The Big Picture: What Does the Election Mean for Immigration Policy

November 12, 2020
Speakers

• Ashley Feasley, USCCB/MRS
• Jacinta Ma, National Immigration Forum
• Theresa Cardinal Brown, Bipartisan Policy Center
• Carlos Guevara, UnidosUS
Ashley Feasley, USCCB/MRS
General Expectations

• Much more favorable administrative climate towards immigrants and refugees.
• Many things will not be immediately “reinstated” or “back to normal”- for example asylum and the wind-down of Migrant Protection Protocols (MPP).
• Likely to have divided government and very narrow majorities. Bipartisan support and leadership buy-in will be essential for any legislation that may be introduced.
• Possibility of legislative reform?
Jacinta Ma
Vice President of Policy and Advocacy
About the National Immigration Forum

The National Immigration Forum is a non-partisan advocacy organization, building trusted relationships to create a shared vision for immigration in America. Our innovative approach leads the conversation on the value of immigration for a stronger, richer, and more vibrant America.
DACA by the numbers

643,560
Current DACA recipients (as of 3/31/2020)

61,000
Dreamers who would have aged into eligibility since 2017 DACA rescission

1,326,000
Estimate of DACA-eligible population in 2020, under original 2012 criteria
Temporary Protected Status (TPS)

The U.S. currently provides TPS to over **400,000 foreign nationals**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Estimated Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>247,697</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>79,415</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>55,338</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>14,550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Syria</td>
<td>6,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td>4,421</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yemen</td>
<td>1,646</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sudan</td>
<td>774</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Somalia</td>
<td>455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Sudan</td>
<td>96</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
U.S. Refugee Ceiling & Resettlement 1980-2020
Presidential Determination FY 2021

Refugee Admissions by Category

- Religious persecution: 5,000
- Iraqis who assisted the U.S.: 4,000
- Northern Triangle countries: 1,000
- Others: 5,000
- Total: 15,000
Where Did the Trump Administration Get the $13.7 Billion to Build the Wall?

$3.2 billion
properly appropriated from Congress to fund Department of Homeland Security construction of border fencing and barriers.

$1 billion
redirected from army personnel funds including military pay and pensions.

$1.5 billion
redirected from critical military missions including support for U.S. allies in Afghanistan, modification of in-service missiles, and programs designed to dismantle chemical weapons.

$3.6 billion
redirected from 113 ongoing military construction projects, including the construction of 2 schools near U.S. army bases for the children of military families, 2 military readiness centers, and 3 warehouses to safely store hazardous materials.

$3.8 billion
redirected from funding for Army, Navy, Air Force, and National Guard vehicles and equipment.

$601 million
from government-confiscated criminal funds and assets.
Theresa Cardinal Brown
Managing Director, Immigration
and Cross Border Policy
USCCB Webinar

What does the Election mean for Immigration Policy?

November 12, 2020
• Although a key part of the 2016 presidential election campaign, and an issue in 2018, immigration was not a major theme during 2020.
  • Low numbers of migrants at the border, and prevalence of economy and COVID-19 on the minds of voters meant it was not highlighted significantly in the campaigns.
  • Didn’t come up until the last presidential debate.
• Still, it was an issue discussed, especially later in the campaign.

Source: US News and World Report
More want to see increased immigration

Source: Gallup, July 2020
## Top issues for voters

### Economy is top issue for voters in the 2020 election

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>% of registered voters citing as 'very important' to their vote in the 2020 presidential election</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economy</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>68</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supreme Court appointments</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The coronavirus outbreak</td>
<td>62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent crime</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign policy</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gun policy</td>
<td>55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race and ethnic inequality</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immigration</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economic inequality</td>
<td>49</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate change</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abortion</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: Based on registered voters.*

PEW RESEARCH CENTER*
Enthusiasm Gap around Immigration

Source: Democracy Fund Voter Study Group Report, October 2018
More Immigrant Voters, but not widespread

1 in 10 eligible voters in 2020 are immigrants. That's a record high

By Catherine F. Shoichet, CNN
Updated 4:02 PM ET, Wed February 26, 2020

Most of the 23 million immigrants eligible to vote in 2020 election live in just five states

Source: Pew Research Center
Polling before the election and over several years show that even for Latino voters immigration is not the top issue.

Economy and health care – not immigration – will drive Latino vote in 2020

UCLA report urges candidates to focus on issues important to a voting bloc that could play major role in swing states.
The Latino Community in the Time of Coronavirus: The Case for a Broad and Inclusive Government Response

Carlos A. Guevara
Associate Director, UnidosUS
October 2020
COVID-19’s Health Impact on Latinos

- Latinos are over-represented among non-elderly age groups
- Doesn’t tell full story in all likelihoods: Many Grains of Salt
- Implications for collateral and longer-term health still unknown, but increasingly recognized as “issue to watch” by Dr. Fauci and others.

Economic Profile During COVID-19

- Latino Unemployment Rate Highest of Any Groups, despite some recent bounce back
- Among the least likely to report being able to work from home
- High susceptibility to Economic Shocks
- Latinas hit hard

Latinos in Essential Jobs

- Latinos Make up 17.6% of the U.S. Workforce, and:
  - 54% of Agricultural Workers
  - 29.7% of Food Manufacturing Workers
  - 29% of Medical Assistants
  - 20.5% of Grocery Store Workers
  - 18.8% of Transportation and Utilities Workers (mail and electricity)
  - 15% of Frontline Protective Service Workers (firefighters, police, etc.)
  - 14.1% of Pharmacy and Drugstore Workers

Loss of Health Coverage & Food Insecurity

Source: Population Reference Bureau Analysis of U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Household Pulse Survey Public Use Files for UnidosUS, October 2020
Critical Gaps in the Government Response

- Marriage Penalty & Economic Impact Payments
- Health testing, treatment, care incomplete
- Nutrition Assistance
- No Repudiation of Counter-productive Immigration polices
Questions

Please type your questions in the Chat area of your webinar screen

Send any follow-up questions to jfi@usccb.org or acube@usccb.org

To view this and other webinars, visit the JFI Website: http://justiceforimmigrants.org/