

Immigration Enforcement in Texas

Grace Bonilla



★ **TEXAS IMPACT**
PEOPLE OF FAITH WORKING FOR JUSTICE

**What is your top
immigration concern?**



How can we advocate?

- ★ Texas Legislature
- ★ Congregation-wide action
- ★ Local advocacy



Texas Legislature

- ★ Texas legislative session begins January of 2027
- ★ Ends in late May/early June
- ★ Opportunities for engagement
 - Legislator meetings
 - Emails to members and their staff
 - Committee hearing comments and testimony

What did our members do?

Rapid Response

- During the legislative session, we utilize our Rapid Response team. Our RR team responds to immediate needs related to all of our various issue areas.

Example:

Texans were promised that the passage of vouchers was going to be followed by an increase in public school funding, specifically through the Basic Allotment that our local school districts depend on.

Call the Senate Education K-16 Committee and tell them this substitute is unacceptable and that local communities should be trusted to make the financial decisions that best meet the needs of their districts.

The message: One size doesn't fit all. The Texas Legislature should trust our community to know what the community needs. Pass the House version of the bill.

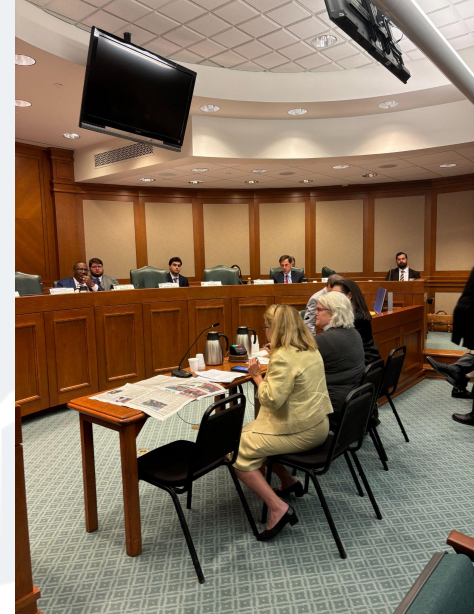
Senate Education K-16

Sen. Brandon Creighton (866) 730-1355 Chair
Sen. Donna Campbell (866) 772-1951 Vice Chair
Sen. Paul Bettencourt (866) 730-1365
Sen. Brent Hagenbuch (866) 821-0530
Sen. Adam Hinojosa (866) 821-0518
Sen. Phil King (866) 730-1395
Sen. Jose Menendez (866) 772-1954
Sen. Mayes Middleton (866) 730-1396
Sen. Tan Parker (866) 730-1397
Sen. Angela Paxton (866) 730-1371
Sen. Royce West (866) 770-7385

What did our members do?

Legislator Meetings & Testifying
at the Capitol →

We focus on storytelling and
approaching our legislators with
respect in order to advocate for
the issues we care about.



Recent timeline of Texas Immigration Enforcement

2017	2021	2023	2024	2025	2026
Texas passes Senate Bill 4: Often referred as the “Show Me Your Papers” law	Governor Abbott issues a disaster declaration and launches Operation Lone Star	Texas installs buoys in the Rio Grande River. Texas passes Senate Bill 4 (state deportation law).	Texas takes over Shelby Park in Eagle Pass.	Texas passes Senate Bill 8 , requiring more collaboration between local law enforcement and ICE.	Texas leadership’s funding threats following passage of local policies.

Bills that passed during the 89th Leg. Session

Senate Bill 8

This bill requires every Texas county with a jail to enter their sheriff's department into a 287(g) agreement with ICE.

House Bill 2017

Increases the criminal penalty for intoxicated vehicular manslaughter for undocumented individuals specifically.

Senate Bill 4 (sorta)

Now in effect as of May 29, 2026. Authorizes untrained police officers to engage in immigration enforcement. Can detain based on suspicion.

90th Legislative Session: What can we expect?

- **SJR 1 returns**
 - Undocumented people accused of a felony will automatically be denied bail
- **Immigration in Pub Ed**
 - Plyler v. Doe?
- **287(g) expansion**



Immigration Enforcement Locally

In your area:

- 1 in 4 ICE arrests happen in Texas
- Dallas County Jail has over 4,000 ICE detainees
- During the Biden admin, 80% of ICE arrests occurred in jails or prisons. During the Trump admin, that dropped to 64%, meaning 36% of ICE arrests now occur outside of jails and prisons, on the streets or elsewhere.



Field Office	2025 Arrests	2026 Arrests	Total Arrests
Miami	31,430	9,880	41,310
Dallas	23,410	6,940	30,350
New Orleans	23,930	5,280	29,210
Houston	22,640	4,450	27,090
Atlanta	20,430	6,400	26,830
Chicago	18,320	4,910	23,230
San Antonio	16,380	5,860	22,240
Harlingen, Texas	14,550	4,530	19,080
Los Angeles	13,810	3,330	17,140
Washington, D.C.	11,320	2,380	13,700



Dallas weekly prayer vigil



Vigil for Lorenzo Salgado Araujo

'This isn't a peacekeeping initiative — this is a terror campaign': Texas faith leaders condemn ICE deaths



Faith leaders demand greater ICE oversight

Exclusive: Harris County DA says his office is investigating fatal ICE shooting in Houston

**What is one thing you've
done in the immigration
advocacy space in Dallas?**



Closing

Immigration enforcement in Texas is ramping up, but could change drastically based on the outcome of the midterm elections.

Engaging locally is effective and can lead to meaningful testimony come January 2027.

Q&A

