



ACLU  
of Ohio  
Report

# ICE in Ohio

**An overview of how  
federal immigration  
agents have expanded  
their presence in Ohio  
during the first year  
of President Trump's  
second term.**

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**ACLU**  
Ohio

## Our Project

**In early 2025, the ACLU of Ohio decided to research the impact of the first year of President Trump's second term on the number of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) contracts across Ohio.**

**I**n March, April, and August 2025, we sent batches of public records requests to various sheriff's offices and county jails regarding partnerships with ICE and/or the U.S. Marshals Service where we knew previous contracts existed or we had received information that a contract may be in the works. These included Butler, Fairfield, Geauga, Mahoning, Portage, and Seneca Counties, as well as the Corrections Center of Northwest Ohio (CCNO).

**On August 26, 2025,** Attorney General David Yost released an opinion asserting that only county commissioners, not sheriffs, have the authority to enter into agreements with ICE.

Following this opinion, we sent an additional batch of public records requests to county commissioners for the original set of records requests, as well as, additional counties of interest. This second wave included a total of 31 public records requests sent in October 2025 and January 2026.

In total, we sent **38 public records requests** to county commissioners, sheriff's offices, county jails, local police departments, and the CCNO **across 17 Ohio counties**, seeking to bring to light the level of cooperation between our local law enforcement officers and the federal government.

**We received responses from all 17 counties, and 37 of our 38 individual public records requests were answered.**

Additionally, we reviewed publicly available 287(g) agreement information from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2025, **bringing our total counties reviewed to 18.**

**The counties are:** Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Delaware, Fairfield, Fayette, Geauga, Greene, Knox, Lake, Mahoning, Medina, Morrow, Portage, Preble, Seneca and Warren, as well as the CCNO which covers Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, and Williams Counties.

**Notably, the Geauga County and Seneca County Sheriffs' Offices denied our public records requests. We filed mandamus actions in the Ohio Supreme Court against both counties; our case against Geauga is still pending, but we resolved our case against Seneca and received the records we requested.**

## What Types of Contracts Exist in Ohio

Three types of contracts exist between various counties or municipalities and ICE and/or the U.S. Marshals Service related to immigration enforcement, transportation, and detention: (1) 287(g) agreements, (2) jail bed space contracts, and (3) jail transport services.

**Jail Bed Space:** ICE either directly contracts for bed space in a county jail or has access to an add on rider to use space contracted for by the U.S. Marshals Service.

**Jail Transport Services:** ICE either directly contracts for transportation to or from a county jail or has access to an add on rider contracted for by the U.S. Marshals Service. This can be transportation for things like facility transfer, medical, court hearings, etc.

There are three types of 287(g) contracts—the Jail Enforcement Model, the Task Force Model, and the Warrant Service Officer Model (and sometimes a combination).

### Jail Enforcement Model:

Local law enforcement informs ICE of undocumented immigrants that have already been detained in jail.

### Task Force Model:

Allows local law enforcement to essentially act as ICE agents, making arrests in their communities for discovered or perceived violations of immigration law.

### Warrant Service Officer Model:

Local law enforcement delivers ICE administrative warrants to people in their jail.

287(g) contracts are nothing new, but they have ramped up. Originally a section of President Clinton’s 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act, 287(g) contracts create partnerships between Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and state and local governments. These partnerships enable local law enforcement to cooperate with ICE, carrying out some level of immigration enforcement.

## What We Uncovered

**In 2024, Ohio only had two counties (Geauga and Seneca) with immigration related contracts.** Specifically, these contracts were for jail bed space and transportation services.

**By the end of 2025, the number of jail bed space and/or transport agreements rose to six.** These agreements include the Butler, Delaware, Geauga, Mahoning, and Portage\* County Jails, as well as the CCNO (which covers Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, and Williams Counties).

**Ohio began 2025 with no 287(g) agreements.**

**By the end of 2025, this number rose to 12 unique 287(g) agreements between either county sheriff’s offices (SO) or local police departments and ICE across 11 Ohio counties.**

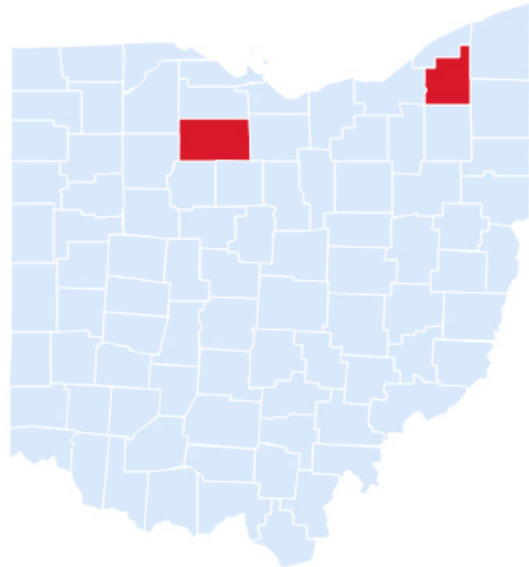
The proliferation of 287(g) contracts has been playing out across the country. At the start of President Trump’s second term, there were only 133 state and local governments enrolled in 287(g) agreements. **Since then, ICE has added 1,079 agencies to the program**—with some agencies signing multiple agreements, delegating authority under three forms of the program.

\*<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/local/2025/07/10/sheriff-bruce-zuchowski-touts-benefits-of-housing-federal-inmates-in-portage-county-jail/84506028007/>

## ICE & USMS Contracts Across Ohio by County

In just one year, Ohio saw a *rapid expansion* of contracts between local law enforcement and federal immigration agents. The landscape has shifted dramatically thanks to the Trump administration's supersized deportation force.

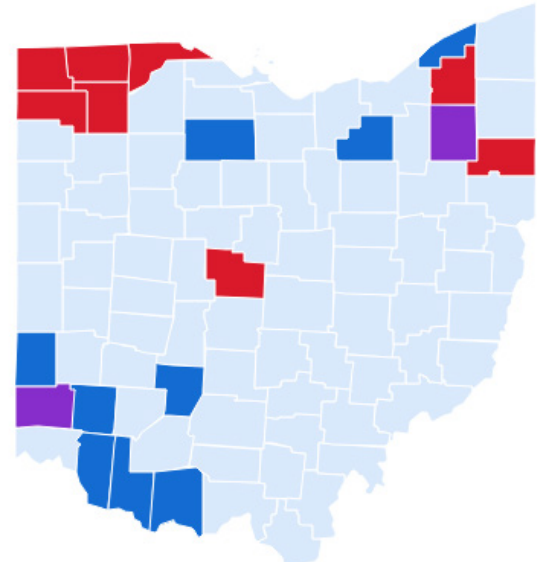
### ICE & USMS Contracts in Ohio in 2024



● Jail Bed Space & Transportation Services

In 2024, only two Ohio counties, Geauga and Seneca, had immigration related contracts.

### ICE & USMS Contracts in Ohio in 2025



● 287(g) ● 287(g) & Jail/Transport  
● Jail/Transport ONLY ● NONE

Notably, two counties, Butler and Portage County include all three contract types – jail bed space, transportation services, and 287(g) agreements.

These agreements include the Peebles Police Department in Adams County; Fayetteville and Sardinia Police Departments in Brown County; Butler County Sheriff's Office (SO); Clermont County SO; Delaware SO; Fayette County SO; Geauga County SO; Lake County SO; Mahoning County SO; the Spencer Police Department in Medina County; Portage County SO; the Gratis Police Department in Preble County, Seneca County SO; and Warren County SO, as well as the CCNO.

In total, 14 counties, or a municipality therein, and the CCNO (which covers Defiance, Fulton, Henry, Lucas, and Williams Counties) have at least one type of contract with ICE and/or the U.S. Marshals Service.

Specifically, Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Delaware, Fayette, Geauga, Lake, Mahoning, Medina, Portage, Preble, Seneca and Warren counties, or a municipality therein, along with CCNO have an active agreement with ICE and/or the U.S. Marshals Service.

# Ohio's 287(g) subtype breakdown is as follows:

## 10 Task Force

- Fayetteville Police Department (*Brown County*)
- Sardina Police Departments (*Brown County*)
- Butler County Sheriff's Office
- Clermont County Sheriff's Office
- Lake County Sheriff's Office
- Spencer Police Department (*Medina County*)
- Portage County Sheriff's Office
- Gratis Police Department (*Preble County*)
- Seneca County Sheriff's Office
- Warren County Sheriff's Office

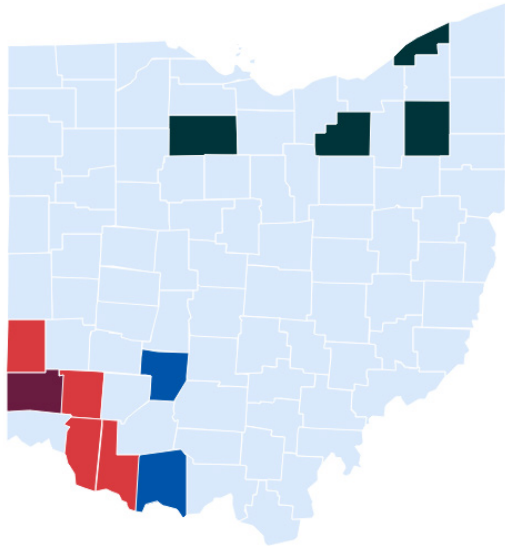
## 6 Warrant Service Officer

- Peebles Police Department (*Adams County*)
- Fayette County Sheriff's Office
- Lake County Sheriff's Office
- Spencer Police Department (*Medina County*)
- Portage County Sheriff's Office
- Seneca County Sheriff's Office

## 1 Jail Enforcement

- Butler County Sheriff's Office

## 287g Contracts by Type



- Jail Enforcement Model & Task Force Model
- Task Force Model ONLY
- Warrant Services Model & Task Force Model
- Warrant Services Model ONLY
- NONE





There is a **significant financial incentive** for local governments to participate in Trump's mass deportation machine.

On any given day, ICE has access to **1,272** jail beds across Ohio. If every bed available to ICE was full every day of the year, the total annual financial gain would be **\$54,343,113**.

### **Average costs:**

The average per diem cost charged by a county jail to house an ICE detainee is **\$108.77**. The average hourly transportation services cost is **\$42.63**.

In Ohio, 7 of its 88 counties have a sheriff with any active agreement. **This means that 1,323,399 people (11.2% of the population) have a sheriff with a 287(g) agreement as of January 26, 2026.**

In Ohio, 4 additional counties have a police department with any active agreement. **This means that 1,618,470 people (13.7% of the population) live in a county where the sheriff and/or police department(s) have a 287(g) agreement as of January 26, 2026.**

*Acknowledgements: The ACLU of Ohio staff is responsible for the contents of this report, which was researched and written by Jocelyn Rosnick, Chief Policy & Advocacy Officer, and Eleanor Hudson, Policy & Advocacy Graduate-level Intern. Celina Coming, Chief Public Relations Officer, and Sheila Smith, Senior Public Relations Officer, provided editorial support and technical edits. Sara Tkac, Digital Design Strategist, provided the report design. Additional support was provided by Patrick Higgins, Senior Policy Counsel, and Collin Marozzi, Advocacy Director, and Silvana Caldera, Senior Campaign Strategist, Immigration, American Civil Liberties Union.*