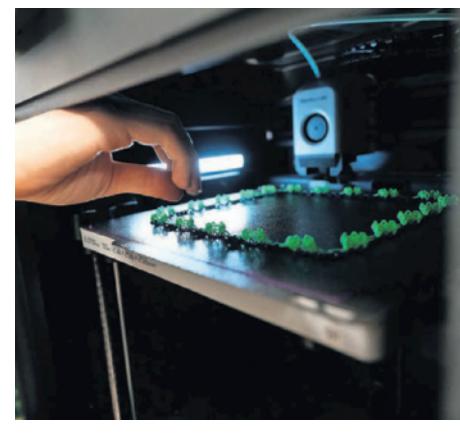


MIC

Muskegon Chronicle



MARDI GREEN?

RESEARCHERS AT LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY CREATE BIODEGRADABLE MARDI GRAS BEADS TO HELP CURB THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT DURING CARNIVAL SEASON. A4



Immigrants often don't open the door to ICE

Garrison Gibson is arrested by immigration officers on Jan. 11 in Minneapolis. ICE used a battering ram to enter his home. When Gibson asked to see a warrant, he was given an administrative warrant signed by a Homeland Security officer, not a judge. AP

Federal officers are now entering homes without a warrant signed by a judge.

Julie Watson and Amy Taxin
Associated Press

Since coming to the United States 30 years ago from Mexico, Fernando Perez said U.S. immigration officers have stopped by his home numerous times, but he has never once answered the door.

"There are rules and I know them," said Perez, speaking in a mix of English and Spanish in a Home Depot parking lot where he has routinely sought work as a day laborer from contractors and people renovating their homes.

Over the decades it has become common knowledge in immigrant communities across the country to not open the door for federal immigration officers unless they show a warrant signed by a judge.

The Supreme Court has long held that the Constitution's Fourth Amendment against unreasonable search and seizure prohibits the government's forced entry into someone's home.

As a result, immigration officers have been forced to adapt by making arrests in public, which often requires long hours of surveillance outside homes as they wait to nab someone walking to the street.

But an internal Immigration and Customs Enforcement memo obtained by The Associated Press states immigration officers can forcibly enter people's homes without a judge's warrant, marking a dramatic shift that could upend the legal advice given to immigrants for decades.

The shift comes as President Donald Trump's administration dramatically

The "physical entry of the home is the chief evil against which the wording of the Fourth Amendment is directed."

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens, writing for the court in 1980

expands immigration arrests nationwide under a mass deportation campaign that is already reshaping enforcement tactics in cities such as Minneapolis.

Perez said officers in the past would knock, wait and then move on.

"But if they are going to start coming into my home, where I am paying the rent — they are not paying the rent — that's the last straw," he said.

Most immigration arrests have been carried out under administrative warrants, documents issued by immigration authorities that authorize an arrest. Traditionally they do not permit officers to enter private spaces without consent. Only warrants signed by independent judges have carried that authority.

It is unclear how broadly the memo's directive has been applied in immigration enforcement operations. AP witnessed ICE officers ramming through the front door of a Liberian man's home in Minneapolis on

Jan. 11 with only an administrative warrant, wearing heavy tactical gear and with their rifles drawn.

Democratic U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut is demanding congressional hearings on the ICE memo and calling on Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem for an explanation.

"Every American should be terrified by this secret ICE policy authorizing its agents to kick down your door and storm into your home," Blumenthal said in a news release.

Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens wrote for the court in 1980 that the "physical entry of the home is the chief evil against which the wording of the Fourth Amendment is directed."

THE WAITING GAME

For years, people have managed to evade arrest by skipping work and outings for days until agents move on. A senior ICE official once likened the surveillance experience to watching paint dry.

In July, the AP observed as immigration officers saw a Russian man enter his home in Irvine, California. They gave up when he didn't leave after three hours. They waited longer for a Mexican man who never emerged from his house in nearby El Monte, though they caught up with him two days later at a convenience store.

ICE has tried what the agency called "knock and talks" to get people to answer the door by casually asking residents to step outside to answer a few questions, according to a 2020 lawsuit in which a federal judge found the practice illegal. In one case, they told a woman they were probation officers looking for her brother.

More often, immigration officers simply play the waiting game — a pace that is not conducive to Trump fulfilling his promise of mass deportations.

SEE FORCED ENTRY, A3

be in a car/booster seat.

State officials estimate every 1% increase in seat belt use means an estimated 10 fewer traffic deaths and 100 fewer serious injuries per year.

"The use of seat belts is the single most effective means of reducing fatal and non-fatal injuries in motor vehicle crashes," the study's authors wrote.

The state's seat belt use data is compiled through roadside observations along primary, secondary and local roads. The latest data, collected in May and June, came from 200 sites throughout 35 of the 38 counties with the most crashes.

The 2025 observation featured 19,887

drivers and 2,974 front-seat passengers. Sites are observed each day of the week, during daylight hours, in 60-minute intervals.

Each county's rate is a weighted average that takes into account road length, sample size, population and other factors.

While MSU's reports required observation data from 35 counties, supplemental assessments were also done at locations throughout the remaining 48 counties.

Allegan (97.9) and Isabella (97.1) counties had the highest seat belt usage rates in 2025. The lowest rates belonged to Baraga (69%), Keweenaw (79.2%) and Gogebic (80%).

SEE REPORT, A3

Here are counties with the highest, lowest seat belt usage rates

State reports best usage performance since 2019.

Justin P. Hicks jhicks3@mlive.com

Seat belt usage is trending back up in Michigan.

An observation study by Michigan State University found 93.2% of drivers and front-seat passengers were buckled up during the 2025 observation period.

The latest rate was Michigan's highest since 2019 and marked an increase of 1.2 percentage points from 2024, when the state received its lowest score in more than a decade (92%).

Michigan law requires the driver and front-seat passenger to be buckled. Passengers 15 and younger must wear a seat belt or

be in a car/booster seat.

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