

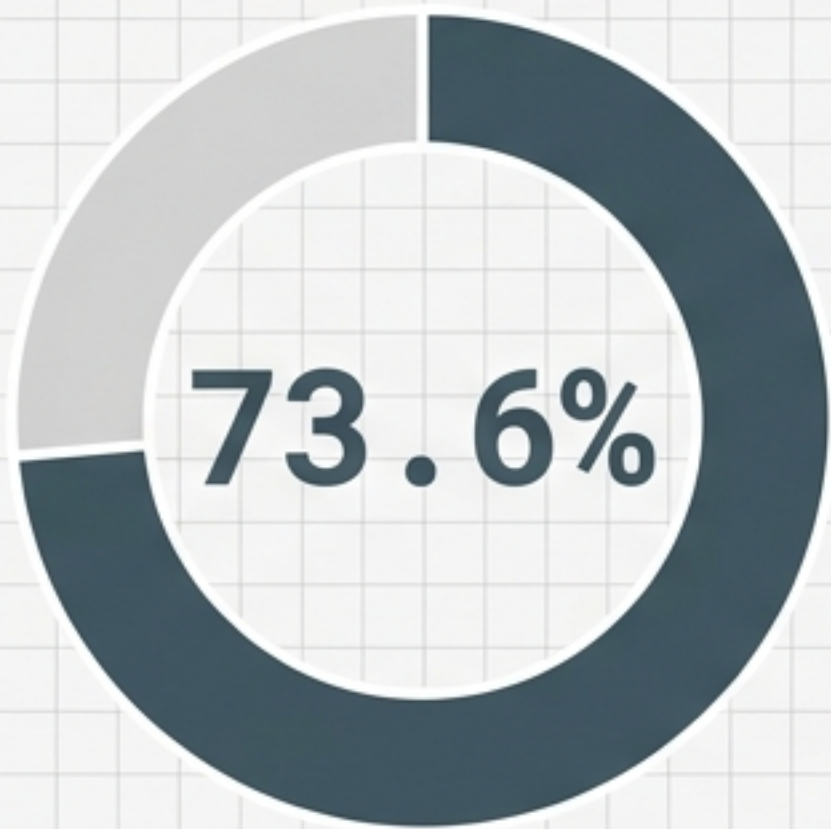
OPERATION METRO SURGE: THE REALITY ON THE GROUND IN MINNESOTA

A fact-based analysis of ICE operations, detainee data, and community rights.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: UNPRECEDENTED ESCALATION

Since late 2025, ICE has launched “Operation Metro Surge,” achieving what Director Todd Lyons calls the “highest operational tempo in history.” Federal agents have been reassigned from human trafficking and narcotics narcotics units specifically to assist in high-volume administrative arrests to meet new quotas.



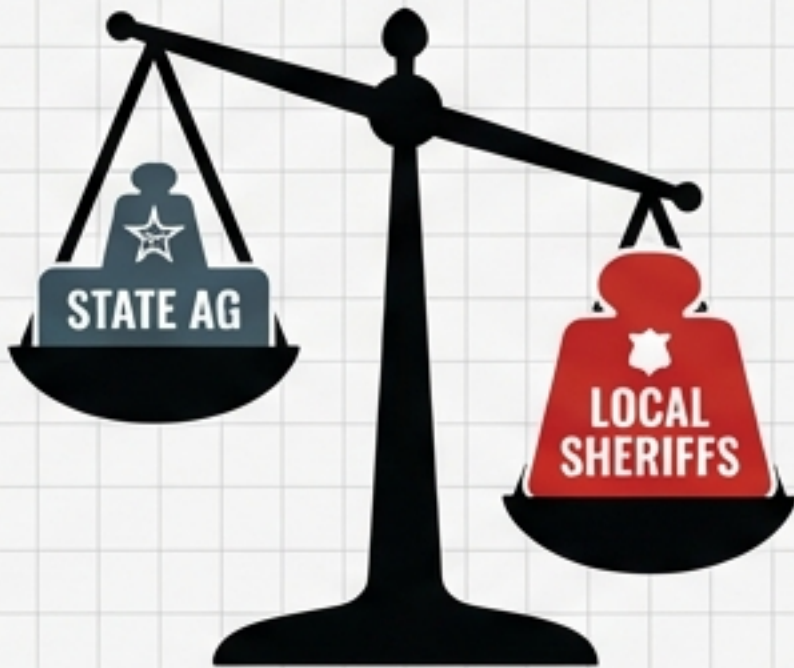
Percentage of detainees with NO criminal convictions (National avg, late 2025).

THE TARGET



Families, students, and asylum seekers are being caught in “collateral arrests” and “suspicionless stops.”

THE CONFLICT



A legal war has erupted between State AG Keith Ellison and local Sheriffs regarding the “North Star Act” and federal cooperation.

THE MYTH

Government statements claim operations target the “worst of the worst” and “high-level criminals.”



THE REALITY

Who Is Actually Being Detained?

THE DATA

In the first nine months of the administration, ~75,000 people detained nationally had NO criminal record.

ASYLUM SEEKERS

Many detainees have active, legal asylum cases and no standing deportation orders.

U.S. CITIZENS

Legal filings (Hussen v. Noem) confirm citizens are being caught in “suspicionless stops.”

CASE STUDY: Mubashir Khalif Hussen (20 years old)

A U.S. citizen stopped by masked agents in Minneapolis despite repeatedly asserting his citizenship.

DEBUNKING THE JANUARY 20 PRESS BRIEFING

Context: President Trump displayed photos of “criminals” allegedly caught in the MN surge, accusing the state of refusing to turn them over.

GOVERNMENT CLAIM	VERIFIED FACT
“3,000 vicious criminals arrested.”	DHS only released ~240 names. Only a small fraction have confirmed violent recors; many had only traffic tickets or DWIs. [Source: DHS Data Release, Jan 2025]
“Minnesota protected them in state prison.”	MN Dept of Corrections ALREADY honors detainers (84 transferred in 2025). Many “targets” were actually picked up from FEDERAL prisons, not state custody. [Source: MN DOC Records, 2025]
“They were running rampant.”	Many were on known supervised release or already in custody before the surge began. [Source: Court Filings & Custody Records]

COLLATERAL DAMAGE: MINORS AND STUDENTS

Schools and homes are no longer safe zones.

COLUMBIA HEIGHTS DISTRICT REPORT

4 students detained in a single
two-week span in Jan 2026.



LIAM CONEJO RAMOS (5 YEARS OLD)

Used as 'bait' by masked agents to draw his father out of their home. The family has an active asylum case.



THE 10-YEAR-OLD

Apprehended with her mother while walking to school.



THE 17-YEAR-OLD

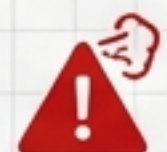
Taken after agents physically pushed their way into an apartment.

TACTICS ON THE GROUND: USE OF FORCE

THE CATALYST

The city has seen intense clashes following the fatal shooting of Renee Good by a federal agent in early January 2026.

DOCUMENTED TACTICS



CHEMICAL AGENTS

Use of tear gas and pepper spray against peaceful observers.



PHYSICAL FORCE

Rubber bullets fired; video evidence of agents breaking car windows to remove individuals.



INTIMIDATION

Retaliation: Agents following protesters home and arresting people for standing on public sidewalks (ACLU lawsuit).

LEGAL STATUS TIMELINE

JAN 16

Judge Kate Menendez issues injunction barring these tactics.

JAN 21

8th Circuit Court of Appeals stays the injunction, restoring ICE's ability to use force while appeals proceed.

THE QUOTA SYSTEM

When asked about quotas on Jan 22, Commander Greg Bovino stated: “**There is a number...** it’s called **all of them.**”

NATIONAL DIRECTIVE

Goal: **3,000 arrests/day** nationally (approx. 75/day per field office).



FIELD OFFICE PRESSURE

Managers held accountable for missing targets.
“**Operational goals**” replace the word “quota” in court.



“**FISHING**” OPERATIONS

Roving patrols and suspicionless stops in immigrant neighborhoods to meet metrics.


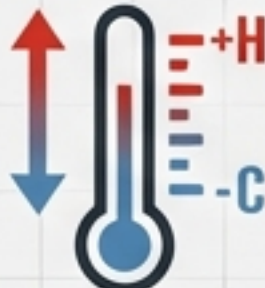



COLLATERAL ARRESTS

Detaining everyone present at a scene rather than just the target of a warrant.

CONDITIONS OF CONFINEMENT & LEGAL OVERREACH

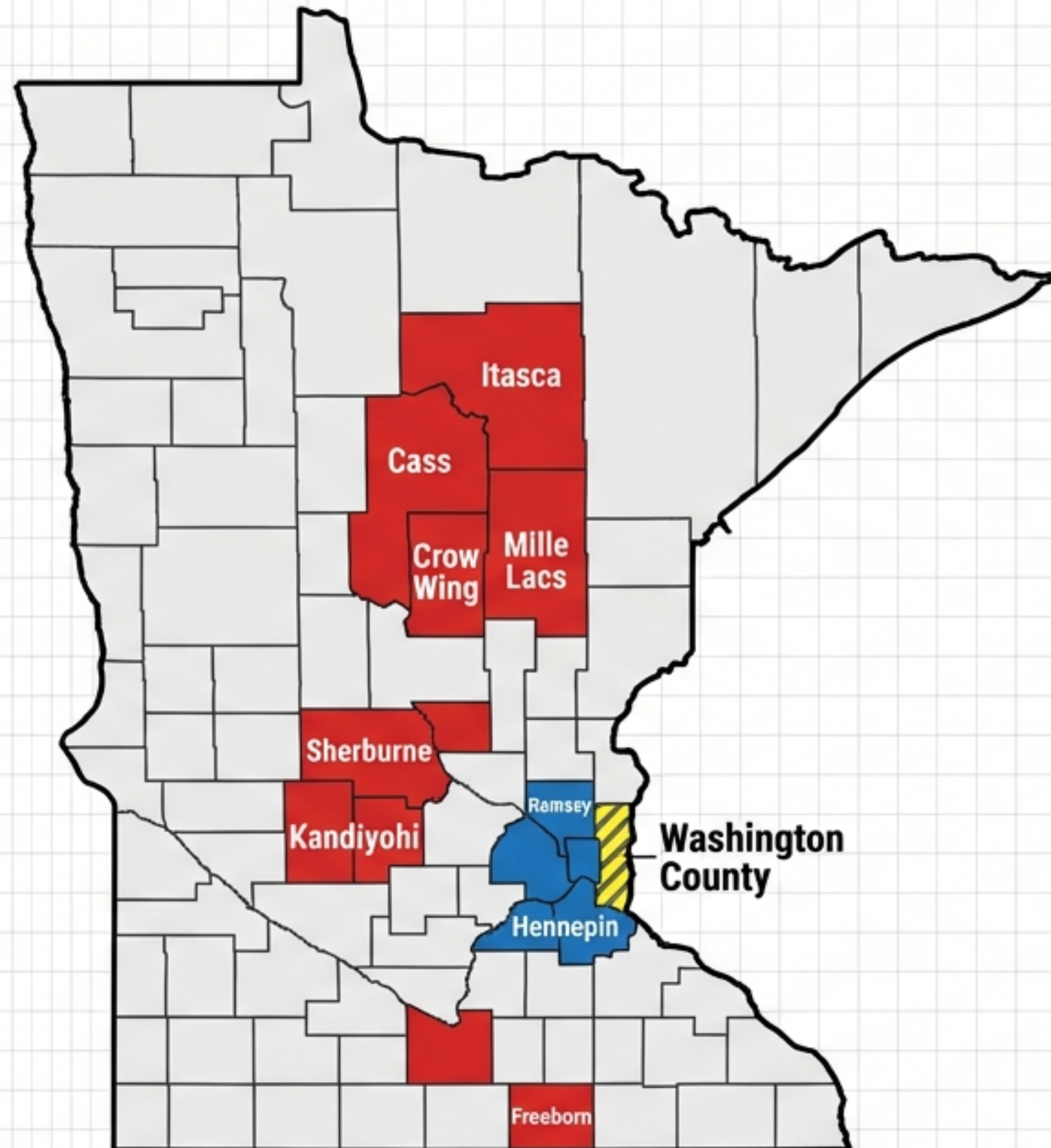
THE CONDITIONS

	MEDICAL NEGLECT: Reports of denial of insulin and heart medication.
	INHUMANE ENVIRONMENT: Extreme temperatures and lack of basic hygiene supplies in holding facilities.
	DISPLACEMENT: Frequent out-of-state transfers to Texas, isolating detainees from legal counsel and family.

THE PROCESS

WARRANTLESS ENTRY ICE utilizing ‘administrative warrants’ (not signed by a judge) to justify entering homes.
287(g) ABUSE Local officers acting as immigration agents in violation of State Constitutional challenges.

MAPPING COOPERATION: ALLIES AND ADVERSARIES



ACTIVE COLLABORATORS
(287(g) / Agreements)

SANCTUARY / RESISTANCE

EMERGING THREAT

ACTIVE COLLABORATORS:

Operate jails and warrant services or task force models.

EMERGING THREAT:

Washington County – Warehouse in Woodbury identified as potential 1,500-capacity detention center.

RESISTANCE:

Hennepin & Ramsey – Refuse to honor detainers without judicial signatures; facing federal subpoenas.

THE LEGAL WAR: STATE VS. SHERIFFS

Who controls local law enforcement? in Georgia



**ATTORNEY GENERAL
KEITH ELLISON**

Formal Opinion (Dec 2025):
Sheriffs cannot unilaterally sign 287(g) agreements. Only County Boards have that power.



**COOPERATING
SHERIFFS**

Response: Ignored the AG's opinion, citing autonomy and "public safety" to maintain federal partnerships.

WHY IT MATTERS: This conflict determines whether your local police officer acts as an extension of ICE during a routine traffic stop.

ACTION GUIDE: HOW TO LOCATE A DETAINEE

1. FEDERAL ONLINE SEARCH

locator.ice.gov

Search by A-Number (9 digits) + Country of Birth OR
Biographical Info (Name, DOB, Country).

 **Warning: ICE often misspells names. Try variations.**

2. CHECK 'HUB' JAILS

Call these specific facilities:

- Sherburne County Jail (Metro arrests)
- Kandiyohi County Jail (Central/West MN)
- Freeborn County Jail (Southern MN)

3. CONTACT ST. PAUL FIELD OFFICE

If online search fails (lag time 24-48hrs).

(612) 843-8600

The online locator does NOT track minors. You must call the field office.

IMMEDIATE LEGAL ASSISTANCE

Save this directory.

IMMIGRANT LAW CENTER OF MN (ILCM)

Best For: DACA, Citizenship,
Deportation Defense

(651) 641-1011

Detail: Detention Line:
Mon 2-4 PM, Thu 10-12 PM

THE ADVOCATES FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Best For: Asylum seekers
and detention cases

(612) 341-9845

Detail: Intake Line

MID-MINNESOTA LEGAL AID (MMLA)

Best For: Hennepin/Anoka
residents, victims of violence

(612) 334-5970

Detail: Immigration Intake

SELF HELP PORTAL: LawHelpMN.org

EMERGENCY RESPONSE & OBSERVATION

REPORT A RAID (REAL-TIME)

MONARCA HOTLINE

(612) 441-2881

Community-run hotline to report federal activity or sightings.

REPORT RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

ACLU OF MINNESOTA LEGAL HOTLINE

(651) 645-4097

Investigates civil liberties violations, illegal stops, and mistreatment of protesters/observers.

PRO-TIP

Record dates, times, and badge numbers if safe to do so.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT & PREPAREDNESS

FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

**Volunteer Lawyers
Network: (612) 752-6677**

- **Resource:** Deportation preparedness guides.

SOCIAL SERVICES

COPAL MN: (612) 201-4475
(Community organizing)

United Way 211: Dial 2-1-1
(Emergency food and housing)

**MN Refugee & Immigrant
Helpline: (800) 814-4806**
(State-run navigation)

IMMEDIATE ACTION

Create a **family plan** now.
Assign power of attorney
for children and secure
important documents.

Resource Hub: ResourceHubMN.org

RESISTANCE THROUGH COMMUNITY



“The government narrative relies on fear and isolation.
Our response relies on facts, rights, and organized support.”

STAY INFORMED. KNOW YOUR RIGHTS. PROTECT YOUR NEIGHBORS.

Sources: Data drawn from ‘01-23-2026 Metro Surge Analysis’, MN District Court filings, and ACLU reports.