



Immigrant Friendly Organizing Handles

From El Paso, TX, to Allentown, PA, to Carpentersville, IL, organizers are turning a negative situation into a source of positive change by working to pass pro-immigrant resolutions and ordinances in opposition to anti-immigrant ordinances. Introducing a pro-immigrant resolution or ordinance* measure in the face of anti-immigrant ordinances can change the debate in a town and swing voters away from anti-immigrant ordinances. It can also rally pro-immigrant constituents around a positive goal with a distinct outcome, and it strengthens the support of pro-immigrant constituents for other bills to be introduced at the local, state, and federal level.

Pro-immigrant resolutions not only are a tool against anti-immigrant ordinances, but they also accomplish three important goals. First, they provide a positive campaign for people to work on, helping develop a strong local coalition. Second, they are a means to get positive stories about the contributions of immigrants into public discourse. Third, they lay the groundwork for a broader immigrant rights agenda in your state or region.

In order to take action, bring your coalition together to decide which immigrant friendly resolution or ordinance best fits the make-up of your town. We have included a summary of the current types of immigrant friendly ordinances, where they have been passed, and examples of each in the documents section of this toolkit.

Statutory – Changing Local Practices to Protect Immigrants

- Sanctuary Ordinance – Seeks to protect immigrants and their families by establishing checks on the right of law enforcement and local government agencies to verify the legal status of individuals. These ordinances often include statements on the benefits of immigrants to the community and the rights of immigrants. *See Seattle, WA*
- Racial Profiling - Prohibits the use of race in the sole determinant in the investigation of an alleged crime.

Proclamation – Officials Statements Concerning the Treatment of Immigrants

- Pro-Immigrant Statement – Non-binding proclamations that a city is a safe-haven for immigrants. While these resolutions suggest that immigrants are safe from persecution and threats in the city, they make no official change to law enforcement or government functions.
- Welcoming Proclamation - States that a town openly welcomes and supports the growth of immigrant communities in their region. Again, these towns are non-binding and do not prescribe particular governmental actions. *See San Francisco, CA*

Non-binding – Resolutions that Support Immigrant Friendly Efforts

- Support of Comprehensive Immigration Reform – General statement in support of just migration federal legislation and the need for federal reform. Some resolutions of this type give specific suggestions for border security, or paths to resident status for



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citizenship, but they do not refer to a specific legislative proposal. *See Boston, MA; El Paso, TX*

- Statement Regarding Specific Piece of Federal Legislation - Declares support for or rejection of specific federal legislation. In early 2006, there was significant increase in this type of resolution in light of various bills under consideration in the U.S. House and Senate. *See Columbus, OH*

For examples of these ordinances, please see the document
Examples of Pro-Immigrant Resolutions.

For a more complete listing of pro-immigrant resolutions and texts visit
http://www.cirnnow.org/content/en/proimmigrant_resolutions.htm

* There is a difference between resolution and ordinance. Resolution is a suggestion or statement by the council that does not change the legal codes of a town, while an ordinance directly changes laws. A proclamation is a form of resolution announcing the beliefs of a city council, elected official, or county commissioner.