



City of Cambridge

Executive Department

YI-AN HUANG
City Manager

CMA 2025 #251
IN CITY COUNCIL
October 20, 2025

To the Honorable, the City Council:

The City Manager will give a federal update, and the Law Department will provide an update on relevant court cases.

Yi-An Huang
City Manager





**CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
OFFICE OF THE CITY SOLICITOR**

Lawsuits Challenging Federal Actions that Involve the City, or of Special Interest to the City – Sept. 29, 2025 Update

Lawsuit Name	Case No. / Case Citation	Summary of Lawsuit	Status
King County v. Turner	25-3664 (9 th Circuit); 25-cv-00814 (W.D. Wash.)	The City of Cambridge is a plaintiff in this case. Plaintiffs sued Secretary of Transportation, HUD, Secretary of HHS, and HHS for imposing conditions on grants to local governments, including HUD Continuum of Care and DOT grants. The conditions include prohibitions on DEI, "gender ideology," "elective abortions," and aid to immigrants. The imposed conditions threaten over \$12 billion dollars in federal funding. Local governments argue that in imposing conditions on grants, the federal government violates the separation of powers, Spending Clause, the Tenth Amendment, the Due Process Clause (Vagueness), and the Administrative Procedure Act (APA).	Preliminary Injunction entered in favor of local governments on June 3, 2025. The Preliminary Injunction Order has allowed the City to enter into grant agreements with HUD for the Continuum of Care grant funds. Federal government appealed. Appeal pending. Plaintiffs most recent Motion for Preliminary Injunction, asking the Court to order that the conditions do not apply to additional grants, such as CDBG grants, was granted on August 12, 2025. Federal government appealed the August 12 order.
San Francisco v. Trump	25-cv- 01350 (N.D. Cal.)	The City of Cambridge is a plaintiff in this case. Lawsuit to enjoin enforcement of President Trump’s initial Sanctuary Jurisdiction Executive Order (EO). Plaintiffs argue the EO violates the Tenth Amendment, Separation of Powers, Spending Clause, and Due Process Clause.	Preliminary Injunction entered in favor of local governments, ordering that the Federal Government cannot enforce the Sanctuary Jurisdiction EO. Federal Government Appealed. Appeal oral argument scheduled for December 5, 2025. Federal Government’s motion to dismiss hearing scheduled for November 5, 2025. Cambridge added as a plaintiff. Plaintiffs filed a second Motion for Preliminary Injunction asking the Court to prevent the Federal Government from enforcing both Sanctuary Jurisdiction EOs against all of the Plaintiffs and prospective Plaintiffs, including Cambridge. The Court allowed the motion.
California v. United States DOT	25-cv-00208 (D.R.I.)	An order in this case applies to the City of Cambridge. States challenge an April 24, 2025, letter issued by Secretary Duffy, requiring recipients of DOT grants to cooperate with federal immigration enforcement. The letter does not define what constitutes “cooperation.” States allege that the conditions are beyond DOT’s authority.	Preliminary Injunction entered on June 19, 2025 (extended to newly added plaintiffs on July 17, 2025), which protects funding for the states that brought the suit, including Massachusetts, and the local governments in those states, including Cambridge. Motions for summary judgment filed on August 19, 2025.
State of New York v. U.S. Department of Justice (PWORA case)	25-cv-00345 (D.R.I.)	An order in this case applies to the City of Cambridge. States challenged the revocation of various exemptions under the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (PRWORA). PRWORA is part of the federal welfare system and governs the eligibility of noncitizens for public benefits. Several federal agencies issued new requirements requiring recipients of federal funding to be checked for immigration status. This has meant that many undocumented immigrants who previously had access to certain federal benefits under the agency exemptions are no longer exempted. This also means that states administering federal benefit programs are now required to implement verification schemes to verify the status of benefit recipients, even if the programs previously did not require such verification.	On July 30, the federal defendants stipulated they would not enforce the challenged notices against the plaintiff states until September 10, 2025. The federal defendants also stipulated that they would not enforce the notices based on conduct occurring in the plaintiff States prior to September 11, 2025; funds expended in the plaintiff States prior to September 11, 2025; or any other actions taken in reliance on this Stipulation prior to September 11, 2025. Since Massachusetts is a plaintiff, this applies to Cambridge. On September 10, 2025, the Court granted plaintiffs’ motion for preliminary injunction, which applies to Cambridge. On September 23, 2025, plaintiffs filed an amended complaint. Defendants moved to stay the case because of the Federal shutdown. The District Court denied the request.

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Newsom v. Trump	25-3727; 25-5553 (9 th Circuit); 25-cv-04870 (N.D. CA)	<p>The City of Cambridge joined amicus briefs in the District Court and in the Appellate Court.</p> <p>California seeks order prohibiting the Department of Defense from federalizing the CA National Guard and deploying it to conduct domestic law enforcement without meeting statutory requirements.</p>	<p>U.S. District Court ruled that federal deployment of CA National Guard was illegal and violated the 10th amendment. On June 15, 2025, the City of Cambridge joined an amicus brief arguing that the 9th Circuit should not stay the District Court’s ordered temporary relief. On June 19, 2025, the Ninth Circuit stayed the lower court order pending appeal. On October 7, 2025, California requested the Ninth Circuit vacate the June 19th order or grant a motion for an injunction pending appeal.</p> <p>After a three-day bench trial, on September 2, 2025, the District Court ruled that the federal government violated the Posse Comitatus Act when it unlawfully deployed National Guard troops to Los Angeles for immigration enforcement operations. The District Court’s ruling will go into effect on September 12, 2025, and bar “deploying, ordering, instructing, training, or using the National Guard currently deployed in California, and any military troops heretofore deployed in California, to execute the laws, including but not limited to engaging in arrests, apprehensions, searches, seizures, security patrols, traffic control, crowd control, riot control, evidence collection, interrogation, or acting as informants.”</p> <p>On September 2, 2025, plaintiffs moved for a preliminary injunction to enjoin an August 5, 2025 order federalizing and deploying 300 members of California’s National Guard for ninety days and to return control of the California National Guard to Governor Newsom. On September 4, 2025, the 9th Cir. stayed this order pending an appeal by the federal government.</p> <p>The Ninth Circuit scheduled oral argument for October 22, 2025.</p>
Commonwealth of MA v. National Institutes of Health, et al, and other associated cases	25-1343 (1 st Cir.); 25-cv-10338 (D. Mass.)	<p>The City of Cambridge joined an amicus brief in this case.</p> <p>MA argues that cap of 15% reimbursement for all new grants, regardless of the indirect cost needs of the institution, violates the Administrative Procedure Act.</p>	<p>U.S. District Court issued a final judgment enjoining federal government’s 15% cap on reimbursement for all new grants. Federal government appealed. Appeal pending. Oral argument scheduled for November 5, 2025.</p>
President and Fellows of Harvard College v. DHS, et al.	25-1627 (1 st Cir.) 25-cv-11472 (D. Mass.)	<p>The City of Cambridge intends to file an amicus brief in this case.</p> <p>Harvard contests federal government’s revocation of Harvard’s ability to enroll foreign students and otherwise prevent foreign students from enrolling at Harvard.</p>	<p>U.S. District Court entered order enjoining federal government from “implementing, instituting, maintaining, or giving any force or effect” to the federal government’s revocation of Harvard’s ability to enroll foreign students. Court likewise enjoined presidential proclamation barring foreign students destined for Harvard. Federal government appealed. Appeal pending regarding injunction.</p> <p>On August 6, 2025, the federal government stipulated that “the May 22 letter will not be used to revoke Harvard’s SEVP certification or Exchange Visitor Program designation. Defendants are currently following the procedures under 8 C.F.R. §§ 214.3, 214.4 and 22 C.F.R. Part 62.” Harvard did not accept the stipulation. The federal government has moved to dismiss the District Court case.</p>
President and Fellows of Harvard College v. HHS, et al.	25-cv-11048 (D. Mass.)	<p>Harvard case.</p> <p>Harvard contests federal government’s withdrawal of federal funding. Harvard argues that the federal government did not take necessary steps to cancel federal funds.</p>	<p>On September 3, 2025, the District Court ruled that the federal government violated the Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, and the APA when it froze more than \$2.6 billion in Harvard research funding. The ruling vacated the freeze orders and termination notices Harvard received from the federal government and permanently enjoined reimposition of unconstitutional conditions on funding. Parties have until October 17, 2025, to file a status report regarding the filing of a motion to enter final judgment.</p>
United States v. Illinois, Cook County, & Chicago	25-cv-01285 (N.D. Ill.)	<p>Case concerns a similar Welcoming Community Ordinance.</p> <p>Federal government sued Illinois, Cook County, and Chicago seeking declaratory and injunctive relief holding that sanctuary policies violate the Supremacy Clause.</p>	<p>On July 25th, the District Court dismissed the case and upheld the sanctuary policies, including Chicago’s Welcoming Community Ordinance. Local government decisions not to participate in immigration enforcement are protected by the Tenth Amendment and not preempted by federal law. The federal government had until August 22, 2025, to amend its complaint. No amended complaint was filed. The case was dismissed with prejudice on August 26, 2025.</p>

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City of Chicago v. United States Department of Homeland Security	25-cv-05462 (N.D. Ill.)	<p>The City of Boston is a plaintiff in this case.</p> <p>Lawsuit seeks to enjoin federal government from freezing funding under the Securing Cities counterterrorism program (STC) and to require the federal government to process pending and future reimbursement requests pursuant to law. The complaint alleges that DHS is violating the separation of powers, that its actions are ultra vires, and that it is violating the APA.</p>	No significant Court orders in this case.
City of Chelsea v. Trump	25-cv-10442 (D. Mass.)	<p>The Cities of Chelsea and Somerville are plaintiffs in this case.</p> <p>Lawsuit challenges Protecting the American People from Invasion EO and other executive actions related to withholding of federal funds based on immigration policy. The plaintiffs seek to enjoin the federal government from withholding federal funds based on sanctuary policies.</p>	Somerville and Chelsea filed a Motion for Preliminary Injunction. On October 2, 2025, the District Court denied the Motion for Preliminary Injunction holding that the cities failed to demonstrate they would suffer imminent and irreparable harm without injunctive relief.
Vasquez-Perdomo v. Noem	25A169 (Supreme Court) 25-4312 (9 th Cir.); 25-cv-05605-MEMF-SP	<p>The City of Boston has filed an amicus brief in this case.</p> <p>Lawsuit seeks a temporary restraining order to enjoin ICE and CBP from engaging in unconstitutional and unlawful stops of Los Angeles residents during immigration sweeps. Plaintiffs allege ICE and CBP have a policy and practice of engaging in unconstitutional stops not based on reasonable, individualized suspicion of unlawful presence, but instead based on racial profiling.</p>	<p>District Court granted temporary restraining order, in favor of plaintiffs, regarding unlawful stops and access to counsel. The parties are briefing preliminary injunction and class certification in the District Court. On September 8, 2025, using its Emergency Docket, the Supreme Court entered a stay enjoining the temporary restraining order halting the federal government from “stopping individuals based solely on four factors: (1) their apparent race or ethnicity; (2) whether they spoke Spanish or English with an accent; (3) the type of location at which they were found (such as a car wash or bus stop); and (4) the type of job they appeared to work.” This means the federal government may continue to rely on these four factors alone to stop and seize individuals. Importantly, Justice Kavanaugh indicated in his concurring opinion that if the case eventually reaches the Supreme Court, then the Supreme Court will likely reverse any permanent injunctive relief similar to the temporary relief the District Court previously ordered.</p> <p>Case returned to District Court for further proceedings.</p>
United States v. City of Rochester	25-cv-06226 (W.D. NY)	<p>The City of Cambridge joined an amicus brief in this case.</p> <p>Federal government sued Rochester seeking injunctive relief holding that sanctuary policies violate the Supremacy Clause.</p>	Cross motions for judgment on the pleadings filed by both parties. Amicus brief, in which Cambridge joined, filed on August 28, 2025. Arguments not scheduled yet.
United States v. City of Boston	25-cv-12456 (D.Mass.)	<p>The City of Boston is a defendant in this case.</p> <p>Federal government sued Boston seeking injunctive relief holding that sanctuary policies violate the Supremacy Clause.</p>	Boston has until November 17, 2025, to file a response to the Complaint.
State of Oregon v. Trump	25-cv-01756 (D. Ore.)	<p>The City of Cambridge is joining an amicus brief in this case.</p> <p>Oregon seeks an order prohibiting the federal government from federalizing National Guard troops and deploying them to conduct domestic law enforcement without meeting statutory requirements and in violation of the U.S. Constitution.</p>	District Court granted temporary restraining orders, expiring on October 18 and 19, 2025, enjoining federal government from deploying federalized National Guard troops in or to Oregon.
State of Illinois v. Trump	25-cv-12174 (N.D. Ill.) 25-2798 (7 th Cir.)	<p>The City of Cambridge is joining an amicus brief in this case.</p> <p>Illinois seeks an order halting the illegal and unconstitutional federalization and deployment of members of the National Guard of the United States, including both the Illinois and Texas National Guard.</p>	District Court granted temporary restraining order, expiring on October 23, 2025, enjoining federal government from federalizing and deploying National Guard troops within Illinois. Federal government appealed. Appeal pending. The Appeals Court, pending further argument, entered an order allowing federalized National Guard troops deployed to Illinois to remain in the state, but those troops may not be deployed for purposes of law enforcement.