

WELCOMING 62

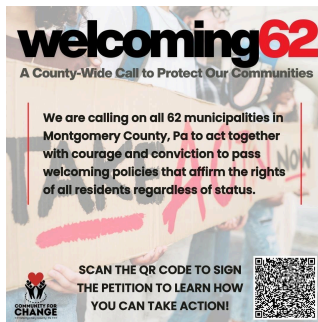
Make Montco Safe for Immigrants

Township and Borough District Welcoming Policy Campaign

Produced by Indivisible Greater Jenkintown
Please direct updates to ewechterman@gmail.com

We are calling on all 62 municipalities (townships and boroughs) in Montgomery County to enact welcoming policies that protect our neighbors and friends from ICE and Federal overreach. **Please sign and share this petition.**

[Petition Link Here](#)



Introduction

Montgomery County is home to nearly 100,000 immigrants, accounting for 11% of the population. These are our neighbors, friends, coworkers, and colleagues. Increased efforts by the federal government, through ICE raids and other tactics, to detain, remove, and deport individuals across our county are wreaking havoc on these communities. Families are being torn apart, children are being deprived of parental care, and the economic fallout in our communities is severe. We can do something to stop this.

Each of the 62 townships or boroughs in Montgomery County controls its police department and township offices. We need policies in place that prevent cooperation with ICE, except where required by law. We are not asking our township leaders to break any rules; we are asking them to enact Welcoming Policies and not to go above and beyond the law in helping ICE track, detain, and remove people without due process.

We are sharing model policies, prepared by the ACLU of Pennsylvania, for Township Commissioners, Borough Presidents, Mayors, and others to adopt. These policies help keep our immigrant families safe and send a message that we will not allow the wanton disregard of due process and constitutionally established procedures in our township or borough.

Read this [article from the Inquirer](#) to understand how the lack of such policies impacts individuals in our community. [This article describes how Ambler has recently adopted such policies.](#) Learn more about the county-wide effort in this article. Read [here](#) to learn how the Township Campaign interacts with efforts at the County level.

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What You Can Do in Your Township or Borough

Here are the **steps** we need you to take to begin action in your Township or Borough.

1. Identify Your Borough or Township Government

Townships and Boroughs in PA have different forms of government. Typically, a borough has an elected council and an elected mayor. Townships typically have elected Ward Commissioners and a Township Manager, whom the Commissioners hire. Find your community's governance information here:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1kM23TkZ733bkGAPFJo_8C3ZhpMOqcPpAOWfK Ump_HQw/edit?tab=t.0

2. Contact (Call or email) your Township Ward Commissioner or Borough Councilor to determine if they have taken steps to address ICE activity in your community.

Sample script: *Hello, my name is _____, and I live at _____.* *I am concerned about the increased presence of ICE in our community. Can you explain the policies our community has in place to ensure that employees do not cooperate with ICE, except as required by law?*

If they claim to have addressed the issue, ask them to send you the relevant policies. If they say they have not yet done so, inform them that you will be sending them a sample for their consideration.

3. Send the Sample Policy to your Town/Borough leaders

Using the sample email and attachments linked below, send an email to your Township or Borough leaders asking them to consider these policy changes. Note that you can be most effective by sending it to all of the Commissioners and Councilors in your community, not just your particular Ward Representative.

[Sample Email Letter to Township/Borough Leaders](#)

[Sample Township and Borough Policies](#)

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[Sample Statement issued by Abington Township](#)

[Example of Policies Instituted by the Municipality of Norristown](#)

[Memorandum Issued By Ambler](#)

[Policies enacted by the Township of West Norriton](#)

[Public Statement from Springfield Township](#)

[Resolution Enacted in Cheltenham Township](#)

[Statement from Upper Moreland Township](#)

4. Attend a meeting to request that leadership act on these policies.

Find out ([here](#)) when your Township Commissioners or Borough Councilors meet and the procedures for offering public comments. (Most communities have two opportunities for public comment: one for issues on the agenda for that specific meeting and a second for more general comments. You want to speak during the general comments period. Comments can often be made both in person and online.)

When you attend the meeting, ask your community's leaders to consider implementing the sample policies you have submitted to them (Bring additional copies with you to give to them). Use or adapt the following script:

Script for meetings: *My name is _____ and I live at _____ . I am deeply concerned about the increased ICE activity in our area. Our immigrant neighbors - hard-working friends, neighbors, and community members - currently fear for their families and their livelihood. You can help them feel safer by enacting policies that will make _____ (name of Town) a Welcoming Community. I know you can't keep ICE from our streets, but you can prevent Town/Borough personnel from helping them beyond what the law requires. The ACLU of Pennsylvania has drafted these policies to work within our jurisdiction. I also recognize that enacting these policies carries some risk. The federal government has threatened to withhold funding from institutions that do not comply with its wishes. As a township resident, I want you to know that I support you in this effort and that we are willing to share the responsibility of keeping our neighbors safe.*

I request your immediate attention to these issues. Thank you.

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Reach out to an immigrant rights organization, such as PIC or a PIC member, to collaborate on their efforts. <https://www.paimmigrant.org/membership-county-directory>

5. **Follow up.** Call or email them the following week to ask whether they have yet adopted the policies. If not, ask what their specific plans are to deal with them. Keep calling every week until they do.
6. **Ask your friends and neighbors to join you in this campaign and share these materials with them.**
7. **If your community's leaders resist your efforts or provide excuses for not taking these steps (and they probably will), continue to lobby.** [Here is a sample letter](#) that addresses some of the issues we have heard from Township Managers and Police Chiefs who are reluctant to act.

[Check this document for other ways to help](#)