



The Real Solution is the SANE Approach to Federal Immigration Reform

Secure Our Sovereign Borders – Strengthen border security

With the assistance of law enforcement, economic development and tourism officials, we have developed a platform that both defines operational control of land ports of entry and emphasizes the need to expand opportunities for increasing trade and tourism. We acknowledge that the overarching goal is to establish secure operational control for our borders and not the sealing of our borders. The platform includes:

- An initial focus on land ports of entry throughout the U.S.
- Clear law enforcement definition of operational control as defined and achieved by the Yuma, San Diego and El Centro sectors
- Addressing the challenges associated with establishing proper security screening in high-volume ports of entry areas to facilitate trade and tourism
- Taking tribal nations into account that often cross international boundaries

Account For Everyone Without Lawful Authority – Requires those already in the U.S. to register for a federally established form of legal status

Absent an overwhelming and unprecedented commitment of resources by the federal government to identify each and every individual in the country without lawful authority and then contact each and every one, the task to engage in a massive deportation effort is not operationally feasible. For those who are, in fact, present only to engage in work, there is an untapped opportunity to collect an objective set of data to identify true labor needs for the U.S. labor market, which can and should form the basis for necessary bureaucratic reforms to our immigration system. Accordingly, we recommend the following for those without lawful authority who can come forward and gain legal status:

- For all who entered the U.S. or remained without lawful authority as of [proposed date: January 1, 2011], they may apply within a five-year period for temporary legal residency with authorization to work in the U.S.
- During this timeframe, those applying for temporary legal residency will pay a processing fee and undergo a background check and those with felony convictions (other than individual identity violations) will be deported.



- At the end of the initial five-year period, those who have completed all necessary administrative steps and are eligible for permanent legal residency may petition to do so.
- From there, the rights and responsibilities surrounding the question of citizenship is a delicate one, and we have not completely agreed on this point. There are various scenarios: from requiring those who wish to be citizens to return to their country of origin prior to legally beginning the process of earning citizenship, to those who do not want to be citizens but prefer to work here seasonally and return to their home country, to the Dreamers, who by all accounts are leading lives as Americans, young people who have lived here since they were children, and then there is everyone in between.
- The bureaucratic process for (re-)entering the U.S. legally should be revised to reduce current wait times.
- Those granted temporary or work status are eligible to renew those visas as applicable by law and are not required to apply for permanent legal residency.
- U.S. employers that have not complied with employment verification measures will avoid prosecution, but may incur a fine or pay taxes.
- Family, including non-working spouses, parents or children will be included in this process to gain lawful status.
- Provisions for those present without lawful authority who were brought to this country as children can be implemented within the context of this framework.

Necessary Bureaucratic Reform – Grow the economy by establishing a market-based immigration process that supports a range of workforce needs, from seasonal to highly skilled workers and entrepreneurs

Our nation's existing immigration system is broken. Ad hoc adjustments to visa authorizations, quotas disassociated from actual labor needs and frustratingly long time frames to accomplish goals of legal residency or citizenship discourage compliance with administrative requirements and undermine the rule of law. Visa reform is necessary and should take into account labor needs: high-tech, skilled, day labor and seasonal workers. Those reforms should include administration of visas, including obtaining a visa, the cost and process for updating one's visa status, and addressing each and every instance of a visa overstay.



Consider the following:

- Streamlining the visa process for low-skilled workers
- Raising visa caps for high and middle skilled temporary workers
- Providing permanent legal residency for immigrants who obtain advanced degrees from U.S. universities and those honorably discharged from the U.S. military
- Offering green cards to foreign undergraduates of U.S. post-secondary institutions
- Granting more visas for foreigners who have business plans and capital, allowing U.S. companies better access to low-skill, semi-skilled and high-skilled talent from around the world through an expedited visa application process

Engage all Levels of Government – Create a secure system for all employers nationwide to verify the legal work-eligibility for employees

Ultimately, any set of reforms will not obviate the need for ongoing cooperation among local, state, federal officials and businesses to verify legal work-eligibility for future legal immigration eligibility and enforcement. It is important to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to enforcement to strengthen steps taken to reform the current system and maintain a secure environment for citizens and those here legally.

In addition to enforcement requirements, the cooperation of all levels of government and business is necessary for the implementation of procedures by which people can petition for legal status short of citizenship. This should also include local community groups, to include faith-based groups, with trusted relationships among affected community-based organizations for communication and assistance with administrative requirements.

Given the opportunities to establish legal residency, there should be no excuse for failing to enforce immigration laws.

Summary

Our goal is for Arizona's Congressional delegation to support the SANE federal immigration platform that advances a 21st Century economy, moving beyond issues focused only on enforcement and toward solutions that address the underlying problems with our current immigration system, while respecting the historic and ongoing contributions of immigrants. The ability to obtain citizenship must be addressed by Congress with discernment and fairness, and we have great hope that our elected officials and the American people can find and support a reasonable solution—even if it means engaging in compromise. Through the pillars of the SANE platform and civil discourse, involving Arizona's business, multi-cultural, faith-based and policy leaders across the state, we are leveraging our state's bellwether position, demonstrating bold thoughtful leadership and advancing federal solutions to this complex issue.



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