

Why Serious Immigration Reform Is Inevitable

By [Mary Giovagnoli](#), [Immigration Impact](#). Posted December 15, 2009.

Hot-button issues like health reform and economic recovery will come and go. That U.S. immigration policy is fundamentally broken guarantees its eventual place in the conversation.

For those of us who live and breathe immigration reform, it's hard to remember that immigration isn't everyone's top priority. Not surprisingly, public opinion polls and headlines constantly remind us that health care and the economy consistently top the concerns of the general public. Even among Latino voters, a [new study](#) shows that health care is the most pressing issue. But this is neither a big surprise nor should it lead to the conclusion that immigration isn't important. Polls are snapshots, taking the picture of the public psyche on a given day, at a given time, in the context of a range of political concerns.

For example, Scott Keeter, Director of Survey Research for the Pew Research Center, [lays out](#) a fairly reasonable portrait of public interest in immigration over the last few years. Greatest interest and concern meshed with an active legislative debate in 2007. The immigration issue has faded somewhat from the general public's mind as the economy, the war in Iraq and the health care debate have grown in importance. Similarly, [Pew research](#) suggests that Latino voters prioritize health care and education over immigration. This is all very interesting -- but not particularly instructive on the consequences of failing to address immigration reform in 2010.

To figure out how important immigration reform really is to voters, you have to probe a little deeper. For example, other research conducted by [Pew in 2007](#) suggested that Latino voters may prioritize other issues, but that their political voting patterns are nonetheless informed by how a politician addresses immigration questions. The great move of Latino support from the Republican party in the late nineties to major support of Obama and other Democrats in the 2006 and 2008 elections can be traced, in large part, to the perception that the Republican party's apparent hostility to immigrants and immigration reform meant that the party was not very welcoming to Latinos.

Similarly, while it's no surprise that immigration loses in a head-to-head contest with health care reform while the health care debate is raging, the [Latino Decisions poll](#) reported in La Opinion also shows that after health care and fixing the economy, fixing immigration is more important than a range of issues including the war, creating more jobs or education. Moreover, it's even hard to tease out immigration from the health care debate as Latino Decisions has also found that Latino voters overwhelmingly support universal coverage regardless of legal status.

So, it's just not that simple. It never is. When the dust has settled, health care is voted on and the country moves on to the next issue, immigration is going to be right up there. The debate is coming. It's inevitable. If anything, the furor over immigration during the health care debate shows that the failure to reform immigration has an impact on other issues that people care about whether they realize it or not. Much like the weather, snapshots change constantly, but the problem -- a broken

immigration system -- will remain until Congress takes up the issue.

The immigration war is about to commence

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Posted by: Brittanicus on Dec 15, 2009 9:20 PM

Current rating: **1** [**1** = poor; **5** = excellent]

If Internet blogger's, the national and rural newspaper comments, forums or bulletin boards, are a national grading of passing Comprehensive Immigration Reform--FORGET IT! IT JUST ISN'T GOING TO HAPPEN! I follow the commentaries very carefully and my observation show a very negative response to any new law that indicates giving the 20 to 30 million illegal immigrants a more or less free passport to the road of citizenship. Under normal circumstances it would be an impossibility to pass any AMNESTY? But when the headlines scream that 15 million irate Americans and legal residents cannot find employment, the chances of giving another AMNESTY, is impossible--and absolutely, incredulous that they would even try? Advancing this insane reform law under the noses of middle class Americans is going to be a expiration of Sen. Harry Reid (D-NV), Speaker Pelosi, Napolitano and a whole mis-match of Democrats who are thinking they will be re-elected. Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D-Ill.) champion of his government in Mexico and throughout Central and South America will--NOT--survive his incumbent election. No tourist or student overstays are equally unwelcome in this nation of laws.

CALL ALL YOUR SENATORS AND EVEN CONGRESSMEN/ WOMEN. NOW and urge them--NOT--to support COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM. IT'S NOT NEEDED? THE ! THE 1986 IMMIGRATION REFORM BILL WAS NEVER, EVER ENFORCED. The Capitol Switchboard's telephone number is 202-224-3121.

There must be heavy consequences to illegally settling here, such as upgrading the unauthorized entry to a felony. In the future we must have an orderly immigration recruitment system, but only for people with highly skilled qualifications. Guest Workers must be equally vetted and not just given permission without strict--return instructions home, after completing their contract. No family reunification, because this has been rife with fraud as sponsors end up reneging on the financial aspect. All this issues can easily be resolved with amendment to the 1986 immigration bill. What to do with 20 to 30 million illegal aliens from across the world, slowly repatriate them using the SAVE ACT. We are unable to afford the costs attributed to illegal immigration. Learning in the Sanctuary State of California has collapsed from the massive surge of illegal foreign nationals into the school system.

Observe CNN TV documentary this week, "California in Crisis" The state may still implode under the huge burden of supporting financially the illegal aliens with large families. Unrevealed billions of dollars are skimmed from state treasuries, to pay for the immigrants that cannot sustain themselves around this nation. The demented politicians in Sacramento are already talking about raising taxes. No state remains untouched by the unparalleled invasion of this great sovereign country. Understand the immigration enforcement gradings of your politicians at NUMBERSUSA. Understand how taxpayers have been taken for a ride for decades and the unrevealed costs to you. See what JUDICIAL WATCH has to say about CORRUPTION in WASHINGTON. IF AMNESTY PASSES WE ARE JUST A SHORT INTERLUDE FOR OVERPOPULATION AND A THIRD WORLD COUNTRY EX