



RESOLUTION

Close Delaney Hall: Stop the Cruelty to Detainees and Families December 1, 2025

WHEREAS, Delaney Hall in Newark, New Jersey, detains individuals under a 15-year contract between U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the private, for-profit corporation GEO Group; and

WHEREAS, immigrants across New Jersey are being apprehended by masked and heavily armed agents, taken into custody, and transferred to detention facilities such as Delaney Hall, effectively disappearing from their families and communities; and

WHEREAS, numerous reports from advocacy organizations, former detainees, and visiting families have documented inhumane and degrading conditions at Delaney Hall, including but not limited to severe overcrowding, inadequate medical and mental health care, poor nutrition, unsanitary living conditions, prolonged isolation, poor ventilation, and the requirement that detainees work for minimal compensation to obtain essential hygiene items such as soap, toothpaste, and sanitary products; and

WHEREAS, the harm at Delaney Hall extends to the families and loved ones of those detained, who endure excessive wait times, arbitrary denials of entry at the discretion of guards, degrading treatment, invasive searches, inadequate waiting facilities, and disrespectful conduct from staff; and

WHEREAS, the facility enforces an unduly restrictive and discriminatory dress code that prohibits women from wearing sandals, shorts, leggings, or sleeveless t-shirts, leading to many being unjustly turned away for attire deemed “inappropriate” despite being entirely suitable; and

WHEREAS, visitors, including children and elderly relatives, are frequently forced to wait outdoors for extended periods in extreme heat, thunderstorms, or torrential rain, standing beside a metal fence without shelter or regard for their safety; and

WHEREAS, such conditions and practices inflict unnecessary emotional and psychological trauma, punishing families, especially children who simply seek to maintain human contact with their loved ones; and

WHEREAS, detainees held at Delaney Hall are in civil, not criminal, proceedings, with many being lawful residents or asylum seekers pursuing their legal right to protection, yet they endure conditions harsher and more punitive than those faced by individuals in prison; and

WHEREAS, volunteers from across New Jersey and New York continue to show up at Delaney Hall to provide visiting families with chairs, umbrellas, food, water, and compassion, demonstrating solidarity and humanity where institutions have failed, even as elected officials remain largely silent;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that while Delaney Hall remains open, the League of Women Voters of New Jersey demands immediate reforms to ensure that all individuals in detention and their families are treated with dignity and respect. These reforms must include the establishment of safe and accessible parking areas, humane and respectful treatment of all visitors and detainees, and adequate indoor waiting facilities within Delaney Hall; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the League of Women Voters of New Jersey condemns the continued use of Delaney Hall as an immigration detention facility and calls for its ultimate closure, with all detainees released to their families and communities; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the League of Women Voters of New Jersey **urges Governor Phil Murphy, Senate President Nicholas Scutari, and Assembly Speaker Craig Coughlin to stand with immigrants and working families by supporting passage of the *Immigrant Trust Act* (S3672/A4987)**, which establishes clear limits on state and local cooperation with federal immigration authorities and helps **end the detention-to-deportation pipeline**. The League calls on the Legislature to hold hearings and advance this critical legislation to the Governor's desk without delay.

Respectfully submitted,

The League of Women Voters of New Jersey