FORWARD LATINO

LIVING OUR FAITH SERIES

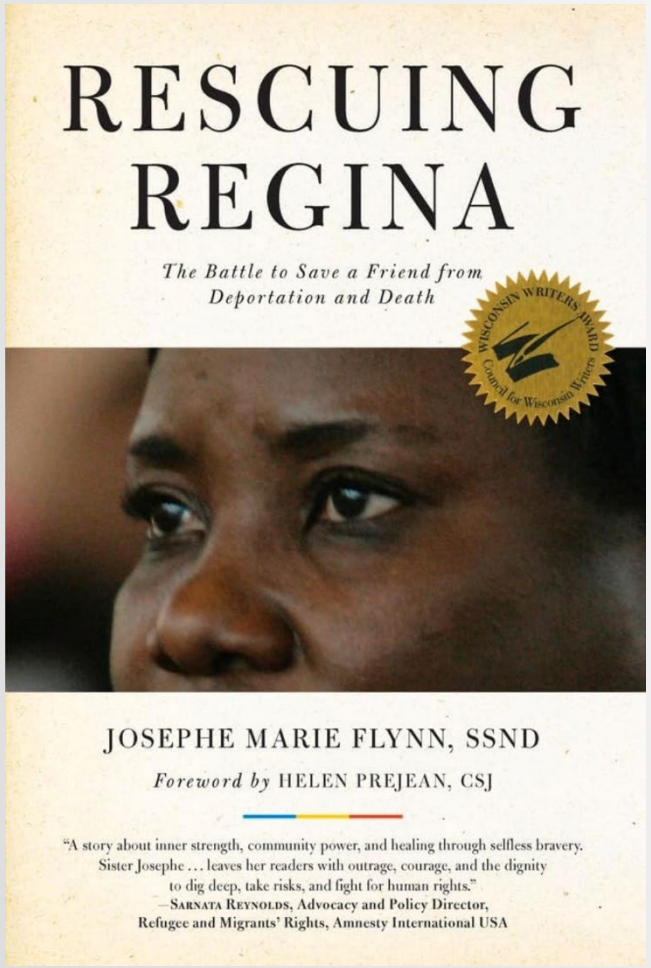
IMMIGRATION: FACTS VS. FICTION

FORWARD LATINO

Forward Latino advocates for community empowerment, democracy, and civil rights while addressing hate crimes, gun violence, and the needs of veterans and working families. We train and support a diverse network of Hispanic leaders to meet the civic, economic, and political challenges of the 21st century.

FORWARD LATINO

AN UNEXPECTED TURN



WE ARE ALL BROTHERS & SISTER

WHERE ARE IMMIGRANTS COMING FROM

The U.S. unauthorized immigrant populations from most world regions grew from 2019 to 2022

U.S. unauthorized immigrant population by region of birth, in thousands

	2022	2019	Change
U.S. total	11,000	10,200	825
LATIN AMERICA			
Mexico	4,050	4,350	-300
Central America	2,100	2,050	--
Caribbean	725	425	300
South America	1,000	825	190
OTHER REGIONS			
Asia	1,700	1,550	150
Europe, Canada	775	500	275
Middle East	180	130	--
Africa	375	275	100
Oceania	80	60	--

Note: All numbers are rounded. The change column is calculated from unrounded totals. Only statistically significant changes based on 90% confidence intervals are shown; other measured changes are not statistically different from zero. Asia consists of South and East Asia. All Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union are included in Europe. The Middle East consists of Southwest Asia and North Africa; Africa refers to sub-Saharan Africa. The U.S. total includes a residual (not shown) from other nations.
Source: Pew Research Center estimates based on augmented U.S. Census Bureau data.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/07/22/what-we-know-about-unauthorized-immigrants-living-in-the-us/

WISCONSIN IMMIGRANTS

WHERE ARE IMMIGRANTS COMING FROM

Since 2021, Hispanics have been the largest minority group in the state of Wisconsin. 447,290 per 2020 U.S. Census
https://data.census.gov/profile/Wisconsin?g=040XX00US55

Approximately 69,000 undocumented live in Wisconsin.
70% come from Mexico or Central America.
https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/unauthorized-immigrant-population/state/WI

5,440 are active DACA recipients
https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/immigrants-in-wisconsin/#:~:text=Nearly%2056%2C000%20U.S.%20citizens%20in,eligible%20as%20they%20grew%20older.

THE DIFFICULT SEARCH FOR TRUTH
FACT VS. FICTION

"They are criminals, prisoners and lunatics!"

"Illegals are bringing Fentanyl to the U.S.!"

"They don't pay taxes & take our benefits!"

"They are taking American jobs!"

"They should get in line and come here legally!

THE FACTS… CRIME & IMMIGRANTS

Is it a crime to be undocumented in the United States?

NO!

U.S. Department of Justice:
"an alien apprehended while entering or attempting to enter the United States at a time or place other than as designated by immigration officers shall be subject to a civil penalty."
(The Illegal Immigration Reform & Immigrant Responsibility Act 8 U.S.C. § 1325)

https://www.justice.gov/archives/jm/criminal-resource-manual-1911-8-usc-1325-unlawful-entry-failure-depart-fleeing-immigration

THE FACTS… CRIME & IMMIGRANTS

U.S. Dept. of Justice: Non-U.S. Citizens in the Federal Criminal Justice System, 1998–2018

"U.S.-born citizens were ten times more likely than immigrants to be incarcerated for committing weapons-related offenses, five times more likely for violent offenses, more than twice as likely for property crimes, and nearly twice as likely for drug offenses."
https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/ncfcjs9818.pdf

Stanford Institute for Economic Research: Mythical tie between immigration & Crime

ISSUE DATE July 21, 2023

"Opponents of immigration often argue that immigrants drive up crime rates. But newly released research from Stanford economist Ran Abramitzky and his co-authors finds that hasn't been the case in America for the last 140 years."
https://siepr.stanford.edu/news/mythical-tie-between-immigration-and-crime

National Bureau of Economic Research: Law-Abiding Immigrants: The Incarceration Gap Between Immigrants and the US-born, 1870–2020

ISSUE DATE July 2023

REVISION DATE March 2024

"the likelihood of an immigrant being incarcerated is 60 percent lower than of people born in the United States." https://www.nber.org/papers/w31440

THE FACTS… FENTANYL & IMMIGRANTS

Fact Sheet: DHS is on the Front Lines Combating Illicit Opioids, Including Fentanyl
Release Date: December 22, 2023
"More than 90% of fentanyl interdicted is stopped at Ports of Entry (POEs) where cartels attempted to smuggle it through, primarily in vehicles driven by U.S. citizens."
https://www.dhs.gov/archive/news/2023/12/22/fact-sheet-dhs-front-lines-combating-illicit-opioids-including-fentanyl#:~:text=The%20DHS%20strategy%20has%20evolved,used%20in%20the%20manufacturing%20process.

Cato Institute: U.S. Citizens Were 89% of Convicted Fentanyl Traffickers in 2022
RELEASE DATE: AUGUST 23, 2023
"At most, just 0.009 percent of the people arrested by Border Patrol for crossing illegally possessed any fentanyl whatsoever."
https://www.cato.org/blog/us-citizens-were-89-convicted-fentanyl-traffickers-2022

THE FACTS… IMMIGRANTS & TAXES

Institute of Taxation & Economic Policy (ITEP): Tax Payments by Undocumented Immigrants

RELEASED: July 30, 2024

- Undocumented immigrants paid $96.7 billion in federal, state, and local taxes in 2022. Most of that amount, $59.4 billion, was paid to the federal government while the remaining $37.3 billion was paid to state and local governments.

- More than a third of the tax dollars paid by undocumented immigrants go toward payroll taxes dedicated to funding programs that these workers are barred from accessing.

- Undocumented immigrants paid $25.7 billion in Social Security taxes, $6.4 billion in Medicare taxes, and $1.8 billion in unemployment insurance taxes in 2022.

- Income tax payments by undocumented immigrants are affected by laws that require them to pay more than otherwise similarly situated U.S. citizens.

THE FACTS… IMMIGRANTS & TAXES

ITEP: (Continued)

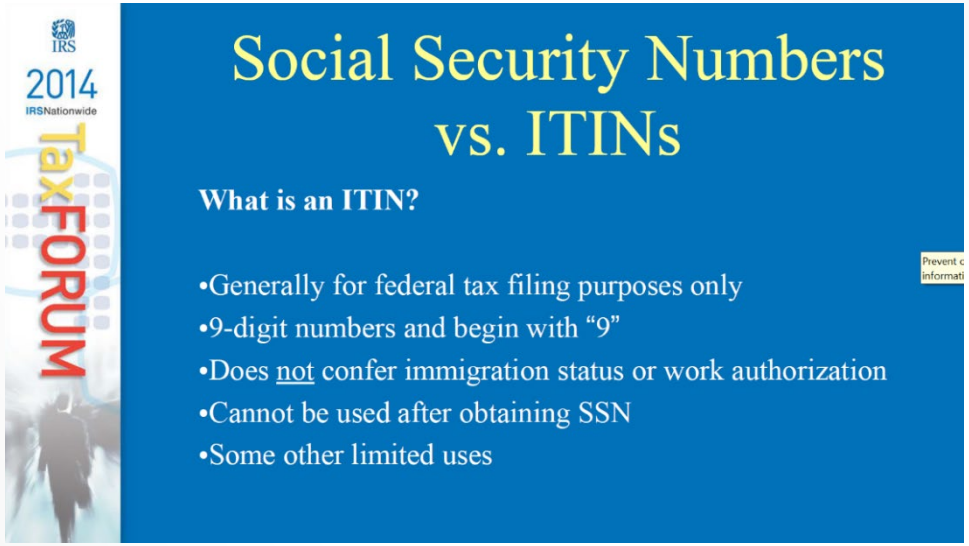
- Up to 75% of undocumented immigrants pay federal, state, and local taxes. https://sfo2.digitaloceanspaces.com/itep/ITEP-Tax-Payments-by-Undocumented-Immigrants-2024.pdf

Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget:
Undocumented immigrants contribute over $15 billion per year into SSA, without intention of collecting benefits (Stephen Goss, Chief Actuary, SSA)
https://www.crfb.org/blogs/budgetary-look-immigration-reform

THE FACTS... IMMIGRANTS & TAXES

HOW UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS PAY TAXES?

Call the IRS and they will help you.
1-800-829-1040



- IRS Individual Taxpayer Identification Number System
- Bought, borrowed, stolen or fake social security number

THE FACTS… IMMIGRANTS & JOBS

Even with immigrant labor, U.S. has labor shortage

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Released March 18, 2025

“0.9 unemployed people per job openings for fourth consecutive month”

https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2025/0-9-unemployed-people-per-job-openings-for-fourth-consecutive-month.htm#:~:text=On%20the%20last%20business%20day,figure%20unchanged%20since%20October%202024.

THE FACTS… IMMIGRANTS & TAXES

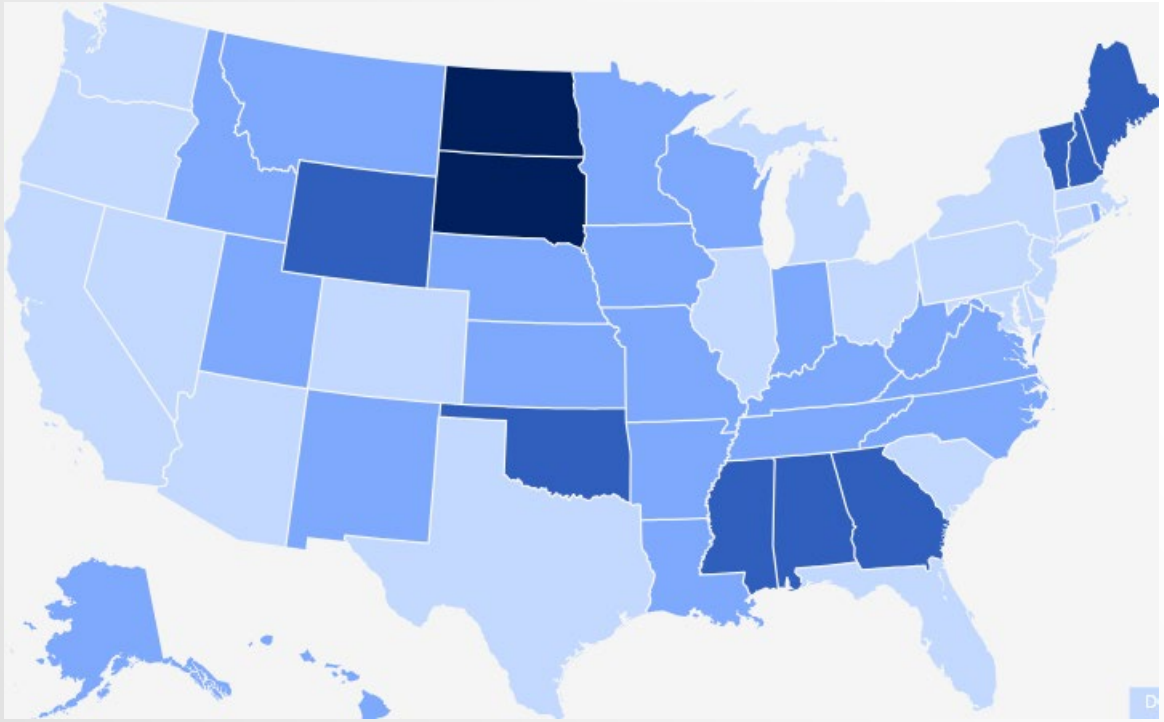
THE FACTS… IMMIGRANTS & TAXES

- For each year from 1994 to 2023, the US immigrant population generated more in taxes than they received in benefits from all levels of government.
- Over that period, immigrants created a cumulative fiscal surplus of $14.5 trillion *in real 2024 US dollars*, including $3.9 trillion in savings on interest on the debt.
- Without immigrants, US government public debt at all levels would be at least 205 percent of gross domestic product (GDP)—nearly twice its 2023 level.

https://www.cato.org/white-paper/immigrants-recent-effects-government-budgets-1994-2023

THE FACTS… IMMIGRANTS & JOBS

Even with immigrant labor, U.S. has labor shortage



Wisconsin

Wisconsin has 75 available workers for every 100 open jobs.

Last updated December 2025

0.75

Wisconsin's Worker Shortage Index

- Job Openings: **130,000**
- Unemployed Workers: **97,555**
- Labor Force Participation Rate: **64.2**
- Unemployment Rate: **3.1**
- Quit Rate: **2.0**
- Hiring Rate: **3.3**

Data: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

https://www.uschamber.com/workforce/the-states-suffering-most-from-the-labor-shortage?state=

THE FACTS… IMMIGRANTS & JOBS

Even with immigrant labor, U.S. has labor shortage

Percentage of total workforce by industry that are undocumented immigrants:

From the United States Department of Agriculture

- 42% of agriculture workers

https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/chart-gallery/chart-detail?chartId=63466#:~:text=In%202020%E2%80%9322%2C%2032%20percent,percent%20held%20no%20work%20authorization.

From the Center for Immigration Studies

- 20% of construction workers
- 12% of all accommodation & foodservice
- 11% of manufacturing workers
- 10% Administrative, support & waste management workers
- 8% Retail workers

https://cmsny.org/publications/undocumented-workers-in-high-growth-occupations-and-industries/

THE FACTS… IMMIGRANTS & JOBS

Even with immigrant labor, U.S. has labor shortage

Dairy Herd Management

The Impact of Immigration Reform on U.S. Dairy Farms

Release January 27, 2025

“Recent reports highlight this dependency, showing that over half of all dairy labor is performed by immigrant workers. In fact, dairies employing immigrant laborers contribute to 79% of the U.S. milk supply.”

https://www.dairyherd.com/news/business/impact-immigration-reform-u-s-dairy-farms#:~:text=Recent%20reports%20highlight%20this%20dependency,of%20the%20U.S.%20milk%20supply.

THE FACTS… IMMIGRANT PATHWAYS

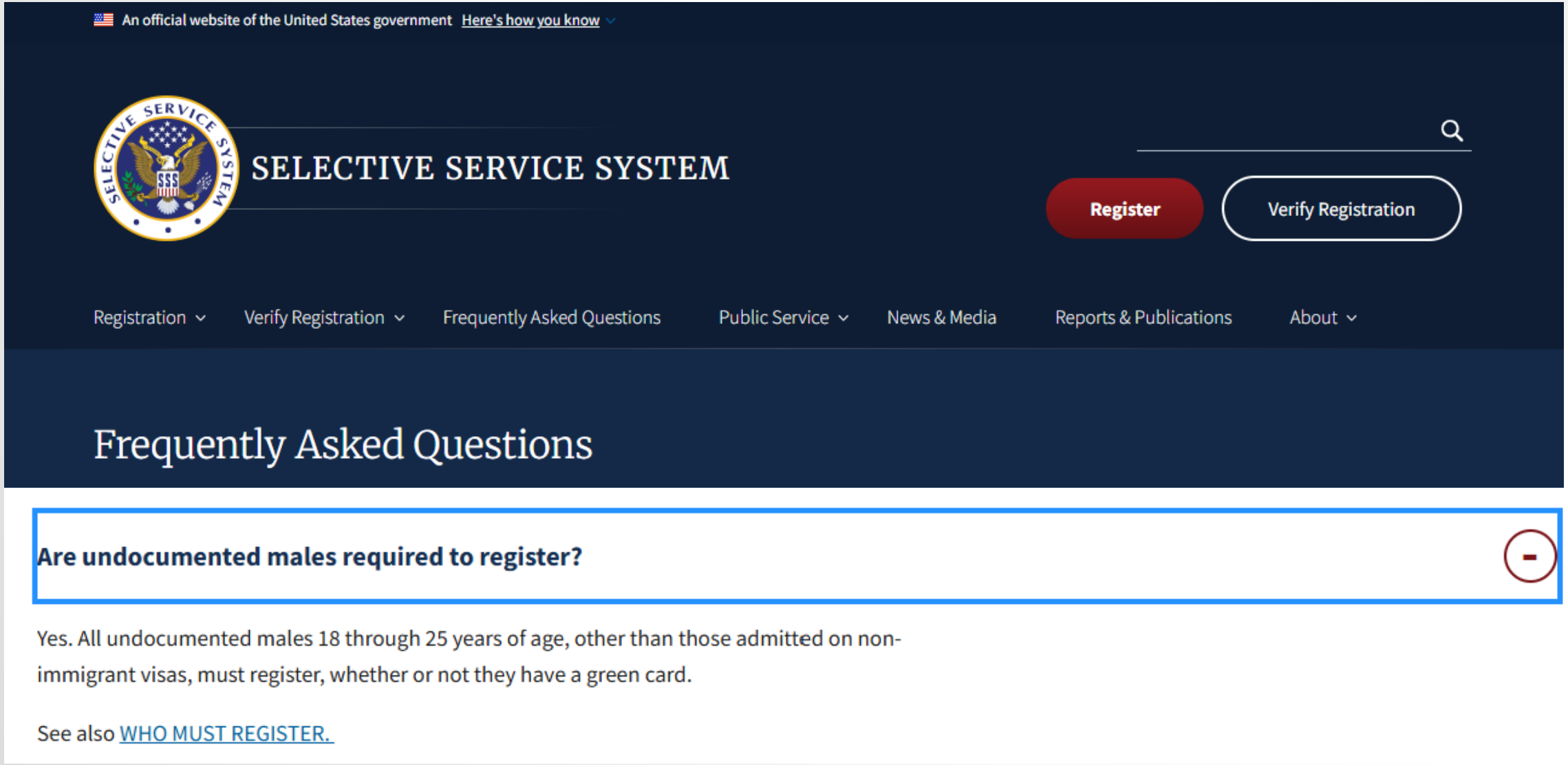
Why Don't Unauthorized Migrants Come Here Legally?

- No “line” is available for the vast majority of undocumented immigrants.
- Many undocumented immigrants are barred from obtaining legal status while inside the United States.
- Family-based immigration is limited to certain close family relationships and is numerically restricted
- Employment-based immigration requires a U.S. employer to request specific foreign workers

Source: https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/fact-sheet/why-dont-they-just-get-line/

IMMIGRANTS & NATIONAL SECURITY

The Selective Service & the defense of our country.



IMMIGRATION & HATE:

Election aftershocks felt in Wisconsin schools

Erin Richards and Annysa Johnson, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel Published 1:47 p.m. CT Nov. 11, 2016 | Updated 10:45 p.m. CT Nov. 11, 2016

(Photo: Mark Frohna Photography)

A shouting match between a Donald Trump supporter and girls in favor of abortion rights. Simulations to understand popular vs. electoral votes. Rehearsals for an absurdist play about how people miss the big picture. Private confessions from nonwhite teenagers who feared for their families and futures.

Those were some of the post-election reactions in schools across Wisconsin this week, many of which spilled directly into the laps of educators tasked with keeping decorum and maintaining neutrality after a national campaign marked by anything but propriety.

While American parents parsed their feelings, their children took stock of their own emotions, from celebratory to satisfied, resigned to anguished. Educators capitalized on their interest in a controversial election: What better time to understand the electoral college? But other teachable moments arose over civil discourse, with school leaders seeking to quell inflammatory post-election comments between students.

That happened at the city's best-known Catholic high schools — Divine Savior Holy

G Suite
Try G Suite free for 14 days and schedule meetings easier.
GET STARTED
Google Cloud
Share your feedback to help improve our site experience!
FROM THE USA TODAY NETWORK

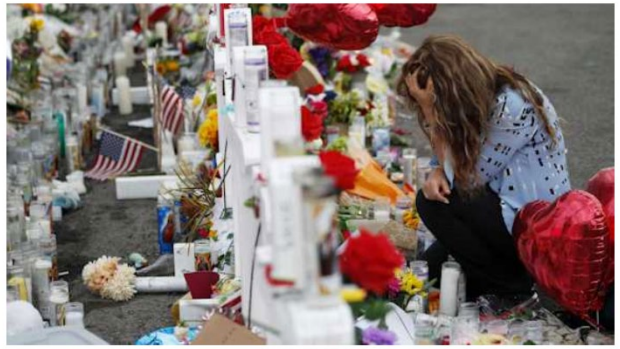
Jesus Manso-Perez, Phia Vue and Mai K. Vue

El Paso Walmart shooting victim dies nearly 9 months after attack, death toll now 23

26 Shares

AP Updated: 11:20 PM EDT Apr 26, 2020

By Cedar Attanasio



The shooting was the largest terrorist attack targeting Hispanics in modern history, and spread fear throughout the Latino community. SOURCE: John Locher

Mahud Villalaz

Woman Ran Over Girl Because She Was 'a Mexican,' Police Say

The police charged a Des Moines woman with attempted murder after she told investigators she intentionally ran over a 14-year-old girl with her vehicle.

By Johnny Diaz

Dec. 21, 2019

Nicole Marie Poole Franklin was charged with attempted murder after she told the police that she intentionally struck a 14-year-old girl with her car in Clive, Iowa. Polk County Jail, via Associated Press

Natalia Miranda

FORWARD LATINO

QUESTIONS…