

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION

No. 477-26

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING CERTAIN RECENTLY ENACTED STATE LAWS
AFFECTING LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS, FEDERAL-STATE
COOPERATION, AND PUBLIC SAFETY, AND URGING THEIR APPEAL**

WHEREAS, the Cape May County Board of County Commissioners has a fundamental responsibility to protect the health, safety, and welfare of its residents and to support law enforcement offices in the lawful execution of their duties; and

WHEREAS, New Jersey State Government recently enacted legislation impacting federal-state cooperation in immigration enforcement, creating sanctuary spaces or immigrants in the country illegally and impacting law enforcement operations; and

WHEREAS, A4071/S3521 restricts certain communications and cooperation between state and local law enforcement and federal immigration authorities; and

WHEREAS, SCS for S3114 and S3216/A1743 requires law enforcement officers, including ICE agents, to reveal their facial identity during certain public interactions and to present identification before arresting or detaining an individual, which the County believes may interfere with law enforcement operations and raise constitutional concerns; and

WHEREAS, A4070/S3522, described as the "Privacy Protection Act," limits the collection and sharing of certain personal information, which the County believes may hinder law enforcement investigations and interagency coordination; and

WHEREAS, the "Safe Communities Act" (A6308/S5036) requires the Attorney General to develop model policies governing interactions between certain sensitive locations and federal civil immigration enforcement, including hospitals, public schools, shelters, disaster and emergency response sites, funeral homes, courthouses, and places of worship, which the County believes will discourage cooperation with lawful federal immigration enforcement and create additional barriers to apprehending criminal offenders; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the importance of constitutional rights, due process, lawful policing, and public accountability, but also finds that intergovernmental cooperation, the ability of law enforcement agencies to respond to evolving public safety threats, or negatively impact the safety of the public at large, and

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

No. 477-26

WHEREAS, the County is concerned that restrictions affecting communication, coordination, identification practices, and information-sharing, as well as policies that prohibit law enforcement from pursuing criminals at certain locations will create uncertainty for local law enforcement agencies, complicate interactions with federal authorities, increase risks to officers operating in volatile and rapidly developing situations and give sanctuary to criminals and terrorists among the very communities these laws purport to seek to protect; and

WHEREAS, the County further recognizes that immigration law and enforcement are federal functions under the United States Constitution and believes that legislation restricting federal-state cooperation in this area is subject to constitutional challenge under the Supremacy Clause; and

WHEREAS, the County is also concerned that enactments designed to restrict cooperation or disclosure may invite costly litigation, create preemption disputes, undermine consistent enforcement practices, and expose municipalities and their officers to legal uncertainty, financial burdens, and operational difficulties, observing that the federal government has already sued New Jersey twice since March 2026; and

WHEREAS, the County is additionally concerned that requiring officers to reveal facial identity without adequate operational exceptions may increase the risk of retaliation, harassment, doxxing, targeting of officers and their families, and compromise of undercover, tactical, or other security-sensitive functions; and

WHEREAS, the County also finds that limiting the collection or sharing of personal information may impede legitimate law enforcement investigations, interagency coordination, and emergency response efforts, including efforts involving individuals who may pose threats to public safety; and

WHEREAS, the County recognizes the causal connection between sanctuary policies and the unfolding statewide voter registration scandal in which at least 6,600 noncitizens were registered to vote and approximately 400 coast ballots; and

WHEREAS, the Cape May County Board of County Commissioners therefore wishes to formally express its opposition to the foregoing enactments and to urge the Legislature and the Governor to repeal them; and

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

RESOLUTION

No. 477-26

WHEREAS, New Jersey's sanctuary policies have directly resulted in avoidable lawsuits initiated by the federal government challenging unconstitutional policies as well as violent unrest and disorder outside of Newark's Delaney Hall, a U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) detention facility, and the injury of an ICE officer in Ocean County, New Jersey; and

WHEREAS, the County finds that New Jersey's sanctuary-state policies, by attracting and incentivizing unlawful immigration and restricting meaningful cooperation with federal immigration authorities, have contributed directly to the registration of thousands of noncitizens to vote in New Jersey and 75,000 noncitizens annually being summoned for jury duty.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Cape May, declare as follows:

1. The Cape May County Board of County Commissioners hereby formally opposes the recently enacted laws identified above.
2. The County finds that these laws, individually and collectively, raise substantial concerns regarding public safety, law enforcement officer safety, effective federal-state and interagency cooperation, and the ability of local law enforcement to carry out its responsibilities in a clear, coordinated, and lawful manner.
3. The County further finds, as a matter of policy and legal concern, that state measures restricting cooperation, identification practices, or information-sharing in this area may create practical conflicts with legitimate law enforcement objectives, burden municipal operations, and contribute to costly and divisive disputes concerning the limits of state authority, federal supremacy in immigration matters, and preemption principles under the United States Constitution.
4. The County urges the Governor of New Jersey and the New Jersey Legislature to repeal the laws identified above and to take prompt executive and legislative action as may be necessary to eliminate the risks these laws may pose to officer safety, law enforcement effectiveness, and sound intergovernmental relations.
5. The County further urges that any future legislation in this area respect the supremacy of the federal government under the United States Constitution in matters of immigration policy and enforcement, and include clear protections for officer safety and operations, workable standards for interagency coordination, and provisions that preserve the ability of law enforcement to respond effectively to threats to the public.
6. The County encourages state, county, and local law enforcement agencies in securing our community against threats to public safety as well as assist federal authorities in safeguarding government

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CAPE MAY COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
RESOLUTION

No. 477-26

7. The County urges the Governor of New Jersey, the New Jersey Legislature, the Attorney General of New Jersey, and the appropriate State election authorities to promptly conduct a transparent investigation into the reported registration of thousands of noncitizens on New Jersey’s voter rolls; suspend automatic Motor Vehicle Commission (MVC) registrations; implement a mandatory over ID requirement for New Jersey elections; determine the scope and causes of the election-security breach; take all lawful corrective action to protect the integrity of the voter-registration system and elections; fully cooperate with investigating federal authorities; and report the results and remedial measures to the public
8. The Clerk of the Board is hereby directed to transmit a certified copy of this Resolution to the Governor of New Jersey, the President of the New Jersey Senate, the Speaker of the New Jersey General Assembly, the Counties representatives in the New Jersey Legislature, the Attorney General of New Jersey, the New Jersey State League of Municipalities, the New Jersey Association of Counties, the United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey, as well as the Municipal Clerks of all 16 municipalities of Cape May County

STATEMENT

This Resolution opposes certain recently enacted state laws affecting law enforcement operations, federal-state cooperation, and public safety, and urging their repeal.

STATE OF NEW JERSEY} ss.:
COUNTY OF CAPE MAY}

I, Kevin Lare, Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners of the County of Cape May, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a correct and true copy of a resolution adopted by the Board at a meeting duly held on the 25th day of August 2026

RECORD OF VOTE						
Commissioners	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent	Moved	Second
Mr. Barr						
Mr. Bulakowski						
Mr. Morey						
Mr. Rosenello						
Mr. Desiderio						
√ - Indicates Vote Moved-Resolution Offered Second-Resolution Seconded						

Signed, _____
Clerk of the Board /dd