

INCREASE TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Being transparent with the public is an essential part of law enforcement. State law requires cities and counties to participate in federal immigration detention efforts, but they should do this transparently, not secretly. Unfortunately, immigration data notoriously lacks transparency and thus oversight, particularly at the local level.

BEST PRACTICES

- » Require preapproval or notification of expected local impacts before local agencies enter an agreement with a federal immigration agency to detain people on behalf of federal immigration authorities or otherwise engage in immigration enforcement activities.
- » Publish data on the scope, and cost, of any involvement in immigration enforcement, including the number and outcome of federal detainer requests.
- » Collect and use data to understand the impact state and federal laws have on local resources and communities to better mitigate any harms that arise.
- » Establish an Immigration Community Advisory Board to ensure immigrant communities are well-represented and provide robust civic engagement.

BUT WHAT ABOUT...

Cost

- » Immigration enforcement is a function of the federal government, not local police.

Police Autonomy

Undocumented immigration is not a criminal offense and numerous studies show it does not increase crime.

WHY?

- » ICE reporting has been inconsistent and incomplete, especially at the local level.
- » Most county sheriffs in Florida have entered agreements with ICE to deputize local law enforcement officers to act as federal immigration enforcement agents. Few held public hearings to discuss whether to enter these agreements
- » Few engaged their local county or city commissions at all.
- » Immigration Community Advisory Boards can be instrumental in collecting data and stories of the impact of federal immigration enforcement operations in their community. They may also assess and make recommendations on anti-discrimination policies, language access, newcomer integration, public safety, community services, and facilitate outreach to immigrant populations. The goal is for immigrants to be represented and participate in civic affairs, as well as to educate the locality on how immigration policies impact their community.

61% of Florida voters support a policy requiring law enforcement agencies to notify local elected officials of the expected local impacts and expenses before they contract with federal authorities to participate in immigration detention and deportation efforts.