



Latino Engagement Task Force Neighborhood and Community Relations City of Minneapolis

Principles of Immigration Reform

America is a nation of values, founded on an idea – that all men and women are created equal. We hold these truths to be self-evident that all people have rights, no matter what they look like or where they come from. Americans believe in the values of freedom, family, and hard work. Aspiring citizens move to America, the land of freedom and opportunity, in order to provide a better life for their children and to become a part of this great nation.

The current patchwork of policies and programs is broken. America deserves a common sense immigration process that includes a roadmap for New Americans who aspire to be citizens, keeps families together, respects the dignity of work, supports America’s economic vitality, ensures the health of our communities, and protects our most precious values of freedom, equality and justice for all.

Principles:

1. Establish a “common sense” immigration system for undocumented immigrants. The system should be a roadmap to permanent residency and eventual citizenship for the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants. The roadmap could include registration, background checks, and knowledge of American civics, the economy and English;
2. Protects the unity and sanctity of the family, including the families of bi-national, same-sex couples, by reducing the family backlogs and keeping spouses, parents, and children together;
3. Ends the exploitation of U.S. and immigrant workers by providing sufficient, safe, and legal avenues for foreign workers to fill legitimate gaps in our workforce, with full labor rights, protection from discrimination, and a reasonable path to permanency that lifts up wages and working conditions for all workers and their families;
4. Ensures smart and accountable enforcement that promotes the safety of our communities;

5. Attracts the best and the brightest investors, innovators, and skilled professionals, including those in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) studies, to help strengthen our economy, create jobs, and build a brighter future for all Americans;
6. Builds on the extraordinary success of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program and incorporates DREAMers—those who were brought to the U.S. at a young age and are Americans but for a piece of paper—into the mainstream of life in the United States through a path to citizenship so that America benefits from their scholastic achievements, military service and pursuit of their dreams;
7. Includes a balanced, workable solution for the agriculture industry that ensures agricultural workers have a route to citizenship and employers have the workers and American agriculture continues to lead in our global economy;
8. Strengthens our commitment to providing protection to those fleeing persecution and torture, holding true to our deeply held belief in the freedom to be who you want to be and say what you want to say; and;
9. Renews our commitment to citizenship, to ensure all workers pay their fair share of taxes, fully integrate into our way of life and bear the same responsibilities as all Americans and reaffirms our shared belief that the Citizenship Clause of the Constitution is a fundamental freedom that must be preserved.