

## Bloomington officials plan Arizona boycott: [www.heraldtimesonline.com](http://www.heraldtimesonline.com)

By Michael Malik  
331-4370 | [mmalik@heraldt.com](mailto:mmalik@heraldt.com)  
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Bloomington's elected officials plan to boycott Arizona businesses because of the state's controversial new immigration law, and they want locals to do the same.

In a letter to Arizona's governor, U.S. Senators and general assembly, the city says it will not purchase goods or services from businesses headquartered in Arizona, send city officials to conferences there and explore terminating any current contracts with Arizona businesses.

However, the letter states the city will do this only when practicable, doesn't add significant cost to the city and doesn't conflict with any laws.

"This undermines public trust and obstructs effective community policing by building a wall between local agencies and immigrant communities," the letter says. "In addition, these short-sighted changes to the law will only serve to distract law enforcement from their vital work of pursuing violent criminals."

The Arizona law, set to go into effect July 29, requires police enforcing another law to question people about their immigration status if there is reason to suspect they are in the country illegally.

Mayor Mark Kruzan said it's his hope the situation will change so that all the statements communities are making will be a moot point.

"It's unlikely any existing contracts will be terminated, but future purchasing, training and contracting will be voided," Kruzan said. "I'm not under any illusions that the state of Arizona will care much about what the city of Bloomington does, but the nation's consciousness of what Arizona's government is doing must be raised to stem the tide of discrimination toward an entire people."

Kruzan's statement seems to put Hoosier Disposal and Recycling in the clear. The company that provides Bloomington's trash service is owned by Phoenix-based Republic Services.

"That contract will continue and will be reviewed upon its expiration taking into consideration many issues such as fiscal responsibility, the MRF, as well as the Arizona connection," Kruzan said. "Fleet uses specialized software maintained by an Arizona company."

Bloomington joins a growing chorus of municipalities, lawmakers, business, organizations and people that have said they will boycott the state until the immigration law is repealed.

Kruzan, City Clerk Regina Moore and eight city council members signed the letter.

City councilman Brad Wisler was the only member of the council not to sign the letter.

Wisler said he opposes the immigration law, but thinks boycotting Arizona businesses is nonsensical.

"I'm not going to call for a boycott that's going to hurt innocent business owners in Arizona," Wisler said.

Critics of the law say it unfairly targets Hispanics and could lead to racial profiling. Proponents insist racial profiling will not be tolerated.

City council member Chris Sturbaum originally proposed the letter, which was signed on May 17 and mailed a day later.

"This is such an action that really is based on skin color that I can't believe it's something that we would have in the United States of America," Sturbaum said. "I think we need to speak up when something is wrong."

City councilwoman Susan Sandberg said she doesn't know if the boycott will work, but money talks.

"When you see other states taking shots at the constitution and erode peoples civil liberties its the kind of thing you don't want to ignore," Sandberg said.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Anna Castro, front left, a janitor originally from El Salvador, and a member of SEIU United Services Workers, celebrates as the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted 3-2 Tuesday to join the city in its economic boycott of Arizona over its SB 1070 law targeting illegal immigrants. Associated Press

