

NO SECRET POLICE

POLICY TOOLKIT FOR LOCAL ELECTEDS

DECEMBER 2025

LOCALPROGRESS **LOCALPROGRESS**
IMPACT LAB

Introduction

The Trump administration's accelerated federal immigration enforcement and military deployments are causing irreparable harm, tearing apart families and communities, and causing people to live in fear. Masked law enforcement agents and military troops are employing secret police-style tactics, detaining our immigrant neighbors from job sites, and arresting people at or near places of worship, courthouses, schools, and hospitals. In the midst of these attacks, local governments across the country have stepped up to protect our most vulnerable community members and demonstrated that we will stand against the surveillance, detention, and deportation of our neighbors. One of the best ways local elected leaders and community members can do this is continue to document immigration enforcement actions and connect those most at risk to legal resources and other supports.

The *No Secret Police - Local Policy Toolkit* is a call-to-action for local governments to wield their regulatory, procurement, and legislative powers to disrupt the rise in authoritarian tactics utilized by the Trump administration and protect community members across the country. **Local governments are the last line of defense for residents' right to safety in this era of rising authoritarianism and this toolkit serves to support them in answering the call.**

The toolkit features six priorities, each with model ordinances or how-to guides designated to fulfill each aim:

- **No Data for Secret Police**
- **No Collaboration with Secret Police**
- **No Public Funds for Secret Police**
- **No Public Space for Secret Police**
- **No Secret Police in Our Schools**
- **No Impunity for Secret Police**

✓ Policies with this checkmark may be particularly useful to local elected officials in hostile or heavily preempted states.

This toolkit is the product of Local Progress and the Local Progress Impact Lab staff drawing on the collective knowledge and guidance of Local Progress members, community leaders, policy

analysts, lawyers, and other allies. It was written in collaboration with a range of subject matter experts. This is a working document that will be updated as conditions change.

[Check out our No Secret Police Messaging Guidance](#)

For local elected leaders interested in spearheading one or more of these policies in their communities, please see this [messaging resource](#), which includes talking points / messaging guidance for each policy included in this toolkit.

No Data for Secret Police

✓ Cancel Automated License Plate Reader (ALPR) contracts

Automated License Plate Readers (ALPRs) have become one of the most pervasive surveillance tools used by federal immigration enforcement agencies to surveil and ultimately detain the most vulnerable members of our communities. Localities can use their procurement power to [turn off](#) these surveillance cameras and protect residents' safety and privacy by taking the following steps:

1. Determine whether any agencies in your locality have existing contracts for surveillance cameras, or are considering new or expanded contracts – and identify the corporate vendor(s) involved.
2. Investigate how surveillance data is gathered, shared, and used locally – including how often the vendor has shared residents' data with ICE, other federal, or out-of-state agencies. (Use these key [oversight investigative questions](#)).
3. Move to terminate any existing surveillance-camera contract and/or decline entering into new or expanded contracts.

 [Messaging Guidance](#)

No Collaboration with Secret Police

✓ Implement robust sanctuary policies

Strong [sanctuary policies](#) that limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement officials can protect communities from detention and deportation. There is no obligation under federal law for local law enforcement to support federal immigration enforcement. Ensure your locality's sanctuary policies are robustly implemented and eliminate loopholes and carveouts. Localities should also consider changes to agency policy, administrative rules, and contract language to

reinforce policy aims. Localities should consider the following policies to produce the largest impact:

- Prohibit all local agencies, especially law enforcement, from collecting information about immigration status or place of birth unless required by court order or state or federal law, e.g. for voter registration or benefits eligibility.
- Decline to cooperate with ICE detainer requests.
- Decline ICE access to local jails, except when required by court order or state or federal law.
- Prohibit the use of any local resources, property, personnel, time, labor, or funds for assistance in federal immigration enforcement.

 [Model Implementation Guidance](#) |  [Messaging Guidance](#)

End 287(g) agreements and participation in JTTFs, HSTFs, and Fusion Centers

[287\(g\) agreements](#) allow local law enforcement agencies to act as immigration enforcement officers.

There are different kinds of 287(g) agreements which grant varying powers:

- **Warrant Service Officer model** - local law enforcement can serve ICE warrants and detain and transport people to ICE custody.
- **Jail Enforcement model** - local law enforcement can access DHS databases to investigate immigration status of inmates, conduct interviews, and begin deportation processes in local jails.
- **Task Force model** - local law enforcement can question and arrest people for immigration violations during routine police work.

Joint Terrorism Task Forces (JTTF), Homeland Security Task Forces (HSTF), and Fusion Centers allow for additional information-sharing and coordination between federal, state, and local law enforcement that operate with little oversight or transparency. JTTFs are run by the Federal Bureau of Investigations; Fusion Centers are networks supported by the Department of Homeland Security; and HSTFs receive support from both agencies. Participation in these programs enable federal immigration enforcement agencies to expand its ability to surveil, arrest, and detain immigrants and bolsters the federal government's ability to pursue the prosecution of political dissidents. Localities can end their 287(g), JTTF, HSTF, and Fusion Center agreements by taking the following steps:

1. Determine whether any agencies (typically the police or sheriff department) in your locality have an existing agreement with federal law enforcement, if they are proposing to extend it, or enter into a new agreement. For 287(g) agreements check here for [existing](#) agreements and this [map](#) includes localities that have successfully terminated their contracts.
2. Understand the impact of your locality's agreement.

- a. Use [this tool](#) to look up how many immigration detainers have historically been issued in your locality.
- b. Investigate whether local agencies have financial incentives to participate including:
 - i. Contracts or intergovernmental service agreements to rent jail beds to ICE.
 - ii. Participation in any [reimbursement programs](#) for local law enforcement agencies.
3. Move to terminate any agreements and contracts with federal immigration enforcement agencies and decline entering into new or renewed agreements.

[Messaging Guidance](#)

✓ **Cancel federal detention contracts**

ICE plans to [double their capacity](#) to detain immigrants, including opening or expanding [125 facilities](#) across the country. Counties should cancel any existing detention contracts held with the federal government by taking the following steps:

1. Determine whether any agencies in your locality have existing federal detention contracts, often called Intergovernmental Service Agreements. Use [this map](#) to learn where detention facilities are being proposed, under construction, or currently in use. It is possible that a contract is not held with ICE directly, but with another federal agency such as the U.S. Marshals.
2. Gather relevant data including how many detention beds there are, how much contracts are worth, and the terms of existing agreements including contract length.
3. Move to terminate any existing federal detention contracts and decline entering into new contracts.

[Model Implementation Guidance](#) | [Messaging Guidance](#)

Remove traffic enforcement from low-level traffic offenses

Despite the terror federal immigration enforcement agents are carrying out on our streets, they still rely heavily on support from local law enforcement to make arrests. [Traffic stops](#) are the most common interaction the public has with law enforcement and represent one of the main ways federal immigration officers detain people after initial contact with local police.

[Model Ordinance Language](#) | [Messaging Guidance](#)

No Public Funds for Secret Police

Use procurement power to ensure local contractors abide by local law to protect students and families

Localities should amend contract language to ensure local contractors, from bus companies to construction firms, abide by local laws prohibiting contact with federal immigration enforcement officers. Contractors should also be trained on what to do if they come into contact with them.

 [Messaging Guidance](#)

No Public Space for Secret Police

✓ Prohibit federal immigration enforcement agencies from using municipal, county, or school owned or controlled property for any purpose without a signed judicial warrant

Federal immigration enforcement agencies are using local streets, buildings, and other publicly-owned and controlled spaces to stage enforcement actions and process people in detention. Localities should prohibit the use of publicly-owned and controlled spaces for any federal immigration enforcement operations. These areas include but are not limited to:

- Parking lots
- Vacant lots
- Garages
- Public buildings
- Parks

 [Model Ordinance Language](#) |  [Messaging Guidance](#)

✓ Conduct inspections of ICE facilities and enforce local land use policy

Immigration detention facilities are [dangerous and becoming increasingly deadly](#) under this administration. Local governments can intervene by directing local agencies to investigate [zoning and permitting violations](#) taking place in facilities operated by federal immigration enforcement agencies.

 [Messaging Guidance](#)

✓ **Enforce local health and safety policies where ICE detentions are taking place**

In some cases immigration enforcement agencies are detaining people in unsanitary and unsafe conditions, including in facilities not intended for overnight stays. Localities can intervene by directing local agencies to investigate [building, occupancy, and fire safety violations](#) taking place in facilities operated by federal immigration enforcement agencies.

 [Messaging Guidance](#)

No Secret Police in Our Schools

✓ **Develop policies and protocols to keep young people safe and create welcoming school environments**

Develop [policies](#) to protect students and families from immigration enforcement, including:

- Prohibiting school district staff from sharing student records or any other related data with federal immigration enforcement agencies unless they are required to do so by court order or a valid judicial warrant.
- Develop [protocols](#) for all school district staff and external partners (including crossing guards, security guards, bus drivers, and after-school program providers) in the event immigration enforcement officers seek to detain or seek information about a student, parent or school staff member.

 [Messaging Guidance](#)

No Impunity for Secret Police

Require law enforcement to identify themselves while on duty and prohibit them from concealing their identity

Law enforcement officials should face the public and never conceal their identity while performing official duties. Require them to identify themselves by name and badge number and require badges to be worn identifying their agency while on municipal, county, and school-owned property.

 [Messaging Guidance](#)