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USA TODAY

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RODIN ECKENROTH/GETTY IMAGES

Interest in state laws over ICE rises

Block or help? Depends on the party in charge

Trevor Hughes

USA TODAY

State lawmakers across the country are ramping up efforts to either support or block the Trump administration's mass-deportation efforts, wading deeper into a policy arena that's long been the province of the federal government.

While immigration enforcement is a federal power, states have many opportunities to either smooth the way or throw up roadblocks, particularly when it comes to being a "sanctuary" jurisdiction.

Lawmakers from across the political spectrum said the attention focused on immigration by President Donald Trump and being executed by Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers has created a significant appetite for state-level action.

In Republican-led states, White House officials have been working with legislative leaders to target sanctuary jurisdictions where local police won't cooperate with immigration officers.



Federal immigration officers conduct operations in Minneapolis on Feb. 5 in the presence of community members shouting and recording their actions.

SETH HERALD/REUTERS

They are also pushing state lawmakers to expand 287(g) programs allowing local police to take on limited immigration-enforcement authority, and requiring local sheriffs to hold onto suspected unauthorized immigrants until immigration enforcers can collect them from jail.

Republican states like Florida and Texas have long had expansive 287(g) programs, and the two states have for years collaborated with the federal government on immigration, in part because of their proximity to Mexico and the Gulf of America, also known as Gulf of Mexico.

But now other nonborder states are increasingly wading in, many of them led by Democrats, pushing plans to bar ICE officers from wearing anonymizing face masks, allow residents to sue officers in state court over civil rights violations, and further limit cooperation by local police and sheriffs.

Here are some of the proposals being considered as state legislatures begin their sessions.

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Three numbers could hold key to midterm elections

SCOTT ASH/USA TODAY NETWORK

36%

President Donald Trump's approval rating

57.3

The benchmark of how consumers are feeling about the economy

\$304 million

on hand for MAGA Inc., a pro-Trump PAC for campaigning

Big numbers and high stakes are riding on the ballot in November: 435 House seats, 35 Senate seats, 39 governorships – and the country's course for the final two years of President Donald Trump's term. • Who will win?

In the math of the midterms, a handful of statistics can signal the odds of a squeaker or a tsunami, of a Democratic sweep or the resilience of the Republican status quo.

"If we lose the midterms, you'll lose so many of the things that we're talking about, so many of the assets that we're talking about, so many of the tax cuts that we're talking about, and it would lead to very bad things," Trump told supporters at a rally in Iowa that kicked off his

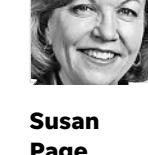
election-year campaigning. "We have got to win the midterms."

Contrast the president's warning with the confidence of House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York.

"We only need to net three" seats, he told reporters on Capitol Hill. "It's happening. Democrats are going to take back control of the House, and the only question is, what's the margin?"

Nine months before Election

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Susan Page

Washington Bureau Chief

USA TODAY

"If we lose the midterms ... it would lead to very bad things."

President Donald Trump

Iowa campaign rally

Scientists ponder murder by frog toxin



A new report has raised suspicions about the death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny via a highly unusual frog toxin. EVGENIA NOVOZHENINA/REUTERS

Russian opposition leader's death reviewed

Dinah Voyle Pulver

USA TODAY

A joint report alleging that a poison dart frog toxin has been linked to the death of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny rippled quickly around the globe among scientists.

The allegations raised fresh questions about the circumstances of Navalny's 2024 death and about the origin of a highly unusual toxin.

Poison dart frog species have long fascinated researchers and the public, partly because of their diminutive size and striking color patterns and also because of the stories surrounding the deadly toxins found on their bodies.

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