

By  Marshall Cohen



Members of the DC National Guard stand next to their M-ATV outside Union Station, on Sunday. ...



**Washington, DC** — At least ten cities in states whose Republican governors are deploying National Guard troops to Washington, DC, had higher rates of violent crime or homicide than DC last year, according to a CNN review of FBI data.

enforcement agents into the city, and deployed the DC National Guard.

Military officials said there were nearly 2,000 soldiers and airmen mobilized in DC as of Thursday afternoon. Governors from the six states previously said they're contributing about 1,000 troops. And yet, their home states have cities with worse crime rates than DC – like Cleveland, Nashville, and Jackson, Mississippi, which was No. 1 in homicides per capita last year.

DC Mayor Muriel Bowser, a Democrat, **said** she wants “to make the most of the additional officer support that we have... to drive down crime.” And DC police chief Pamela Smith said, “We have to get illegal guns off of our streets, and if we have this influx or enhanced presence, it's going to make our city even better.”

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Huntington, WV*		1.5K
Dayton, OH		1.3K
Southaven, MS*		1.2K
Shreveport, LA		1.2K
Nashville, TN		1.1K
Lafayette, LA		1K
Toledo, OH		1K
<b>Washington, DC</b>	931.6	
Cincinnati, OH	847.9	
Akron, OH	823	
Chattanooga, TN	817.9	
North Charleston, SC	805.6	
Columbia, SC	781	
Knoxville, TN	732.8	
Columbus, OH	426.4	
Murfreesboro, TN	415.9	
Clarksville, TN	397.1	
Charleston, SC	356.3	

Note: Data as of 2024. This graphic includes cities in Ohio, Tennessee, Louisiana and South Carolina with populations of 100,000 or more that report data to the FBI.

\*No cities meet the 100,000 population threshold in West Virginia so the two biggest cities in the state — Charleston and Huntington — are shown. No cities in Mississippi reporting to the FBI meet the population threshold so the two biggest cities for which data is available — Southaven and Hattiesburg — are shown.

Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation

Graphic: Annette Choi, Marshall Cohen and Steve Nannes, CNN

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Sen. Thom Tillis, a retiring North Carolina Republican, said in a CBS News **interview** that GOP governors were “100%” deploying troops to please Trump.

“DC has a crime problem ... do we honestly think DC has the worst crime problem in the United States? No,” Tillis said, flagging red-state cities with higher crime rates like Memphis, and criticizing Trump’s federal “micromanaging.”

## Ohio

Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine said he was **sending 150 military police** from the Ohio National Guard to DC after a getting request from the secretary of the Army.

from 2024. DC was tenth for overall crime and 17th for violent crime in 2024.

When it comes to violent crime specifically – which the FBI defines as murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault – two additional Ohio cities had higher rates than DC last year: Toledo and Dayton.

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“We need those troops here because of what we’re going through,” said Walter Patton, founder of **Ghetto Therapy**, which connects residents from some of Cleveland’s poorest communities with free mental health services.

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A spokesman from DeWine's office told CNN in an email that "Ohio has traditionally helped the District of Columbia, Ohio mayors, and other states when they request assistance," including requests from Democratic officials.

The spokesman, Dan Tierney, also said the cities of Cleveland, Toledo and Dayton had all previously requested and received assistance from the Ohio State Highway Patrol "to assist with resource surges to address rising crime."

## **Tennessee**

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee confirmed Tuesday that he was sending about 160 members of the state's National Guard to aid Trump's deployments in DC.

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Lee's office didn't respond to a request for comment from CNN.



Memphis Police officers talk at the scene of a homicide scene in February 2024. *(Daniel Brown/Sipa USA)*

Jeff Warren, a Democratic member of the Memphis City Council, criticized the decision to send Tennessee troops to DC. He conceded that parts of



# Louisiana

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry on Monday approved sending 135 troops to DC.

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Shreveport and Lafayette are smaller cities, but they both had a higher violent crime rate than DC last year, according to a CNN review of FBI statistics.

Landry's office did not respond to CNN's request for comment.

"It's crazy," Michael McClanahan, president of the NAACP Louisiana State Conference, told CNN in an interview. "We are the incarceration capital of the country. We have so much work to do in our state. And it's hurricane

California Gov. Gavin Newsom, a leading Democratic critic of Trump's moves, used this data in a **recent interview** to accuse Trump of authoritarianism.

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“He should start with Shreveport,” Newsom said. “What about the carnage, Mr. President, in Shreveport? Why aren’t you protecting the folks there?”

**In response**, Shreveport’s mayor said Newsom “doesn’t know what he’s talking about, and that we’re in much better shape” than portrayed. The Shreveport police chief said, “California needs to worry about California.”

## Mississippi

Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves is also sending about 200 troops to DC.

Jackson had the nation's **highest homicide rate** in 2024 for cities with at least 100,000 people, according to a CNN analysis of FBI statistics and local reports of police data. Last year, Jackson had about 77 homicides for every 100,000 residents, while DC only had about 27, according to the statistics.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, a Democrat who represents parts of Jackson, **said** Reeves' deployment was a taxpayer-funded "political stunt" that pulls brave Mississippi troops "away from their homes, families, and critical missions."



Jackson Police Chief Thom Corley compares year-to-year statistics of Group A crimes that occurred in the city in January. (*Jamar Coach /The Jackson Sun/USA Today Network/Imagn*)

Reeves' deputy chief of staff Cory Custer told CNN in an email that “it’s wrong to imply that Mississippi cannot support President Trump’s efforts to clean up Washington, D.C., while also working to keep Mississippians safe.”

He said it was a “ridiculous premise” because Reeves signed legislation doubling the size of Mississippi Capitol Police and has presided over an estimated **43% drop** in homicides in Jackson compared to this point last year.

## West Virginia

West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey announced that, at the request of the Trump administration, he would be sending 300 to 400 “skilled personnel” from the state National Guard to help “restore cleanliness and safety” in DC.

The two largest cities in West Virginia – Charleston and Huntington – each have only about 45,000 residents and are much smaller than DC, which has about 702,000 residents. But statistically, they both had a higher violent crime rate per capita than DC last year, according to CNN’s review of FBI data.

Morrisey’s office did not respond to CNN’s inquiries about the deployments.



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