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SPORTS, 1B

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Bolivian immigrant avoids deportation

Iowa City man released from ICE custody prior to being sent to the Congo

Liam Halawith
Iowa City Press-Citizen
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Bolivian national and Iowa City resident was temporarily released from Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody, according to a news release from immigrant advocacy organization Escucha Mi Voz.

Jose Yugar Cruz, who was born in Bolivia, was due to be deported to the Democratic Republic of the Congo de-

spite a court order barring his deportation to his home country of Bolivia due to the risk of torture or persecution.

He was released on May 27 in Cedar Rapids to avoid deportation to the Congo because of an ongoing Ebola virus outbreak ravaging the African country.

ICE ordered his removal to the Congo as it continues to seek Third-Country Removal Agreements with other countries.

Yugar Cruz was detained in the Linn County jail while he awaited deportation after his arrest on April 8, and was

nearly deported before a judge blocked his removal.

Local immigrant advocacy organizations, including Escucha Mi Voz, protested his detainment and pending deportation to the Congo, holding an April 30 protest at the Linn County Jail and a May 5 demonstration outside the Cedar Rapids ICE office.

Yugar Cruz was appreciative of the ongoing advocacy while he was detained, and spoke out against third-country deportations.

"The fight continues forward," Yugar Cruz said in a Friday news release from Escucha Mi Voz.

Yugar Cruz spent majority of time in the U.S. in detention since 2024

Yugar Cruz entered the U.S. through Arizona in July 2024, where he surrendered himself to law enforcement. He applied for asylum in October 2024 and later received an order blocking his removal from the U.S. based on the torture he previously faced in Bolivia.

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Anchored Hope Executive Director Wendy Van Dyke stands in front of the non-profit's home for former foster care youth.
PROVIDED BY ANCHORED HOPE

'THEY TRULY WANT THE BEST FOR US'

2nd home for youth aging out of foster care opens in Ames

Celia Brocker
Ames Tribune
USA TODAY NETWORK

Crystal Terry could spend hours talking about how beautiful it is to live at Anchored Hope.

Terry's housing situation has evolved dramatically throughout her life. She was in foster care for two years as a child, and after her relationship with

her adoptive family deteriorated, she bounced from house to house until she found Anchored Hope.

The Ames nonprofit's mission is to provide a safe home for young adults transitioning from foster care. It also offers education, employment, life skills, health, financial literacy and community support.

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Who is Trump endorsing in Iowa's primary?

Brianne Pfannenstiel
Des Moines Register
USA TODAY NETWORK

Republican President Donald Trump has wielded his considerable influence in a slew of GOP primary races this year, toppling incumbents in favor of more MAGA-aligned candidates across the country.

As the Iowa primaries arrive June 2, Trump is fresh off another winning night in Texas where his endorsed candidate, Attorney General Ken Paxton, defeated incumbent U.S. Sen. John Cornyn in a runoff election.

In Iowa, Trump's endorsements have been powerful as candidates jockey for position in a range of primary elections. But he's largely stuck to backing Iowa's incumbent Republicans who have supported him in Congress.

Trump weighed in early on a range of primary races, and he offered a last-minute endorsement in the gubernatorial primary just days before the election.

Here's a look at who Trump has endorsed in Iowa's 2026 primary races.

1st District — Mariannette Miller-Meeks

Trump endorsed Mariannette Miller-Meeks in a November 2025 social media post, calling her "an incredibly strong advocate" for Iowans in the 1st District.

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