
JOLIET TOWNSHIP
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE
NO. 421-2026

AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE USE OF TOWNSHIP PROPERTY FOR CIVIL
IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PROTECTING TOWNSHIP DATA
SYSTEMS

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STATE OF ILLINOIS)
COUNTY OF WILL) SS.
TOWN OF JOLIET)

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AN ORDINANCE RESTRICTING THE USE OF TOWNSHIP PROPERTY FOR CIVIL IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES AND PROTECTING TOWNSHIP DATA SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, Joliet Township, Will County, State of Illinois (the “Township”) is a duly organized and existing township and a unit of local government organized under the laws of the State of Illinois and is operating under the provisions of the Illinois Township Code, 60 ILCS 1/1-1, et seq., and all laws amendatory thereto; and

WHEREAS, Section 85-10 of the Township Code (60 ILCS 1/85-10) grants every township the corporate capacity to exercise the powers granted to it, or necessarily implied, including the power to acquire and hold property for the use of its inhabitants and to sell and convey that property; and

WHEREAS, Section 30-50 of the Township Code (60 ILCS 1/30-50) authorizes the Township to make orders for the purchase, sale, conveyance, regulation, or use of the Township’s corporate property; and

WHEREAS, Section 80-10 of the Township Code (60 ILCS 1/80-10) authorizes the Township Board to examine and audit township accounts and to adopt resolutions governing the administration of Township affairs; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois TRUST Act (5 ILCS 805/1, et seq.), as amended, prohibits local governmental agencies from participating in, supporting, or assisting in any capacity with an immigration agent’s enforcement operations, including any collateral assistance or any other on-site support, and does not permit immigration agents use of agency facilities or equipment for immigration enforcement purposes; and

WHEREAS, the Illinois TRUST Act further provides that no local governmental agency shall condition the provision of services to any individual on such individual’s citizenship or immigration status; and

WHEREAS, Section 85-14 of the Township Code (60 ILCS 1/85-14) provides that a township official may not prohibit an organization from receiving township funds based upon the perceived citizenship or immigration status of the person who would receive those funds from the organization; and

WHEREAS, Joliet Township is home to a diverse population, and residents throughout the Township have expressed concerns about the scale and methods of federal immigration enforcement, including reports of due process violations and the unauthorized use of publicly owned property as staging areas for civil immigration enforcement operations in communities throughout the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the unauthorized use of the Township’s resources, property, or personnel to facilitate civil immigration enforcement actions interferes with the Township’s authority over, and its use of, its own resources, property, and personnel; and

WHEREAS, Joliet Township does not operate a law enforcement agency and has no authority to enforce federal civil immigration laws, making the restriction of Township property from such use a matter of property management within the Township’s existing corporate powers; and

WHEREAS, building and maintaining a community that treats all persons, regardless of their citizenship status or country of origin, with respect and dignity is in line with the public policy of the Township and the principles upon which the United States and the State of Illinois were founded; and

WHEREAS, the Township Board finds it necessary and in the best interests of the Township and its residents to adopt regulations that restrict the use of Township-owned property for civil immigration enforcement operations and to protect Township data systems from unauthorized use for such purposes.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Joliet Township, Will County, Illinois, as follows:

ARTICLE I – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 1-1. Recitals.

The above recitals and findings are found to be true and correct and are incorporated herein and made a part hereof, as if fully set forth in their entirety.

Section 1-2. Title.

This Ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the “Joliet Township Property Protection and Civil Immigration Enforcement Restriction Ordinance.”

Section 1-3. Purpose.

The purpose of this Ordinance is to: (a) restrict the use of Township-owned and controlled property for civil immigration enforcement activities; (b) protect Township data systems from unauthorized access for civil immigration enforcement purposes; (c) establish procedures for documenting and reporting any attempted or actual violations; (d) designate and clearly label public and non-public areas of Township property; and (e) ensure compliance with the Illinois TRUST Act (5 ILCS 805/1, et seq.) and all applicable State and federal law.

Section 1-4. Applicability.

This Ordinance applies to all Township-owned and controlled property and to all Township officials, employees, and agents. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to apply to private property or property not owned or controlled by the Township.

ARTICLE II – DEFINITIONS

Section 2-1. Definitions.

The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this Ordinance, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section:

“Civil Immigration Enforcement” means the enforcement of federal civil immigration laws, including but not limited to the apprehension, detention, removal, or investigation of individuals based on their actual or suspected immigration status. Civil Immigration Enforcement does not include the enforcement of criminal law or actions taken pursuant to a valid criminal warrant issued by a court of competent jurisdiction.

“Department” means any office, division, or operational unit of Joliet Township, including but not limited to: the Supervisor’s Office, the Clerk’s Office, the Assessor’s Office, the Road District, General Assistance, and any other department or program administered by the Township.

“Human Resources Director” means the Township official or employee responsible for personnel administration, or such other person designated by the Township Supervisor to perform human resources functions.

“Operations Base” means a location used to coordinate, manage, direct, or otherwise oversee Civil Immigration Enforcement activities.

“Processing Location” means any area where individuals or materials are checked, identified, documented, or otherwise processed in connection with Civil Immigration Enforcement operations.

“Staging Area” means any area that is used to assemble, mobilize, debrief, or deploy personnel, vehicles, equipment, or materials, for any purpose arising out of or related to Civil Immigration Enforcement operations.

“Township Property” means any structure, building, parking lot, park, open space, adjacent land, or other item of real or personal property that is owned by, operated by, leased to, or otherwise controlled by the Township, but excluding public rights-of-way.

ARTICLE III – RESTRICTION ON USE OF TOWNSHIP PROPERTY

Section 3-1. Prohibition on Use of Township Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement.

No Township Property shall be used as a Staging Area, Processing Location, Operations Base, detention area, or for any other function or purpose arising out of or related to Civil Immigration Enforcement. This prohibition applies to all Township Property.

Section 3-2. Prohibited Activities.

Without limiting the generality of Section 3-1, the following activities are expressly prohibited on Township Property:

- (a) Assembling, mobilizing, debriefing, or deploying personnel, vehicles, equipment, or materials for Civil Immigration Enforcement operations;

- (b) Using Township Property as a location for the apprehension, detention, or processing of any individual in connection with Civil Immigration Enforcement;
- (c) Establishing or operating a command post, checkpoint, or surveillance position for Civil Immigration Enforcement purposes;
- (d) Parking or staging vehicles bearing the insignia or markings of any federal agency engaged in Civil Immigration Enforcement, when such vehicles are being used for Civil Immigration Enforcement purposes; and
- (e) Any other use of Township Property that directly facilitates or supports Civil Immigration Enforcement operations.

Section 3-3. Exceptions.

This Article shall not be deemed or interpreted as:

- (a) Restricting or interfering with the execution of lawful criminal warrants issued by a court of competent jurisdiction, or the enforcement of criminal law;
- (b) Limiting the rights of any person or entity under State or federal law;
- (c) Prohibiting the lawful use of Township Property for purposes unrelated to Civil Immigration Enforcement;
- (d) Interfering with any existing lease, license, or agreement to which the Township is a party; or
- (e) Restricting the Township or its employees from complying with Civil Immigration Enforcement operations as required by a valid criminal judicial warrant issued by a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction, or as otherwise required by State or federal law, or by an order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 3-4. Administrative Warrants, Detainers, and Requests.

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to require or authorize any Township official, employee, or agent to honor, comply with, or take action based upon any administrative warrant, immigration detainer, notification request, or other directive issued by a federal immigration agency that is not supported by a criminal judicial warrant issued by a state or federal court of competent jurisdiction. For purposes of this Section, an administrative warrant includes, but is not limited to, any warrant or order of removal, deportation, or arrest issued by an immigration officer or agency and not signed by a judge or magistrate of a court. Township employees presented with any such document shall promptly notify their immediate supervisor, who shall notify the Township Supervisor and the Town Clerk as soon as practicable.

ARTICLE IV – SIGNAGE AND PHYSICAL SECURITY

Section 4-1. Signage Authority.

The Township Supervisor may, in his or her discretion, cause to be posted signage at any or all Township Property locations to provide notice of the restrictions established by this Ordinance. Such signage may include, but is not limited to, notices stating that Township Property may not be used for civil immigration enforcement activities. The Township Supervisor shall determine the

content, design, placement, and languages of any such signage, taking into consideration the needs of the community served by the Township.

Section 4-2. Physical Security Measures.

Where available and appropriate, the Township Supervisor may direct that physical barriers, such as locked gates, key-card access, or other reasonable security measures, be implemented to limit unauthorized access to Township Property consistent with this Ordinance.

Section 4-3. No Mandate.

Nothing in this Article shall be construed to require the Township to post signage or install physical security measures as a condition of enforcing the restrictions established by this Ordinance. The absence of signage or physical barriers at any Township Property location shall not affect the validity or enforceability of this Ordinance.

Section 4-4. Costs.

Any costs associated with the procurement and installation of signage or physical security measures under this Article shall be paid from the Township's general fund or such other funds as the Township Board may designate.

ARTICLE V – PROTECTION OF TOWNSHIP DATA SYSTEMS

Section 5-1. Prohibition on Data Sharing for Civil Immigration Enforcement.

No Township employee, official, or agent shall enter into or renew any agreement providing direct access to any electronic database, records management system, or other data-sharing platform maintained by the Township to:

- (a) Any agency or agent thereof, if the purpose of such access is for Civil Immigration Enforcement; or
- (b) Any third party or parties, unless all such parties certify that the information in such databases or data-sharing platforms will not be used for Civil Immigration Enforcement purposes or knowingly disseminated to any other party for any purpose related to Civil Immigration Enforcement.

Section 5-2. Exceptions to Data Restrictions.

Nothing in this Article shall restrict the Township or its employees from:

- (a) Providing documentation responsive to a request pursuant to the Illinois Freedom of Information Act (5 ILCS 140/1, et seq.);
- (b) Inquiring from applicants for employment about their authorization to lawfully work in the United States, as required by federal law;
- (c) Performing or refusing to perform any other act, when doing so is required by State statute, federal statute or regulation, or an order of a court of competent jurisdiction; or
- (d) Sharing data with other governmental entities for purposes unrelated to Civil Immigration Enforcement.

ARTICLE VI – DOCUMENTATION AND REPORTING

Section 6-1. Employee Reporting Obligation.

Any Township employee, official, or agent who becomes aware of the attempted or actual use of Township Property for Civil Immigration Enforcement in violation of this Ordinance shall, without endangering themselves or others, report the incident as soon as practicable to their immediate supervisor. The supervisor shall promptly notify the Township Supervisor and the Town Clerk. Where it is not practicable to report to their immediate supervisor, including where the immediate supervisor is the subject of the reported violation, such Township employee, official, or agent shall notify the Township Supervisor and the Town Clerk directly.

Section 6-2. Documentation Requirements.

The Township Supervisor and the Town Clerk are directed to document, in writing, information pertinent to each alleged violation of this Ordinance, including but not limited to:

- (a) The date, time, and location of the alleged violation;
- (b) A description of the activities observed;
- (c) The identity of any federal agency or agents involved, to the extent known;
- (d) The names of any Township employees who witnessed or reported the incident;
- (e) Any documentation presented by federal agents, including warrants or other legal process; and
- (f) Any photographs, video, or other evidence, to the extent safely obtainable.

Section 6-3. Reporting to Township Board.

The Township Supervisor shall provide a timely report of each alleged violation to the Township Board of Trustees at the next regular or special meeting following the incident, for consideration of appropriate legal or other enforcement action. The Township Board may direct the Township Attorney to pursue any available legal remedies to enforce this Ordinance.

Section 6-4. Anonymous Reporting.

Township employees may submit reports of alleged violations anonymously. No Township employee shall be subject to retaliation, discipline, or adverse action for making a good-faith report under this Article.

ARTICLE VII – COMMUNITY RESOURCES

Section 7-1. Know Your Rights Materials.

Where available and appropriate, the Township Supervisor may make available to the public, in English, Spanish, and any other languages deemed appropriate, informational materials regarding the rights of individuals when approached by federal agents, including but not limited to: the right to remain silent, the right to refuse entry without a judicial warrant, and the right to legal representation. Such materials shall be made available at all Township buildings and on the Township's website, if any.

Section 7-2. Community Referral Resources.

Where available and appropriate, the Township Supervisor may maintain and make available to the public a current list of legal aid organizations, immigrant rights hotlines, and community resources for individuals and families affected by federal immigration enforcement, including the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (ICIRR) Family Support Network Hotline (855-435-7693) or its successor.

ARTICLE VIII – EMPLOYEE ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Section 8-1. Acknowledgment Form.

The Office of the Town Clerk shall prepare and maintain a Certificate of Acknowledgment form whereby Township employees certify that they have read, understand, and agree to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance.

Section 8-2. New Employee Acknowledgment.

All employees hired after the effective date of this Ordinance shall be provided with a copy of this Ordinance and shall submit a signed Certificate of Acknowledgment to the Human Resources Director, or the official designated to perform human resources functions, within **thirty (30) days** of their date of hire.

Section 8-3. Current Employee Acknowledgment.

All employees employed by the Township as of the effective date of this Ordinance shall be provided with a copy of this Ordinance and shall submit a signed Certificate of Acknowledgment to the Human Resources Director, or the official designated to perform human resources functions, within **one hundred twenty (120) days** of the effective date of this Ordinance.

Section 8-4. Compliance Monitoring.

The Human Resources Director, or the official designated to perform human resources functions, shall be responsible for monitoring compliance with this Article, maintaining records of all submitted Certificates of Acknowledgment, and reporting any non-compliance to the Township Supervisor and Town Clerk.

Section 8-5. Retention of Acknowledgment Forms.

All signed Certificates of Acknowledgment shall be retained in the employee's personnel file for the duration of employment and in accordance with the Township's records retention schedule.

ARTICLE IX – COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Section 9-1. Compliance Required.

All Township officials, Department Heads, and employees shall comply with the provisions of this Ordinance. Failure to comply may result in disciplinary action, up to and including termination of employment.

Section 9-2. Department Head Responsibility.

Each Department Head, elected official, or officer in charge of a Department shall be responsible for ensuring compliance with this Ordinance within their Department, including cooperation with signage and designation requirements under Article IV and reporting requirements under Article VI.

Section 9-3. Legal Enforcement.

The Township Board may authorize the Township Attorney or other legal counsel to take any and all legal action necessary to enforce the provisions of this Ordinance, including seeking injunctive relief, filing complaints, or pursuing any other remedy available at law or in equity.

ARTICLE X – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 10-1. Implementation Timeline.

Within thirty (30) days of the effective date of this Ordinance, the Township Supervisor shall:

- (a) Evaluate Township Property for signage and physical security measures pursuant to Article IV;
- (b) Cause any signage deemed appropriate to be posted pursuant to Section 4-1;
- (c) At the Township Supervisor's discretion, make "Know Your Rights" materials and community referral resources available pursuant to Article VII; and;
- (d) Coordinate with the Town Clerk to ensure that all employee acknowledgment procedures under Article VIII are initiated.

Section 10-2. Procedures.

The Township Supervisor and Town Clerk may establish additional administrative procedures, forms, and guidelines as necessary to implement this Ordinance, provided such procedures are consistent with this Ordinance and applicable law.

Section 10-3. Severability.

The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and should any provision of this Ordinance be determined to be in conflict with any law, statute, or regulation by a court of competent jurisdiction, said provision shall be excluded and deemed inoperative, unenforceable, and as though not provided for herein, but such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or applications of this Ordinance that can be given effect without the invalid application or provision.

Section 10-4. No Creation of Duty of Care.

Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to guarantee the safety of any individual, nor shall this Ordinance be construed to impose any duty of care, special relationship, or liability on Joliet Township, its officials, employees, officers, or agents.

Section 10-5. Repealer.

All ordinances, resolutions, rules, and orders, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby superseded and repealed.

Section 10-6. Effective Date.

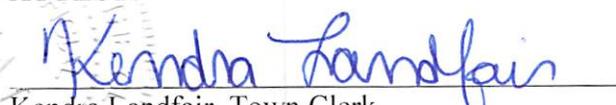
This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Joliet Township, Will County, State of Illinois.

PASSED by the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Joliet Township, Will County, Illinois, this 10th day of March 2026, pursuant to a roll call vote, as follows:

	YES	NO	ABSENT	ABSTAIN
Trustee Adamowski	✓			
Trustee Bibian	✓			
Trustee Gavin	✓			
Trustee Washington	✓			
Supervisor Guerrero	✓			
TOTAL:	5			

APPROVED by the Joliet Township Board, Will County, Illinois, on this 10th day of March 2026.


Cesar Guerrero, Township Supervisor

ATTEST:

Kendra Landfair, Town Clerk

