



Roots Of Resistance: TPS Newsletter

✦ *Knowledge is Liberation. Resistance is Power.* ✦

In this newsletter you can expect:

We Got the Flock Out!

Surveillance 101: Flock, ALPRs & AI

Next Up: City by City

ICE in California & Know Your Rights

Vote Nov 3 + NO on Measure H

Mutual Aid on the Ground

Upcoming Events & Join Us

We Got the Flock Out!

...well, kinda.

In February we said we stay informed and we show up. This fall, Monterey County showed up.

We protested. We called and emailed. We packed the Board of Supervisors chambers and spoke two minutes at a time, meeting after meeting.

On September 22, the Board voted 3-2 to end the Sheriff's Flock camera program. All 63 of the Sheriff's cameras are coming down.

The Sheriff's Office fought it the whole way. We won anyway, because regular people kept walking into the room. This is what organized community pressure looks like.

So why "kinda"? The county's cameras are coming down, but Salinas, Monterey, Seaside, Marina and other cities still run their own Flock contracts. The flock is still out there, y'all.

Now we take it city by city. Get involved at gtfomontereycounty.com

★ **How We Got Here**

Earlier this year: Reporting showed Flock shared the Sheriff's license plate data with out-of-state agencies, breaking state law.

Summer: The Sheriff's Office asked for a 10-year, nearly \$2.8 million contract to add 40 cameras, growing the network from 63 to 103.

August 25: Dozens of residents told the Board no and Supervisor Root-Askew asked questions that the Sheriff couldn't answer. The vote got postponed.

September 15: Get the Flock Out protest and press event at 168 W. Alisal St. We also walked in to Salinas City Council meeting to let them know, the city is next on our list.

September 22: Under pressure, the Sheriff dropped the request for expansion and asked to keep the existing cameras (about \$1.7 million). The Board said no to that too, 3-2.

★ **What Made the Difference**

- Residents from across the county, plus CSUMB and UCSC students, in the same room speaking against Flock
- Calls and emails from people who couldn't make it in-person still flooded the BOS email inboxes
- Public comment grounded in receipts: the state law violation, documented misuse, and what \$1.7 million could fund instead
- Local press that kept the story alive
- Coalition partners and neighbors who kept coming back

Political education asks: If three votes can pull 63 cameras, what else can we move?

🕒 **Surveillance 101: Flock, ALPRs & AI**

Every car. Every time. Whether or not anyone is suspected of anything.

What is an ALPR?

An automated license plate reader is a high-speed camera that photographs every car that passes. It logs your plate, the make, model and color of your car, plus the exact place and time.

Salinas PD's own ALPR policy says officers don't need reasonable suspicion or probable cause to use it.

Put enough of those snapshots together and you have a map of someone's life: work, school, the clinic, church, a lawyer's office, a protest.

Flock is one piece of a bigger web

- **Gunshot sensors like ShotSpotter:** microphones mounted across neighborhoods, mostly Black and Brown ones
- **Facial recognition:** companies like Clearview AI built face databases by scraping billions of photos off the internet
- **Data platforms:** companies like Palantir build software ICE uses to pull plates, records and addresses together to find people

Each one gets sold to cities as "public safety." Together, they're surveillance infrastructure that whoever holds power can use however they want.

The Receipts: How It's Been Misused

- **Right here:** Flock shared Monterey County Sheriff's data with out-of-state agencies, breaking California law (SB 34).
- **Mountain View:** Flock switched on a nationwide search setting without the city's OK, giving federal agencies access for months. The city cancelled.
- **San Francisco:** out-of-state agencies ran about 1.6 million searches of SFPD's plate data in 2025, including searches marked as ICE-related.
- **Nationwide:** local police ran thousands of Flock searches for immigration enforcement on behalf of the feds.
- **Texas:** an officer searched the nationwide network to track a woman after a self-managed abortion.
- **San Jose:** an officer was fired for using Flock to hand a domestic violence survivor's location to her abuser.
- **Lufkin, TX:** an officer was indicted on 100 counts of misusing Flock data this summer.

Political education asks:

Who gets watched? Who gets to search? Who finds out when it's misused?

Next Up: City by City

The county vote only covered the Sheriff's cameras in unincorporated areas of Monterey County.

But cities sign their own Flock contracts, and most of our cities have one.

Monterey County cities that have running Flock cameras include **Salinas, Monterey, Seaside, Marina, Pacific Grove, Carmel, Sand City and Soledad.**

Salinas signed with Flock in 2021 with no public forum, then used about \$1.17 million in federal money to double its network in 2023. Its data flows into a regional intelligence hub that agencies far outside Salinas can reach.

Santa Clara County, Mountain View and Los Altos Hills ended their contracts. San Jose banned immigration use.

What We're Demanding In Every City

- End the Flock contract
- Until then, a public audit of who searched our data
- No sharing outside California, period
- A public hearing before any renewal

What You Can Do

- Show up for public comment at city council
- Ask when your city's Flock contract renews
- **Join Get the Flock Out at gtfomontereycounty.com**

ICE in California: "Operation Safe California"

On October 8, the Washington Examiner reported that ICE quietly launched a statewide enforcement operation in California, citing sources inside the agency. **ICE has not publicly announced it.**

What's been reported so far

- It started in and around San Diego and is expected to last at least 45 days
- Officers were reportedly told to arrest anyone they encounter, criminal record or not
- **It's already in the Central Valley.** Advocates say at least 100 people were detained in Fresno in just three days, with arrests also reported in Madera and Mendota
- It overlaps directly with early voting

Details are still coming out, so check sources before sharing. Salinas has thousands of mixed-status families, and the surveillance on page 2 is exactly the kind of data that helps ICE find people.

Know Your Rights

Everyone has these rights, regardless of status.

- **Stay silent.** You don't have to answer questions about where you were born or your status.
- **Keep the door closed.** ICE needs a warrant signed by a judge to come in. Ask them to slide it under the door.
- **Don't sign anything** without a lawyer, and never show false papers.
- **You can record** ICE activity in public from a safe distance.
- **Make a plan** with your family: who picks up the kids, who has the important papers.

See ICE? Don't post unless it is confirmed!
Report it to the local rapid response line:
(831) 204-8082

Documented or not, our neighbors deserve dignity and due process.

November 3: Vote, Then Keep Going

On the ballot: Governor and statewide offices, all 52 of California's House seats, state legislative seats, **14 statewide propositions** (including one on requiring ID at the polls), and local measures.

Remember the Flock vote? **3-2**. One seat decided it. Who sits on those boards and councils matters, and we choose them.

And it went our way because people organized for months between elections. Voting takes a few minutes. Holding power accountable takes all year. So vote, and then come build with us on November 4.

Can't vote? Public comment, organizing and mutual aid don't require a ballot or citizenship. Your voice counts in all of it.

Key Dates

Now	Ballots are out. Drop boxes are open.
Oct 19	Last day to register online or by mail
Oct 20 to Nov 3	Missed it? Register and vote same day at a vote center
Nov 3	Election Day. Polls open 7am to 8pm. Mailed ballots must be postmarked by Nov 3.

Sign your envelope! Check your status at voterstatus.sos.ca.gov and track your ballot at wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov

Salinas: Vote NO on Measure H

If you rent in Salinas, this one is about your home.

In 2024 the City Council passed four renter protections. In May 2025 the new council voted 5-2 to repeal all of them. Renters fought back, gathered over 7,000 signatures, and forced the repeal to a public vote. Now it's on your ballot as **Measure H**.

What's on the line

- **Rent stabilization:** caps how much your rent can go up each year
- **Just cause eviction:** landlords need a legal reason to evict you, plus relocation help
- **Anti-harassment:** protects you from being pressured or pushed out
- **Rental registry:** lets the city track rentals so the rules actually get enforced

✗ A YES VOTE MEANS

The repeal goes through. All four renter protections are gone.

✓ A NO VOTE MEANS

The repeal is rejected. Rent stabilization, just cause, anti-harassment and the registry all stay in place.

It reads backwards, so tell everyone:

Protect renters. Vote NO on H.
protectsalinasrenters.com

♥ **Mutual Aid on the Ground**

Every week, Roots of Resistance is out with our unhoused neighbors at encampments across Salinas, bringing food, water and supplies.

We've teamed up with Central Coast DSA on a few outreach days, and we get support from folks who already show up for this community:

- **Veterans Transition Center** donates food and drinks that we bring straight to the camps
- **Little Hill Animal Sanctuary** donates a large variety of items that we share with unhoused neighbors and with local community human services

Please consider donating to the organizations above. Mutual aid is infrastructure. When the systems fail us, we are each other's safety net. With El Niño expected to bring a cold, wet winter, the need is going up fast.

Volunteers Needed

We're always looking for people to help with delivery runs, sorting and packing. No experience needed. Bring a friend.

What We Need Most

Cold and rain gear first

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| · Tents and tarps | · Blankets and sleeping bags |
| · Beanies | · Gloves and mittens |
| · Warm socks | · Rain ponchos and jackets |
| · Hand warmers | · Snack and protein bars |
| · Bottled water | · Hygiene items |

*Drop-off and sign-up info:
linktr.ee/rootsofresistancetps*

📅 **Upcoming Events**

SATURDAY • OCT 17

No Kings: Vote Early

A nationwide day of action to make your plan and vote early, with 2,000+ events in all 50 states.

Find one near you: nokings.org

TUESDAY • NOV 3

Election Day

Polls open 7am to 8pm. Drop off your ballot or vote in person, then come organize with us on November 4.

Check your status: voterstatus.sos.ca.gov

GET THE FLOCK OUT MONTEREY COUNTY

The county was round one. The cities are next.

Sign up, get campaign updates, find out when your city's Flock contract is up, and plug in to the fight where you live.

gtfomontereycounty.com

They expected us
to stay home.
We keep showing
up.

+ **What We're Building Next**

- **Get the Flock Out**, coming for city contracts
- **Legal observer training** so our community can document and protect each other
- **In the works:** building mutual aid inventory and networks, continuing to plan for elections
- **Growing our partnerships** with local orgs and businesses so mutual aid reaches more of our neighbors, more consistently

Join Us!

We are stronger together and we want you with us.

- Instagram: @rootsofresistanceTPS
- Website: www.rootsofresistance.net
- Email: admin@rootsofresistance.net
- Sign up / donate:
linktr.ee/rootsofresistanceTPS
- Share this newsletter with your community

100% Community Powered

No corporate money. No big donors. Roots of Resistance runs on people who show up between work shifts, family life and late-night planning sessions.

If you want to help build this in any capacity, we'd love to connect.



In solidarity and with love ♥