

Immigration: Immigration, of course, is a hot button for both political parties and most independents. On the left, the voice seems to be “let everyone one in – we are a country of immigrants.” On the right we hear “let no one in – they might be terrorists or just poor, and be a drag on our economy.”

Well, historically, we are all immigrants or descendants of immigrants. Even the Indians came here over the Bering Strait from Asia during the Ice Age. Humans most likely started in Africa, and therefore, had to get here some way.

Historically, US immigration has been bigoted. In 1924 the Johnson-Reed Act limited new immigration from any country to 2% of “that country’s” then registered population in the US as of the census of 1890 (yes, they had 3 newer censuses they could have chosen instead of 1890). The purpose was to stop Southern and Eastern Europeans from coming to the US – especially Italians, Arabs, Asians, Slavs, Jews and Africans. Before this we had open borders.

The 1965 Hart-Cellar Act opened up immigration to Northern and Western Europeans, but still blocked Asians and Africans. It also codified that no homosexuals would be allowed in, being they were “mentally defective and constitutional psychopathic infertility” people.

In 1986 the Immigration and Control Act limited Mexicans from immigrating to the US. This immediately led to illegal immigration. I’m sure this was an unintended consequence, but never the less, the federal government created the problem with this law.

The answer? I’m not sure. However, historically, immigrants have made our great country the melting pot that it is today. More cultures yielding more ideas has always been good for our democracy.