

# WESTERN STATES SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION



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## WSSA RESOLUTION 25-1

Collaboration with Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the US Marshal's Service

**Whereas:** The Western States Sheriffs' Association ("the Association") represents the elected Sheriffs of eighteen states West of the Mississippi River and,

**Whereas:** The elected Sheriffs remain steadfast to their oaths and office and to protect the citizens of their respective communities, and to work collaboratively with allied agencies to enhance public safety and immigration enforcement; and

**Whereas:** President Donald J. Trump's Executive Order signed on January 22, 2025, under the authority of the Immigration and Nationality Act furthered the administration's established goals to secure the border and conduct a significant deportation operation, emphasizing the need for detention facilities and address logistical challenges in the deportation process.

**Whereas:** Previous policies instituted by the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Department of State unnecessarily imposed significant requirements, obstacles and adverse legal implications written in contractual agreements found in ICE and U.S. Marshal's Service contracts, obligating Sheriffs to adopt numerous arbitrary and subjective "national best practices" rather than abide by legal requirements specific to their state and agency.

**Whereas:** The imposition of federal detention standards has placed undue financial and operational burdens on local jails without adequate funding; and

**Whereas:** The Supreme Court has repeatedly reinforced the wide-ranging deference afforded to jail administrators to establish policies, procedures and practices when managing their facilities within legal bounds and that external standards should not override state laws or judicial interpretations.

**Therefore Be It Resolved:** The Western States Sheriffs' Association calls upon Immigration Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the U.S. Marshal's Service to streamline contractual agreements with Sheriffs by eliminating the imposition of all external standards and federal guidelines not legally mandated.

**Be It Further Resolved:** The Western States Sheriffs' Association request ICE and U.S. Marshals Service to recognize and respect the autonomy and authority of individual state and local jurisdictions and the legal framework unique to each state which govern the operation of detention facilities; reduce financial and liability burdens by removing unfunded mandates related to compliance with federal standards, except when statutorily required and fully funded by federal resources; and ensure that any collaborative agreements are crafted with complete deference to the existing policies and procedures of local agencies, adhering strictly to what is legally required respective to each state.

**Be It Further Resolved:** The Western States Sheriffs' Association members request this resolution be forwarded to Attorney General Bondi and Secretary Noem, with a request for dialogue to refine and negotiate contract terms that align with the principles herein stated, ensuring a collaborative partnership that respects local law enforcement's legal obligations and operational realities in the spirit of cooperation and legal integrity, aiming for a more effective and lawful collaboration in managing immigration enforcement at the local level.

ADOPTED this 12<sup>th</sup> day of March 2025 at the annual business meeting of the Western States Sheriffs' Association.



Sheriff Gary Bettencourt  
Gilliam County, Oregon  
President, WSSA