



What's at Stake

Illegal immigration skyrocketed under the Biden administration, soaring to nearly 11 million encounters between 2021 and 2024. Under the first Trump administration, border encounters reached roughly 2.3 million.

As with any kind of mass influx of people, illegal immigration can create social, legal, economic, and political issues in the United States. It also strains infrastructure and public services like health care, education, housing, and other social services, contributing to significant costs for taxpayers. For instance, it is costing Texas taxpayers an estimated \$7.6 billion and Tennessee taxpayers \$571 million to educate illegal immigrant children.

Illegal immigration can depress wages for lower-skilled workers. Migrants contribute to the United States economy through work and spending, but they do not pay taxes, which cuts into government revenue and costs the taxpayers more.

The United States cannot continue to support mass influxes of migrants. Quite simply, there are not enough resources and not enough housing available. Our nation's current infrastructure is not equipped to continue to support illegal immigrants.

A Better Approach

We must continue to strengthen border security. Adding border patrol agents, particularly at the southern border, and bolstering their efforts with troops and the National Guard is one way President Trump has helped seal the border. Building and reinforcing structures like a wall along the border helps create a physical deterrent to prevent crossings. Additionally, President Trump issued executive orders banning asylum for undocumented migrants, shutting down the CBP One app (which processed asylum claims under Biden), and reviving the "Remain in Mexico" policy. Together, these efforts have resulted in sharp decreases in illegal border crossings. When we contain illegal immigration, we can prioritize and improve legal pathways, such as increasing employment-based visas. It is also important to create a more efficient immigration process by reducing backlogs, addressing long wait times, and simplifying the process.

We should embrace and encourage legal immigration. Our policies should encourage people to apply for citizenship, not deter them from entering our country the right way. This can be done by increasing border security and resources for enforcement at the state and federal levels. Providing economic incentives for immigrants to work and follow a path to citizenship would be an excellent place to start.

Addressing Misperceptions

MISPERCEPTIONS	FACTS
<p>Illegal immigrants benefit our economy and are needed to do jobs we don't do.</p>	<p>Labor experts have found that illegal immigration has <u>decreased</u> low-skilled or unskilled workers' wages between 0.4% and 7.4%. In Denver, just <u>42,000</u> illegal immigrants who have moved to the area have cost taxpayers nearly \$340 million.</p>
<p>America is hostile to immigrants.</p>	<p>There are more immigrants, legal and illegal, <u>in the United States</u> than in any other country in the world. The percentage of immigrants in the United States <u>has grown</u> four times since 1960.</p>
<p>Allowing families and children to seek asylum keeps them safe.</p>	<p>Human smuggling at the border has <u>become an industry</u>, particularly among the cartel and related gangs. Often, children <u>are abandoned</u> at the border; women and children <u>are being abused, assaulted</u>, and even dying. Illegal immigration has created sub-industries of crime centered around human rights violations.</p>