

2026 Legislative Priority Proposal
Updated: 9/15/25

| Rollback Immigration Policies | |
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| El Paso County (Commissioner Carrie Geitner) | |
| Preferred Contact: | Phone |
| Co-Sponsoring Counties/Commissioners: | None. |
| Who is your subject matter expert? | Brandon Wilson, Government Affairs Advisor, El Paso County. |
| Has this proposal been approved by your BoCC? | Yes. |
| Have you reviewed the CCI Instructional Memo? | Yes. |
| Describe the problem your proposal will solve. | Local law enforcement agencies are currently restricted from partnering with federal immigration authorities. This creates critical gaps in intelligence sharing, enforcement coordination, and public safety efforts across the state. Individuals who may pose a threat to community security, including those with prior deportation orders or criminal records, can evade detection and remain in local communities. As a result, law enforcement is forced to operate with limited tools and incomplete information, undermining their capacity to protect residents and uphold the rule of law. Furthermore, this lack of coordination places additional strain on local resources, increases operational inefficiencies, and diminishes public trust. |
| Areas of Impact: | Day-to-day operations of the county; Functionality of county programs or services; Power/Authority/Mandate of county government; General community advancement. |
| What is the ultimate source of this problem? | <p>Over the past several years, Colorado has enacted a series of laws that significantly limit cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities, effectively establishing the state as a sanctuary jurisdiction.</p> <p>Beginning with House Bill 19-1124, the state prohibited local law enforcement from arresting or detaining individuals solely based on ICE detainer requests. This was followed by Senate Bill 20-083, which barred immigration-related arrests at courthouses, and Senate Bill 21-131, which prohibited state employees from sharing personal data with immigration enforcement agencies.</p> |

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| | In 2025, the Colorado legislature passed Senate Bill 25-276 , the most sweeping legislation to date, which banned local agencies, including law enforcement, schools, and hospitals from honoring ICE detainers, sharing personal information, or granting federal agents access to facilities without a judicial warrant. |
| What is your initial proposal to solve this problem? | El Paso County is proposing legislation similar to Senate Bill 25-047 . This legislation would prohibit local governments in Colorado from adopting policies that restrict cooperation with federal immigration authorities. It would also permit local law enforcement to report individuals suspected—based on probable cause—of being unlawfully present in the U.S. to Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). |
| Please provide sample language for this solution. | Please reference bill text from SB25-047 that talks about re-creating and re-enacting (with amendments) article 29 of title 29. |
| Are there any solutions that do not require state-level legislation? Has your county explored these alternatives? | We have determined that the only way to achieve this policy goal is through the passage of state level legislation. |
| Has CCI or any other organizations sought a solution to this problem before? | During the 2025 session, Senate Bill 25-047 was introduced as a corrective measure to restore collaboration between local and federal agencies by allowing law enforcement to cooperate with ICE, share information, and honor detainer requests. Unfortunately, the bill was postponed indefinitely during its first committee hearing. |
| What possible organization(s) would support your proposed solution? | Proponents could include county commissioners and other local officials, law enforcement agencies and sheriffs' associations, certain state lawmakers and policy advocates, victims' rights groups and public safety organizations, as well as members of the public. |
| What possible organization(s) would oppose your proposed solution? | Opponents could include immigrant advocacy organizations such as the ACLU and Colorado Immigrant Rights Coalition, progressive lawmakers and local officials, and potentially civil liberties groups. |
| Have you spoken with any legislators about your proposed solution? If so, what was their response? | El Paso County Rep. Jarvis Caldwell is very interested in either sponsoring or supporting this type of legislation. |
| What are the financial implications of this problem to your county? | Allowing local law enforcement to partner with federal immigration authorities would reduce costs to counties by reducing the number of services that are being used by those who are in the country unlawfully. It |

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| Are there any financial implications to this solution either? | would also allow dangerous individuals to be removed off the streets, which could disrupt criminal activities and make the community safer. |
| <p>What are the financial implications of this problem to any other impacted parties?</p> <p>What are the financial implications of this solution to any other impacted parties? <i>Please consider any relevant Colorado State Departments.</i></p> | <p>The current restrictions on cooperation between local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities impose significant financial burdens on counties, state departments, and other stakeholders. Local governments face increased operational costs due to duplicated efforts, a lack of intelligence sharing, and limited enforcement tools, which strain public safety budgets and reduce efficiency.</p> <p>Additionally, counties must absorb the cost of services—such as emergency healthcare, housing, and public assistance—for undocumented individuals who remain in communities due to limited federal coordination. The state risks losing federal funding tied to law enforcement and public safety, while departments like the Colorado Department of Public Safety (CDPS), the Department of Human Services (CDHS), and the Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) experience added pressure from increased service demands.</p> <p>The proposed legislative solution would restore the ability of local law enforcement to cooperate with federal immigration authorities, likely reducing costs by enabling the removal of individuals who pose a threat to public safety and decreasing reliance on local resources. It may also enhance access to federal funding and reduce the burden on state agencies.</p> |
| Staff Feedback | <p><u>Risk / Difficulty:</u> High - Based on last year's votes, this bill faces nearly impossible odds for passage given the makeup of the General Assembly. Last session, SB25-276 (Protect Civil Rights Immigration Status) was supported by every member of the majority party except for one Senator.</p> <p><u>Time Commitment:</u> Low - The bill language is straightforward, there will be no shortage of members of the minority party desiring to sponsor it, and a minimum number of stakeholder sessions will be needed to explain the bill and have interested parties make position decisions.</p> |