

# Toolkit:

Opposing CoreCivic's ICE  
Detention Facility in  
Leavenworth, Kansas

## Purpose

To inform, equip, and mobilize Kansans to oppose the reopening of the former CoreCivic-operated Leavenworth Detention Center as an ICE facility, and to resist private, for-profit immigrant detention anywhere in our state by creating community defense strategies and systems.

## Who We Are

We are a united coalition of faith leaders, civil rights advocates, immigrant justice organizers, and community members working together to oppose CoreCivic's presence and operations in Leavenworth. Rooted in the shared belief that human dignity is non-negotiable, our coalition includes the Office of Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) of the Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth, Kansas Interfaith Action, American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) Kansas, Advocates for Immigrants Rights and Reconciliation (AIRR), the Cross-Border Network for Justice and Solidarity, and the New American Community.

Together, we represent diverse traditions and communities, yet we are bound by a common moral imperative to dismantle systems of incarceration-for-profit and resist the expansion of private prison corporations that profit from the detention and suffering of vulnerable populations.

Our coalition is committed to advocacy, education, and direct action that uplifts the voices of those most impacted.



## **Fast Facts About CoreCivic**

What is CoreCivic?

A for-profit prison corporation formerly known as Corrections Corporation of America (CCA). Operates private prisons and immigration detention centers across the U.S.

Track Record:

- Facility closures due to unsafe conditions (e.g., Leavenworth, 2021).
- Sued for forced labor and wrongful deaths.
- Multiple reports of medical neglect, abuse, and understaffing.
- Focused on profit, not public safety or rehabilitation.

## **Why This Matters for Kansas**

- CoreCivic operated the Leavenworth Detention Center until it was shut down in 2021 after reports of chronic mismanagement.
- The company is now attempting to reopen the facility as an ICE detention center and doing so by claiming it does not need a special use permit, undermining local oversight.
- If successful, it sets a precedent for similar facilities statewide.

## Take Action to Keep Kansas Free of CoreCivic

1. Contact Leavenworth City Commissioners
2. Give public comment at City Commission meetings
3. Write a letter to the editor
4. Talk to your neighbors about opposing CoreCivic
5. Take action by staying ready and participating in follow-up actions from grassroots organizations
6. Receive community defense training and commit to being part of the community by participating

## Contact the Leavenworth City Commissioners

### Leavenworth City Commission Contact Information

Holly Pittman <i>Mayor</i>	913-449-8991	holly.pittman@firstcity.org
Nancy Bauder <i>Mayor Pro Tem</i>	913-675-7166	nbauder@firstcity.org
Edd Hingula <i>City Commissioner</i>	913-775-0635	edd.hingula@firstcity.org
Griff Martin <i>City Commissioner</i>		griff.martin@firstcity.org
Jermaine Wilson <i>City Commissioner</i>	913-617-3667	jwilson@firstcity.org

## Give Public Comment at City Commission Meetings

**When:** 2nd & last Tuesday of each month

**Time:** 6:00 PM

**Where:** Leavenworth City Hall, 100 N 5th St, Leavenworth, KS 66048

## Write a Letter to the Editor

### What is a Letter to the Editor?

A letter to the editor is a detailed letter written to the editor of a publication like a newspaper, magazine, journal, or any other media outlet. People often write these letters to share their opinions, highlight issues, or bring attention to a specific topic.

### Tips for Writing a Letter to the Editor

**Use Formal Language:** Since you are writing to an editor, maintain a formal tone throughout the letter. Avoid using slang or informal language.

**Keep It Concise:** To make your letter stand out, keep it short and to the point. Avoid adding unnecessary details.

**Proofread Your Letter:** After writing, read your letter carefully to check for grammatical errors, spelling mistakes, or formatting issues.

**Be Respectful:** Use polite and respectful language. Remember, you want to persuade the editor to publish your letter.

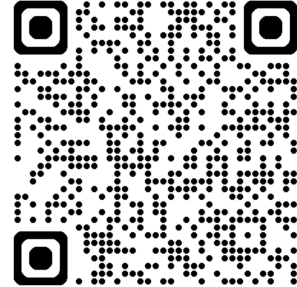
**Focus on the Subject:** Stick to the main issue and avoid going off-topic. Write only what is necessary to convey your message clearly.

**Provide Supporting Details:** If possible, include data, examples, or evidence to back your claims. This makes your letter more credible.

## Resources



History of CoreCivic



Sign The Petition



Sign-Up to Receive  
Community-Defense  
Training