

IMMIGRATION IN THE UNITED STATES

Ground Rules for Deliberation

Consider all approaches carefully

Seek to build a respectful
atmosphere

Listen to understand
It's okay to disagree, but do so
with curiosity, not hostility

Be brief and allow others to
participate, no one should
dominate

Consider both national and local
actions that we can take

APPROACH 1

WELCOME NEWCOMERS;
IMPROVE LEGAL PATHWAYS

Actions

1. Respect **all asylum claims**
2. Create **more legal pathways** for migration
3. Create a **clear path to legal residency** for undocumented immigrants in the United States
4. Establish an **independent immigration court**

Tradeoffs/Drawbacks

1. There are **high costs** associated with revamping the system
2. Social systems might not have the **capacity** to handle a migrant influx
3. Could pose a **threat to public safety**
4. **Communication and organization gaps** in migrant-supporting agencies may be exacerbated

APPROACH 2

ENFORCE THE LAW; BE FAIR
TO THOSE WHO FOLLOW THE
RULES

Actions

1. Prioritize **identifying and deporting** undocumented immigrants
2. **Tighten security** at the US-Mexico border
3. Enforce the use of E-Verify to **increase barriers to finding work** for undocumented immigrants
4. Make the legal immigration process **more efficient**

Tradeoffs/Drawbacks

1. **Psychological distress** for families and children
2. The **high cost** would require a budget overhaul and/or an increase in taxes
3. **Loss of workers** could harm the economy and US infrastructure

APPROACH 3

SLOW DOWN; INTEGRATE COMMUNITIES

Actions

1. Establish a system that **simplifies and promotes coordination** between agencies and non-profits supporting migrants
2. **Lower legal immigration;** reduce pressure on organizations
3. **Tighten criteria** for asylum
4. Prioritize **highly skilled** migration

Tradeoffs/Drawbacks

1. May lead to a **scarcity of workers**, especially in migrant-reliant industries
2. Could result in **cultural loss**, forced assimilation, and stereotyping
3. Higher potential for **wrongful rejections** and deportation to unsafe conditions

APPROACH 4

TARGETED IMMIGRATION IS NEEDED FOR OUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC HEALTH

Actions

1. Raise the caps and visa categories to **increase skilled and workforce migration**
2. Implement visa programs that prioritize migration to certain regions **based on need**
3. Offer **premium processing** for highly skilled workers
4. **Recognize** foreign degrees and certifications

Tradeoffs/Drawbacks

1. Potential **displacement of domestic workers**
2. Underserved areas may feel only **temporary boosts** but not long-term economic revitalization
3. Job market oversaturation could **lower wages**
4. **Variability** in educational and professional standards

APPROACH 5

PROTECT AMERICAN CITIZENS; STRENGTHEN IMMIGRATION LAWS

Actions

1. Make the immigration process **more selective** with higher fees and stricter requirements
2. **Limit** birthright citizenship
3. **Punish** individuals and institutions who harbor undocumented immigrants
4. Expand methods used to **deport all** individuals in the United States unlawfully

Tradeoffs/Drawbacks

1. Strays from **national ideals** of freedom and democracy
2. The costs of these actions, combined with a loss of labor force, could **harm the economy**
3. Could **strain diplomatic relationships**, especially with allies and trade partners
4. Could cause an **increase** in illegal immigration
5. May **violate the Constitution**