



**Member Profile:** Rep. Elton Gallegly

**District:** CA-24

**First Elected:** 1986

In a somewhat surprising political move, House Judiciary Committee Chairman Lamar Smith (R-TX) appointed Representative Elton Gallegly to lead the Subcommittee on Immigration Policy and Enforcement. Representative Steve King (R-IA) was widely viewed as the likely candidate to head the subcommittee in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, but he will instead serve as its Vice-Chairman.

Since his early years in office, Representative Gallegly has had a hand in restricting immigration and creating the E-Verify program. On his website, he explains that, “The answer to illegal immigration is fairly simple. First, we must enforce our laws. Second, we must remove the magnets that persuade illegal immigrants to risk their lives to come to the United States. Finally, we must remove the benefits that make it easy for them to stay.”

- In 1995 he chaired the Congressional Task Force on Immigration Reform which set the groundwork for IIRIRA in 1996. Additionally, he sponsored an amendment to IIRIRA that would have allowed states to bar illegal immigrants from attending public schools.
- Gallegly recommended the Basic Pilot Program, which has evolved into E-Verify.
- In 2006, Gallegly was recognized as one of the Top Ten Illegal Immigration Hawks in Congress by *Human Events* Magazine and inducted into the U.S. Border Control Hall of Fame.

During the opening weeks of the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress, Gallegly has cosponsored legislation to:

- Require the creation and use of electronically readable Social Security cards and an employment eligibility database within the next two years (H.R. 98).

Legislative Interests

- Repeal Birthright Citizenship
- Mandate the use of E-Verify
- Limit legal immigration by eliminating visas for unskilled workers, two family preferences categories, and the Diversity Visa program.
- Require proof of citizenship to receive public benefits such as SCHIP, the State Children’s Health Insurance Plan
- Make English the official language of the United States