

# Tools for Navigating Immigration Policy Changes

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Cities API Caucus

# Immigration Law & Policy Landscape: Federal, State, & Local Updates

## Federal

- Executive-order and agency updates: interior enforcement, screening / travel, asylum and TPS
- H.R. 1 / Public Law 119-21: expanded detention and removal capacity plus new immigration-related fees
- Public Charge: new 2026 rule; California-led multistate challenge filed Sept. 14
- Birthright citizenship: Trump v. Barbara followed by EO 14418 and EO 14419

## State

- SB 580 (Gov. Code § 12532.5): state and local agencies must implement AG model policies or equivalent policies by Jan. 1, 2027; current guidance addresses facilities, information requests, databases /vendors, and frontline protocols
- SB 81: procedures for immigration-enforcement access and information requests at health facilities
- AB 495 + SB 98: child-care / school protections and immigration-enforcement notification procedures
- SB 281: verbatim immigration-consequences advisement before a guilty or no-contest plea

## Local

- Jurisdictions need clear protocols for facilities, warrants / subpoenas, records, data, and frontline staff
- SB 805 and SB 627 are in active federal litigation over identification and masking requirements for federal officers
- 287(g) participation and local-federal cooperation vary widely by jurisdiction
- Language access, service continuity, and trusted referral pathways remain core operational concerns

# Status of Legal Challenges: What Has Changed Since 2025?

## Enforcement / Local Authority

- **Vasquez Perdomo v. Mullin** — case continues; a Sept. 2026 CDCA preliminary injunction requires an individualized pre-arrest escape-risk determination and documentation before a warrantless civil immigration arrest
- **D.V.D. v. DHS** — notice-and-opportunity protections for third-country removals and vacatur of DHS guidance; separate sequencing declarations vacated for lack of standing
- **Blanche v. Lau** — Supreme Court rejected a heightened evidentiary burden at LPR reentry and remanded the qualifying-offense issue
- **SB 805 / SB 627** — federal challenges continue over California identification and masking requirements for federal officers

## Asylum / Status / Citizenship

- **Mullin v. Al Otro Lado** — pre-entry asylum processing; Supreme Court reversed and remanded
- **Mullin v. Doe** — Haiti / Syria TPS litigation; Supreme Court reversed postponement relief
- **Aung Doe** — separate Burma TPS challenge following Mullin v. Doe
- **Trump v. Barbara** — birthright-citizenship ruling; EO 14418 and EO 14419 followed

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## Other Active Litigation

- Public Charge — California-led multistate challenge filed Sept. 14 against the new rule and implementing guidance
- Watch for continuing litigation over detention, third-country removals, TPS, federal funding conditions, state enforcement laws, and local cooperation

# Implications for Local Government & Community Preparedness

## Operational Questions for Cities

- What happens if federal immigration officers arrive at a city facility?
- Who reviews warrants, subpoenas or information requests?
- What records or data does the city hold — and who can access it?
- Which staff need a response protocol beyond public safety?
- How does the city keep ordinary services operating during a high-attention event?

## Community Impacts & Access Concerns

- Fear and uncertainty can lead residents to delay or avoid health care, public benefits, and other public services
- Increased demand for Know Your Rights education, legal screening, family preparedness, and trusted referrals
- Language-access barriers become more consequential when policies and guidance change quickly
- Housing instability after missed work, detention, or household-income disruption
- Community-safety concerns can affect reporting, engagement, and trust in public institutions
- School absences, youth concerns, and family-preparedness needs

The city role is often operational: keep services clear, consistent and accessible while legal questions are routed to the right experts.

## What Can Local Government Do?

- Designate an immigration-response lead and a clear escalation path to city counsel
- Train frontline staff — including libraries, community services, housing, HR and public safety
- Review city-facility access protocols and document-handling procedures
- Audit sensitive data, database access and vendor practices
- Maintain current multilingual public information and Know Your Rights resources
- Build a vetted referral list for legal aid, housing, health and family support
- Coordinate with trusted community-based organizations before a crisis
- Practice the plan through tabletop scenarios and update it as law and policy change

**DISCLAIMER: THIS IS NOT LEGAL ADVICE.**

Jurisdictions should consult city counsel regarding jurisdiction-specific legal obligations and protocols.

# Community Issues Residents Are Asking About in 2026

## Immigration / Status

- Temporary Protected Status (TPS)
- Asylum and humanitarian protections
- Travel and visa restrictions

## Citizenship / Benefits

- “What do EO 14418 / EO 14419 mean after Trump v. Barbara?”
- “Could using health, food, or other benefits affect my case?” — Public Charge
- “What changed with naturalization or filing fees?”

## California Protections / Access

- Schools / child care: AB 495 + SB 98
- Health facilities: SB 81
- Plea advisements: SB 281
- “Where can I get qualified legal help in my language?”

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## Local effect & Questions?

Residents often bring these questions to the institutions they already know — city offices, libraries, schools, service providers and community organizations.

**Are there any questions in the room at this point?**

# What Is Happening on the Ground?

## Federal

- Larger detention and enforcement capacity
- Expanded use of state / local partnerships, including 287(g)
- Enforcement activity affecting workplaces, courthouses and community routines

## California & Other Jurisdictions

- California: SB 54 + SB 580 implementation; SB 81, AB 495 / SB 98, and SB 281 add setting-specific protections / procedures
- SB 805 / SB 627 are in federal litigation over identification and masking requirements for federal officers
- Texas and other jurisdictions continue expanding 287(g) participation and state/local cooperation models

## Minneapolis: Aftermath Example

- Operation Metro Surge became a major local-government response issue
- City's June 2026 assessment estimated nearly \$700M in community and economic impacts
- Reported effects included missed work, school disruption, delayed care and business losses

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## Reality for Local Communities

- Immigration policy can quickly become a housing, health, education, workforce and community-safety issue
- Impacts vary by language, immigration history, family composition and access to counsel
- Local agencies and community organizations are often the first place residents seek reliable information

# Legal Services & AAPI Community Impact

## What AJSOCAL Is Seeing

- More questions about travel, TPS, asylum, benefits and enforcement risk
- Greater need for legal screening and trusted referrals
- Language barriers make fast-moving policy harder to understand
- Immigration issues spill into housing, family stability, employment and health access

## How AJSOCAL Is Responding

- Direct immigration legal services and legal clinics
- Know Your Rights and family-preparedness education
- Asian-language legal services and intake and community outreach
- Referrals to housing, health and other support services
- Coalition coordination, policy advocacy and partnerships with cities and CBOs

AJSOCAL can be a community-facing legal and referral partner; city-specific legal decisions remain with city counsel.

## Moderated Discussion

### Questions:

- Where are immigration-policy changes showing up first in your city — public safety, housing, schools, health, benefits access, or other services?
- Which California changes — SB 580, SB 81, AB 495 / SB 98, or SB 281 — require implementation work or updated protocols in your jurisdiction?
- What should staff do when federal officers, warrants, subpoenas, or information requests arrive?
- What are residents asking about Public Charge, TPS, travel, citizenship, and access to services — and where should cities refer them?
- How can cities maintain community trust and language access while meeting jurisdiction-specific legal obligations?
- What partnerships or resources would make your city more prepared for the next policy shift?