

ARCHIVED IMMIGRATION UPDATES

2023-2024

12/21/24 ICE removed 271,484 non-citizens during FY 2024 (Oct 2023 - Sept. 2024.) That's nearly twice as many as during the prior fiscal year, and slightly more than in FY 2019, when removals reached 267,258. But the proportion of removed persons with non-immigration related criminal convictions has plunged. It made up more than half the removals in FY 2019, but only a quarter of those removed during FY 2024. This, we surmise, may reflect declining cooperation by local and State agencies, whose rules have increasingly prohibited them from assisting ICE.

12/9/24 According to the incoming Administration, the emphasis will be on removing unauthorized immigrants who have committed crimes and those who have been ordered deported. Problem is, about *half* of the 1.4 million in the latter group can't presently be returned. Some countries refuse to take them back. Immigration courts have also granted many a supposedly temporary "pass" for medical reasons or because they face persecution in their homelands. And some unauthorized immigrants are imprisoned.

12/2/24 Eagle Pass, TX is connected by international bridges to Mexico. And a divided Fifth Circuit has just enjoined the Feds from "damaging, destroying, or otherwise interfering" with the barbed wire fence that Texas built to keep migrants from circumventing the bridges and gaining illegal entry. Border Patrol agents, though, must retain "necessary access to both sides of Texas's c-wire for immigration law enforcement purposes." *Texas v. DHS* (no. 23-50869, 11/27/24.)

11/29/24 "The hardest thing is, people...don't know what we do, and we've been called terrible names." A Border Patrol officer's lament reflects the scorn that he and his colleagues receive as they do a tough job that ranges from combating human trafficking cartels to caring for the many migrants who cross into the U.S. each day. Some are now being trained as "chaplains" that can help agents in distress avoid compromising their welfare, and that of their families, as they carry out their uniquely demanding task.

11/11/24 Sixteen "Red-leaning" States sued to revoke a recent [Biden administration rule](#) that allowed undocumented family members of U.S. citizens to remain in the U.S. while their applications for permanent residency are processed. And a Federal judge in "deep-Red" Texas just ruled that the "Keeping Families Together" program lacks the legal authority to proceed. In his view, immigrants can only be legally paroled to enter the U.S., not after the fact. So the program remains on hold. (See 6/19/24 update)

11/8/24 In 2010 Arizona empowered State and local officers to inquire about

immigration status while enforcing other laws and to hold illegal migrants for the Border Patrol. Just passed by voters, Proposition 314 takes it a big step further, making illegal immigration a State crime and empowering cops to arrest violators and State judges to deport them. But these provisions won't go into effect unless and until Texas' similar, precedent-setting immigration law survives its ongoing round of Federal appeals.

10/1/24 Prior rules allowed illegal border crossers to apply for asylum, but only when illegal crossings didn't exceed 2,500 per day, averaged over a week. In June an "interim" change set the maximum at 1,500 per day. And now it's grown even tougher. Although the maximum remains 1,500, it's averaged over 28 days. Although illegal crossings never dipped low enough to meet the most forgiving threshold, border officials say the change was needed because crossings were once fairly low and could again dip. (See 6/5/24 update)

9/30/24 In 2017 a Mayoral directive barred L.A. city employees from helping the Feds enforce civil immigration laws. To give the order legal heft, the City Council introduced a bill last year that would codify L.A.'s "sanctuary city" status into law. But the proposal has been criticized by skeptics who fear it would encourage illegal migration and burden taxpayers. It's languished in committee, and unless the "Reds" triumph in the Presidential contest, its future in the predominantly "Blue" city seems uncertain.

8/29/24 A Los Angeles-area man and six associates have been Federally indicted for arranging "crime tourism" groups comprised of visitors from South America. Leading the conspiracy was Juan Carlos Thola-Duran, 57, who furnished vehicles from his car rental business for the "tourists" to use as they committed burglaries and shoplifts throughout the U.S. and stole credit and debit cards that they quickly maxed out. During the six years that the scheme was in operation, the resale of stolen and illicitly acquired goods earned the plotters more than \$5 million.

Communities hosting "noncitizen migrant arrivals" are receiving large increases in financial assistance from the Feds. Last fiscal year \$363.8 million was provided to State and local agencies and charitable organizations to help pay for the cost of shelters and other services. For FY 2024 the total will be \$640.9 million, with about half going to previously allocated recipients and half being awarded competitively.

8/26/24 On June 24 Daniel Davon-Bonilla, an illegal immigrant from Nicaragua, pled guilty to felony assault after the transgender woman he had allegedly raped refused to testify. After spending 15 months in New York City's Rikers Island jail, he was let go and ordered into counseling. But the Big Apple is a sanctuary city, so it didn't notify ICE,

which had informed prosecutors that Mr. Devon-Bonilla would be deported. Mr. Davon-Bonilla then promptly raped a homeless woman. And, yes, he's back in jail.

7/1/24 A Federal judge placed a hold on Oklahoma HB 4156, signed by Gov. Kevin Stitt, which criminalized the presence in the State of persons who illegally entered the U.S., and those who had been excluded but failed to leave. First offense is a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine or jailing for up to one year. A second offense is a felony. That's occasioned a lawsuit by the Justice Dept., which is challenging the law as intruding into a matter of exclusively Federal jurisdiction. [Oklahoma bill](#)

6/28/24 Former Honduran president Juan Orlando Hernandez, 55, will spend the next 45 years in an American Federal prison. After being extradited from his native land, where he served two terms as its top leader, Hernandez was convicted in March for drug importation and gun violations. Over two decades, Hernandez and his heavily armed cartel compatriots smuggled 400 tons of cocaine into the U.S. Hernandez's brother and an associate have already drawn life in prison; several others are pending trial.

6/27/24 According to Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, President Biden's recent executive order that summarily expels asylum-seekers who arrive without appointments is having its intended effect. During the past three weeks there has been a forty-percent-plus reduction in Border Patrol encounters with unauthorized immigrants. More than 100 "repatriation" flights have also returned over 24,000 persons to their home countries. But Secretary Mayorkas emphasized that executive action isn't enough - legislation that fixes the "broken immigration system" is sorely needed.

6/24/24 In 2010 Sandra Munoz, a Los Angeles civil rights lawyer, married Luis Cordero, a citizen of El Salvador. They subsequently petitioned that he be granted an immigrant visa. But the American consulate in El Salvador denied his application, as there was evidence he belonged to the MS-13 gang. The 9th. Circuit sided with the couple, holding that a spousal interest is a fundamental right that can't be administratively denied. But the Supreme Court just ruled that "a citizen does not have a fundamental liberty interest in her non-citizen spouse being admitted to the country." [Dept. of State v. Munoz](#)

6/19/24 To "promote the unity and stability of families," the U.S. will allow "noncitizen" spouses of American citizens who have lived in the U.S. for a decade and meet certain other conditions to apply for permanent residency without having, as is presently required, to leave the U.S. and apply from abroad. In addition, the

Government will consider issuing visas authorizing recipients to become fully employed to “undocumented noncitizens”, including those covered by DACA, who have earned degrees from an accredited U.S. college. (See 11/11/24 update)

6/6/24 Border agents have begun using President Biden’s brand-new executive order to summarily turn back asylum-seekers who arrive without appointments. Problem is, Mexico only accepts the return of persons from Central America, Cuba, Haiti and Venezuela. Large numbers of asylum-seekers come from China, India, Africa and other countries, and they must either be flown back, detained, or (as has been the practice) released into the U.S. to await further action. Authorities expect that the number of border arrivals, which are already at highly elevated levels, will continue to increase.

6/5/24 President Biden signed an executive order that promptly expels illegal migrants, without a court hearing, whenever the 7-day average of illegal crossings reaches 2,500 per day. This number is being presently exceeded, and enforcement should begin tomorrow. Migrants who schedule appointments with INS, unaccompanied minors, and victims of human trafficking are exempted. Unauthorized border crossings have been at near-historic levels, with “more than 3,500” in one recent day alone. President Biden said he was forced to take this step because Congress has failed to act on immigration reform. (See 10/1/24 update)

5/21/24 CODIS, the FBI’s national DNA database, has about 22 million profiles derived from DNA samples routinely taken by local, State and Federal agencies from criminal offenders. It’s the “go-to” place for identifying perpetrators using crime scene DNA. And since 2020, immigration agents have been sending in cheek swabs from nearly every non-citizen they detain. These submissions, which could rise to as many as 748,000 per year, must be DNA-typed along with those of ordinary arrestees. And that’s led the FBI to ask for major new resources to deal with the backlog. [FBI fact sheet](#)

5/20/24 A Federal judge has enjoined L.A.-area ICE agents from conducting so-called “knock-and-talks” to arrest immigrants for whom they only have administrative warrants. According to Judge Otis D. Wright II, the 4th. Amendment prohibits law enforcement officers who lack a judicially-issued warrant from entering the curtilage (i.e., porch, patio) of a residence if they intend to make an arrest. At present, ICE officers routinely do so, but often pretend all they have in mind is to chat. [Judicial decision](#)

5/17/24 Faced with an “overwhelmed immigration system” that can take years to process asylum claims, the Justice Department has announced a new process that more promptly removes “individuals who do not qualify for relief.” Single non-citizen adults

whose claims “are ready to be resolved promptly” will be placed on an expedited docket, and immigration judges will render final decisions within 180 days. A rule to that effect will be published in the Federal Register.

5/16/24 With 37,370 arrests in April, San Diego County has become the most popular spot for migrants to illegally enter the U.S. Eighty percent aren't from the usual places, Mexico and Central America. Instead, they came from more faraway lands, ranging from Colombia and Ecuador to Turkey and, in especially large numbers, China. Texas used to be a favorite entry point, but crackdowns in Mexico, plus the lone star state's hostility to migrants, apparently shifted things West, to Tucson and San Diego.

5/10/24 DOJ is contesting a law recently enacted by Iowa that prohibits the presence of persons who have been legally excluded from the U.S. and requires judges to expel them. According to a Federal lawsuit, Iowa's law, which Governor Kim Reynolds signed on April 10, “impedes the federal government's ability to enforce entry and removal provisions of federal law and interferes with its conduct of foreign relations.” [Iowa bill](#)

4/29/24 Following on the heels of Texas, five other “Red” States have jumped into the immigration ring. [Iowa recently enacted a measure](#) that makes it illegal for previously excluded aliens to be in the State. [Louisiana is considering](#) a similar law. Propelled by a murder recently committed by an illegal alien on a college campus, Georgia now requires that jailers check inmates' immigration status. A new law in Florida increases penalties for illegal aliens convicted of felonies. A similar measure is being considered in Tennessee, where a new law mandates that State officers assist Federal immigration agents.

4/11/24 Governor Kim Reynolds signed a bill making it a crime for immigrants who have been deported or denied entry to the U.S. to be in Iowa. Those who fail to leave the U.S. would be subject to prosecution. It's now the second State, after Texas, to make illegal immigration a State crime. But Des Moines police said they would not expend the resources to pro-actively enforce the measure. “Senate File 2340” will become effective July 1st. [Bill](#)

3/26/24 Three *tons* of meth. That's what officials at the Otay Mesa crossing near San Diego just found in an inbound tractor-trailer. Neatly wrapped in 574 packages, the drugs were hidden under a load of...carrots. Agents recently seized 400 pounds of cocaine. It was secreted among...cucumbers. And, in yet another haul, two *tons* of meth and cocaine stashed in containers of jalapeno paste.

3/20/24 In a split decision opposed by its three liberally-inclined members, the

Supreme Court allowed Texas to enforce its new immigration law while its Constitutionality is litigated by the Fifth Circuit. But the Circuit promptly put the law back on "hold". Meanwhile the White House continued to insist that immigration is the Fed's exclusive turf. "We fundamentally disagree with the Supreme Court's order allowing Texas' harmful and unconstitutional law to go into effect" said Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.

[2/27/74](#) Has Texas' push into immigration enforcement met the Lone Star State's goals? Compared to a year ago, January 2023 CBP data reveals half the number of arrests along its border. In contrast, CBP arrests along San Diego's border increased sixty percent, and detentions in Arizona more than doubled. That suggests a displacement effect as well. And this "effect" is greatly stressing already-burdened Federal and State resources along the Western U.S.

[2/14/24](#) Denver prides itself on the support it offers immigrants. But as of January it's received 40,000, many bused by Texas Governor Abbott. On top of its homelessness problem, for a city of 750,000 the burden of providing for the arrivals is overwhelming. Renting hotel rooms and such will consume \$180 million this year. That's ten percent of the city budget. So it's being forced to throttle back.

[In their second try](#), by a one-vote margin, House Republicans impeached Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas. Secretary Mayorkas, the first sitting cabinet member ever impeached, is accused of "willfully and systematically" turning his back on the enforcement of immigration laws, and of falsely asserting that the border is secure. But a trial seems unlikely, as the Senate, which is where it would take place, is controlled by the "Blues."

[2/1/24](#) "I don't know anyone who has been deported." Those were the words of a Colombian migrant at an encampment where she and others awaited the arrival of border agents. They intended to lodge claims for asylum, then to be processed and released to await hearings in the distant future. That's the expectation that's reportedly driving masses of immigrants to the border, and which is overwhelming the nation's ability to administer and enforce its immigration laws.

[1/16/24](#) A steady, uninterrupted increase in pending cases clogs immigration courts. Fueled by an explosive rise in claims for asylum, the nationwide FY 2023 backlog exceeds *three million* according to [Syracuse University's TRAC system](#). "They're just being released without any idea of what comes next," says an immigration advocate. Miami alone has 261,000 cases. How long it will take judges to process these is anyone's guess.

1/15/24 Texas, which enacted its own immigration laws, has extended its control of the border. Fencing now prevents the Border Border patrol from contacting asylum-seeking immigrants who have been using an area by the Rio Grande river to surrender. A Justice Dept. appeal to the Supreme Court claims that's wrong, as only the Feds have authority over immigration. But the Border Patrol union loves Governor Abbott's move. "By taking control of an area where so many illegal aliens are simply surrendering, he's freeing up BP agents to patrol areas with high numbers of illegal aliens who attempt to escape arrest." (See 1/23/24 update)

1/10/24 Homeland Security released some sobering numbers for FY 2023. "Enforcement encounters" at the Southwest Border totaled 2,457,266. That's about 100,000 more than in FY 2022 and the most since at least FY 2014, when 544,667 such encounters took place. Nearly one and-a-third million immigrants were released on parole or conditional or humanitarian grounds in FY 2023. That's substantially more than a year earlier and far beyond the 32,022 that were let go for such reasons in FY 2014.

1/5/24 New York City has filed a lawsuit against seventeen bus companies who are being paid by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to haul away immigrants released by immigration authorities pending asylum hearings. Over "\$700 million in damages" is being sought to gain recompense for the projected cost of housing and caring for thirty-thousand promised arrivals.

12/29/23 Texas has arrested "thousands" of border crossers for misdemeanor trespass since 2021. And with a recently enacted statute that directly prohibits illegal immigration, Gov. Greg Abbott threatens to arrest violators throughout the state. But the Justice Department is threatening to sue. In its view, immigration enforcement is strictly a Federal task. That's also the opinion of the ACLU, which has filed a lawsuit over the new law's alleged violation of the Constitution's supremacy clause. (See 12/19/23 update)

12/28/23 Once again, asylum-seekers fleeing cartels and disorder in Mexico, South America, Africa and Asia are arriving by the "thousands" each day, overwhelming the capacities of U.S. agents and, as well, of the towns and cities along the southern border. According to a migration expert, the numbers this month are "bigger than any average we have ever seen," leading officials dealing with the surge to complain "they're near or past the breaking point." A lack of resources mean that many arrivals are released into

the U.S. with court dates for adjudicating their claims set “years” into the future.

12/27/23 Hundreds of foreign nationals legalized their immigration status thanks to sham marriages arranged through a Los Angeles-based agency operated by Marcialito Benitez. Employing ten associates who recruited clients and their pretend, legally resident spouses, Benitez staged pretend weddings and coached customers through the entire application process. He also helped foreign female clients who were already married to lawful American residents submit false claims of spousal abuse, thus capitalizing on provisions of the [Violence Against Women Act](#) that helped them gain permanent resident status.

12/26/23 Defendants who plead guilty in New York state cannot later challenge their convictions unless new DNA evidence turns up. [Governor Kathy Hochul just vetoed expanding the grounds](#) to include, among other things, claims of having been coerced to confess. But [California allows persons no longer in custody to challenge their convictions on many grounds](#), including their lawyer’s failure to warn immigrants that a conviction could lead to their deportation. What’s more, the state provides grants so that public defenders can pursue these challenges. [CA 1473.7 P.C.](#)

12/19/23 [Chicago’s imposition of penalties](#) on charter buses (originating from Texas) that drop off immigrants at unapproved locations or outside set times has led drivers to disembark immigrants outside the city and give them rail tickets to finish their trip. Meanwhile [Texas Governor Greg Abbott signed a state law](#) that directs police to arrest unauthorized migrants and authorizes judges to expel them from the U.S. Initial illegal entries are considered misdemeanors; repeat violations are felonies. (See 12/29/23 update)

12/11/23 [Federal authorities will be barred from separating migrant families](#) for at least the next eight years. San Diego Federal judge Dana Sabraw, who prohibited the “brutal, offensive” practice in 2018, approved the new, long-term prohibition as he signed off on the settlement of a long-running lawsuit filed against the Government by the ACLU. Meanwhile, [Chicago is suing bus companies that are paid by Texas](#) to transport loads of immigrants with pending asylum claims to the Windy city.

12/4/23 In a blow to Texas’ fight against illegal border crossings, the U.S. Fifth Circuit ordered the state to remove a string of buoys it installed to block passage through the Rio Grande. According to the ruling, Texas’ claim that Federal jurisdiction doesn’t extend through certain parts of the river is incorrect. Governor Greg Abbott has pledged to challenge the decision all the way to the Supreme Court. Law aside, a lower court had cast doubt on the buoys’ potential effectiveness.

11/22/23 DHS announced its continuing commitment to assure the validity of claims for asylum and to repatriate non-citizens who do not qualify. Since May, removal flights have returned “more than 380,000 individuals”, including over 60,000 family members, to their countries of origin, including Ecuador, India, Peru, Venezuela and Central America.

11/20/23 “Finite resources” have led Chicago’s mayor to announce that the “sanctuary city” is imposing a sixty-day occupancy limit for the more than 11,000 immigrants now housed in city shelters. “Rogue buses” that arrive packed with immigrants will also be discouraged from discharging their passengers. Chicago has asked the Feds to authorize temporary protective status and work authorization for the more than 21,000 migrants who have arrived since August 2022. Meanwhile Illinois’ Governor authorized \$65 million for the city to set up another tent encampment. (See 7/28/23 update)

11/17/23 NYPD will freeze hiring and its force will drop below 30,000 cops for the first time in forty years as Mayor Eric Adams, an ex-police captain, announces deep cuts to police, education and other city services supposedly made necessary by the cost of accommodating the huge influx of migrants seeking asylum. Projected as \$11 billion over two years, these costs threaten to leave next year’s \$110 billion budget \$7 billion in the red.

10/19/23 ICE announced that immigrants from Venezuela must now, like everyone else, present their reasons for entry to an immigration court. Individuals and families who lack legal justification to remain in the U.S. will be ordered removed. Their “repatriation” is being accomplished through charter flights, and the first one took place on October 18. (See 9/22/23 update)

10/17/23 Attorney General Merrick Garland announced the terms of a proposed settlement of an ACLU lawsuit that would end the “shameful” practice of separating children from parents who are detained for illegal immigration. Instead, families seeking asylum will be granted “humanitarian parole”. They will be allowed to remain in the U.S. for up to three years and become employed while their claims are adjudicated. One year of housing aid will also be provided.

10/9/23 In the *New York Times*, an unforgettable video clip depicts immigrants snaking a small child through a “triple-stack concertina” barbed wire barrier erected by Texas at its El Paso border. Along with the deployment of numerous National Guard troops, it’s part of a massive effort by Texas Governor Greg Abbott to impede illegal crossings. But unprecedented waves of migrants keep streaming in.

10/5/23 “High illegal entry” activity besets the Border Patrol region that includes Starr County, Texas. So, despite strong objections from environmentalists who fear it would destroy “a huge amount of wildlife refuge land,” the Biden Administration has waived a host of Federal laws to add about 20 miles of border wall to that sector. Immigration control advocates applaud the move as long overdue. [Meanwhile New York City Mayor Eric Adams](#) readies for a trip to Mexico, Ecuador and Colombia to convey the urgent warning that his city is unable to accommodate any more asylum seekers. “We are at capacity.”

10/4/23 More than half of all Federal prosecutions are for immigrant smuggling. Often, the best witnesses are the immigrants themselves. So they’re often held as material witnesses. In Laredo, Texas, their average stay is 13 weeks. While in jail, they’re treated just like persons facing serious criminal charges. Meanwhile the smugglers, who are usually U.S. citizens, get to bond out.

9/29/23 Unable to physically house and care for the waves of immigrants seeking asylum, DHS has released 7,800 into San Diego in two weeks, to await eligibility hearings that might not be scheduled for years. But local shelters and volunteers can’t accommodate all of the arrivals, and many without contacts are in turn flown to major cities such as Detroit and New York, where the process repeats.

9/22/23 Asylum-seekers are arriving in overwhelming numbers, with nearly 6,000 crossing into a small Texas town in two days. To help oversee the border, 800 regular military troops are being sent to supplant the 2,500 National Guard members already there. And to ease pressures on local governments overwhelmed by the costs of housing and caring for immigrants, DHS is granting temporary protected status to 472,000 Venezuelans who arrived before July 31. That will authorize them to become lawfully employed. Nearly a quarter-million who already have the status are getting an 18-month extension because of their country’s “increased instability and lack of safety.” (See 10/19/23 update)

8/21/23 [Human smugglers](#) have reportedly informed would-be migrants that families with children who illegally cross the border are more likely to be granted asylum. That, according to ICE, led to a doubling of such incursions in July and represents the highest number of families apprehended during a single month since last year. [Meanwhile Texas’ eighth bus load of migrants](#) - there were forty, including a nine-month old - arrived in Los Angeles. Most supposedly have sponsors in California.

8/7/23 ICE announced an expansion “to cities across the country” of its [expedited](#)

[removal program for family units](#) that illegally enter the U.S. and apply for asylum. Families will be subject to nighttime curfews and their heads will be fitted with ankle bracelets and monitored by GPS. Interviews will be conducted to assess whether a family's "fear of persecution or torture" is "credible," and if not, they will be promptly removed.

7/28/23 Two immigration "sanctuary" cities that regularly get busloads of migrants courtesy Texas Governor Greg Abbott are back in the news. [In Chicago](#), discord brews over the more than 5,000 migrants currently packing city shelters and the "hundreds" sleeping on police station floors. In [Los Angeles](#), where the situation is far less dire (it just got its sixth busload, containing thirty-six migrants) officials rely on a "partnership between the city and county, along with faith-based groups and nonprofit organizations" to provide for their care. (See 11/20/23 update)

7/26/23 Title 42's COVID-era rules were replaced by a requirement that asylum-seekers who arrive unannounced prove they applied for asylum elsewhere but were denied. That move, which may have substantially reduced the flow of illegal border-crossers, was just ruled illegal by Oakland's U.S. District Judge Jon Tigar. Ruling in a suit by the ACLU and immigration advocates, he said it forces asylum-seekers to a hazardous wait in Mexico. But he gave the Administration two weeks to appeal. (See 6/21/23 update)

7/14/23 Thirty more asylum-seekers from Brownsville, Texas arrived in Los Angeles. They were welcomed by a Los Angeles-area church, which offered food and shelter. Five had already left their busload, the third in a series, in Arizona. Cooperation between private groups and officials in Texas and Southern California are apparently regularizing a process that seemingly began as a way for Texas Governor Greg Abbott (a "Red") to express his discontent with lax immigration enforcement.

6/29/23 Four Mexican nationals living in Texas were arrested for participating in the smuggling operation that led to the deaths of fifty-three migrants last year. According to authorities, the accused knew that the A.C. unit in the trailer used to transport the migrants was broken, and that its occupants would face severe heat during their three-hour ride from Laredo to San Antonio. All face possible sentences of life in prison. The vehicle's driver and another man were arrested soon after the tragedy. (See 7/1/22 update)

6/26/23 In a near-unanimous decision, the Supreme Court upheld the Fed's authority to set priorities in immigration enforcement. Rejecting challenges by Louisiana and Texas, which argued that all illegal migrants must be expelled, the Justices ruled 8-1

that it was appropriate to focus deportation efforts on those who pose the greatest threats to public safety. A Federal law that forbids encouraging illegal immigration was also upheld.

6/21/23 New immigration rules imposed after the expiration of Title 42 require asylum-seekers who appear without an appointment to prove that they were denied asylum elsewhere. That's reduced the success rate at asylum screenings from 86 percent, pre-expiration, to the current 46 percent. According to a DHS spokesperson, "disincentivizing noncitizens from pursuing irregular migration" was the purpose, and it seems to be working. (See 5/15/23 and 7/26/23 updates)

6/7/23 A September 2022 charter flight supposedly ordered by Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis transported 49 asylum seekers from Texas to Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts. According to Javier Salazar, Bexar County, Texas' progressive sheriff, that amounted to a kidnapping, and he's recommending to the D.A. that charges be brought. According to [original reports](#), the migrants were promised housing and work in major cities and had no idea they would wind up in a tiny resort where they were unexpected.

6/6/23 In recent days three dozen asylum seekers processed by immigration authorities in Texas presented themselves at a Sacramento diocese. They came to California on two charter flights from New Mexico that were reportedly arranged and funded by the administration of Florida Governor (and Presidential hopeful) Ron DeSantis. Calling the assertedly misrepresented transport a "kidnapping" - the immigrants have no ties to California and their hearings were to take place in other states - California Atty. General Rob Bonta threatened civil and possibly criminal action.

6/2/23 Overcoming objections that Chicago's needy communities were a better place to spend the funds, its city council authorized \$51 million to help care for and shelter the scores of undocumented immigrants that continue to arrive, many on buses dispatched by Texas. "The problem here is, in the frustration, we all want to yell and point fingers at Texas," said council member Anthony Napolitano, who favored the appropriation. "That's not right. We declared ourselves a sanctuary city."

6/1/23 Texas' appeal for help in securing its southern border was first answered by Florida, which is sending 100 national guard troops. Three more "Red" states - Virginia, West Virginia and South Carolina - just announced they're joining in. Virginia is sending 100 soldiers, to be accompanied by 21 support staff. According to Gov. Glen Youngkin, they'll help "reduce the flow of fentanyl, combat human trafficking and address the humanitarian crisis." More "Red" states are soon expected to follow.

5/19/23 Challenging a Federal law that prohibits employing persons without legal immigration status, the University of California announced it is formulating a plan to hire students who are not authorized to be in the U.S. for on-campus jobs. Its move will benefit approx. 4,000 students who lost out on the DACA system, which no longer accepts new applications. UC's lawyers intend to argue that the controlling Federal rule, [the 1986 Immigration Act](#), doesn't mention States, so it doesn't apply to them.

5/17/23 To help Texas deal with illegal immigrants, Florida Governor Ron DeSantis is sending the beset state more than one-thousand law enforcement officers, including troopers, game wardens and investigators. They'll be there for a month. DeSantis recently signed a state bill that provides additional funds to relocate immigrants, limits their use of social services, and expands the use of E-Verify, which checks on applicants' eligibility to work in the U.S., to all workplaces with more than 25 employees.

5/15/23 New rules require that asylum-seekers either prove that they applied for asylum in another country, or request a hearing using the "CBP One" app. and wait their turn. Those who cross anyway face "expedited removal" and a 5-year ban from reconsideration. Homeland Security boss Alejandro Mayorkas credits the new policy with a 50-percent drop in illegal crossings as Title 42 came to an end at midnight, May 11. But skeptics claim that even so, the numbers remain at record levels. (See 6/21/23 update)

5/12/23 Title 42 (COVID) authority to summarily expel persons who illegally entered the U.S. expired at midnight. In its place, DHS issued a complex "final rule" that requires persons who seek asylum to schedule their appearance in advance using the "CBP One" app. or apply for and be denied asylum in another country. Persons who lack a compelling reason for non-compliance, such as "an imminent threat to their life," will be "promptly removed" and barred from re-entry for five years. [According to the AP](#), fears that this rule will hinder future entry has led to a "surge" of illegal crossings in recent days.

5/10/23 Large groups of asylum seekers from "a ruined economy in Venezuela, bloodshed in Nigeria or state repression in China" continuously gather by Arizona's Cocopah Indian Reservation. After an unimpeded crossing from Mexico - there are no fences - they wait for U.S. agents. Official vehicles transport them to processing centers, where paperwork gets done and they are released into the interior pending hearings. Most seem to have families and friends in the U.S., and that's where they go. All but persons from Mexico, though, as until tomorrow, when Title 42 ends, they are summarily expelled.

5/3/23 Texas Governor Greg Abbott announced that he will resume sending large numbers of asylum-seekers released pending hearings to Chicago, “a self-declared sanctuary city.” His plan was blasted by Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, who said that the 8,000 immigrants her city has received since last August have badly strained its finances and physical capacities. But Governor Abbott said that pales against what he faces. “How are small Texas border communities supposed to manage 13,000 in just one day?”

5/2/23 Francisco Oropeza, who is being sought for murdering five rural Texas neighbors who asked him to stop shooting his AR-15 type rifle late at night, is an illegal immigrant from Mexico and has been deported four times, most recently in 2016. His victims were immigrants from Honduras, and at least one was legally in the U.S.