s \$1.6 billion Big Beautiful Bill. The funding breakdown includes \$2.7 million in transportation for local agencies, \$7.3 million in equipment for 974 local officers, \$1 million in transportation for state agencies, and \$27.5 million in equipment for 3,676 state-level officers, supporting over 4,700 officers credentialed under the 287(g) program. Additionally, 32 local law enforcement agencies are seeking \$10.4 million in reimbursements, with Lee and St. John’s County each requesting \$1 million, while deportation flights from “Alligator Alcatraz” and “Deportation Depot” are set to increase to five per week.

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/florida-receives-38-million-federal-213954639.html>

DeSantis, Cabinet OK \$14 million in state money for immigration enforcement

By Livia Caputo, WLRN Public Media | Florida Phoenix, 9/30/25

Days after the federal government approved over \$38 million for Florida law enforcement agencies partnering with ICE under 287(g) agreements, Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Florida Cabinet authorized the first \$14,073,042 of a \$250 million state grant to fund immigration enforcement, including \$1,259,525 across 14 transportation-related awards. The funding supports 56 agencies for officer compensation, equipment like restraints, detention beds, bullet-proof vests, AI-assisted translation software, and license-plate readers. The newly formed State Board of Immigration Enforcement, created during a special session, also mandated all counties and sheriffs to join these federal partnerships, empowering local law enforcement to act as immigration officials. Meanwhile, Florida awaits a minimum \$245 million federal reimbursement for the “Alligator Alcatraz” detention center in the Everglades, part of a \$600 million FEMA Detention Support Grant request, though no agency has confirmed approval as of today.

Source: <https://www.wlrn.org/government-politics/2025-09-30/desantis-cabinet-ok-14-million-in-state-money-for-immigration-enforcement>

'Alligator Alcatraz': Florida immigration detention center approved for \$608 million reimbursement

By Annabelle Sikes, FOX 35 Orlando, 10/5/25

The State of Florida has been approved for a \$608 million reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to cover the costs of building and operating the controversial "Alligator Alcatraz" immigration detention center in the Florida Everglades, which opened July 1 and holds up to 3,000 detainees. Built for over \$245 million on a remote training airport in sensitive wetlands, the facility began receiving detainees on July 3 and now operates deportation flights from its on-site runway. Although the reimbursement is approved, FEMA must review expenses before releasing funds, potentially exposing the center to closure risks. A federal appeals court recently paused a lower court's shutdown order citing environmental concerns. President Donald Trump and DHS Secretary Kristi Noem toured the site on opening day, and Governor Ron DeSantis praised its continued operation.

Source: <https://www.fox35orlando.com/news/alligator-alcatraz-florida-immigration-detention-center-approved-608-million-reimbursement>

Oklahoma signs \$100 million contract to house detained migrants in Watonga correctional facility

By Lionel Ramos, KOSU | NPR, 10/6/25

The long-dormant Diamondback Correctional Facility in Watonga, Oklahoma, is being reactivated under a \$100 million, five-year contract between the Oklahoma Department of Corrections, federal immigration authorities, and private prison company CoreCivic to house migrants detained for federal immigration violations. The facility, which has sat empty since 2010, can hold up to 2,160 people and is part of a broader expansion that includes four other CoreCivic-run centers—South Texas Family Residential Center (2,400 beds), California City Immigration Processing Center (2,560 beds), Midwest Regional Reception Center in Kansas (1,033 beds), and West Tennessee Detention Facility (600 beds)—totaling 8,700 new beds and projected to generate \$325 million annually. CoreCivic is also eyeing Oklahoma's North Fork Correctional Facility for future expansion. Meanwhile, all 730 Oklahoma Highway Patrol troopers have been certified under ICE's 287(g) program to arrest individuals for immigration violations, and recent enforcement under Gov. Kevin Stitt's Operation Guardian led to the detention of approximately 120 undocumented individuals—nearly 25% of those encountered.

Source: <https://www.kosu.org/local-news/2025-10-06/oklahoma-signs-100-million-contract-to-house-detained-migrants-in-watonga-correctional-facility>

Immigrants held for weeks in solitary confinement at Mass. jails, report says

By Steph Solis, Axios, 9/30/25

A new report by Harvard University researchers and Physicians for Human Rights reveals that nearly 14,000 immigrant detainees were placed in solitary confinement nationwide between April 2024 and August 2025, with placements often exceeding 15 days—an amount the United Nations considers psychological torture. In Massachusetts, the Plymouth County Correctional Facility, the state's only jail with an active ICE contract, recorded 117 such instances, with 82 placements between 2018 and 2023 averaging 25 days. Bristol County reported 47 placements averaging 36 days before ending its contract in 2021, and Suffolk County reported nine placements averaging 27 days before ending its contract in 2019. Nearly half of these placements involved individuals with reported mental health conditions, despite ICE directives advising solitary confinement only as a last resort for such cases. Researchers warn that the actual numbers may be undercounted due to historically incomplete ICE data and recent changes in documentation requirements.

Source: <https://www.axios.com/local/boston/2025/09/30/massachusetts-solitary-confinement>

ICE closes detention oversight group in shutdown despite surge in detainees

By Douglas MacMillan, Washington Post, 10/7/25

During the government shutdown, immigration enforcement under the Trump administration remains fully active, with ICE continuing arrests, detention centers operating, and new contracts issued for migrant holding facilities—including a \$100 million deal to detain up to 2,160 immigrants in Oklahoma. Despite this surge, the Office of Detention Oversight, responsible for inspecting detention centers, has been entirely furloughed, even as ICE's detained population hit a record 61,000 in August and the administration aims to double detention capacity to over 100,000 beds. DHS, which received \$170 billion for border security, expects to furlough just 8% of its staff (22,862 people), keeping 59% on duty for roles "necessary to protect life and property" and 33% for legally authorized functions. In contrast, the EPA and Education Department furloughed 89% and 87% of their staff, respectively. Since Trump took office, the oversight office has conducted over 80 inspections—about two per week—and is the only group performing routine checks since March, when DHS scaled back two other watchdog units.

Source: <https://wapo.st/4o3YbAr>

ASYLUM SEEKERS

US justice department sues Minnesota over sanctuary city policies

By Cecilia Nowell, The Guardian, 9/29/25

The Justice Department has sued Minnesota over its sanctuary city policies, accusing officials of violating federal law and endangering public safety by releasing “dangerous criminals” and refusing to cooperate with immigration authorities; immigrants with no criminal record now make up the largest group in U.S. immigration detention. Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Hennepin County join Los Angeles, New York, Boston, New Jersey, and Colorado in facing similar lawsuits. In June, the Trump administration labeled Los Angeles’s ordinance “illegal” and sought to block its enforcement. Over the summer, it sent warnings to 13 states and 22 local governments, including California, Rhode Island, Boston, and Seattle, threatening prosecution or loss of federal funding. Last month, a federal judge blocked efforts to cut funding to 34 sanctuary cities and counties, despite an executive order signed by President Trump at the start of his second term.

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/29/justice-department-sues-minnesota-sanctuary-city?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1

U.S. to deport hundreds of Iranians who were held on immigration charges, Tehran says

By Freddie Clayton, NBC News, 9/30/25

The Trump administration, advancing its pledge to execute the largest mass deportation of over 10 million unauthorized migrants, has planned to deport approximately 400 Iranian nationals—most of whom entered the U.S. illegally—with 120 set to return to Iran within one or two days, according to Iranian official Hossein Noushabadi. This move, part of a broader immigration crackdown, follows earlier deportations including 119 individuals sent to Panama in February, eight men from Cuba, Laos, Mexico, Myanmar, and Vietnam sent to South Sudan in July, and five detainees sent to Eswatini. The deportation plan marks rare U.S.-Iran cooperation amid heightened scrutiny of Iran’s human rights record, with over 1,000 executions reported in the first nine months of 2025.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/world/iran/us-deport-hundreds-iranians-held-immigration-charges-tehran-says-rcna234629>

‘Meant to be a deterrent’: asylum seekers face new, higher fees in US

By Alexandra Villarreal, The Guardian, 10/1/25

A woman detained for nine months arrived at her asylum hearing in Laredo, Texas, only to be denied the chance to present her case due to a sudden \$100 application fee, which her lawyers argued didn’t apply to her. This fee is part of a broader set of costly new charges introduced under a legislative package signed by President Donald Trump on Independence Day, intensifying his anti-immigration agenda. These include raising the Temporary Protected Status fee from \$80 to over \$500, charging hundreds for abandoned or abused children seeking special classification, and imposing over \$1,000 for appeals or reopening cases. The asylum fee itself now includes \$100 upfront and \$100 annually while pending, despite a 3.75 million case backlog. Work authorization applications, once free, now cost \$550 per person with no waiver option, leaving families like Yajaera’s—who fled Nicaragua and face a \$2,200 total fee—unable to apply. Confusion persists due to inconsistent court responses and a newly launched but complex payment portal, creating a system that legal advocates say deters access to justice and forces many to abandon their claims or flee elsewhere.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/01/asylum-seekers-immigration-fees>

TEXAS IN THE NEWS

Suspect in Dallas shooting sought to 'terrorize' ICE agents, officials say

By Joseph Ax and Steve Gorman, Reuters, 9/25/25

On September 24, 2025, a sniper attack at an ICE field office in Dallas left one detainee dead and two critically injured; the shooter, 29-year-old Joshua Jahn, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. Jahn, who used ICE-tracking apps and legally purchased a bolt-action rifle in August, left behind notes describing his intent to “terrorize” ICE agents, whom he accused of “human trafficking.” Officials confirmed no law enforcement personnel were injured. This marked the third shooting at a DHS facility in Texas this year, following a July officer shooting in Prairieland and a fatal exchange in McAllen. ICE reports a 1,000% increase in assaults on its officers nationwide, prompting DHS to announce increased security measures. Investigators found no evidence linking Jahn to any organized group, though his writings referenced the assassination of conservative activist Charlie Kirk two weeks prior. The incident has intensified debate over political rhetoric and rising violence, with both Democratic and Republican leaders condemning the attack.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/suspect-dallas-shooting-researched-ice-facilities-tracked-agents-fbi-says-2025-09-25/>

'Anti-ICE' message on ammunition at Dallas shooting that killed immigration detainee

By Ben Hatton, BBC, 9/26/25

A rooftop sniper attack at an ICE field office in Dallas on September 25 left one detainee dead and two critically injured, marking the latest in a series of violent incidents targeting immigration facilities. The shooter, 29-year-old Joshua Jahn, fired indiscriminately at the building and a nearby van before dying from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. ICE reported that one of the injured detainees is a Mexican national. The facility, used for short-term processing, has faced multiple attacks this summer, including an August bomb threat, a July 4 shooting in Alvarado where an officer was shot in the neck and 11 people were charged, and gunfire at ICE offices in San Antonio last month.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ckge9d26z1ro>

2nd detainee dies a week after Dallas ICE facility shooting

By Emily Shapiro, ABC News, 9/30/25

Two detainees—Miguel Ángel García-Hernández, 32, and Norlan Guzmán-Fuentes, 37—have died following a September 24, 2025 shooting at the Dallas Immigration and Customs Enforcement field office, where a sniper opened fire "indiscriminately," striking three detainees. García-Hernández succumbed to his injuries after being removed from life support, while Guzmán-Fuentes was pronounced dead shortly after the attack. The shooter, Joshua Jahn, died from a self-inflicted gunshot wound and was reportedly targeting ICE agents, not detainees, according to notes he left behind. In response, Acting ICE Director Todd Lyons announced heightened alert measures across all ICE facilities.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/2nd-detainee-dies-week-after-dallas-ice-facility/story?id=126072509>

Some Austin-area sheriffs join ICE immigration program ahead of new Texas law

By Emiliano Tahui Gómez, San Antonio Express-News, 9/29/25

Senate Bill 8, passed by the Texas Legislature in 2025, will require nearly all county sheriffs to collaborate with federal immigration authorities by December 2026, primarily through 287(g) agreements. Nationwide participation surged from 135 agencies in December to over 1,000 by September, driven by federal funding and support from leaders like Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. DHS will begin reimbursing salaries, benefits, and overtime in October, with quarterly bonuses of up to \$1,000 per trained officer. Central Texas counties already participating include Bastrop (warrant service officer agreement signed Sept. 23), Burnet (agreement since 2019), Caldwell (task force agreement in July and warrant service officer agreement in September), and Williamson (warrant service officer agreement). Travis and Hays counties have not signed agreements, and no Austin-area police departments have joined as of September 24.

Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/news/local/article/new-texas-immigration-law-sparks-early-action-21068752.php>

DEPLOYMENT OF TROOPS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

Oregon sues Trump administration over order to deploy troops in Portland

By Mariana Alfaro and Dan Lamothe, Washington Post, 9/28/25

On Sunday, September 28, Oregon filed a lawsuit to block President Trump's deployment of 200 Oregon National Guard members to Portland for 60 days under Title 10 authority, which prohibits troops from engaging in law enforcement. The move follows Trump's broader immigration enforcement push and echoes a June deployment of about 4,000 Guard members and 700 active-duty Marines to Los Angeles. Oregon Attorney General Dan Rayfield also plans to seek a temporary restraining order, citing the "unlawful federalization" of the Guard. Protests at Portland's ICE facility—ongoing since 2018—led to over 20 arrests in June after a riot was declared, though recent demonstrations have been mostly peaceful.

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/national-security/2025/09/28/trump-portland-national-guard/>

800 arrests amid Chicago immigration 'blitz' of helicopters and midnight raids

By Michael Loria and Eduardo Cuevas, USA TODAY, 10/4/25

On September 30, 300 federal agents stormed a South Side apartment building in Chicago as part of Operation Midway Blitz, a Trump administration immigration crackdown that has led to over 800 arrests since September 8. The raid, targeting alleged members of Tren de Aragua—a Venezuelan gang designated a terrorist organization—resulted in 37 arrests, including two confirmed gang members, one suspected member, six individuals with criminal histories, two linked to a shooting investigation, one American citizen with a local warrant, and four U.S. citizen children of immigrants. Videos showed agents rappelling from Black Hawk helicopters and arriving in moving vans with military-style rifles. The historically Black South Shore neighborhood, home to many Venezuelan migrants bused from Texas in 2023, was left shaken. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker criticized the operation for creating panic and violating due process. Nationwide, ICE data shows that 71.5% of nearly 60,000 detainees have no criminal convictions, with similar patterns seen in raids in California and Georgia, where most of the thousands arrested lacked criminal records.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/nation/2025/10/03/chicago-area-immigration-raids-dhs/86497161007/>

Trump Orders National Guard to Oregon and Chicago. Here Are the Other Places Where Soldiers Are Being Deployed

By Rebecca Schneid, Time, 10/5/25

The Trump administration's recent domestic military deployments have sparked legal and political backlash across multiple states. In Oregon, a federal judge blocked the federalization of the state's National Guard and later halted Trump's attempt to send 300 California National Guard troops, prompting Governor Gavin Newsom to call the move a "breathtaking abuse of power" and vow to sue. In Chicago, amid sweeping immigration raids under "Operation Midway Blitz," Trump authorized the deployment of 300 Illinois National Guard members, drawing fierce opposition from Mayor Brandon Johnson and Governor J.B. Pritzker, who called the ultimatum to deploy troops "outrageous and un-American." In Portland, 200 National Guard soldiers were activated, but a judge issued a 14-day restraining order, ruling the deployment lacked constitutional authority. Meanwhile, in Memphis, Tennessee Governor Bill Lee welcomed Trump's crackdown despite local crime being at a 25-year low, while Mayor Paul Young expressed disapproval. In Washington, D.C., Trump's 30-day federalization of the police force ended mid-September, but troops remain stationed, with over 40% of arrests during the crackdown related to immigration.

Source: <https://time.com/7323373/trump-chicago-national-guard-troops/>

Illinois National Guard authorized for Chicago mission, official says

By Chris Boccia, ABC News, 10/5/25

The Pentagon has authorized a mission involving 300 Illinois National Guard members to protect federal property in Chicago under Title 10 authorities, though mobilization orders have not yet been issued and deployment is expected by the end of the week. Governor J.B. Pritzker opposes the deployment, stating the situation does not warrant military involvement and that he was not contacted by federal officials. The authorization follows escalating tensions surrounding the Trump administration's immigration crackdown, including a violent incident on October 3 in Broadview, Illinois, where U.S. Customs and Border Patrol agents shot and wounded a woman they alleged was armed and part of a 10-vehicle convoy that ambushed and rammed their vehicles.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/illinois-national-guard-authorized-chicago-mission-official/story?id=126237771>

Another court fight brews as Trump sends California National Guard troops to Oregon

By the Associated Press, 10/5/25

California Governor Gavin Newsom and Oregon Governor Tina Kotek are challenging President Donald Trump's deployment of National Guard troops to Portland, where 101 California Guard members arrived Saturday night (October 4) despite a federal judge's ruling temporarily blocking the deployment of 200 Oregon Guard members. The Pentagon confirmed 200 California troops were sent, though Oregon officials have not verified their current location. Trump also authorized 300 Illinois National Guard troops to Chicago, citing "ongoing violent riots and lawlessness," while Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker condemned the move as "outrageous and un-American." Trump has deployed or proposed deployments to 10 cities, including Baltimore, Memphis, D.C., New Orleans, and California cities like Oakland, San Francisco, and Los Angeles. In Chicago, federal agents arrested 13 protesters near an ICE facility and shot a U.S. citizen woman allegedly armed with a semiautomatic weapon. In Portland, 400 protesters marched to an ICE facility, where federal agents used tear gas and arrested six people. Meanwhile, in Memphis, a federal task force made over 50 arrests in two days, and Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry requested National Guard support despite declining crime rates in cities like New Orleans. An appellate court is reviewing Newsom's earlier lawsuit against Trump's summer deployment of troops to Los Angeles, with indications the administration may prevail.

Source: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/another-court-fight-brews-as-trump-sends-california-national-guard-troops-to-oregon>

Chicago mayor signs order to stop federal agents from using certain city-owned spaces

By NBC Chicago Staff and The Associated Press, 10/6/25

On Monday, October 6, Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson signed an executive order prohibiting federal immigration authorities from using city-owned or controlled parking lots, vacant lots, and garages as staging areas for enforcement operations, citing recent use of sites near Harrison and Kedzie and at 46th and Damen. Johnson declared these spaces "ICE-free zones," aligning with Chicago's Welcoming City Ordinance. The move comes amid escalating tensions with the Trump administration, which plans to deploy up to 400 Texas National Guard troops to Chicago and Portland for 60 days, alongside 300 Illinois National Guard members to protect federal buildings. Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker condemned the deployment as a "Trump Invasion," revealing DHS requested up to 100 troops to safeguard ICE assets. A memo signed by Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth cited violent incidents and threats as justification, though a federal judge has temporarily blocked similar deployments to Oregon.

Source: <https://www.nbcchicago.com/news/local/chicago-politics/chicago-mayor-signing-order-to-stop-federal-agents-from-using-certain-city-owned-spaces/3834094/>

Illinois Governor JB Pritzker says Trump to deploy 400 National Guard troops from Texas to 'invade' liberal states

By Brittany Chain, The Daily Mail, 10/6/25

Illinois Governor J.B. Pritzker condemned the Trump administration's deployment of 400 Texas National Guard troops to Illinois and Oregon, calling it "Trump's Invasion" and criticizing the lack of coordination with state officials. The move is part of a broader crackdown on anti-ICE protests and what Trump describes as a war on crime in liberal states, including claims that Chicago is the "world's most dangerous city" and Oregon is "burning to the ground." California Governor Gavin Newsom also denounced the deployment of 200 federalized California National Guard troops to Oregon, labeling it a "breathtaking abuse of the law and power." A joint lawsuit from California and Oregon led to U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut temporarily blocking any National Guard deployments to Oregon, citing threats to state sovereignty and dismissing the protests as too small to justify military intervention. Oregon Governor Tina Kotek confirmed 100 troops had arrived Saturday with 100 more en route, despite no formal communication from federal officials. Attorney General Rob Bonta accused the administration of targeting Democratic-led cities and dissenting voices.

Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15165203/Illinois-Governor-JB-Pritzker-Trump-National-Guard.html?ITO=applenews-us>

Illinois files lawsuit to block deployment of National Guard

By Peter Charalambous, ABC News, 10/6/25

On Monday, October 6, the state of Illinois and city of Chicago filed a 69-page lawsuit seeking to block President Donald Trump's federalization and deployment of 300 Illinois National Guard troops to Chicago, arguing the move violates the Posse Comitatus Act and lacks legal justification under federal law, which permits such action only in cases of rebellion or invasion. The complaint cites Trump's social media posts—including "I love the smell of deportations in the morning"—and his remarks about using Democratic-led cities "as training grounds for our military" as evidence of political targeting. The lawsuit follows a federal judge's ruling in Oregon that blocked the deployment of National Guard troops there, reinforcing the principle that the U.S. is a nation of constitutional law, not martial law. Tensions in Chicago escalated over the weekend when Border Patrol agents shot and wounded a woman allegedly armed with a semiautomatic weapon during a protest convoy, and detained a man for ramming a CBP vehicle. Governor J.B. Pritzker has refused to request federal assistance, stating, "There is no insurrection in Illinois. The manufactured nature of the crisis is clear."

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/illinois-files-lawsuit-block-deployment-national-guard/story?id=126253079>

Federal judge declines to immediately block National Guard deployment in Illinois

By Joe Hernandez, NPR, 10/6/25

The state of Illinois and the city of Chicago filed the federal lawsuit on Monday, October 6, against the Trump administration over its effort to deploy National Guard troops to the state, a day after a federal judge blocked any federalized Guard members from deploying to Oregon. Illinois and Chicago asked the judge to block the Trump administration from federalizing the Illinois National Guard and from sending to Illinois any guard members from other states, including Texas. But U.S. District Judge April Perry allowed the Trump administration until 11:59 p.m. on Wednesday, October 8, to respond to the lawsuit and set a date for oral arguments to take place, at 11 a.m. Thursday, October 9.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/10/06/nx-s1-5563882/illinois-and-chicago-sue-the-trump-administration-over-national-guard-deployment>

With the Texas National Guard now in Illinois, here's what you need to know about the unit

By Alejandro Serrano and Alex Nguyen, Texas Tribune, 10/8/25

On Tuesday, October 7, 200 Texas National Guard soldiers arrived in Illinois with Governor Greg Abbott's approval to support federal immigration enforcement, amid fierce opposition from local residents and Democratic leaders who called the deployment unlawful. Over the past month, ICE has apprehended more than 1,000 immigrants in the Chicago area, where aggressive tactics have sparked violent clashes and protests. The Texas National Guard, part of a 20,000-member force overseen by the Texas Military Department, was previously deployed in Operation Lone Star—sending thousands of troops to the 1,254-mile Texas-Mexico border. Abbott authorized the current deployment under Title 10 U.S.C. § 12406, while Trump has considered invoking the 1807 Insurrection Act to expand federal authority. Legal challenges have emerged, with Illinois suing to block the deployment and ten Democratic U.S. representatives warning it sets a dangerous precedent. A federal judge temporarily barred similar action in Oregon, but allowed the Illinois deployment to proceed, with the next court hearing scheduled for Thursday (October 9).

Source: <https://www.texastribune.org/2025/10/08/texas-national-guard-abbott-deployment-chicago/>

President Trump posts on Truth Social that Chicago Mayor Johnson, Gov. Pritzker "should be in jail"

By Adam Harrington, Courtney Scott, CBS Chicago, 10/8/25

On Wednesday, President Trump posted on Truth Social that Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson and Illinois Governor JB Pritzker "should be in jail" for failing to protect ICE officers, escalating tensions amid the federal immigration crackdown in Chicago. Since DHS launched "Operation Midway Blitz" in early September, arrests, raids, and protests have surged, with over a dozen demonstrators arrested outside an ICE facility in Broadview. In response, Mayor Johnson signed an executive order Tuesday banning ICE and other federal agencies from using city-owned property for civil immigration enforcement. Governor Pritzker condemned Trump's actions, citing masked agents separating families, deploying war helicopters, and targeting residents based on appearance. He warned Illinois may withdraw from the National Governors Association if it remains silent, a stance echoed by California Governor Gavin Newsom. Both governors believe the Trump administration is targeting blue states, and Pritzker urged fellow governors to denounce the National Guard deployments.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/chicago/news/president-trump-posts-johnson-pritzker-jail/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

COURT CASES AND RULINGS

Trump seeks expedited Supreme Court review of birthright citizenship executive order

By Devin Dwyer, ABC News, 9/28/25

In June, President Donald Trump celebrated a Supreme Court decision rolling back nationwide injunctions against his executive order to end birthright citizenship, which affects an estimated 255,000 children born annually in the U.S. to non-citizen or undocumented parents. Despite this, two federal courts in July blocked the order again—one in New Hampshire in a class-action suit and another nationwide—prompting Trump to seek expedited Supreme Court review by next summer. The order, signed on his first day in office, reinterprets the 14th Amendment to limit citizenship to children of parents with permanent legal status, challenging the 1898 U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark precedent. Solicitor General John Sauer argues the policy is vital to border security and citizenship integrity, while critics, including the ACLU and Washington State attorney general, call it unconstitutional and harmful.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trump-seeks-expedited-supreme-court-review-birthright-citizenship/story?id=126025758>

US judge blocks Trump from tying states' disaster aid to immigration enforcement

By Nate Raymond, Reuters, 9/24/25

On Wednesday, September 24, U.S. District Judge William Smith ruled that the Trump administration's attempt to condition billions of dollars in emergency and disaster aid on state cooperation with immigration enforcement is unlawful and unconstitutional. The decision sided with 20 Democratic-led states and the District of Columbia, which sued in May, challenging the Department of Homeland Security's sweeping immigration conditions applied to all grants. Smith, a George W. Bush appointee, noted the policy left states with "no meaningful choice," especially amid committed budgets. This follows a similar ruling in June blocking a related move by the Department of Transportation. Despite DHS later claiming the conditions would apply only to a subset of grants, Smith found the policy was never formally rescinded, leaving all grants affected.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us-judge-blocks-trump-tying-states-disaster-aid-immigration-enforcement-2025-09-24/>

Judge Blocks Trump's Move to Cut Federal Funds Over Immigration Policy

By Chris Cameron, New York Times, 9/30/25

A federal judge in Rhode Island, Mary S. McElroy, on Tuesday blocked the Trump administration's attempt to freeze hundreds of millions in emergency preparedness funds to blue states opposing his mass deportation campaign, marking the second such judicial intervention in a week. The ruling followed a lawsuit by a coalition of 20 states and the District of Columbia, most led by Democrats, seeking access to billions in federal grants. Days after the initial ruling, FEMA informed 11 of those states and D.C. they would receive less than half of an expected \$460 million in counterterrorism funds, with New York and Illinois facing cuts of 79% and 69% respectively—over \$100 million combined. Plaintiffs argued the cuts were politically motivated, citing DHS Secretary Kristi Noem's statement that noncompliant states "should not receive a single dollar." McElroy's restraining order mandates full grant distribution to the affected states: Illinois, California, New Jersey, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New York, Vermont, Washington State, and the District of Columbia.

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/09/30/us/politics/trump-fema-funds-immigration.html>

Second appeals court upholds birthright citizenship, rebuffing Trump

By Nate Raymond, Reuters, 10/3/25

On October 3, President Donald Trump's executive order to curtail birthright citizenship was declared unconstitutional by the 1st U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, marking the second appellate defeat for the policy, which denies citizenship to U.S.-born children without at least one American citizen or lawful permanent resident parent. The Boston-based three-judge panel upheld an injunction originally issued by U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin in February on behalf of 18 Democratic-led states and the District of Columbia. This follows a similar July ruling from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. Although the Supreme Court's 6–3 conservative majority ruled in June to limit nationwide injunctions, it did not address the validity of Trump's order. The administration has since asked the Supreme Court to hear appeals in both cases. Despite the high court's ruling opening the door to regional enforcement, lower courts have continued to block the policy nationwide, citing concerns over a patchwork citizenship system and its impact on social services. Birthright citizenship has been protected under the 14th Amendment for over 150 years.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/10/03/second-us-appeals-court-upholds-birthright-citizenship/86505320007/>

Judge halts Trump administration from detaining immigrant children after they turn 18

By Marina Dunbar, The Guardian, 10/4/25

On Saturday, October 4, U.S. District Judge Rudolph Contreras issued a temporary restraining order blocking the Trump administration from transferring unaccompanied immigrant children to adult detention centers upon turning 18, citing a violation of his 2021 ruling that mandates release to "the least restrictive setting available." This decision halted transfers reportedly planned for the weekend and follows revelations that ICE had instructed shelters to stop releasing soon-to-be 18-year-olds, even those with approved plans. The administration also faces backlash for offering immigrant children a \$2,500 stipend to self-deport and for allegedly separating families to pressure deportations, misclassifying children as "unaccompanied minors." ICE has intensified efforts to locate and deport unaccompanied minors, while stricter screening measures—fingerprinting, DNA tests, and home visits—have prolonged custody durations.

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/04/immigrant-children-ice-detention-ruling?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1

DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

Immigration officials outline plans to accept new DACA applicants

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 9/30/25

Federal immigration officials plan to reopen the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program to new applicants in compliance with a court order, though the Trump administration retains discretion to modify the policy. U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services will begin processing applications from immigrants not currently enrolled, expanding protections for Dreamers—over 525,000 of whom are enrolled as of June, including nearly 88,000 in Texas, the second-largest Dreamer population. DACA, created in 2012, has been closed to new applicants since 2021 due to litigation, though renewals of two-year work permits have continued. To qualify, applicants must have arrived in the U.S. by age 16 and before June 2007, be enrolled in high school or the military, and lack serious criminal records. The 5th Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a ruling that DACA is unlawful but limited its impact to Texas, where new applicants will receive deportation deferrals but not work permits or lawful presence status. The Trump administration emphasized that future lawful changes to DACA remain possible, while Republican-led states urged a full wind-down of the program, arguing Congress should determine its fate.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/daca-applications-immigration-officials/>

H-1B VISA WORKER PROGRAM

Here's why experts think Trump took 'a sledgehammer' to the H-1B visa worker program

By Hannah Grabenstein, PBS, 9/30/25

President Donald Trump's proposal to impose a \$100,000 fee on each H-1B visa petition sparked concern across the tech industry, which relies heavily on skilled foreign workers—65% of H-1B approvals in fiscal year 2023 were for computer-related fields, with a median salary of \$123,600. The program, capped at 65,000 visas annually for for-profit firms since 1990 (plus 20,000 for advanced degree holders), allows U.S. companies to hire foreign talent in specialized fields like science, medicine, and education. Amazon led H-1B hiring in 2023 with over 11,000 approvals, about 3% of the total pool. Critics argue Trump's plan—affecting nonprofits and universities too—could stifle innovation, deter entry-level and top-tier talent, and harm startups unable to absorb the cost. While some outsourcing firms exploit the system, they represent a small share of visas and often pay more than entry-level roles, skewing the lottery system.

Source: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/economy/trumps-proposed-changes-to-the-h-1b-visa-program-explained>

Trump's H1-B changes raise concerns about US tech economy's future, ability to recruit specialty talent

By Ivan Pereira, ABC News, 9/27/25

President Trump's September 19 executive order imposing a \$100,000 fee on every H1-B visa application—covering both first-time and renewal applicants—has sparked confusion and concern across the tech industry, which relies heavily on foreign talent. The H1-B program, created in 1990, allows 65,000 visas annually for bachelor's degree holders and 20,000 for those with advanced degrees, with around 400,000 applications filed in 2025, mostly renewals. Filing costs typically total \$5,000, and companies must prove salary parity with U.S. citizens. Top H1-B employers in 2025 include Amazon (10,000+ workers), Tata Consulting Services (5,505), and Microsoft, Meta, Apple, and Google (each with ~5,100). More than half of billion-dollar startups have at least one immigrant co-founder, contributing thousands of jobs. Critics argue the fee favors large corporations and harms startups, while legal experts warn the order may exceed presidential authority.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/trumps-h1-raise-concerns-us-tech-economys-future/story?id=125925785>

US senators reintroduce bill to reform H-1B, L-1 visa rules as Trump fee fuels scrutiny

By Reuters, 9/29/25

On Monday, September 29, Senate Judiciary Committee leaders Chuck Grassley (R-IA) and Dick Durbin (D-IL) reintroduced legislation to tighten the H-1B and L-1 visa programs, aiming to close loopholes and curb employer abuse by raising wage and hiring standards, mandating public job postings, and narrowing visa eligibility. The H-1B program, heavily used by tech firms to hire skilled workers from India and China, now faces a \$100,000 application fee imposed earlier this month by the Trump administration. Grassley and Durbin, who first proposed similar reforms in 2007, recently sent letters to 10 major employers—including Amazon, Google, and Meta—scrutinizing their use of H-1B visas amid staff layoffs. Senators Tommy Tuberville (R-AL), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), and Bernie Sanders (I-VT) are original cosponsors of the bill.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-senators-reintroduce-bill-reform-h-1b-l-1-visa-rules-trump-fee-fuels-scrutiny-2025-09-29/>

Lawsuit seeks to stop Trump's \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas

By Martha Bellisle, Associated Press, 10/3/25

A coalition of health care providers, religious groups, university professors, and others filed a federal lawsuit in San Francisco challenging President Donald Trump's September 19 proclamation imposing a \$100,000 fee on H-1B visa applications, which was set to take effect within 36 hours and caused widespread panic among employers. The lawsuit argues the fee disrupts a program vital for hiring specialized workers—about a third of whom are nurses, teachers, physicians, scholars, priests, and pastors—and threatens hospitals, churches, classrooms, and innovation nationwide. Critics say the program is exploited to hire overseas workers earning as little as \$60,000 annually, compared to U.S. tech salaries exceeding \$100,000. Amazon received over 10,000 H-1B visas this year, more than any other company, followed by Tata Consultancy, Microsoft, Apple, and Google, with California hosting the highest number of H-1B workers.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-h1b-visa-trump-8afc10165ce911d43a4cd47ade4268e1>

Trump's new \$100K visa fee could pummel red state hospitals

By Nick Niedzwiedek, Alice Miranda Ollstein and Simon J. Levien, Politico, 10/2/2025

Hospitals and medical groups nationwide are urging the Trump administration to exempt health workers from a new \$100,000 H-1B visa fee, warning it could devastate rural care systems, especially in GOP-led states like Iowa, North Dakota, and West Virginia, which employ the highest percentages of immigrant physicians. Nearly 25% of U.S. doctors are international medical graduates, and the American Hospital Association and 50 other groups argue the fee could worsen shortages of doctors, nurses, pharmacists, therapists, and lab workers. Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-W.V.) and Joni Ernst (R-Iowa) have voiced concern, with Capito noting West Virginia University's health system is alarmed. DHS has discretion to grant exemptions deemed "in the national interest," but no commitments have been made. The fee, combined with proposed changes to the visa lottery system, may disadvantage early-career clinicians and deter international students.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/02/trump-h1b-visa-fee-hospitals-doctors-red-states-00592194?cid=apn>

ICEBLOCK APP

Apple removes ICE tracking apps after Trump administration says they threaten officers

By Clare Duffy, CNN, 10/3/25

Following a request from the U.S. Department of Justice, Apple removed ICEBlock and similar apps from its App Store, citing violations of guidelines related to “objectionable” and “mean-spirited” content and concerns that the apps could be used to harm law enforcement officers. ICEBlock, which had over 1 million users and was only available on iOS, allowed people to report sightings of ICE agents, prompting criticism from President Donald Trump’s administration and law enforcement officials, including FBI Director Kash Patel, who linked the app to a planned attack on a Dallas ICE office. U.S. Attorney General Pam Bondi stated the app “crossed a red line,” while ICE’s Todd Lyons warned it could invite violence. Creator Joshua Aaron denied the app incited harm, comparing it to speed trap alerts and asserting its protection under the First Amendment. Apple’s decision followed months of tension with the White House, which had previously threatened tariffs on iPhones made overseas; although Apple’s tariff bill remains around \$1 billion per quarter, CEO Tim Cook’s U.S. manufacturing pledges have helped ease those threats.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/10/03/tech/iceblock-apple-removed-trump>

Creator of ICE agent tracking app asks Apple to rescind ban from online store

By Lora Kolodny and Dan Mangan, CNBC, 10/3/25

Joshua Aaron, creator of ICEBlock (a free app used to report sightings of ICE agents) has asked Apple to rescind its removal from the App Store, citing constitutional concerns and defending its original approval after a thorough review. ICEBlock, which launched last spring and reached over 1 million downloads, including nearly 114,000 in a single day on July 1, became the top social networking app on Apple’s platform following White House criticism. Apple removed the app Thursday (October 2) after pressure from Attorney General Pam Bondi, who said it endangered law enforcement, citing a Dallas ICE facility attack where the gunman had searched similar apps. ICE’s Todd Lyons reported a 500% increase in assaults on agents and condemned the app for “painting a target” on officers. Google also removed similar apps, though ICEBlock was never available on its store.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/10/03/apple-ice-app-trump-bondi.html>

DEVELOPING STORIES

Trump shields immigration and trade from shutdown fallout

By Myah Ward, Megan Messerly and Sophia Cai, Politico, 10/1/25

As Washington enters a government shutdown, the Trump administration has strategically shielded key priorities—immigration enforcement and tariff negotiations—by designating related federal employees as essential or funding them through the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBB), allowing these operations to continue while hundreds of thousands of other federal workers are furloughed. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) will operate uninterrupted, with the Department of Homeland Security retaining 95% of its workforce in 2025, up from 88% in 2023, and expanding its legally retained staff by roughly 2,300. The U.S. Trade Representative’s Office will retain 60% of its workforce, compared to 40% in 2024, with 118 employees designated essential versus just four last year. Commerce will maintain import licensing, tariff investigations, and export controls, all previously unprotected in 2023. Meanwhile, programs like NASA’s Artemis moonshot and Interior Department fossil fuel permits will proceed, but other agencies face freezes—such as the Bureau of Labor Statistics suspending its monthly jobs report and the FDA halting safety reviews of novel animal food ingredients. A New York Times-Siena College poll shows 65% of respondents, including 43% of Democrats, oppose a shutdown even if demands aren’t met, as Trump and budget director Russ Vought prepare for mass federal workforce reductions aimed at maximizing political pressure on Democrats.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/01/trump-protecting-priorities-from-shutdown-00588657>

Journalists shoved by federal agents outside New York immigration court

By Brianna Tucker, Washington Post, 9/30/25

On Tuesday morning (September 30) at 26 Federal Plaza in Lower Manhattan, masked federal agents shoved photojournalists Dean Moses, Olga Fedorova, and L. Vural Elibol to the ground outside a New York immigration court, with Elibol requiring emergency medical treatment, a neck brace, and stretcher evacuation. The Department of Homeland Security defended the agents, citing obstruction by agitators and journalists, while critics including PEN America, Gov. Kathy Hochul, and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries condemned the incident as part of a broader pattern of press suppression under President Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown. The clash follows a recent video showing an ICE agent at the same building pushing a woman and shouting “adios,” and a federal judge’s September ruling barring DHS and LAPD from using crowd control weapons against journalists covering immigration protests.

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/09/30/new-york-immigration-journalists-confrontation/>

ICE obtains access to Israeli-made spyware that can hack phones and encrypted apps

By Stephanie Kirchgaessner, The Guardian, 9/2/25

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) now has access to Graphite, a powerful spyware tool capable of hacking any mobile phone, including encrypted apps like WhatsApp and Signal, following the Trump administration's decision to lift a pause on a \$2 million contract with Paragon Solutions. Originally signed under the Biden administration in late 2024, the contract was delayed for compliance review under an executive order restricting spyware use. Graphite can track locations, read messages, access photos, and activate microphones. Paragon previously severed ties with Italy after its spyware was used to target 90 individuals—including journalists and human rights activists—in two dozen countries. Civil liberties experts warn of counterintelligence risks and threats to privacy, especially as ICE's budget and authority expand rapidly.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/02/trump-immigration-ice-israeli-spyware>

ICE arrests top educator at Iowa's largest school district

By Max Matza, BBC, 9/27/25

On Friday, September 26, ICE arrested Ian Andre Roberts, superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools—the largest district in Iowa with around 30,000 students—on a fugitive warrant for overstaying his student visa and possessing a firearm. Roberts, a Guyanese citizen who entered the U.S. in 1999, had his work permit expire in 2020 and was ordered deported by a federal judge in 2024. He was found with a loaded handgun, \$3,000 in cash, and a fixed blade hunting knife, and initially fled in a school district vehicle before being located with help from Iowa State Patrol. Roberts also has a prior weapons charge from February 2020. The firearm investigation has been turned over to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c8d70n4gvpqo>

Des Moines Superintendent Ian Roberts' Iowa administrator license revoked after ICE arrest

By Samantha Hernandez, USA TODAY NETWORK, 9/30/25

Ian Roberts, 54, superintendent of Iowa's largest school district, was placed on unpaid leave and had his administrator license revoked on Sept. 29 after being arrested by ICE agents on Sept. 26 for allegedly residing in the U.S. illegally under a May 2024 deportation order. A native of Guyana who entered the U.S. on a student visa in 1999 and competed in the 2000 Sydney Olympics, Roberts had served as Des Moines superintendent since July 2023. The Iowa Board of Educational Examiners cited his lack of legal presence as grounds for revocation, with an appeal deadline of Oct. 28. At the time of his arrest, Roberts allegedly fled a traffic stop and was found with a loaded handgun, cash, and a hunting knife, prompting further investigation by federal authorities. He also has existing weapon possession charges from Feb. 5, 2020, and a 2021 Pennsylvania firearm citation, which he disclosed during hiring. Roberts is currently held at Woodbury County Jail in Sioux City, Iowa.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2025/09/30/ian-roberts-des-moines-ice-arrest/86430268007/>

Des Moines superintendent to resign after being detained by ICE, lawyer says

By James Hill and Meredith Deliso, ABC News, 9/30/25

Ian Roberts, 54, announced his immediate resignation as superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools, citing concern for the district's 30,000 students following his detention by ICE, which stated he is in the U.S. illegally from Guyana with a final order of removal issued in May 2024 and no work authorization. Roberts, who joined the district in July 2023 and held leadership roles in U.S. schools for 20 years, was placed on unpaid administrative leave after the Iowa Board of Educational Examiners revoked his license and the school board received Homeland Security documentation confirming his unauthorized status. When detained Friday, Roberts had a loaded handgun and \$3,000 in cash, and is currently held at Woodbury County Jail. His attorney, Alfredo Parrish, filed motions to stay and reopen the immigration case, citing a prior letter from a Texas attorney claiming the case had been resolved. A state-level investigation into Roberts' hiring is underway, with Rep. Zach Nunn calling for stronger vetting safeguards. The background check firm stated it was not contracted to verify work eligibility, and Millcreek Township School District, where Roberts served from August 2020 to June 2023, confirmed he passed FBI checks and submitted I-9 documentation without notification of expired authorization. ICE also noted Roberts' February 2020 weapon possession charges.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/des-moines-superintendent-resign-after-detained-ice-lawyer/story?id=126088848>

Des Moines school district says it will pursue legal action against consulting firm after superintendent detained by ICE

By James Hill and Meredith Deliso, ABC News, 10/3/25

The Des Moines Public Schools board is suing JG Consulting, a firm hired in January 2023 for \$35,000, alleging it failed to properly vet Ian Roberts, who served as superintendent of the 35,000-student district from July 2023 until his resignation following his Sept. 26 detainment by ICE. Federal authorities revealed Roberts, 54, has lacked U.S. work authorization since 2020 and was under a final removal order issued in May 2024. He now faces federal firearm charges after ICE found a loaded handgun in his vehicle and three more firearms in his residence. The district claims JG Consulting breached its contract by recommending Roberts despite his ineligibility to hold the position and is seeking damages for reputational harm and costs incurred. Roberts' resume has also come under scrutiny, with MIT and George Washington University denying claims he made about his academic and professional history. JG Consulting maintains it conducted a thorough background check using a third-party firm and asserts Roberts provided documents showing eligibility. Roberts remains in federal custody while his attorney seeks to stay his removal order. Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/des-moines-school-district-pursue-legal-action-consulting/story?id=126186026>

ICE tactics inflame tensions in New York, Chicago and other cities

By Ted Hesson, Brian Snyder and Heather Schlitz, Reuters, 9/27/25

Tensions escalated in major U.S. cities following President Trump's intensified immigration crackdown, with incidents on September 25 and 26 including a U.S. immigration officer shoving asylum-seeker Monica Moreta-Galarza in a New York courthouse, ICE deploying tear gas, flash bang grenades, and pepper balls against protesters in Broadview, Illinois, and a Guatemalan woman named Hilda injured during an arrest in Chelsea, Massachusetts. These events occurred days after a shooting at a Dallas ICE facility left one detainee dead and two seriously wounded. DHS reported that over 200 rioters blocked one gate and 30 swarmed another at the Chicago detention center. In response to mounting criticism, California Governor Gavin Newsom signed legislation banning ICE mask use, while DHS relieved the New York officer of duty pending investigation. Meanwhile, the funeral of Silverio Villegas Gonzalez, shot dead by an ICE agent in a Chicago suburb earlier this month, was held Friday in Michoacan, Mexico.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/ice-tactics-inflame-tensions-new-york-chicago-other-cities-2025-09-26/>

Trump shields immigration and trade from shutdown fallout

By Myah Ward, Megan Messerly and Sophia Cai, Politico, 10/1/2025

As Washington enters a government shutdown, the Trump administration has safeguarded key priorities—immigration enforcement and tariff negotiations—by designating related staff as essential or funding them through the One Big Beautiful Bill, allowing operations to continue even as hundreds of thousands of federal workers are furloughed. The Department of Homeland Security's 2025 plan retains 95% of its workforce, up from 88% in 2023, expanding legally retained staff by roughly 2,300. ICE operations remain uninterrupted, with new agents paid and fewer furloughs than in past shutdowns. The U.S. Trade Representative's Office will retain 60% of its workforce, up from 40% in 2024, increasing designated staff from 4 to 118 and continuing tariff programs under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. Meanwhile, agencies like the Bureau of Labor Statistics and FDA's Animal Drugs and Foods Program are suspending critical functions, including jobs reports and livestock food safety reviews. A New York Times-Siena College poll shows 65% of respondents, including 43% of Democrats, oppose a shutdown even if demands aren't met, as Trump aims to shift blame while enacting irreversible cuts to Democratic-backed programs.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/10/01/trump-protecting-priorities-from-shutdown-00588657?cid=apn>

Immigration judge denies Kilmar Abrego García's request to reopen case

By Maria Sacchetti, Washington Post, 10/1/25

On Wednesday, October 1, U.S. Immigration Judge Philip P. Taylor rejected Kilmar Abrego García's request to reopen his deportation case, citing "insufficient evidence" that the Trump administration would imminently remove him to Uganda, despite DHS stating on August 25 that he would be "processed for removal" there. Abrego, a 30-year-old Maryland sheet metal worker married to a U.S. citizen with three children, including a disabled son, was illegally deported to El Salvador in March, where he claims he was tortured. The Supreme Court ruled in April that his deportation violated a 2019 court order, and he was returned in June after being indicted in Tennessee for human smuggling, though he pleaded not guilty and was released on bond before being rearrested. DHS alleges he is an MS-13 member who transported thousands of undocumented workers, while his lawyers argue the prosecution is "vindictive and selective." Judge Taylor, appointed under the first Trump administration, said Abrego missed the one-year asylum deadline and may be ineligible for legal residency due to his pending criminal case. Abrego has 30 days to appeal the decision, which currently blocks his path to permanent residency through immigration courts.

Source: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/immigration/2025/10/01/kilmar-abrego-garcia-judge-denies-reopen/>

Civil rights jobs have been cut. Those ex-workers warn of ICE detention violations

By Ximena Bustillo, NPR, 10/6/25

The Trump administration's cuts to over 300 staff across three congressionally mandated oversight offices within DHS (including the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman and the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties) have raised alarm among immigration advocates and former employees, who warn the reductions undermine accountability amid a surge in ICE detention. In fiscal year 2025, at least 15 people died in ICE custody out of more than 59,000 detainees, marking the highest death toll since 2020 and the largest detention population in six years. Critics cite overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, and lack of food and healthcare access, while oversight mechanisms like hotline posters and detainee visits have reportedly vanished. Former staff say they played key roles in preventing civil rights violations and monitoring detention centers, but now fear unchecked expansion and secrecy. DHS claims legally required functions continue efficiently, though no semi-annual report has been published this year. Meanwhile, 86 former employees have filed a legal challenge with the Merit Systems Protection Board, arguing the agency lacks authority to abolish these oversight roles.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/10/06/g-s1-91947/trump-ice-detention-civil-rights>

Over 200 international students 'trapped' in US are suing Trump administration

By Surina Venkat, The Hill, 10/6/25

A total of 217 international students are suing the State Department to reinstate their visas after the Trump administration revoked over 6,000 visas as part of its Student Criminal Alien Initiative, which screened 1.3 million foreign students for criminal history. Although courts ordered the restoration of Student Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) records (allowing students to remain in the U.S.) many still lack valid visas, preventing them from traveling abroad or re-entering the country. Two lawsuits filed in August and September challenge the legality of these terminations, arguing they were done programmatically without individualized review. Students report significant hardships, including emotional distress, financial loss, and missed family events. Lawyers say thousands may still be affected, and while SEVIS reinstatements moved quickly due to proven irreparable harm, visa cases are expected to take six months to a year and may be delayed further by the government shutdown.

Source: <https://thehill.com/homenews/education/5537283-lawsuits-international-students-visas/>

USCIS launched major operation in Minneapolis investigating suspected immigration fraud

By Daniella Silva, NBC News, 10/1/25

The Trump administration launched a "first-of-its-kind" immigration fraud operation in the Minneapolis-St. Paul area, investigating 1,000 cases and identifying 275 as "suspected fraud," with 42 referred to ICE or issued court notices and four individuals apprehended. USCIS Director Joseph Edlow cited cases involving marriage fraud, visa overstays, forged documents, and abuse of humanitarian programs like Uniting for Ukraine, where one sponsor allegedly filed for over 100 Ukrainians. Edlow declared a nationwide crackdown, including reopening previously approved benefits and adding USCIS law enforcement agents empowered to arrest and prosecute. New policies announced in August target marriage and family-based green card petitions, allowing removal proceedings for applicants lacking legal status, including those with expired visas or under DACA. USCIS also resumed neighborhood investigations and now considers "anti-American ideologies or activities" in benefit decisions.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/us-news/uscis-launched-major-operation-minneapolis-investigating-suspected-imm-rcna234882>

US agency halts emergency funds, demands state population data reflecting deportations

By Kanishka Singh, Reuters, 10/3/25

The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has halted distribution of emergency management performance grants (totaling \$319.5 million for fiscal year 2025) until states submit updated population counts that exclude migrants deported since President Donald Trump took office. This move aligns with the Trump administration's broader immigration agenda, which includes requiring local governments to support federal enforcement, end diversity programs, and comply with executive orders to receive DHS funding. In August, Trump ordered the Commerce Department to begin a new census excluding undocumented immigrants. FEMA cited concerns over inflated payments and emphasized that grants are awarded based solely on population data. States were notified they must certify population figures as of September 30, excluding individuals removed under immigration laws. Meanwhile, a federal judge in Rhode Island temporarily blocked the administration from cutting \$233 million in grant funds to Democratic-led states.

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/us-agency-halts-emergency-funds-223341743.html>

‘Show me your papers’ immigration law now in effect in Alabama

By Sidney Spencer, CBS News, 10/2/25

As of October 1, 2025, Alabama’s Senate Bill 53 is in effect, requiring local law enforcement to determine a person’s citizenship status during traffic stops or detentions when there is “reasonable suspicion” they are undocumented, and to contact federal immigration officials if documentation is lacking. The law also criminalizes knowingly transporting undocumented individuals as “human smuggling.” Critics, including the Alabama Coalition for Immigrant Justice, warn of vague standards and potential civil rights violations. Legal experts emphasize that individuals are not required to answer immigration questions and can request an attorney. SB53 sponsor Sen. Wes Kitchens linked the bill’s origins to a border visit, while civil rights advocates continue seeking ways to challenge the law.

Source: <https://www.cbs42.com/alabama-news/show-me-your-papers-immigration-law-now-in-effect-in-alabama/>

Feeling hopeless in custody, many drop claims to remain in the US, leave voluntarily

By Martha Bellisle, Associated Press, 10/12/25

Ramón Rodríguez Vazquez, a 62-year-old farmworker who lived in southeast Washington for 16 years with his wife of 40 years, four children, and 10 grandchildren, was detained by ICE on February 5 despite never committing a crime and being mistakenly targeted. Denied bond—even with support from his community, employer, and a physician—he was held in a Tacoma detention center where his health deteriorated due to inconsistent access to medication and emotional distress. He ultimately requested voluntary departure, which was granted, and returned to Mexico alone. Rodríguez had earned \$13,406 in 2014 and \$46,599 in 2024, paying \$4,447 in taxes that year. His departure left a void in his family and workplace, and he missed the chance to benefit from a September 30 federal ruling deeming the denial of bond hearings unlawful. His case reflects the broader impact of the Trump administration’s immigration crackdown, which has led to 15,241 voluntary departures in the year ending September 30—up from 8,663 the previous year—and 319,980 deportations between October 1, 2024, and September 20. The administration claims 1.6 million people have left the U.S. voluntarily or involuntarily since Trump took office, a figure disputed by experts.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-ice-deport-88ba75d220094ed64dc0306334f780fb>

Federal judge restricts ICE from using projectiles in immigration-related interactions with media and protesters

By Robert McCoppin, Chicago Tribune, 10/9/25

U.S. District Judge Sara Ellis issued a restraining order Thursday, October 9, restricting federal agents from using tear gas or projectiles against peaceful protesters, clergy, or journalists in Chicago unless they pose an immediate threat, and barred dispersing individuals lawfully present. The ruling, which does not apply to National Guard troops but warns against circumvention, came in response to a lawsuit filed by the Chicago Headline Club, journalists’ unions, and media outlets against Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem and other federal officials. The suit cited excessive force, including one protester shot with pepper balls in the head and nose, and clergy and journalists targeted with gas and projectiles. ICE reported over \$100,000 spent on less lethal munitions in two weeks in September and approximately fifty arrests for assault, obstruction, and trespassing. ICE also documented more than thirty officer injuries, including a torn ACL, hyper-extended knee, and multiple hospitalizations. Media attorneys noted a similar order has been in place in Los Angeles for a month without issue.

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/federal-judge-restricts-federal-agents-194200454.html>

Appeals court temporarily blocks deployment of National Guard troops in Chicago

By Faris Tanyos, CBS News, 10/11/25

On Saturday, October 11, the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the deployment of National Guard troops in the Chicago area amid ongoing protests at ICE facilities, upholding U.S. District Judge April Perry’s earlier ruling in a lawsuit filed by Illinois and Chicago. However, the court granted the Trump administration’s request to keep the troops under federal control, issuing an administrative stay. The Defense Department had federalized 200 National Guard soldiers from Texas and 300 from Illinois under Title 10, sending them to Chicago for at least 60 days to protect federal personnel and property. A similar legal battle unfolded in Portland, Oregon, where a Trump-appointed judge blocked the deployment of Oregon National Guard troops and another 200 from California. An appeals court later allowed the 200 Oregon troops to remain under federal control but prohibited their deployment to Portland while the case proceeds.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/national-guard-troops-in-chicago-update-appeals-court-temporarily-blocks-deployment/>

Where has Trump suggested sending troops? In cities run by Democratic mayors

By Juliana Kim, NPR, 10/11/25

In his second term, President Trump has escalated National Guard deployments, suggesting or ordering federal intervention in nearly a dozen Democratic-led cities within four months. In Illinois, 300 Illinois and 200 Texas National Guard members were mobilized to Chicago on Oct. 4 to protect ICE facilities, prompting a lawsuit and a temporary 14-day block on deployment, later stayed by a federal appeals court. In Oregon, 200 Guard members were activated on Sept. 28, but a federal judge blocked their deployment, citing protests of fewer than 30 people as insufficient justification. California saw 4,000 Guard troops and 700 Marines sent to Los Angeles on June 7, with about 100 remaining. In Washington, D.C., 2,200 Guard members have been deployed since Aug. 11, with duties ranging from patrols to beautification, and a court hearing set for Oct. 24. In Tennessee, a federal task force began operations in Memphis on Sept. 29, supported by the state's Republican governor. Trump has also proposed deployments to New Orleans, New York City, Baltimore, San Francisco, Oakland, and St. Louis. Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry requested up to 1,000 Guard members, while Missouri Gov. Mike Kehoe authorized 15 for ICE support duties.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/10/10/nx-s1-5567177/national-guard-map-chicago-california-oregon>

ICE's Camp East Montana immigrant detention facility expands, new photos show

By Jeff Abbott, El Paso Times, 10/13/25

The Camp East Montana detention facility at Fort Bliss in El Paso, set to be the largest in the U.S. with a capacity of 5,000 single adults scheduled for deportation, began receiving detainees on August 1 and has expanded by 250 beds weekly. As of September 23, the facility held 1,860 men and 159 women, though updated figures remain unavailable. Recent aerial images from October 1 show twelve temporary structures, up from four in August. Initially planned to hold 10,000 detainees, the number was reduced to 5,000. Acquisition Logistics LLC received a \$231,878,229 contract to build and operate the center under Executive Order 14159. ICE inspectors reported at least 60 violations in 50 days, including poor medical care, unsafe conditions, and limited access to legal representation. Oversight visits by U.S. Reps. Veronica Escobar and Jasmine Crockett raised further concerns, with Escobar's September 23 follow-up visit abruptly canceled.

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/ices-camp-east-montana-immigrant-120313312.html>

Houston police calls to ICE have surged 1,000% since Trump took office, despite John Whitmire's pledge

By Sam González Kelly and Matt deGrood, Houston Chronicle, 10/12/25

Since President Donald Trump took office in January, Houston police officers have called Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on civilians 107 times—a more than 1,000% increase compared to any of the previous five years, with only nine calls made in 2024. Most of these calls stemmed from traffic stops, with just three reports involving serious crimes like domestic violence, aggravated robbery, or narcotics. ICE reportedly arrested subjects in at least one out of four cases, though incomplete incident reports suggest the actual number may be higher. The surge follows ICE adding roughly 700,000 administrative warrants to a national law enforcement database, prompting Houston's internal policy to notify ICE when such warrants appear. Despite a police force of over 5,200, just 12 officers made about one-third of the calls, including one traffic officer who contacted ICE at least eight times. Immigration advocates warn this practice may deter the city's immigrant population—over a quarter of residents—from reporting crimes, citing cases like a Salvadoran woman who was reported to ICE after seeking help for domestic abuse.

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/houston-police-calls-ice-surged-120021632.html>

Newsom signs bills pushing back against Trump's deportation agenda

By David Hernandez, San Francisco Chronicle, 10/12/25

On Sunday, October 12, Gov. Gavin Newsom signed several bills to protect immigrant communities amid President Donald Trump's aggressive deportation agenda. Assembly Bill 495, the Family Preparedness Plan Act, allows parents to designate temporary caregivers through affidavits in case of deportation-related separation. Senate Bill 580 directs the state attorney general to issue guidance to safeguard sensitive data from misuse in immigration enforcement. AB1261 mandates legal representation for unaccompanied, undocumented minors, supported by \$6.7 million for immigration-related legal services and \$10 million for immigrant youth. SB 281 requires judges to warn non-citizen defendants that guilty or no-contest pleas may lead to deportation. Newsom also banned federal agents from wearing masks to conceal identity but vetoed a bill limiting license plate reader data retention, citing privacy and safety concerns.

Source: <https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/newsom-signs-bills-pushing-back-041703170.html>

Trump’s own Labor Department quietly admits his immigration crackdown risks ‘supply shock-induced food shortages’ and higher prices

By Jason Ma, Fortune, 10/11/25

In an October 2 Federal Register filing, the Trump administration warned that its immigration crackdown risks food shortages due to a labor crisis, acknowledging that American workers are unwilling to replace undocumented farmworkers. The Labor Department cited a “near total cessation” of illegal immigration and increased enforcement as causes of supply shock-induced disruptions to food production and prices. Foreign-born workers made up less than 19% of the U.S. labor force in 2023 but held 38% of farming, fishing, and forestry jobs, with 42% of the crop workforce now unable to enter, facing deportation, or leaving the U.S. Studies show a 10% drop in the agricultural workforce can lead to a 4.2% decline in fruit and vegetable production and a 5.5% drop in farm revenue. Despite Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins’ goal of a “100% American” farm workforce, the Labor Department emphasized a persistent shortage of qualified U.S. workers and noted agriculture’s physically demanding and hazardous nature. The sector also faces pressure from Trump’s trade war, which halted Chinese soybean purchases, and three years of low crop prices and high input costs.

Source: <https://fortune.com/2025/10/11/trump-immigration-crackdown-farm-agriculture-workforce-labor-shock-food-shortages-higher-prices/>

'Fat troops' fallout continues as some Texas Guardsmen sent home over fitness concerns

By Bayliss Wagner and Sig Christenson, San Antonio Express-News, 10/13/25

After a viral ABC News photo showed heavysset Texas National Guard troops arriving in Chicago, “a small group” of the 200 soldiers deployed to Illinois last week were sent home for failing to meet fitness standards, according to the Texas Military Department. The rushed deployment—ordered by the Trump administration to protect federal officials amid protests—occurred within 24 hours, with screenings conducted as troops prepared to fly. Three or four soldiers were replaced during the ongoing validation process, which typically includes dental, physical, mental health, and financial exams. The controversy followed Secretary of Defense Pete Hegseth’s Sept. 30 speech criticizing “fat troops” and mandating two annual fitness tests and daily workouts. A federal appeals court allowed the troops to remain federalized but blocked their active deployment, while a U.S. District Judge issued a two-week restraining order, citing constitutional concerns. The legal battle, initiated by Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker and the city of Chicago, is expected to reach the U.S. Supreme Court.

Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/politics/article/guardsmen-chicago-fat-troops-21098324.php>