

Quotes/Positions on Immigration

Obama

Des Moines Register October 23, 2012

<http://www.desmoinesregister.com/article/20121024/NEWS09/121024003/After-editor-s-blog-President-Obama-releases-transcript-Register-interview>

- "We need to get immigration reform done, and I'm fully committed to doing that."
- The second thing I'm confident we'll get done next year is immigration reform."

Univision Forum September 19, 2012

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/09/20/obama-immigration-reform-univision_n_1901240.html

- "I am happy to take responsibility for the fact that we didn't get [comprehensive immigration reform] done. But I did not make a promise that I would get everything done 100% when I was elected as president. What I promised was that I would work every single day as hard as I can to make sure that everybody in this country regardless of who they are, what they look like, where they come from, that they would have a fair shot at the American dream. And that promise I've kept."

NALEO June 22, 2012

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/photos-and-video/video/2012/06/22/president-obama-speaks-naleo-annual-conference#transcript>

- **"In the face of a Congress that refuses to do anything on immigration, I've said that I'll take action wherever I can.** So my administration has been doing what we can, without the help in Congress, for more than three years now."
- "I've said time and again: Send me the DREAM Act; I will sign it right away. And I'm still willing to work with anyone from either party who is committed to real reform."

DACA announcement June 15, 2012

<http://www.nytimes.com/2012/06/16/us/transcript-of-obamas-speech-on-immigration-policy.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

- "And I've said time and time and time again to Congress that — send me the Dream Act, put it on my desk, and I will sign it right away."
- "So there's no reason that we can't come together and get this [DREAM Act] done. **And as long as I'm president, I will not give up on this issue,** not only because it's the right thing to do for our economy — and CEOs agree with me — not just because it's the right thing to do for our security, but because it's the right thing to do, period."

Romney

Boston Globe October 2, 2012

<http://bostonglobe.com/news/politics/2012/10/02/mitt-romney-would-preserve-president-obama-executive-order-protecting-young-illegal-immigrants-from-deportation/cmOVwnbNhO9RVqGZbKsXzL/story.html>

- Romney's campaign said he would honor deportation exemptions issued by the Obama administration before his inauguration but would not grant new ones after taking office.

Denver Post October 1, 2012

http://www.denverpost.com/recommended/ci_21676605

- "The people who have received the special visa that the president has put in place, which is a two-year visa, should expect that the visa would continue to be valid. I'm not going to take something that they've purchased. . . Before those visas have expired, we will have the full immigration reform plan that I've proposed."

Immigration Strategy Mitt Romney Website

<http://www.mittromney.com/issues/immigration>

- As president, Mitt Romney will make the system for bringing in temporary agricultural workers and other seasonal workers functional for both employers and immigrants.
- Mitt Romney will work with Congress, states, and employers to properly set the cap on non-agricultural temporary worker visas.
- Mitt Romney will complete a high-tech fence to enhance border security.
- Mitt Romney will develop an effective, mandatory employment verification system that will enable employers to be sure that those they hire are eligible to work. Governor Romney opposes all "magnets" that entice illegal immigrants to come to our country. As governor, he vetoed in-state tuition benefits for illegal immigrants and opposed driver's licenses for illegal immigrants.
- Mitt Romney will work with Congress to give legal permanent residents the same priority as citizens when applying to bring husbands, wives, and minor children to the United States.
- Mitt Romney will reallocate green cards to family of citizens and legal permanent residents.
- Mitt Romney believes that young illegal immigrants who were brought to the United States as children should have the chance to become permanent residents, and eventually citizens, by serving honorably in the United States military

Univision- Enrique Acevedo Interview April 13, 2012

<http://univisionnews.tumblr.com/post/21081359245/obama-dont-mind-debating-legalization-of-drugs>

- **"I can promise that I will try to do it [immigration reform] in the first year of my second term.** I want to try this year. The challenge we've got on immigration reform is very simple. I've got a majority of Democrats who are prepared to vote for it, and I've got no Republicans who are prepared to vote for it. It's worse than that. We now have a Republican nominee who said that the Arizona laws are a model for the country; that — and these are laws that potentially would allow someone to be stopped and picked up and asked where their citizenship papers are based on an assumption."

State of the Union 2012

http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/state-of-the-union-2012-obama-speech-excerpts/2012/01/24/gIA9D3QOO_story.html

- "I believe as strongly as ever that we should take on illegal immigration. That's why my administration has put more boots on the border than ever before. That's why there are fewer illegal crossings than when I took office. The opponents of action are out of excuses. We should be working on comprehensive immigration reform right now.

But if election-year politics keeps Congress from acting on a comprehensive plan, let's at least agree to stop expelling responsible young people who want to staff our labs, start new businesses, defend this country. **Send me a law that gives them the chance to earn their citizenship. I will sign it right away."**

State of the Union 2011

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2011/01/25/obama-state-of-the-union-1_n_813478.html

- "Now, I strongly believe that we should take on, once and for all, the issue of illegal immigration. And I am prepared to work with Republicans and Democrats to protect our borders, enforce our laws, and address the millions of undocumented workers who are now living in the shadows. I know that debate will be difficult. I know it will take time. But tonight, let's agree to make that effort. And let's stop expelling talented, responsible young people who could be staffing our research labs or starting a new business, who could be further enriching this nation."

Univision September 19, 2012

<http://latinalista.com/2012/09/transcript-univision-s-meet-the-candidate-forum-with-mitt-romney/>

- "The immigration system, I think we all agree, is broken and it's been a political football for years and years. It needs to be fixed."
- "Also, instead of having our diversity visas offered, we provide instead the chance to pull families together. I want that to be the favored system for immigration. **I also believe that we should have temporary work visas consistent with the needs of the employment community and by the way, if the student does so well that they get an advanced degree, I'd staple the green card to their diploma.** For those young people who, for instance, serve in our military, that they should be able to become a permanent resident."
- "The reason there's an Arizona law is because the federal government, and specifically, Pres. Obama didn't solve immigration problem when he came into office. The right answer is ultimately to have a federal solution; [then] we don't have to have states trying to find solutions of their own."

NALEO

June 21, 2012

<http://www.whatthefolly.com/2012/06/23/transcript-mitt-romneys-remarks-on-immigration-reform-at-the-2012-naleo-conference/>

- "Some people have asked if I will let stand the President's executive action. **The answer is that I will put in place my own long-term solution that will replace and supersede the President's temporary measure.**"
- "I will prioritize measures that strengthen legal immigration and make it easier."
- "As I have said many times, it is critical that we redouble our efforts to secure the borders. That means both preventing illegal border crossings and making it harder to illegally overstay a visa. We should field enough border patrol agents, complete a high-tech fence, and implement an improved exit verification system."
- "I will work with states and employers to update our temporary worker visa program so that it meets our economic needs."
- "And if you get an advanced degree here, we want you to stay here - so we will staple a green card to your diploma. We want the best and brightest to enrich the nation through the jobs and technologies they will help create."
- **"That's why my administration will establish a strong employment verification system** so that every business can know with confidence that the people it hires are legally eligible for employment."

NCLR

July 25, 2011

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/07/25/remarks-president-national-council-la-raza>

- **" I promised you I would work tirelessly to fix our broken immigration system and make the DREAM Act a reality."**
- "And part of the problem is, is that the political winds have changed. That's left states to come up with patchwork versions of reform that don't solve the problem. You and I know that's not the right way to go. We can't have 50 immigration laws across the country.
So, yes, feel free to keep the heat on me and keep the heat on Democrats."

Chamizal National Memorial

El Paso, Texas

May 10, 2011

http://blogs.suntimes.com/sweet/2011/05/obama_el_paso_immigration_spee.html

- "We should make it easier for the best and the brightest to not only stay here, but also to start businesses and create jobs here. In recent years, a full 25 percent of high-tech startups in the U.S. were founded by immigrants. That led to 200,000 jobs here in America. I'm glad those jobs are here. I want to see more of them created in this country. We need to provide them the chance."
- "We need to provide our farms a legal way to hire workers that they rely on, and a path for those workers to earn legal status."
- **"The most significant step we can now take to secure the borders is to fix the system as a whole so that fewer people have the incentive to enter illegally in search of work in the first place.** This would allow agents to focus on the worst threats on both of our -- both sides of our borders, from drug traffickers to those who would come here to commit acts of violence or terror. That's where our focus should be."
- "We're focusing our limited resources and people on violent offenders and people convicted of crimes -- not just families, not just folks who are just looking to scrape together an income."
- "What we really need to do is to keep up the fight to pass genuine, comprehensive reform. That is the ultimate solution to this problem. That's what I'm committed to doing."
- **"So we're going to keep fighting for the DREAM Act. We're going to keep up the fight for reform."**

GOP candidate debate

Mesa, AZ

Feb 2012

<http://articles.latimes.com/2012/feb/22/news/la-pn-gop-debate-illegal-immigration-20120222>

- **"I'll also complete the fence, I'll make sure we have enough Border Patrol agents to secure the fence, and I will make sure we have an E-Verify system and require employers to check the documents of workers."**

CNN GOP candidate debate

January 26, 2012

http://www.ontheissues.org/Archive/2012_CNN_FL_GOP_Mit_Romney.htm

- "Those who come into the country legally would be given an identification card, and if employers hire someone without a card, then those employers would be severely sanctioned. If you do that, people who have come here illegally won't be able to find work. And over time, those people would tend to leave the country, or self-deport. I don't think anyone is interested in going around and rounding up people around the country and deporting 11 million illegal immigrants into America. Let's focus our attention on how to make legal immigration work and stop illegal immigration."

GOP candidate debate

September 12, 2011

<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/110912/se.06.html>

- "With regards to illegal immigration, of course we build a fence and of course we do not give instate tuition credits to people who come here illegally. That only attracts people to come here and take advantage of America's great beneficence. And with regards to giving driver's licenses to people that are here illegally, that creates a patina of legal status. There are sanctuary cities in some parts of the country.

One of the things I did in my state was to say, look, I'm going to get my state police authorized to be able to enforce immigration laws and make sure those people who we arrest are put in jail, to find out they're here illegally, we're going to get them out of here.

We have to recognize that this is the party that believes in supporting the law. We're going to enforce the law. We're the party of opportunity; we're also the party of legal law abiding citizens. And that's something we're going to attract people of all backgrounds."

American University July 1, 2010

http://www.american.edu/media/president_obama_visit_transcript.cfm

- "That's why businesses must be held accountable if they break the law by deliberately hiring and exploiting undocumented workers. We've already begun to step up enforcement against the worst workplace offenders. "
- "Finally, we have to demand responsibility from people living here illegally. They must be required to admit that they broke the law. They should be required to register, pay their taxes, pay a fine, and learn English. They must get right with the law before they can get in line and earn their citizenship -- not just because it is fair, not just because it will make clear to those who might wish to come to America they must do so inside the bounds of the law, but because this is how we demonstrate that being -- what being an American means."
- "Our laws should respect families following the rules -- instead of splitting them apart. We need to provide farms a legal way to hire the workers they rely on, and a path for those workers to earn legal status. And we should stop punishing innocent young people for the actions of their parents by denying them the chance to stay here and earn an education and contribute their talents to build the country where they've grown up. The DREAM Act would do this, and that's why I supported this bill as a state legislator and as a U.S. senator -- and why I continue to support it as president."

NALEO June 28, 2008

http://www.ontheissues.org/Archive/2008_NALEO_Immigration_on.htm

- "For all the noise and anger that too often surrounds the immigration debate, America has nothing to fear from today's immigrants. They have come here for the same reason that families have always come here--for the hope that in America, they could build a better life for themselves and their families. Like the waves of immigrants that came before them and the Hispanic Americans whose families have been here for generations, the recent arrival of Latino immigrants will only enrich our country."
- "We need immigration reform that will secure our borders, and punish employers who exploit immigrant labor; reform that finally brings the 12 million people who are here illegally out of the shadows by requiring them to take steps to become legal citizens We must assert our values and reconcile our principles as a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws. That is a priority I will pursue from my very first day."

GOP candidate debate (Simi Valley, CA) September 7, 2011

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/09/08/us/politics/08republican-debate-text.html?pagewanted=all&r=0>

- "Well, first, we ought to have a fence.

(Question: The whole fence, 2,600 miles?)

Yes. We got to -- **we got to have a fence**, or the technologically approved system to make sure that we know who's coming into the country, number one.

Number two, **we ought to have enough agents** to secure that fence and to make sure that people are coming over are caught.

But the third thing, and I learned this when I was with border patrol agents in San Diego, and they said, look, they can always get a ladder to go over the fence. And people will always run to the country. The reason they come in such great numbers is because we've left the magnet on. And I said, what do you mean, the magnet? And they said, when employers are willing to hire people who are here illegally, that's a magnet, and it draws them in. And we went in and talked about sanctuary cities, giving tuition breaks to the kids of illegal aliens, employers that, employers that knowingly hire people who are here illegally. **Those things also have to be stopped.**

If we want to secure the border, we have to make sure we have a fence, technologically, determining where people are, enough agents to oversee it, and turn off that magnet. **We can't talk about amnesty, we cannot give amnesty to those who have come here illegally.** We've got 4.7 million people waiting in line legally. Let those people come in first, and those that are here illegally, they shouldn't have a special deal."

GOP candidate debate (Reagan Library) January 30, 2008

<http://mittromneycentral.com/on-the-issues/immigration/>

- "My plan is this, which is for those that have come here illegally and are here illegally today, no amnesty. Now, how do people return home? Under the ideal setting, at least in my view, you say to those who have just come in recently, we're going to send you back home immediately, we're not going to let you stay here. You just go back home. For those that have been here, let's say, five years, and have kids in school, you allow kids to complete the school year, you allow people to make their arrangements, and allow them to return back home. Those that have been here a long time, with kids that have responsibilities here and so forth, you let stay enough time to organize their affairs and go home."

Jorge Ramos Interview
May 28, 2008

http://www.ontheissues.org/2012/Barack_Obama_Immigrati_on.htm

- "I cannot guarantee that it is going to be in the first 100 days. But what I can guarantee is that we will have in the first year an immigration bill that I strongly support and that I'm promoting. And I want to move that forward as quickly as possible."

Democratic candidate debate
February 21, 2008

http://www.ontheissues.org/Archive/2008_Dems_Texas_Im_migration.htm

- "The American people want fairness, want justice. They recognize that the idea that you're going to deport 12 million people is ridiculous, that we're not going to be devoting all our law enforcement resources to sending people back. But what they do also want is some order to the process. We're not going to be able to do these things in isolation. We're not going to be able to deal with the 12 million people who are living in the shadows and give them a way of getting out of the shadows if we don't also deal with the problem of this constant influx of undocumented workers. That's why comprehensive reform is so important. Something that we can do immediately that is very important is to pass the Dream Act, which allows children who through no fault of their own are here but have essentially grown up as Americans, allow them the opportunity for higher education. I do not want two classes of citizens in this country. I want everybody to prosper. That's going to be a top priority."

Floor statement on Immigration Reform
April 3, 2006

<http://obamaspeeches.com/061-Immigration-Reform-Obama-Speech.htm>

- "In fact, I will not support any bill that does not provide this earned path to citizenship for the undocumented population--not just for humanitarian reasons; not just because these people, having broken the law, did so for the best of motives, to try and provide a better life for their children and their grandchildren; but also because this is the only practical way we can get a handle on the population that is within our borders right now."

June 3, 2007

<http://mittromneycentral.com/on-the-issues/immigration/>

- "I very firmly believe that we have to make sure that we enforce our borders, that we have an employment verification system, and that those people who have come here illegally do not get an advantage to become permanent residents, they do not get a special pathway."

GOP candidate debate
St. Petersburg, FL
November 28, 2007

<http://mittromneycentral.com/on-the-issues/immigration/>

- "Let me tell you what I did as governor. I said no to driver's licenses for illegals. I said, number two, we're going to make sure that those that come here don't get a tuition break in our schools, which I disagree with other folks on that one. Number three, I applied to have our state police enforce the immigration laws in May, seven months before I was out of office."

GOP candidate debate
Facebook/WMUR-NH
January 5, 2006

http://www.ontheissues.org/2012/Mitt_Romney_Immigration_.htm

- "I disagree fundamentally with the idea that the 12 million people who've come here illegally should all be allowed to remain in the US permanently, potentially some of them applying for citizenship and becoming citizens, others just staying permanently. That is a form of amnesty, and that it's not appropriate. We're a nation of laws. Our liberty is based upon being a nation of laws. I would welcome those people to get in line with everybody else who wants to come here permanently. But there should be no special pathway to permanent residency or citizenship for those that have come here illegally. I welcome legal immigration. Of course we need to secure the border. We need to have an employment verification system with a card to identify who's here legally and not legally. We need to have employer sanctions that hire people that then don't have the legal card. But with regards to those already here, it is simply not right and unfair to say they're going to all get to stay."