



Onondaga County Legislature

CHARLES E. GARLAND

County Legislator – 16th District
208 Martin Luther King W, Syracuse, New York 13205
Leg (315) 435-2070 • Cell (315) 243-5941
charlesgarland@onondaga.gov

PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE AGENDA

Livestream Available: [Onondaga County Legislature on YouTube](#)

11:30 a.m.
August 18, 2026

401 Montgomery St., Courthouse Room 407
Syracuse, New York 13202

- A. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.
- B. Presentation of Resolutions and Local Laws:
 - 1. **DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT:** Daniel H. Wears, Commissioner
 - a. INFORMATIONAL: Overview of Emergency Management
 - 2. **COUNTY LEGISLATURE:**
 - a. DISCUSSION: Consideration of Appointments to the Justice Center Oversight Committee
 - b. DISCUSSION: A Memorializing Resolution Reaffirming That Armed Federal Immigration Enforcement Officers May Not Intimidate Voters or Access Non-Public Areas at Polling Locations in Onondaga County Absent a Valid Judicial Warrant or Court Order; Encouraging the Identification and Distribution of a Protocol for Responding to Such Presence; and Encouraging the Posting of Know Your Rights Signage at Polling Places
- C. Adjournment

September 1, 2026

Motion Made By Ms. Denton

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A MEMORIALIZING RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING THAT ARMED FEDERAL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS MAY NOT INTIMIDATE VOTERS OR ACCESS NON-PUBLIC AREAS AT POLLING LOCATIONS IN ONONDAGA COUNTY ABSENT A VALID JUDICIAL WARRANT OR COURT ORDER; ENCOURAGING THE IDENTIFICATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF A PROTOCOL FOR RESPONDING TO SUCH PRESENCE; AND ENCOURAGING THE POSTING OF KNOW YOUR RIGHTS SIGNAGE AT POLLING PLACES

WHEREAS, the members of the Onondaga County Legislature each take an oath to support and defend the Constitutions of the United States and the State of New York; and

WHEREAS, the Onondaga County Legislature has an obligation to protect the safety and civil rights of all residents of Onondaga County, including the unimpeded right to vote free from intimidation; and

WHEREAS, 18 U.S.C. § 592 makes it a federal crime for any officer of the armed forces, or any other person in the civil, military, or naval service of the United States, to order, bring, keep, or have under his authority or control any troops or armed men at any place where a general or special election is held, except as necessary to repel armed enemies of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and related state law make it unlawful to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, or to attempt to intimidate, threaten, or coerce, any person for the purpose of interfering with that person's right to vote or to assist others in voting; and

WHEREAS, New York Election Law § 8-104(1) prohibits electioneering within a polling place and within a one-hundred-foot radial measured from the polling place entrances designated by the inspectors of election; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Sensitive Location Protection Act, codified at Civil Rights Law § 29, designates a location being utilized as a polling place among the sensitive locations to which access may be denied to any portion of the polling place that is not accessible to the general public to any individual seeking access for the purpose of immigration enforcement absent a court order or judicial warrant; and

WHEREAS, General Municipal Law § 996-a further provides that no municipal government employee shall grant permission to access or facilitate access to an area of a County-owned facility not accessible to the general public to any individual seeking access for the purpose of immigration enforcement, and further no municipal government or employee thereof shall grant permission to access or facilitate access to a polling location to an immigration authority or employee thereof for the same purposes where doing so would violate 18 U.S.C. §§ 592 and 595, 52 U.S.C. § 10307(b), or the Fourteenth or Fifteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, election inspectors administering polling places in Onondaga County retain their existing statutory authority under New York Election Law § 8-104(2) to preserve order and to determine who may be admitted within the guard-rail, and are under no obligation to invite or admit personnel of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement ("ICE"), U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or U.S. Border Patrol, acting within their law enforcement capacity, into non-public areas of a polling place absent a judicial warrant or other lawful process; and

WHEREAS, the prohibitions against voter intimidation under the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and related state law are not limited to circumstances involving a weapon, and apply equally to any officer or agent, armed or unarmed, whose presence or conduct is intended to intimidate, threaten, or coerce a voter or prospective voter; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Onondaga County Legislature reaffirms that the presence of armed officers of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and U.S. Border Patrol at a polling place may constitute intimidation of voters, which is prohibited under state and federal law; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Onondaga County Legislature affirms that election workers and election inspectors administering election spaces in Onondaga County are under no obligation to invite or admit any officer or agent of ICE, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or U.S. Border Patrol within the guard-rail of a polling place, whether or not the officer or agent is armed; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Onondaga County Legislature reaffirms that no officer or agent of ICE, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, or U.S. Border Patrol, whether or not armed, may be present in an election space in Onondaga County with the intent to interfere with the conduct of an election or to intimidate voters or persons going to vote; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Onondaga County Legislature encourages the Onondaga County Board of Elections, the Onondaga County Democratic Committee, and the Onondaga County Republican Committee to identify and distribute a protocol addressing the response to the presence of ICE at Onondaga County polling areas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Onondaga County Legislature encourages the posting of know your rights signage at the one-hundred-foot mark outside Onondaga County polling places; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Onondaga County Legislature is directed to forward certified copies of this resolution to the Onondaga County Board of Elections, the Onondaga County Democratic Committee, and the Onondaga County Republican Committee.