

# File 8 –A transformative presidency- A case in point- Minneapolis

**WARNING** - A lot of the video footage that may come up as you click on the links and explore this topic may be harrowing to watch. So my advice is to stick to a few focused articles.  
I apologise for having to keep submitting you to all of this.

## WHO'S WHO



Governor Waltz



Minneapolis mayor Jacob Frey



Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem

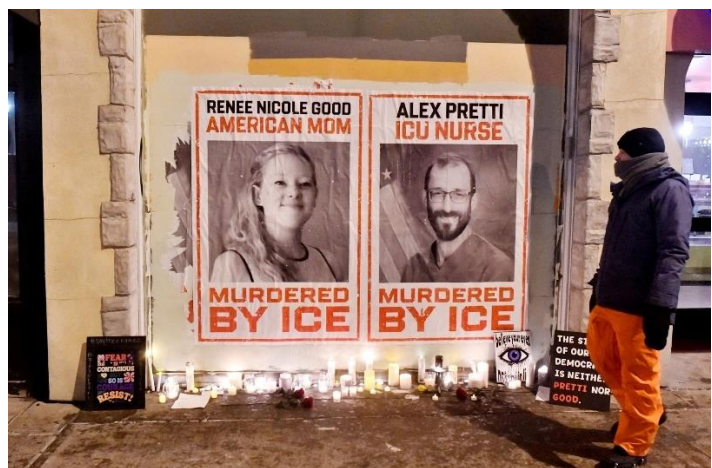


The border patrol commander Gregory Bovino



Tom Homan, White House Border Czar

## Who's who on the frontline of enforcement



## Document A - How Minnesota became the center of a political crisis

NPR, January 23, 2026

<https://www.npr.org/2026/01/23/nx-s1-5678976/how-minnesota-became-the-center-of-a-political-crisis>

### Document 1 - What is ICE and what powers do its agents have to use force?

BBC News – Jan 15 2026

ICE and other federal officers stand at a Minneapolis intersection where protesters had gathered after the death of Renee Good

The fatal shooting of 37-year-old Minneapolis woman Renee Nicole Good has sparked protests across the US and increased scrutiny of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement agency (ICE).

ICE has made thousands of arrests since Trump returned to the White House in January 2025, often in public settings.

Those actions have increasingly led to clashes with local protesters who oppose the way the agency operates.

#### What is ICE and when was it formed?

ICE is taking the lead in carrying out the Trump administration's mass deportation initiative, which was a central promise of Donald Trump's election campaign.

The US president has significantly expanded ICE, its budget and its mission since returning to the White House. The agency enforces immigration laws and conducts investigations into undocumented immigration. It also plays a role in removing undocumented immigrants from the US.

ICE was formed as part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, a response to the terror attacks on 11 September 2001. The legislation created the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), with ICE as one of its subsidiary agencies.

#### What powers do ICE agents have to arrest people?

ICE sees its mission as encompassing both public safety and national security. However, its powers are different to those of the average local police department in the US.

Its agents can stop, detain and arrest people they suspect of being in the US illegally. However legal permission to enter a home or other private space requires a signed judicial warrant. Agents can detain US citizens in limited circumstances, such as if a person interferes with an arrest, assaults an officer, or ICE suspect the person of being in the US illegally.

Despite this, according to news organisation [ProPublica](#), there were more than 170 incidents during the first nine months of Trump's presidency in which federal agents held US citizens against their will. These cases included Americans they had suspected of being undocumented immigrants.

#### What powers does ICE have to use force?

ICE's use of force actions are governed by a combination of the US Constitution, US law and the Department of Homeland Security's own policy guidelines.

Under the US constitution, law enforcement "can only use deadly force if the person poses a serious danger to them or other people, or the person has committed a violent crime", said Chris Slobogin, director of the criminal justice programme at Vanderbilt University Law School. But the US Supreme Court has historically granted broad leniency to officers making in-the-moment decisions without the benefit of hindsight.

A DHS policy memo from 2023 states that federal officers "may use deadly force only when necessary" when they have "a reasonable belief that the subject of such force poses an imminent threat of death or serious bodily injury" to themselves or another person.

In Minneapolis, US citizen Good was killed while behind the wheel of her car. The Trump administration says the agent acted in self-defence and that the woman shot was committing an act of "domestic terrorism" but local officials insist she posed no danger. (cf [her declaration](#))

During the political row that followed Good's death, Minnesota officials sued the administration in an attempt to block the deployment of federal immigration agents in the state.

Where does ICE operate?

Typically, ICE operates inside the US, with some staffing abroad. Its sister agency, US Customs and Border Protection, technically patrols the US borders.

But those roles have become increasingly blurred, as the Trump administration pulled agents from a range of federal law enforcement agencies to participate in immigration enforcement. Border Patrol officers increasingly operate within the US, taking part in raids with ICE.

ICE and other agencies have deployed hundreds of officers to cities like Los Angeles, Chicago and now Minneapolis, in partnership with other federal law enforcement agencies.

About 2,000 agents from ICE and other federal agencies were deployed Minneapolis as of 14 January, officials told BBC's US partner CBS News, as well as an additional 800 US Customs and Border Protection agents.

What happens to people who are detained by ICE?

The scale of Trump-era deportations have been significant. The administration said it had deported 605,000 people between 20 January and 10 December 2025. It also said 1.9 million immigrants had "voluntarily self-deported", following an aggressive public awareness campaign

encouraging people to leave the country on their own to avoid arrest or detention.

An immigrant who encounters ICE can face a variety of outcomes.

Sometimes an individual is temporarily held, then released after questioning. In other circumstances, ICE will detain and transfer that person to a larger detention facility, of which there are several throughout the US.

While many immigrants continue to fight for legal status while detained, if they are unsuccessful, they may ultimately be deported.

About 65,000 people were in ICE detention as of 30 November 2025, according to data obtained by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse's immigration project, a compendium of government data from Syracuse University.

Immigration lawyers have told the BBC that, once ICE detains an individual, it can sometimes take days for families or lawyers to find out where they are.

What opposition have ICE agents met?

Many communities have pushed back when ICE and partner agencies like the Border Patrol carry out operations.

It is now common for residents to film ICE agents as they carry out arrests. Some encounters between ICE and the public have become aggressive or violent.

During ICE operations in Chicago, Illinois, a collective of media organisations sued the Border Patrol. They alleged agents used improper force against journalists, religious leaders and protesters.

A federal judge sided with the group, before an appeals court overturned the decision.

Good is not the only individual injured by gunfire during an immigration enforcement operation.

It emerged that an ICE officer shot a Venezuelan man in the leg in Minneapolis in the days after Good's death. The DHS said federal officers were conducting a "targeted traffic stop" when a Venezuelan national was shot after resisting arrest and assaulting an officer.

There were also two incidents in Los Angeles in October in which agents shot at drivers, the Los Angeles Times reported. DHS said in both instances that the drivers had threatened the officers with their vehicles.

ICE officers, and other immigration agents, have also been criticised for wearing masks while carrying out their operations.

DHS officials have defended the practice, saying it protects agents from doxxing - being identified online - or harassment.

**Where do Americans stand on ICE and deportations?**

Americans have a complicated view of Trump's immigration enforcement plans, polling suggests.

A little more than half believe some level of deportation is necessary, an October 2025 survey from the non-partisan Pew Research Center suggested. That's roughly the same number as Pew found the previous March.

But the same poll suggests that Americans have concerns about Trump's methods.

It found that a majority of US adults - 53% - believed the Trump administration was doing "too much" to deport undocumented immigrants. About 36% backed the approach.

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## Document 2 - How Fraud Swamped Minnesota's Social Services System on Tim Walz's Watch

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*Prosecutors say members of the Somali diaspora, a group with growing political power, were largely responsible. President Trump has drawn national attention to the scandal amid his crackdown on immigration.*

By [Ernesto Londoño](#), Reporting from Minneapolis -*The New York Times*, Nov. 29, 2025, Updated Jan. 7, 2026

The fraud scandal that rattled Minnesota was staggering in its scale and brazenness.

Federal prosecutors charged dozens of people with felonies, accusing them of stealing hundreds of millions of dollars from a government program meant to keep children fed during the Covid-19 pandemic.

At first, many in the state saw the case as a one-off abuse during a health emergency. But as new schemes targeting the state's generous safety net programs came to light, state and federal officials began to grapple with a jarring reality.

Over the last five years, law enforcement officials say, fraud took root in pockets of Minnesota's Somali diaspora as scores of individuals made small fortunes by setting up companies that billed state agencies for millions of dollars' worth of social services that were never provided.

Federal prosecutors say that 59 people have been convicted in those schemes so far, and that more than \$1 billion in taxpayers' money has been stolen in three plots they are investigating. That is more than Minnesota spends annually to run its Department of Corrections. Minnesota's fraud scandal stood out even in the context of rampant theft during the pandemic, when Americans stole tens of billions through unemployment benefits, business loans and other forms of aid, according to federal auditors.

Outrage has swelled among Minnesotans, and fraud has turned into a potent political issue in a competitive campaign season. Gov. Tim Walz and fellow Democrats are being asked to explain how so much money was stolen on their watch, providing Republicans, who hope to take back the governor's office in 2026, with a powerful line of attack.

In recent days, President Trump has weighed in, calling Minnesota “a hub of fraudulent money laundering activity” and saying that Somali perpetrators should be sent “back to where they came from.”

Many Somali Americans in Minnesota say the fraud has damaged the reputation of their entire community, around 80,000 people, at a moment when their political and economic standing was on the rise.

Debate over the fraud has opened new rifts between the state’s Somali community and other Minnesotans, and has left some Somali Americans saying they are unfairly facing a new layer of suspicion against all of them, rather than the small group accused of fraud. Critics of the Walz administration say that the fraud persisted partly because state officials were fearful of alienating the Somali community in Minnesota. Governor Walz, who has instituted new fraud-prevention safeguards, defended his administration’s actions.

The episode has raised broader questions for some residents about the sustainability of Minnesota’s Scandinavian-modeled system of robust safety net programs bankrolled by high taxes. That system helped create an environment that drew immigrants to the state over many decades, including tens of thousands of Somali refugees after their country descended into civil war in the 1990s.

“No one will support these programs if they continue to be riddled with fraud,” Joseph H. Thompson, the federal prosecutor who has overseen the fraud cases said in an interview. “We’re losing our way of life in Minnesota in a very real way.”

### **Document 3 - D.H.S.’s Role Questioned as Immigration Officers Flood U.S. Cities**

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The Department of Homeland Security was formed after 9/11 amid international terrorism threats. Now, its most visible targets are domestic.

*The New York Times*, Jan. 18, 2026

In November 2002, President George W. Bush signed a bill creating a federal agency devoted to protecting the United States. The country was still reeling from the Sept. 11 attacks on New York and Washington, and the threat of international terrorism permeated public life.

Among the agencies that would be included in the Department of Homeland Security, as it would be called, would be Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection — the parts of the government most responsible for enforcing federal immigration laws.

“The new department will analyze threats, will guard our borders and airports, protect our critical infrastructure, and coordinate the response of our nation for future emergencies,” Mr. Bush said at the time, adding that the department would “focus the full resources of the American government on the safety of the American people.”

But more than two decades later, as thousands of ICE and Border Patrol officers flood Minneapolis, some Democratic leaders say the department’s role appears to have strayed far from its original purpose, turning its tools of enforcement away from external threats and toward President Trump’s domestic critics.

They say enforcement has looked more like an occupation, as officers in helmets and tactical gear have faced off against hostile residents and left-wing protesters in Los Angeles, Portland, Chicago and Washington. The interactions, broadcast to the world through social media videos filmed by protesters and federal agents alike, have given the impression of a government at war with the country’s own cities.

The Department of Homeland Security “was designed to protect Americans from threats, and what we’ve essentially done is, in some cases, we’ve turned that agency on Americans,” said Mayor Keith Wilson of Portland, Ore., a Democrat. “It’s deeply unsettling.” (...)

More than two decades after its formation, the Department of Homeland Security is the government’s largest law enforcement agency, with around 250,000 employees. It includes many functions that are not directly part of the turmoil on the ground, such as the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the agency that oversees airport security.

Yet even those agencies have come under pressure to meet Mr. Trump’s political objectives, with the airport security agency providing information to immigration agents and Mr. Trump trying to redirect disaster funding away from states not cooperating with his deportation goals.

ICE’s budget increased dramatically because of the sweeping domestic policy bill the president signed into law last July, making it the highest funded law enforcement agency in the federal government.

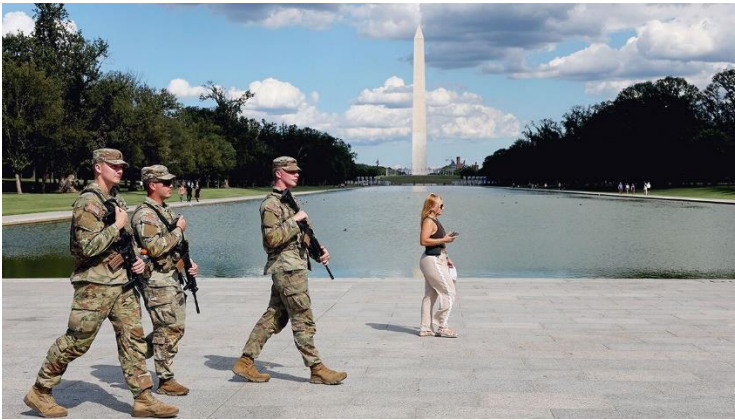
Under Mr. Trump, the department also redirected thousands of agents from their normal duties to focus on arresting undocumented immigrants, a New York Times investigation found last year.

The Trump administration and officials in some of the targeted cities have used militaristic language to describe the conflict unfolding on the ground.

FULL ARTICLE [HERE](#)

## Document 4 - The president is putting America's armed forces in a bind

Turning soldiers into cops was once a last resort. How far might he go?



Photograph: Getty Images

*The Economist*, Sep 16th 2025 | Washington, DC | (extracts)

THE TECHNICAL term for it is a military-presence patrol. The non-technical term is a political stunt. Since August, National Guard troops have been ambling around landmarks in Washington, DC, including the Mall and the main train station. Donald Trump ostensibly sent them to fight crime. In reality they are not making arrests and these are some of the safer parts of America's capital. So they are collecting rubbish and spreading mulch in city parks. Tourists ask them for selfies; some locals tell them to get lost. Soon Mr Trump will deploy more troops in Memphis and possibly New Orleans. (...)

► **Having endured British occupations of Boston, New York and Philadelphia during the American revolution, the founding fathers were deeply uneasy about having soldiers police civilians. Laws restricting such military deployments and presidents' regard for tradition helped maintain that boundary.** This suits the armed forces, who train to kill foreign combatants, not monitor fellow citizens. Mr Trump, in contrast, seems to have few reservations about using soldiers for political ends, be it dunking on Democratic mayors or carrying out his deportation agenda. In the process he is testing the boundaries of the law, the morale of the armed forces and a tradition of bipartisan support for that institution, one of the most trusted in America.

► **In LA and DC, soldiers have served mainly as a show of force. They are not arresting or searching people but are supporting police with protection and equipment. Their presence is a deterrent or, viewed more cynically, a prop.** In California, troops did accompany Immigration and Customs Enforcement

(ICE) agents on raids. Army lawyers have been seconded to work as immigration judges. The Pentagon has allowed ICE to use a navy base outside Chicago as a staging ground.

Co-operation of this sort will probably increase. Yet so far Mr Trump has avoided more fraught and potentially combustible moves. He has launched an immigration operation in **Chicago** but has not sent troops there. The presence of soldiers in LA is sparse, down from 5,000 in June, and they are staying put on an army base. **He is deploying the National Guard to Republican states because those governors welcome it** (even if Democratic mayors in the targeted cities do not). Still, **it is worth imagining where more ambitious LA-type operations could lead: how, as in that city, raids could provoke protests which could turn violent, justifying the move to send in soldiers. If Mr Trump ratchets up his response, would the law constrain him?**

**Mr Trump's deployment to LA was unusual in two respects: it was unnecessary and unwanted.** The unrest that precipitated it was manageable. Protesters threw rocks and Molotov cocktails and set a car on fire. A federal agent broke a wrist. When past presidents sent in soldiers—to quell race riots, for example—they did so in the face of sustained, deadly violence and a near-total breakdown of law and order. Then overwhelmed governors sought federal help. Mr Trump acted over the objections of Gavin Newsom, California's Democratic governor, who sued to block the deployment.

► **The laws that govern domestic use of the army are old, vague and open-ended.** This gives the president a

great deal of room for manoeuvre. He can send in troops to suppress a “rebellion” or enforce the laws if local authorities cannot manage. The Posse Comitatus Act (PCA), passed in 1878, bars soldiers from doing direct police work—hence the National Guard’s limited mandate in LA. **But there is an exception if the president invokes the Insurrection Act.** Scholars describe this as a “powder-keg” statute, empowering soldiers to search and detain people. Mr Trump has not gone there yet, though he reportedly mulled it in 2020 during Black Lives Matter protests. He backed off at the urging of his defence secretary and the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff. (...)

Should Mr Trump invoke the Insurrection Act, the Supreme Court will probably weigh in. Ironically, the

very success of the idea that soldiers should stay out of policing has created grey areas which empower a norm-busting president, notes Aziz Huq of the University of Chicago. Ordinarily vague laws get clarified when they are invoked and then litigated. That has not happened here because past presidents used them sparingly. Meanwhile, Mr Trump has first-mover advantage in his court fights.

**A president can flex plenty of muscle without troops. Mr Trump has diverted 28,000 federal law-enforcement personnel—including one in five FBI agents—to do the work of ICE. And if a president’s goal is intimidation, police in camo, helmets and body armour can do that just as well. ■**

● **Document 5 - A similar example – AUDIO Trump's power to deploy National Guard, explained**

<https://www.npr.org/2025/10/07/nx-s1-5564010/national-guard-deployments-powers-trump>

See also

● **Why is Trump deploying the National Guard to US cities?**

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/cwy9z7yg2n7o>

● **EXPLAINER - Who is on the frontline of Donald Trump’s immigration crackdown?**

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/19/donald-trump-immigration-crackdown>

● **The view of three ICE Officers (interviewed by Lara Trump (!) on Fox News)**

ICE agent breaks down how anti-ICE lawmakers put officers, public in danger  
July 19, 2025 <https://www.foxnews.com/video/6375862625112>

● **The Insurrection Act – From Encyclopedia Britannica**

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Insurrection-Act>

The **Insurrection Act** is a U.S. federal law passed in 1807 that originally authorized the president of the United States to deploy “such part of the land or naval force of the United States” that the president deems necessary to suppress an insurrection or to enable the local enforcement of federal or state laws. The act thereby expanded the president’s existing authority—under the Militia Acts of 1792 and 1795—to employ state militias to repel invasions or to enforce federal laws. The original text of the Insurrection Act is:

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That in all cases of insurrection, or obstruction to the laws, either of the [United States](#), or of any individual state or territory, where it is lawful for the President of the United States to call forth the militia for the purpose of suppressing such insurrection, or of causing the laws to be duly executed, it shall be lawful for him to employ, for the same purposes, such part of the land or naval force of the United States, as shall be judged necessary, having first observed all the pre-requisites of the law in that respect.*

By the numbers: the latest ICE and CBP data on arrests, detentions and deportations in the US

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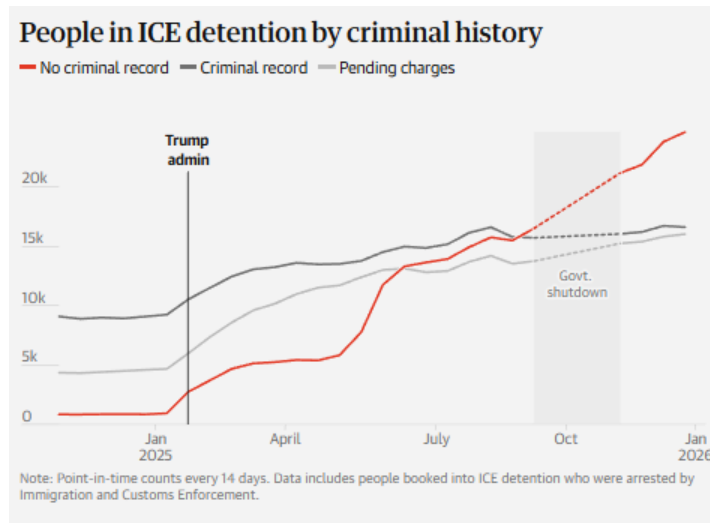
Number of immigrant workers in the labor force

Educational Attainment by Nativity, Age 25+

Education Level	Foreign-Born Population	U.S.-Born Population
Less Than High School	21.2%	3.9%
High School & Some College	38.6%	55.4%
Bachelor's Degree	21.9%	26.8%
Graduate Degree	18.3%	13.9%

Share of College-Educated Workers Employed in Jobs That Don't Require a College Degree

Foreign-Born Population	U.S.-Born Population
31.1%	28.0%



More details HERE

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/ng-interactive/2025/aug/29/trump-immigration-ice-cbp-data>

The Public Sours on the ICE Raids

By Noah Rothman, *The National Review*, January 22, 2026

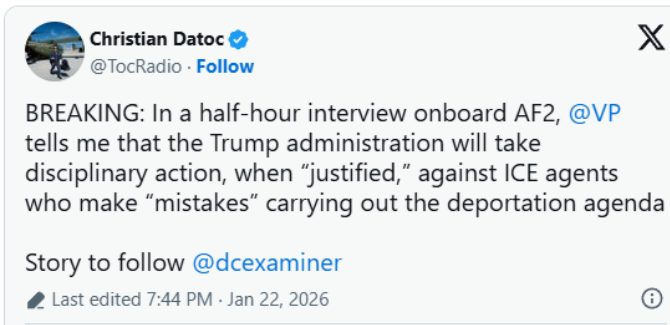
We already knew that the president’s protean and capricious tariff regime was a problem for this administration. It’s a problem compounded by the president’s undying affection for tariffs. His abiding faith in trade barriers as a panacea for all public ills ensures that, no matter how much the public resents them, they’re not going anywhere.

A similar dynamic is now coming to characterize the mass-deportation regime the president promised on the campaign trail, which voters were fully aware of when they gave him a plurality of the 2024 vote.

As Trump’s discontent with the results produced by *New York Times*/Siena pollsters indicates, this survey was not great for the president. Trump’s overall job approval rating has fallen to 40 percent — 16 points behind his 56 percent disapproval rating. Moreover, of the ten major issues his administration has tackled, Trump is only in positive territory on one — “the border between the U.S. and Mexico” — and only by 3 percent. But, as with other surveys that break out the issues under the heading “immigration,” this poll found that voters make a distinction between border security and deportations.

When respondents were asked what they think about the tactics deployed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, only 26 percent of registered voters said the agency has taken the “right” approach. Another 11 percent said the agency has “not gone far enough.” But a significant majority, 61 percent, said ICE had “gone too far.” That figure includes almost every self-described Democrat (94 percent) and more than 70 percent of independent voters. Even among self-identified Republicans, only 56 percent expressed faith in ICE’s tactics. And while almost one-quarter of GOP respondents wanted to see ICE go even farther, nearly 20 percent — roughly one in five Republicans — agreed with the majority of Democrats and independents that immigration enforcement had “gone too far.”

For all the president’s hastily published angst, the administration seems to be getting the message that voters are sending:



The voting public is fickle. What they say they'd like to see reflected in public policy doesn't always match their expectations in practice. Perhaps these dissatisfied voters will reevaluate Trump's deportation regime more positively once its results are realized. Surely, if the agency's agents observed a little camera-shyness, or if the administration swore off the theatrical tactics that are *designed* to create a spectacle, ICE would not be as front of mind as it is right now. But, at the moment, a critical mass of voters is recoiling from Trump's handling of one of his signature issues.

## LOCAL REACTIONS

### ● Governor Walz Addresses Ongoing Federal Presence in Minnesota

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGTsYXBWQgU>

### Document 6 - Economic blackout day planned in Minnesota to protest ICE surge

*The Guardian*, Tue 20 Jan 2026

Labor unions, community leaders and faith groups are calling for an economic blackout in Minnesota on Friday in protest against the surge of federal immigration agents in the state and to mourn Renee Good. Organizers are urging Minnesotans not to work, shop or go to school. The Trump administration has dispatched about 3,000 federal agents to the state, in what it claims amounts to its largest enforcement operation thus far, amid a broader crackdown on immigration.

More than 2,400 people in Minnesota have been arrested in recent weeks. An Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officer fatally shot Good, 37, in Minneapolis earlier this month.

“There is an unprecedented and outrageous attack being waged against the people of Minnesota. I have never seen anything like it in my life,” said Kieran Knutson, the president of Communications Workers of America (CWA) Local 7250 in Minneapolis. “This is just an outrageous acceleration and escalation of violence toward working-class people.”

The CWA, which represents workers in the state at companies including AT&T, Activision and DirecTV, is one of several local unions organizing and supporting the planned economic blackout.

Others include Unite Here Local 17, Saint Paul Federation of Educators and Minneapolis Federation of Educators Local 59.

Chelsie Glaubitz Gabiou, the president of the Minneapolis Regional Labor Federation, AFL-CIO, said: “Working people, our schools and our communities are under attack. Union members are being detained commuting to and from work, tearing apart families. Parents are being forced to stay home, students held out of school, fearing for their lives, all while the employer class remains silent.”

#### IMMIGRANTS IN MINNESOTA – FIGURES

Minnesota has a sizable immigrant community, over half of whom are naturalized. About **8.4** percent of the state's residents are foreign-born, and 5.3 percent of its U.S.-born residents live with at least one immigrant parent. Immigrants **make up 10.8 percent of Minnesota's labor force** and support the state's economy in many ways (as workers, taxpayers, business owners).

They account for 9.9 percent of entrepreneurs, 14.5 percent of STEM workers, and 15.7 percent of the manufacturing workforce in the state.

More here:

<https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/minnesota/>

“I think what generated the idea for this action comes out of the need to figure out what we can meaningfully do to stop it,” said Knutson. “The government in the state of Minnesota has not offered any path towards stopping these attacks, this violence.”

Knutson expressed hope that “the CEOs of all these corporations that are based in Minnesota take notice”. Large US corporations headquartered in Minnesota include Target, Best Buy, United Healthcare and General Mills. None immediately returned requests for comment.

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## **Document 6 b - Doctors in Minnesota decry fear and chaos amid Trump administration’s immigration crackdown**

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*The Los Angeles Times*, Jan. 21, 2026

- Trump’s immigration crackdown is keeping Minnesota patients from seeking medical care, with pregnant women avoiding prenatal visits and diabetics afraid to pick up insulin.
- The Department of Homeland Security sent 2,000 agents to Minneapolis, reversing a 15-year policy that shielded hospitals and schools from immigration enforcement.
- Healthcare workers from immigrant backgrounds are staying home out of fear, pushing pregnant women to seek dangerous home births instead of hospital care.

## **Document 6 c - Explainer - ‘ICE Out’ strike and protests: what to know about demonstrations across the US**

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/29/ice-out-strike-protests-explained>

A strike and hundreds of protests are set to take place across the country on 30 and 31 January, as grassroots organizers take action against Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity in their communities.

After the deaths of at least eight people in connection to ICE since the start of the year – including the high-profile killings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis – activists are demanding the permanent removal of ICE and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) from towns and cities across the US.

For the first action on Friday, organizers, led by several student groups at the University of Minnesota, are calling for a “national shutdown”, which means: “No work. No school. No shopping. Stop funding ICE.” The “blackout” day, which many online are referring to as a “general strike”, is an effort to “shut down the economy”, organizers say.

## JUSTICE

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### **Document 7 a - The growing list of probes into officials Trump has criticized**

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*The Justice Department opened investigations into Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz, Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey and Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell recently.*

The Justice Department has opened a criminal investigation into whether Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, both Democrats, impeded federal immigration enforcement in their state, The Washington Post previously reported.

The probe comes amid heightened tensions between the Trump administration and state officials following the killing of Renée Good, who was shot by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer in Minneapolis this month.

The investigation into the two Democratic leaders is the latest in a string of cases brought by the Trump administration against government officials whom the president perceives as his foes. Here’s what to know about other cases and where they stand. SEE HERE <https://wapo.st/45rKS67>

(The list includes: Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell / New York Attorney General Letitia James / Sen. Adam Schiff / Fed Governor Lisa Cook )

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### **Document 7b - Justice Dept. enters new territory with probe of Minnesota officials**

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The agency is targeting critics during a moment of crisis in which protesters are clashing with federal agents on icy city streets. **Justice Dept. enters new territory with probe of Minnesota officials**

The Washington Post, January 17, 2026

President Donald Trump's Justice Department crossed a new threshold with its criminal investigation of top Democratic elected officials in Minnesota, targeting vocal critics during a moment of crisis in which protesters and federal agents are clashing on the Twin Cities' streets.

The Twin Cities have been a tinderbox for more than a week since an Immigration and Customs Enforcement officer fatally shot a woman in her vehicle, with residents confronting ICE agents. Trump has raised the prospect of sending U.S. troops into the state, and the Justice Department escalated tensions Friday as it prepared to send subpoenas to Gov. Tim Walz and Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey, two of Minnesota's highest-profile Democrats. The pair have loudly disparaged ICE's presence in the state and the way Trump and his administration have defended the officer and sidelined state officials in an investigation into the shooting. The subpoenas the Justice Department is preparing to send suggest the agency is looking at whether Walz's and Frey's public statements about the administration's actions amount to illegal interference with law enforcement.

The administration has pursued numerous other Democrats and perceived adversaries, fulfilling Trump's promises to prosecute his foes. However, the administration had not taken such forceful action against elected officeholders at a volatile moment when public safety was at issue — until now.

To Trump's allies, the latest investigation should serve as a warning to critics who they argue are inflaming matters with their rhetoric. Former Trump adviser Stephen K. Bannon said he believes Walz and Frey hit Trump's "trip wire" with their heated comments and expects "intense prosecution."

"Walz and Frey should listen when the president says, 'No games,'" he said.

Trump's critics warned in stark terms that he was crossing a dangerous line.

"This is what totalitarianism looks like," said Sen. Chris Murphy (D-Connecticut). "Trump is now using the full, entire scope of the federal government in order to destroy and suppress dissent and compel loyalty." Murphy said Minneapolis is a "test case" that will determine whether Trump tries the same approach elsewhere.

The White House and Justice Department had no comment Friday on the probe of Walz and Frey, but Attorney General Pam Bondi posted on social media a "reminder to all those in Minnesota: No one is above the law." Neither Walz nor Frey had been served with a subpoena by Friday evening, spokespeople for the officials said.

Trump, who on Thursday threatened to invoke the Insurrection Act in Minnesota, which would enable him to deploy the military on U.S. soil, downplayed the prospect on Friday. "If I needed it, I'd use it. I don't think there's any reason right now to use it," he told reporters.

The Justice Department's investigation of a governor and mayor is highly unusual. In the 1950s and 1960s, presidents used troops to enforce court desegregation orders in the face of defiance from some Southern governors. But the department did not press charges against them, said Steven Lawson, a history professor at Rutgers University.

"The Justice Department's Civil Rights Division did keep track of civil rights incidents in the South, but it did not prosecute or harass governors or mayors for their resistance," he said by email.

Trump's administration is taking the opposite approach by going after those who have pilloried the president. Traditionally, the Justice Department has tried to insulate itself from the White House, but Trump has not shied away from getting involved in its investigations. In September, he took to social media to complain to Bondi that she wasn't taking action against his political opponents.

## Opinion

### ● Document 8a - ICE Is Losing the Political Battle By Jamelle Bouie and Amanda Su

"When I look at the ICE operation in Minnesota," says the Opinion columnist Jamelle Bouie, "I see a White House that is panicking and that is losing." **The New York Times**, January 15, 2026

<https://www.nytimes.com/video/opinion/100000010645286/ice-is-losing-the-political-battle.html?smid=url-share>

Jamelle Bouie is one of The New York Times's regular columnist.

*I am an Opinion columnist based in Charlottesville, Va.*

#### **What I Cover**

*I write about politics and the law through the lens of American political history. I believe that history can help us ask good questions about our present circumstances, and I am deeply interested in our nation's moments of structural political reform, from its founding to Reconstruction and into the New Deal. I am also a close reader of American political theory and bring to my writing the*

*influence of a broad range of thinkers, observers and practitioners. More than anything, I hope readers come away from my work having learned something new and useful about the nation's history.*

#### **Journalistic Ethics**

*I come from a left-leaning, social democratic perspective, but I strive for honesty, fairness and good faith in my writing. I am scrupulous about the facts and try as much as I can to avoid idle speculation. I believe in both personal and professional transparency and do as much as I can to show my sources so that readers can decide if I have it right.*

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### **Document 8 b -PODCAST - Thomas L. Friedman: America Is at a Boiling Point**

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Watching the response to ICE in his hometown has the columnist Thomas L. Friedman navigating “a mixture of pride and anguish.” *The New York Times*, podcast series The Opinions, Jan. 27, 2026 You can listen to and read the interview [HERE](#)  
(The audio document has been uploaded to Cahier de Prépa)

By [Thomas L. Friedman](#) and [Stephen Stromberg](#)

The Times Opinion columnist Thomas L. Friedman grew up in Minnesota and spent much of his career traveling to the Middle East. In the aftermath of the shooting death of Alex Pretti, and as the Trump administration continues its crackdown in the Twin Cities, Friedman speaks with the editor Stephen Stromberg about the parallels he sees between his hometown and Gaza today.

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### **Document 8 c - PODCAST - Minneapolis Reveals Where Trump's Deportation Agenda Is Going**

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**The Ezra Klein Show, *The New York Times*, Jan. 23, 2026** [HERE](#)

Caitlin Dickerson is a journalist at The Atlantic. She's been covering immigration closely since Trump's first term. She won a Pulitzer Prize in 2023 for reporting on Trump's family separation policy. I asked her on the show to walk me through what this new infrastructure looks like, how it fits together, how it is being administered, what it is being used to do now and what that might mean for the future

● **Document 9 -'STOP LYING!': Hannity picks apart Dems' 'deception' about Minneapolis shooting**  
**FOX News, January 10 2026**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HXw6xz6yP4E>

**About Sean Hannity (From Fox News)**

*Known for his provocative style and free-wheeling, passionate commentary on politics and the American agenda, Sean Hannity is one of the most prominent and influential conservative voices in the country.*

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### **Document 10 - I'm the Mayor of Minneapolis. Trump Is Lying to You.**

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Opinion - **Guest Essay** , *The New York Times*, Jan. 8, 2026

**By Jacob Frey** - Mr. Frey is the mayor of Minneapolis.

On Aug. 1, 2007, the Interstate 35W bridge spanning the Mississippi River in Minneapolis collapsed into the water during rush hour. Thirteen people died, and dozens more were injured.

In the immediate aftermath, the president, a Republican, showed up in a city full of Democrats ready to help.

Minneapolis leaders were passionate and vocal critics of President George W. Bush's policies at the time. But when the crisis struck, it didn't matter. We were partners in what mattered most: saving lives, steadying our community and rebuilding infrastructure. Cities could count on the administration in a crisis. Politics stopped, quite literally, at the water's edge.

Blue cities like Minneapolis used to be able to count on good-faith partnerships with the federal government under both Republican and Democratic administrations. Under the Biden administration, our police officers worked with federal agents and the U.S. attorney's office to bring down shooting rates in North Minneapolis. The effort wasn't political — it was practical, 10 and it continues to keep people safe.

But such partnerships, in both crisis and ordinary governance, are not the experience of big-city Democratic mayors under the Trump administrations. I learned that the hard way in 2020 during the civil unrest that came in the wake of George Floyd's murder by a Minneapolis police officer. I'll never forget the shock I felt when President Trump not only encouraged violence during the unrest, but denied federal approval for disaster relief.

15 On Wednesday, when I learned that a Minneapolis resident had been shot and killed by an Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent, I didn't feel the shock in my gut that I felt over five years ago. Nothing about this was shocking. The

chaos that ICE and the Trump administration have brought to Minneapolis made this tragedy sadly predictable. In mid-December, ICE agents were filmed dragging a pregnant woman through the street. Heavily armed agents have been deployed to arrest lone individuals in public libraries and malls. Even in the aftermath of this week’s shooting, ICE agents continued to spread chaos, apparently deploying chemical agents at a local public high school.

The actions of the ICE agents deployed to my city are dangerous, and now, even deadly. But that danger has been compounded by the administration’s claim that the victim committed an act of domestic terrorism. The Department of Homeland Security secretary, Kristi Noem, baselessly insisted the shooting was an act of self-defense. Mr. Trump falsely claimed that the victim, Renee Nicole Good, “behaved horribly” and “ran him over,” referring to the ICE agent. I’ve watched multiple videos, from multiple perspectives — it seems clear that Ms. Good, a mother of three, was trying to leave the scene, not attack an agent.

The Trump administration’s false narrative about this week’s shooting, and the demonization of the victim, are only part of a bigger lie. It wants the American public to believe that ICE’s heavily militarized crackdown across this country is an effort to keep cities like Minneapolis safe. It is not. It is about vilifying not just immigrants, but all who welcome them and their contributions to our communities. By defending the lie about this clearly avoidable shooting in Minneapolis and refusing to allow Minnesota officials to investigate the crime, the administration is sending a message to the entire country: If you show up for your immigrant neighbors, or even are simply present when those neighbors are taken, your rights will not be protected by the law and your life will be at risk.

Under both the first and second Trump administrations, the country has learned from watching Minneapolis that the federal government holds no regard for cities or the people who live in them. When coupled with this administration’s open contempt for democratic norms — indeed, our Constitution — this is a threat to the long-term endurance of our Republic.

I hope no more of my fellow mayors find their cities in this administration’s cross hairs. But for those who do, here is my advice: The best thing you can do is to build cities that work, and love those streets and those citizens above any ideology. By bringing down violent crime, Minneapolis has been able to successfully push back against those who have tried to portray our city as a postapocalyptic hellscape. By building housing and focusing on affordability, we have made our city a place that immigrants, transplants and native Minneapolitans can all call home. By supporting immigrant-owned small businesses, our city has become living proof that immigrants make our city and our nation stronger.

Cities are on the front lines of this dark hour in our national politics. But after we weather this moment — and we will weather it — it will be on us to light the way forward. The best way to convince the country that welcoming and lifting up immigrants is good for its communities is by proving it in our own cities.

## [Opinion Editorial Board](#)

### **Document 11 - The Trump Justice Department’s most abusive stunt yet**

The failed attempt to indict Democratic lawmakers for constitutionally protected speech is a new low.

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*The Washington Post*, February 11, 2026

The Trump administration has tried to use the criminal justice system to attack or intimidate political adversaries in all kinds of ways. It brought flimsy cases against former FBI director James B. Comey and New York Attorney General Letitia James (D), both of which have been thrown out. It took up a bogus criminal referral for Federal Reserve Chair Jerome H. Powell, which seems to have backfired politically.

But the news this week that prosecutors sought grand-jury indictments against six Democratic lawmakers over a political video stands out as the most flagrant abuse yet of the administration’s criminal-legal powers. This is the weaponization of the Justice Department against sitting members of the opposition party in

Congress and an attempt to criminalize political speech plainly protected by the First Amendment.

The two senators and four House members recorded an online video in November suggesting that members of the military and intelligence services disobey “illegal orders.” The video prompted Trump to declare, “Each one of these traitors to our Country should be ARRESTED AND PUT ON TRIAL.”

No one in the Justice Department these days has the standing or courage to effectively talk the president down from self-defeating or lawless commands, so prosecutors tried to do Trump’s bidding. The FBI started investigating the lawmakers last year, and news broke on Tuesday that prosecutors in the office of U.S. Attorney Jeanine Pirro tried to charge them with

felonies, only to be rebuffed by a D.C. grand jury. The government reportedly tried to use a law banning efforts to “interfere” with “the loyalty, morale or discipline” of members of the armed forces.

Whatever the scope of that law, it would obviously violate the First Amendment if it criminalized political speech urging members of the military *not to break the law*. The politicians were careful in the video not to urge disobedience of any specific order, but of illegal orders in the abstract.

While soldiers can ignore commands to do something obviously illegal, orders need to be presumed lawful for the chain of command to function. The video could be interpreted as inviting members of the military to second-guess their superiors, and that set off the Trump administration.

But political provocation isn’t a crime. Members of Congress need to be able to criticize the executive branch’s use of the military. The Constitution’s speech or debate clause gives them additional protection. Clearly part of the video’s insinuation was that the Trump administration had acted illegally by deploying the National Guard to U.S. cities or bombing alleged drug boats off Venezuela’s coast. Prosecuting members

of Congress and potentially imprisoning them for their advocacy would chill such criticism.

Republicans in Congress made hay — understandably so — about the scope of the Biden Justice Department’s subpoenas for their phone records as part of the investigation into Jan. 6, 2021. Liberal legal mandarins mostly scoffed at those GOP complaints, which gives them less credibility to complain about this egregious executive attack on the legislative branch.

The grand jury’s rejection of the charges is a very rare occurrence and a testament to the preposterousness of the legal case. But it’s not necessarily a testament to the sturdiness of grand juries as a legal check. The District, where federal prosecutors sought the indictments, is the bluest in the country; a grand jury of a different political hue might have given prosecutors the go-ahead.

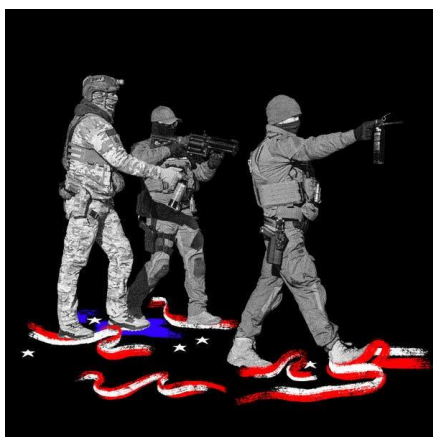
Trump’s abuse of the legal system in this case has accomplished nothing except embarrassment for his Justice Department and notoriety for his targets. But what goes around tends to come around, and don’t be surprised if a future Democratic administration tries a similar stunt against congressional Republicans with a friendly jury pool and greater effect.

## Document 12 - ICE Is on a Dark Path. Congress Must Act Now.

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*The New York Times*, Feb. 12, 2026

By The Editorial Board



Credit...Illustration by Rebecca Chew/The New York Times

The editorial board is a group of opinion journalists whose views are informed by expertise, research, debate and certain longstanding values. It is separate from the newsroom.

The most basic responsibility of an officer of the law is to obey the law. The police and federal agents have enormous powers. They can arrest people, forcibly enter their homes and commit violence in the government’s name. If they

violate the rules for using those powers, they can become abusers of the citizens they are entrusted to protect.

The Department of Homeland Security under President Trump has followed this dark path. Too often over the past year, its behavior has been lawless.

In enacting Mr. Trump’s immigration crackdown, officers from the department have repeatedly defied the Constitution. They have violated the First Amendment

by trampling on citizens' rights to speech and assembly. They have subverted the Second Amendment guarantee of the freedom to bear arms. They have violated the Fourth Amendment's prohibition of unreasonable searches.

The department's officers have pushed other federal laws to the breaking point and beyond, often ignoring judicial orders in the process. They have moved detainees to skirt a judge's jurisdiction. They have deported detainees in violation of judges' rulings. "ICE has likely violated more court orders in January 2026 than some federal agencies have violated in their entire existence," Judge Patrick Schiltz, who was appointed by President George W. Bush, wrote.

As insidious as this behavior has been, the lack of accountability for it may be even worse. Mr. Trump and his top aides are shielding Homeland Security officials and agents who break the law from consequences. After agents killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minnesota, the Trump administration initially blocked civil rights inquiries into the shootings. The administration instead impugned the victims with statements that video evidence refuted. Vice President JD Vance and Stephen Miller, Mr. Trump's close aide, made comments suggesting they believed that agents had unbounded authority to act as they wanted. Congress must now intervene and stand up for the law. It has the leverage to do so. Late last month, Democrats and a small number of Senate Republicans, alarmed by the administration's behavior, rallied to block future funding for Homeland Security. In exchange for new funding, Democrats are rightly insisting on changes to the administration's behavior. As negotiations drag out and the shock of events in Minneapolis recedes, the political pressure to rein in the D.H.S. may fade. Congress should hold firm.

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Every American has an interest in this effort. The administration's lawlessness affects far more than the immigrants, Minnesota residents and others subject to its current abuses. It undermines social order by making citizens distrust their government. It unfairly calls into question the decency and professionalism of the many federal agents and police officers around the country who continue to do a difficult job well. And it sets us on a dangerous course in which the tactics now used against a few may ultimately be wielded against many more.

**Congressional Democrats** have released a list of demands, and they are largely sensible. In several items, Democrats insist on a return to the checks and balances crucial to democratic governance. The Trump administration, for example, has been issuing its own warrants (known as administrative warrants) that allow agents to enter a home without a finding of probable cause by a judge; Democrats say the administration must instead seek a traditional warrant from a judge. They are right. Under the current approach, the administration could

potentially enter anybody's home, without a judge's oversight, under the guise of searching for illegal immigrants.

Other items would introduce vital accountability for Homeland Security agents and officials. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents could no longer wear masks as part of their standard gear. They should show their faces, as other public officials — like police officers, judges and lawmakers — do. Masks diminish public trust and facilitate lawlessness. For similar reasons, officers should also need to wear identification on their uniforms when interacting with the public, as the Democrats demand. Officers should undergo more extensive training and adhere to reasonable use-of-force policies. They should wear uniforms and equipment that do not resemble those of an invading army. Many of these standards are the same ones that police departments follow.

The Democrats' list also rightly includes restraints on the leaders of the Department of Homeland Security. They would have to end the racial profiling now being used to question and detain many Latino, Asian and Black people. They would have to preserve evidence after a violent encounter and share it with local officials. Detainment facilities would need to meet basic standards for humane treatment.

The list is overly broad in places and offers a reminder of why many Americans have lost faith in the Democratic Party on this issue. Democrats should make clear that they support the legitimate enforcement of immigration law. They should avoid the sweeping statements that some members of the party have used in recent years, including calls for sanctuary cities, the decriminalization of border crossings and the abolition of ICE. Recent polls show that Mr. Trump's thuggish immigration policies are unpopular — but that more Americans still trust the Republican Party on immigration than the Democratic Party.

In the course of negotiating with congressional Republicans, Democrats can drop the more questionable items on their list and stand firm on the vital ones. Even more important, congressional Republicans should summon more political courage than they have for most of the Trump era and join Democrats in insisting that the administration follow the law. Conservatives have long bemoaned the corrosive effects that unchecked illegality and disorder bring on society. When the illegality stems from the government itself, the damage is even worse.

**After 250 years** of republican rule, it can be hard for many Americans to imagine what happens to a country when its government goes rogue. The residents of Minnesota and other cities subject to the Trump immigration crackdown have recently experienced a version of it. People have been harassed, humiliated, assaulted and even killed by federal law enforcement. And people do not know where to turn for help, because government officials who are supposed to protect them are the ones doling out the abuse. When societies start down this road, they often continue.

Restraining the Department of Homeland Security is important for its own sake. But it also has the potential to become a model for how Congress can confront the Trump administration's lawlessness in other areas, including the Justice Department's transformation into a tool of Mr. Trump's personal interests. If Congress insists that Homeland Security follow the law or lose its funding, the message will be powerful.

A special feature of our republic is the Bill of Rights, created to protect Americans against overreach by the

federal government. The purpose of the Constitution, as a result, is not just to grant powers to the federal government but to define the limits of those powers. Congressional Republicans took an oath to uphold the Constitution. They took an oath to uphold those limits — to prevent the government from engaging in these kinds of abuses — and they must do so. The current crisis isn't just a test of the balance of powers. It's a test of the Bill of Rights.

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### Document 13 - The left is badly misreading the politics of illegal immigration

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There's a reason sanctuary cities are the epicenter of clashes. It's not the one Democrats think.

Marc Thiessen, *The Washington Post*, January 29, 2026

*Marc A. Thiessen* Marc Thiessen writes a column for *The Post* on foreign and domestic policy. He is a fellow at the American Enterprise Institute, and the former chief speechwriter for President George W. Bush. He is a Fox News contributor.

President Donald Trump has offered Minnesota a reasonable compromise: He will scale back ICE operations in the state if Minnesota officials agree to “turn over all incarcerated or active warrant criminal illegal aliens” and “assist federal authorities in detaining criminal illegal aliens wanted for crimes.”

Nothing doing, says Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey (D). “Minneapolis does not and will not enforce federal immigration laws,” he said on X after meeting with White House border czar Tom Homan. After Trump warned he was “PLAYING WITH FIRE,” Frey doubled down, declaring that “the job of our police is to keep people safe, not enforce fed immigration laws.”

In fact, his sanctuary policies have done the exact opposite — contributing to the deaths of two protesters, Renée Good and Alex Pretti, who would almost certainly be alive today were it not for Frey and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz's (D) refusal to cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents in targeting illegal migrants with criminal records.

When Trump took office a year ago, Homan made clear that the administration's intention was not to carry out “a mass sweep of neighborhoods” but rather to “prioritize public safety threats” by detaining and deporting “the worst of the worst” — those charged with or convicted of serious crimes.

Trump was elected with a mandate to do that. In a New York Times-Ipsos poll just before his inauguration, an 87 percent supermajority said they supported removing all migrants “who are here illegally and have criminal records.” Indeed, 63 percent said they wanted Trump to go further and deport all migrants “who are here illegally and arrived over the last four years” under President Joe Biden, while 55 percent wanted to deport “all immigrants who are here illegally” — period.

Over the past year, Homan has been true to his word: Nearly 70 percent ICE arrests nationwide have involved illegal migrants convicted or charged with crimes, according to the Department of Homeland Security. In states where local officials work with ICE, these arrests have taken place without chaos. For example, there have been more than 88,000 ICE arrests in Texas — the most in the country — largely without incident. But in Minnesota, there have been 10 times fewer arrests but far more violent confrontations.

Why? Because when state and local officials won't help federal immigration officers target those with criminal records, they have no choice but to go into communities to get them. Since Trump took office, DHS reports that Minnesota has released nearly 470 illegal migrants charged with or convicted of crimes back onto the streets — including those charged with sex offenses against a child, lewd or lascivious acts with a minor, domestic violence, drug trafficking, vehicular homicide, burglary, first-degree aggravated robbery and larceny. In all, DHS says Minnesota officials are refusing to honor more than 1,360 ICE detainees.

That has required ICE to carry out large sweeps resulting in collateral arrests of illegal migrants *without* criminal records — the very people Frey and Walz are purporting to protect with their sanctuary policies — because, as Homan has made clear, while ICE is focused primarily on those with criminal records, they will arrest anyone they find who is here illegally.

Sanctuary policies have also endangered Minnesotans by contributing to deadly confrontations with protesters. As Homan has explained, “when you go in the community and find them, it puts ICE officers at greater risk, it puts a community at greater risk, it puts the alien at greater risk.”

Instead of cooperating, Frey and Waltz have urged Minnesotans to take to the streets and protest ICE. Walz has poured gasoline on the fire by comparing ICE agents to the Nazis who hunted down Anne Frank and are committing “atrocities against Minnesotans,” while Frey had demanded that ICE “get the f--- out of Minneapolis.”

Moreover, because they have ordered state and local law enforcement not to support deportations, ICE has been forced to rely on U.S. Border Patrol to protect them as they carry out enforcement operations — and those officers are not trained in crowd control and de-escalation techniques. Frey and Waltz stood by as organized networks have engaged in the coordinated tracking and doxing ICE agents, surrounding and trashing hotels where they are staying, and provoking confrontations that have turned deadly.

Meanwhile, on Capitol Hill, Democrats are preparing to shut down part of the government (again!) to block Congress from passing the DHS appropriations bill. They are overplaying their hand. Last year, Trump secured funding for ICE through 2029 as part of his One Big Beautiful Bill — which means that blocking the DHS spending bill will *not* affect ICE, but *will* cut funding for the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Transportation Security Administration. Just a few months ago, Democrats shut down the government over Obamacare subsidies and were forced to capitulate. Insanity is doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result.

Democrats are misreading the politics of illegal immigration. Yes, polls show that majorities of Americans think Trump’s *implementation* of his deportation policies has been “too tough.” But a majority supports the deportations themselves, especially for illegal migrants with criminal records. They just want them to be carried out humanely.

If Democrats resist Trump’s offer to do so, they will pay a political price. And for the party responsible for the worst border crisis in American history to block funding for the department responsible for securing the border would be the height of political malpractice.