

Mayors from the L.A. area demand a stop to immigration raids

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Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Dozens of mayors from across the Los Angeles region banded together Wednesday to demand that the Trump administration stop the stepped-up immigration raids that have spread fear across their cities and sparked protests across the U.S.

But there were no signs President Donald Trump would heed their pleas.

About 500 of the National Guard troops deployed to the Los Angeles protests have been trained to accompany agents on immigration operations, the commander in charge said Wednesday. And while some troops have already gone on such missions, he said it's too early to say if that will continue even after the protests die down.

"We are expecting a ramp-up," said Maj. Gen. Scott Sherman, noting that protests across the nation were being discussed. "I'm focused right here in LA, what's going on right here. But you know, I think we're, we're very concerned."

The LA-area mayors and city council members urged Trump to stop using armed military troops alongside immigration agents during the raids.

"I'm asking you, please listen to me, stop terrorizing our residents," said Brenda Olmos, vice mayor of Paramount, who said she was hit by rubber bullets over the weekend. "You need to stop these raids."

Speaking alongside the other mayors at a news conference, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass said the raids spread fear at the behest of the White House. Los Angeles started a nightly curfew Tuesday



Jae C. Hong/AP Photo

**MEMBERS OF THE CALIFORNIA NATIONAL GUARD CONDUCT EXERCISES** after being deployed to the Los Angeles protests on Wednesday in Los Alamitos, Calif.

that will remain in effect as long as necessary in a 1-square-mile section of downtown. The city of Los Angeles encompasses roughly 500 square miles.

"If there are raids that continue, if there are soldiers marching up and down our streets, I would imagine that the curfew will continue," Bass said.

Those who have been caught up in the nationwide raids include asylum seekers, people who overstayed their visas and migrants awaiting their day in immigration court.

The administration has cited the protests in its decision to deploy the military. Referring to the demonstrations, which have been mostly concentrated in the LA business district, the Democratic mayor added: "If you drive a few blocks outside of downtown, you don't know that anything is happening in the city at all."

California's Democratic governor, Gavin Newsom, has asked a federal court to put an emergency

stop to the military helping immigration agents in the nation's second-largest city. This week, guardsmen began standing protectively around agents as they carry out arrests. A judge set a hearing for today.

The Trump administration called the lawsuit a "crass political stunt endangering American lives" in its official response on Wednesday.

The military is now closer to engaging in law enforcement actions such as deportations, as Trump has promised in his crackdown. The Guard has the authority to temporarily detain people who attack officers, but any arrests must be made by law enforcement.

The president posted on the Truth Social platform that the city "would be burning to the ground" if he had not sent in the military.

Some 2,000 National Guard soldiers are in Los Angeles, and are soon to be joined by 2,000 more along with about 700 Marines, Sherman said.

Speaking in an interview with The Associated Press and ABC, Sherman initially said that National Guard troops had already temporarily detained civilians in the Los Angeles protests over immigration raids. He later said he based his comments on photos and footage he had seen that turned out not to be a representation of Guard members in Los Angeles.

**LA curfew will continue in downtown**

Police detained more than 20 people, mostly on curfew violations, on the first night of the curfew in downtown Los Angeles and used crowd-control projectiles to break up hundreds of protesters.

But there were fewer clashes than on previous nights, and by daybreak, the downtown streets were bustling with residents walking dogs and commuters clutching coffee cups.

Los Angeles police have made nearly 400 arrests and detentions since Saturday, the vast majority of which were for failing to leave the area at the request of law enforcement, according to the police department.

There have been a handful of more serious charges, including for assault against police officers and for possession of a Molotov cocktail and a gun. Nine police officers have been hurt, mostly with minor injuries. Some were transported to a hospital and released.

**Protests have spread nationwide**

Demonstrations have also spread to other cities nationwide, including Dallas and Austin in Texas, and Chicago and New York,

where thousands rallied and more arrests were made.

In New York City, police said they took 86 people into custody during protests in lower Manhattan that lasted into Wednesday morning. Police Commissioner Jessica Tisch said the majority of demonstrators were peaceful.

A 66-year-old woman in Chicago was injured when she was struck by a car during downtown protests Tuesday evening, police said. Video showed a car speeding down a street where people were protesting.

In Texas, where police in Austin used chemical irritants to disperse several hundred demonstrators Monday, Republican Gov. Greg Abbott's office said Texas National Guard troops were "on standby" in areas where demonstrations are planned.

Guard members were sent to San Antonio, but Police Chief William McManus said he had not been told how many troops were deployed or their role ahead of planned protests Wednesday night and Saturday. Officers with the Texas Department of Public Safety said the Texas National Guard was present at a protest downtown.

The protests began Friday after federal immigration raids arrested dozens of workers in Los Angeles. Protesters blocked a major freeway and set cars on fire over the weekend, and police responded with tear gas, rubber bullets and flash-bang grenades.

Thousands of people have peacefully rallied outside City Hall and hundreds more protested outside a federal complex that includes a detention center where some immigrants are being held following workplace raids.

BRIEFLY

**Beach Boys' visionary leader Brian Wilson dies**

Brian Wilson, the Beach Boys' visionary and fragile leader whose genius for melody, arrangements and wide-eyed self-expression made him one of the world's most influential recording artists, has died at 82. Wilson's family posted news of his death to his website and social media accounts Wednesday.

The eldest of three musical brothers — Brian played

bass, Carl lead guitar and Dennis drums — he and his fellow Beach Boys rose in the 1960s from local California band to national hitmakers to international ambassadors of surf and sun.

**Weinstein convicted of one of the top charges in his sex crimes trial**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Former movie mogul Harvey Weinstein was convicted

Wednesday of one of the top charges in his sex crimes retrial but acquitted of another, and jurors were as yet unable to reach a verdict on a third charge.

The split verdict meted out a measure of vindication to his accusers and prosecutors — but also to Weinstein — in the landmark case.

The partial verdict came after an extraordinary day in which the jury foreperson indicated he felt bullied and Weinstein himself urged the judge to halt the trial, declaring: "It's just not fair."

A majority-female jury convicted the former studio boss of forcibly subjecting Miriam Haley, a producer and production assistant, to a criminal sex act in 2006. Jurors acquitted Weinstein of another criminal sex act charge, this one related to former model Kaja Sokola's allegations of forcible oral sex in 2006.

Jurors were to continue deliberating today on a rape charge involving hairstylist and actor Jessica Mann. Under New York law, the third-degree rape charge carries a

lesser penalty than the first-degree criminal sex act offense.

**Netanyahu's government faces possible collapse**

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government faced a major test Wednesday after the opposition submitted a bill to dissolve parliament, with his ultra-Orthodox coalition partners threatening to support the measure and force early elections.

The ultra-Orthodox parties are furious that the government has failed to pass a law exempting their community from mandatory military service, an issue that has long divided the Jewish Israeli public, especially during the 20-month-long war in the Gaza Strip.

While many expect a last-minute compromise, the vote is the most serious challenge to Netanyahu's government since Hamas' Oct. 7, 2023, attack, the biggest security failure in Israel's history.

Budget

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Local governments and taxing authorities establish this rate to generate revenue to fund public services.

The overall property tax amount a property owner pays is determined by both the mill levy and the property's assessed value. According to the presentation given to commissioners on Wednesday, the county has experienced a 5.7% increase in assessed property valuation for 2025. Even if tax rates stay steady or are lowered, rising property values might still cause tax bills to go up for many residents.

But this isn't nearly as much in comparison to previous years. In 2024, the increase in assessed valuation was 6.89%. The past five years have averaged 7.73%, and the 10-year average is 5.94%.

The proposed 2026 budget won't be presented to commissioners for another month, but staff wanted to provide a first glimpse of the budget,

outlining early themes and financial pressures. Plinsky said some of the emerging budget pressures include inflation; compensation adjustments, health benefits and market shifts; increasing needs for public health, housing and behavioral health services and more.

County staff also shared with the commissioners that it has received 58 supplemental requests totaling around \$10 million, with \$2.9 million coming from county departments and \$7.2 million from community partners.

Plinsky said the staff's current estimate is that the requests that could be eligible to use mental health sales tax funding total \$6.1 million. But there's not enough money available to fund all of them; she said that less than \$2 million for these types of projects is actually available.

Additionally, county staff provided estimates of the planned transfers from the general fund into other funds for 2026:

- \$5.3 million to the capital improvement projects fund, which funds major improvements, repairs and

renovations to infrastructure and facilities.

- \$5.1 million to the mental health fund and behavioral health projects.

- \$4.7 million to the local 1% sales tax fund, which is being set aside to cover debt.

- \$1.3 million to the equipment reserves fund, which is used for major equipment purchases and expenses.

- \$1.2 million to the ambulance reserve fund, which is typically used for replacing ambulances.

- \$475,000 to the workers' compensation fund.

Budget hearings are scheduled to take place July 7 through July 11 with the deliberations to follow on July 14 and conclude on July 16. A public hearing is scheduled for Aug. 27, which is also the day commissioners are expected to vote on the 2026 budget.

**In other business, county commissioners:**

- Heard a presentation from Lawrence-Douglas County Fire Medical about proposed increases to ambulance fees.

In the new rate proposal, the base rates for non-emergency service would

remain the same. However, all of the emergency rates would rise by 28%. The least complex emergency service level would rise from \$595 to \$762; the next most complex would go from \$699 to \$895; and the most specialized and complex level of care would rise from \$774 to \$991. In addition, the mileage rate would increase for all ambulance rides. It would go from the current \$9.23 per mile to \$15.24 per mile.

The department is also proposing a new fee for what's called "specialty care transport services." These involve moving a critically ill or injured patient from one hospital to another while offering care that's beyond the scope of what a normal paramedic would provide. This service would have a fee of \$1,210.

- Received an overview of the behavioral health objectives and strategies adopted in the 2024-2029 Community Health Improvement Plan, which is a strategic plan addressing health issues in Douglas County, and reviewed the funding priorities supported with budget allocations in 2025.

During Wednesday's meeting, Commissioner Erica Anderson said she would like to explore whether or not funding is necessary for the county's online resource for wellness and mental health, myStrength. It offers a variety of programs for meditation, sleep, reducing stress and more.

Bob Tryanski, director of behavioral health projects, said the goal is to have 12,000 users in Douglas County, but that MyStrength currently has about 2,000 users. The county has been paying for the program for seven years, he said, and last year, it received \$28,500 from the county.

The presentation comes after recent discussions about the financial status of Bert Nash Community Mental Health Center, which announced staffing reductions and temporary pay cuts for some of its employees in May. Commissioner Gene Dorsey has suggested using the county's mental health sales tax fund, a fund that has in the past been used for building expenses for mental health projects, to provide emergency assistance to Bert Nash.

- Authorized Chief Judge James McCabria and the Citizen Review Board director to accept the Permanent Families Fund grant award in the amount of \$60,103. The grant is for the Citizen Review Board, a volunteer program of the Douglas County District Court.

- Authorized the county administrator to purchase excess workers' compensation insurance coverage from Midwest Employers Casualty. The premium is \$162,250 for June 15, 2025, through June 14, 2026.

- Determined a bridge replacement project on North 1400 Road, Route 442, over a tributary of Captain Creek, east of Eudora, to be necessary and approved the project plans and specifications prepared by the county engineer. The County Commission also authorized the county engineer to solicit construction bids for the project.

- Held an executive session "for the purpose of consultation with legal counsel for the County regarding potential litigation, which would be deemed privileged under the attorney-client relationship." No action followed the session.

GM

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GM will also begin making gas-powered full-size SUVs and light duty pickup

trucks at its Orion Township, Michigan plant, which was previously being reconfigured to make electric vehicles until demand for such cars weakened.

The new investment will give GM the ability to assemble more than 2 million

vehicles per year in the U.S.

CEO Mary Barra said in a statement on Tuesday that GM is committed to building vehicles in the U.S. and supporting American jobs.

GM has 50 U.S. manufacturing plants and parts facilities in 19 states, including 11

vehicle assembly plants. The company says that almost 1 million people in the U.S. depend on it for their livelihood, including employees, suppliers, and dealers.

Last month GM lowered its profit expectations for the year as it braces for

a potential impact from auto tariffs as high as \$5 billion in 2025. The automaker now foresees full-year adjusted earnings before interest and taxes in a range of \$10 billion to \$12.5 billion. The guidance includes a current tariff

exposure of \$4 billion to \$5 billion. GM previously predicted 2025 adjusted EBIT between \$13.7 billion and \$15.7 billion.

Shares of General Motors Co. rose almost 1% before the opening bell Wednesday.