

St. John's Cathedral

Immigration Proposal

Among us are 16 to 17 million people who are undocumented migrants, or with precarious migration status that is being terminated. They represent approximately five per cent of the US population. Duval County is likely home to at least 50,000 of these people. We believe their mass deportation will cause irreparable harm to the US economy and cause tremendous human suffering.

We seek a measured approach that will allow long term economically productive migrants to apply for permanent resident visas and normalize their tax and employment status.

Background-

Since 1977 the US has restricted permanent resident employment visas to professionals. Since that time the US economy has grown dramatically and created millions of service sector jobs in the health, hospitality and other areas. As the economy shifted young people increasingly moved away from work in the agricultural sector. Employers have relied on undocumented migrants to fill these jobs. Migrants have taken the most physically difficult, dangerous and unappealing jobs.

We Propose-

Those who have lived productive lives and have not committed crimes other than violating their immigration status should be permitted to apply for visas to become lawful permanent residents.

Employers, schools, churches and other civic organizations as well as individual American citizens should be able to attest to the character of long-term immigrant families or individuals and sponsor them for visas.

The migrants would need to demonstrate that they are self-supporting and normalize their tax status. They would also need to have police and security checks.

This approach would be complemented with strict land border controls and a reliable employment verification system.

An improved visa system should be implemented that allows US employers to hire foreign workers on a temporary or permanent basis when there are insufficient US workers, while maintaining the wages and working conditions of American workers.

Aliens accused of committing crimes should be prosecuted and tried according to US law and if convicted, serve their sentences and be subject to the deportation provisions of US immigration law.