

DC Invests More in Policing Than Any Other Large City

Democrats have been saddled with the slogan “defund the police” after a handful of Members promoted it. But in real life the data shows a different story. Democrat-run cities [employ](#) more officers and spend more money on policing per capita than Republican-run cities. And despite what Republicans will claim at Wednesday’s hearing, Washington DC is at the front of the pack.

In 2022, Washington DC was the city with the largest per capita police force in the country with 543 officers per 100,000 residents. Speaker McCarthy’s hometown of Bakersfield, CA, a Republican-run city, only employed 106 officers per 100,000 residents, about one-fifth the amount. New Orleans, a city in Majority Leader Scalise’s district, employed about 262 officers per 100,000 residents. Lexington, a Republican-run city in Chairman Comer’s state of Kentucky, employed 198 officers per 100,000 residents.

In 2022, Washington DC spent \$752 per resident on policing, more than twice the \$353 per resident spent in Speaker McCarthy’s Bakersfield. Lexington, Kentucky spent \$252 per resident on policing.

The ten cities that employed the most police officers per capita in 2022 were:

- Washington DC: 542.91 per 100,000 residents
- Chicago, IL: 454.61
- Las Vegas, NV: 444.05
- New York City, NY: 440.26
- Detroit, MI: 393.23
- Philadelphia, PA: 384.74
- Memphis, TN: 313.37
- Boston, MA: 301.31
- Miami, FL: 299.17
- Los Angeles, CA: 236.86

The ten cities that spent the most on policing per resident in 2022 were:

- Washington DC: \$751.62 per person
- San Francisco, CA: \$748.39
- Chicago, IL: \$667.58
- New York City, NY: \$662.83
- Miami, FL: \$593.61
- Boston, MA: \$573.92
- Jacksonville, FL: \$541.06
- Detroit, MI: \$515.74
- Anaheim, CA: \$501.48
- Stockton, CA: \$484.10