

Poll: Immigration stance affects voter support

Jason Lange, Ted Hesson and M.B. Pell

REUTERS

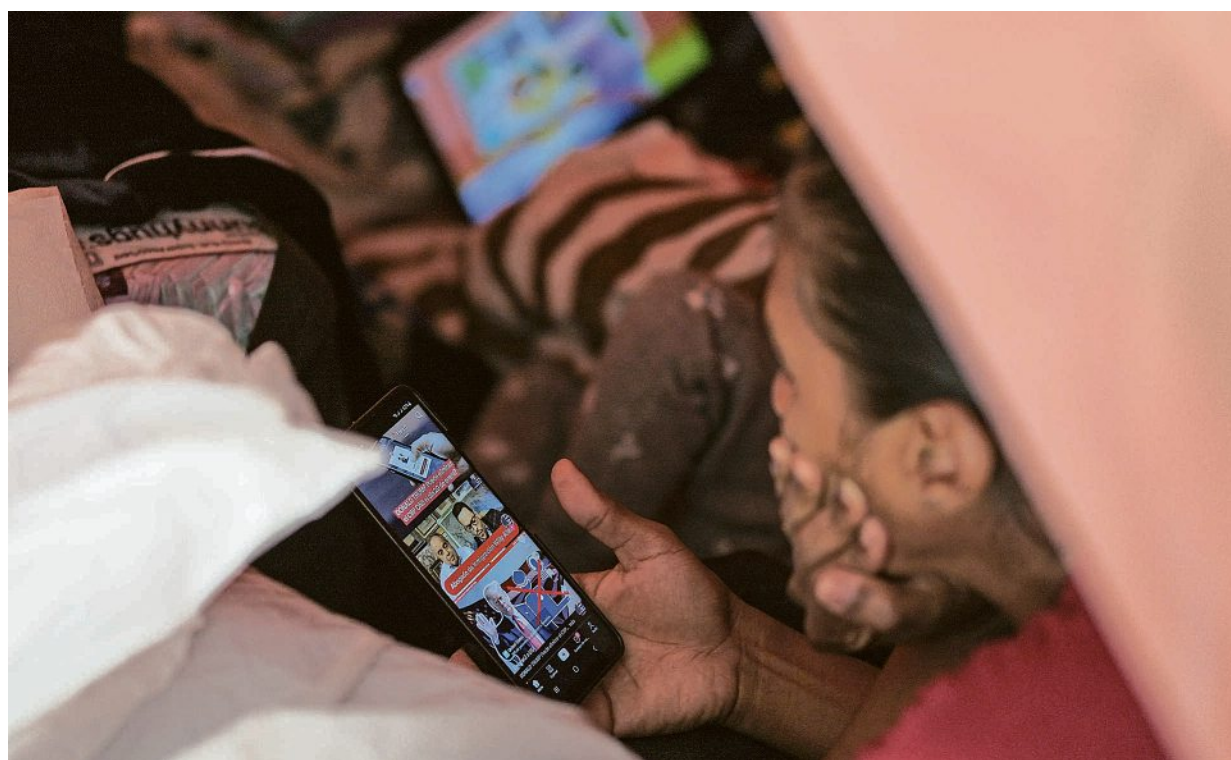
WASHINGTON – President Donald Trump’s aggressive campaign to deport immigrants could weigh on his Republican Party in November’s midterm congressional elections, a Reuters/Ipsos poll found.

Some 52% of Americans in the six-day poll completed on April 20 said they were less likely to support a candidate who backs Trump’s approach to deportations, significantly more than the 42% who said they were more likely to support such a candidate.

The disadvantage for Trump allies was more stark among people who don’t identify with either major political party, with 57% of independents saying they prefer a candidate who opposes Trump’s deportations and 32% preferring candidates who support Trump on the issue.

Republicans could face an uphill battle to defend their majorities in both chambers of Congress in November’s midterm elections, with the party already under pressure over a surge in gasoline prices as a result of the war with Iran. Republican lawmakers have almost universally backed Trump’s hard-line approach on immigration, reflecting the president’s growing dominance over the party since winning the 2024 election on a promise to crack down on unauthorized immigrants.

Trump’s immigration policy was initially supported by a fairly broad slice of America, with 50% of the country approving of his performance on the issue



A recent poll shows a candidate’s immigration stance is likely to sway voters in November’s midterm elections.

GUILLERMO ARIAS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

in Reuters/Ipsos polls from the weeks after his January 2025 inauguration. But after more than a year of aggressive enforcement measures, only 40% of respondents in the latest poll approved of Trump’s performance on the issue.

The poll, which was conducted online, gathered responses from 4,557 U.S. adults nationwide and had a margin of error of 2 percentage points.

Trump’s deportation drive may have made a lasting impression on Americans, said Sarah Pierce, director of social policy for the center-left organization Third Way.

The Trump administration in recent weeks has appeared to dial back its detentions of immigrants within the country. Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested just over 1,000 people a day in early March, down from close to 1,300 per day in December but still more than double the daily arrests reported in January 2025, according to ICE figures obtained by the Deportation Data Project and analyzed by Reuters.

Americans generally support policies that stop people from entering the country illegally, with 84% saying it’s at least somewhat important to have se-

cure borders and 87% saying it’s important to enforce immigration laws. Some 76% of respondents in the poll said unauthorized migrants who have jobs and no criminal record should have a way to gain legal status.

Some Republicans in Congress have urged a less aggressive stance on deportations. Rep. Maria Elvira Salazar, R-Florida, whose district has many Hispanic voters with relatives who are recent immigrants, has been promoting legislation in recent weeks that would give legal status to certain immigrants in the United States illegally.

Dean

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“Hundreds of his judicial opinions have been effectively peer-reviewed by the Sixth Circuit with an affirmation rate above 80%,” Blanton said in a statement. “Although some might only think of scholarship being what occurs by long term residential university faculty, broader definitions include such inte-

grated and important ‘real world’ scholarship that will be an example for students as they pursue their careers — many of them in Kentucky.”

Blanton noted that selecting a federal judge to run a law school is not without precedent. He pointed to Duke Law, which was led by David F. Levi, a former U.S. District Judge of the Eastern District of California, from 2007-2018.

Van Tatenhove has presided over some high-profile cases in recent months. He is the judge on an ongoing

case in which the U.S. Department of Justice seeks to compel Kentucky election officials to share its unredacted voter registration list with the federal government.

He also presided over the DOJ’s June 2025 lawsuit against the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, which centered on a regulation that allowed undocumented immigrants in the commonwealth to pay in-state tuition at its colleges and universities. Van Tatenhove issued an order in that case on

March 31, approving a consent decree that blocks enforcement of the regulation.

A representative for Van Tatenhove said the judge declined to comment, citing ethics rules. His appointment must be approved by UK’s board of trustees, which is set to meet for the first time since his appointment on April 24.

Killian Baarlaer covers Louisville Metro Government. Reach him at kbaarlaer@courier-journal.com or [@bkilian72](https://twitter.com/bkilian72) on X.



ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor’s Report
The Honorable Craig Greenberg, Mayor, Louisville Metro Government
The Honorable David Yates, Jefferson County Clerk
Members of the Louisville Metro Government

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements
Opinions

We were engaged to audit the financial statements, of the former Jefferson County Clerk., for the year ended December 31, 2024.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial statements of the former Jefferson County Clerk. Because of the significance of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on financial activity.

Basis for Opinion

Our basis for disclaiming is that we were unable to obtain required written management representations from the former Jefferson County Clerk, which results in a management-imposed scope limitation. Management is required to provide written representation to assert that they have fulfilled their responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and that the information provided to the audit is complete. Due to former Jefferson County Clerk passing away, we were unable to place appropriate reliance on the information provided during the audit and, therefore, cannot reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about former Jefferson County Clerk’s ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter

Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the former Jefferson County Clerk’s financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and to issue an auditor’s report. However, because of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements.

We are required to be independent of the former Jefferson County Clerk and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 18, 2026, on our consideration of the Former Jefferson County Clerk’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the former Jefferson County Clerk’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.


Respectfully submitted,

Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

February 18, 2026
State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and Clerks; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, Clerks, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts’ website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.
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ALLISON BALL
AUDITOR OF PUBLIC ACCOUNTS

Independent Auditor’s Report
The Honorable Craig Greenberg, Mayor, Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government
The Honorable David A. James, Jefferson County Sheriff
Members of the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Government

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements
Disclaimer of Opinion

We were engaged to audit the financial statements of the former Sheriff of Jefferson County, Kentucky for the year ended December 31, 2024.

We do not express an opinion on the accompanying financial activity of the former Jefferson County Sheriff. Because of the significance of the matters described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section of our report, we have not been able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial activity.

Basis for Opinion

Our basis for disclaiming is that we were unable to obtain required written management representations from the former Jefferson County Sheriff, which results in a management-imposed scope limitation. Management is required to provide written representation to assert that they have fulfilled their responsibility for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and that the information provided to the auditor is complete. Due to the former Jefferson County Sheriff passing away, we were unable to place appropriate reliance on the information provided during the audit and, therefore, cannot reduce the risk to an acceptable level.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about former Jefferson County Sheriff’s ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

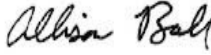
Auditor’s Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our responsibility is to conduct an audit of the former Jefferson County Sheriff’s financial statements in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States and to issue an auditor’s report. However, because of the matter described in the Basis for Disclaimer of Opinion section of our report, we were not able to obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence to provide a basis for an audit opinion on the financial statements.


We are required to be independent of the former Jefferson County Sheriff and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 4, 2026, on our consideration of the former Jefferson County Sheriff’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. This report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the former Jefferson County Sheriff’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.


Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

February 4, 2026
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