



SRE

**Challenges and perspectives of the
immigration from Mexico to
The United States of America**

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OMAHA, NEBRASKA

The purpose of this presentation is that you have a general approach to the main consular representations actions, and a general point of view about immigration issues between Mexico and the United States.

Objectives and goals:

Upon finishing this presentation, the intend is, that you be able to:

- **Establish the dimensions of the Mexico consular network,**
- **Identify the relation between the Mexican immigration to the United States, and**
- **Identify the challenge and expectations of the bilateral relations: Mexico - United States of America.**

Introduction



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The Mexican Foreign Service is the permanent body of civil and public employees, specifically to represent the Mexicans abroad and responsible for executing the Mexico foreign policy, according to the normative principles that establish the Political Constitution of the United States of Mexico.

The Foreign Service depends on the Executive. Its direction and administration are in charge of the Secretariat of Foreign Affairs, arranged by the constitutional act of the Federal Public Administration and to the features of foreign policy that the President of the Republic indicates, according to the faculties that confers to him the own Constitution.

Article 1 of the Law of
the Mexican Foreign Service

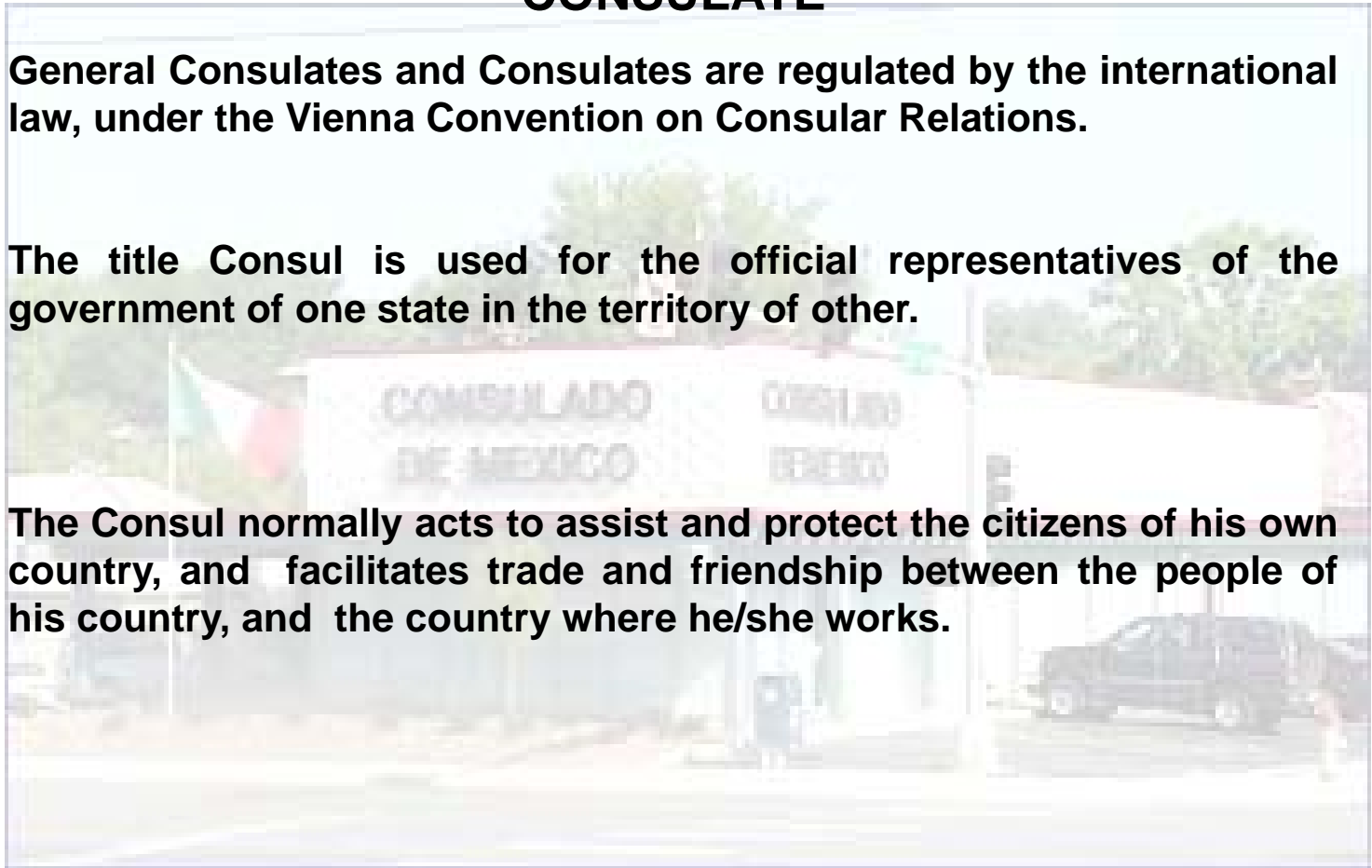
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CONSULATE

General Consulates and Consulates are regulated by the international law, under the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations.

The title Consul is used for the official representatives of the government of one state in the territory of other.

The Consul normally acts to assist and protect the citizens of his own country, and facilitates trade and friendship between the people of his country, and the country where he/she works.



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Global Consular Network



The consulates of Mexico carry out traditionally the work of protection of their nationals abroad, with strict observance of the consular conventions and in the framework of the principles of the international law. The legal framework of the guest country is respected and the actions of protection arrives if the resources of the local judicial system have been exhausted.

Each time, Mexico dedicates greater efforts to the duty and opportune consular protection to the Mexicans when their dignity, their fundamental liberties, their human rights or labor rights have been wounded.

CATEGORIES	UNITED STATES
GENERAL CONSULATES	18
CONSULATES	31
CONSULAR SECTION	1
	0
SUB-TOTAL	50
HONORARY CONSULATES	8
TOTAL	58

There are 285 Mexican Consulates in the world, in which 50 are located in the United States of America.

Mexico is the country with more representations in United States.

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Global Consular Network



CATEGORIES	NORTH AMERICA	LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBE	EUROPE	AFRICA & MID WEST	PACIFIC & ASIA	TOTAL
General Consulates	21	3	3	0	2	29
Consulates	31	3	0	0	0	33
Consular Sections	2	22	23	9	12	68
Comercial Offices	0	0	0	0	1	1
SUB-TOTAL	54	28	26	9	15	132
Honoraries Consulates	12	27	75	17	22	153
GRAN TOTAL	66	55	101	26	37	285

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Mexican Immigration



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Historically, the migration of Mexicans toward US has been present for more than a hundred years, motivated by social, demographic, and economic factors.

The geographical proximity, the demand of Mexican agricultural workers and the incapacity of the Mexican economy to absorb a contingent of labor in constant growth, favored the rapid increase of the migratory flows.

Later, globalization -as the regional integration and the reciprocal economic dependence- has influenced the immigration.

(López Villar, 2003).

Place of origin of the Mexicans that have emigrated to United States

Upon being found an important number of the Mexican consulates in US territory, turns out to be fundamental to know the characteristics of the immigration of the Mexicans nationals to United States.

The immigration is understood as a geographical displacement of individuals or groups, generally by economic or social causes.

The map illustrates the different states of the Mexican Republic since where our nationals have emigrated to United States.



State
1. Michoacán
2. Jalisco
3. Guanajuato
4. Guerrero
5. Zacatecas
6. Distrito Federal
7. Estado de México
8. Oaxaca
9. Durango
10. Puebla

Fuente: Matrículas expedidas por las circunscripciones consulares de México en Estados Unidos, 2000

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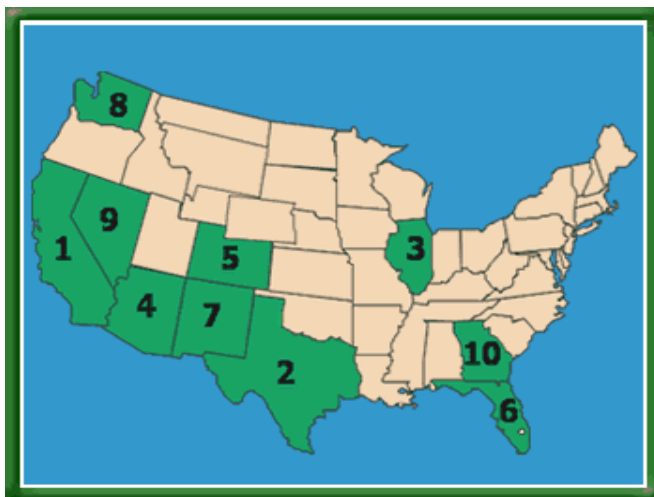


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Distribution of the Mexican population in the United States

The migratory flows persistence to the United States, along last decades, has resulted in the rise of important Mexican population centers into different states of the United States of America.

The map shows the distribution of the Mexican population in the United States.



Fuente: The Hispanic Population, Censo de Estados Unidos 2000, Mayo 2001 www.census.gov

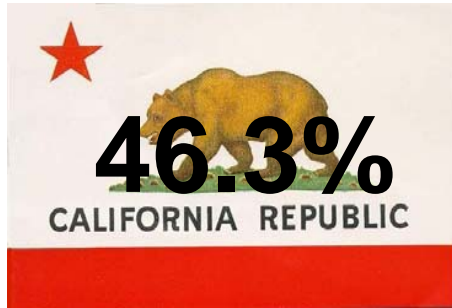
* Ciudadanos de EEUU con ascendencia mexicana, nacionales mexicanos y personas con ambas nacionalidades.

Mexican population in U S A

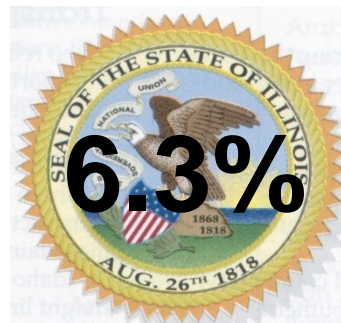
State	Mexicans*
1. California	8,455,926
2. Texas	5,071,963
3. Illinois	1,144,390
4. Arizona	1,065,578
5. Colorado	450,760
6. Florida	363,925
7. New México	330,049
8. Washington	329,934
9. Nevada	285,764
10. Georgia	275,288

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Distribution of the Mexican population in the United States



The nation's 11.9 million unauthorized immigrants are more geographically dispersed than in the past. The recent rapid growth in the undocumented immigrant labor force has come to a halt, and estimates that the nation's unauthorized immigrant workers in March 2008 made up 5.4% of the labor force.



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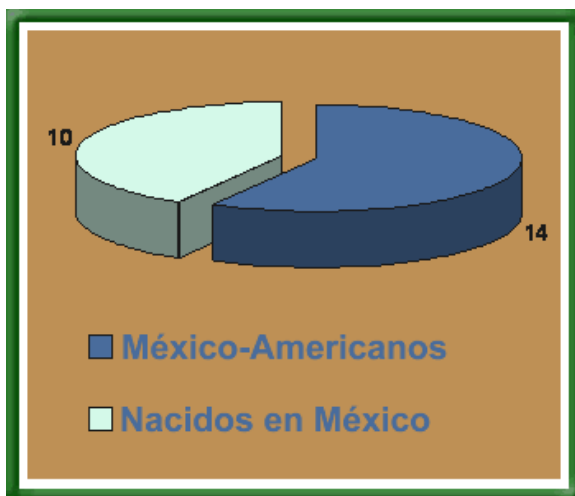


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Mexican population in the United States

The Mexican population in the United States has grown to a rapid rhythm in recent years. According to the last review of the American Census Office (2008), its number reaches 24 million habitants, distributed in more than 40 states.

By its dimension, this population has economic and political importance. In the United States is calculated that it has a power of purchase of more than 378 thousand million dollars.



Fuente: Censo de EUA 2000, www.census.gov

The total of the Hispanic population in the United States is 39,8 million people, that represent 14 percent of the total population of the country.

The population of Mexicans represents 60 percent of the Hispanic in the United States.

Of these, 14 million of people were born in the United States and 10 million were born in Mexico.



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Mexican Population in the United States

While Mexican immigrants are still settling in "traditional" destination states like California and Texas, over the last 10 to 15 years, the foreign born from Mexico, like other immigrant groups, have begun moving to "nontraditional" settlement areas. This includes states in the South, such as Georgia and North Carolina, as well as Midwestern states, such as Nebraska, Iowa and Ohio.



	IOWA		% Total	%Hispanics
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>		
Population	2,776,755	2,926,324		
Hispanics	32,647	82,473	5.4 %	152.6 %



	NEBRASKA		%Total	% Hispanics
	<u>1990</u>	<u>2000</u>		
Population	1,578,385	1,711,263		
Hispanics	36,969	94,425	8.4 %	155.4 %



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Mexican Population in the United States

- Of the total immigrant population in Nebraska in 2007, **42.4** percent were born in Mexico, 4.8 percent in Vietnam, and 4.4 percent in El Salvador. In contrast, the top three countries of birth in 1990 were Mexico (14.6 percent), Germany (9.3 percent), and former USSR (7.6 percent).
- Of the total immigrant population in Iowa in 2007, **33.0** percent were born in Mexico, 5.0 percent in Korea, and 4.9 percent in Vietnam. In contrast, the top three countries of birth in 1990 were Germany (10.6 percent), Mexico (8.4 percent), and Laos (6.8 percent).

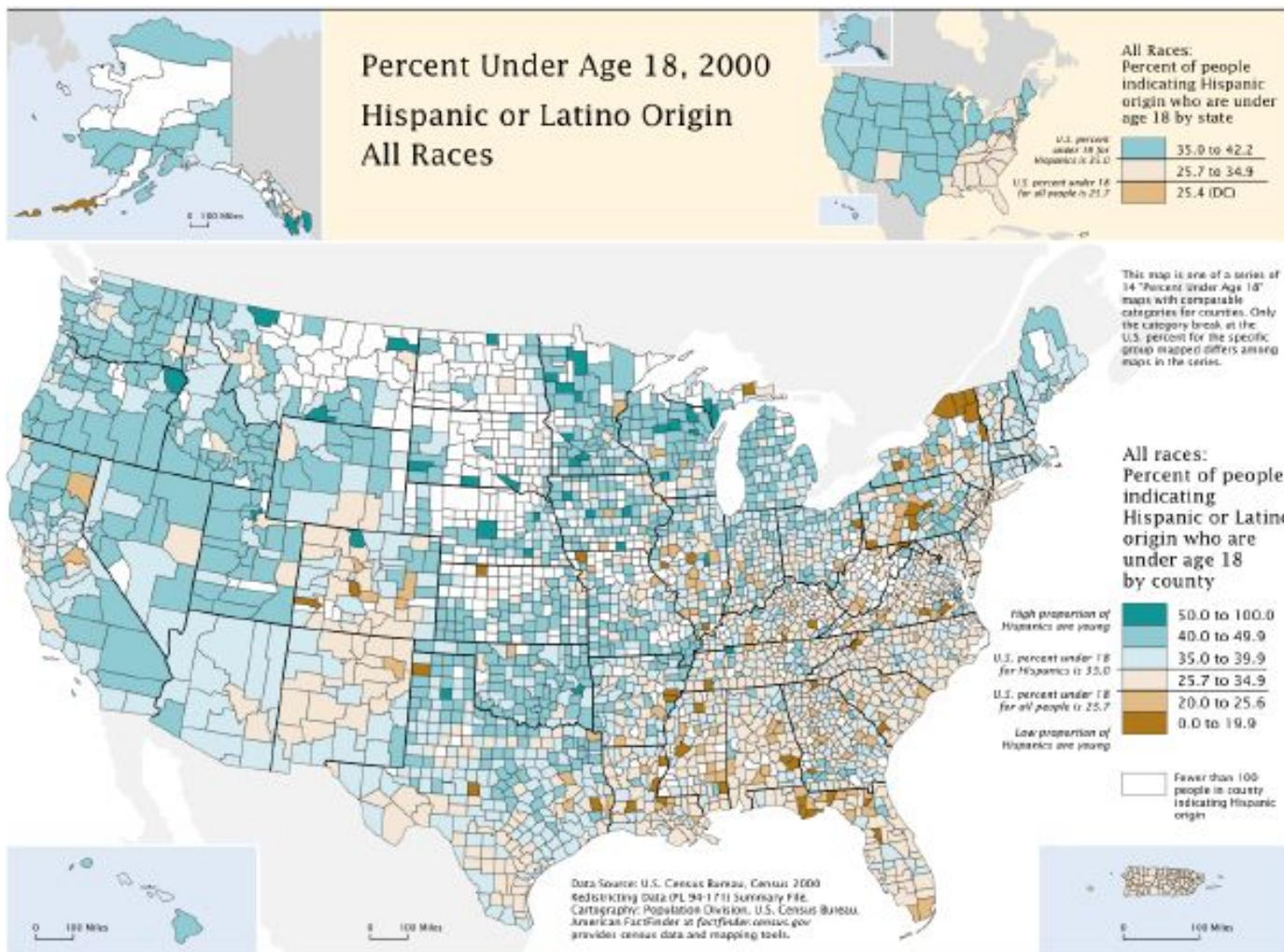


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Mexican Population in the United States



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Mexican Population in the United States

The current US population is over 300 million people (303,500,000 in early 2008) . The number of Mexicans ancestry people currently living in the United States, including citizens, legal and undocumented immigrants, is approximately 10 % of the total US population.

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Mexican Population in the United States

Immigration has been crucial to the United States' growth and also a periodic source of conflict. At the turn of the 21st century, the country has experienced another great wave of immigration, the largest since the 1920s. However, for the first time illegal immigrants outnumbered legal immigrants coming in to the country -- by 2008 an estimated 11.9 million illegal immigrants were living here - and immigration had once again become one of the most contentious issues on the political agenda.

The Mexican nationals do make a very strong minority in the US for social, economic and political considerations.

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New Era in Mexico – USA Relations

The perception of US – Mexico relations is changing as well. Many Americans and Mexicans leaders do not view the common problems isolated.



Most of the people think that President Obama’s trip to Mexico, on the 16th of April, 2009, fulfilled their expectations. He connected with the Mexican people in a different way, regarding immigration. In the new era, the mandatories will hopefully find a solutions to this matter by enabling job creating conditions in Mexico and establishing an appropriate workers’ US immigration program, instead of building expensive and useless walls.

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New Era in Mexico – USA Relations



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- **...new era, where we shall forge together the sustainable development of our people and the prosperity of our citizens...**
- **...to turn our common border an example of productivity and security...**
- **...we will raise competitiveness at the regional level...**
- **...Mexico needs investments from the US and US needs the strength of the Mexican labor force...**
- **...new era of understanding among our people in order to reach a fairer perception and understanding of migration...**
- **...new era upon which the proposal that (President Obama) has issued to the Americans would reach out for comprehensive migratory reform that will open up the door to hope for the re-encounter of thousands of Mexican families....**

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New Era in Mexico – USA Relations



- **...I see my first visit to Mexico as an opportunity to launch a new era of cooperation and partnership between our two nations, an era built on an even firmer foundation of mutual responsibility and mutual respect and mutual interest...**
- **...it's not just that shared borders that links us together. It's also culture, it's also migration patterns that have taken place, that have become so important and it's also our deep economics ties...**
- **...My whole goal is to remove the politics of previously failed comprehensive immigrations reform initiatives and take a very practical, common-sense approach that benefits people on both sides of the border...**
- **I am committed to fixing our broken immigration system in a way that upholds our traditions as a nation of laws but also as a nation of immigrants.**

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The Perspectives



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The actions of the Legislative, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the consensus that have reached important social groups in the United States – mainly The Unions -.

This groups have a clear indication that the issue is advancing, what enlarges the possibilities to include an initiative in 2009.

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The US Congress



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The US Congress has registered important movements, upon being reintroduced important initiatives:

1. **Development, Relief and Education for Allien Minors (DREAM Act, HR. 1751, S. 729).** This initiative was reintroduced in both, upper and lower houses, on March 26 by the senators Richard Durbin (D-IL) and Richard Place (R-IN), and the representative Howard Berman (D-CA). The initiative proposes that the young students that comply with certain requirements can aspire to the permanent residence.

The conditions are to:

- 1) have arrived into United States before reaching 16 years old;
- 2) have continuous residence in the country, in a period not smaller to five years;
- 3) have been graduated from the high school;
- 4) have completed at least two years of university or similar activity; and
- 5) have not criminal antecedents.

This initiative would be able to benefit more than 65.000 students that at present have an irregular status. The initiative has 62 firms of Representatives and 22 firms in the Senate, the endorsement of the President and of other organizations.

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The US Congress

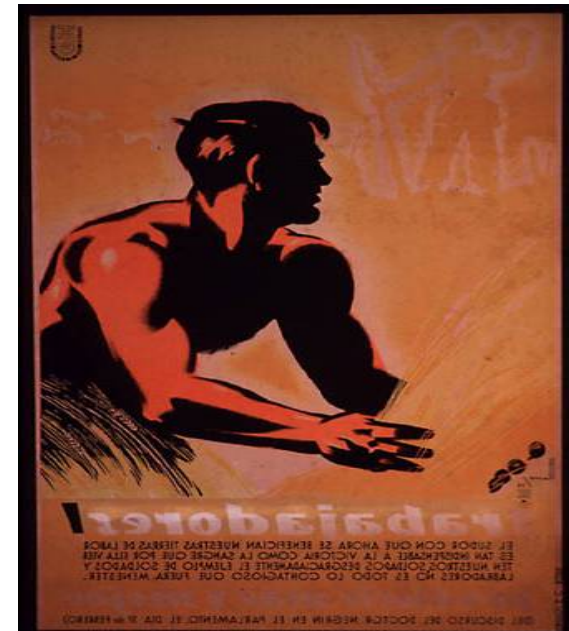


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- 2. **Farming Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security Act (AgJOBS, HR. 2414, S. 1038).** It introduced May 14 by Diane Feinstein (D-CA), in the Senate, and Howard Berman (D-CA) and Adam Putnam (R-FL), in the House of Representatives.

This initiative proposes an immigrants regularization process that can show that they have worked in the agricultural sector, during at least 863 hours or 150 days in the last 24 months, until December 31, 2008.

The initiative counts on 27 copartners in the House of Representatives and 17 in the Senate, and is considered fundamental for the regularization of an industry whose annual demand surpasses the three million workers and that is supplied for the mainly lacking identity papers, foreign labor force.



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3. Reuniting Family Act (S. 1085).

Introduced initially in October of 2008 and reintroduced in May, 2009 by the senators Robert Menéndez (D-NJ), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Edward Kennedy (D-MA) and Chat Schumer (D-NY).



The initiative emphasizes the inefficiency of the current system of family visas and indicates that this should be a fundamental issue to be discussed in any initiative.

Organizations as the National Counsel of the Race and the National Immigration Forum applaud this decision.

Homeland Security



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The migratory politics has been registered a novel turn. During last April the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (BICE, by their acronyms) adopted a series of measures that now contemplate more severe sanctions to employers, the main responsible for contracting workers without identity papers.

In spite of that, the raids are ruled out, now these are presented like part of the judicial process of investigation against employers that, knowingly, they continue hiring irregular workers.

This decision has not been well received by whom argue that the detentions in the workplaces are counterproductive and by whom demand other complementary measures (documents verification systems).

Union Guilds



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In April, 2009, two of the most important union guilds U.S. –the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)- agreed to adopt the same position against the issue, assuring that a migratory reform is necessary for the protection of immigrants labor rights.

The unions agreed to promote the regularization of immigrants without identity papers and the creation of a commission that will analyze the labor demand to promote legal ways of immigration.

First, they consider that the temporary workers programs have turned out inefficient and anachronistic, then it is necessary to improve them, but not expand it.

This common position is considered positive, and even a favorable change in the political setting. One of the reasons of the collapse in the migratory reform in 2007 was the lack of consensus on the part of these actors.

This does not mean that not disagreements exist, among the business sector. For example, the temporary workers programs is supported openly by the Chamber of Commerce, position completely opponent to that of the unions.

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Leadership



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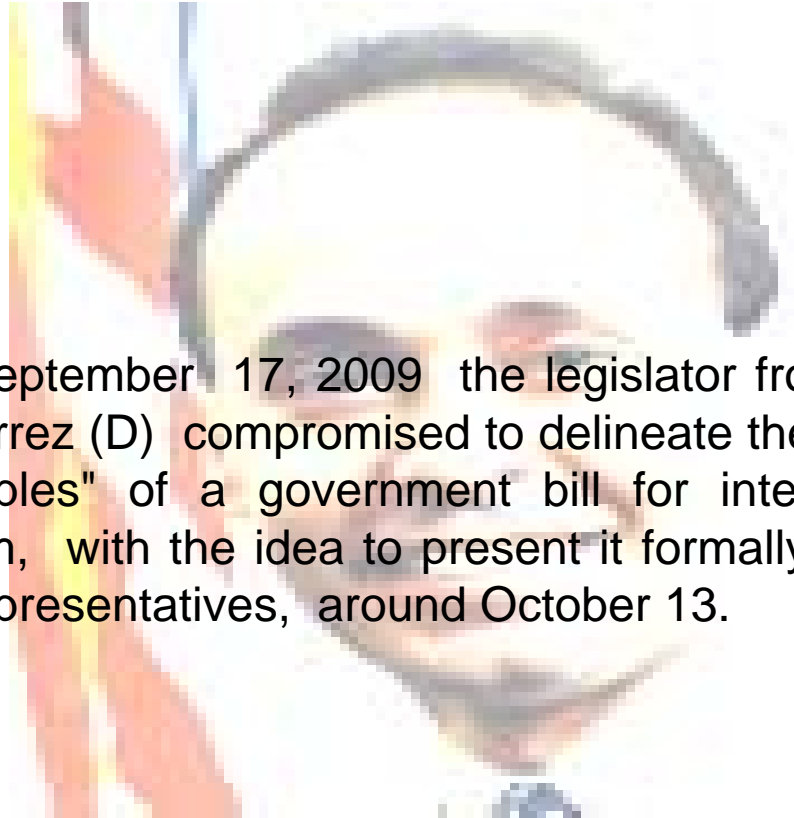
The President Obama received Hispanic leaders of the Congress in the White House, in May 2009 almost three months after promising them that the migratory reform would go ahead this year, but unfortunately the President's agenda has changed because of the Health Care Reform.

During last days priests of the catholic church maintain their lobbying by the migratory reform in EU.

Leadership



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On September 17, 2009 the legislator from Illinois Luis Gutierrez (D) compromised to delineate the "fundamental principles" of a government bill for integral migratory reform, with the idea to present it formally to the House of Representatives, around October 13.

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The Challenge



State and local governments should let federal agencies handle immigration control and should instead focus on the economic development opportunities that come from fully integrating Mexican immigrants. Immigrant integration efforts include ensuring that immigrants and local institutions like police departments and government agencies enjoy healthy communication with each other.

**Mexican Immigration
in the Midwest
Meaning and Implications
Sponsored by**

By Rob Paral with contributions from Michael Norkewicz, Madura Wijewardena, and Christina Diaz

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The Challenge



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Presidents Obama and Calderon share the same enthusiasm, pragmatism, conviction and almost all the objectives about the new era of the bilateral relations.

The work ahead will be bumpy, though. The mandataries need to bring many third parties in synch in order to make important gains on their reciprocal intentions. These include both sides of the border: policy makers, political parties, special interest groups, unions, employers, non-government organizations, scholars, public opinion, among others.



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THANK YOU

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