

# IDEASPACE® — U.S. IMMIGRATION POLICY

## ▲ BORDER SECURITY, BORDER WALL, DETENTION, IMMIGRATION COURTS

THE BAR CHART UNDER EACH THEME  
SHOWS PLAYER SUPPORT FOR THAT THEME  
ON THE LEFT AND ON THE RIGHT.

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1. Illegal crossings at our southern border have gotten out of hand. The only way to stop it is to physically seal up the border. And the only way to seal up the border is to **build a wall**.



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2. The U.S. must take drastic measures to cut down the number of illegal crossings into our country from Mexico. Top priorities include hiring more enforcement agents and strengthening other aspects of our **border security**.



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3. **Diverting military funds** and using **emergency powers** to construct a border wall is a bad idea. It shows defiance of Congress's power of the purse.



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4. If any person enters our country without permission for any reason, it is properly viewed as a **criminal offense**. This applies to everyone, including unaccompanied minors.

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5. When families with children are held in federal detention after entering the country without permission, the Flores agreement bars detaining minors for more than 20 days. In the view of the Trump administration, the Flores agreement empowered the government to **separate minors from their families** because asylum cases ordinarily exceed 20 days. Subsequent litigation has complicated this picture, but one benefit of separating minors from their families is that it deters migrant families from crossing our borders without permission in the first place.

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6. We need to **fund more immigration judges** and ensure that they all operate in accordance with **strict guidelines** administered by the Justice Department. Judges need tough, clear mandates to be empowered to take quick, decisive action. It is the only way we'll be able to relieve the backlog of cases, take the burden off of our detention centers, and send immigrants back to their home countries.

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7. We need to fund a substantial increase in the number of immigration judges to handle the **huge backlog of cases** and to **avoid the lengthy detention** of a large number of migrants while their cases are resolved. Congress also needs to consider granting immigration judges more discretion in shaping more lenient remedies that fit special circumstances. This could include granting judges more power to cancel deportation orders for long-term residents, especially those with a child who is a U.S. citizen.

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8. In dealing with unauthorized entry over our borders, detention of those who are apprehended should be used only when other, less restrictive measures are not feasible. We should consider other possibilities, such as the Family Case Management Program that has been successfully employed in the past or, when appropriate, released immigrants on personal recognizance. We certainly shouldn't be separating minor children from their parents or guardians for the purpose of detaining adults who have entered the country without permission. **Detention should be used as a last resort.**

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9. The detention of immigrants should not be outsourced to **for-profit prisons**. The humane treatment and human rights of detainees will always be an impediment to profit.

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10. Entry into our country without permission is currently a criminal violation, though overstaying a visa is not. We do not need to treat unauthorized entry as a crime in order to protect our border; it can be handled as a civil violation, which already works for the vast majority of immigration adjudications.

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