

# Early Arrival: Civil Rights Group Sue County Over Sending ICE Voter Data

Monday's Edition of Early Arrival: Groups Sue County for Sharing Voter Data with ICE — Immigrants Deported Without Day in Court — Safe Third Country Agreement

A coalition of civil rights groups and voter advocacy organizations filed a **lawsuit on Friday** to block Rensselaer County from **sharing voter registration data with Immigration and Customs Enforcement**.

Republicans in Rensselaer County said last week that the county Board of Elections planned on sharing voter information with ICE to see if **any registered voters were undocumented**. Democratic lawmakers in the county opposed the move.

The measure is considered **backlash by local Republicans** against the passage of the Green Light bill, which grants undocumented immigrants in New York the ability to get driver's licenses. There is also a push to make Troy a sanctuary jurisdiction.

The Green Light bill goes into effect in December and **prevents ICE from accessing driver's license application records**. However, county Boards of Elections are not specifically barred from sharing information.

The plaintiffs in the lawsuit argue that **referring voter registration data will have a chilling effect on voter registration** at the DMV, particularly for U.S. citizens from families with mixed immigration statuses. Republicans argue that the **license law could lead to voter fraud** and said the ICE check would act as a deterrent.

The groups in the suit include the New York Immigration Coalition, the New York chapter of Common Cause, Community Voices Heard, and Citizen Action of New York and are representing Jenifer Benn, an eligible voter from the county who says she is now fearful of voting.

Rensselaer County Clerk Frank Merola has separately filed a lawsuit against the state claiming he would not abide by the new law as it **conflicts with his duty to uphold the law**.

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