

KENTUCKY JAILS WORKING WITH ICE

SEPTEMBER 8, 2026

Together, Kentuckians should expect transparency from our governments and due process and dignity for every human in our commonwealth. The League of Women Voters of Kentucky is committed to those principles, and this report applies those principles to the ways Kentucky jails are working with ICE (short for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, an agency within the federal Department of Homeland Security). It follows up on two earlier reports available at lwvky.org/immigration.

This report shares five main points from the League's analysis so far:

1. Twelve Kentucky jails are being paid to house people in ICE custody, and most of those people have no criminal convictions.
2. More than sixty Kentucky jails have voluntarily placed ICE holds on people arrested locally.
3. Two Kentucky jails have ICE 287(g) partnerships, as do more than fifty local law enforcement agencies.
4. Kentucky jails' inmate lists vary widely. Some are clear about individuals' ICE status. Others are less clear, and several are deliberately hiding names of people they have locked up for ICE.
5. Most Kentucky jails that provide ICE custody are overcrowded because of their federal roles.

This report then adds two calls for county government action, asking all jails that are working with ICE to:

- Provide fully transparent inmate lists.
- Provide evidence on human rights and human dignity.

Going forward, the League plans to communicate directly with county elected officials and invite other Kentuckians to press for information, for transparency, and for human rights.

Kentucky jails belong to us, the people of Kentucky, so we should know how immigrants are being treated. The people held there are human beings, so Kentuckians should insist on their human rights. And again, the jails are our jails, so we should insist on information on what is happening in those facilities.

1. TWELVE KENTUCKY JAILS ARE BEING PAID TO HOUSE PEOPLE IN ICE CUSTODY, AND MOST OF THOSE PEOPLE HAVE NO CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS.

HOW DOES ICE CUSTODY WORK?

For ICE custody, the payment contracts are agreements with the U.S. Marshals Service (part of the U.S. Department of Justice). Each agreement:

- Identifies a payment amount for “the housing, safety, subsistence, and care of Federal prisoners.”
- Shows an “estimated number of federal beds” that will be available under the agreement.
- May also include amounts for “guard/transportation services.”
- May allow ICE, the Bureau of Prisons, and other federal agencies to use the “federal beds,” shown by checking boxes on the first page of the agreement.

WHICH KENTUCKY JAILS PROVIDE ICE CUSTODY?

Nine Kentucky jails are listed in ICE detention statistics released on July 20, 2026, as shown in the table below.

ICE CUSTODY AVERAGE DAILY POPULATION IN KENTUCKY JAILS					
This lwwky.org table reflects data published July 20, 2026, at www.ice.gov/detain/detention-management or tinyurl.com/ICEStatistics					
Facility	Total	Non-Crim	Female	Percent Non-Crim	Percent Female
Boone County Jail	211	133	7	63%	3%
Campbell County Detention Center	139	115	33	83%	24%
Christian County Jail	115	94	2	82%	2%
Daviess County Detention Center	52	42	1	80%	3%
Fayette County Detention Center	3	2	0	70%	0%
Grayson County Jail	160	132	151	82%	94%
Hopkins County Jail	178	148	2	83%	1%
Kenton County Jail	130	97	0	75%	0%
Oldham County Detention Center	135	95	0	70%	0%
Combined Average Daily Population	1,125	859	197	76%	18%

Bourbon, Laurel, and Woodford are not included in ICE’s public statistics on average daily population. Those statistics are published with a note saying, “This list is limited to facilities that have a population count of greater than or equal to 1 at the time of the data pull.” Those three places may not have had an ICE prisoner when the data was compiled.

However, those three locations are listed in the data ICE provided to deportationdata.org on ICE stays. That source shows that over 12 months (March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026), those jails were the ICE custody locations for:

- 216 people at Bourbon.
- 312 people at Laurel.
- 15 people at Woodford.

WHAT ARE JAILS PAID FOR ICE CUSTODY?

For ICE custody, payment amounts are set in each jail’s contract with the U.S. Marshals Service, as shown below.

ICE CUSTODY PAYMENTS PER PERSON PER DAY		
This lwvky.org table reflects data from each facility’s agreement with the U.S. Marshals Service.		
Facility	Daily Rate	Effective Date of Agreement
Boone	\$88	December 1, 2022
Bourbon	\$50	Unknown
Campbell	\$88	April 1, 2024
Christian	\$52	August 1, 2024
Daviess	\$70	July 1, 2023
Fayette	\$75	February 1, 2015
Grayson	\$69	February 2, 2026
Hopkins	\$45	August 2, 2024
Kenton	\$88	May 1, 2024
Laurel	\$70	June 1, 2023
Oldham	\$73	August 1, 2024
Woodford	Unknown	Unknown
For Woodford, the League has not yet learned the daily rates being paid. Most custody agreements also include payment rates for transporting people to and from the jail.		

WHY IS LOUISVILLE METRO INCLUDED IN LATER SECTIONS OF THIS REPORT?

Louisville Metro does not have a contract to be paid for ICE custody, but its jail plays a significant role in ICE holds discussed in the next section. Since Jefferson is also Kentucky’s largest county, the League includes Louisville Metro information to promote discussion in that community.

2. MORE THAN SIXTY KENTUCKY JAILS HAVE VOLUNTARILY PLACED ICE HOLDS ON PEOPLE ARRESTED LOCALLY.

HOW DO ICE HOLDS WORK?

An ICE hold is different from being in ICE custody in Kentucky jails. It is a procedural step that can be applied after a person is arrested on local charges. In ICE hold situations:

- A person was arrested on a local charge by a local agency.
- ICE does not pay the jail for the costs of that person being locked up.
- ICE has the option of sending employees or contractors to take that person into ICE custody.
- The jail is not required to apply a requested hold. Federal courts have held that ICE detainers are requests, not mandatory orders, and local agencies are not required to comply.

Every jail in Kentucky can use ICE holds. No federal contract is needed, and no federal funding will be provided. ICE holds can also be called detainers. This report used “hold” to reduce confusion with ICE custody, sometimes called “detention.”

WHICH KENTUCKY JAILS APPLY ICE HOLDS?

For the twelve months from March 2025 to February 2026, ICE holds can be tracked in the data ICE provided to deportationdata.org on ICE detainers. The table below summarizes the number of ICE holds applied at the facilities discussed in the previous section, with separate lines for three Louisville Metro facilities included in that data.

ICE HOLDS/DETAINERS FROM MARCH 2025 TO FEBRUARY 2026	
<i>This lwvky.org table reflects ICE data organized by deportation data.org</i>	
Facility	Holds/Detainers
KENTUCKY JAILS THAT PROVIDE ICE CUSTODY FOR PAY	
Boone County Jail	193
Bourbon County Detention Center	26
Campbell County Detention Center	61
Christian County Jail	46
Daviess County Detention Center	66
Fayette County Detention Center	345
Grayson County Detention Center	13
Hopkins County Jail	14
Kenton County Detention Center	262
Laurel County Corrections	32
Oldham County Jail	41
Woodford County Sheriff/Jail	48
LOUISVILLE METRO FACILITIES	
Jefferson County Jail	83
Louisville Metropolitan Department of Corrections	334
Metropolitan Correctional Services Department	2
<i>The League does not yet understand why three different names are used for Louisville. This table shares the counts as they were published at deportationdata.org.</i>	

The added table below lists other Kentucky jails that applied ICE holds in the same 12-month period. It also identifies Kentucky local law enforcement and Kentucky-based state and federal facilities that appear in the same reporting. It is very possible that additional jails have applied ICE holds in recent months.

ICE HOLDS FROM MARCH 2025 TO FEBRUARY 2026 AT OTHER KENTUCKY FACILITIES					
This lwvky.org table reflects ICE data shared by deportation data.org					
Facility		Holds		Facility	Holds
COUNTY JAILS				COUNTY JAILS (Continued)	
Adair County Regional Jail		8		Pulaski County Detention Center	46
Ballard County Jail		7		Rowan County Detention Center	19
Barren County Detention Center		22		Russell County Detention Center	26
Bell County Detention Center		1		Scott County Detention Center	85
Big Sandy Regional Detention Center		3		Shelby County Detention Center	134
Boyd County Detention Center		3		Simpson County Detention Center	13
Boyle County Detention Center		19		Taylor County Detention Center	17
Breckinridge County Detention Center		2		Todd County Detention Center	7
Bullitt County Detention Center		30		Warren County Regional	149
Butler County Jail		6		Wayne County Jail	4
Caldwell County Jail		2		Webster County Jail	19
Calloway County Jail		4		Whitley County Detention Center	5
Carroll County Detention Center		29		LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES IN KENTUCKY	
Carter County Detention Center		5		Bowling Green Police Department	2
Casey County Jail		14		Clark County Sheriff's Office	17
Clinton County Jail		1		Daviess County Sheriff's Department	17
Crittenden County Detention Center		5		Greenup Police Department	1
Floyd County Jail		2		Louisville Metro Police Department	24
Franklin County Region Jail		39		Madison County Sheriff's Office	35
Fulton County Jail		4		Montgomery County Sheriff's Department	1
Grant Detention Center		18		Ohio County Sheriff	10
Graves County Detention Center		3		Powell County Sheriff	1
Hardin County Detention Center		72		Russell County Sheriff's Office	3
Hart County Detention Center		4		Webster County Sheriff's Office	1
Henderson County Detention Center		30		STATE AND FEDERAL FACILITIES IN KENTUCKY	
Jessamine County Sheriff/Jail		55		Ashland Federal Correctional Institute.	18
Kentucky River Reg Jail		4		Big Sandy United State Prison	4
Larue County		15		Eastern Kentucky Correctional Com	1
Lincoln County Regional Jail		1		Green River Correctional Complex	1
Logan County Detention Center		13		Kentucky State Reformatory	1
Marion County Detention Center		30		Lexington Federal Medical Center	6
Marshall County Detention Center		2		Lexington Processing @ Fayette County	4
Mason County Detention Center		4		Manchester Federal Correctional	10
McCracken County Jail		72		McCreary United State Prison	2
Meade County Detention Center		2		Roederer Correctional Complex	5
Monroe County Correctional Center		1		US Marshals, Eastern District	22
Muhlenberg County Detention Center		16		US Marshals, Western District	55
Nelson County Jail		31			

3. TWO KENTUCKY JAILS HAVE ICE 287(G) PARTNERSHIPS, AS DO MORE THAN FIFTY LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.

HOW DO ICE 287(G) PARTNERSHIPS WORK?

287(g) agreements are contracts with ICE. Those agreements involve local corrections officers and law enforcement officers in federal immigration law, with three different options:

- The Jail Enforcement Model allows officers to “identify and process removable aliens who have pending or active criminal charges,” quoting an ICE fact sheet the League downloaded on July 27, 2026.
- The Warrant Service Officer Model allows officers to “serve and execute administrative warrants on aliens in [the local agency’s] custody,” according to the fact sheet.
- The Task Force Model allows officers to “identify and report suspected aliens not charged with crimes (under ICE oversight) and exercise limited immigration authority on ICE-led task forces,” according to the fact sheet again. The Task Force Model can include funding for equipment, vehicles, salaries, benefits, and overtime pay.

The ICE fact sheet quoted above can be found at www.ice.gov/doclib/about/offices/ero/287g/factsheet287gBenefits.pdf or tinyurl.com/287gFactSheet.

WHICH KENTUCKY JAILS HAVE ICE 287(G) AGREEMENTS?

Grayson and Oldham have 287(g) agreements. Specifically, as of August 28, 2026, the ICE list of participating agencies showed that each of those facilities had a Jail Enforcement Model agreement and a Warrant Service Officer Model agreement in place. The Jail Enforcement Model means that officers there can question people to see if they are “removable aliens,” issue detainer/hold requests to add up to 48 hours to a person’s detention. The Warrant Service Model means they can arrest people for ICE and move them into ICE custody. No other Kentucky jails had 287(g) agreements listed on August 28. (The full 287(g) list is at www.ice.gov/identify-and-arrest/287g or tinyurl.com/ICE287g.)

DO OTHER KENTUCKY AGENCIES HAVE ICE 287(G) JAIL ENFORCEMENT AGREEMENTS?

The Kenton County Sheriff’s Office also had a Jail Enforcement Model agreement on the August 28 ICE list of participating agencies. No other law enforcement agencies had Jail Enforcement Model 287(g) agreements on that list.

WHAT OTHER 287(G) AGREEMENTS ARE IN PLACE IN KENTUCKY?

The August 28 ICE list of participating agencies also identified 50 Task Force Model agreements:

- Four sheriffs’ offices in Kentucky counties where jails also do ICE custody: Daviess, Grayson, Laurel, and Oldham.
- One municipal police department in Jefferson County: Heritage Creek.
- 28 sheriffs’ offices in other Kentucky counties: Adair, Bracken, Bullitt, Butler, Carlisle, Carroll, Clay, Clinton, Floyd, Fulton, Gallatin, Garrard, Hart, Hickman, Jackson, Letcher, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, Montgomery, Pendleton, Rockcastle, Rowan, Scott, Simpson, Union, Wayne, and Whitley.
- 17 police departments in Kentucky cities: Brodhead, Burkesville, Campbellsville, Falmouth, Ferguson, Glasgow, Hazard, Hickman, Livingston, Manchester, Middlesboro, Millersburg, Morganfield, Warsaw, West Liberty, Williamsburg, and Winchester.

4. KENTUCKY JAILS' INMATE LISTS VARY WIDELY. SOME ARE CLEAR ABOUT INDIVIDUALS' ICE STATUS. OTHERS ARE LESS CLEAR, AND SEVERAL ARE DELIBERATELY HIDING NAMES OF PEOPLE THEY HAVE LOCKED UP FOR ICE.

IS ICE CUSTODY SHOWN CLEARLY IN PUBLIC INMATE LISTS?

All Kentucky jails have public online rosters listing their inmates. Those rosters allow attorneys, families, and friends to know where a person is being locked up, and the rosters also provide some information on the reasons individuals have been deprived of their liberty.

Bourbon, Boone, Grayson, Hopkins, Laurel, and Oldham include people in ICE custody in their roster listings. The League has identified multiple listings in each of those rosters as ICE custody situations. Two elements show the paid ICE custody arrangement:

- First, immigration is specifically mentioned. Usually, only one charge, case, or criminal offense entry is listed, and that one entry explicitly mentions ICE, Immigration, or Homeland Security. Sometimes, there is no listing at all of charges, cases, or offenses, but ICE, Immigration, or Homeland Security as the arresting officer, arresting agency, or inmate classification.
- Second, local crimes are not alleged. There is no listing of local charges, cases or criminal offenses, and no mention of local arresting officers or local arresting agencies.

Campbell, Christian, and Kenton do not list the people they are locking up in ICE custody. That secret incarceration is incompatible with the human rights and transparency the League supports.

Daviess appears to include people in ICE custody in its public roster, but not in a way that makes that status clear. Many people are listed with a single charge of "Federal Prisoner Held-In Transit/Court/Serveout," but that does not distinguish people in ICE custody from those arrested by the US Marshals Service and other federal agencies.

Fayette and Woodford approaches are unclear to the League. As noted above, those two facilities have smaller roles than the others, and it is possible that League searches have missed roster entries that were clear about why people were being incarcerated.

ARE ICE HOLDS SHOWN CLEARLY IN PUBLIC INMATE LISTS?

Many jail inmate lists make it possible to identify people on ICE holds. The exact information varies, but the key elements for identifying an ICE hold are:

- A local element, listing a crime or crimes, like driving without a license or theft or murder or some other familiar reason for a local arrest, usually with a local law enforcement agency listed as making the arrest.
- A federal immigration element, which is often a charge or criminal offense like "Immigration," "ICE detainer," "Hold for ICE," or "Hold for Homeland Security." The federal element might also be a court or status entry of "Immigration" or an inmate classification of "ICE" or "Immigration."

The League has found that information on the websites for multiple Kentucky jails: Bourbon, Daviess, Hopkins, and Laurel provide enough information to identify people on ICE holds.

The League has found less clear information in some other public inmate lists:

- Boone, Campbell, Christian, Fayette, Grayson, Kenton, and Oldham seem not to provide any indicator of hold status.
- Woodford identifies people who have local charges and are federal prisoners, but not whether the federal issue includes immigration.

- Louisville Metro provides a summary count on its website jail population dashboard. To see that data, choose the “Custody Status, Bonds, and Length of Stay” section of the dashboard. However, Louisville Metro does not seem to show ICE holds as part of the public information on individual inmates.

The human beings who are being locked up need to know if they are on ICE holds. As a matter of principle, every person who is denied liberty should know the reasons. As a practical matter, ICE holds may change a person’s legal strategy and efforts to raise bail. Their lawyers and loved ones also need reliable access to the information.

Communities also need the ICE hold information. Those actions, taken by our government and affecting our neighbors, should be transparent for all to see.

WHERE CAN THE PUBLIC INMATE LISTS BE FOUND?

The table below provides both direct links and easier-to-type tinyurl links to the online inmate lists discussed above.

Boone	www.boonecountyky.org/government_administration/county_government/jailer/inmates.php	tinyurl.com/BooneRoster
Bourbon	inmateportal.cadmusscribe.com/brk	tinyurl.com/BourbonRoster
Campbell	omsweb.public-safety-cloud.com/jtclientweb/jailtracker/index/Campbell_County_KY	tinyurl.com/CampbellRoster
Christian	inmates.bluhorse.com/default.aspx?ID=CCJAIL	tinyurl.com/ChristianCoRoster
Daviess	www.daviesscojail.org/InmateRoster/daviess_inmatelist.html	tinyurl.com/DaviessRoster
Fayette	www.lexingtonky.gov/government/departments-programs/public-safety/community-corrections/inmate-information	tinyurl.com/FayetteRoster
Grayson	jms.combinedpublic.net/graysonky/	tinyurl.com/GraysonRoster
Hopkins	www.hopkinscountyjail.com	tinyurl.com/HopkinsRoster
Kenton	omsweb.public-safety-cloud.com/publicroster/KENTONCOKYDC	tinyurl.com/KentonRoster
Laurel	omsweb.public-safety-cloud.com/jtclientweb/jailtracker/index/Laurel_County_Ky	tinyurl.com/LaurelRoster
Louisville	louisvilleky.gov/government/corrections/jail-population-dashboard	tinyurl.com/LouisvilleRoster
Oldham	oldhamcountyjail.com/InmateRoster/OCDC_inmatelist.html	tinyurl.com/OldhamRoster

5. MOST KENTUCKY JAILS THAT PROVIDE ICE CUSTODY ARE OVERCROWDED BECAUSE OF THEIR FEDERAL ROLES.

Of the twelve jails being paid to lock up people in ICE custody, eight have reported having inmate populations bigger than their total jail beds: Bourbon, Christian, Daviess, Grayson, Hopkins, Kenton, Laurel, and Woodford. That population is listed in the Kentucky Department of Corrections report titled “Weekly Jail.” In all nine situations, that crowding would not be happening if federal inmates were not housed there. The table below shows those statistics.

The table also shows three other jails (Campbell, Fayette, and Oldham) that report inmate populations smaller than their total beds. However, there is reason for concern about the accuracy of the Campbell and Oldham data.

POPULATION DATA FOR JAILS WORKING WITH ICE				
<i>This lwvky.org table reflects August 20, 2026, Weekly Jail data from corrections.ky.gov</i>				
Jail Facility	Total Jail Beds	Reported Population	Population above Total Jail Beds	Federal Inmates
Boone	424	424	0	196
Bourbon	197	245	48	108
Campbell	561	432	-129	55
Christian	611	751	140	221
Daviess #1*	482	527	45	121
Fayette	1,266	936	-330	0
Grayson	536	728	192	622
Hopkins	416	435	19	198
Jefferson	1,374	1,496	122	0
Kenton	602	699	97	174
Laurel	664	686	22	428
Oldham	330	237	-93	148
Woodford	63	76	13	27
* Daviess County has reported data for four facilities, but only the one identified as Daviess #1 has federal prisoners.				

For Campbell, the data concern is a conflict between ICE reporting and the numbers in the state reports. In its July 20, 2026, reporting, ICE showed Campbell with an ICE average daily population of 139. As noted above, the August 20, 2026, Weekly Jail report showed only 70 federal inmates at Campbell.

For Oldham, the data concern comes from conflict between the jail’s online list of inmates and the state reporting. On August 20, 2026, Oldham’s website listed 419 inmates. As shown in the table, the August 20, 2026, Weekly Jail report showed just 330 as the total population at Oldham.

The League will seek further information to understand the apparently inconsistent reporting. Has the ICE population been left out of Campbell and Oldham reporting to the state? If so, those facilities have a crowding issue that deserves public concern, and that problem is being hidden by sending the state incomplete reports.

CALL TO ACTION AND NEXT STEPS

A CALL FOR A FULLY TRANSPARENT INMATE LISTS

The League respectfully asks county officials to ensure that their website inmate lists includes all the human beings locked up there and identifies all the reasons for their incarceration. Secret detention is incompatible with human rights and transparency: no one should be “disappeared” that way. That kind of secrecy keeps families from finding their loved ones, blocks lawyers from representing their clients, and is unworthy of a free nation.

Holding people without listing the reasons is also unacceptable. A person who has been denied liberty deserves a frank, complete list of the legal reasons. In particular, if the jail knows a person is being held for ICE, the person being held should also know about that reason.

A CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY

Since last fall, the League has worked to understand how immigrants are treated while incarcerated in Kentucky. Continuing that effort, the League respectfully asks county officials for evidence that their facilities meets state and federal requirements and provides:

1. Meals that are varied and nutritionally adequate, prepared with equipment and methods that meet Kentucky health and safety codes, and compatible with each person’s health and religious restrictions.
2. Prompt medical care and medication, without fees for those in ICE custody and little or no charge for others.
3. Routine gynecological and obstetrical care to women detainees and close medical supervision for pregnant detainees.
4. Full opportunities for exercise, including time outdoors.
5. Beds, showers, and toilet facilities befitting human dignity and consistent with the jail’s design capacity.
6. Full opportunities to participate in the religious practices of their individual faiths.
7. Full access to their legal records and confidential discussions with their attorneys.
8. Meaningful opportunity for family contacts by phone, video, and in person (with modest or no fees for that access).
9. Translation services that are fully accessible to people being held and actively used by jail staff.

LEAGUE OPEN LETTERS TO ELECTED OFFICIALS

Along with this report, the League is releasing open letters to county officials, sharing specifics on work being done with ICE in their own jail facilities and asking directly for the transparency and evidence described just above. Those letters will be addressed to Boone, Bourbon, Campbell, Christian, Daviess, Fayette, Grayson, Hopkins, Kenton, Laurel, Louisville Metro, Oldham, and Woodford elected officials. Those letters are available at lwvky.org/immigration.

ENGAGEMENT FOR CONCERNED KENTUCKIANS

The people of Kentucky can and should ask our elected officials questions about the immigration enforcement roles being taken on by local agencies. For example, we can seek added information at fiscal court meetings, in visits with any of these officials, or by email, phone call, or letter. This is our government, and we can take active roles in seeking transparency, decency, and due process for everyone who has been incarcerated by those who govern us.