

Sheriffs weigh state immigration law

Agreements to assist ICE on deportations have December deadline

By Matt deGrood,
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and Aileen Clarke
STAFF WRITERS

Texas is expected to play an even bigger role in the White House's deportation efforts this year, as the state's largest counties face a December deadline to begin collaborating with federal officials on immigration enforcement.

A state law passed in 2025 requires sheriffs in counties with more than 100,000 residents to enter into agreements with the federal government to train local officers under the 287(g)

program. Officers in the program are trained to serve immigration warrants, identify potential deportable immigrants in jails and enforce immigration laws while on patrol, depending on which model a sheriff's department chooses.

The legislation, known as Senate Bill 8, filed by state Sens. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, and Charles Schwertner, R-Georgetown, is one of the most significant pieces of immigration-enforcement legislation state lawmakers have passed in years.

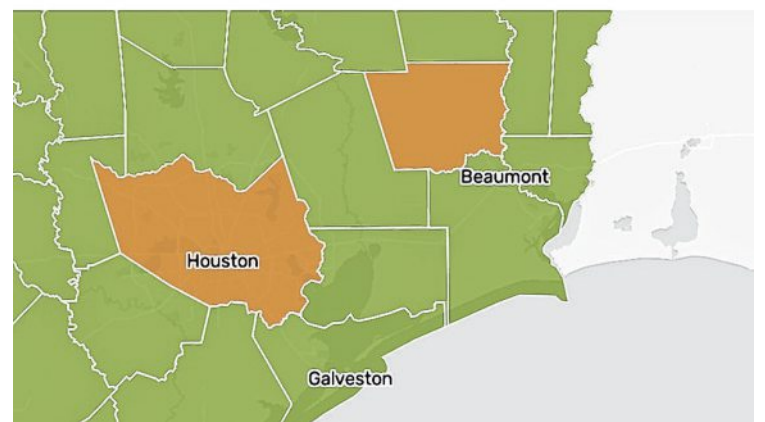
Supporters of the legislation say it's a commonsense measure that helps the federal govern-

ment identify immigrants who have committed or been charged with crimes. But critics of the bill argue that it gives immigration enforcement powers to local officers who lack proper training, will drain funds from local departments that are already understaffed and underfunded, and could lead to racial profiling.

Several of Texas' largest counties have already entered into one or more of the 287(g) agreements ahead of the Dec. 1 deadline set in SB8. But officials in counties that lean more Democratic told Hearst Newspapers

Sheriffs continues on A7

● Signed agreement ● No agreement



Aileen Clarke/Houston Chronicle

Senate Bill 8 requires sheriffs in certain counties to enter into deals with the federal government on immigration enforcement.

HONORING THE FALLEN



Shiidon Hawley, above, prepares to give the order to fire the salute Monday during the Memorial Day ceremony sponsored by the Texas Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution at Texas State Cemetery.

Mark Ellison, right, rings the memorial bell for deceased members of the Texas Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution, and Gary Knippa and Friends leads the crowd in the national anthem.



PHOTOS BY MIKALA COMPTON/AUSTIN AMERICAN-STATESMAN

Voters decide runoffs in major contests

GOP primaries for U.S. Senate, Texas AG among hottest

By Isaac Yu
STAFF WRITER

The state's primary runoff elections will be decided today, with Texas voters finalizing their Republican and Democratic nominees for several major midterm contests.

The polls close at 7 p.m. Here are the major races to watch:

U.S. Senate

Incumbent John Cornyn is seeking to fight off a GOP primary challenge from Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton.

After months of indecision, President Donald Trump endorsed Paxton last week, after early voting had started, calling him a "true MAGA warrior." Still, Cornyn has a massive fundraising advantage and has

Election continues on A7

Fertilizer probe focuses on Texas

By James Osborne
WASHINGTON BUREAU

Fertilizer plants along the Texas Gulf Coast are at the center of a federal inquiry into allegations of market manipulation, as recent price spikes have left farmers struggling to afford the chemicals needed to grow their crops.

The U.S. Department of Justice has requested information from fertilizer companies, as prosecutors investigate whether a series of corporate mergers in recent decades has turned the industry into an illegal monopoly that is gouging farmers.

At the same time, the U.S. Senate is weighing a series of bills that would require companies across the fertilizer supply chain to release their sales data to regulators, to try and chart where profits are being made. Similar legislation is under consider-

Fertilizer continues on A4

Pontiff warns against 'culture of power' in AI race



Alessandra Tarantino/Associated Press

Pope Leo XIV targets artificial intelligence in his first encyclical, "Magnifica Humanitas," or "Magnificent Humanity."

By Nicole Winfield,
Kaitlyn Huamani
and Paolo Santalucia
ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY — Pope Leo XIV on Monday called for robust regulation of artificial intelligence and for its developers to work for the common good rather than profit, issuing a sweeping manifesto on safeguarding humankind as the technology affects everything from work to war.

"Magnifica Humanitas," or "Magnificent Humanity," Leo's first encyclical, has been eagerly awaited ever since history's first U.S.-born pope announced days

after his election that he considered AI to be the biggest challenge facing humanity today.

In the text, Leo denounced the "culture of power" driving the AI race, especially in developing ever more sophisticated methods of remote warfare. He declared that it was "not permissible" to entrust irreversible, lethal decisions to AI systems, setting up another flash point between the American pope and the Trump administration, which has worked aggressively to deregulate AI development.

"Artificial Intelligence now demands to be disarmed, freed

Pope continues on A4

