



January 29, 2026



Statement attribution

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WASPC/WACOPS Joint Statement on Public Trust and Immigration Enforcement

Today, the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC) and the Washington Council of Police and Sheriffs (WACOPS), released the following joint statement regarding the importance of maintaining public safety and community trust amidst recent federal immigration enforcement activities:

“We understand that some Washington communities are experiencing uncertainty, fear, and tension regarding federal immigration enforcement actions and related protests both nationally and in our state. We want to [reiterate](#) the clear difference between the jurisdiction of local law enforcement and federal immigration activities. In accordance with the [Keep Washington Working Act](#), local law enforcement in our state does not conduct civil immigration enforcement. No one in our state should fear contacting their local law enforcement for help due to their immigration status.

We remain committed to the constitutional protections that safeguard individuals from unlawful or unreasonable searches and seizures. Today, we underscore the need for stability, professionalism, and respect for constitutional principles.

Our deputies and officers do their jobs each day in a complex, high-pressure environment that is increasingly more difficult due to the current tensions surrounding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the Customs Border Patrol (CBP). This tension has put not only public safety at risk, but also the safety of the men and women who dedicate their lives to protecting Washington’s communities.

Preserving public trust requires professionalism, transparency, and accountability – and is a mission that law enforcement cannot accomplish on our own. Public officials hold a critical role in de-escalating tensions by using measured, responsible rhetoric that reinforces lawful processes, the rule of law, and denounces violence, including violence against and interference with any law enforcement officers. We call on our elected officials and community leaders to work together with us to make Washington safe for all.”

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