

Katherine Douglas

Public Comment - LWV of SB

#7



**From:** Megan Turley <megan.elizabeth.turley@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 14, 2025 3:28 PM  
**To:** Bob Nelson; Laura Capps; Steve Lavagnino; Joan Hartmann; Roy Lee; sbcob  
**Cc:** Whitney B. Rubison; Claire VanBlaricum; Laura Haston; Lisa C; Pamela Flynt Tambo; Dianne Black; Vicki Allen  
**Subject:** Letter from the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara on Agenda Item D7 on 7/15/25: Immigration and Customs Enforcement Activities in Santa Barbara County  
**Attachments:** 2025 July SB County Response to Recent ICE Activity.pdf

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Chair Capps and Members of the Board of Supervisors,

Please see the attached letter from the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara regarding Immigration and Customs Enforcement Activities in Santa Barbara County. Thank you for adding this to your agenda for tomorrow's meeting.

Regards,

**Megan Turley**

Board Member, League of Women Voters Housing Committee

<https://www.lwvsantabarbara.org/>



July 14, 2025

Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors  
105 East Anapamu Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

**RE: Community Response to Recent ICE Activity; Urgent Protection for Santa Barbara County Residents**

Dear Chair Capps and Members of the Board,

We write on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara to express our deep concern regarding recent Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity targeting our neighbors, farmworkers, and community organizers across our County in recent months.

These highly militarized operations jeopardize the safety, dignity, and civil rights of undocumented individuals and communities of color throughout our region.

We recognize and commend the critical response already underway. 805 UndocuFund, CAUSE, and other trusted community partners have mobilized swiftly, providing emergency financial relief, legal support, know-your-rights training, immigration court representation and more. Their longstanding leadership is vital to the health and safety of our communities.

Additionally, we appreciate the statements of support from members of the Board of Supervisors, and the recent unanimous budget allocation of cannabis revenue to the Immigrant Legal Defense Center to provide mental health resources to families and individuals negatively affected by recent immigration enforcement actions.

We respectfully urge the Board to take the following additional actions:

- 1. Deploy County Emergency Vehicles for Civilian Protection** - Direct county sheriff, fire and/or other service vehicles to create safety buffers during enforcement operations, following models recently implemented in Los Angeles and elsewhere in California.
- 2. Enforce Visibility and Identification in Law Enforcement** - Direct the Sheriff's Office to ensure that all officers involved in enforcement actions display clear, visible identification and

do not wear face coverings that obscure their identity, except as required for health or safety, to prevent vigilantism in our community. This aligns with California's police identification law and promotes transparency, accountability, and community trust. We also respectfully request that you **send a letter of support for SB 627** ([The No Secret Police Act](#)) that bans face coverings and requires clear identification on uniforms of immigration officers.

**3. Support State and Federal Advocacy Efforts** - Align publicly with state and national elected officials in opposing the militarization of our cities and supporting legal efforts to restrain federal overreach.

**4. Reaffirm and Uphold Local Protections** - Publicly confirm that all county-managed facilities including libraries, parks, health clinics, and houses of worship will continue to operate as non-cooperation zones with ICE, in alignment with the California Values Act (SB 54).

**5. Provide Material Support to Rapid Response Networks** - Commit additional resources toward legal defense, trauma recovery, and family support service to frontline organizations serving local immigrant populations.

**6. Designate County Facilities as Safe Zones** - Formally declare public spaces including county buildings and parks as enforcement-free zones unless a valid judicial warrant is presented.

This latest wave of enforcement follows the passage of H.R. 8775, which drastically increased ICE funding and threatens to escalate detentions and deportations in our region. We believe Santa Barbara County has both the legal authority and moral obligation to respond swiftly and compassionately.

In response, the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara Social Policy Committee is forming an Immigration Task Force to support and amplify these frontline efforts. Our intention is to collaborate with trusted community partners to coordinate resources, expand public education, and advocate for county-level protections that uphold the rights and dignity of all residents.

We encourage the County to formally recognize and support these essential organizations and to stand in solidarity with our immigrant and undocumented neighbors.

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara stands ready to assist the County with policy development, legal referrals, and ongoing community coordination. Thank you for your leadership and for taking decisive steps to protect our neighbors.

Sincerely,

Vicki Allen & Pam Flynt Tambo, LWVSB Leadership Team  
Lisa Carlos Whitney B. Rubison, Megan Turley, Board Members  
**League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara**