

Kamala Harris learned a lesson about the border early in her career. It's paying off now - As California attorney general, Harris found common cause with law enforcement in cracking down on transnational gangs - Blake Jones, 08/17/2024 <https://politi.co/4fM4T1b> EXCERPTS:

When she became California's Attorney General in 2010, Harris expanded a task force devoted to cross-border criminality and fostered greater intelligence sharing with Mexican authorities, which officials said yielded arrests years later. In her 2014 & 2016 election races, she obtained endorsements from Republican district attorneys. Harris' support for gang-busting efforts was "huge" in winning law enforcement support. Cross-border crime was a natural fit for Harris, who as a young prosecutor in Oakland and San Francisco, worked cases on human trafficking, sexual abuse and other violent crimes worsened by transnational gangs.

After taking office as A.G., Harris began expanding the scope of state Justice Department task forces to investigate organizations that were moving people, drugs and money into California from Mexico. Harris's office published a [report titled "Gangs Beyond Borders"](#) in 2014, a month after the arrest of former Sinaloa Cartel leader Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán. It cautioned that groups in Mexico, Asia and Central America — where the notoriously violent MS-13 has roots — had joined forces with street and prison gangs in California to control trafficking routes.

That same year, Harris led a delegation of state attorneys general to meet with their Mexican counterparts to discuss collaboration on cross-border crime. The officials discussed how to better share tips on criminal activity & interdict money laundering that was enabling gang violence. The cooperation with Mexican leaders and police gave Harris and her counterparts the chance to engage in diplomacy on a hot-button federal issue from the perch of state offices. As attorney general, she supported a [bill that would have](#) allowed prosecutors to freeze the assets of transnational gang members before filing charges against them and [another that would have allowed law enforcement](#) to wiretap criminal organizations in money-laundering investigations.

His [Trump's] campaign is drawing attention to more progressive border policies she adopted in the Senate before becoming vice president, when she [broke with fellow Democrats in rejecting border wall funding](#) and said migrants crossing the border without authorization shouldn't be subjected to criminal penalties. It has [shared clips of Harris supporting](#) the closure of migrant detention centers and underscored that she agreed with fellow Democrats during her first presidential campaign that crossing the border without authorization should not be considered a criminal offense. She has since [revised her position](#) on illegal crossings and supported Biden's border security package, which [died in the Senate](#) because of [opposition from Trump](#).