

Poll: 62 percent think ICE efforts go ‘too far’

 thehill.com/homenews/administration/5721250-americans-ice-too-far/

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Nearly two-thirds of Americans think Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has gone “too far” in its effort to deal with unauthorized immigration, a slight increase from just a week ago, according to a poll released Tuesday.

The [Ipsos poll](#), conducted last Friday and Saturday, found that 62 percent of U.S. adults said ICE’s actions were going too far, compared to 13 percent who said they did not go far enough and 23 percent who said it was about right.

That is a four-point increase [compared to a week ago](#), when 58 percent of Americans said current efforts went too far, demonstrating [diminishing support](#) for the Trump administration’s immigration enforcement agenda since the fatal shootings of [Renee Good](#) and [Alex Pretti](#) last month.

Senior officials, including [President Trump](#) himself, have cast the shootings as [acts of self-defense](#) against attempts at “domestic terrorism.” Democrats have characterized them as unjustified, pointing to video footage that disputes the administration’s narratives, and [lobbed intense criticism](#) at the Department of Homeland Security.

In the case of Pretti, who was [shot and killed](#) by a Border Patrol agent, the poll found that 55 percent of adults felt it was an excessive use of force, compared to 16 percent who described it as necessary and 28 percent who were unsure.

It also underscored the [growing backlash](#) from within their administration’s own party, with a 10-point increase in the share of Republicans who think ICE’s effort has gone too far compared to a week ago. Still, less than one-third of Republicans agreed with that statement, whereas 92 percent of Democrats and 65 percent of Independents did.

The poll found widespread agreement on the importance of conduct and training standards for immigration enforcement officers, an issue at the [center of Democrats’ demand for reform](#).

A majority also emphasized the importance of secure borders to prevent people from entering the country illegally and the enforcement of existing laws, as well as a legal path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who are already in the country, have jobs and have

no criminal record.

Republicans were more likely to place higher importance on the former, while Democrats viewed the latter as of higher importance.

The findings echo those of a Harvard Caps/Harris Poll released Tuesday, in which just over half of voters said they disapproved of how ICE and CBP are enforcing laws in U.S. cities, including 40 percent who strongly disapproved.

An overwhelming number of voters said they want federal officers to identify themselves and be required to wear body cameras during enforcement operations.

Homeland Security Secretary [Kristi Noem](#) announced Monday that all federal immigration officers in Minneapolis [would immediately begin wearing body cameras](#) in the field.

Noem, as well as Border Patrol Commander at-large Greg Bovino and senior advisor [Stephen Miller](#), have net-negative approval ratings, according to the Harvard poll. The only senior Trump administration official involved in DHS operations with a net positive favorability rating was Border Czar Tom Homan.

The Ipsos poll was conducted from Jan. 30 to Feb. 1 among 1,020 U.S. adults. The margin of error is 3.7 percentage points.

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