

NEWS ARTICLES ON KEY ISSUES – SEPTEMBER 24, 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	AUG	Total
Southwest Border	Unaccompanied Child	5,876	5,765	6,117	2,747	733	631	790	1,008	639	451	625	25,382
	Family Units	15,241	12,248	14,265	7,096	809	468	534	460	278	318	514	52,231
	Single Adult	35,403	28,599	26,942	19,264	6,811	6,081	7,053	7,257	5,151	3,827	5,182	151,570
Southwest Border Total Apprehensions		56,520	46,612	47,324	29,107	8,353	7,180	8,377	8,725	6,068	4,596	6,321	229,183

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

Immigration Quick Facts - Detention

By the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC), 8/24/25

As of August 24, 2025, 61,226 individuals are held in ICE detention facilities, with 70.3% having no criminal record. Texas leads with 13,360 detainees, followed by Louisiana (7,431), California (3,643), Georgia (2,968), and Arizona (2,652).

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

Illegal immigration hit a record-high of 14 million in the US in 2023, Pew report finds

By Mike Schneider, The Associated Press, 8/21/25

In 2023, the number of people in the U.S. illegally surged to a record 14 million, up from 11.8 million in 2022 and surpassing the previous high of 12.2 million in 2007, according to Pew Research Center. This increase was largely driven by 6 million individuals with temporary legal protections, many of which were later revoked under President Trump. Preliminary data suggests the number rose again in 2024, then declined under Trump in 2025 but remains above 14 million. The total U.S. immigrant population hit an all-time high of over 53 million in January 2025, accounting for 15.8% of the population, before experiencing its first decline since the 1960s. Nearly all growth came from countries other than Mexico, with Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and India leading, and totals from Venezuela, Cuba, Colombia, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Ukraine, and Peru more than doubling in two years. Mexicans accounted for 4.3 million, while other nationalities totaled 9.7 million, up from 6.4 million two years earlier. States with the largest undocumented populations were California, Texas, Florida, New York, New Jersey, and Illinois, though six states had fewer undocumented residents than in 2007. Pew also estimated that 9.7 million undocumented individuals were part of the workforce in 2023, making up 5.6% of the U.S. labor force, with Nevada, Florida, New Jersey, and Texas having the highest shares.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/immigration-pew-homeland-security-a2cf8f2f908c98ca17d383b57fd65daa>

Federal data reveals 1.2 million drop in immigrant workers under Trump

By CBS News and Associated Press, 9/1/25

As Americans celebrate Labor Day, federal data reveals that President Trump's immigration policies have led to a 1.2 million decline in immigrant workers from January through July, impacting both legal residents and undocumented individuals. With unauthorized immigration peaking at 14 million in 2023, Pew Research Center notes the number has likely dropped due to increased deportations and reduced protections. Oxford Economics projects net immigration will fall to 500,000 annually through 2028. Immigrants, who make up nearly 20% of the U.S. workforce—including 45% in farming, fishing, and forestry; 30% in construction; 24% in service; and 43% of home health aides—are critical to sectors now facing labor shortages. ICE raids have disrupted operations in agriculture and construction, with cities like Riverside-San Bernardino-Ontario and Los Angeles-Long Beach-Glendale losing 7,200 and 6,200 construction jobs respectively.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/immigrants-us-labor-force-trump-census-bureau-data/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

DEPORTATIONS

Trump team has fined immigrants who didn't self-deport \$6 billion — and now it's coming to collect

By Alex Woodward, The Independent, 8/27/25

Since June, the administration has revived a rarely enforced policy allowing fines of up to \$998 per day for immigrants who defy deportation orders, resulting in over 21,500 fines and a total debt exceeding \$6 billion that the government now seeks to collect. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem has promoted "self-deportation" with offers of a \$1,000 stipend and free flights via the CBP Home app, though this could bar reentry for up to 10 years. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent confirmed efforts to recover funds through tax garnishments, credit bureau alerts, and private debt collectors.

Source: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/us-politics/migrants-self-deport-fines-trump-administration-b2815156.html>

Border czar says ICE ops will ramp up for Seattle, Portland after Labor Day

By Center Square, 8/31/25

Border czar Tom Homan announced that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations will expand after Labor Day in sanctuary cities across the country, specifically naming Seattle, Portland, New York, and Los Angeles. He criticized these cities for refusing to cooperate with ICE, stating they release public safety threat illegal aliens daily. In contrast, Homan praised Texas and Florida, where sheriffs actively collaborate with ICE by holding individuals and notifying the agency upon release.

Source: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/3788815/border-czar-ice-ops-will-ramp-up-seattle-portland-after-labor-day/>

What ICE agents can and cannot legally do during arrests

By Jaclyn Diaz, NPR, 9/5/25

Since President Trump took office, immigration enforcement tactics have intensified, with masked, plain-clothed agents detaining suspected undocumented immigrants from streets and vehicles, sometimes smashing car windows to extract individuals. Checkpoints have appeared in Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles, where agents question drivers, often without identifying themselves, despite federal regulations requiring agents to do so when “practical” and “safe.” ICE, created post-9/11, has broad authority to arrest without warrants if there’s reasonable suspicion of illegal status and risk of escape, though recent mass arrests based on race or location have been ruled unconstitutional by a federal court. Despite this, enforcement continues, with agents allegedly flouting court orders. ICE has also used deceptive “knock and talk” tactics, banned in 2024, to enter homes and businesses. While agents can operate freely at border checkpoints, elsewhere they need individualized suspicion to detain someone. DHS policy allows force only when “reasonable grounds” exist, and mandates using the “minimum non-deadly force necessary.”

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/09/05/nx-s1-5517998/ice-arrest-rules-explained>

Trump's National Guard deployments are part of a broader immigration plan

By Myah Ward, Politico, 9/4/25

President Donald Trump’s deployment of the National Guard to cities like Los Angeles and Washington, D.C. is framed as a crackdown on crime, but also serves as a strategic boost to immigration enforcement. The administration has used immigration raids to justify military presence, with ICE agents joining police patrols and plans to “flood the zone” in sanctuary cities such as Chicago, Boston, and New Orleans. ICE has fallen short of its 3,000 daily arrests quota despite billions in GOP-backed funding, prompting efforts to ramp up deportations and detention capacity. In Los Angeles, immigration raids triggered unrest that led to National Guard deployment, a tactic officials say could be repeated nationwide. Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker criticized plans to target Chicago around Mexican Independence Day on September 16, calling them acts of “terror and cruelty.”

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/04/trumps-blue-city-law-and-order-crackdowns-are-also-about-immigration-00544545?cid=apn>

What we know about the agreement for detained South Korean workers to return home

By Amanda Musa, CNN, 9/8/25

In the largest worksite immigration raid of the administration, over 450 individuals were taken into custody at the Hyundai Metaplant in Ellabell, Georgia (25 miles west of Savannah) following a multi-month investigation and a judicial search warrant naming just four people. Of those detained, more than 300 were South Korean nationals, many of whom worked for LG Energy Solutions or HL-GA Battery Company LLC, though none were employed directly by Hyundai. The 2,900-acre facility, projected to employ up to 8,500 people, saw construction halted amid the operation. The South Korean government responded with unprecedented urgency, dispatching Foreign Minister Cho Hyun to Washington and arranging a chartered flight for voluntary departures, a move immigration attorneys say is without precedent. Some detainees had overstayed visas or entered under the Visa Waiver Program, which prohibits employment and allows for expedited removal without judicial review. LG Energy Solutions suspended U.S. business travel and pledged full cooperation, while protesters outside the plant demanded justice. The raid involved ICE, Homeland Security Investigations, the FBI, DEA, ATF, and Georgia State Patrol, with DHS declaring a crackdown on workforce exploitation and federal law violations.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/08/us/wwk-south-korean-workers-detained-georgia>

Trump warns foreign companies after immigration raid at Hyundai plant

By Seb Starcevic, Politico, 9/8/25

After U.S. immigration authorities raided Hyundai’s electric vehicle manufacturing site near Savannah, Georgia, detaining 475 individuals, President Donald Trump emphasized that foreign companies are welcome only if they respect U.S. immigration laws. The raid, which occurred at a plant still under construction and described in 2022 as “the largest economic development project in our state’s history,” shocked South Korea, especially after its July agreement to purchase \$100 billion in U.S. energy and invest \$350 billion in the U.S. for lower tariffs. Trump reiterated on Truth Social that foreign firms should “LEGALLY bring your very smart people” and “hire and train American Workers.” South Korean Foreign Minister Cho Hyun, calling the detentions “a grave matter,” announced plans to fly to the U.S. on Monday, while Seoul arranged a charter plane to repatriate the workers, who remain in detention in Folkston, Georgia but have not been charged with crimes.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/08/trump-warns-foreign-companies-hyundai-immigration-raid-south-korea-00550030?cid=apn>

Leaked Ice document shows worker detained in Hyundai raid had valid visa

By José Olivares, The Guardian, 9/10/25

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrested nearly 500 workers during a raid at Hyundai's \$12.6 billion battery factory site in Ellabell, Georgia, halting construction on the electric vehicle facility. Among those detained was at least one Korean man who entered the U.S. in June with a valid B1/B2 visa and had not violated its terms, yet was mandated to accept voluntary departure, raising legal concerns. Despite DHS claiming he admitted to unauthorized work, a leaked ICE document contradicts this, stating he was lawfully employed as a contractor for South Korea's SFA. Approximately 300 detainees may be deported to South Korea as early as Wednesday, while non-Koreans remain in ICE custody. Attorneys and officials allege that legal visa holders were swept up in removal proceedings, with no clear mechanism for deporting those not in violation of immigration laws.

Source: https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/sep/10/hyundai-factory-ice-raid-legal-visa?CMP=oth_b-aplnews_d-1

Under Trump administration, ICE scraps paperwork officers once had to do before immigration arrests

By Julia Ainsley, Didi Martinez and Laura Strickler, NBC News, 9/9/25

For more than 15 years, before they conducted any operation to arrest an immigrant in the United States, officers with Immigration and Customs Enforcement's Enforcement and Removal Operations division have been required to fill out a form with details about their target — name, appearance, known addresses and employment, immigration history, any criminal history and more — and give it to a supervisor for approval. This year, in a sign of how the agency has moved from targeted enforcement to broad street sweeps under the Trump administration, that policy has been ended, six current and former officials and agents of ICE and the Department of Homeland Security told NBC News. Both Darius Reeves, the former director of ICE's Baltimore field office, and two former officials with DHS, under which ICE falls, said the form, known as a field operations worksheet, had been required for nearly every arrest the division made. The only exceptions, they said, were instances in which ICE was called out to assist local law enforcement agencies. The exact date of the change is unclear, but it happened before this summer.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/national-security/trump-administration-ice-scraps-paperwork-officers-immigration-arrests-rcna229407>

DETENTION CENTERS

'Shameful': Democrats join call for closure of Texas immigration jail

By Lorena Figueroa, The Guardian, 8/23/25

Camp East Montana, a new immigration detention facility at Fort Bliss in El Paso, Texas, has drawn sharp criticism from Democratic lawmakers and legal advocates for its \$1.24 billion expansion plan to 5,000 beds, making it the largest ICE detention site in the U.S., currently housing around 1,000 men. Built under a \$231.8 million Department of Defense contract with Acquisition Logistics, the camp is intended to serve as a short-term processing and deportation hub amid accelerating arrests. Critics, including Congresswomen Jasmine Crockett and Veronica Escobar, have condemned the facility's lack of oversight, extreme weather conditions, and strain on local resources, while the ACLU and immigrant rights groups warn of inadequate legal access and medical care. ICE claims the camp will offer standard detention services, but past use of Fort Bliss for child detention and deportation flights to Guantánamo Bay and Latin America has fueled concerns of cruelty and exclusion.

Source: <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/aug/23/democrats-texas-immigration-jail>

Trump admin. moving detainees out of "Alligator Alcatraz" after judge orders facility operations to wind down

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, Joe Walsh, CBS News, 8/28/25

The Department of Homeland Security has begun relocating detainees from the Florida Everglades-based immigration detention center known as "Alligator Alcatraz," following U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams' order to halt all new construction, bar new detainee transfers, and dismantle fencing, light fixtures, generators, and other equipment within 60 days. DHS criticized the ruling as an obstruction to removing "the worst of the worst" and confirmed detainees are being moved to other facilities. The site, run by Florida's state government on an abandoned airstrip, was designed to expedite deportations and support the administration's push for more detention beds, with similar proposals emerging in Indiana and Nebraska. Despite claims of cost-effectiveness and deterrence due to the terrain, advocates cited inhumane conditions, including lack of water, unsanitary food, and limited legal access—allegations denied by officials. Williams rejected Florida's appeal and noted no new evidence of detainee danger. The facility faces two additional lawsuits, one challenging detainees' legal access and another disputing Florida's authority to operate the center.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-admin-moving-detainees-alligator-alcatraz-judge-florida/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Jokey Names for Detention Centers Face Criticism for Insensitivity

By Richard Fausset, New York Times, 8/26/25

The administration has embraced provocative branding for immigration detention centers, starting with “Alligator Alcatraz” in Florida, followed by Indiana’s “Speedway Slammer,” and most recently Nebraska’s “Cornhusker Clink,” which will hold up to 280 detainees in McCook. These names, part of a broader strategy of irreverent messaging, have sparked both amusement and outrage. The administration’s social media presence has surged from 3.5 million weekly impressions in February to 46.1 million in July 2025, fueled by controversial posts including a deportation video labeled ASMR and a recruitment ad referencing white nationalist literature. The “One Big Beautiful Bill” recently signed into law funds 80,000 new detention beds, and Florida plans to open a second center named “Deportation Depot.”

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/2025/08/26/us/immigration-detention-center-nickname-alligator-cornhusker-slammer.html>

Mystery surrounds \$1.2 billion Army contract to build huge detention tent camp in Texas desert

By Michael Biesecker and Joshua Goodman, Associated press, 8/28/25

Last month, the administration awarded a contract worth up to \$1.2 billion to Acquisition Logistics LLC—a small, veteran and Hispanic-owned business with no prior experience running correctional facilities and no federal contracts exceeding \$16 million—to build and operate what is expected to be the nation’s largest immigration detention complex at Fort Bliss in West Texas. The 60-acre site, named Camp East Montana, will house up to 5,000 migrants and is located near the U.S.-Mexico border and El Paso International Airport. The Army is financing \$232 million for the first 1,000 beds, and construction began just days after the July 18 contract issuance. The facility includes three 810-foot tents and several smaller buildings, and its secrecy and lack of transparency have drawn criticism and legal challenges, including a protest from Texas-based Gemini Tech Services. DHS claims the camp will offer full ICE detention services, while critics warn of potential abuse due to limited oversight. The project is part of a broader push to deport an estimated 10 million migrants, supported by a record \$45 billion in immigration detention funding from Trump’s tax and spending bill.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/trump-immigration-detention-camp-contract-army-ice-3595746cd420c6f83c4ffd0b331ae056>

DHS opens new immigration detention facility inside Louisiana’s Angola prison

By Kati Weis and Julia Ingram, CBS News, 9/4/25

This week, the Department of Homeland Security opened Camp 57, a newly renovated immigration detention facility inside Louisiana’s Angola prison, designed to hold over 400 undocumented men convicted of serious crimes. Named after Louisiana’s 57th governor, Jeff Landry, and dubbed the “Louisiana Lockup,” the site already houses 51 detainees and includes a chapel and law library. Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem emphasized Angola’s “notorious” reputation as a deterrent, noting the facility’s isolation—surrounded by forests and a lake with 10-foot alligators.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/dhs-new-immigration-detention-facility-inside-louisiana-state-penitentiary-angola-prison/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Florida may lose \$218 million on empty ‘Alligator Alcatraz’ as judge orders shutdown

By the Associated Press, 8/28/25

Florida’s immigration detention center known as “Alligator Alcatraz,” built at a remote Everglades airport, faces indefinite shutdown after a federal judge upheld her order citing environmental law violations. The state spent \$218 million converting the site and signed at least \$405 million in vendor contracts, with projected annual operating costs of \$450 million. Immediate closure could cost \$15–\$20 million, with another \$15–\$20 million needed to reopen. As of late July, Florida had already allocated \$245 million to run the facility, including \$50 million for bathrooms, which detainees say are unsanitary. The center is nearly empty, and the federal government claims no financial responsibility. Twenty-two Republican-led states are challenging the shutdown order, while civil rights groups have filed multiple lawsuits citing legal access issues and severe conditions. Gov. Ron DeSantis is preparing to open a second facility called “Deportation Depot.”

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/29/us/alligator-alcatraz-shutdown-florida-financial-loss>

Court Allows Alligator Alcatraz to Remain Open

By Victoria Albert and Mariah Timms, Wall Street Journal, 9/6/25

The Florida immigration detention facility known as Alligator Alcatraz will remain open after a 2-1 decision by the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals paused a lower court's ruling that would have dismantled much of the site. The majority, both Trump appointees, concluded the facility was state-led and thus exempt from federal environmental review requirements. Built atop a little-used airstrip in the Everglades to hold several thousand people, the center faced lawsuits in June from environmental groups and the Miccosukee Tribe, who warned of pollution risks downstream. U.S. District Judge Kathleen Williams, an Obama appointee, had ordered removal of fencing, lighting, generators, sewage systems, and other infrastructure within 60 days, and banned new detainees. Judge Adalberto Jordan dissented, citing preconstruction statements from Secretary Noem and Governor DeSantis indicating full federal funding. The Justice Department called the suit part of a broader pattern of using environmental law to block projects, while tribal and environmental advocates vowed to continue fighting.

Source: <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/court-allows-alligator-alcatraz-to-remain-open/ar-AA1LTOXL>

Florida's new immigrant detention site dubbed 'Deportation Depot' is now taking detainees, officials say

By Isabel Rosales, Shawn Nottingham, and Emma Tucker, CNN, 9/6/25

Florida has launched its second immigration detention facility, "Deportation Depot," at the temporarily closed Baker Correctional Institution, currently housing 117 detainees with a capacity for 1,500, located 45 miles west of Jacksonville near the Osceola National Forest. The site opened one day after a federal appeals court temporarily blocked a judge's order to shut down the controversial "Alligator Alcatraz" facility in the Everglades, which had faced criticism for sweltering heat, bug infestations, and meager meals. Governor Ron DeSantis plans to expand further with a third site, "Panhandle Pokey," and another at Camp Blanding, 30 miles southwest of Jacksonville. Other states are following suit with Indiana's "Speedway Slammer" and Louisiana's "Camp 57" at the 18,000-acre Angola prison. These facilities support the White House's push for at least 3,000 immigration-related arrests per day, with many detainees sent to Guantanamo Bay or El Salvador's CECOT mega prison. Environmental groups continue to challenge the legality of "Alligator Alcatraz," whose operations persist following the appeals court's stay.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/09/05/us/deportation-depot-florida-open>

Local Sheriffs Are Turning Their Jails Into ICE Detention Centers

By Allison McCann, New York Times, 9/8/25

Butler, Ohio, is among the largest of a growing number of county jails and other local facilities that now house a sizable chunk of ICE detainees, many of whom have never been charged with a crime. The agency's use of these facilities has more than doubled since President Trump took office, and jails held about 10 percent of all detainees, or 7,100 people, on average, each day in July. A single county jail provides ICE with at most 500 beds a day, though many operate above their contracted capacity. In July, there were about 163 local facilities being used by ICE, and, on average, they each held about 44 people a day. ICE typically pays jails \$70 to \$110 per day per detainee, usually more than counties budget for local inmates. For some counties, that is a small but significant — and reliable — source of revenue. In Butler County, the total budget for the sheriff's office this year is \$49 million, and the county expects to earn about \$4 million from ICE.

Source: <https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2025/09/08/us/politics/ice-detention-county-jails-sheriffs-deportation.html>

Litigation reveals details of Trump deal with El Salvador to imprison migrants

By Rebecca Beitsch, The Hill, 9/9/25

The administration barred any U.S. funds from being used to provide legal counsel to hundreds of Venezuelans sent to El Salvador's notorious CECOT megaprison, according to newly revealed details of the deal between the U.S. and El Salvador. The five-page agreement between the countries, obtained by Democracy Forward in a lawsuit, placed no conditions on a person's treatment or care while in custody in a prison known for torture, but does forbid the use of any funds for "legal counseling." The agreement was signed after the administration sent roughly 200 Venezuelan men it accused of being gang members to be housed in the Terrorism Confinement Center, known by its Spanish acronym CECOT. The documents show the administration had plans to send a larger number of Venezuelan men to the prison — as many as 300 — and paid El Salvador \$4.76 million to do so. The agreement released Tuesday, September 9, shows the administration planned to keep the men in CECOT for at least a year. It's unclear whether the nearly \$5 million was the total sum given to El Salvador. Initial reporting put the figure at \$6 million, while Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.) said during a trip to the country that he was told El Salvador would receive \$15 million.

Source: <https://thehill.com/homenews/administration/5493750-cecot-legal-counsel-ban/>

ASYLUM SEEKERS

DHS ends temporary protected status for some 200,000 Venezuelans in the US

By Eric Bazail-Eimil, Politico, 9/3/25

The Department of Homeland Security announced it will terminate Temporary Protected Status (TPS) for Venezuelans on September 10, ending a designation that has allowed over 200,000 Venezuelan citizens to reside in the U.S. due to instability in their home country. The Trump administration argued that continuing TPS undermines efforts to secure the southern border, citing the large number of Venezuelans who entered without proper legal procedures. The move follows the dismissal of TPS granted twice under the Biden administration, in 2021 and 2023, and coincides with rising tensions over potential U.S. military operations near Venezuela, including a recent strike on a drug boat. The termination, which takes effect 60 days after publication in the federal register, may face legal challenges and leaves hundreds of thousands in legal limbo.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/03/dhs-ends-protected-status-venezuelans-us-00543039?cid=apn>

'Secret policy' alleged in lawsuit accusing ICE of interrogating unaccompanied migrant children

By Alex Riggins, The San Diego Union-Tribune and Alexandra, 9/6/25

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the agency tasked with caring for unaccompanied migrant children, has allegedly implemented a secret policy in recent months allowing immigration agents and criminal investigators to interrogate those children and their potential U.S.-based sponsors, according to a federal lawsuit filed this week by Al Otro Lado, a San Diego-based binational organization that provides legal services and humanitarian aid to migrants. Al Otro Lado's lawsuit, filed Wednesday, September 3, in U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia, accuses Health and Human Services of violating its "statutory mandate to act in the best interest of children in its care." The lawsuit seeks to make public through the Freedom of Information Act all records pertaining to the allegedly secret policy.

Source: <https://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/2025/09/06/secret-policy-alleged-in-lawsuit-accusing-ice-of-interrogating-unaccompanied-migrant-children/>

Guatemala says it suggested that U.S. send its unaccompanied migrant children home

By Chiara Eisner, NPR, 8/31/25

After planes with Guatemalan children were loaded in the U.S., then prevented from taking off by a federal judge's decision to temporarily halt the children's removal, the Guatemalan government said on August 31 that it was responsible for recently proposing to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem that the unaccompanied Guatemalan minors be returned to their home country. In a statement published to the social media platform X on the evening of August 31, the same day as the judge's decision, the Guatemalan government indicated it wanted to prevent the children from staying in shelters and detention centers and that it supports coordinated action to reunify Guatemalan children with their families. The Guatemalan government has plans to identify the needs of each of the Guatemalan children and intends to include them in social programs in their home country, the government stated. All actions that have been taken in regards to the unaccompanied minors have taken the children's human rights into account and have complied with due process, the government alleged.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/08/31/nx-s1-5524326/guatemala-government-unaccompanied-children-deportation>

TEXAS IN THE NEWS

US Appeals Court to decide if 2023 Texas immigration law is constitutional

By Aaron Torres, Dallas Morning News, 8/29/25

The legality of Senate Bill 4, a 2023 law signed by Gov. Greg Abbott allowing Texas to enforce federal immigration law, will be decided by all 17 judges of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, the nation's most conservative appellate court. On Friday, the court vacated a July 2-1 ruling by a three-judge panel that declared SB 4 unconstitutional, though the law remains on hold and a final ruling is expected in 2026. Crafted by Republican lawmakers in late 2023 and signed in December, SB 4 makes unauthorized border crossing a state crime and establishes a state-initiated removal process, allowing deportation after a sentence or even without conviction. The Biden administration sued Texas in January 2024, asserting federal authority over immigration enforcement, while two advocacy groups also filed suit.

Source: <https://www.dallasnews.com/news/politics/2025/08/29/us-appeals-court-to-decide-if-2023-texas-immigration-law-is-constitutional/>

CHICAGO IN THE NEWS

DHS asks military base near Chicago for immigration enforcement support

By John O'Connor and Sophia Tareen, The Associated Press, 8/28/25

The administration requested logistical support from Naval Station Great Lakes, located 35 miles north of Chicago, for immigration operations, hinting at a potential law enforcement crackdown in the nation's third-largest city. This follows recent troop deployments to Washington, D.C., and Los Angeles. While DHS has not confirmed the request, city leaders—including Mayor Brandon Johnson and Gov. JB Pritzker—oppose any military mobilization, citing a 22% drop in violent crime in the first half of 2025 and a 2024 homicide rate of 21.7 per 100,000 residents, lower than seven other major U.S. cities. Despite Chicago recording 573 homicides in 2024—the highest total among U.S. cities—Pritzker argues there is no emergency warranting federal intervention and plans to sue. The Illinois National Guard, with 10,000 Army and 3,000 Air members, cannot be mobilized without the governor's approval.

Source: <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/dhs-asks-military-base-near-chicago-for-immigration-enforcement-support>

Chicago mayor signs order to resist potential Trump crackdown

By Kwasi Gyamfi Asiedu, BBC News, 8/31/25

Chicago Mayor Brandon Johnson signed an order directing city agencies on how to resist a potential immigration crackdown threatened by the Trump administration, which has already deployed about 2,000 troops in Washington, D.C., and may send more to Chicago. The order demands federal agents “stand down” from deploying U.S. Armed Forces in the city and reaffirms policies requiring law enforcement to wear body cameras, display identification, and avoid masks—addressing concerns over ICE officers concealing identities. Johnson ruled out joint patrols with federal agents and pledged to help residents understand their rights. With over one in five Chicago residents being immigrants—more than half from Latin America—the order intensifies a feud between Illinois officials and the White House, which dismissed it as a “publicity stunt.”

Source: <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/czr6d5jm50do>

Trump administration launches Chicago immigration crackdown Operation Midway Blitz

By Terry Collins and Michael Loria, USA TODAY, 9/8/25

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) said it is launching Operation Midway Blitz, a new initiative targeting undocumented immigrants who commit crimes across Chicago and Illinois. The DHS said a social media post on Sept. 8 the operation is in honor of Katie Abraham, a 20-year-old woman from one of Chicago's northwest suburbs who was killed in a hit-and-run crash in January by Julio Cucul Bol, a 29-year-old Guatemalan national who is in the United States illegally. The announcement by Homeland Security comes as Chicago is bracing for the administration's deployment of National Guard troops and more ICE agents. The Illinois immigrant rights group have set up a hotline where Chicagoans can report sightings of ICE agents. Immigration activists also respond to the sightings in person, distributing information on what rights people have when confronted by immigration agents and recording the detainments if they arrive in time.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/09/08/trump-immigration-crackdown-operation-midway-blitz/86043675007/>

COURT CASES AND RULINGS

Judge tosses Trump administration lawsuit against Maryland judges over immigration order

By Melissa Quinn and Jacob Rosen, CBS News, 8/26/25

In a 37-page ruling, U.S. District Judge Thomas Cullen dismissed the Trump administration's unprecedented lawsuit against all 15 judges of the Maryland district court, rejecting its challenge to Chief Judge George Russell's standing order that bars federal immigration officials from removing migrant detainees for two business days after they file habeas corpus petitions. Cullen, appointed by President Trump, found the executive branch lacked legal standing and that judges are immune from such suits, urging the administration to pursue remedies through congressional channels. The Justice Department plans to appeal. The standing order, issued in May, was designed to address a surge in Maryland migrants facing imminent deportation and to preserve court jurisdiction, ensure access to legal counsel, and allow the government a “fulsome opportunity” to respond. Among the cases affected is that of Kilmar Abrego Garcia, a Salvadoran man whose removal to Uganda was temporarily blocked.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/maryland-judges-trump-administration-lawsuit-deportations/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Appeals Court Blocks Trump From Ending Temporary Protections For 600,000 Venezuelan Immigrants

By Antonio Pequeño IV, Forbes, 8/29/25

On Friday, a panel of three federal judges from the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals blocked the Trump administration's attempt to end temporary protected status for 600,000 Venezuelans, upholding a lower court ruling that preserves legal protections while litigation continues. The court found that the plaintiffs, the National Temporary Protected Status Alliance, would likely prove that removing the extension violates a congressional statute. The decision delays the termination dates set by DHS Secretary Kristi Noem, who had ordered protections to end for 350,000 Venezuelans in April and another 250,000 on September 10.

Source: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/antoniopequenoi/2025/08/29/appeals-court-blocks-trump-from-ending-temporary-protections-for-600000-venezuelan-immigrants-for-now/>

Judge blocks Trump administration from expanding fast-track deportations nationwide, citing due process concerns

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 8/30/25

On Friday, U.S. District Judge Jia Cobb blocked the Trump administration's January directive expanding expedited removal—a fast-track deportation process—from border areas and recent arrivals to anywhere in the U.S. and migrants who have been in the country for up to two years. Previously, expedited removal applied only to unauthorized migrants apprehended within 100 miles of a border and present for less than two weeks. Cobb ruled that the expansion likely violates due process rights, stating the current procedures fall short for migrants living in the interior. The decision halts the expansion indefinitely and marks a significant setback for the administration's broader deportation efforts, including arrests at immigration courthouses.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/judge-blocks-trump-fast-track-deportations-due-process/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

U.S. judge bars government from sending Guatemalan children back, for now

By Didi Martinez and Daniella Silva, The Associated Press, 8/31/25

In a dramatic escalation of immigration enforcement, the Trump administration attempted to deport nearly 700 unaccompanied Guatemalan children over a U.S. holiday weekend, prompting U.S. District Judge Sparkle L. Sooknunan to temporarily block the flights—some with children already onboard—citing potential violations of U.S. law and threats to the minors' safety. Her ruling applies broadly to Guatemalan minors in Office of Refugee Resettlement custody without final removal orders, pausing deportations for 14 days. The administration claimed it was reuniting children with families, while advocates argued due process was ignored and cited cases of abuse, abandonment, and medical vulnerability, including a 12-year-old asylum-seeker needing dialysis and a transplant. Guatemala's President Bernardo Arevalo said the country is prepared to receive 150 children per week and emphasized concern for those nearing 18, who risk transfer to ICE custody.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/court-hearing-set-sunday-judge-blocks-guatemalan-children-deportation-rcna228290>

US judge blocks Trump administration's use of troops in L.A.

By Tom Hals and Jack Queen, Reuters, 9/2/25

On Tuesday, U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer of the California Northern District blocked the Trump administration's deployment of 4,000 National Guard troops and 700 active duty U.S. Marines to Los Angeles, citing violations of the Posse Comitatus Act, which restricts federal troops from domestic law enforcement. The ruling, put on hold until September 12 and likely to be appealed, followed a three-day trial ending August 13 that examined the military's role in crowd control, traffic blocking, and detaining two individuals during protests against immigration raids. Although the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals previously reversed Breyer's June order returning control of the troops to Governor Newsom, evidence showed several hundred soldiers remained in Los Angeles for marijuana farm raids and protest deterrence. Breyer expressed concern over the broad discretion given to military leaders, while the administration argued constitutional authority to protect federal personnel. The decision does not affect National Guard patrols in Washington, D.C., where presidential authority is broader.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/us-judge-blocks-trump-administrations-use-troops-la-2025-09-02/>

Judges keep blocking the president's agenda. Are Trump's mass deportation plans at risk?

By Lauren Villagran, USA TODAY, 9/6/25

President Donald Trump's mass deportation plans—aiming to remove up to 1 million people annually—have hit three major legal roadblocks in early September. On August 29, Judge Jia M. Cobb halted fast-track deportations for immigrants in the interior, citing due process violations. On August 31, Judge Sparkle L. Sooknunan issued a restraining order preventing ICE from deporting unaccompanied Guatemalan children already aboard planes in El Paso and Harlingen, Texas. Then, on September 2, the Fifth Circuit Court rejected Trump's use of the Alien Enemies Act of 1798 to deport alleged members of Venezuela's Tren de Aragua gang, ruling in a 2-1 decision that the law was improperly invoked.

Source: <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2025/09/06/federal-judges-block-trump-mass-deportation-tactics/85938244007/>

Immigration appeals court expands mandatory detention for millions

By Josh Gerstein and Kyle Cheney, Politico, 9/5/25

A Justice Department appeals panel ruled that anyone in deportation proceedings who entered the U.S. "without inspection" is not entitled to bond consideration by an immigration judge, overturning decades of precedent and potentially subjecting millions to mandatory detention. Previously, immigrants who had lived in the U.S. for over two years could request bond, but the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA) now mandates detention regardless of duration or risk. This decision follows the Trump administration's policy shift two months ago, which led to widespread arrests of immigrants attending routine court check-ins. The ruling, which conflicts with multiple federal court decisions and the 2018 Supreme Court precedent, is binding on immigration courts but not on the federal judiciary.

Source: <https://www.politico.com/news/2025/09/05/immigration-mandatory-detention-00548660?cid=apn>

US Supreme Court backs Trump on aggressive immigration raids

By Andrew Chung, Reuters, 9/8/25

On Monday, the U.S. Supreme Court backed President Donald Trump's immigration enforcement strategy, allowing federal agents to resume Southern California raids targeting individuals for deportation based on race, ethnicity, or language, despite a July 11 ruling by U.S. District Judge Maame Frimpong that such actions likely violated the Fourth Amendment. The decision, issued without explanation by the Court's 6-3 conservative majority, paused Frimpong's restraining order, which had barred stops based on factors like speaking Spanish or working at locations such as car washes. Justice Sonia Sotomayor dissented, warning the ruling makes Latinos "fair game to be seized at any time." Attorney General Pam Bondi hailed the decision as a "massive victory," enabling continued "roving patrols" in California. The raids, which have sparked protests and lawsuits—including a class action filed by Latino U.S. citizens—are part of Trump's broader deportation push, which includes a goal of 3,000 daily arrests and the deployment of National Guard troops and U.S. Marines to Los Angeles in June.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/world/us/us-supreme-court-backs-trump-aggressive-immigration-raids-2025-09-08/>

BORDER WALL

Southern border wall will be painted black to deter people from climbing it during hot weather

By Hanna Park, CNN, 8/20/25

The wall along the southern border will be painted black in an effort to make the structure too hot to climb, Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem announced Tuesday, August 19, saying the suggestion came from President Donald Trump. The black paint will also prevent rust on the steel, said US Border Patrol Chief Michael Banks.

Source: <https://www.cnn.com/2025/08/20/politics/southern-border-wall-painted-black-kristi-noem-hnk>

DEVELOPING STORIES

U.S. to resume "neighborhood checks" for citizenship applications as part of Trump push to heavily vet immigrants

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 8/26/25

The Trump administration has reinstated "neighborhood checks" for U.S. citizenship applicants, ending a general waiver in place since 1991 and reviving a practice largely abandoned due to its labor intensity and limited effectiveness. According to a USCIS memo, officers may now conduct on-the-ground investigations, including interviews with neighbors and coworkers, to assess applicants' good moral character, adherence to the Constitution, and disposition toward the "good order and happiness of the United States." Applicants must have lived in the U.S. for three or five years as legal permanent residents, have no serious criminal records, and pass civics and English tests. In August alone, USCIS announced increased scrutiny of "anti-American" views and activities for green card and work permit applicants.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/neighborhood-checks-citizenship-applications/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

New \$250 'visa integrity fee' to be imposed on millions of travelers under Trump's latest immigration crackdown

By Brittany Chain, Daily Mail, 8/31/25

The Trump administration is introducing a new \$250 “visa integrity fee” effective October 1, raising the total visa cost to \$442—one of the highest visitor fees globally, according to the U.S. Travel Association. Targeting travelers from non-visa waiver countries like Mexico, Argentina, India, Brazil, and China, the fee is part of broader immigration crackdowns under the Big Beautiful Bill Act. Despite travel from Mexico rising nearly 14%, Argentina 20%, Brazil 4.6%, Central America 3%, and South America 0.7% in 2025, overall overseas travel to the U.S. fell 3.1% year-on-year in July to 19.2 million visitors. International visitor spending is projected to drop to under \$169 billion this year, down from \$181 billion in 2024. The administration also halted student visa applications, proposed tighter visa durations, and imposed a travel ban on citizens from 12 African and Middle Eastern countries, with additional restrictions on travelers from eight others.

Source: <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-15052737/visa-integrity-fee-trump-travelers-united-states.html?ITO=applenews-us>

Trump eases rules for hiring temporary immigration judges

By Suzanne Gamboa, NBC News, 8/28/25

The administration has implemented a rule allowing the Justice Department to hire attorneys without immigration law experience as temporary immigration judges (TIJs), aiming to reduce the backlog of 3.7 million immigration cases. Previously, TIJs required at least 10 years of immigration law experience or prior judicial service. Since Trump took office, about 100 immigration judges have been fired or forced to resign, reducing the bench to around 650. The administration has also directed judges to dismiss cases to facilitate arrests and expedited deportations.

Source: <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/latino/trump-eases-rules-hiring-temporary-immigration-judges-rcna227711>

New DHS 287(g) reimbursement program can revolutionize law enforcement helping ICE

By Christopher Tremoglie, Washington Examiner, 9/2/25

On Tuesday, the Department of Homeland Security announced new reimbursement opportunities under the 287(g) Program Task Force Model, allowing state and local law enforcement agencies that assist ICE in arresting criminal illegal immigrants to be fully reimbursed for the annual salary, benefits, and up to 25% overtime of each trained 287(g) officer. DHS has secured 896 signed agreements and expanded partnerships from 135 to 958—a 609% increase—with over 8,500 trained officers and 2,000 more in training across 40 states. Agencies may also receive quarterly performance awards ranging from \$500 to \$1,000 based on success rates. The initiative, backed by the One Big Beautiful Bill, aims to enhance immigration enforcement and public safety by targeting individuals such as murderers, gang members, rapists, terrorists, and pedophiles.

Source: <https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/opinion/beltway-confidential/3789499/dhs-287g-reimbursement-program-law-enforcement/>

Defense Dept. to send up to 600 military attorneys to serve as temporary immigration judges

By James LaPorta, Eleanor Watson and Katrina Kaufman, CBS News, 9/3/25

The Defense Department is considering authorizing up to 600 military attorneys to serve as temporary immigration judges to help address a backlog of over 3.4 million cases, following the Trump administration's dismissal of more than two dozen immigration judges this year. In response to a Justice Department request, the Pentagon is identifying qualified Judge Advocates and civilian attorneys, who would undergo six weeks of immigration law training and pass a written exam before presiding over hearings. A new rule published in August loosened prior requirements, which had limited the role to DOJ lawyers with ten years of immigration experience or former judges.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/defense-dept-600-military-attorneys-temporary-immigration-judges/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Trump administration axes sixth San Francisco immigration judge

By Michael Bott, NBC News Bay Area, 9/3/25

Since January, the Trump administration has fired six immigration judges from San Francisco—nearly 30% of the city's bench—including Judge Shira Levine, whose asylum grant rate exceeded 97%. Levine, appointed by the Biden administration in 2021, was dismissed just weeks after Judge Chloe Dillon, both of whom were past their probationary periods. Two Concord-based judges have also been terminated this year, amid a national immigration case backlog that leaves immigrants waiting three to four years for hearings. While easing qualifications for temporary judges, the administration has authorized up to 600 military lawyers to serve in immigration courts. A recent DOJ memo suggests judges with “statistically improbable” outcomes may be targeted, raising concerns about due process and judicial independence, especially as some courts report asylum grant rates below 5%.

Source: <https://www.nbcbayarea.com/investigations/sixth-san-francisco-immigration-judge-fired/3942782/>

Trump administration sues Boston over 'sanctuary' limits on immigration cooperation

By Nate Raymond, Reuters, 9/5/25

On Thursday, the U.S. Justice Department sued the city of Boston and Democratic Mayor Michelle Wu in federal court, challenging the Boston Trust Act—a law first adopted in 2014, amended in 2019, and reaffirmed in December—that bars local police and officials from cooperating with federal immigration enforcement, including U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Attorney General Pam Bondi called Boston and Wu “among the worst sanctuary offenders in America,” accusing them of undermining law enforcement and shielding undocumented immigrants. The lawsuit argues the ordinance violates the U.S. Constitution’s Supremacy Clause by obstructing federal immigration efforts aligned with President Donald Trump’s mass deportation agenda. Wu, who is seeking re-election, defended the law as ensuring Boston remains “a safe and welcoming home for everyone,” citing consistent court rulings upholding such local measures. She referenced a July decision dismissing a similar Justice Department lawsuit against Illinois and Chicago, and a 2017 Massachusetts high court ruling that limited state cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

Source: <https://www.reuters.com/legal/government/trump-administration-sues-boston-over-sanctuary-limits-immigration-cooperation-2025-09-04/>

Citizenship Tests Could Be About To Get Much Harder. Here’s What You Need to Know

By Rebecca Schneid, Time, 9/7/25

The administration is considering making the U.S. citizenship test significantly more difficult, with USCIS Director Joseph Edlow stating the current version is “too easy” and proposing more thought-provoking, ideological questions, including a possible essay section with prompts like “What does it mean to be an American?” or “Who was your favorite founding father?” Currently, applicants must answer six out of ten civics questions correctly from a pool of 100, alongside demonstrating English proficiency. Edlow cited fraud concerns in the naturalization process and emphasized USCIS’s evolving role as a “law enforcement agency,” now empowered to order expedited removals and investigate immigration violations. These proposed changes follow an August memo expanding the “good moral character” requirement to screen for “anti-American” views.

Source: <https://time.com/7315217/citizenship-test-changes-uscis-visa/>

33 million voters have been run through a Trump administration citizenship check

By Jude Joffe-Block and Miles Parks, NPR, 9/10/25

Since its August 15 upgrade, the Trump administration’s SAVE system has been used to verify the citizenship status and other details of over 33 million voters—nearly one-sixth of the U.S. electorate—with 80% of those checks occurring post-upgrade. The tool now allows bulk searches using names, birth dates, and the last four digits of Social Security numbers, aligning with data most states collect. While some Republican-led states like Ohio and Louisiana have embraced SAVE—Louisiana identified 79 likely noncitizens among its 2.9 million registered voters—others, including North Carolina and Mississippi, remain cautious due to unresolved questions about data storage, access, and legal authority. DHS has made election security grants contingent on SAVE participation, yet has not responded to congressional inquiries about transparency, prompting concerns over privacy, data retention (queries are saved for 10 years), and potential federal overreach.

Source: <https://www.npr.org/2025/09/10/nx-s1-5477367/save-election-citizenship-data-trump>

'An absolute nightmare': Trump’s overhaul of legal immigration is alarming critics

By Julián Aguilar, San Antonio Express-News, 9/14/25

In 2024, the Trump administration intensified restrictions on legal immigration through sweeping changes at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), including vetting for anti-American ideology, expanding moral character assessments to include “positive attributes” and non-criminal behavior like repeated traffic violations, and barring voter registration assistance at naturalization ceremonies. USCIS also launched a new division of armed agents to investigate immigration crimes and now conducts in-person interviews with immigrants’ neighbors and co-workers. Critics argue these policies—such as ideological screenings that may target lawful political speech—create inconsistent outcomes and discourage legal immigration. Despite these hurdles, more than 1,300 Houston-area residents, including Fatima Jouhari from Morocco, became naturalized citizens on March 27, 2024.

Source: https://www.expressnews.com/news/houston-texas/immigration/article/uscis-trump-changes-legal-immigration-21040907.php?utm_content=cta&sid=5b0234e724c17c5e3d919320&ss=A&st_rid=8c2c24df-19f7-4f67-8806-52c846c1ab48&utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_term=subs_old&utm_campaign=saen%20%7C%20express%20briefing

Fortifying the border: 17-mile buoy barrier, new military base coming to South Texas

By Brandon Lingle and Sig Christenson, San Antonio Express-News, 9/15/25

In a sweeping effort to militarize the southern border, the federal government has established a new Air Force-managed National Defense Area spanning a 250-mile stretch in Cameron and Hidalgo counties, alongside a 17-mile buoy barrier in the Rio Grande that could cost taxpayers up to \$90 million. This crackdown, part of President Donald Trump's border security campaign, includes deployment of 1,500 troops and the creation of three military zones—170 miles in New Mexico, 63 miles in West Texas, and the latest in South Texas—now overseen by Joint Base San Antonio and supported by 7,600 troops along the Southern Border. The militarization has led to increased patrols, removal of traffic checkpoints, expanded flight restrictions over SpaceX's Starbase (which sits just 1.5 miles from the border), and heightened scrutiny of land access near Boca Chica Beach. Despite these measures, Customs and Border Patrol reports a continued decline in illegal crossings in the Rio Grande Valley Sector.

Source: <https://www.expressnews.com/business/article/border-defense-zone-military-buoy-barrier-spacex-20765320.php>

500 National Guardsmen deployed to bolster border patrol security efforts in El Paso

By Devan Esparza, KFOX 14, 9/13/25

500 National Guard soldiers from the Texas Military Department have arrived on Saturday, September 13, according to a social media post from El Paso Border Patrol Sector Chief Walter Slosar. According to Chief Slosar, these troops will work with Border Patrol to help secure the border. The National Guard will bring technology, additional equipment, and additional manpower according to the post. Some will immediately be working on infrastructure, while others are being trained and deputized under Title 8, and will be used to detain and arrest people illegally crossing said Slosar. They also warn those responsible for bringing people across the border that "intelligence sharing is happening in real time, that information is going to be used to take action against targets in places all over the world, ensuring the long arm of American justice is never too short to touch someone."

Source: <https://kfoxtv.com/news/local/texas-national-guard-deploys-500-troops-to-bolster-border-security-efforts-in-el-paso>

Trump administration to add \$100,000 fee for H-1B visas

By Aimee Picchi, Alain Sherter and Anne Marie D. Lee, CBS News, 9/20/25

On September 19, the administration announced a new \$100,000 one-time fee for future H-1B visa applicants—foreign workers with specialized skills—who are outside the U.S. and participating in the February 2026 lottery, as well as for any H-1B petitions submitted after September 21, 2025. This fee, which adds to the existing \$1,700–\$4,500 application cost, must be paid for entry and does not apply to current visa holders. The H-1B program remains capped at 65,000 new visas annually.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-h1b-visa-bill-100000-fee/>

Trump unveils "Gold Card" fast-track visas for \$1 million

By Aaron Navarro and Joe Walsh, CBS News, 9/19/25

On September 19, President Trump launched a new visa program called the "Gold Card" that lets people get U.S. residency faster if they pay \$1 million. Businesses can buy the same card to sponsor employees. However, their cost is \$2 million and will allow companies the flexibility of transferring the cards sponsorship to another employee in the future without paying a new fee. There will be 80,000 of these visas available, and approved applicants also pay a \$15,000 vetting fee. The Gold Card replaces older visa programs for highly skilled people. There's also a proposed "Platinum Card" for \$5 million that lets someone stay in the U.S. for up to 270 days a year without paying taxes on income earned outside the country.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-gold-card-visas-platinum-card-lutnick-h1b/>

H.R. 3486 is the latest bill to take aim at the immigrant community

By Carlos De Loera, Los Angeles Times, 9/19/25

On September 11, the House passed H.R. 3486, the "Stop Illegal Entry Act of 2025," which dramatically increases penalties for unauthorized border crossings. The bill raises the maximum prison term for repeat border crossers from two to five years, imposes a five-year minimum and allows life sentences for those who reenter and are convicted of a felony, and sets a 10-year maximum for those previously denied entry who attempt reentry. Individuals removed three times could face up to 10 years or fines, while those with prior felonies or two illegal reentry convictions face a mandatory minimum of 10 years and up to life. The annual cost to incarcerate one person in a federal facility in 2023 was \$44,090, the Federal Register reported in 2024. That would result in a total cost of roughly \$440,000 per person if the proposed 10-year mandatory minimum was imposed for reentry offenders.

Source: <https://www.latimes.com/delos/newsletter/2025-09-19/h-r-3486-stop-illegal-entry-act-immigrant-community>

Trump administration ending legal status of thousands of Syrian immigrants in the U.S.

By Camilo Montoya-Galvez, CBS News, 9/19/25

The administration is ending the Temporary Protected Status of thousands of immigrants from Syria living in the U.S. Syrians who don't have another legal mechanism to remain in the U.S. once their TPS expires in roughly 60 days will be eligible to be arrested and deported by federal immigration officials.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/syria-temporary-protected-status-trump-ending/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>

Judge blocks Trump administration from deporting Guatemalan migrant children

By Rebecca Santana and Valerie Gonzalez, Associated Press, 9/18/25

U.S. District Judge Timothy J. Kelly blocked the administration from deporting Guatemalan migrant children who arrived in the U.S. alone, following a late-night operation on August 30 that identified 457 children for removal—later reduced to 327—with 76 boarding planes in Texas on August 31. The administration claimed it was reuniting children with parents, but the court found no evidence supporting that claim. There was already a temporary order in place preventing the removal of Guatemalan children. But that was set to expire Tuesday, September 23. Kelly granted a preliminary injunction extends that temporary protection indefinitely, although the government can appeal.

Source: <https://apnews.com/article/trump-deportations-guatemalan-migrant-children-supreme-court-2bfc00faa704819f11ef472d809d6c22>

Trump administration threatens lawsuits, funding cuts if Democratic states don't hold migrants for ICE

By Nicole Sganga and Joe Walsh, CBS News, 9/20/25

The Department of Homeland Security escalated tensions with sanctuary states this week, warning California, New York, and Illinois that refusal to honor thousands of ICE detainers could trigger federal lawsuits and funding cuts. In letters dated September 10, ICE Acting Director Todd Lyons demanded responses within two days; Illinois and New York declined, while California initially did not respond. Follow-up letters accused the states of obstructing enforcement, citing the release of undocumented migrants with serious charges, including sex crimes, assaults on police, and drug trafficking.

Source: <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trump-sanctuary-states-california-illinois-new-york/?ftag=CNM-00-10aac3a>