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# THE HUTCHINSON NEWS

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## Kansas may see new wave of ICE deployments

**Trevor Hughes and Jason Alatidd**  
 Topeka Capital-Journal  
 USA TODAY NETWORK

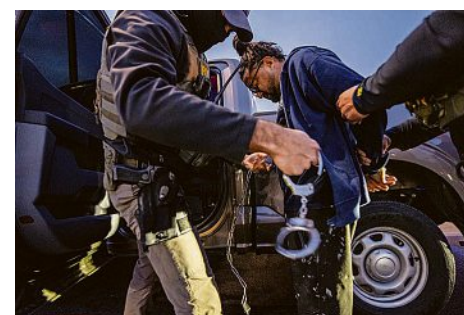
Federal government contracting documents show two Kansas cities are expected to get immigration enforcement offices.

Manhattan and Kansas City, Kansas, are on the list of dozens of cities across the country where the government wants a contractor to provide rented office space for Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

The revelation from federal purchasing records, which were reported by

USA TODAY, comes as the White House and Department of Homeland Security are preparing to ramp up immigration enforcement nationwide. DHS declined to comment to USA TODAY, citing "operational security," about the deployment

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**Hundreds of new ICE officers are deploying across the U.S. as records show staffing changes at co-working style offices. Included on the list is Manhattan, KS.**

OMAR ORNELAS/EL PASO TIMES



**Gas prices for regular unleaded gas read \$3.99 for credit at the Amoco B Well Market, 600 SE Quincy St., on May 11.**

PHOTOS BY EVERT NELSON/TOPEKA CAPITAL-JOURNAL

## Derek Schmidt wants answers on gas prices

**Jason Alatidd**  
 Topeka Capital-Journal  
 USA TODAY NETWORK

When a trucker asked Topeka's congressman about rising gas prices, U.S. Rep. Derek Schmidt admitted he was giving "not a very satisfying answer."

Schmidt, R-Kansas, held a telephone town hall on April 29. A caller, who identified himself as a truck driver, said he understands that gas prices went up with the war in Iran.

"But we took control of the oil in Venezuela, and we have control of everything with (Iran) and we're selling our oil to other countries now," the caller said. "We're the leading producer in the world for oil, from the way I understand it. Why are our gas prices still so high? If we're selling oil to other countries, why can't we bring our own gas prices down?"

Schmidt said the caller was making a "good point" about oil production, gas prices and global markets.

"I actually really appreciate the way



**U.S. Rep. Derek Schmidt addressed gas prices during a recent telephone townhall and said he is asking for answers from the White House.**

you framed the question because it's something that has had my attention for some time," Schmidt said. "Our oil production domestically is up. Certainly a lot of the regulatory reforms that have

been implemented in the last year and a half or so have been very helpful in encouraging domestic production.

"To your point, there are other significant sources of oil in our hemisphere. You mentioned Venezuela, but also don't forget Canada. We are not nearly as reliant on oil from the Persian Gulf and the Middle East as we historically have been in recent history, recent years, recent decades. So why is it that changes in the supply there have such an effect here?"

The United States does lead the world in oil production — and production has increased in recent years.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration reports that U.S. field production of crude oil was nearly 14 million barrels per day in February 2026. A decade ago, in February 2016, the production was about 9 million barrels a day. The country is also a net exporter of finished products.

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## KS gov vetoes bills on education

**Stacey Saldanha-Olson**  
 Topeka Capital-Journal  
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly quashed two different attempts by Republican lawmakers that she argued overstepped the Kansas Legislature's constitutional authority on K-12 public education.

Kelly vetoed two bills that could intrude on the Kansas State Board of Education's jurisdiction to set curriculum standards. One dealt with a fitness test and recess time, while the other dictated teaching on communism, fascism and socialism, as well as imposed a civics test for graduation.

"The Kansas Constitution provides for the State Board of Education to design a curriculum," Kelly told reporters after a Statehouse event on April 28. "The fitness test and recess could be seen as parts of curriculum because they take time out of the school day. You could also think of them as part of physical education — they used to be back in the old days — so yes, I did see that as curriculum."

"I do think that the State Board of Education is constitutionally authorized to design and implement curriculum."

There was no opportunity for lawmakers to override the vetoes because the Legislature didn't wait on the governor to take action before adjourning for the year. The bills also lacked veto-proof support among lawmakers.

**Kansas Board of Education previously states Constitutional authority**

In December 2024, the board adopted its legislative priorities for 2025. That included unanimous support for phrasing to remind the Legislature of its lack of authority in certain areas, including curriculum formation. The language allowed the board to oppose a bill if it encroached on the board's responsibilities.

Article 6 of the Kansas Constitution divides authority over the K-12 education system among the Legislature, the state board of education and local boards of education.

The state board has authority over "general supervision of public schools, educational institutions and all the

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