



S.A.N.E. Immigration Platform FAQ

Q1. How did S.A.N.E. come to be?

Answer: The S.A.N.E. platform is a series of guidelines for the creation of federal immigration reform legislation. It is the result of an 8-month process of civil discourse and compromise that began in May, 2012. S.A.N.E. is based on input from business, faith, legal, law enforcement, Latino, DREAMer and other community leaders including former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, Maricopa County Attorney Bill Montgomery and former National Council of La Raza Board Chair and civil rights activist, Daniel R. Ortega.

Content is based on information originally unveiled during a series of Arizona Immigration Solutions Conferences sponsored during 2011 by Arizona Employers for Immigration Reform (AZEIR), The Real Arizona Coalition and One Arizona Interfaith.

Q2. Who supports S.A.N.E.?

Answer: The growing list of nearly 40 public and private organizations, leaders and elected officials who support the S.A.N.E. platform can be found online at www.SANEAZ.com.

Q3. How does this compare to the DREAM Act or ACHIEVE Act?

Answer: S.A.N.E. is similar to the DREAM Act in that it provides a means for children brought into the country by their parents to obtain a pathway to citizenship by attending and graduating from any U.S. college or university or service in the U.S. Armed Forces and receiving an honorable discharge. The ACHIEVE Act provides no pathway to citizenship.

Q4. How does S.A.N.E. compare to current law on obtaining citizenship?

Answer: Under current law, citizenship is granted to those who have earned it by successfully completing a deliberate process of application, legal permanent residency (LPR), learning the language and passing moral and knowledge tests. No one obtains citizenship without going through these steps. S.A.N.E. is consistent with this approach to citizenship. In all cases, everyone who wishes to enter and remain in the U.S. for whatever reason must follow lawful steps.



Q5. What are the requirements for obtaining legal status, permanent legal residency and citizenship?

Answer: S.A.N.E. requires those here without legal status to first obtain temporary status through an application process. Once they have temporary status, they can apply for permanent legal residency. If they choose to become citizens, they must meet the same qualifications as any other alien with LPR.

Q6. Does S.A.N.E. grant amnesty?

Answer: No. Amnesty clears people of wrongdoing and there is nothing contained in the S.A.N.E. platform that clears anyone of wrongdoing. To the contrary, we hold them accountable.

S.A.N.E. requires those who wish to gain temporary legal status under the S.A.N.E. guidelines must submit to criminal background checks, identify those for whom they have worked for and pay any back taxes and a fine. That's not the end of it. Successful completion of this step only gets them temporary legal status, from which they must apply for permanent legal residency and then citizenship if they choose. There is no jumping to the front of the line. There is no amnesty.

Q7. Is S.A.N.E. an attempt to repeal Arizona's SB1070?

Answer: No, S.A.N.E. is not an attempt to repeal any Arizona law--that would include the Legal Arizona Workers Act (LAWA) or SB1070. Our effort has focused on defining and passing *federal* immigration reform legislation developed through the guidance of the S.A.N.E. platform. It does not call for, nor does it have any impact, on state law. If passage of federal reforms removes the necessity for state-level laws such as LAWA or SB1070, then that is an acceptable outcome.

Q8. What do you say to those who want the border secured first?

Answer: During deliberations on the S.A.N.E. platform, we examined whether it was practical or possible to try to secure the border first and ignore the broader labor demand issues and potential economic consequences. Considering enforcement-only laws as they have been implemented in other jurisdictions across the country, we found the results were always the same: job loss, business closures, damaged reputations, and increased economic and social stress. When we compared that to other states that gained immigrants, we saw they recovered from the recession more quickly, attracted more business investment, and their economies grew. Our focus must be on what works and move away from things that do not. The answer is in sensible and practical federal reforms that address all aspects of the issue, not just one and certainly not ones that have shown little or no success anywhere they were tried.



Q9. What other national organizations are aware of this platform and whose interests are aligned with S.A.N.E.?

Answer: Our initial focus has been to enlist support from Arizonans and have them sign on to the S.A.N.E. platform. We have also reached out to other state and national-level organizations and individuals and made them aware of the platform. Those groups include:

1. Partnership for A New American Economy (PNAE)
2. The Cato Institute
3. The Sutherland Institute
4. The Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI)
5. New American Alliance Institute
6. Texans for Sensible Immigration Policy (TxSIP)
7. Dr. Douglas Massey, Princeton University's Mexican Migration Project
8. American Jewish Committee
9. Anti-Defamation League

Q10. Are other Arizona groups who have not signed on considering it?

Answer: Several groups are considering the S.A.N.E. platform, but not all boards were able to meet in time to review and vote prior to today's announcement. We're continuing to reach out those and other groups, individuals and public policy leaders.

Q11. Why is Mexico important to Arizona's economy?

Answer: We recognize Mexico is the 11th largest economy in the world and our southern economic neighbor. By 2020, economists expect Mexico to eclipse Brazil's economy. As neighbors we should be doing more together. Immigration reform is one legal clarification between us that is essential to open the economic development doors fully between our two countries.

Q12. What do we want to happen next?

Answer: We need more organizations and individuals to support and sign on to S.A.N.E. Our goal is to have a bipartisan majority of Arizona's Congressional delegation adopt the S.A.N.E. platform and use these guidelines to draft and advance sensible immigration reform at the federal level.