



FEDERATION FOR AMERICAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

What to Ask Your Member of Congress: **Top Immigration Questions**

It is important to come prepared with questions and statistics when attending town hall meetings. Below is a list of suggested questions to ask your Member of Congress (or his or her staff) at these events. If you have any questions, or would like additional guidance, please contact a [FAIR Field Representative](#).

- 1** Despite 22 million out of work and underemployed Americans, “Gangs of Eight” in both the House and Senate are currently working on bills that would grant amnesty to the 11-12 million illegal aliens in the United States. If legalized, these newly amnestied aliens will directly compete with Americans for scarce jobs and depress wages. **Do you oppose amnesty, including legislation that includes a “path to citizenship” or any other provisions that would legalize or “regularize” the status of illegal aliens? How does amnesty help the American worker?**
- 2** In recent months, Members of Congress have introduced legislation and stepped up their calls for expanding guest worker programs. However, the U.S. already imports over 800,000 guest workers annually (both skilled and unskilled), while millions of Americans go without jobs or full-time work. **Do you oppose expanding guest worker programs? How would the importation of additional labor help the American worker?**
- 3** Porous borders facilitate illegal immigration, acts of terror, drug smuggling, human trafficking, and other illicit crimes. Yet, the Obama Administration continuously admits it has no reliable method of measuring border security in place. In addition, according to recent Government Accountability Office reports, only 2 percent of our Northern border – and 44 percent of our Southern border – are under “operational control.” **How do you propose we secure our porous borders, and what are you doing to ensure the Administration develops a proper metric?**
- 4** Since taking office, President Obama and his Administration have ignored the will of Congress and worked to circumvent U.S. immigration law by granting backdoor amnesty to illegal aliens. The Administration has done so under the guise of prosecutorial discretion, which has no basis in law and is unreviewable by the courts. This includes Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano’s June 15, 2012 policy memo creating a program in which illegal aliens up to the age of 30 are granted a two-year reprieve and receive work authorization. It also includes several policy memos issued by the nation’s chief immigration officer, Immigration and Customs Enforcement Director, John Morton, instructing immigration officers to ignore the vast majority of illegal aliens they encounter unless the alien has committed certain offenses. **What is your solution to stopping the**

Obama Administration's usurpation of U.S. immigration law through the use of so-called prosecutorial discretion? Why does Congress refuse to reassert its authority over U.S. immigration law?

- 5 E-Verify is a program managed by the Department of Homeland Security that helps employers verify the work authorization of new hires. The program consists of an online system through which an employer submits a new employee's name and Social Security number, already collected by law through the I-9 form, to Social Security Administration and Homeland Security databases. The program consistently receives high-marks from employers, and automatically confirms the work authorization of new hires over 98.5% of the time. **With jobs being the number one magnet of illegal immigration, do you support permanently reauthorizing and making E-Verify a requirement for all employers?**
- 6 Businesses are rarely held accountable for hiring illegal aliens. And, under the Obama Administration's policies, when enforcement action is actually taken against employers who hire illegal aliens, the illegal aliens face no consequence for being in the country unlawfully or working without authorization. Rather, the Administration turns a blind-eye to illegal alien labor, allowing them to simply walk down the street and submit an application to the next willing employer. **Do you support worksite enforcement policies that target both the illegal workers and the employers?**
- 7 The term "sanctuary cities" generally refers to cities that — through an act, ordinance, or policy — limit police and/or other government employees from inquiring about immigration status or assisting federal immigration authorities seeking to apprehend and remove illegal aliens. Such policies and acts, however, violate federal law prohibiting governments from forbidding the sending or receiving of immigration status information to the federal government. Accordingly, such policies undermine U.S. immigration law and perpetuate the problem of illegal immigration by providing a safe haven to illegal aliens. **Do you support eliminating sanctuary cities by cutting off certain federal funds to cities that continue to maintain such policies?**
- 8 The 287(g) program allows U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enter into agreements with local law enforcement agencies to "deputize" or cross-designate law enforcement officers to act as immigration agents within their jurisdictions. As such, this program is critical in allowing state and local governments the ability to combat illegal immigration in their jurisdictions. However, the Obama Administration is effectively dismantling the program by refusing to renew 287(g) agreements this year, tying the hands of local law enforcement from being able to address illegal immigration in their communities. **Do you support use of the 287(g) program to enforce our immigration laws against illegal aliens? What will you do to support state and local law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration agents?**