

National Leaders, Conservatives Call for Immigration Reform

President Obama

Congress (House & Senate Republicans)

Conservative pundits, strategists, media personnel

President Obama

- “And in the coming weeks and months, I am looking forward to reaching out and working with leaders of both parties to meet the challenges we can only solve together. Reducing our deficit. Reforming our tax code. Fixing our immigration system.”
Victory Speech Nov 6 (<http://www.examiner.com/article/president-barack-obama-s-complete-victory-speech-transcript>)
- “And my expectation is that we get a bill introduced and we begin the process in Congress very soon after my inauguration.

And, in fact, some conversations I think are already beginning to take place among senators and congressmen and my staff about what would this look like. And when I say comprehensive immigration reform, it's very similar to the outlines of previous immigration reform. I think it should include a continuation of the strong border security measures that we've taken. Because we have to secure our border. I think it should contain serious penalties for companies that are purposely hiring undocumented workers and -- and taking advantage of them.

And I do think that there should be a pathway for legal status for those who are living in this country, are not engaged in criminal activity, are here to -- simply to work. I've -- it's important for them to pay back taxes. It's important for them to learn English. It's important for them to potentially pay a fine, but to give them the avenue whereby they can resolve their legal status here in this country, I think is very important. Obviously making sure that we put into law what -- the first step that we've taken administratively dealing with the DREAM Act kids is very important as well.

The one thing that I'm -- I'm very clear about is that young people who are brought here through no fault of their own, who have gone to school here, pledged allegiance to our flag, want to serve in our military, want to go to school and contribute to our society, that they shouldn't be under the cloud of deportation. That we should give them every opportunity to earn their citizenship. And so, you know there are other components to it, obviously. The business community continues to be concerned about getting enough high-skilled workers.

And I am a believer that if you've got a PhD in physics, or computer science who wants to stay here, and start a business here, we shouldn't make it harder for them to stay here, we should try to encourage him to contribute to this society. I think that the agricultural sector, obviously has very specific concerns about making sure that they've got a workforce that helps deliver food to our table. So there're gonna be a bunch of components to it, but I think whatever process we have needs to make sure border security's strong, needs to deal with employers effectively, needs to provide a pathway for the undocumented here, needs to deal with the DREAM Act kids.

And I think that's something that we can get done.

Press Conference Nov 14 (http://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/president-obamas-news-conference-on-nov-14-2012-running-transcript/2012/11/14/031dfd40-2e7b-11e2-89d4-040c9330702a_story.html)

Speaker John Boehner (R-OH)

- “[Issue of immigration] has been around far too long. . . A comprehensive approach is long overdue, and I'm confident that the president, myself, others can find the common ground to take care of this issue once and for all.”
ABC news Interview Nov 8 (<http://abcnews.go.com/Politics/boehner-exclusive-raising-tax-rates-unacceptable-revenue-table/story?id=17672947&page=2#.UJwub4cT18H>)

Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV)

- “The only thing we need to get immigration reform done [is] a few Republican votes. . . It’s high on my list, and we’re going to have a few votes on it.”
Press Conference Nov 7 (<http://nbcpolitics.nbcnews.com/news/2012/11/09/15040894-gop-resistance-to-immigration-reform-could-be-casualty-of-2012-election?lite>)

Sen. Chuck Schumer (D-NY)

- “This is a breakthrough to have the Speaker endorse the urgency of comprehensive immigration reform. Democrats in the Senate look forward to working with him to come up with a bipartisan solution.”
Statement released Nov 8
- “I think [Republicans] are going to want to do it now. . . [It] is at the top of the list because the nation demands it and needs it. And again, I think in the exit polls, two-thirds of Americans basically agreed with the concept of real immigration reform.”
Christian Science Monitor Breakfast Nov 8 (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/08/immigration-reform-senate_n_2093178.html)

Sen. Marco Rubio (R-FL)

- “The conservative movement should have particular appeal to people in minority and immigrant communities who are trying to make it, and Republicans need to work harder than ever to communicate our beliefs to them. I look forward to working on these goals with my new and returning colleagues in Congress and hope the President will get behind our efforts.” Rubio Facebook page Nov 7 (<https://www.facebook.com/MarcoRubio>)

Sen. Lindsay Graham (R-SC)

- “I intend to tear this wall down and pass an immigration reform bill that’s an American solution to an American problem”
Face the Nation (<http://tpmdc.talkingpointsmemo.com/2012/11/schumer-graham-restart-talks-on-immigration-reform-optimistic-about-success.php>)
- Graham told POLITICO his party needs to tone down the rhetoric over immigration and be willing to cut a deal. He said the agreement should include measures that allow some of the 12 million illegal immigrants to seek more permanent residency or a path to citizenship based on the “needs of the country.” But he also said that the proposals must make clear such a plan would not lead to an influx of illegal immigrants, so he called for new border security measures, tougher employer verification rules and even legislation prohibiting birthright citizenship for children of illegal immigrants.
Politico Nov 8 (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1112/83552.html>)
- “It’s important for our country to solve illegal immigration once and for all. We must deal with the issue firmly and fairly”
Twitter Nov 7 (<http://thehill.com/blogs/ballot-box/senate-races/266915-graham-immigration-reform-must-be-dealt-with-once-and-for-all>)

Sen. John McCain (R-AZ)

- “I agree with the calls for comprehensive immigration reform”
Twitter Nov 9 (<http://abcnews.go.com/blogs/politics/2012/11/mccain-tweets-support-for-push-on-immigration-reform/>)

Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS)

- “It’s clear to me, if Republicans are going to have the opportunity to be in the majority, we clearly have to determine how we deal with minority and Latino voters. In some fashion, the way we have dealt with immigration gives us a black eye. And we need to figure out how to talk about issues and pursue policies that matter to Latino, Hispanic voters.”

Politico Nov 8 (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1112/83552.html>)

Sen. Susan Collins (R-ME)

- “I believe that we should start with the DREAM Act bill. Children who are brought here through no fault of their own clearly should be treated differently from an adult who sneaked in across the border.”

CQ Roll Call Nov 13 (http://www.rollcall.com/news/gop_willing_to_deal_on_immigration-219199-1.html?pos=oplyh)

Rep. Raul Labrador (R-ID)

- “There’s a bipartisan majority that realizes we have a problem on immigration. We have an immigration system that’s broken. And we can figure out how to do it by working together. And we can do it without amnesty, without a pathway to citizenship. We can solve guest worker program that we have in the United States. We can protect the border, and it behooves Republicans right now after the elections to figure out how to work on this issue.”

Politico Nov 8 (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1112/83552.html>)

Rep. Devin Nunes (R-CA)

“It’s about border security. It’s about fixing the existing programs we have in place for the different types of employee visas. You need to fix those or completely revamp them. ... You have to deal with children brought here under no fault of their own. You have to deal with people here who are here just to find work. You have to have a process that everyone goes through. But it all starts with the president. The president has to give confidence to the American people that the border is secured.”

Politico Nov 8 (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1112/83552.html>)

Rep. Cory Gardner (R-CO)

- “I don’t know what the policy would look like, but we can’t be afraid of the conversation”

Politico Nov 8 (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1112/83552.html>)

Newt Gingrich

- “The Republican Party has to be open to and listening to people who are going to be a major part of our future and unless we do that, we’re going to be a minority party...Now, I don’t think that means you automatically embrace every new idea that President Obama sends up to Capitol Hill, but I think you do have to have an attitude towards the Latino population — not necessarily towards the president — that is much, much more inclusive than it has been in the past.”

CBS News Interview Nov 7 (<http://www.rawstory.com/rs/2012/11/07/gingrich-we-were-wrong-karl-rove-dick-morris/>)

Karl Rove

- “Obama kept the coalition that he had in 2008, only it was a little bit smaller. This will be the first president reelected sent to second term with a smaller percentage of the vote than he got the first term. In fact, there are only two states—two states in the union—where he got a higher percentage of the vote this time around than he got the first time. . . . Otherwise, he basically held together that coalition, which means if we’re going to win in the future, Republicans need to do better among Latinos and they need to do better among women — particularly single women.”

Fox News Nov 7 (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/08/karl-rove-american-crossroads_n_2092523.html)

Norm Coleman

- “It’s time we reject the notion that we are going to send 12 million fellow human beings back to places they fled to escape poverty, crime and hopelessness”

Pioneer Press (http://www.twincities.com/ci_22007246/norm-coleman-urges-gop-take-immigration?source=most_viewed)

Haley Barbour (Former Governor of MS; Former Chairman of Republican National Committee)

- “At the end of the day good policy is good politics. And good policy on immigration in the United States is, we are in a global battle for capital and labor, and we need to have what is good economic policy for America on immigration because we do need labor. We not only need Ph.Ds in science and technology, we need skilled workers and we need unskilled workers. And we need to have an immigration policy that is good economic policy, and then — and then the politics will take care of itself.”
NBC Today Interview Nov 7 (<http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1112/83562.html?hp=I7>)
- “The idea of self-deportation is not a good place to try to attract votes. It’s also not a good policy.”
Newsmax Nov 8 (<http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/barbour-romney-hispanic-vote/2012/11/08/id/463370>)

Al Cardenas (Chairman of the American Conservative Union; Former chairman of FL’s Republican Party)

- “Immigration has become a wedge issue and a litmus test, a litmus test of respect and caring. So we need to get immigration reform done to finally get rid of that wedge issue that’s been afflicting our party for 10 or 15 years.”
Bloomberg News Nov 8 (<http://newyork.newsday.com/news/nation/election-2012-hispanic-vote-seen-to-help-obama-democrats-1.4201111>)

George Will

- “Republicans can take some solace from the popular vote. But unless they respond to accelerating demographic changes — and Obama, by pressing immigration reform, can give Republicans a reef on which they can wreck themselves — the 58th presidential election may be like the 57th, only more so.”
Washington Post Nov 7 (http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/george-will-the-winner-is-the-status-quo/2012/11/07/719280e0-28fc-11e2-bab2-eda299503684_story.html)

Grover Norquist (President of Americans for Tax Reform)

- “Republicans should approach it as the party of Reagan and Bush -- the party that has historically been pro-immigration.. . We’re up against a president who introduced nothing legislatively. The idea that Obama and Democrats are good on this is all optics and no reality.”
NBC News Nov 9 (<http://nbcpolitics.nbcnews.com/news/2012/11/09/15040894-gop-resistance-to-immigration-reform-could-be-casualty-of-2012-election?lite>)

Charles Krauthammer

- “It requires but a single policy change: Border fence plus amnesty. Yes, amnesty. Use the word. Shock and awe – full legal normalization (just short of citizenship) in return for full border enforcement.

I’ve always been of the “enforcement first” school, with the subsequent promise of legalization. I still think it’s the better policy. But many Hispanics fear that there will be nothing beyond enforcement. So, promise amnesty right up front. Secure the border with guaranteed legalization to follow on the day the four border-state governors affirm that illegal immigration has slowed to a trickle.”

Washington Post Nov 8 (http://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/charles-krauthammer-the-way-forward/2012/11/08/6592e302-29d8-11e2-96b6-8e6a7524553f_story.html)

Ana Navarro

- “If we don’t do better with Hispanics, we’ll be out of the White House forever.”
CNN Nov 8 (<http://www.cnn.com/2012/11/07/politics/5-things-election-night/index.html>)

Sean Hannity

- “We’ve gotta get rid of the immigration issue altogether. It’s simple for me to fix it. I think you control the border first, you create a pathway for those people that are here, you don’t say you gotta home. And that is a position that I’ve evolved on. Because you know what--it just--it’s gotta be resolved. The majority of people here--if some people have criminal records you can send’ em home--but if people are here, law-abiding, participating, four years, their kids are born here... first secure the border, pathway to citizenship... then it’s done. But you can’t let the problem continue. It’s gotta stop.”

Sean Hannity Show Nov 7 (http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2012/11/08/sean-hannity-immigration-pathway-to-citizenship_n_2096255.html)

Mark McKinnon (GOP Media advisor; Former Bush aide)

- “The best thing about Republicans losing is that it will likely force them to cut an immigration deal.” NBC News Nov 9 (<http://nbcpolitics.nbcnews.com/news/2012/11/09/15040894-gop-resistance-to-immigration-reform-could-be-casualty-of-2012-election?lite>)

Mike Murphy (GOP Strategist)

- “We have a Latino problem that just cost us a national election. We’re going to have to have a very adult conversation that might turn into an intraparty fistfight about how we become electable again.” NBC Nov 7 (<http://www.newsday.com/news/nation/republicans-debate-how-to-woo-hispanic-vote-1.4199694>)

Juan Williams

- “If I had to pick one quote that perfectly captures why the Republicans lost the Latino vote in Tuesday’s election so decisively, I would pick something Senator Rubio told to me in an exclusive interview for Fox News Latino this past April. When I asked Rubio why the GOP’s economic message didn’t seem to be resonating with Latinos who faced disproportionately high levels of unemployment, poverty and foreclosure during the Obama presidency, the Freshman Tea Party Senator told me candidly ‘It’s very hard to make the economic argument to people who think you want to deport their grandmother.’”

Fox News Nov 7 (<http://latino.foxnews.com/latino/opinion/2012/11/07/latinos-make-american-history-gop-pays-bill/#ixzz2BdVliVxR>)

Rupert Murdoch

- “Must have sweeping, generous immigration reform, make existing law-abiding Hispanics welcome. Most are hard working family people.”

Twitter Nov 7 (<http://www.politico.com/blogs/media/2012/11/murdoch-and-bloomberg-immigration-bedfellows-148948.html>)