

# On Immigration Policy

## Answer THE COL!

- ✓ Reform the legal immigration system, increasing the number of immigrants as needed based on economic demands
- ✓ Address illegal immigration, both push and pull factors, and improve border security
- ✓ Resolve the issue of twelve million illegal residents currently in the United States

## Legal Immigration – What Should Be Changed?

### Market Driven Immigration

Immigration should be tied to the unemployment rate. If the country needs workers in a particular job market, then immigration visas should be granted. Otherwise, no visas would be granted.

1. “H” temporary work visas should no longer be needed as expanded immigration should fill those needs.
2. All classifications for temporary visas for “dependent children spouses and children” would face the same “economic success” threshold for immigrants undergoing the naturalization process.
3. Increase migrant work visas for low skill jobs

### Changing the Quota System

1. No unskilled labor if unemployment greater than 3.5%
2. Preferred status to highly educated or American educated
3. Preferred status to technical / professional labor pool shortages
4. Encourage high performing academic exchange students to remain in country
5. Shift priority to strong democratic countries and those individuals with strong English skills
6. Limit chain migration to spouse and children<sup>1</sup>

### Tighten Naturalization Process

1. 10 years as a permanent resident
2. The “married to a U.S. citizen” requirement would be raised from 3 to 8 years
3. Good moral character would include (in addition to the current requirements)
  - a. A maximum combined criminal sentence over the previous 10 years of 1 year in jail
  - b. Not having served more than 6 months in jail

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<sup>1</sup> If an immigrant undergoing the naturalization process achieves a level of economic success that would place the immigrant and his foreign family well above the government assistance thresholds, then additional family immigration visas could be granted.

## Illegal Immigration – How To Prevent

### Secure the Borders

1. The COL would improve measures to insure that visitors on a temporary visa do not overstay their welcome (as this is roughly the source of 50% of illegal immigration).
  - a. End the Visa Waiver Program
  - b. Limit “B” visas to three month duration and three year renewal.
  - c. Create new or improve existing methods for immediate apprehension and return of all those whose temporary visa expires
  - d. Any individual who allows the temporary visa to expire may not return to the United States for 10 years AND must pay a stiff penalty.
2. Guard all borders using the most cost-effective means
3. Increase port of entry enforcement for the Philippines, India, Korea, China and Vietnam

### Push Factors

Many individuals who immigrate or migrate to the United States because of threats or conditions in their home country. To address the “push factors” the COL proposes the following.

1. Increase economic and political stability assistance to Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Ecuador
2. Legalize marijuana and legalize and regulate all drugs, weakening the drug cartels of the Americas

### Pull Factors

Many individuals who immigrate or migrate here see opportunities in the United States. The COL believes that we should control those “pull factors” to attract the best to our shores.

1. No exemptions for the English requirement
2. Negotiate with Mexico creation of suitable refugee review stations in Mexico
3. Pass legislation specifying that “allegiance to a foreign sovereign” applies to all illegal immigrants who entered the country prior to age 13
4. Shutdown ability of business to hire illegals using a National Electronic verification system for employment
5. Create a national consumption tax to eliminate advantage of working illegally
6. Create a 15% cash export tax, decreasing incentive to send money abroad
7. Exclude illegals from all national, state, and local assistance programs
8. Provide stiff penalties for hiring illegals
  - a. Businesses and individuals who hire, harbor or aid illegals commit a felony.
  - b. If a corporation hires an illegal, each individual from the lowest administrator to the CEO responsible for the hire must be charged with a felony.
  - c. Assess fines on any individual or corporation harboring or employing illegals up to the value of the fines due and cost of deportation
  - d. Businesses and individuals who hired illegals must pay “back taxes”

## Deportation

The following illegals would be subject to immediate deportation.

1. Currently in U.S. jails for a sentence of longer than one year and served more than half of their sentence
2. Convicted in the United States or abroad of serious, violent crime after serving half of their sentence
3. After the one year registration period ends, failed to register for a residency
4. Harboring or hiding illegals or participating in illegal immigration

## What Should Be Done with the Existing Illegal Population?

The COL finds any plan that requires mass deportation without exception not only unworkable but highly costly and detrimental to the economy. Instead, we hope to correct the decades-old problem of the approximately twelve million illegals living in the United States which was created, not by the immigrants, but by our government.<sup>2</sup>

## Pathway to Residency

1. The COL would offer all illegals a one-year period to register a request for residency. The COL would grant permanent resident status (not citizenship) to all illegals who meet the following conditions.
  - a. Satisfy the existing immigration background checks
  - b. Report all previous or current employers so that business penalties may be assessed  
AND
  - c. Report all illegals and criminal elements whom they know.
2. Any illegals who do NOT apply for residency will be subject to deportation and will be banned from future residency or citizenship.
3. Any individual who registers but is not eligible for residency, may, upon return to country of origin, apply for immigration.

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<sup>2</sup> The COL do not believe that immigration is a criminal issue, given that data suggests immigrants (legal or otherwise) do NOT commit crime at a higher rate than citizens. Neither do we believe that illegal immigrants solely should bear the legal responsible for their entry into the United States. The COL believe that the government tacitly approved illegal immigration for decades, at the request of business, in order to suppress the wage rate and provide a growing supply of labor. Therefore, any penalties applied to immigrants should be applied proportionally to producers as well.

## Pathway to Citizenship

1. Residents granted residency under this program, must meet the following additional requirements.
  - a. ONE of the following
    - 1) More than ten years as a legal resident
    - 2) Entered the country under the age of thirteen prior to the law's adoption
    - 3) At least one parent was a U.S. citizen at the time of entry.
  - b. Did NOT committed any serious or violent crimes
  - c. Remained in school or employed for ninety percent of their residency or if not employed, did not receive any national, state, or local government assistance
  - d. Paid an ongoing fine (or surtax) during naturalization process for "back taxes"
  - e. Reported all previous employers
  - f. Reported all known illegal aliens or criminal associates
2. Illegals who do not meet the above requirements BUT have children in school under the age of eighteen who are U.S. citizens, will be granted residency or a temporary "H" visa (if they cannot satisfy the requirements for citizenship under the law) until their last child reaches the age of eighteen. At that time, the individual may begin the naturalization process or be subject to deportation.
3. The ten year residency requirement may be waived for any individual who
  - a. Serves in or served honorable in the armed forces,
  - b. Was graduated from a college in a STEM field OR
  - c. Is currently employed in high demand job market.

## What Values Does the COL Immigration Policy Promote?

All policy inherently promotes certain values. After all, politics is essential about redistribution of resources to achieve certain values. The Children of Liberty believe the following.

1. A policy firmly committed to capitalist, free market solutions promotes economic growth for both domestic producers and consumers alike.<sup>3</sup>
2. Legal immigration strengthens American cultural and should promote American principles of natural rights and rule of law.<sup>4</sup>
3. Given the nature of world terrorist threats and other security concerns, illegal immigration must be significantly curtailed using the best technology to secure our borders.
4. The United States of America will always be a home to qualified refugees.

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<sup>3</sup> Immigration increases the supply of labor in the country which grows the economy, but "there is no such thing as a free lunch." Simple economics says that immigration increases the number of workers hired AND decreases the wage rate workers receive. Since the number of workers hired increases, producers also increase the production of goods and services, growing the economy. Simultaneously, immigration depresses the wage rate and annual income. Therefore, our national government primarily should view immigration as an economic issue.

<sup>4</sup> Immigration also is a cultural issue. While immigration can help reinvent the country, bringing new ideas and new values, it also can divide a country, creating pockets of isolated, non-integrated communities who are not committed to American ideals. Therefore, the COL firmly believes that the naturalization process must include sound English skills and the inculcation of American ideals and values, insuring that all immigrants dedicate themselves to "preserve, protect, and defend the constitution."