



LANDMARK RULING

META AND YOUTUBE MUST PAY MILLIONS IN DAMAGES TO A WOMAN AFTER A JURY DECIDED THEY DESIGNED THE PLATFORMS TO HOOK YOUNG USERS WITHOUT CONCERN FOR THEIR WELL BEING. **C5**

STATEHOUSE

Gov. signs trio of anti-ICE bills, including mask ban for agents



Gov. Mikie Sherrill displays the three bills signed into law Wednesday in Newark. *Jelani Gibson, NJ.com*

Trump administration officials said they will not follow new law on face coverings, calling it unconstitutional.

Jelani Gibson *NJ.com*

Gov. Mikie Sherrill signed a trio of sweeping immigration bills Wednesday that dramatically restrict when New Jersey can cooperate with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents.

The moves mark one of the most aggressive state pushbacks against ICE and the immigration agenda of President Donald Trump's administration.

"We're not going to tolerate mass roving militias pretending to be well-trained law enforcement agents," Sherrill, a Democrat, said at the bill signing event in Newark.

One measure, S3114, bars local and federal law enforcement officers — including ICE — from wearing masks during interactions with the public in the state.

Another, S3522, prohibits state agencies from sharing a person's immigration status without a warrant.

The last measure, S3521, bars local police from assisting federal immigration authorities without a judicial warrant by making the state's existing Immigrant Trust Directive policy permanent.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

"We're not going to tolerate mass roving militias pretending to be well-trained law enforcement agents."

Gov. Mikie Sherrill

officials said Wednesday they will not follow New Jersey's law banning masks, which they said ICE agents wear so they will not get doxxed.

"Sanctuary politicians attempting to ban our federal law enforcement from wearing masks is despicable and a flagrant attempt to endanger our officers," the agency said in a statement. "To be crystal clear: we will not abide by this unconstitutional ban."

When it came to the law stopping state agencies from sharing data, acting Assistant Secretary Lauren Bis said in an additional statement that "Those who are here legally and are not breaking other laws have nothing to fear."

Bis said the agency's aggressive posture was the result of local police not working with them.

"When politicians bar local law enforcement from working with DHS, our law enforcement officers have to have a more visible presence so that we can find and apprehend the criminals let out of jails and back into communities," she said.

The laws build on a series of steps New Jersey Democrats have taken over the past year to restrict ICE's footprint in the state, including an executive order Sherrill signed blocking the agency from using state property and lawsuits aimed at stopping a detention facility in Roxbury from being built.

The Trump administration has sued the state over Sherrill's executive order, escalating the tension between federal and state officials.

State Senate Majority Leader Teresa Ruiz, chair of the New Jersey Legislative Latino Caucus, praised the bills, calling them an important step toward protecting immigrant residents. She also referenced pushback to the bills while they were stalled in the state Legislature.

"This package of bills slumbered for a little bit under the Golden Dome, but the voices of the community continue to resonate," said Ruiz, D-Essex.

State Assemblywoman Annette Quijano, D-Union, one of the sponsors of the legislation, said the steps taken in the bills made the public safer. Under one of the **SEE LAWS, A5**

SUPERIOR COURT

High school wrestler accused of deadly punch found not guilty

Senior, 18, declined plea deal that would have sentenced him to five years in prison.

Keith Sargeant *NJ.com*

A New Jersey high school wrestler who competed in a match last month while standing accused of delivering a punch that killed a beloved youth sports coach was found not guilty Wednesday of manslaughter and other charges.

Luke Humphrey, 18, a senior at Delsea High School, was accused of punching 46-year-old Oron Carl Beebe in March 2024, outside of a Mount Ephraim pharmacy, causing Beebe to fall and hit his head on the pavement, according to a criminal complaint. Beebe died eight days later at Cooper University Hospital.

A jury reached a not guilty verdict Wednesday morning after deliberating for about three hours, following a three-week trial before Judge Thomas Booth in Superior Court of Camden County.

Inside a packed courtroom, Humphrey, flanked by defense attorney Robert Agre and several family members, broke down in tears as the jury of six men and six women read the verdict. The jury also found Humphrey not guilty on three lesser charges, including aggravated assault.

Humphrey, who declined a deal in November 2025 that would have sentenced him to five years in New Jersey state prison in exchange for pleading guilty to manslaughter, was visibly shaking and crying as the jury read its verdict.

Family members of Beebe, including his wife, Jennifer Beebe, expressed outrage with the decision. Several family members stormed out of the courtroom as the verdict was still being delivered.

"Having done this for a long time, **SEE VERDICT, A2**

ELECTION 2026

58 line up to run in congressional primaries as Dems eye gains

Dana DiFilippo *New Jersey Monitor*

Fifty-eight candidates who want to represent New Jersey in Congress met Monday's deadline and filing requirements to run in June's primaries, with political observers predicting a rough road for Republican incumbents and challengers alike as President Donald Trump's popularity sags.

While eight incumbents face no primary challengers, four do — and all of New Jersey's 12 House races have contested primaries for one major party or the other, except South Jersey's 1st Congressional District, where incumbent Rep. Donald Norcross (D) and Damon Galdo (R), a conservative podcaster, have no challengers.

Some races brim with competition, with the most crowded contest in Central Jersey's 12th Congressional District, which covers parts of Mercer, Middlesex, Somerset and Union counties. There, 13 Democrats are vying for their party's nomination in the race to replace Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman, a six-term Democrat who is retiring.

Nationally, hopes are growing among Democrats that they might flip enough seats to gain control of both the House and the Senate after November's midterm **SEE ELECTION, A2**

OLD BRIDGE

Teen walking again after 'terrifying' spinal injury

She was temporarily paralyzed during a wrestling match.

Jake Aferiat *NJ.com*

The good news keeps coming for Adriana Maria.

The 16-year-old wrestler from Old Bridge High School is back in school and walking with the assistance of a walker eight weeks after she suffered a serious neck injury during a match.

Maria was temporarily paralyzed on Jan. 31 and could not move her arms and legs after what Old Bridge coach John Post called a routine takedown. Maria was loaded onto a backboard and taken by ambulance to Robert Wood Johnson Uni-

versity Hospital in New Brunswick.

In the middle of February, Maria regained feeling in her arms and legs. Now, she's walking again.

Maria earlier this week returned to Old Bridge High School, which helped fundraise more than \$140,000 for her recovery. Maria told NJ.com that she is using a walker to get around, but that she has walked without it as well — a recovery that has exceeded her doctors' expectations.

Maria said doctors told her she'd only be able to "move my arms and not really my legs." She said her doctors commended her attitude, though, and her assertion that she was "going to walk out of here in three weeks."

It took eight weeks, a little longer than she'd hoped, but the fact that she is home **SEE RECOVERY, A5**



Rose Ramirez places makes a donation for Adriana Maria, who was injured while wrestling for Old Bridge. A fundraiser was held Feb. 3 at the high school. *Ed Murray, for NJ.com*