

A Libertarian Solution to Illegal Immigration

Immigration, legal or otherwise, is a controversial and divisive problem. Most politicians, both Democrat and Republican, propose draconian solutions to stop or vastly curtail it and even deport millions of people. There is one solution, a libertarian one, that is both humane and practical, and most important, it returns dignity and respect to the United States. Here is how it works:

(The following four steps were condensed from [Chapter 21, "Implementing An Advocate's Solution to Illegal Immigration,"](#) of Mark Glogowski's book, [The Political Primer: Fundamentals of Politics](#). Mark is a former Chair of the NYS Libertarian Party.)

Step One: Stop calling these people "immigrants" and especially stop calling them "illegal." Instead, since these people are foreigners who are passing through and reside in other countries or have a legal right to live there, we must see them for what they are: Visitors and Guests, or *Tourists*, who we must welcome by giving them Tourist Visas. This "paradigm shift" in how we see these people leads to:

Step Two: Open the borders to anyone who wants to enter (at above-board, legal, ports of entry, such as airports, seaports, depots, etc.) as a tourist. But they must show evidence they can support themselves during their intended stay, and this includes any and all family members traveling with them,. After they "show us the money," this leads to:

Step Three: They must put up the money for a one-way return fare for themselves, and for any and all family members traveling with them. Only then will they be given tourist visas. This can lead, if they choose, to:

Step Four: With their tourist visas, these tourists are now allowed to look for a job. Should they find one, they can bring evidence, e.g., a contract, to any immigration office and arrange to extend their stay and, if they choose, they will be given the right to apply for citizenship.

Please note:

1. Since these people are tourists, they may not: receive unemployment or welfare benefits, send their kids to public schools, or get the right to vote.
2. They will not be issued a State driver's license. They should already have an international driver's license. If they don't have one, then they must go home to get one.
3. They will be provided with emergency medical care, but once they're stabilized, they must return home should they require more care. But, if they like, they could stay and receive further care, provided they pay for it.
4. People who are currently considered "illegal immigrants" should be given Tourist Visas, provided they meet the financial requirements of Steps Two and Three. *This is not an amnesty program.* Rather, it's a chance for these people to "reset" their presence in this country from "illegal" to "legal," in a humane and dignified manner.

So, if this "libertarian solution to illegal immigration" was adopted, there will be no "crisis" at the Southern border that's now happening and billions could be saved when fence building is no longer needed. Indeed, billions could be added to the hospitality industry and to the economy, as foreigners who once entered the U.S. "illegally," through dangerous routes, and often after paying expensive fees to "coyotes," could now legally enter in troves as tourists. And many will see their "trip" as a legitimate "business venture," when they have to "show their money" to stay, and possibly get a job, which is

what many "illegals" currently want.

But nothing is guaranteed. Should they fail in their "business venture," they can always return home with the fare money they "deposited" upon entry. And they could try again, after they "show us the money." And when they do so, we will welcome them again with open arms, and show the world that America is indeed, "the land of opportunity and freedom."

So, I submit this "libertarian solution to illegal immigration" for you to consider. Is it "perfect"? Of course not. No human system is perfect, except, perhaps those of the [Democratic Socialists of America](#), and their fellow travelers. Still, I think you can readily agree that this solution is orders of magnitude better than the current system. Indeed, not only will it save billions of dollars from the current system, it will add billions to the economy, and, most importantly, it will treat these former "illegal immigrants" as the dignified *individuals*, that they are.