

37TH LD DEMOCRATS

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

WHAT TO DO • HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORS

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IMPORTANT DISCLAIMER

- I am **not a lawyer**
- This presentation is **not legal advice**
- This information is for **general education purposes only**
- Content is based on guidance, materials, and prior trainings from trusted organizations, including:
 - **Northwest Immigrant Rights Project**
 - **ACLU of Washington**
 - **Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network**
- Laws and enforcement practices can change
- Individuals should consult a **qualified attorney** for advice specific to their situation



“

“Situations like this are when we show ourselves who we are and what we believe. In Seattle, we practice solidarity.”

— Mayor Katie B. Wilson, January 8, 2026

”

WHY THIS MATTERS RIGHT NOW

- Many communities are experiencing increased fear and uncertainty
- Immigration and policing misinformation spreads quickly
- Knowing your rights helps prevent panic and escalation
- Informed neighbors help keep communities safer



CORE RIGHTS EVERYONE HAS

No matter who you are:

- You have the **right to remain silent**
- You can ask: **“Am I free to leave?”**
- You can **refuse consent** to searches
- You can ask for a **lawyer** if detained or arrested

Silence is a legal right — not an admission of guilt.



IF YOU ARE STOPPED BY ICE/CBP

- Stay calm; do not run or argue
- Keep your hands visible
- Ask: **“Am I free to leave?”**
 - If yes → calmly walk away
 - If no → say you choose to remain silent
- You do **not** have to consent to a search



IF YOU ARE STOPPED IN A CAR

- Pull over safely and turn off the car
- Keep hands on the steering wheel
- Show license, registration, and insurance if asked
- You may refuse a search
- Passengers can remain silent and ask if they are free to leave



IF ASKED ABOUT IMMIGRATION STATUS

- You do **not** have to answer questions about:
 - Citizenship
 - Where you were born
 - How you entered the U.S.
- Do **not** lie or show fake documents
- If you have valid immigration papers and an agent asks, you should show them

Different rules apply at airports and international borders.



IF ICE COMES TO A HOME

- You do **not** have to open the door
- Ask to see a **warrant signed by a judge**
- You can ask them to slide it under the door or show it through a window
- An **ICE or administrative warrant is NOT enough**
- You may speak through the door without letting anyone inside



WHAT MAKES A VALID JUDICIAL WARRANT

- A valid warrant must:
 - Have the **correct name**
 - List the **correct address**
 - Be **current (not expired)**
 - Be **signed by a judge**

If any of these are missing → you do not have to allow entry.



IF SOMEONE IS ARRESTED OR DETAINED

- Do not resist
- Say clearly: **“I choose to remain silent and want a lawyer.”**
- Do not sign anything without legal advice
- Immigration detention does **not** include a free lawyer
- Ask for a list of free or low-cost legal services

Washington Resource:

Northwest Immigrant Rights Project
Tacoma Office: 253-383-0519



WASHINGTON STATE PROTECTIONS

Keep Washington Working Act (kww):

- Limits state and local cooperation with federal immigration enforcement
- Applies to:
 - Police
 - Schools
 - Courthouses
 - Public health facilities
- These institutions must adopt policies to remain accessible to all residents



SEATTLE'S RESPONSE TO ICE ACTIVITY

What the City Is Doing

- Seattle is a **Welcoming City**
- Local police are **prohibited from assisting ICE** in most circumstances
- City laws limiting cooperation with immigration enforcement **will be enforced**
- The Mayor is working with:
 - Seattle Police leadership
 - The City Attorney
 - Immigrant rights organizations
 - Community leaders
- The City is using every available legal and public tool to protect residents, while acknowledging limits on local authority over federal agencies



WHAT THE MAYOR IS ASKING OF THE COMMUNITY

How Residents Can Help

- Stay informed and connected
- Sign up for **Washington for All ICE Mobilization Alerts**
- Share accurate information – not rumors or fear
- Raise your voice and hold elected officials accountable
- Practice solidarity and look out for neighbors

*“This is your city.
You should be safe here.”*



South Sound
STRATEGIES
CLARITY AWAITS YOU

PROTEST & DEMONSTRATION RIGHTS

- Peaceful protest is protected speech
- Permits may be required for large marches or amplified sound
- You may protest in streets, sidewalks, and parks
- You may photograph police in public spaces
- You are not responsible for others' actions unless you direct them



South Sound
STRATEGIES
CLARITY AWAITS YOU

HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT VULNERABLE NEIGHBORS

What Helps:

- Share accurate Know Your Rights information
- Help people make family or emergency plans
- Offer accompaniment, rides, or childcare support
- Be a calm, grounded presence

What to Avoid:

- Giving legal advice if you are not a lawyer
- Filming or posting without consent
- Confronting officers or escalating situations



TRUSTED WASHINGTON RESOURCES

- **ACLU of Washington**
- **Northwest Immigrant Rights Project**
- **Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs**
- **Immigrant Rapid Response Program:**
 - KYR trainings
 - Legal consultations and referrals
 - Family safety planning
 - Hotline to report enforcement activity
- The **WA Immigrant Solidarity Network (WAISN)** Reporting Hotline is now live. The hotline runs 7-days-a-week, from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM and will allow people to report when loved ones or friends have been detained by immigration agents or other instances of problematic behavior conduct by immigration officials.

**TO REPORT IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITY
ANYWHERE IN WASHINGTON, DIAL: 1-844-RAID-REP
(1 (844) 724-3737).**



CLOSING

Knowing our rights is how we protect our values — together.

Thank you for showing up for your community.



THANK YOU!

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