

## THE PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES IMMIGRATION PLATFORM

### OVERALL PLAN

#### President Trump

- President Trump's "America First" program promised to protect American workers from immigrants. His current legislative goals include obtaining funding for a border wall, ending family-based migration options, eliminating the diversity visa program, limiting employment-based visas, and limiting the total amount of permanent residents allowed per year through both formal and informal channels.

#### Vice-President Biden

- Vice-President Biden's proposals seek to undo most of President Trump's immigration policies. Vice-President Biden plans to provide a road map to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who pay taxes and pass a background check.

### REFUGEES

In 1951, the United States signed a United Nations treaty that agrees, "refugees should not be penalized for their illegal entry" because extreme situations sometimes "require refugees to breach immigration rules."

#### President Trump

- On March 6, 2017, a Trump executive order banned refugees for 120 days unless they were already scheduled for travel. Homeland Security has reviewed the application process to prevent any exploitation by terrorists. Trump planned to halve the total number of refugees accepted to 50,000 per year. Federal judges stayed those orders. That gave the State Department the ability to increase the number of refugees to 70,000 in 2017. However, the administration set a ceiling of 18,000 refugees for 2020, and the actual number of refugees admitted were limited to 22,491 in 2018, 30,000 in 2019, and 6,674 in 2020.
- On October 24, 2017, the Trump administration allowed refugees from all but 11 countries. For the next 90 days, those countries were subject to risk assessment for threats to the "security and welfare" of the United States. The 11 countries included Iraq, Iran, Somalia, Syria, and Sudan.

#### Vice-President Biden

- Vice-President Biden plans to raise annual refugee admissions to 125,000 from 18,000 in 2020.
- President Trump restricted travel and visas from certain countries and also reduced the number of asylum seekers and refugees.

### DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)

#### President Trump

- President Trump ordered the termination of the DACA program on September 5, 2017. The termination was litigated at the Supreme Court of the United States, which ruled that the termination violated the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) and ordered reinstatement of the program. Currently, President Trump has ordered the Department of Homeland Security to terminate DACA again in accordance with the requirements of the APA and the Supreme Court.

### **Vice-President Biden**

- Vice-President Biden supports the continuation of DACA, its expansion to and a permanent, legislative solution that would create a pathway to legal permanent residency for current DACA recipients.

## **UNITED STATES - MEXICAN BORDER**

### **President Trump**

- President Trump focused on immigration from Mexico, including completing the border wall. Asylum seekers were returned to Mexico, usually to refugee camps while they await a court date and an asylum application review. President Trump implemented a “zero tolerance” policy along the border, separating parents from their children for the purpose of prosecuting the parents. The Trump administration has also directed the Attorney General to eliminate certain categories of people eligible for asylum, including victims of domestic violence who are unable to receive protection from their home country.

### **Vice-President Biden**

- Vice-President Biden wants to address the root cause of immigration at the Mexican border. He plans to provide a \$4 billion aid package to Guatemala, El Salvador, and Honduras, which are plagued by narco-trafficking and violence.

## **2020 GENERAL PLANS**

### **President Trump**

- President Trump does not plan to change his current policies. He has stated that he will continue his "America First" program promised to protect American workers from immigrants.

### **Vice-President Biden**

- Vice-President Biden has set forth his plan for the first 100 days if he is elected as President.
- Immediately reverse the Trump Administration’s policies that separate parents from their children at our border, including ending the prosecution of parents for minor immigration violations, and prioritize the reunification of any children still separated from their families.
- Vice-President Biden will end the asylum policies initiated by President Trump, starting with the Migrant Protection Protocols.
- Improve the management of the current asylum systems. Vice-President Biden will direct resources to ensure asylum applications are processed fairly and efficiently, while treating families and children with compassion and sensitivity.
- Vice-President Biden will dramatically increase U.S. government resources to support migrants awaiting assessment of their asylum claims and to the organizations providing for their needs. He will increase the network of organizations, such as faith-based shelters, non-governmental aid organizations, legal non-profits, and refugee assistance agencies working together.
- Vice-President Biden will end the “National Emergency” that directs federal dollars to the Department of Defense to build the U.S. - Mexico wall. Vice-President Biden will direct federal resources to border enforcement efforts, like investments in improving screening infrastructure at U.S. ports of entry.

- Vice-President Biden will remove the uncertainty for Dreamers by reinstating the DACA program that the Obama-Biden Administration created in 2012 to protect “Dreamers,” undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children. Biden will also ensure Dreamers are eligible for federal student aid (loans, Pell grants) and are included in his proposals to provide access to community college without debt and invest in HBCU/Hispanic Serving Institution/Minority Serving Institutions, which will help Dreamers contribute even more to our economy.
- Vice-President Biden will protect Temporary Protected Status (TPS) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) holders from being returned to countries that are unsafe by ordering an immediate review of current cases.
- Vice-President Biden will commit significant political capital to deliver legislative immigration reform to ensure that the U.S. remains open and welcoming to people from every part of the world—and to bring hardworking people who have enriched our communities and our country, in some cases for decades, out of the shadows.