

NEWS SERVICE: POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT

After Minnesota shooting, Colorado and other states are more tightly guarding officials' personal information

In Colorado, at least 31 elected officials have filed requests to remove their personal contact information from a public-facing state campaign finance database called TRACER, which was briefly taken down Saturday so those requests could be fulfilled



The Associated Press

6:54 PM MDT on Jun 16, 2025



Law enforcement officers including local police, sheriffs and the FBI, stage less than a mile from a shooting in Brooklyn Park, Minn. on Saturday, June 14, 2025. (Alex Kormann/Star Tribune via AP)

The Unaffiliated

All politics, no agenda.

By Jamie Ding, *The Associated Press*

LOS ANGELES — Lawmakers in some states are moving to delete their home addresses from online directories and Wisconsin legislators are seeking added security for a session this week after one Minnesota legislator was killed and another wounded in their suburban Minneapolis homes last weekend in what Gov. Tim Walz described as a targeted political attack.

Vance Boelter is in federal custody facing murder and stalking charges in the shooting death of **former Democratic House Speaker Melissa Hortman** and her husband, Mark. Authorities say he also shot and wounded Sen. John Hoffman and his wife Yvette. Boelter, 57, also faces state murder charges.

Authorities said Boelter had a list of dozens of state and federal elected officials in Minnesota and meticulous notes on the homes and people he targeted early Saturday. He also stopped by the homes of two other legislators that night, according to police. Authorities say he found their addresses in a variety of internet searches. The Minnesota Legislature's website lists the addresses of members' offices in the state capital of St. Paul, not their home addresses.

On Saturday, the North Dakota Legislature's staff agency removed lawmakers' addresses from their biographical webpages as a result of the targeted attacks in Minnesota, Legislative Council Director John Bjornson said.

Most North Dakota lawmakers opt to give a home, business or postal box address on their webpage, where the public also can find their email addresses and phone numbers.

Removing addresses of elected officials is a difficult decision because they have to be approachable, open and transparent, said Burleigh County Sheriff Kelly Leben, whose county is home to North Dakota's capital city.

"I think it's a balancing act between being a public official and the safety of myself and my family," the elected county sheriff said.

All home addresses for New Mexico legislators were also removed from the Statehouse website as an immediate precaution, said Shawna Casebier, director of the Legislature's legal office.

Personal information on the website already had been limited at the discretion of individual lawmakers in the aftermath of drive-by shootings at the homes of four Democratic state and local lawmakers in Albuquerque in 2022 and 2023.

In Colorado, at least 31 elected officials have filed requests to remove their personal contact information from a public-facing state campaign finance database called TRACER, which was briefly taken down Saturday so those requests could be fulfilled.



The exterior of the Colorado Capitol on Wednesday, May 7, 2025, in Denver. (AP Photo/Rachel Woolf)

“We did so out of an abundance of caution for the safety of elected officials in an unprecedented political climate,” Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold said in a statement. The Colorado development was first reported by Axios.

Lawmakers in Wisconsin requested **additional security** for when the state Assembly meets on Wednesday, said Luke Wolff, spokesperson for Republican Assembly Speaker Robin Vos. Wolff did not detail what was requested or what changes may be made.

The Wisconsin Capitol is one of the most open in the country, with public access seven days a week, no metal detectors, screening checkpoints or security badges required to gain entry. There are galleries in both the Senate and Assembly where the public can view legislative debate.

Even before the Minnesota shooting, states in recent years have **stepped up efforts** to shield the personal information of officials in response to high-profile attacks.

Oregon

One day before the Minnesota killings, Oregon lawmakers passed a bill that would prohibit the Oregon Secretary of State from making the residential addresses of those associated with a candidates' campaign committee viewable by the public on its electronic filing system. The campaign filings would still be viewable online, but home addresses would be redacted, unless the person asks the Secretary of State's office to publish it. A public records request would need to be filed to obtain such addresses.

Louisiana

Louisiana lawmakers passed a bill last week that adds statewide elected officials and legislators to the list of people who can ask that their personal information be removed from public records and the internet. Certain judges were already on the list.

Officials can seek to have home addresses, phone numbers, email addresses, date of birth, marital status, school or daycare of their child, their place of worship or employment location of their spouse removed.

Under current law, if person does not comply with the removal request, they can be sued and face up to 90 days in prison or \$1,000 fine for the misdemeanor.

The measure still needs final approval from Gov. Jeff Landry, one of the Louisiana officials whose private information would be protected.

Georgia

Georgia legislators passed a law earlier this year to require that home addresses of candidates who file campaign finance reports, including themselves, be redacted from by the state Ethics Commission from public view. The action came after a number of Georgia officials were targeted by swatting incidents in December 2023.

Lawmakers also passed a second law which removes the personal phone number, home address, and property or tax records of a judge or their spouse from public view. Records covered include voter registration and corporation records.

Illinois

The Illinois State Board of Elections stopped publishing the street addresses of candidates for political office on its website last year, spokesperson Matt Dietrich said. Lawmakers had raised concerns after protestors picketed the home of Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, the state librarian, over legislation he pushed through the General Assembly that would cut state funding to libraries that ban books.

Candidates' addresses remain on elections board documents that are no longer published on the web but accessible via public records request.

New Jersey

In 2020, a gunman posing as a delivery driver shot and killed the 20-year-old son of **U.S. District Judge Esther Salas in New Jersey** and injured her husband at their family home. The state legislature passed a law later that year by **that exempted the home addresses** of current or retired judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officers from disclosure under public records laws. The measure, called Daniel's Law in honor of the judge's son, also allowed officials to ask websites to remove their home addresses.

Maryland

Maryland **enacted a law** in 2024 preventing individuals from publishing judges' personal information online after a circuit court judge was shot by a man hours after the judge ruled against him in a divorce case. Judges can submit requests to government entities and private websites to remove information like phone numbers, social security numbers, and personal emails.

Associated Press reporters Claire Rush in Portland, Ore., Jack Dura in Bismarck, N.D., John O'Connor in Springfield, Ill., Jeff Amy in Atlanta, Scott McFetridge in Des Moines, Iowa, Sara Cline in Baton Rouge, La., Scott Bauer in Madison, Wis., Brian Witte in Annapolis, Md. and Morgan Lee in Santa Fe, N.M. contributed to this report.

EXCLUSIVE

DOJ hits states with broad requests for voter rolls, election data

Election clerks in both parties, already facing harassment and lawsuits over Trump's false 2020 election claims, worry about efforts to examine voting machines.

Today at 5:00 a.m. EDT

By [Patrick Marley](#) and [Yvonne Wingett Sanchez](#)

The Trump administration and its allies have launched a multipronged effort to gather data on voters and inspect voting equipment, sparking concern among local and state election officials about federal interference ahead of the 2026 midterms.

The most unusual activity is happening in Colorado — a state that then-candidate Donald Trump lost by 11 points — where a well-connected consultant who says he is working with the White House is asking county clerks whether they will allow the federal government or a third party to physically examine their election equipment. Federal agencies have long offered technical assistance and cybersecurity advice to election officials but have not examined their equipment because election laws tightly limit who has access.

Separately, the Justice Department has taken the unusual step of asking at least nine states for copies of their voter rolls, and at least two have turned them over, according to state officials.

In addition, two DOJ lawyers have asked states to share information about voters to implement [a Trump executive order](#) that would shift some power over elections from the states to Washington. [Courts have temporarily blocked](#) key provisions of that order, including changing mail ballot deadlines and requiring voters to provide proof of citizenship. The DOJ attorneys have asked to talk about a different provision, which has not been halted by the courts, focused on sharing information.

The administration's efforts, fueled by Trump's false claims that the 2020 election was stolen, have rattled state and local election officials from both parties who have spent years contending with threats, harassment and litigation. Under the Constitution, states are responsible for running elections, and the federal government plays a limited role — such as by dictating when states must offer opportunities to register to vote — that must be spelled out by Congress. Election officials fear the administration could try to build a national file that includes personal information about voters or impose rules that would boot eligible voters from the rolls and make it harder to cast ballots.

“This is an extraordinary imposition of federal power over states’ election processes that, if it is accepted by the states in this context, will be absolutely used by Democrats in another context,” said David Becker, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Election Innovation and Research, who worked in the Justice Department’s voting section under Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush.

A Justice Department spokesperson declined to comment on the activities. The White House did not answer questions about whether it was working with Jeff Small, the operative who has been contacting Colorado clerks, but said the president is committed to helping states ensure voters on the rolls are citizens.

Republican election officials in Colorado fielded calls and messages last week from Small, a consultant who has worked for members of Congress, most recently serving as chief of staff to Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-Colorado). Small told more than half a dozen GOP county clerks by phone or text that he was working with the Trump administration to ensure the integrity of elections and to advance Trump’s election agenda, county officials told The Washington Post.

“To me, it felt like they were wanting to intervene before 2026,” said Justin Grantham, the Republican clerk in Fremont County.

Five other Republican clerks raised similar concerns.

“That’s a hard stop for me,” said Carly Koppes, a Republican clerk in Weld County, who said she rejected Small’s overtures to allow a federal inspection. “Nobody gets access to my voting equipment, for security reasons.”

More than 350 election officials from at least 33 states joined a conference call Monday to learn more from Becker’s group and Democratic and Republican lawyers about the potential implications of the administration’s moves. Election officials have long bristled at the notion of federal intrusion. In 2017, during Trump’s first term, officials from both parties declined to give a presidential commission detailed information on voters, with Mississippi’s GOP secretary of state telling the task force to “[go jump in the Gulf of Mexico](#).”

In a Saturday [social media post](#), Trump made clear he remains focused on election policies and his 2020 falsehoods, writing that Attorney General Pam Bondi is looking into “The Rigged and Stolen Election of 2020.” His administration’s latest push for voting data comes a year and a half before the midterms, when Democrats hope to take control of the House, chip away at the Republican majority in the Senate and win more governorships.

“President Trump and his allies are trying to lay the groundwork to interfere with a free and fair election in 2026,” said Samantha Tarazi, CEO of the nonpartisan Voting Rights Lab.

The Justice Department’s outreach has differed from state to state, according to agency letters and emails. In Colorado, it made a sweeping request for “all records” related to its election. In Alaska, it questioned why no voters had been removed from the rolls for mental incompetence. In several states, it asked detailed questions about the process to remove noncitizens and other ineligible voters from the rolls.

Grantham, the Fremont County clerk, said Small asked him if he would allow a third party to review whether his voting machines complied with federal law. Grantham declined the request, he said, citing state laws that restrict access to voting machines.

Election officials have been on edge in Colorado since 2020, partly because of Tina Peters, a former Mesa County clerk who was sentenced to nine years in prison last year over a scheme to let an outsider into secure areas of her office to copy election data. This spring, the Justice Department made an unusual move to assist Peters with her appeal, further worrying election officials.

And last week, Small contacted clerks, claiming to have ties to Trump. “I am reaching out on a timely election integrity project I’m working with the White House on and was hoping to chat,” read one text message from Small to a county clerk. A message to another clerk said the outreach “is from Stephen Miller,” the White House deputy chief of staff.

Steve Schleiker, the Republican clerk of El Paso County, said Small told him he was working with the Justice and Homeland Security departments to team up with clerks on election security. Soon after their conversation, Schleiker said, he got a call from a Homeland Security official who wanted to review his election equipment.

“We would like to test the voting equipment to see if there’s any gaps,” the official said, according to Schleiker.

Schleiker said the administration had no authority to “try to infiltrate a state’s or a county’s election equipment.” Colorado Secretary of State Jena Griswold (D) likened the efforts to Trump’s unsuccessful push to reverse the 2020 election, which ended with his supporters rioting at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021.

“This is the 2020 playbook on steroids,” Griswold said.

“This all is part of a bigger ploy to further undermine our voting in this country,” she said. “They are actively in a power grab.”

Matt Crane, a Republican and the executive director of the Colorado County Clerks Association, said election officials from both parties resist attempts to examine their equipment. “Anybody who is asking for access to the voting machines outside of the law ... that automatically raises red flags in terms of their intent,” he said.

Small hung up on a Post reporter Tuesday and did not respond to messages seeking comment. A spokesman for Boebert declined to comment on the outreach to clerks by her former chief of staff. A Homeland Security spokesperson said that the agency works closely with others on election security but that “we don’t disclose every single conversation we have with them.”

Separately, the Justice Department has recently asked some states for copies of their voter lists. Those inquiries went to a mix of Republican and Democratic-controlled states, including Alaska, Colorado, Florida, Minnesota, Nevada, New Hampshire, New York, Oklahoma and Wisconsin, according to copies of the letters and information from state election officials.

Some information contained in voter rolls — such as names of voters and elections in which they have participated — is commonly available. Other information, such as the last four digits of voters’ Social Security numbers, is not. Colorado and Florida have provided the Justice Department with information from their lists that is generally available to the public, while most other states said they were reviewing the requests.

Federal law gives the Justice Department the ability to ensure states have procedures in place to remove ineligible voters and otherwise properly maintain their rolls. It does not expressly give the agency the authority to review the voter rolls themselves.

States routinely check their rolls to identify people who are ineligible because they are not citizens, have moved to another voting jurisdiction, have been convicted of a felony or have died. The administration could do its own checks with copies of the voter rolls, but it would need versions with dates of birth and other identifying information to properly match data with citizenship, death and court records, according to experts.

Ann Jacobs, chairwoman of the Wisconsin Elections Commission, said she worries the federal government could try to use the information to justify new rules that would make it harder to cast ballots.

The sloppy use of data can result in inaccurate matches that give election skeptics opportunities to tout exaggerated claims of ineligible voters appearing on the rolls, Jacobs said. Voters deserve answers about why the administration wants information about them and what it plans to do with it, she said, particularly when federal laws are supposed to protect Social Security numbers and other private information.

“Is this a backdoor way to get access to the data that the statutes have said [they’re] not entitled to have?” said Jacobs, a Democrat.

The Justice Department’s voting section last month sued Orange County, California, to obtain driver’s license numbers and signature images of people who had been taken off the county’s rolls because they were not citizens. The lawsuit has worried election officials elsewhere because it signals the department wants access to personal information that is usually protected.

Justin Levitt, a Loyola Law School professor who advised the Biden White House on voting rights, called the requests for voter rolls “exceptionally unusual” and said they probably violate federal privacy law because the administration has not given fuller public explanations for why it wanted them. He also worries about the security risks of the federal government housing sensitive data on 174 million registered voters in a centralized system, he said.

“It’s one thing if a county’s voter file gets hacked,” he said. “It’s a much bigger problem if the federal government is amassing a national voter file that gets hacked.”

Razzan Nakhlawi contributed to this report.

What readers are saying

The comments express significant concern and skepticism about the Justice Department's request for voter rolls and election data, viewing it as a potential attempt by the Trump administration to manipulate or undermine the 2026 midterm elections. Many commenters fear this move... [Show more](#)

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Supreme Court Limits ADA Claims to Employees and Applicants, Not Retirees

[Blog](#) Labor & Employment Insights

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP

USA | June 26 2025

In, *Stanley v. City of Sanford, Florida*, the U.S. Supreme Court clarified the scope of the Americans with Disabilities Act, holding that Title I's employment discrimination provisions do not apply to individuals who are retired and no longer hold or seek employment. The decision, a 7-2 majority written by Justice Neil Gorsuch, gives employers a clear win concerning retirees and the ADA, specifically that a retiree who is not holding or seeking employment is not a qualified individual under the ADA and therefore cannot bring a successful suit under that statute.

The Facts

Karyn Stanley, a former firefighter for the City of Sanford, Florida, was forced to retire in 2018 due to a disability. Under the city's revised 2003 policy, employees who retired due to disability received only 24 months of health insurance, compared to those employees who retired with 25 years of service who received coverage until age 65. Stanley sued under the ADA, alleging the policy discriminated based on her disability.

Importantly, Stanley filed suit in 2020, about two years into her retirement and a few months before her benefits were about to be terminated. The outcome of the case may have been different if she brought suit while she was still employed.

The Ruling: Clear Textual Limits on Title I of the ADA

The decision affirmed the Eleventh Circuit's dismissal of the claim, holding that Title I of the ADA protects only "qualified individuals"—those who hold or desire a job and can perform its essential functions. The court emphasized Congress's use of present-tense language—"holds or desires" a position—and the statutory requirement that the person be able to "perform the essential functions" of the job with or without reasonable accommodation at the time the person allegedly suffers discrimination. This definition does not apply to individuals who have already exited the workforce and are not seeking re-employment at the time the individual suffers discrimination.

The court dismissed arguments that retirees are nonetheless covered because they once held a job. "The statute protects people, not benefits, from discrimination," Gorsuch wrote, reinforcing the view that Title I is designed to prevent workplace discrimination against *qualified* individuals—not to govern post-employment benefits for retirees.

Why It Matters for Employers

The ruling reinforces that the ADA's employment protections are not unlimited. To be able to assert an ADA claim, an employee or applicant must be able to perform the essential functions of the position held or desired. Retirees who are not working cannot, by definition, meet that threshold ADA requirement. Furthermore, the timing of Sanford's suit – after she had already retired – ultimately doomed her ADA case when viewed in light of the ADA's plain language.

The court was careful to note that its decision does not preclude other legal avenues, such as claims under the Rehabilitation Act, state law, or constitutional equal protection claims. But critically, ADA Title I cannot be stretched beyond its plain text to cover retirees.

Conclusion

The *Stanley* decision reinforces a principle many employers have long understood: that the ADA only applies to employees or applicants who are qualified, which means they can perform the essential functions of the job they hold or desire. The Supreme Court made it clear that a retiree cannot be qualified under Title I of the ADA because the retiree is not seeking to perform the essential functions of a job that he/she holds or desires. Employers still face potential ADA liability from current employees or applicants, and employers should review their job descriptions to make sure they are as accurate as possible and define the job's essential functions to be in the best position to defend themselves against ADA claims in the future.

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP - John P. Rodgers and Anne R. Yuengert

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The White House’s plan to downsize the federal government, in charts

By [Jeremy B. Merrill](#), [Kati Perry](#) and [Jacob Bogage](#)

Today at 6:00 a.m. EDT

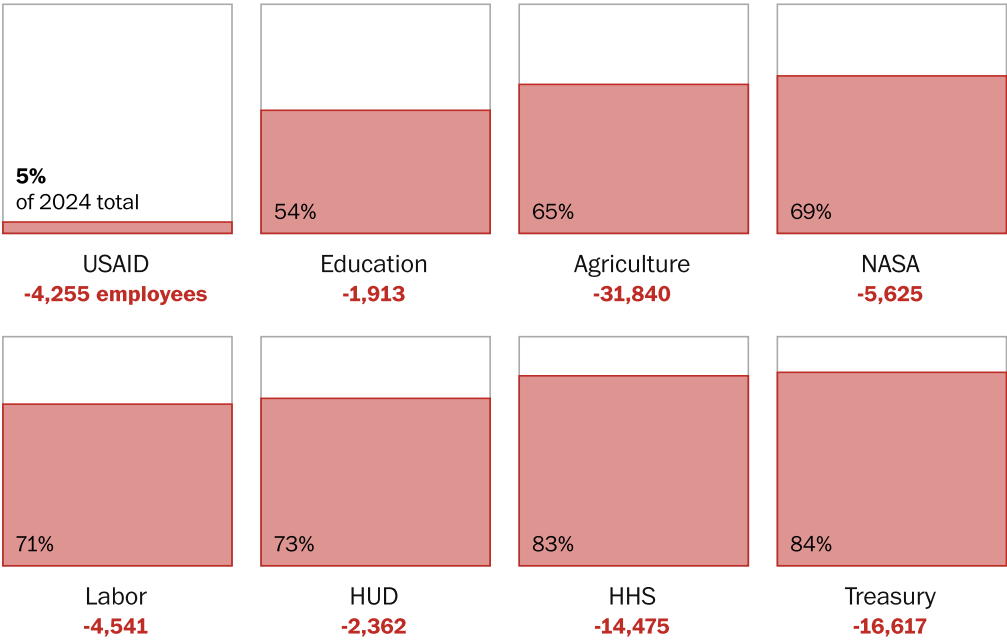


President Donald Trump and his advisers have called for dramatically shrinking the size and scope of the federal government, dispatching officials to agency after agency to block funding and slash staffing.

The Supreme Court has revived the administration’s efforts to lay off workers, allowing planned reductions in force to resume in a ruling last week. The State Department announced staff cuts a few days later.

The administration aims to go beyond that. As part of Trump’s 2026 budget request, [the White House laid out in detail](#) how many employees the executive branch hopes to cut. It envisions a government with 5 percent fewer employees compared to the final year of the Biden administration.

Most agencies expect to have fewer employees in 2026 than in 2024





That would cut more than 114,000 jobs, while adding several thousand for immigration enforcement and border security. The government would go from having about 2,142,000 employees in 2024 to about 2,028,000 in 2026. That figure reflects full-time employment, even if one job is done by two part-timers.

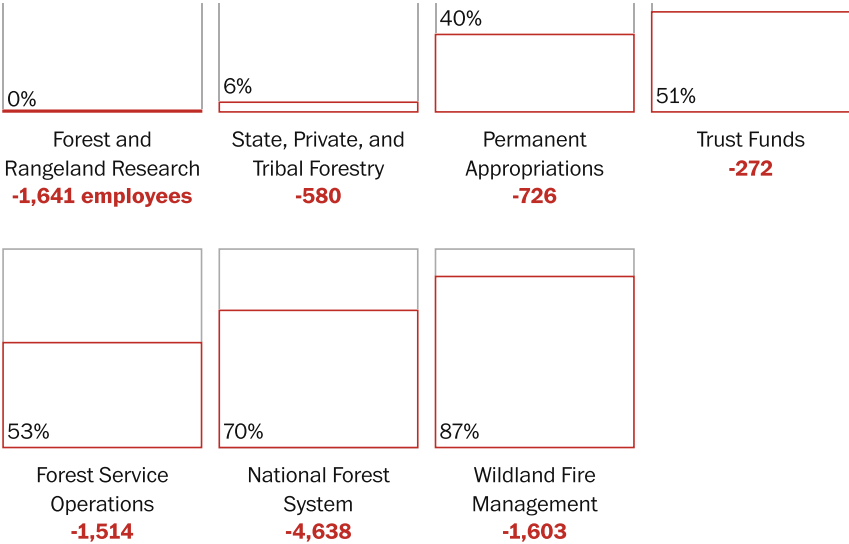
Five agencies — responsible for helping homeless Americans, administering foreign aid, investigating chemical safety incidents, protecting consumers from unsafe products and more — would have no staff under Trump’s plan, and 14 more agencies would lose at least a third of their employees.

The Agriculture Department, where the White House is calling for the most cuts, would shed more than 31,000 employees — about 35 percent of its 91,000 employees as of last year. About 12,000 such employees work on wildland fire management; more than 10,500 of those positions aren’t being eliminated, but instead moved to the Interior Department.

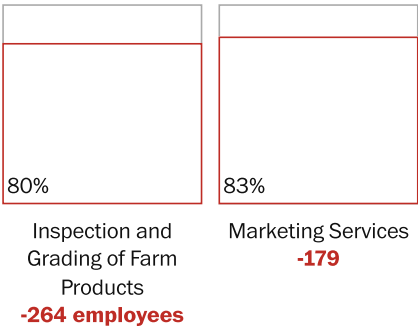
Most major programs in Department of Agriculture face cuts

Forest Service





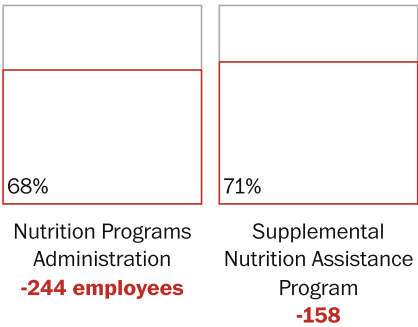
Agricultural Marketing Service



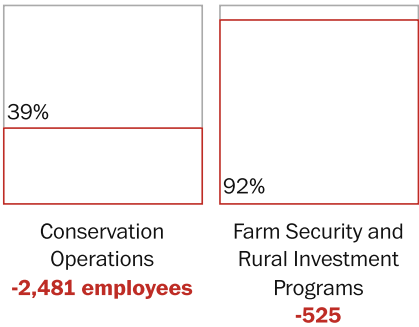
Executive Operations



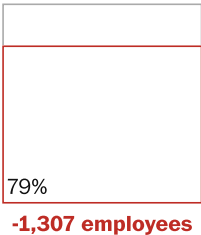
Food and Nutrition Service



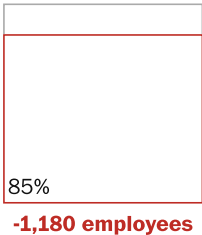
Natural Resources Conservation Service



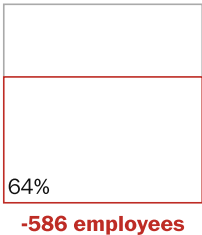
Agricultural Research Service



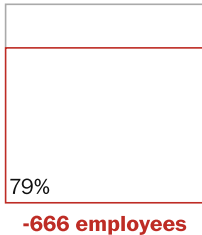
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service



Farm Production and Conservation



Farm Service Agency



Food Safety and Inspection Service



Foreign Agricultural Service

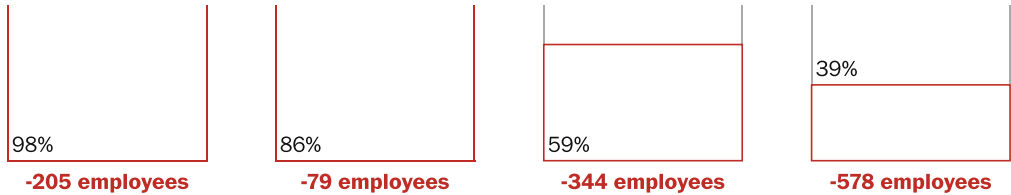


National Agricultural Statistics Service

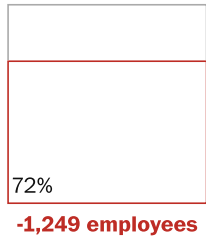


Office of the Secretary





Rural Development Administration



Only programs that had at least 500 employees in 2024 are included. In some cases, job losses may be offset by gains in other programs if staff are moved from one office or agency to another.

NASA, too, would shrink from 18,000 employees last year to about 12,300 in 2026, a cut of more than 30 percent. Billionaire tech entrepreneur Elon Musk, until recently a trusted adviser to Trump, advocated preserving much of NASA’s resources — now it’s unclear if his acrimonious departure from the White House will change the president’s plan for the agency.

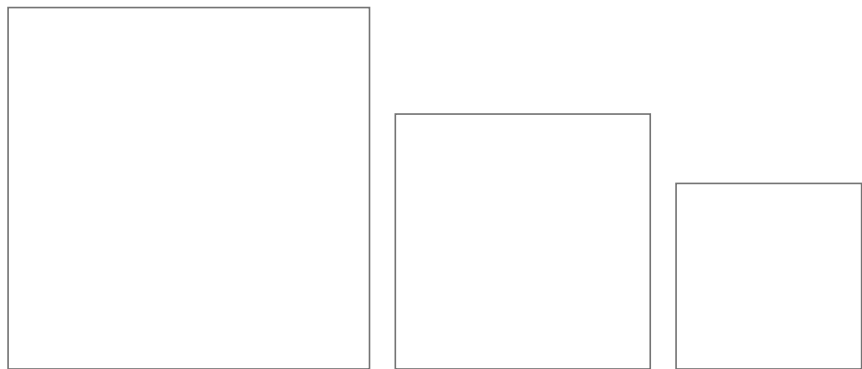
The departments of Education, Labor, Housing and Urban Development, and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, all longtime targets of some conservative policymakers, would also see thousands fewer employees.

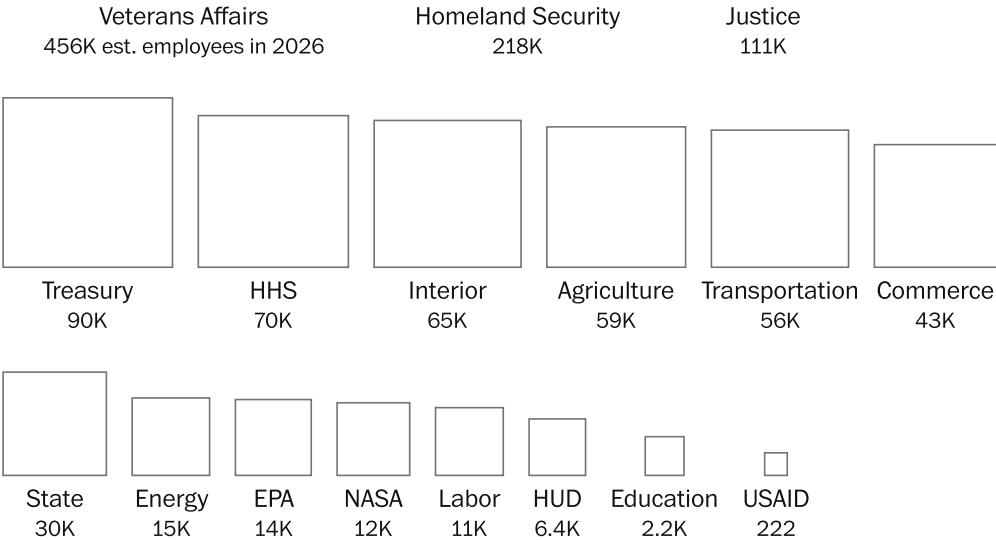
The State Department announced over 1,300 layoffs earlier this week, The Post reported — a similar number to the 1,465 cuts in Trump’s budget, offset by about 400 new jobs.

The departments of Commerce and Homeland Security would gain thousands of new jobs, including at the Patent and Trademark Office, Customs and Border Protection, and the Coast Guard.

Estimated number of employees in each agency in 2026

Veterans Affairs and Homeland Security remain the agencies with most employees





Trump’s budget does not include proposed staffing levels for the Defense Department; a separate document with Defense budget estimates will be published this month, the White House budget office has said.

Jake Spring and Ruby Mellen contributed to this report.

Methodology

The Post extracted and analyzed employment summaries from the [Technical Supplement](#) to the White House’s 2026 Budget, comparing civilian employment for 2024 and 2026 at the agency and program level. The count of jobs refers to full-time equivalent employment, regardless of how that position is funded.

Trump presidency



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🗨 103 Comments

MORE ON FEDERAL WORKERS

HAND-CURATED

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July 14, 2025



White House preps for legal fight over firings — despite court victory

July 14, 2025



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July 11, 2025



NEWS: HEALTH

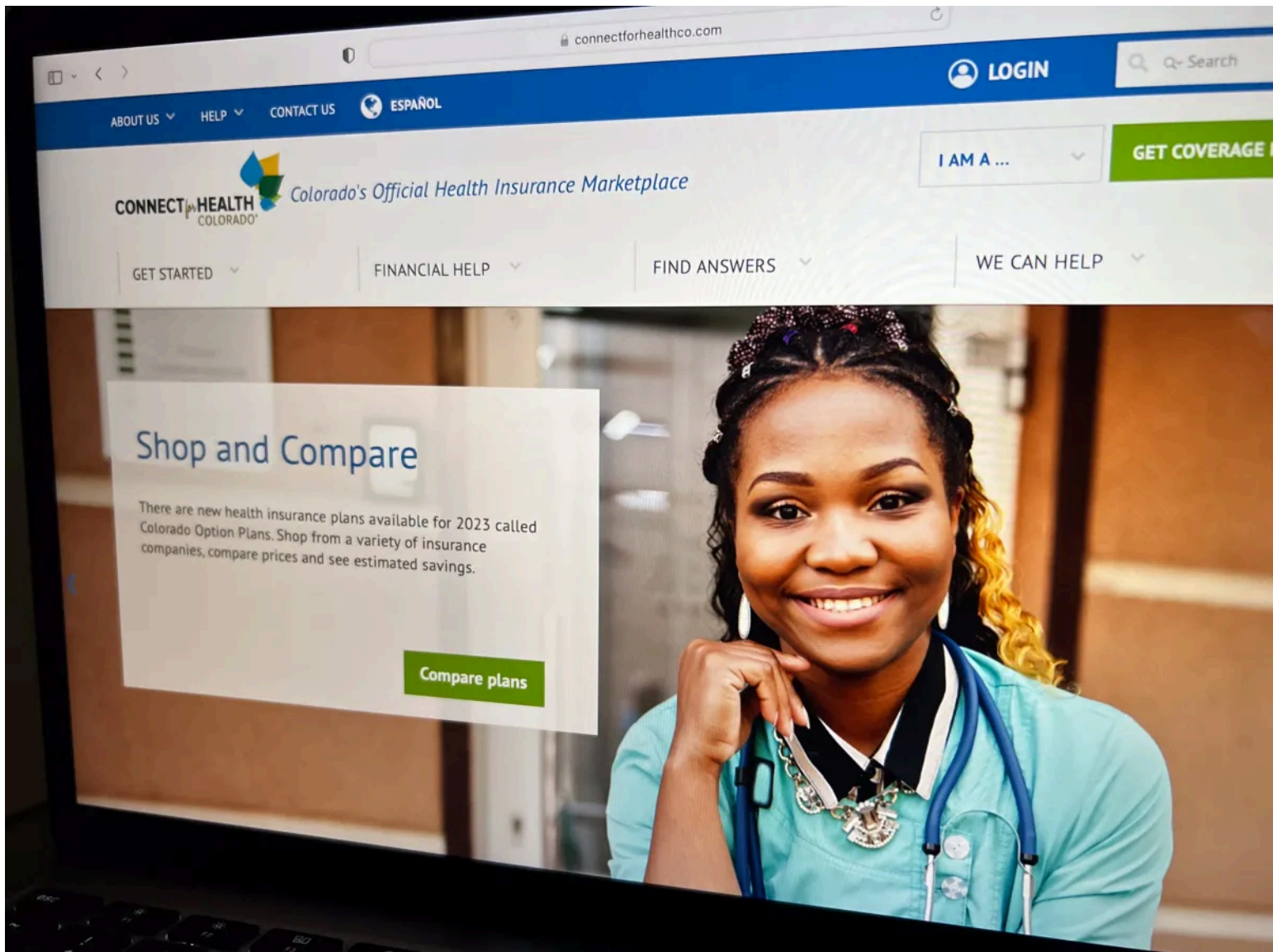
Colorado health insurers propose huge price increases following passage of GOP's federal spending bill

Insurance carriers asked for a 28% increase in prices, on average. State regulators must still approve the request.



John Ingold

3:33 AM MDT on Jul 17, 2025



The website for Connect for Health Colorado, the state's health insurance exchange, photographed on July 26, 2023. (John Ingold, The Colorado Sun)

Colorado health insurers have proposed huge price increases for next year for people who purchase coverage on their own — a consequence, state officials say, of the recently passed One Big Beautiful Bill Act tax and spending measure.

On average, insurers have asked regulators to approve a 28.4% increase to health insurance premium prices for 2026. That would be the second-largest annual increase since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.

But the increases hit even harder on the Western Slope and in Grand Junction, where insurers have asked for increases above 38%. Pueblo and the Eastern Plains could also see increases above 30%, according to numbers announced Wednesday by the Colorado Division of Insurance.

The price increases affect health insurance premiums, the monthly up-front costs to buy an insurance plan. Depending on a person's age, family size and where they live, the rate increases could amount to hundreds or thousands of dollars more per year just to have insurance — out-of-pocket costs like deductibles and copays would add even more.

“Tragically, Congress is kicking people off their health care and has created chaos that is going to cost Coloradans money,” Gov. Jared Polis said in a statement. “We have not seen premium increases like this since the first Trump administration.”

300,000 people affected

These increases apply only to people shopping in the individual market, where people purchase health coverage when they do not get coverage through work. More than 300,000 Coloradans buy health insurance this way.

Many may be eligible for subsidies from the federal government, meaning they would not have to pay full price for insurance. But big changes to the size of the subsidies in 2026 mean many people will pay a higher percentage of their premiums, and others will lose their subsidies altogether and have to pay full price, a cost that could add up to tens of thousands of dollars a year for some Colorado families.

“The 28% — that is the core premium increase,” Colorado Insurance Commissioner Michael Conway said in an interview. “But it doesn’t reflect what people are actually going to feel when they lose the subsidies, too.”

The spending bill's impact

The Republican-backed One Big Beautiful Bill Act makes a number of technical but significant tweaks to health insurance policies that Conway said are increasing prices for next year. Among those are restrictions on automatic renewals, extra checks for subsidy eligibility, a shortened enrollment window, and limitations on subsidies for lawfully present immigrants.

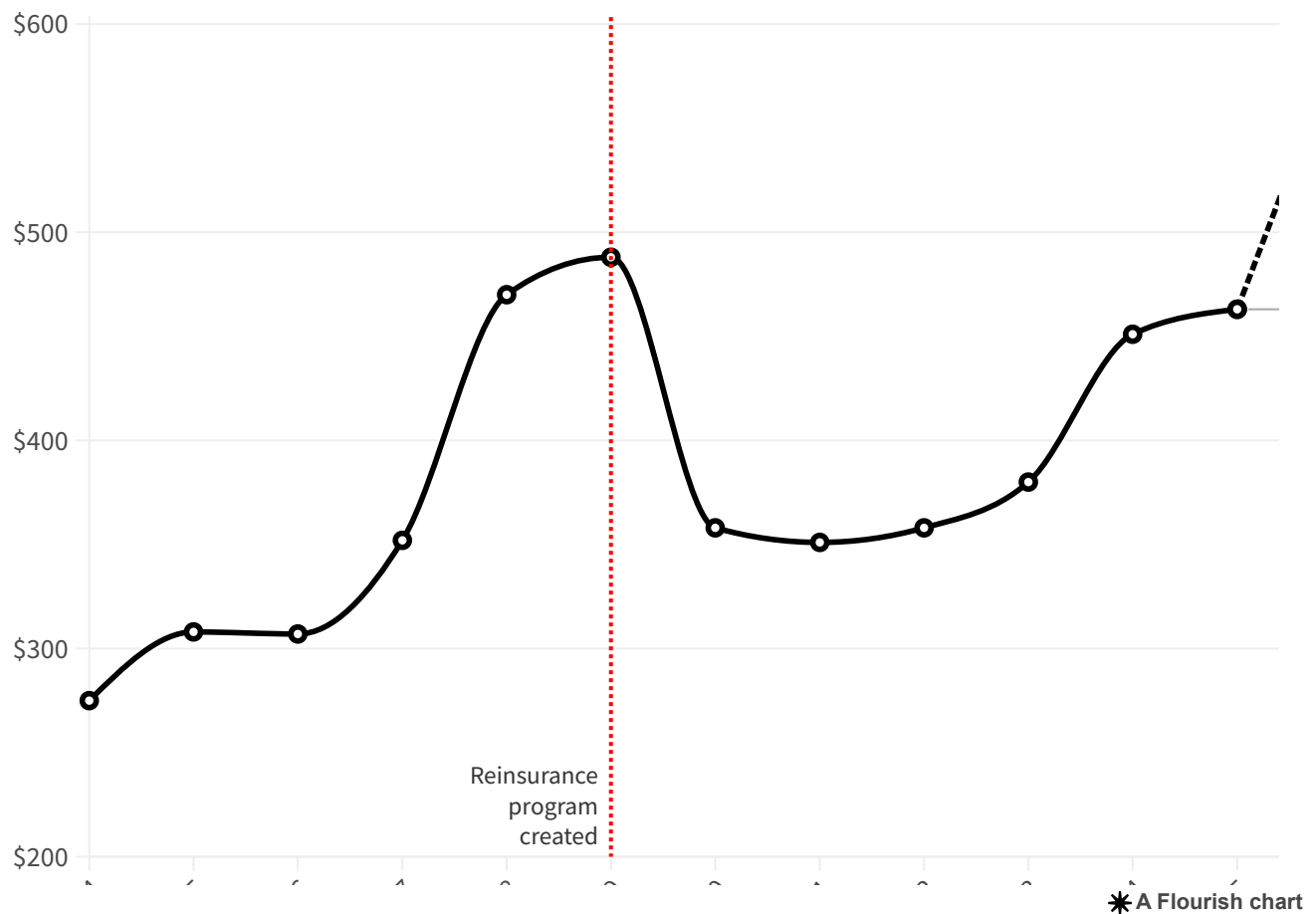
Perhaps more significant is what the bill doesn't do: It does not extend enhanced subsidies created during the pandemic, meaning hundreds of thousands of Coloradans will see less financial help next year to buy an insurance plan. That means the federal government will save money, but **it creates a ripple effect** that reduces funding for Colorado programs that keep down the cost of insurance.

One of these programs, called reinsurance, was successful in significantly reducing health insurance prices in Colorado when it was implemented, and the state estimates it has helped save Coloradans more than \$2 billion since its creation. But Conway said the federal changes means the reinsurance program's impact will be slashed by 40% next year, alone accounting for nearly 8 percentage points — more than a quarter — of next year's proposed increase.

The price of health insurance in Colorado

This chart shows the average price statewide for the benchmark premium — the second-lowest-cost silver plan on the individual market — through the years.

Tap or hover over the dots to see the numbers.



All of these changes are expected to drive down enrollment. The state projects more than 100,000 people will drop coverage due to the higher prices.

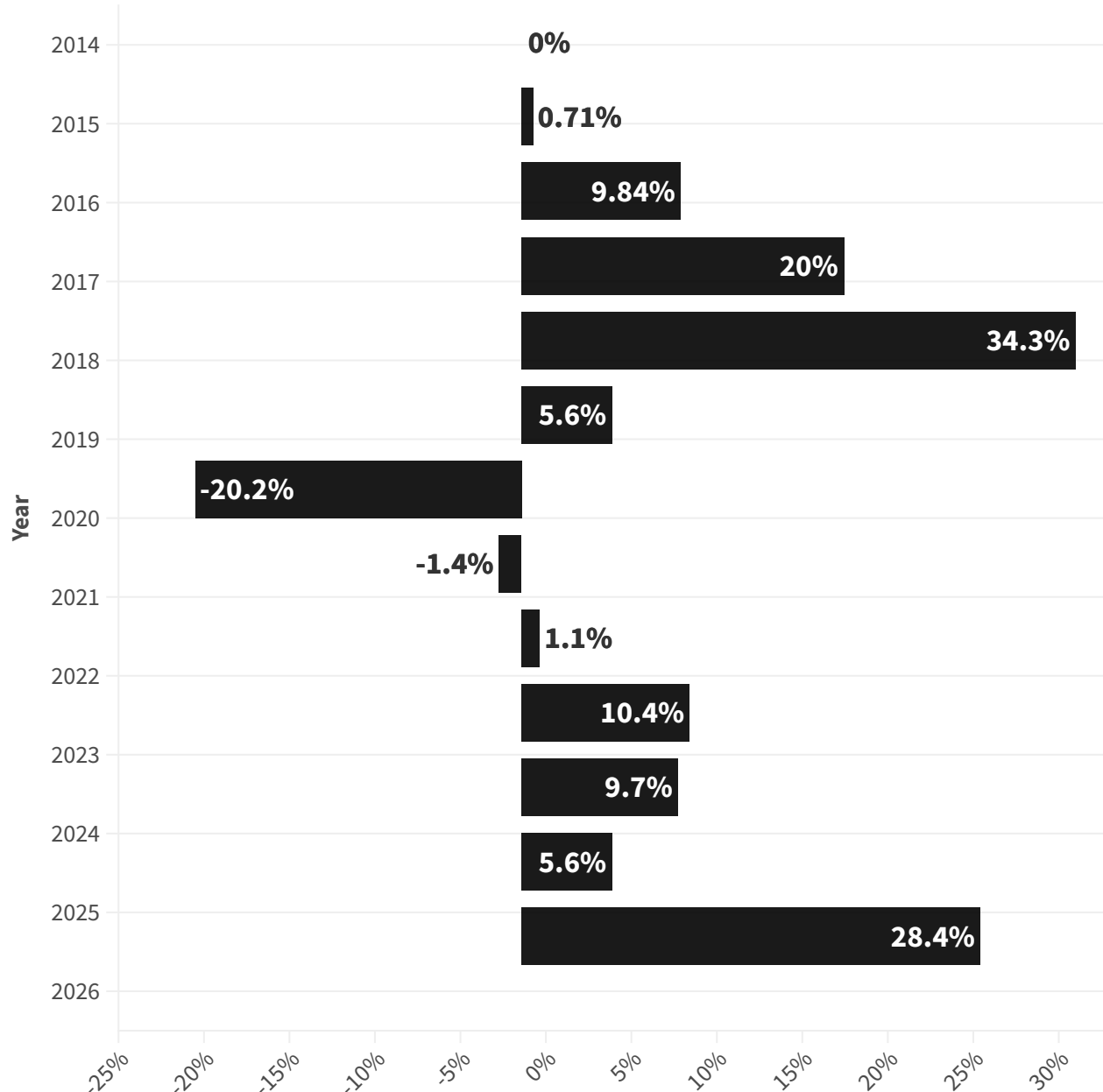
But, for insurers, it's also significant *who* will drop coverage — it will most likely be people who feel like they can afford to do so because they are healthy. This impacts what insurers call the risk pool, the collection of people who are covered by a particular insurer.

When healthy people leave the risk pool, it makes the remaining pool proportionally sicker with less money to go around to cover the pool's health care costs. That, in turn, causes insurers to increase prices to make sure there's enough money to cover everyone.

Colorado's record for the highest annual increase in insurance prices came in 2018 during the first administration of President Donald Trump. That year, Republican **efforts to repeal the Affordable Care Act**, combined with **an administration funding change** led to an average 34.3% increase in insurance premium prices.

Colorado's insurance rate rollercoaster

This chart shows the rate at which Colorado health insurance prices in the individual market have increased — or decreased — each year. The proposed increase for 2026 would be the second-largest since the implementation of the Affordable Care Act.



Source: [Colorado Division of Insurance](#)

Rate change for 2026 is preliminary. State regulators will approve the final rate in fall

THE COLORADO SUN
* A Flourish chart

Regulators must still approve

Conway must still approve the requested price increases, after a detailed review of rate filings by Division of Insurance staff.

Part of the process involves taking public comment, which will be done via a virtual hearing on August 1. **People interested in offering comments can sign up here.**

Mannat Singh, the executive director of the Colorado Consumer Health Initiative, an advocacy organization, said she hopes regulators will look closely at the proposed rates to make sure that insurers aren't using the federal changes as cover to pad their profits.

"They must also be held accountable," she said in a statement.



Opinion

Catherine Rampell

What a \$178 billion gift means for the immigration police state

Funding for ICE is about to skyrocket under Trump's Big Beautiful Bill.

July 8, 2025

Lots of groups will be harmed by President Donald Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill, which recently became his One Big Beautiful Law. Among them: the poor, the young, the math-literate.

But it's also worth assessing who will benefit from the GOP's rearrangement of fiscal priorities. The answer is not only the rich and corporations; it's also America's growing immigration industrial complex.

Trump's new mega-law invests \$178 billion in additional immigration enforcement over the next decade, primarily through new funding to Immigration and Customs Enforcement. To be clear, this is not merely about "border security," which has significant bipartisan appeal. Democrats tried to beef it up last year, though Trump ordered Republican lawmakers not to cooperate. It's largely for more detention centers and boots on the ground within the U.S. interior. This means spending more dollars to round up gardeners, home health aides, grad students, nannies, construction workers, etc.

In other words, the administration is going after your family, neighbors and friends, regardless of how long they've been here, whether they present any "safety" threat or how much they've contributed to their communities.

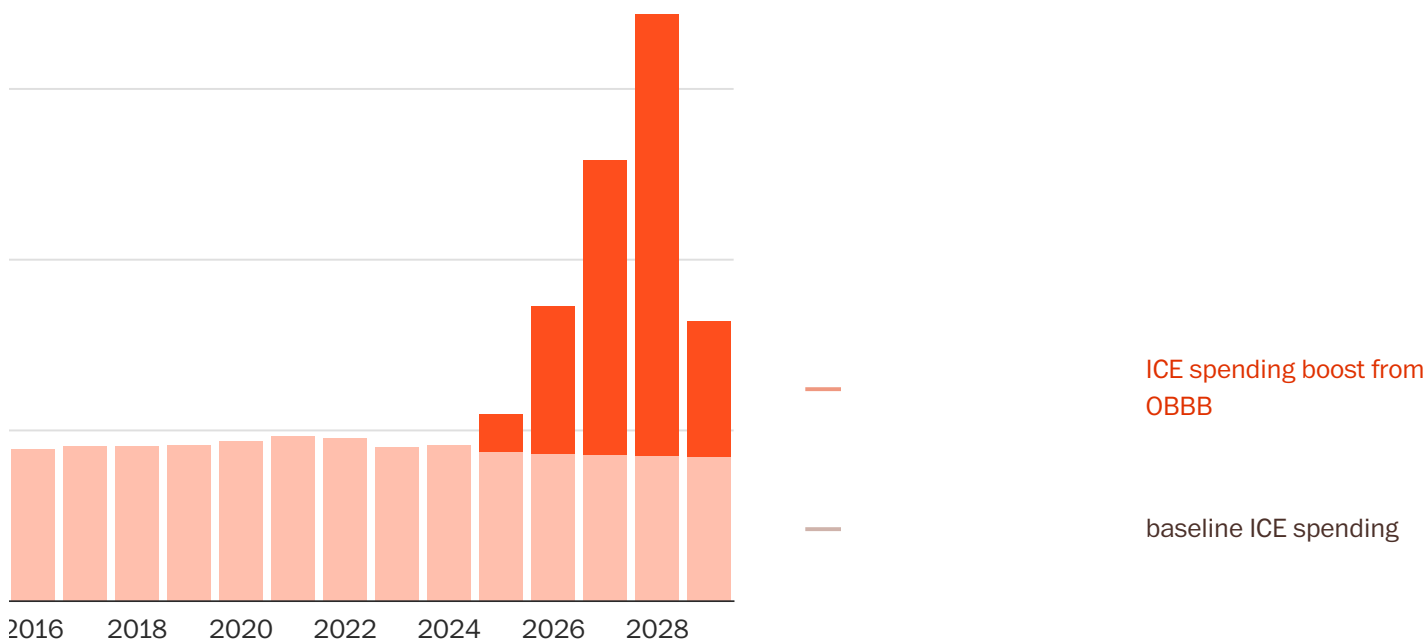
A dollar figure this huge can be challenging to wrap one's arms around. So here are some ways to put it in context:

Trump has some flexibility on when he spends the new money Congress gave him (which comes in addition to the usual annual appropriations that immigration-related agencies receive), but it's reasonable to assume that this year's annual budget for ICE alone will be larger than that for most other law enforcement agencies *combined*. This includes the FBI, Bureau of Prisons, Drug Enforcement Administration and Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

ICE spending this year will also be larger than most other countries' military budgets.

Big Beautiful Bill dramatically increased funding for ICE agents

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement personnel budget authority



Analysis assumes two months' worth of funding is needed for FY2025. Assumes the rest of the money is obligated over Trump's term (and therefore continues partway through January 2029), at same ramp-up rate in CBO's score of the Senate version of the bill. Figures are adjusted for inflation and population growth.

Source: Bobby Kogan, CBO, DHS

Funding for ICE agents specifically is expected to quadruple in the last year of Trump's second term, according to estimates from Bobby Kogan, a former Senate budget staffer and researcher at the Center for American Progress.

As former president Joe Biden has often said, "Show me your budget, and I'll tell you what you value." Today, American values point in one direction: expanding the immigration police state.

What might these new investments mean in practice? ICE, with the help of law enforcement personnel seconded from other federal, state and local agencies, has already sown terror across the country with far fewer resources. Agents have descended upon big cities and small town America alike, often masked, armed and refusing to show warrants or identification. With daily arrest quotas to meet, agents are filling detention centers not with criminals and gangbangers, but people with no criminal history whatsoever.

In fact while the number of convicted criminals held in ICE detention is about 1.6 times what it was before Trump took office, the number of detainees with zero criminal convictions or charges is up nearly 14-fold, according to government data analyzed by Syracuse University researcher Austin Kocher.

Turns out, maintaining a massive immigration police state is expensive. ICE has been burning through cash and running low on funds. Meanwhile, ICE agents are still not meeting their daily quotas, and the potential pool of people they could be snatching off the streets and jamming into overcrowded detention centers is rapidly expanding.

That's because Trump is not merely siccing immigration forces upon those who had been undocumented (with or without criminal records). Under the stewardship of Deputy Chief of Staff Stephen Miller, this administration has also been working to "de-document" hundreds of thousands of immigrants who are here *legally*.

These include Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans who came in with advanced permission under a Biden-era program, after undergoing onerous screening abroad and securing a sponsor here in the United States. It also includes Hondurans and Nicaraguans who had been living and working in the United States legally for decades, as Trump announced on Monday. Some of our Afghan allies, including many who supported U.S. military efforts at great personal risk to themselves and their families, are in the crosshairs as well. As are some Ukrainians and many, many others.

Many of these policies have been challenged in court and have either been paused or otherwise not yet taken effect. But the administration is charging ahead anyway. The Justice Department recently announced plans to prioritize revoking citizenship from naturalized U.S. citizens. After a recent Supreme Court ruling, the administration is also still trying to strip birthright citizenship from babies born in the United States, including those born to both undocumented and many authorized immigrant parents. At least in some U.S. states, this could create a new class of potentially stateless, undocumented infants, who are also at risk of deportation.

Perhaps it's no wonder, then, that ICE needs all those funds. Have you seen the price of cribs these days?

What readers are saying

The comments express significant concern and criticism over the increased funding for immigration enforcement under Trump's administration. Many commenters view this as a move towards creating a police state, with comparisons to historical authoritarian regimes. There is a strong... [Show more](#)

This summary is AI-generated. AI can make mistakes and this summary is not a replacement for reading the comments.

[FYI] ADU Grant Program - Round 1 Information Session 07/29

From Wolflink - DOLA, Jack <jack.wolflink@state.co.us>

Date Fri 7/11/2025 4:40 PM

Cc Mitch Hendrick - DOLA <mitch.hendrick@state.co.us>; Nicola <nicola.donaven@state.co.us>

This sender is trusted.

DOLA has released [Guidelines](#) for the [Accessory Dwelling Unit Grant \(ADUG\) Program](#) and will host an [informational webinar](#) at **1:00 PM on Tuesday, July 29** for those interested in learning more about the program goals and application process.

The ADUG Program provides grants to accessory dwelling unit ([ADU](#)) [Supportive Jurisdictions](#) for activities that promote the construction of ADUs. **The first funding cycle opens on Friday, August 1 and closes on Friday, August 29.** Approximately \$1.6 million in grant funds are available for this cycle. A second application cycle is planned for winter 2025-2026, and a third application cycle may be scheduled depending on the availability of funds. Please note that applicants must be certified as an ADU Supportive Jurisdiction prior to contract execution.

DOLA thanks all entities which submitted feedback to the Draft Program Guidelines, and has integrated your insights as much as possible into these final guidelines.

Sincerely,

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Jack Wolflink
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Community Development Office

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Sign up for the [CDO newsletter](#) and [DLG newsletter](#).

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