November 3, 2026

TO: Interested Parties

FROM: ACLU; ACLU of Texas

RE: New polling finds strong opposition to the proposed Eastside ICE detention warehouse among Texas voters, with the majority opposed to the opening of an ICE detention center in their communities, citing concerns about cost and the treatment of the detainees.

Texas voters are opposed to the proposed Eastside ICE detention warehouse in San Antonio. They are most concerned about the cost to taxpayers and the treatment of those detained. Registered Texas voters oppose detention facilities in their communities and want local taxpayers and voters to make decisions about detention centers, not the federal government.

- **The Eastside ICE detention warehouse is 13 points underwater among Texans, with half (48%) opposed, compared to a third (35%) who support.** Nine in 10 Democrats (**87%,** vs. **4%** support), four in 10 Independents (**39%** oppose, vs. **23%** support), and more than half of those who were aware of it oppose opening the proposed detention warehouse (**55%,** vs. **31%** who support).
    - After receiving messaging about the Eastside ICE detention warehouse, net opposition widened to **15 points** (**49%** oppose vs **34%** support), with Texans **twice as likely** to strongly oppose (**41%**) than strongly support (**22%**).

    - The communities where the proposed warehouse would be located oppose opening it: in South Texas it is **13 points underwater** (**46%** oppose vs. **39%** support) and in neighboring Central Texas, it is **15 points underwater** (**48%** oppose vs. **33%** support).

- **Texans are concerned about the costs of the Eastside ICE detention warehouse and the treatment of detainees.**
    - Two-thirds (**65%**) are concerned about the **$83million+ cost to taxpayers**, including nine in 10 (**87%**) Democrats, two-thirds (**64%**) of Independents, and almost half (**45%**) of Republicans.

    - **Six in 10 Texans** are concerned about the **treatment of people detained** (**59%)** and the **living and sanitary conditions** detainees will face **(58%),** including nine in 10 Democrats (**88%** concerned about each), over half of Independents (**55%** concerned about each), and a third of Republicans (**35%,** and **31%,** respectively).

- **Over half (54%) of Texans would oppose an ICE detention center being built in their community—more than twice that who would support it (26%) --**including **51%** of those in South Texas (**31%** support), and **58%** of those in Central Texas (**21%** support).

- **Texans want to decide for themselves whether an ICE detention center is built in their community:** Over four in 10 **(43%)** Texans—including half (**48%**) of those in South Texas—think the final decision about whether a detention center operates in their community should be made by "local taxpayers and voters" rather than their governor (**14%**) or the federal government (**19%**).
    - This also shows up in Texans' concerns about the Eastside ICE detention warehouse: Six in 10 (**58%**) are concerned it skipped normal permit and regulatory processes to get approved, while over half (**53%**) are concerned by the lack of support from San Antonio elected officials.

METHODOLOGY

On behalf of the ACLU, YouGov conducted an online survey of 817 registered voters in Texas from October 9-20, 2026. The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race/ethnicity, education, and Texas region based on voter registration lists, the U.S. Census American Community Survey, and the U.S. Census Current Population Survey, as well as 2020 Presidential vote, 2022 midterm turnout, and 2024 Presidential vote based

on available results. Respondents were selected from YouGov to be representative of registered voters in Texas. The margin of error for results is ±4.2%.