

April 30, 2025

To: Interested Parties

From: ACLU

**Re: Voters Overwhelmingly Reject Forcing Local Law Enforcement To Carry Out Trump Administration's Deportation Agenda**

In light of the Trump administration's new executive orders threatening to prosecute local officials and strip funding from states that do not comply with its deportation agenda, public opinion research conducted in February 2025 shows that **voters across the country overwhelmingly reject this approach**. Even before this week's escalation, voters were already clear: they want real safety solutions that strengthen communities—not federal crackdowns that tear them apart.

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), YouGov fielded a series of surveys at the national and state levels of 3,037 registered voters including a nationwide sample (n=1,195) and in Michigan (n=600), North Carolina (n=600), Pennsylvania (n=609), Tennessee (n=402) and Nebraska (n=300) in February 2025. The following are key findings from the research:

- € **Voters believe that forcing local law enforcement to cooperate with federal immigration makes our communities less safe.** At the national level, 57 percent of voters (including 61 percent of Independents and 81 percent of Democrats) say that our communities are less safe when local law enforcement focuses on arresting and deporting immigrants, as it diverts attention and resources away from addressing serious crimes.
  - Battleground voters agree that our communities are less safe when local law enforcement focuses on arresting and deporting immigrants:
    - In Michigan, 55 percent of voters (including 72 percent of Independents and 80 percent of Democrats).
    - In North Carolina, 62 percent of voters (including 52 percent of Independents and 94 percent of Democrats).
    - In Pennsylvania, 57 percent of voters (including 77 percent of Independents and 85 percent of Democrats).
    - In Nebraska, 54 percent of voters (including 61 percent of Independents and 88 percent of Democrats).
    - In Tennessee, 53 percent of voters (including 60 percent of Independents and 76 percent of Democrats).
- € **Voters believe that investing in proven solutions to crime will make our communities safer, not arresting, detaining, and deporting immigrants.** At the national level, 64 percent of voters (including 69 percent of Independents and 89 percent of Democrats) say that to make our communities safer, we need to invest in proven solutions that prevent crime, drug addiction, and homelessness from happening in the first place, rather than arresting, detaining, and deporting immigrants.
  - Battleground voters agree we need to invest in proven solutions that prevent crime:
    - In Michigan, 62 percent of voters (including 65 percent of Independents and 87 percent of Democrats).
    - In North Carolina, 65 percent of voters (including 68 percent of Independents and 94 percent of Democrats).
    - In Pennsylvania, 65 percent of voters (including 85 percent of Independents and 90 percent of Democrats).

- In Nebraska, 63 percent of voters (including 72 percent of Independents and 92 percent of Democrats).
- In Tennessee, 57 percent of voters (including 78 percent of Independents and 89 percent of Democrats).

✶ **Voters reject deportation as a safety strategy – and believe that politicians should focus on what creates safe communities: quality schools, living wages, affordable housing, and increased access to mental health and addiction treatment.** At the national level, 64 percent of voters (including 64 percent of Independents and 89 percent of Democrats) find the following statement somewhat or very convincing:

*We all deserve to feel safe, but deporting our neighbors and tearing apart families doesn't achieve that—it only makes private prison corporations and their CEOs richer. Politicians should prioritize real solutions to prevent crime and reduce violence. Let's invest in what truly creates safe communities: quality schools, living wages, affordable housing, and increased access to mental health and addiction treatment.*

- Battleground voters also find this statement somewhat or very convincing:
  - In Michigan, 61 percent of voters (including 65 percent of Independents and 89 percent of Democrats).
  - In North Carolina, 62 percent of voters (including 60 percent of independents and 89 percent of Democrats).
  - In Pennsylvania, 61 percent of voters (including 57 percent of Independents and 89 percent of Democrats).
  - In Tennessee, 55 percent of voters (including 58 percent of Independents and 87 percent of Democrats).
- *This question was not asked in Nebraska.*

**Methodology:** *This above is based on 3,037 interviews conducted by YouGov on the internet of registered voters (including n=1,195 nationally, n=600 in Michigan, n=600 in North Carolina, n=609 in Pennsylvania, n=402 in Tennessee, n=300 in Nebraska). The samples were weighted separately according to gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, and U.S. Census region based on voter registration lists, the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, as well as 2020 Presidential vote and approximate 2024 Presidential vote based on available results. Respondents were selected from YouGov to be representative of registered voters. The margin of error (a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage p based on the subsetting national sample is 3%, MI sample is 4.8%, NC sample is 4.5%, PA sample is 4.5%, TN sample is 6%, and NE sample is 6.7%. Some questions withheld for future release.*

## Appendix

Question	National				Battleground States				
<i>Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?</i>	All	Dem	Rep	Ind	MI	NC	PA	TN	NE
To protect our communities from crime and improve public safety, we need to arrest, detain, and deport immigrants who are here illegally	36%	11%	62%	31%	38%	35%	35%	43%	37%

To make our communities safer, we need to invest in proven solutions that prevent crime, drug addiction, and homelessness from happening in the first place	64%	89%	38%	69%	62%	65%	65%	57%	63%
<i>Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?</i>									
To protect our communities from crime, we need to force local law enforcement to help the federal government deport immigrants	43%	19%	68%	39%	45%	38%	43%	47%	46%
Our communities are less safe when law enforcement focuses on arresting and deporting immigrants, as it diverts their attention and resources from addressing serious crimes	57%	81%	32%	61%	55%	62%	57%	53%	54%
<b>Please tell us how convincing the following statement is:</b> <i>We all deserve to feel safe, but deporting our neighbors and tearing apart families doesn't achieve that—it only makes private prison corporations and their CEOs richer. Politicians should prioritize real solutions to prevent crime and reduce violence. Let's invest in what truly creates safe communities: quality schools, living wages, affordable housing, and increased access to mental health and addiction treatment.</i>									
Total Convincing	63%	89%	38%	64%	61%	62%	61%	55%	NA
Total Not Convincing	33%	8%	59%	27%	35%	34%	33%	40%	NA

Question	Other States					
<i>Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?</i>	CA	MN	NJ	NY	OR	VT
To protect our communities from crime and improve public safety, we need to arrest, detain, and deport immigrants who are here illegally	28%	35%	33%	33%	33%	28%
To make our communities safer, we need to invest in proven solutions that prevent crime, drug addiction, and homelessness from happening in the first place	72%	65%	67%	67%	67%	72%
<i>Which of the following statements comes closer to your view, even if neither is exactly right?</i>						
To protect our communities from crime, we need to force local law enforcement to help the federal government deport immigrants	35%	41%	38%	44%	42%	39%
Our communities are less safe when law enforcement focuses on arresting and deporting immigrants, as it diverts their attention and resources from addressing serious crimes	65%	59%	62%	56%	58%	61%

<b><i>Please tell us how convincing the following statement is: We all deserve to feel safe, but deporting our neighbors and tearing apart families doesn't achieve that—it only makes private prison corporations and their CEOs richer. Politicians should prioritize real solutions to prevent crime and reduce violence. Let's invest in what truly creates safe communities: quality schools, living wages, affordable housing, and increased access to mental health and addiction treatment.</i></b>						
Total Convincing	71%	61%	NA	69%	63%	NA
Total Not Convincing	26%	34%	NA	28%	34%	NA