



SEPTEMBER 2022

QUESTIONS TO ASK SHERIFFS AT CANDIDATE FORUMS OR MEETINGS

Sheriffs are an essential piece of the deportation pipeline, and communities should be sure to ask Sheriff candidates about their positions on immigration enforcement. Some states have sanctuary laws that limit how much sheriffs may work with ICE, while other states have laws that prevent sheriffs from having protective policies or may force them to carry out certain activities for ICE. In other states there are no state laws, but the default is typically that sheriffs work closely with ICE.

- For more explanation of the powers of sheriffs and their role in the deportation pipeline, see: <https://www.ilrc.org/role-sheriffs-and-arrest-deportation-pipeline>
- For more about what state laws regarding immigration govern your sheriff, see: <https://www.ilrc.org/state-law-map>.

GENERAL QUESTIONS FOR ANY SHERIFF:

- Will you share your current policy on interacting with ICE or federal immigration authorities?
- What will you do to prevent staff from discriminating against immigrants or people they believe to be noncitizens?
- Will you provide a copy of every ICE detainer to the person who is the subject of the detainer (required) and also send a copy of all ICE detainers to criminal defense counsel and/or the public defenders?
- What is the process for your office to certify U and T visas? Will you ensure that your office has a clear and accessible protocol and point person to handle those requests?
- Will you support a policy of deprioritizing or decriminalizing low-level offenses?
- Will you advocate within the Sheriff's Association to protect against the use of state and local resources to engage in or assist with immigration arrests?
- Will you publicly support statewide legislation providing drivers licenses for all, to ensure our roads are safe and undocumented residents can drive legally and without fear?

NOTE:

501(c)(3) organizations are limited in how they can interact with elections. These questions are suggestions for questions to be asked by individual residents at a candidate forum, not in an organizational capacity. For more information on 501(c)(3)s and what they can do during elections, including at candidate forums, visit www.bolderadvocacy.org.

QUESTIONS FOR SHERIFFS IN STATES WITH ANTI-SANCTUARY STATUTES:

- Will you commit to regularly releasing data to the public regarding collaboration with ICE, including the amount of resources used for immigration enforcement-related activities, the number of immigration status inquiries, and the number of times your jail collaborated with ICE?
- Will your office refrain from sharing information or assisting ICE beyond what is required by federal or

state law?

- Will you implement a process to review the legal validity of each ICE detainer?
- Will you work with local immigrant rights organizations to provide Know Your Rights information and presentations to people in jail?
- Will you honor community or municipal IDs, foreign IDs, or other non-driver licenses as forms of valid identification in your county?
- Will you publicly oppose policies, such as anti-sanctuary laws, that use local law enforcement resources for federal immigration enforcement?

QUESTIONS FOR SHERIFFS IN OTHER STATES (WITH OR WITHOUT SANCTUARY-TYPE LAWS):

- Will you enforce a policy against asking individuals their immigration status, citizenship or place of birth?
- Will you commit to not responding to ICE detainers, including not providing notice of release dates to ICE?
- Will you refuse to give ICE access to county jails and databases under your control?
- Will your office implement a policy prohibiting both jail personnel and deputies from sharing information with ICE unless required by law?
- Will you advise noncitizens of their rights before ICE seeks to take action against them and refusing to allow ICE to question people in your custody?
- Will you refuse to contact ICE or CBP officers to act as interpreters?
- Will you refrain from providing operational support to ICE for enforcement actions?
- Will you commit to not contracting with ICE or private prison companies for detention?
- Will you ensure that intake and booking forms do not ask citizenship or immigration status questions?



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