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Shrivastava: Sanctuary cities: weighing the pros and cons – A Boston viewpoint

OCTOBER 22, 2024 BY [GUEST COMMENTARY](#)

Aditya Shrivastava, The Governor's Academy

Boston, with its varied demographic and lengthy tradition of immigration policy debates, is no different from any other sanctuary city. Sanctuary cities, like Boston, frequently restrict the collaboration of local law enforcement with federal immigration authorities, providing legal protections for unauthorized immigrants. Opinions on these policies tend to be strongly divided, but in a city like Boston—which has a reputation for being both an economic powerhouse and a symbol of exclusion and inclusion throughout history—the discussion takes on added significance. The benefits and drawbacks of sanctuary city legislation must be carefully considered considering Boston's ongoing transformation.

The Financial Benefits of Sanctuary Cities: The immigrant population in Boston significantly contributes to the city's economy. The Boston Planning & Development Agency reports that immigrants comprise approximately 29% of the city's employment, with contributions in sectors such as construction, healthcare, technology, and hospitality. To keep the city competitive on a national and global scale, many immigrants fill jobs that are difficult to staff locally. Immigrants' diverse ideas

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workforce, sanctuary policies are crucial to the local economy, as this data shows.

Immigrant communities and law enforcement can work together more effectively thanks to sanctuary city regulations like Boston, which promote public safety. Local law enforcement agencies can better ensure the safety of their communities and put an end to deportation fears by restricting their cooperation with federal immigration authorities. Michael Cox, former commissioner of police in Boston, has noted that when people are not afraid of deportation, immigrants—regardless of their legal status—are more inclined to cooperate with authorities and report crimes. Maintaining Boston as a safe haven for all of its citizens depends on this confidence. Contrary to popular belief, cities that have sanctuary policies actually have lower crime rates compared to those without. This disproves the idea that undocumented immigrants are to blame for the heightened crime rate.

Humanitarian Principles: The sanctuary measures enacted by the city of Boston demonstrate its dedication to principles of humanitarianism. By protecting unauthorized immigrants, Boston ensures that everyone receives decency and respect. Boston's past as a haven for individuals seeking safety and opportunity has shaped its larger identity, aligning with these principles. Regardless of their immigration status, Boston welcomes immigrants as valuable contributors to the city's future, as Mayor Michelle Wu has highlighted.

Debate about sanctuary cities are often characterized by judicial and political controversy. For example, Boston's sanctuary city status has faced judicial challenges. Boston and other "sanctuary cities" are under fire from those who believe they are breaking the law by not cooperating with federal immigration agents. Federal officials have threatened to withdraw financing as a result of the legal dispute between the federal government and local governments, which has heightened tensions and raised the prospect of financial repercussions. The Trump administration made such an attempt in 2017 against Boston, but it failed. The risk of losing federal funding is still something that local officials are worried about.

Some individuals express concern that sanctuary policies attract individuals with criminal records, even though their stated objective is to enhance community safety by encouraging immigrants to collaborate with law enforcement. While regional crime data refutes this assumption, it remains prevalent in certain neighborhoods and has the potential to intensify already existing tensions. Some Bostonians worry about the possible dangers posed by sanctuary rules, even though statistics from the Boston Police Department reveal that immigrants are not a major factor in crime rates. If we want people to continue to have faith in these measures, we must address them.

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worry that immigrants demands for public services will outstrip available resources. City officials continue to face the delicate challenge of balancing these requirements with the broader population.

In summary, Boston's sanctuary city status demonstrates the intricate intertwining of economic development, public safety, humanitarian principles, and the law. While sanctuary policies provide a sense of community trust and safety, immigrants make substantial economic and cultural contributions to the city. However, these rules also bring up issues of public safety, resource allocation, and potential legal conflicts. Being a sanctuary city is complicated, but Boston is at the forefront of the immigration discourse on a national level.

To build a future where all people, regardless of immigrant status, can prosper, it is crucial for Bostonians to understand the pros and cons of these policies.

Aditya Shrivastava is a Lynnfield resident and junior at The Governor's Academy in Byfield, MA. He is doing research as part of his AP Stat course about correlation between self-advocacy and mental health problems among teenagers.



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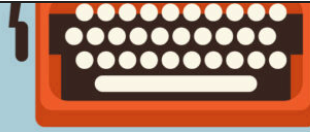
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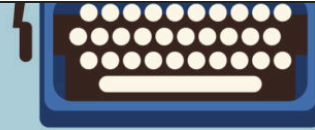
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HAUNT FEST promises thrilling Halloween experiences

By Adam Levler
Lynnfield News Staff

Lynnfield residents are looking forward to the annual Halloween event, which is held at the town's historic school building, 20 to 25 years ago. The event is a celebration of the town's history and culture, and it is a great way for residents to get together and enjoy the night.

The event is held at the town's historic school building, which is a great example of the town's architecture. The building is a two-story structure with a red brick facade and a white roof. It has a large front porch with a white railing and a small bell tower on the right side. The building is surrounded by trees and a lawn, and it is a great place for a community event.

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A Night of Hope in Lynnfield

By Adam Levler
Lynnfield News Staff

The town of Lynnfield is a great place to live, and it is a great way for residents to get together and enjoy the night. The event is held at the town's historic school building, which is a great example of the town's architecture. The building is a two-story structure with a red brick facade and a white roof. It has a large front porch with a white railing and a small bell tower on the right side. The building is surrounded by trees and a lawn, and it is a great place for a community event.

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