



**ILLINOIS SHERIFFS'
ASSOCIATION**

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JAN 2026

The inside stories for you!
**SHERIFFS, LAW ENFORCEMENT
& MEMBERS NEWS & UPDATES**



As we welcome the New Year, the Illinois Sheriffs' Association wishes you a safe, healthy, and happy year ahead. We thank you for your continued dedication and your unwavering commitment to public safety.



Trump administration sues Illinois over state law limiting federal immigration actions

- The Trump administration filed a lawsuit seeking to nullify a new state law that allows Illinois residents to sue federal immigration agents who arrest them in or near courthouses or if they believe their constitutional rights were violated.
- Department of Justice lawyers says the law violates the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution and increases the likelihood of threats and harassment against federal agents.
- A spokesperson for Gov. JB Pritzker said the law “reflects our belief that no one is above the law, regardless of their position or authority.”
- The lawsuit continues a series of legal battles between Illinois officials and the Trump administration over immigration policy.



SPRINGFIELD — In an expected move, the Trump administration filed a lawsuit last week seeking to nullify a new state law that allows Illinois residents to sue federal immigration agents who arrest them in or near courthouses or if they believe their constitutional rights were violated.

The suit was filed by the Department of Justice in U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Illinois. It alleges that the law, passed by the Democrat-led state legislature in October and signed by Pritzker earlier this month, violates the supremacy clause of the U.S. Constitution and increases the likelihood that officers face threats and harassment.

“Threatening officers with ruinous liability and even punitive damages for executing federal law and for simply protecting their identities and their families also chills the enforcement of federal law and compromises sensitive law enforcement operations,” the Department of Justice said in a statement.

The complaint names Gov. JB Pritzker and Attorney General Kwame Raoul as defendants.

A spokesperson for Pritzker said in a statement to Capitol News Illinois that “the Trump Administration’s masked agents are not targeting the ‘worst of the worst’ — they are harassing and detaining law-abiding U.S. citizens and Black and Brown people at daycares, hospitals, and courthouses.”

“This new law reflects our belief that no one is above the law, regardless of their position or authority,” the spokesperson said. “Unlike the Trump Administration, Illinois is protecting constitutional rights in our state.”

Response to blitz

Pritzker signed the law in the aftermath of “Operation Midway Blitz,” a federal immigration enforcement campaign that targeted the Chicago region starting in September.

The Department of Homeland Security said that the operation resulted in the arrest of more than 4,500 immigrants who were living in Chicago and its suburbs without legal permission. But the raids often led to violent confrontations between masked federal agents and protestors during various operations in the city and suburbs, including near an Immigration and Customs Enforcement processing facility in suburban Broadview. Many of these skirmishes resulted in the deployment of tear gas and other chemical agents.

Leading Illinois Democrats viewed the new law as a comprehensive legislative response to the blitz that provides safeguards to people in their interactions with immigration agents. It also places new requirements on public colleges and universities, hospitals and child care facilities and mostly prohibits them from disclosing the immigration status of students, patients, parents and children.

But the reach of the law is limited. Not included in the package is an outright ban on law enforcement officers wearing face masks while on duty, for instance.

Senate President Don Harmon, D-Oak Park, acknowledged before the bill passed that the state was “playing with a stacked deck” versus a federal government with the “upper hand” and that the law would likely be challenged.





Courthouse, private right of action provisions targeted

In its 22-page filing, the federal government specifically challenged the provisions relating to immigration agents' actions in and around state courthouses as well as the private right of action that it created, arguing that "states have no power to 'in any manner control the operations of' the federal government."

Under the law, all people attending court are considered "privileged from civil arrest" inside state courthouses and within a 1,000-foot buffer zone outside of the buildings.

Though there had long been a de facto understanding that such facilities were off-limits for immigration enforcement, they have increasingly been the site of apprehensions over the past year. Those who violate the act could be liable for statutory damages of \$10,000.

The law also allows residents to sue immigration agents for violating their constitutional right to due process and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

They would be able to collect punitive damages that can increase if the agents are wearing masks, concealing their identities, failing to wear body cameras or using a vehicle with a non-Illinois or obscured license plate.

"That is a policy choice for Congress, not each individual state, to make," Justice Department lawyers wrote in their filing, predicting that the law will "inevitably become a vehicle to threaten and harass federal officers."

Latest state-federal immigration clash

It is not the first time the state and federal government have been entangled in litigation relating to immigration policy.

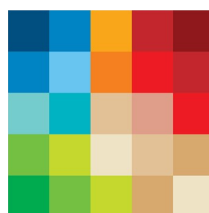
The Trump administration earlier this year filed a lawsuit seeking to invalidate, under the supremacy clause, a state law and Chicago and Cook County ordinances that limit state and local law enforcement's cooperation with civil immigration enforcement. A federal judge dismissed the suit in July.

And Illinois and Chicago sued the Trump administration in October to block the planned deployment of National Guard Troops to the nation's third largest city. Last week, the U.S. Supreme Court [denied an emergency appeal](#) from the Trump administration seeking to lift a temporary restraining order put in place by a lower court that prevents the deployment of troops while the underlying case works through the courts.

This latest case has been assigned to Judge David W. Dugan, a Trump appointee. Raoul's office, which is engaged in more than three-dozen legal cases with the federal government, has until Jan. 13 to respond to the complaint.

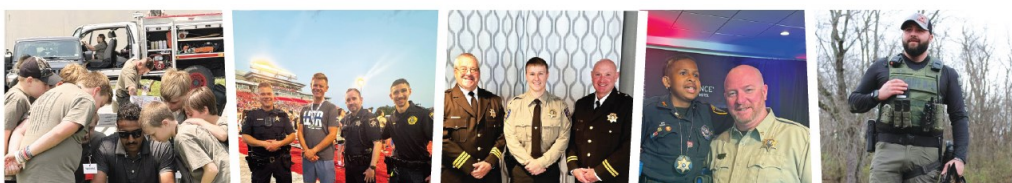
By Brenden Moore | Capitol News Illinois

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2026 ISA Get to Know Your Sheriff Series January | Randolph County



Sheriff Jarrod Peters

GET TO KNOW YOUR SHERIFF | RANDOLPH COUNTY

- Elected as Sheriff 2022
22 Years in Law Enforcement
- Average Household Income \$68,870
- Population Randolph County 30,163





1. What first made you get involved with law enforcement?

Growing up in a small town with two police officers and having pride in that community pushed me to want to help at a higher level. The Sheriff's Office always intrigued me and was always a place I wanted to build my career.

2. Describe your role as Sheriff in your Office and throughout your County:

My role as Sheriff is to lead by example and give the talented workforce at the Sheriff's Office every opportunity to be leaders. I have always taken on the mindset that if I am not training or showing the younger generation how to be leaders, then I am failing at my job.

3. What is your favorite part about being Randolph County Sheriff?

My favorite part about being Sheriff is getting the opportunity to get out and speak with the public and the youth about the office while on duty and off duty. I have taken great pride in our office, and when the public approaches me and compliments our office or specific employees, it gives me a great sense of pride knowing that those in the community see how hard our employees work, and how devoted they are in reassuring the public that their safety and their families safety are in good hands.

4. Describe what drives you to get involved within the community:

I have been a lifelong resident of Randolph County and have raised my family here. I have always loved living here with a great sense of pride. Being involved and staying involved in making Randolph County a safe place to raise a family is what motivates me the most.

IF YOU WEREN'T DOING WHAT YOU DO NOW, WHAT WOULD BE YOUR DREAM JOB?

I have always enjoyed working with my hands and fixing things, so I would say working in the trades has always interested me.

WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU AREN'T WORKING OR



VOLUNTEERING?

I enjoy the outdoors with my family. Hunting, fishing, and camping are at the top of the list. I also coach High School Varsity Baseball.



5. What's the best thing to happen to you because of your community or career in peace keeping service?

Being in public service has allowed me the opportunity to be a resource for others. I enjoy helping others and being a resource, they can call or talk to about things they need guidance or direction on. Having this type of relationship with my constituents has allowed me to build numerous relationships that I would not have had the opportunity to build without being in Law Enforcement.



6. Tell us about someone or something that has influenced you:

My family has had the most influence on my 22 years in law enforcement. They have proven to me why I chose this career. From the words of encouragement and advice from my wife on the tough days, to my kids smiling faces when I walk through the door asking how my day was. This keeps me motivated and pushing forward to be the best leader and role model I can be.



7. What do you consider the biggest challenge in your community?

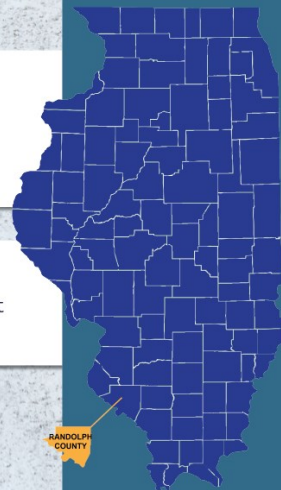
The biggest impact in Randolph County is our failed mental health system. This is not just in our county, but it is nationwide. Law Enforcement has very limited resources in helping those with mental health issues and locking people up in jail is not the permanent help they need.

8. How do you think someone meeting you for the first time would describe you?

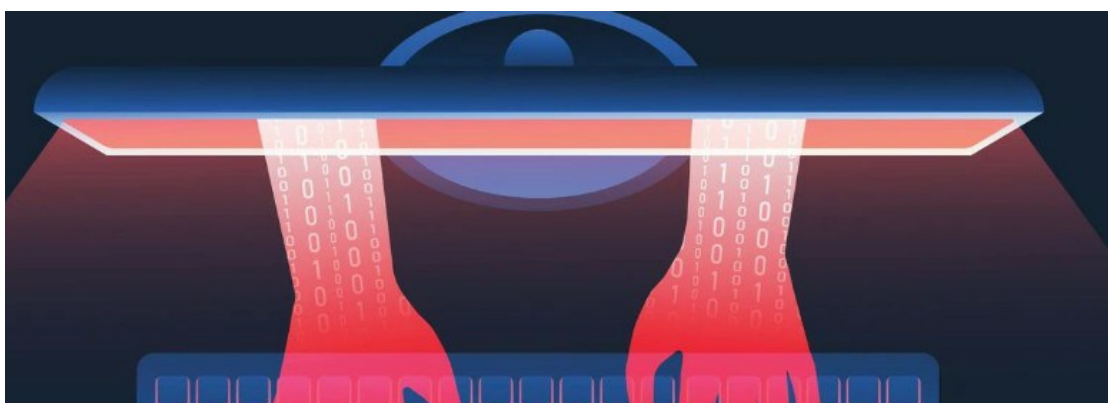
My hope would be that they see me as straight forward, and who will treat them fair and listen to what they have to say.

9. What advice would you give young people?

Your name will travel farther than you ever will, so make decisions that you won't be ashamed of years down the road.



FOLLOW THEM:
Randolph County
Sheriff's Office





Five of the Biggest Scams to Watch for in 2026

The caller said he worked for a relief check company. “Our records show you may have \$5,286 waiting in a relief check that’s already been issued in your name, but has not yet been collected,” he said in messages that reached phones nationwide. “This could be from past relief programs or federal assistance payments ... Search your name and collect it before it’s returned.”

The call was a scam. The supposed relief-payment site asked you to enter personal information as a way to collect your data and flood you with spam. Over a two-month period in the fall of 2025, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) received more than 800 complaints about the calls.

In a tough economy, financial-relief scams like this one could become more prevalent, predicts Eva Valesquez, CEO of the Identity Theft Resource Center. This could include scams ranging from bogus health insurance to phony job offers and tariff relief schemes.

“People will be looking for ways to alleviate their burdens,” Valesquez says of 2026. “So when they get a [message] that says, ‘Hey, apply here, just send us this information,’ and it’s all of your personal information, including your checking account, I think they’ll be vulnerable to that.”

Fraud is already rampant. Since 2020, the number of adults age 60 and older who reported a loss of \$10,000 or more from impostor scams alone more than quadrupled in 2024, according to the Federal Trade Commission (FTC). Reported losses of \$100,000 or more jumped from \$55 million to \$445 million during that same period, but because fraud is known to be vastly underreported, the actual numbers are surely far higher. And [AI’s growing ubiquity](#) will only worsen the problem in 2026, Valesquez surmises.

“The sophistication level of AI will make it that much harder for people to discern legitimate from illegitimate, real from fake,” she says. “I hate to say this, because I sound like such a cynic, but I encourage people to adopt a zero-trust attitude.”

What scams are likely to be most problematic in 2026?

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Scholarship Feature



In 1979, the ISA established a scholarship program for college-bound students. Scholarships ranging from \$500 to \$1000 are awarded to students who demonstrate outstanding scholastic, extra-curricular and character qualifications.

Each Illinois county that participates in the ISA membership program awards at least one \$500 scholarship each school year. The scholarship program is open to Illinois students attending a higher learning institution.

2026/2027 ISA Scholarship application is open TODAY!

Applications are due to the Sheriff's office in the county where you reside on March 13, 2026 (must be postmarked by this date)

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

[ISA Scholarship Application - Fillable PDF](#)

2026 ISA Conference & Training Schedule



Sheriffs Winter Training Conference

February 7-10, 2026

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel,
Springfield

Chief Deputy & Jail Administrators Conference

April 22-24, 2026

Embassy Suites, East Peoria

Civil Process

June 2026, TBD, East Peoria

Sheriffs Summer Training Conference

September 12-15, 2026

Embassy Suites, East Peoria

New Sheriffs Management Institute

November 15-19, 2026

President Abraham Lincoln Hotel,
Springfield

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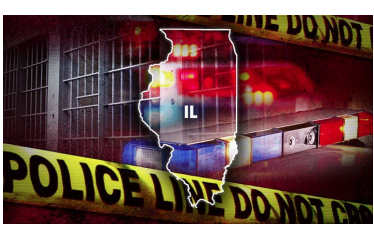
NEWS FROM IL AND AROUND THE COUNTRY



Four Illinois Sheriff's Offices Ignored Sanctuary Laws by Transferring People Into Federal Custody, AG Report Finds

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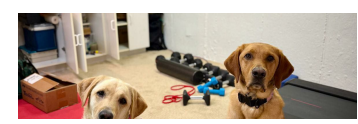
By: Blair Paddock | WTTW News



What happened after the country's 'most dangerous law' went into effect? Here are the numbers

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By: Alba Cuebas-Fantauzzi, Nikolas Lanum | Fox News



LAKE COUNTY Electronic Detection



K9s Assist in Child Exploitation Arrest

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By: Lauren Westphal | Fox 32 Chicago

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