ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS AND IMMIGRATION

BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN'S PLAN

"The time to fix our broken immigration system is now…We need stronger enforcement on the border and at the workplace…But for reform to work, we also must respond to what pulls people to America…Where we can reunite families, we should. Where we can bring in more foreign-born workers with the skills our economy needs, we should."
--Barack Obama, Statement on U.S. Senate Floor, May 23, 2007

AT A GLANCE

Comprehensive Reform

Barack Obama has fought for comprehensive immigration reform that secures our border, fixes our broken immigration bureaucracy, promotes family reunification, and honors our global commitments to the world's refugees.

Commitment

Obama will revive immigration reform in the first year of his presidency.

THE PROBLEM

Immigration Bureaucracy is Broken

The immigration bureaucracy is broken and overwhelmed, forcing legal immigrants to wait years for applications. AAPI families suffer some of the worst immigration backlogs.

Immigration Raids are Ineffective

Despite a tenfold increase in recent years, immigration raids only netted 4,600 arrests in 2007 and have placed all the burdens of a broken system onto immigrant families.

BARACK OBAMA'S PLAN

AAPIs constitute a growing and vibrant piece of the American fabric. Currently, approximately 26 percent of the U.S.'s foreign born population is from Asia, and the Asian-born population has one of the highest naturalization rates among foreign-born groups.

Create Secure Borders

Obama and Biden want to preserve the integrity of our borders. They support additional personnel, infrastructure and technology on the border and at our ports of entry.

Improve Our Immigration System

Obama and Biden believe we must fix the dysfunctional immigration bureaucracy and increase the number of legal immigrants to keep families together and meet the demand for jobs that employers cannot fill.

Safeguard and Streamline the Family Reunification Process

Many AAPI families rely on family reunification policies to assist them build better lives in the United States. However, AAPI families have some of the longest backlogs of any immigrant groups. Barack Obama has introduced measures to put greater emphasis on keeping immigrant families together and to revisit a controversial new points system that would dramatically alter U.S. immigration policy.

Support Citizenship

Barack Obama and Joe Biden will ensure that citizenship application fees are reasonable and fair. They will also expand opportunities to learn English and obtain civic education classes to help immigrants assume all of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Obama joined Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) to introduce the Citizenship Promotion Act of 2007.

Reform the Immigration Bureaucracy

Another key choke point in the process to becoming a legal permanent resident or a U.S. citizen is the F.B.I. name/security check. Many law-abiding legal immigrants see their immigration applications delayed by months and often years as the overwhelmed F.B.I. completes their background checks. Obama introduced legislation, passed by the Senate, to improve the speed and accuracy of these background checks.

Remove Incentives to Enter Illegally

Obama and Biden will remove incentives to enter the country illegally by cracking down on employers who hire undocumented immigrants.

Bring People Out of the Shadows

Obama and Biden support a system that allows undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, learn English, and go to the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens.

OBAMA'S RECORD

Senate Leadership

During the most recent immigration debate, Obama was a leader in seeking common-sense and balanced immigration reform. He pushed Congress to find common ground, introduced amendments that would have prioritized keeping families together, and would have held employers who hire undocumented immigrants responsible.

Crack Down on Employers

Obama championed a proposal to create a system so employers can verify that their employees are legally eligible to work in the U.S.

Fix the Bureaucracy

Obama joined Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-IL) to introduce the Citizenship Promotion Act to ensure that immigration application fees are both reasonable and fair. Obama also

INTRODUCED LEGISLATION THAT PASSED THE SENATE TO IMPROVE THE SPEED AND ACCURACY OF FBI BACKGROUND CHECKS.

Respect Families

OBAMA INTRODUCED AMENDMENTS TO PUT GREATER EMPHASIS ON KEEPING IMMIGRANT FAMILIES TOGETHER.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BARACK'S PLAN

Read the Plan HTTP://WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM/ISSUES/IMMIGRATION/

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