

Syracuse City Auditor Alexander Marion, MPA

Washington Worries

How recent federal policy changes are impacting the City of Syracuse

IMMIGRATION

- **Refugee Resettlement Cuts:** Federal funding cancellations led to local job losses at agencies like InterFaith Works and Catholic Charities, resulting in more than 60 job losses.

- **SNAP Eligibility Loss:** Over 5,100 new Americans will lose food assistance at recertification, including more than 2,500 living on Syracuse's Northside.

- **ICE Operations & Community Impact:** Aggressive enforcement and lack of coordination with local police create instability for local employers, healthcare facilities, and union workers.

I-81 PROJECT

- **$30 Million Grant Cancelled:** The One Big Beautiful Bill Act rescinded unobligated Neighborhood Access and Equity funds, stripping critical city infrastructure funding.

- **Unfunded Local Needs:** The rescission leaves the city without funds for planned sidewalks, streetlights, and parks around the new street grid.

- **Local Hiring Challenges:** Federal rule adjustments led the state to drop union-hiring requirements on major contracts, threatening local workers.

INFLATION

- **Spiking Fuel Expenses:** Driven by global oil disruptions, fuel prices rose more than $1.00/gallon year-over-year, increasing operational costs for police, fire, and plow fleets.

- **Sales Tax Distortion:** While higher prices temporarily boost city sales tax collections, persistent inflation squeezes household budgets and risks slowing consumer spending

- **Rising Purchasing Costs:** Inflation and tariffs may impact major city purchases, including, road salt.

HOW WE MOVE FORWARD

- **Restore Federal Infrastructure Funding:** Urge Congress to reinstate the $30 million in rescinded funding to rebuild neighborhood streets around I-81.

- **Coordinate Local Food Security:** Partner city government with county agencies and non-profits to address food access gaps for families losing SNAP.



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