AMERICA'S VOICE

Why Mass Deportation Has Put the House Out of Reach for Republicans

To: Interested Parties
From: Vanessa Cárdenas, Executive Director, America's Voice
Date: October 29, 2026
Re: Five reasons the immigration backlash will shape Tuesday's results

---

For two years, Donald Trump, Stephen Miller, and their Republican allies in Congress bet that mass deportation would win votes. Instead, voters watched it deliver something else entirely: American citizens arrested, detained, and killed; entire populations racially profiled, children left behind when their parents were taken, families ripped apart, violence spreading through American neighborhoods, and an ICE tax landing on every household. As a result, voters, especially Latino voters have moved sharply away from Republicans since 2024, and the Republicans who championed this agenda are now scrambling to distance themselves from it.

Whatever happens on Tuesday, mass deportation will stand as one of the defining factors in the fight for the House. Here are five reasons why:

Five reasons Republicans will lose the House

Every reason below stems from what voters have already witnessed and already told pollsters, before a single vote is counted.

1. **Voters are seeing first hand what ICE is doing.** When federal agents killed Renee Good and Alex Pretti, two American citizens, in Minneapolis this year, their deaths reverberated far beyond Minnesota. Their deaths were part of a pattern of abuse that began in year one and has only grown deadlier in year two. There have been over 500 documented cases of U.S. citizens detained by immigration agents, including at least 70 children and teens. ICE is now arresting parents and labeling their children "unaccompanied", and Brookings estimates more than 145,000 U.S. citizen children have had a parent detained by ICE since the administration began. Voters didn't need a campaign ad to learn this, they saw firsthand – in their own neighborhoods, schools, and businesses.

2. **Mass deportation is raising prices and increasing costs in American households.** America's Voice's End the ICE Tax report found that the 2025 enforcement surge cost an estimated 668,000 jobs, and a follow-up report found that with fewer immigrant workers paying into Social Security, the average retiree's benefit could be cut by $2,152 a year starting in 2034. Consumer spending at the average business drops 6.2% below normal after ICE moves into a metro area. Prices are rising fastest where immigrant labor matters most: home health care is up 10.7% in a year, while fruits, vegetables, and milk have jumped between 6% and 32%. Voters connect the dots: by 62-38%, they say mass deportation is hurting the economy and raising costs.

3. **The mass deportation agenda is underwater with voters.** As America's Voice's October polling memo documented, 56% of Americans now say Trump is going too far

on deportations, his immigration approval has fallen to a second-term low of 38%, and Democrats now edge Republicans on trust on immigration, an issue Republicans led by double digits before 2024. ICE is now the least popular of the 12 federal agencies Pew asked about, at 56% unfavorable to 35% favorable. The issue Trump called his strongest has become a liability for every Republican tied to it.

4. **Latino voters have moved sharply away from Republicans.** Latino voters now prefer Democratic control of Congress 59-35%, double the margin at this point in 2024 (NBC News/Telemundo). Democrats lead Hispanic likely voters 64-29% in an average of high-quality polls, up from a seven-point Harris lead (New York Times Upshot). The shift is playing out district by district: in Texas's 15th, a majority-Latino seat Trump carried by 18 points in 2024, Democrat Bobby Pulido leads Rep. Monica De La Cruz 51-44% among likely voters, and 57-40% among Latino likely voters.

5. **Republicans who championed it can't run away from it.** In the final weeks, vulnerable Republicans have cut ads and issued statements in an attempt to distance themselves from the crackdown. Their voting records tell a different story.

The GOP can't run away from it. They own it.

The congressional Republicans now backing away from mass deportation voted to fund it three separate times, and each vote was another chance to change course. It started with the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, the 2025 law that multiplied ICE's funding and bankrolled the surge voters are now rejecting. Then every House Republican on this list voted twice more this year to keep the money flowing. Voters remember who voted for this.

- **Rep. María Elvira Salazar (FL-27).** She voted for the One Big Beautiful Bill Act just weeks after conservatives warned that her reform plan would slow mass deportations. In September, with her race tightening, she told Trump on camera that some of his enforcement efforts "have gone too far."
- **Rep. Monica De La Cruz (TX-15).** She voted for the same law and spoke at Trump's RNC midterm convention this fall. Her closing ad features a DACA recipient she helped free from ICE custody and calls the immigration system broken.
- **Rep. David Valadao (CA-22).** He voted for the law his challenger says put $85 billion toward ICE enforcement, and has defended Trump's raids. When agents swept the Central Valley weeks before Election Day, his office said farmworkers should not have to live in fear, while repeating DHS's claim that the operations only targeted people with criminal records.
- **Rep. Gabe Evans (CO-8).** He voted for the law, then blamed Democrats for the Minneapolis crisis. At the same time, he told reporters he wants ICE focused on criminals and away from the dairies and meatpacking plants in his district.

What comes next

Voters have already rejected mass deportation in poll after poll. Next week, voters will render their decision at the ballot box. The question for the next Congress is what comes after the election. In 2027, the debate turns to accountability for what this agenda has done to American families and communities, and to common sense solutions that strengthen our economy and reflect our values as a nation. That starts with a path to citizenship for the millions of undocumented immigrants who have lived, worked, and raised families in the U.S. for decades, an approach that majorities across party lines already prefer over mass deportation.