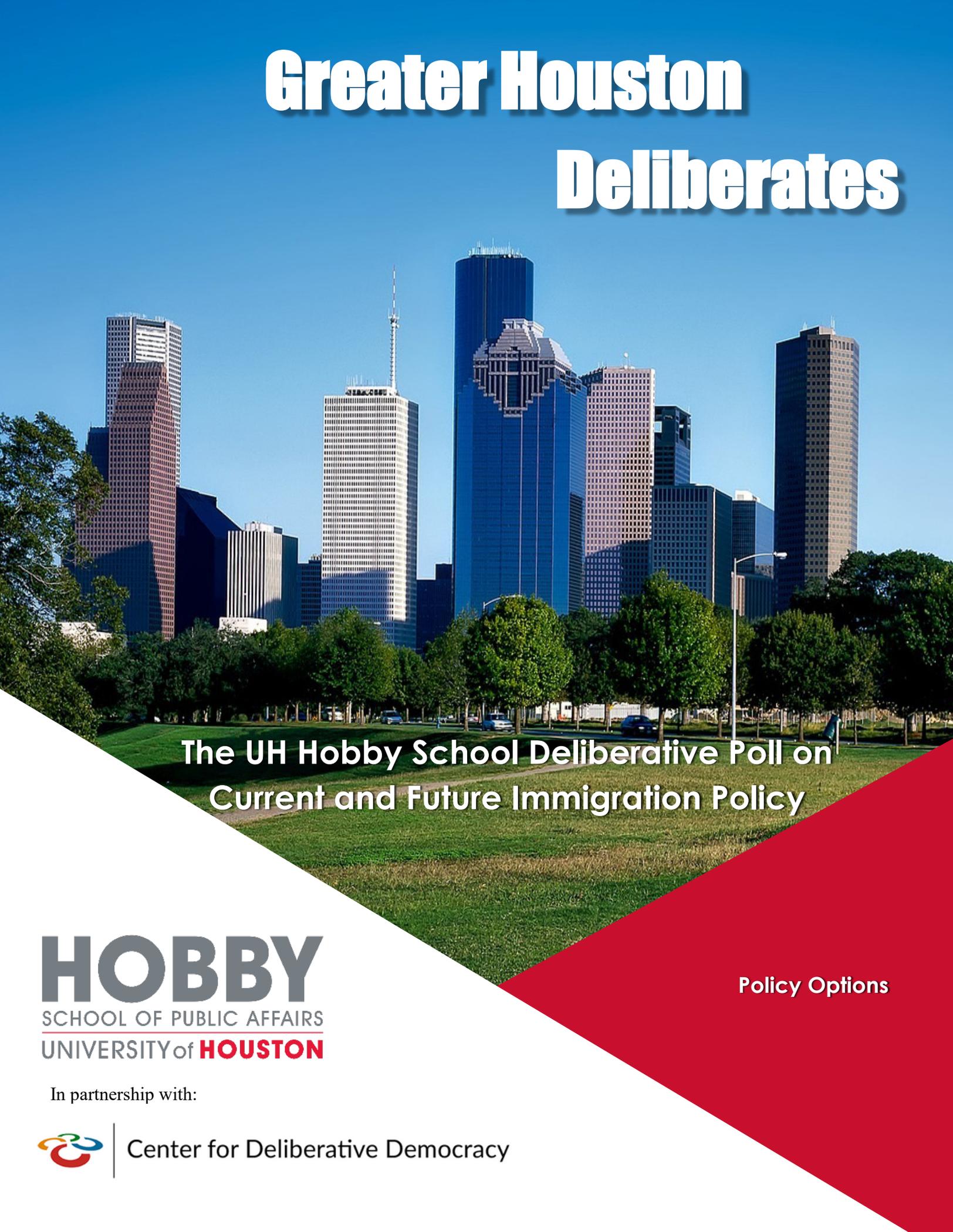


# Greater Houston Deliberates

A photograph of the Houston skyline featuring several prominent skyscrapers, including the JP Morgan Chase Tower. The foreground shows a green lawn with trees and a few cars parked. The image is split diagonally from the bottom left to the top right, with a white area on the left and a red area on the right.

The UH Hobby School Deliberative Poll on  
Current and Future Immigration Policy

**HOBBY**  
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON**

In partnership with:



Center for Deliberative Democracy

Policy Options



## **Policy Options**

Over the last few decades there have been many efforts at the local, state, and national levels to reform the issues that affect immigration policy.

During this event you will be able to discuss a selection of proposals that will inform decision makers and have the potential to affect future immigration policy. Some of these options you are about to read are current law, and others are considerations for future policy.

These issues have been carefully deliberated by a group of expert advisors, across the political spectrum, with balanced arguments both for and against.

Each of these options will help guide your discussions along with the other briefing materials you have received throughout this Deliberative Poll.

Below you will find a table of contents with an abbreviated title for each policy option, followed by each issue for the four topic areas seen in the other briefing packet: Crime and Public Safety, Economy and the Workforce, Higher Education Benefits, and Legal Options for Undocumented Immigrants.

If you are unsure of any terms used, please refer to the glossary at the end of the background document packet.

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## CRIME AND PUBLIC SAFETY

**Issue 1:** Police officers should be allowed to inquire about the immigration status of victims of crimes upon reasonable suspicion the victims may be in the country unlawfully.

| Arguments For  | Arguments Against   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Some victims are undocumented immigrants and police should not be prohibited from asking and enforcing immigration law.</li> <li>2. If a police officer cannot identify the perpetrator of a crime (e.g., domestic violence where a victim fights back in self-defense) and has probable cause that either party is in the country illegally, the officer should be allowed to inquire about the immigration status of all parties.</li> <li>3. Federal immigration officers are federal authorities and should have cooperation with local police just like any other federal agents.</li> <li>4. Criminal activity involving undocumented immigrants will be reduced through consistent enforcement and compliance with immigration laws.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Victims of crimes who are undocumented or have family who are undocumented are often afraid of coming forward because the police could ask about their immigration status or that of their family. This creates a population of silent victims and may discourage the reporting of crimes.</li> <li>2. If victims are afraid to come forward to report the crime, it could make it easier for crime to happen in those areas.</li> <li>3. Few local law enforcement officers are able to do the work of federal officials or to recognize the specialized documents that provide proof of immigration status.</li> <li>4. A person can doubly suffer if she or he comes forward to report the crime and then is threatened with the deportation process by the police.</li> </ol> |

**Issue 2:** Police officers should be allowed to inquire about the immigration status of a witness to a crime upon reasonable suspicion the witness may be in the country unlawfully.

| Arguments For   | Arguments Against   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If a police officer has reasonable suspicion to believe a witness might be undocumented, the officer should not be prohibited from checking that she or he is legal in this country (offering reasonable suspicion rather than probable cause).</li> <li>2. Federal immigration officers are federal authorities and should have cooperation with local police just like any other federal agents.</li> <li>3. Even though a witness to a crime is detained, it does not necessarily mean that she or he will be deported. Deportation proceedings commence only when an individual comes to the attention of immigration authorities and is deemed to be deportable. She or he will be detained while the</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If a witness is afraid to come forward to testify, it could result in the perpetrator going free and would undermine the justice system.</li> <li>2. Few local law enforcement officers are able to do the work of federal officials or to recognize the specialized documents that provide proof of immigration status.</li> <li>3. If local law enforcement officers ask witnesses of crimes about their immigration status, it could lead to increased distrust in the legal system. Witnesses would have less incentive to come forward if they are in fear of being questioned, detained, and/ or deported.</li> </ol> |

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| <p>investigation is on-going and, in some cases, where she or he becomes a good witness she or he can potentially become a legal citizen or paroled while the action is in process.</p> <p>4. Criminal activity involving undocumented immigrants will be reduced through consistent enforcement and compliance with immigration laws.</p> |  |
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**Issue 3:** Local law enforcement should have discretion not to honor Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency detainer requests. Detainer requests are requests by ICE and CBP agents to state and local agencies to hold individuals for immigration hearings and/or deportation action.

| Arguments For   | Arguments Against  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Without being able to decide who they report to ICE or which ICE detainer requests to comply with, it could facilitate the deportation process of noncitizens who pay taxes, have U.S. born children, and have no criminal history.</li> <li>Minor infractions should not be a priority for local law enforcement.</li> <li>Complying with ICE detainer requests may entail holding an individual for an additional 48 hours which leads to more local tax dollars spent detaining that person.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Having to fulfill all ICE detainer requests can make sure that everyone who is here illegally goes through the right channels to decide whether or not they need to be deported.</li> <li>Not honoring ICE detainers sends a signal that the state or local government is not cooperating with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). If the state or local government is considered a sanctuary jurisdiction, it could be subject to defunding from the federal government.</li> <li>Cooperating with federal immigration officials could save tax payers money. If detainer requests are not honored, immigrants would be released, and more money is spent on subsidizing illegal immigration in the form of public benefits.</li> </ol> |

**Issue 4:** Local law enforcement should refer suspected immigration violators to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), regardless of whether or not they have criminal convictions.

| Arguments For  | Arguments Against   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Even though they have not been arrested, they could still be undocumented and should be turned over to ICE so that their immigration status may be determined.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a person has committed a minor crime, such as a traffic violation where the punishment is only a citation and not jail time, she or he should not be reported to ICE if she or he has no prior criminal history.</li> </ol> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>2. Even if they have no criminal history, they are still here illegally and should be referred to ICE.</p> <p>3. Local law enforcement can use the Law Enforcement Support Center to verify undocumented vs. documented.</p> | <p>2. There is a possibility of a U.S. citizen or legal resident alien being detained, if local law enforcement thinks that person could be an illegal immigrant (e.g., a Hispanic US Citizen).</p> |
|---|---|

**Issue 5:** Undocumented immigrants who are in financial need should have court appointed counsel in immigration cases where they could be granted asylum or special visas.

| Arguments For   | Arguments Against  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. Deportation proceedings often involve complex legal questions that most of undocumented immigrants do not know how to navigate.</p> <p>2. Providing legal counsel could help those going through immigration proceedings be granted judicial relief. Keeping immigrant families together saves money for the state's taxpayers in increased tax revenues and less need for families left behind to draw on the social safety net.<sup>1</sup></p> | <p>1. Undocumented immigrants are here illegally and should not have the same rights as citizens or noncitizens here legally.</p> <p>2. Tax dollars should not be spent on court appointed attorneys and translators to defend undocumented immigrants here illegally.</p> |

**Issue 6:** Local government should allocate funding to local non-profits to provide immigration legal services.

| Arguments For  | Arguments Against  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Without legal assistance, many immigrants are often unaware of how their rights can be defended.</p> <p>2. Many undocumented immigrants cannot afford legal assistance, and without it do not fare well in immigration court and their liberty is at risk.</p> <p>3. Not being able to afford legal services in immigration proceedings could result in unnecessary deportation. This could split families apart and could place undue burdens on families and even the tax payers should children have to end up as wards of the state.</p> | <p>1. Immigration is a federal law and should not be up to the states to fund attorneys for undocumented immigrants.</p> <p>2. Funds are drawing tax dollars away from American citizens and legal resident aliens in need. Tax money should be to provide for citizens and legal resident aliens and not to prolong the stay of undocumented immigrants.</p> <p>3. Immigration proceedings might be civil matters and no Americans who are defending themselves in civil proceedings are entitled to taxpayer-funded representation. Therefore,</p> |

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.vera.org/newsroom/press-releases/new-york-state-becomes-first-in-the-nation-to-provide-lawyers-for-all-immigrants-detained-and-facing-deportation>

|  |  |
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| <p>4. There are some precedents for states and local governments providing funds through their budget for legal services to undocumented immigrants.</p> <p>5. In other states, the American Bar Association has filed briefs in favor of the state funding for appointed counsel in certain civil cases.</p> <p>6. Nonprofits are less threatening and therefore might be used by undocumented immigrants more than local government resources.</p> | <p>undocumented immigrants should not be entitled to such services.</p> <p>4. Texas is already cutting the budget for areas such as education. Therefore the state and local governments should not allocate money to organizations to provide free legal assistance to undocumented immigrants.</p> <p>5. Nonprofits have other means of raising funds or people who could voluntarily give to the cause and do not need local governments to allocate tax money to them.</p> |
|--|--|

**ECONOMY AND THE WORKFORCE**

**Issue 1:** The E-Verify system, a government system that certifies those legally eligible to work, should be mandated for all businesses in the private sector.

| Arguments For  | Arguments Against  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Government officials and employers can ensure that their businesses only hire citizens or immigrants who have the proper work visas for all places of employment.</p> <p>2. The E-Verify system could help catch those who are here illegally and are seeking work in the private sector.</p> <p>3. It is an additional tool to reduce the number of illegal workers in the country that take jobs away from citizens or legal immigrants.</p> <p>4. This would encourage legitimately motivated undocumented workers to seek legal permits.</p> | <p>1. It could harm Hispanic and other migrant workers who pay taxes and contribute to the economy.</p> <p>2. Making businesses in the private sector go through the E-Verify system will cause more business owners to pay workers cash instead of them paying taxes. In this circumstance there would be tax revenue lost.</p> <p>3. It's only 50 percent effective as it only shows No Matches, but not if employee's name matches the Social Security number.</p> <p>4. It would have to be prospective or otherwise it would displace millions of fully-employed workers at a time of record unemployment and force them into an underground economy and dis-incentivizes them from paying taxes and social security.</p> |

**Issue 2:** The foreign worker visa programs for H1B, H2A, H2B, and H4 should be expanded and reformed by increasing the number of visas and making it a year-round program.

| Arguments For   | Arguments Against   |
|---|---|
| <p>1. In instances that there is a natural disaster (e.g., hurricanes, flooding, wild fires, etc.), the federal government should cooperate with states to issue more work visas and extend visas already in place so that workers from all backgrounds can aid in rescuing and rebuilding the areas affected by the natural disaster.</p> <p>2. Having more temporary, skilled laborers would allow for the recovery time to be shorter in instances where homes and infrastructure have been affected. Since almost a quarter of the undocumented immigrant labor force is in the construction industry, roads, bridges, and houses can be rebuilt faster.</p> <p>3. Viable temporary legal options would give options for needed workers to enter legally given the limited non-existent current options, particularly at a time when we have record low unemployment figures.</p> | <p>1. Creating more temporary work visas would allow more immigrants into an area and take away jobs from people who already live in the affected areas.</p> <p>2. Allowing for more immigrant workers would allow employers to hire at lower wages and increase competition for workers who are citizens or legal immigrants.</p> <p>3. Allowing for more people to be here legally would use up more resources (groceries and fuel, for example) in areas affected by a natural disaster where resources are already temporarily scarce and put more strain on all people who are in the affected area.</p> <p>4. We can find manpower from U.S. citizens and legal immigrants. It is not required to issue work visas to recruit foreigners.</p> |

## HIGHER EDUCATION

**Issue 1:** Undocumented immigrant resident students should lose their eligibility to pay in-state tuition rates at public colleges and universities.

| Arguments For   | Arguments Against  |
|---|--|
| <p>1. If a student attends a Texas college from another state is not eligible to receive in-state tuition rates, then a person who is an undocumented immigrant should not receive those benefits either.</p> <p>2. Allowing undocumented students to pay in-state tuition rates creates an incentive for people to come to the U.S. illegally.</p> <p>3. Budget forecasts for in-state tuition would raise costs borne by all students when undocumented immigrants become eligible.</p> | <p>1. Students who are seeking a college education and were brought to Texas as children by immigrant parents should not be penalized by having to pay out-of-state tuition rates.</p> <p>2. In-state tuition rates provide an incentive to graduate from high school. This means retention rates are higher, and students can go on to gain legal status and contribute to society.</p> <p>3. All undocumented students who meet residency and academic requirements should be allowed to attend a public university in Texas with in-state tuition rates.</p> <p>4. Parents of undocumented immigrants pay taxes essentially at the same rates as lawful residents primarily determined by their level of income. Those taxes are paid daily in sales taxes, gas</p> |

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|  | taxes, real estate taxes (directly and indirectly), etc. Many undocumented immigrants are also working using expired Social Security Cards or fake ones and are paying into social security, paying FICA taxes, and in some cases income taxes are withheld. |
|--|--|

**Issue 2:** Undocumented students who are Texas residents should not be eligible for state-funded financial aid.

| Arguments For  | Arguments Against   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undocumented immigrants are here illegally and should not be eligible for any state financial aid.</li> <li>2. Many undocumented immigrants do not pay into the tax system; therefore, anything that is funded by the state should be reserved for its citizens.</li> <li>3. Providing financial aid provides incentives for undocumented immigrants to move to the state long enough for their children to meet the eligibility requirements to receive financial aid for college.</li> <li>4. Providing financial aid to undocumented immigrants takes away from resources dedicated to U.S. citizens/ state residents and those who have come here legally to receive education; thus, less aid would be available to legal residents.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Many undocumented students have lived in the state for their entire lives. Without the help of the state, many of these students could not afford to attend college because they are not eligible for federal financial aid, including grants and loans.</li> <li>2. Providing funding for undocumented immigrants to go to school would allow for college enrollment to increase and provide a more diverse and competitive academic atmosphere.</li> <li>3. Allowing eligibility does not mean that those undocumented immigrants would automatically qualify. It would provide more equal opportunity for those in need who can meet academic requirements.</li> <li>4. Despite common misconceptions, most undocumented immigrants do pay some form of taxes. This means that not all state revenue being spent to provide financial aid to undocumented students for higher education is going to people who do not contribute.</li> <li>5. Parents of undocumented immigrants pay into the tax system at the same rates as lawful residents through sales tax, real estate tax, and some even pay into the social security system if they have income taxes withheld from their pay. Their taxes go into the education system and do not take away from legal resident students.</li> </ol> |

**Issue 3:** Undocumented students who are Texas residents should be eligible for student loan forgiveness programs that are subsidized by the state government.

| Arguments For   | Arguments Against   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If these undocumented students could get financial help to go to college, but not free help, they could be able to attain legal work permits upon graduation in their chosen career.</li> <li>2. These students could end up contributing as productive residents in the state if they go to college and pay back their financial aid. This could lead to a decrease in the likelihood that it would be an incentive to be a new illegal immigrant.</li> <li>3. This could be a good way to get undocumented immigrants on the map in a legal way. These are the individuals we would want to become citizens since they are proving their value to society.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any person in the country illegally should not be eligible for any type of commitment-based pay-back loans.</li> <li>2. Providing any type of commitment-based pay-back loans provides incentives for undocumented immigrants to move to the state long enough for their children to meet the eligibility requirements to receive financial loan for college.</li> <li>3. Those who already broke one law by coming as undocumented immigrants might be also more likely to default on such a loan program/commitment.</li> </ol> |

## LEGAL OPTIONS FOR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS

**Issue 1:** Viable legal options should be provided for beneficiaries of the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program.

| Arguments For   | Arguments Against   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If legal options are not provided for DACA beneficiaries who have been in the country all or most of their lives, it could mean that they would be deported to a country they have never known, which would be inhumane.</li> <li>2. DACA eligible recipients entered the country through no fault of their own and should not be punished for the decisions of their parents or guardians.</li> <li>3. Creating an option for DACA eligible recipients to remain in the country with legal status could allow them to legally obtain work and contribute to society.</li> <li>4. DACA has been good for the U.S. economy. DACA recipients are projected to contribute</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Any type of amnesty should not be given to those here illegally, regardless of how old a person was when they entered the country. Enforcing the law is not cruel or inhumane.</li> <li>2. If legal status is granted, it could lead to increased strain on the welfare system, public education, and other public benefits offered to those here legally.</li> <li>3. Granting legal status to DACA recipients could potentially cause a domino effect in which undocumented immigrants bring young children, hoping that in time their children will be granted legal status.</li> <li>4. Granting DACA recipients legal status means a special application of laws for select groups (unequal treatment of certain undocumented immigrants), which would undermine the rule of law valued by the United States.</li> </ol> |

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| over \$460 billion to the U.S. GDP over the next decade. <sup>2</sup> |  |
|---|--|

**Issue 1A:** Beneficiaries of the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program should be granted a lawful, renewable status that permits them to stay in the country and work, but does not lead to permanent status.

| Arguments For   | Arguments Against   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given the near impossibility of Congress to enact any type of legal benefits for those individuals in undocumented status, it would be easier to gain majorities in both the House and the Senate for legislation that would only provide DACA beneficiaries with a renewable, lawful status.</li> <li>Having a lawful, renewable status would provide undocumented beneficiaries a status that would prevent them from being deported, allow them to work for any employer, and would allow them to travel freely in and out of the U.S.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Granting any type of renewable, lawful status to DACA beneficiaries would serve as an incentive to bring other children into the U.S. unlawfully with the hope that they would, too, gain future legal status.</li> <li>Giving a renewable, lawful status could be a stepping stone for a future Congress to provide legal options to the DACA beneficiaries to obtain lawful permanent residency, and ultimately U.S. citizenship.</li> <li>According to many pro-immigrant advocates, this does not go far enough in protecting DACA beneficiaries.</li> </ol> |

**Issue 1B:** Beneficiaries of the 2012 Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) Program should be granted a lawful permanent status, with the option to pursue legal citizenship.

| Arguments For  | Arguments Against   |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>DACA beneficiaries are a special class, given the fact that they were brought to the U.S. as children. As minors, they could not be deemed to have engaged in unlawful activity.</li> <li>The vast majority of DACA beneficiaries have grown up in the U.S. without any knowledge of their home country and are mostly in college or fully-employed; thus, they should be fully-incorporated into U.S. society.</li> <li>DACA beneficiaries should have the right to earn the full American dream by first becoming lawful permanent residents, and ultimately, the right to qualify for U.S. citizenship.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This policy is less likely to achieve bipartisan support, so by insisting on granting DACA beneficiaries the right to become lawful permanent residents (LPR), and ultimately with the opportunity to become U.S. citizens, it might make it more difficult to enact any rights for DACA beneficiaries.</li> <li>Granting the benefit of becoming lawful permanent residents with the right to ultimately become U.S. citizens, even if they were brought here as children, will still be a powerful incentive for others to bring their children into the U.S. unlawfully.</li> </ol> |

<sup>2</sup> Tom K. Wong, et al., "DACA Recipients' Economic and Educational Gains Continue to Grow," [www.americanprogress.org](http://www.americanprogress.org), Aug. 28, 2017

**Issue 2:** Beneficiaries of Temporary Protective Status (TPS) should be eligible to apply for an interim legal status that permits them to stay and work in the U.S., and ultimately leads to the option of applying for Lawful Permanent Residency.

| Arguments For   | Arguments Against  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Over 300,000 TPS beneficiaries, primarily from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have resided and have been lawfully and fully-employed in the U.S. for several decades or longer.</li> <li>2. Those who have been here for an extended period of time have been working for employers, paying into federal income tax, property taxes, Social Security, and other taxes.</li> <li>3. Their removal from the U.S. would have a severe humanitarian impact by separating the breadwinner from one or more U.S. citizen family members, including one or more U.S. citizen children.</li> <li>4. At a time of worker shortage and low unemployment, the removal of these individuals from the U.S. workforce will have severe impacts on the U.S. economy.</li> <li>5. The removal of large numbers of individuals from, and returning them to distressed countries like El Salvador, Guatemala, or Honduras, could have a destabilizing effect on those governments.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Temporary Protective Status was only intended as a temporary status that did not include a pathway to lawful status.</li> <li>2. The conditions in the countries of those granted TPS no longer exist and it is deemed safe for them to return to their home country.</li> <li>3. Granting permanent, indefinite status will make it more difficult for future presidents to grant TPS if he thinks the temporary status could lead to future lawful permanent status.</li> <li>4. Providing a pathway to Lawful Permanent Residency will be an incentive for others to enter the U.S. from those countries hoping that they, too, will someday benefit from the TPS program.</li> </ol> |

**Issue 3:** DHS should work with employers to identify undocumented workers who can pass a background check and then be granted a 3-year renewable, legal status. Those who are granted this status would be required to work for same employer who will designate them as a W2 employee, paying and matching all payroll taxes and following Department of Labor guidelines.

| Arguments For   | Arguments Against  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. This could provide legal status for needed workers at a time of record-unemployment and allow them to contribute into the U.S. economy by paying taxes and into the Social Security system.</li> <li>2. Only those who are sponsored by their current U.S. employers would be eligible to apply.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing a pathway to a lawful status creates an incentive for others to seek to enter, and hope that they, too, will be covered by future amnesty programs.</li> <li>2. Such a program will encourage others to come into the country illegally in order to claim they have been working for the required period of</li> </ol> |

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <p>3. These individuals would have already been fully employed for many years in the U.S., as verified by their current employer (not themselves); therefore, granting a pathway to lawful permanent residency would not negatively impact the U.S. worker.</p> <p>4. Since these individuals are subject to deportation/ removal if they were to be in contact with ICE, removing an estimated 7 million or more productive workers from the U.S. would negatively impact the U.S. economy, possibly dwarfing the 2008-2009 recession. Providing a pathway to lawful permanent residency would prevent this possible economic downfall.</p> <p>5. This narrower program would be more likely to attract bipartisan support as it does not provide a pathway to lawful permanent resident status, which is a requirement to eventually apply for citizenship.</p> | <p>time, for a U.S. employer, in order to qualify for legal status. We cannot guarantee either the workers or the employers to tell the truth about the length of their employment.</p> <p>3. Some of these jobs could be filled by U.S. citizens and legal residents.</p> <p>4. Qualified applicants should not be restricted to qualifying only with the support of an existing employer and should independently have a pathway to lawful permanent residency, and the right to ultimately apply for U.S. citizenship.</p> <p>5. Individuals and organizations could face repercussions in admitting they have been involved in this illegal activity (of employing or being undocumented workers), and thus be unwilling to coming forward to take advantage of this program.</p> |
|---|---|

**Issue 4:** Legal options should be provided for undocumented immigrants who have not committed any serious crimes and have been in the country for a minimum number of years (e.g., 3 years).

| Arguments For  | Arguments Against  |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Creating legal options for those who have been in the country over a set period of time without committing other crimes will reduce the fear of being deported.</p> <p>2. Providing legal options can help lower poverty among undocumented immigrants. Legal options would allow them to attain jobs legally, pay into the tax system, and would allow them to apply for jobs with higher pay.</p> <p>3. It is in the national interest, as testified by members of the national security community, to determine who is residing in the U.S., be it lawfully or unlawfully, in order to create a database for law enforcement purposes.</p> <p>4. Given the fact that the majority of the large undocumented population has been in the U.S. for more than 10 years, most of which have one or more U.S. citizen immediate relatives, it</p> | <p>1. Providing pathways to legal status rewards illegal immigrants and disrespects those who have come to the country legally.</p> <p>2. This would incentivize those who come to the country illegally or overstay their visas to stay here as long as possible in order to be eligible to convert their illegal status to legal status.</p> <p>3. Although they have not committed any serious crime, they already violated the immigration law and can be seen as criminals. It does not make sense to grant them legal status just because they do not commit other crimes.</p> <p>4. If undocumented immigrants come to the country by illegally crossing the border, it is difficult for undocumented immigrants to provide evidence that they have been in the country for a specific time period.</p> |

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| <p>would be inhumane to deport large numbers of family members who bring home the majority of the income to support family members who may be also be citizens. Doing so would leave spouses and children dependent upon welfare support.</p> <p>5. At a time of record low unemployment, it would be detrimental to the economy to support policies that would remove a large number of people in the workforce who are fully employed with no alternative ready workforce to fill these positions.</p> |  |
|--|--|

**Issue 4A:** Undocumented immigrants should be required to leave and go through the proper legal processes to re-enter the country with legal status.

| Arguments For  | Arguments Against  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Providing pathways to legal status for those already here rewards illegal immigrants and disrespects those who have come to the country legally.</li> <li>2. Providing pathways to legal status for those already here would incentivize others who come to the country illegally or overstay their visas to stay here as long as possible in order to be eligible to convert their illegal status to legal status.</li> <li>3. Although they have not committed any serious crime, they already violated the immigration law and can be seen as criminals. It does not make sense to grant legal status to those who are here illegally just because they do not commit other crimes.</li> <li>4. If undocumented immigrants come to the country by illegally crossing the border, it is difficult for them to provide evidence that they have been in the country for a specific time period, thus requiring a “start-over” by leaving to truly solve this problem.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Given the fact that the large undocumented population has been in the U.S. for more than 10 years, the majority of which have one or more U.S. citizen immediate relatives, it would be inhumane to require large numbers of family members to leave the country. These same people bring home the majority of the income to support family members who may be also be citizens. Doing so would leave spouses and children dependent upon welfare support.</li> <li>2. Many undocumented residents do not have a safe place to return to in their home country. Some may even face penalty for returning.</li> <li>3. Many undocumented residents have dependent children or other family members who are U.S. citizens, who they cannot leave and who have never lived in their parents’ home country; this would, essentially inhumanely uproot U.S. citizens along with undocumented residents.</li> <li>4. Current U.S. immigration laws make it very difficult for the majority of undocumented residents to come back with legal status.</li> <li>5. At a time of record low unemployment, it would be detrimental to the economy to support policies that would remove a large number of people in the workforce who are fully employed with no alternative ready workforce to fill these positions.</li> </ol> |

**Issue 4B:** Those who have entered the country illegally or overstayed a visa and have not committed any serious crime for a minimum number of years should only be given legal options if they pay a fine and make a commitment to taking and passing American civics and learn English.

| Arguments For   | Arguments Against   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is common practice to offer people who have committed any crime (of which illegal entry of the U.S. is one example) a chance to pay a penalty and commit to some form of future behavior. This would follow the same principles of law and justice we follow in the U.S. for other crimes.</li> <li>2. If the penalty and/or commitment is deemed reasonable and fair, it will bring a sufficient number of undocumented residents forward, into pursuit of legal status.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If the penalty and/or commitment is not significant enough, it will not be an inhibitor to future illegal immigration.</li> <li>2. If the penalty and/or commitment is too harsh, existing undocumented residents are not likely to come forward and submit themselves to it anyway.</li> </ol> |

**Issue 4C:** Long-term, undocumented immigrants who have not committed any serious crime and have been in the country for a minimum number of years should be eligible to apply for a lawful renewable status.

| Arguments For  | Arguments Against  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Having a renewable legal status will encourage much-needed workers to continue to work and pay taxes in the U.S. in a lawful way, from which all can benefit.</li> <li>2. This will enable law enforcement to create a database of non-citizen residents so as to ensure continued renewal or departure of the U.S.</li> <li>3. This will allow undocumented workers to more fully live their lives in the mainstream of the U.S. economy, contributing to the economy and also increasing their ability to thrive.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Granting renewable status will create an issue of non-renewal for some undocumented workers, in which they once again lapse into unlawful status at some future point.</li> <li>2. Undocumented residents may be unwilling to come forward for fear they will be punished or deported by self-identifying as in need of legal status.</li> <li>3. Granting only a renewable status will increase administrative and law enforcement load as these people must be processed with each renewal (or enforced with each nonrenewal).</li> <li>4. Otherwise qualified applicants should have the option of being able to be incorporated fully into society, with a 10-year or longer pathway to lawful permanent residency, and thus ultimately the right to apply for U.S. citizenship, not just a renewable status.</li> </ol> |

**Issue 4D:** Long-term, undocumented immigrants who have not committed any serious crime and have been in the country a minimum number of years should be eligible to apply for permanent legal status with a future option to apply for citizenship.

| Arguments For  | Arguments Against  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. If someone has proven to be a reliable, responsible, long-term contributor to U.S. economy, workforce, and society, then we want those types of people as permanent residents, and perhaps even citizens who have the right to vote, thereby influencing the future direction of our country.</li> <li>2. Only those who are really motivated will finish the full process to citizenship, so this will create mostly just a permanent pool of workers, and not future citizens.</li> <li>3. Just because someone made one unlawful decision (immigration), that does not mean they are likely to make other types of unlawful decisions. The reasons for illegal immigration are numerous (e.g., often desperate living or working situations) and not likely to be repeated once they are in the U.S. for other types of crimes. Therefore, showing a clean track record while in the U.S. should prove they are trustworthy for permanent status.</li> <li>4. Granting them permanent status as opposed to renewable temporary status reduces administrative load on our immigration system and personnel; those resources can then be devoted elsewhere.</li> <li>5. This will allow undocumented workers to more fully live their lives in the mainstream of the US economy, contributing to the US economy and also increasing their ability to thrive.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. People who at some point entered the U.S. illegally or illegally overstayed their visa should not be rewarded with the opportunity for citizenship in the very country whose laws they violated by entering.</li> <li>2. We should be cautious about allowing large groups of immigrants, particularly those that entered or stayed illegally, the eventual opportunity to influence our nation's future through voting rights as citizens.</li> <li>3. Someone who entered or stayed illegally should not be trusted with permanent legal status, as they have shown the likelihood to make unlawful decisions in the past (concerning immigration), and past behavior is a strong predictor of future behavior.</li> </ol> |