



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Activities in Santa Barbara County

Possible Actions for Consideration:

INFORMATION ON DETENTIONS

Information and transparency of ICE operations: Freedom of Information Act Request

- Recent large-scale ICE operations have caused widespread fear, disrupted families, and undermined trust in local institutions, deterring residents from accessing schools, churches, healthcare, and essential county services.
- We are formally seeking transparency from federal agencies by requesting detailed records on all ICE activities and arrests in our jurisdiction, including the following:
 - We want to know exactly when and where ICE raids and arrests have happened in our county.
 - We're asking for the names of people who have been detained and the specific reasons why they were picked up.
 - We want to see the rules and policies federal agents are following during these raids—especially how they identify themselves and what guidelines they're supposed to follow.

LEGISLATIVE:

Current Language in Legislative Platform:

Comprehensive Immigration Reform:

Advocate for Congress and the President to enact comprehensive immigration reform that improves and simplifies the current legal immigration system and includes a national strategy for coordination among federal, state, local and tribal authorities.

Add:

We believe that respect for constitutional rights is not optional—it is foundational to a just and democratic society. Every person, regardless of immigration status, is entitled to due process, equal protection under the law, and freedom from unlawful searches, seizures, and discriminatory enforcement.

We support legislation and administrative policies that uphold the constitutional rights of individuals by preventing unlawful immigration enforcement practices and racial profiling. This includes guaranteeing access to legal representation for all detained individuals and prohibiting federal agents from conducting detentive stops without reasonable suspicion.

We also advocate for policies that promote transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement—especially during immigration enforcement actions. Specifically, we support the following measures:

- ***Prohibiting the use of face coverings or disguises*** by federal, state, and local law enforcement officers that obscure their identity during public-facing operations, except in narrowly defined circumstances such as SWAT deployments or for medical necessity.
- ***Requiring clearly visible identification*** at all times during public-facing operations. This includes displaying an officer's name or badge number and agency affiliation.

These safeguards are essential not only to protect individual rights, but to confront the very real fear, trauma, and sense of terror that many people—especially immigrants and communities of color—experience when masked or unidentified law enforcement officers appear in their neighborhoods. No one should be forced to interact with anonymous agents of the state.

Legislation to Consider related to ICE: Support

- [SB 627](#) prohibits federal, state, and local law enforcement from wearing face masks and personal disguises. [Article](#). Scheduled for hearing on July 15.
- [SB 805](#) requires law enforcement personnel to display identification, including their name or badge number. It makes findings related to face coverings but doesn't specifically prevent their use. [Press release](#). Scheduled for hearing on July 15.
- There is a federal bill as well, the [VISIBLE Act](#) (Padilla, Booker).