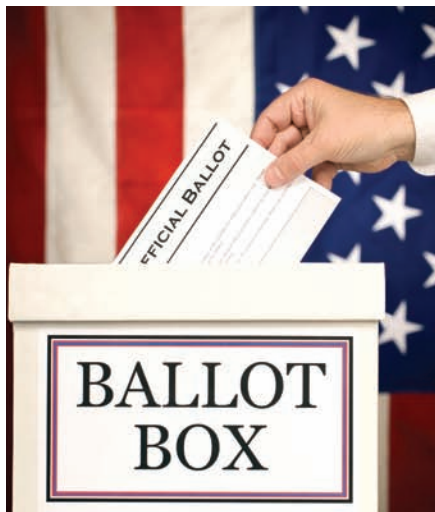


FAIR Federation for American Immigration Reform

Immigration  
REPORT

NOVEMBER 2008



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## New President, New Congress Mean New Strategies for Immigration Reform

The political landscape shifted dramatically on Election Day, as Americans elected Barack Obama president and a sizeable Democratic majority to Congress. The results of the elections clearly indicate that the American public did not want to continue certain policies of the past few years. Exit polls indicate that the economy was overwhelmingly the most important issue on voters' minds and they held the Bush Administration largely responsible for the current crisis.

Latino groups and illegal alien defenders are claiming that the Obama administration will have a mandate to adopt an amnesty for illegal aliens. In fact, the mandate from the voters was precisely the opposite. Exit polling conducted by the Zogby International polling group for FAIR found that an overwhelming majority of the electorate opposes amnesty. Moreover, among Obama voters 67 percent said that his support for amnesty was either not a factor in their choice, or that they voted for Obama in spite of his position on amnesty.

Because public opinion weighs so heavily against it, the inauguration of President-Elect

Obama and a strong Democratic majority in Congress does not necessarily translate into another push for an illegal alien amnesty, or higher levels of immigration. Special interest



*President Obama will need the good will of the American people. The last thing he can afford is another legislative battle over an unpopular amnesty or immigration increase.*

CONTINUED on page 2

## New Strategies continued

groups will certainly exert strong pressure on these new lawmakers to do so, and their influence may have grown, but their failure to represent the interests of ordinary Americans will be a significant hindrance. This was proven when true immigration reformers defeated amnesty legislation in 2006 under a Republican Congress and in 2007 under a Democratic Congress.

While the country may be in economic turmoil and Washington going through upheaval, one condition remains unchanged after Election Day: the American public remains adamantly opposed to amnesty and still higher levels of immigration. FAIR has successfully battled these efforts in the past — under Republican and Democratic administrations and control of Congress — and will continue to work for the type of immigration policies the majority of the public supports.

The next two years will be difficult, but there are many reasons to believe that if we continue to work hard and enjoy the support of the American public, the immigration reform movement can weather the storm and emerge even stronger.

**President Obama will need the good will of the American people.** By most accounts, President-elect Obama will inherit the worst

economy since the Great Depression. Getting the nation out of this mess will not be easy or painless. He will have to make many unpopular decisions to fix the economy and the last thing he can afford is another legislative battle over an unpopular amnesty or immigration increase.

**Economic conditions make amnesty and increased immigration even less popular.** When President Bush pushed for amnesty and immigration increases in 2007 he enjoyed a relatively good economy, low unemployment, a robust stock market and rising home values. Even under those circumstances, his plans were stymied by unyielding public opposition. It will be even harder for President Obama to convince the American people to accept such a plan when the economy is a prolonged recession and millions of workers are losing their jobs.

**The government is broke. An amnesty program would be a very expensive proposition.** The recession and the \$700 billion bailout have pushed the federal deficit to new records. There simply is not enough money available to carry out an amnesty program, and there are limits to the size of deficits even the federal government can run.

**State and local governments are hurting.** Most of the costs of mass immigration and a proposed amnesty would have to be borne by state and local governments. Rising unemployment, plummeting real estate

values and other economic factors are hurting state and local revenues and increasing demands on social programs. In the current economic climate, efforts to enact amnesty or increase immigration could run into stiff opposition from state and local officials.

**President Obama will want to keep the blue states blue, and newly elected Democrats will want to keep their jobs.** Traditionally, off-year elections have not been kind to the party in power. And, many of the districts that elected Democrats have been in traditionally Republican areas, indicating that many new members of Congress will be moderates. A reckless and unpopular amnesty battle could cost many of them their jobs in 2010, and they may resist efforts to bring it up.

None of these factors is a guarantee that the mass immigration amnesty lobby and their congressional allies will not try to press for passage of their agenda. But there is also a possibility that the next two years could see some positive changes to our immigration policies as well.

**Unemployment and recession could increase political pressure for enforcement measures.** E-Verify will come up for reauthorization in March. A bleak economic and jobs picture should force Congress and the Obama Administration to renew this highly successful jobs protection program, and step-up enforcement against employers because the public demands it.

## Immigration REPORT

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FAIR 25 Massachusetts Avenue, NW • Suite 330 • Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 328-7004 • (202) 387-3447 (fax) • info@fairus.org • www.fairus.org

## FAIR Poll Shows Voters Strongly Oppose Amnesty

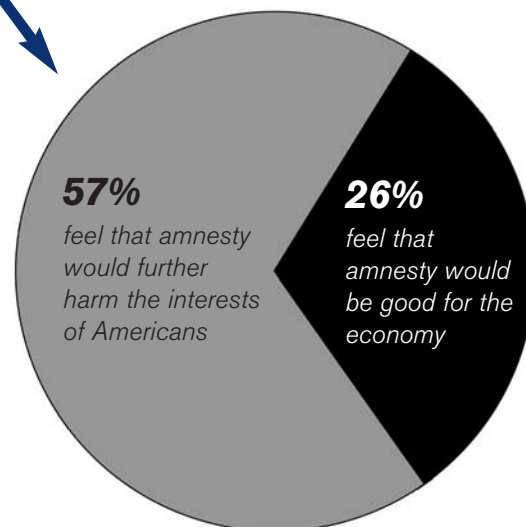
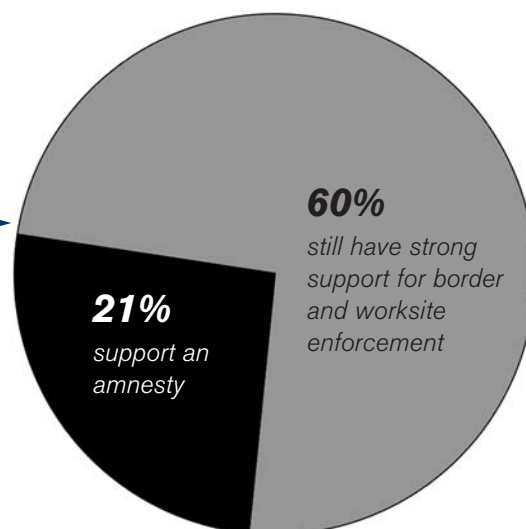
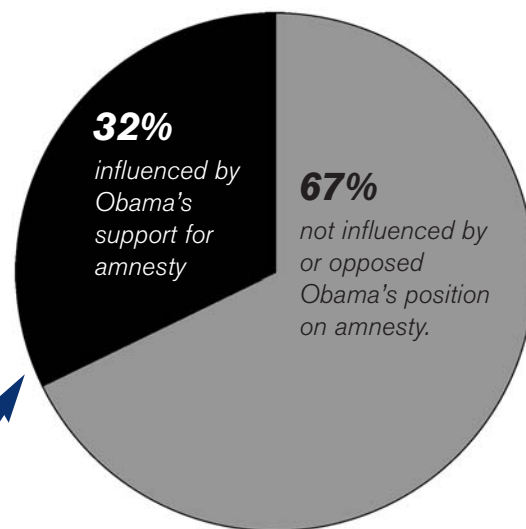
Anticipating the inevitable post-election claims from the open borders and ethnic interest lobbies that an Obama victory signaled public support for an illegal alien amnesty, FAIR commissioned a poll of actual voters on Election Day. While the other side has launched a massive spin campaign claiming that immigrants and Hispanic voters turned out in record numbers, motivated by their support for amnesty, a scientific poll conducted by Zogby International provides hard data that a vote for Obama was not a vote for amnesty.

As the amnesty lobby ramps up for a big push in 2009, here are some facts to keep in mind:

- 67% of Obama voters either were not influenced by his views on immigration, or opposed his position on amnesty. Only 32% said Obama's support for amnesty was a factor in their decision to vote for him.
- 60% of all voters said their support for border and worksite enforcement remains as strong as it was a year ago. Only 21% of voters said they support amnesty.
- 57% of all voters said that amnesty would further harm the interests of American workers and strain public resources. Only 26% said that amnesty would aid economic recovery and ease public burdens.

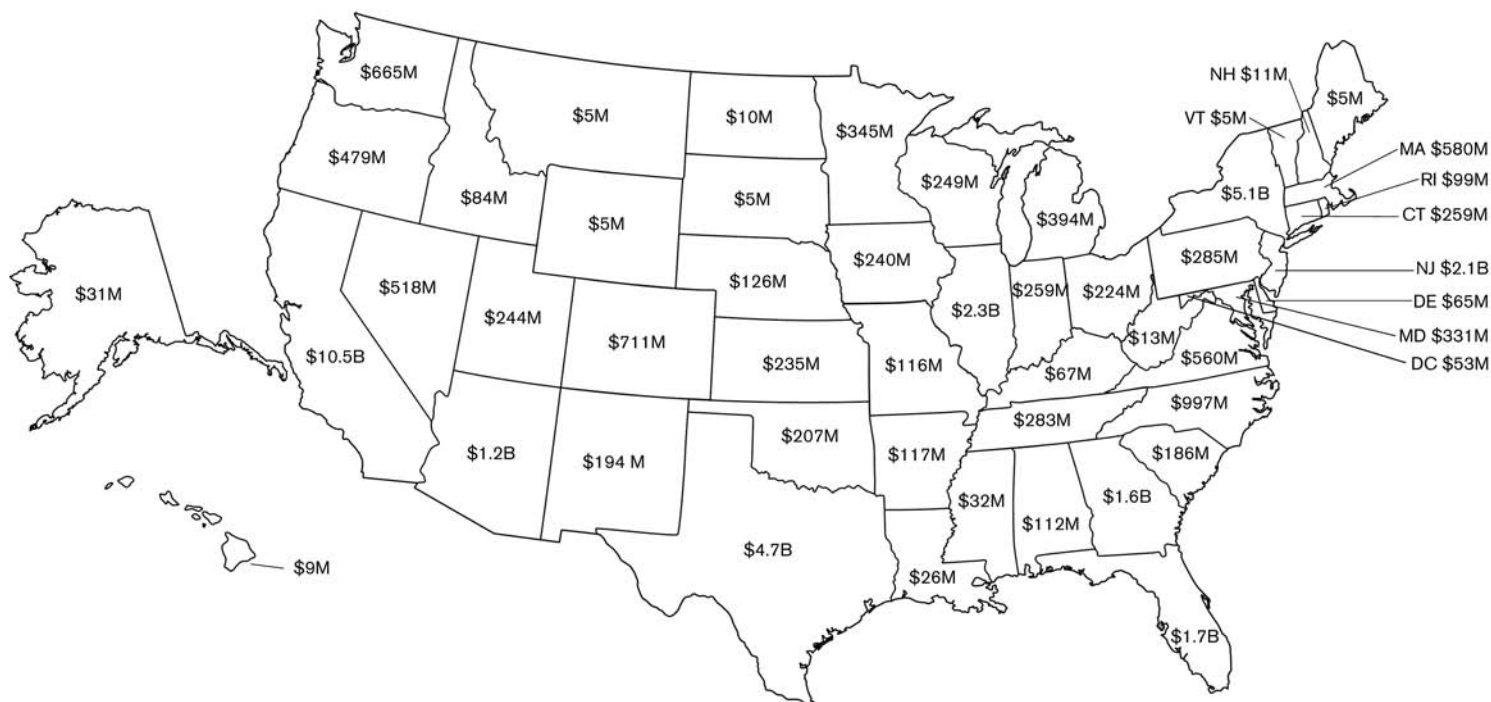
While the FAIR poll gauged opinion of all voters, the Spanish language network, Univision, released a poll of Hispanic voters on Election Day. According to their poll, much like the rest of the electorate, 54 percent of Hispanic voters said that the economy was the most important issue on their minds, compared with just 11 percent who said that immigration was their lead concern.

President-elect Obama and the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress have a clear mandate from the voters to get the economy back on track and put Americans back to work. No matter how much the open borders lobby tries to spin its message, hard polling data show that the only mandate our new leaders have on immigration is to enforce our laws and protect American jobs.



# COSTS OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IN AMERICA

*FIXING OUR ECONOMY MEANS NOT IGNORING THE PRICE WE PAY  
FOR OPEN BORDERS*



## California: A Case Study in Why the States Cannot Afford Amnesty

President-elect Obama wants to grant amnesty to illegal aliens. The leadership of the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress would really like to accommodate him. The above map graphically depicts why, despite their fondest wishes, amnesty for illegal aliens will be a very tough sell: Amnesty passed in Washington could bankrupt many state and local governments.

California provides a case study of the devastating fiscal impact of illegal immigration – one that would only be compounded by legalizing millions of illegal aliens. Currently, the state is struggling with an \$11.2 billion budget

shortfall – a figure almost identical to California's annual costs for providing K-12 education and public health care to illegal aliens and their children, and the incarceration of criminal illegal aliens. According to the California Legislature's budget analyst, Mac Taylor, these are the good old days. Taylor projects that the deficit will grow to \$28 billion by June 2010.

While California is a worst-case scenario, nearly every state is confronting serious budget problems. An amnesty would add to state costs as newly legalized aliens would become more likely to take advantage

of public services and benefits, and untold numbers of family members become eligible to join amnestied relatives in this country.

As FAIR prepares to greet the 111<sup>th</sup> Congress, this illegal alien state fiscal cost map will be included in a packet of materials presented to every member of Congress. FAIR members and activists can find an electronic version of this map on our web site, [www.fairus.org](http://www.fairus.org), and use it for making your own case to your elected representative for why we need immigration enforcement, not amnesty for illegal aliens.



## What to Expect from Open Borders Advocates in 2009

From the moment Barack Obama was declared the winner of the 2008 presidential election, the open borders and ethnic interest advocacy network began taking credit for his victory and preparing their list of demands from the new administration and Congress. Passage of the DREAM Act, which would grant amnesty and subsidized tuition to just about any illegal alien under the age of 30, and ending worksite enforcement appear to be at the top of their wish list.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) whetted their appetite when, a week after the elections, she called for a suspension of worksite enforcement operations being carried out by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agency. Pelosi characterized the ICE raids as an impediment to possible congressional action on amnesty, euphemistically referred to as “comprehensive immigration reform.” The Speaker gave no timeline for taking up an amnesty proposal in the new Congress, and in a post-election news conference intimated that dealing with the economic crisis might push other agenda items to the back burner.

Pelosi’s call for suspension of ICE efforts to enforce laws against employing illegal aliens came against the backdrop of a growing unemployment crisis in the United States. In almost every instance in which ICE has removed illegal aliens from the workplace, American workers have immediately appeared to apply for those jobs. Pelosi’s call for discontinuing ICE enforcement operations was immediately criticized by the ranking minority members of the House Home-

land Security Committee and House Judiciary Committee, Peter King (R-N.Y.) and Lamar Smith (R-Tex.). “I’m troubled that the speaker seems to be more concerned with the welfare of illegal immigrants than of the U.S. citizens who have to compete against them for jobs,” said Smith.

*“I’m troubled that the speaker seems to be more concerned with the welfare of illegal immigrants than of the U.S. citizens who have to compete against them for jobs.”*

—Rep. Lamar Smith (R-Tex.)

The agendas put forth by the open borders advocacy network and the statements of Speaker Pelosi provide a good indication of the challenges that FAIR and supporters of true immigration reform are likely to face in 2009. As the new administration and new Congress take office, FAIR will be geared up to counter these efforts as we have in the past. While the people in power may have changed, the interests of the vast majority of Americans have not, and we will be prepared to mobilize public opposition when and if our opponents attempt to move forward with their plans.

## States Can Discourage Illegal Immigration . . . When They Really Want To

When it comes to turning a blind eye to illegal immigration, few states can match the record of Iowa. For years, Iowa has ignored the widespread practice of hiring illegal workers by some of the state’s leading businesses, while accommodating large numbers of illegal aliens who flocked there to work in the meatpacking industry.



CONTINUED on page 6

## Arizonans Reject Deceptive Ballot Initiative to Green Light Hiring Illegal Aliens

**D**iscussion of immigration was conspicuously absent from the presidential debate, but that does not mean it wasn't on voters' minds. When given a chance to make their opinions heard, voters reaffirmed their strong support for enforcement of immigration laws in the workplace.

In Arizona, the same coalition of business and ethnic interest groups that have fought (unsuccessfully) every effort to institute state-based enforcement policies placed their own immigration initiative on the ballot. Misleadingly titled the Stop Illegal Hiring Act, Proposition 202 would have rendered current law meaningless by eliminating the requirement that Arizona employers use E-Verify before hiring workers. Despite the fact that supporters of Prop. 202 spent \$900,000 to convince the public that their initiative would strengthen enforcement, voters saw through the deception and decisively defeated the measure.



*Despite the fact that supporters of Prop. 202 spent \$900,000 to convince the public that their initiative would strengthen enforcement, voters saw through the deception and decisively defeated the initiative.*

Prop. 202 was rejected by 60 percent of Arizona voters. Again, dispelling the myth promoted by some ethnic interest groups that Hispanics vote as a monolithic block, exit polls showed that 56 percent of Hispanic voters in Arizona opposed Prop. 202.

The Arizona vote also reaffirms FAIR's increased emphasis on fighting and winning the immigration reform battle in the states. FAIR has worked closely with activists in Arizona for many years to institute some of the most effective state-based policies in the nation, and will be working diligently to spread that model to other states. The resounding endorsement from the voters for maintaining effective state-based enforcement in Arizona sends an important signal to activists and political leaders in other states that the public strongly supports these efforts.

## IOWA continued

Last May, when a worksite enforcement action against the Agriprocessors meatpacking plant in Postville exposed not just the company's flagrant disregard for laws against hiring illegal aliens, but a host of other abuses, including document fraud and children working in the plant, state officials were finally embarrassed enough to take action on their own. On October 29, Iowa slapped a \$9.6 million fine against Agriprocessors for violations ranging from illegal tax deductions, to short-changing workers' wages. A week later the company filed for bankruptcy.

The hefty fine comes on top of criminal charges brought by the Iowa attorney general in September for 32 violations of child labor laws. Compounding Agriprocessors' legal woes, the plant manager pled guilty to charges of harboring illegal aliens and identity theft by helping illegal workers procure fraudulent documents.

Involving state and local governments in immigration law enforcement has been a focal point of FAIR's nationwide efforts in recent years. While state enforcement policies, like those adopted in Oklahoma, Missouri and several other states increase a state's ability to crackdown on scofflaw employers, Iowa's actions demonstrate that even states without formal immigration enforcement policies have the ability to hold employers accountable, if there is the political will to do so. Where there are immigration abuses occurring, there are almost always other prosecutable abuses taking place that allow state and local governments to protect workers and taxpayers.



## YEAR-END TAX SAVINGS!

The year is almost over which means time is limited for you to receive a tax benefit in 2008 for your support of FAIR. In addition to the IRA rollover, other ways to support FAIR include:

### GIFTS OF STOCK

FAIR has many friends who support us through a gift of stock. You can deduct the fair market value of the asset and pay no capital gains tax on the value.

### CORPORATE MATCHING PROGRAM

Many companies offer matching gift programs to their employees. Check with your employer to determine your company's matching gift policies and procedures.

### GIFTS OF MEMBERSHIP

It is the perfect gift for an associate, family member or friend. A gift membership includes the FAIR *Immigration Report* as well as email alerts, legislative updates and information about FAIR events.

### AMERICAN EXPRESS GIVING EXPRESS PROGRAM

You may also donate using your American Express Card. If you contribute through this program you can redeem Membership Rewards points, set up recurring contributions and take a tax deduction for the amount contributed.

### TRIBUTE/MEMORIAL GIFTS

There is no better way to honor someone than to provide a gift in their name.

### PLANNED GIVING

Support FAIR with a planned gift and become a member of our Seventh Generation Society. Planned giving is simply planning to support FAIR long into the future. A planned gift is a long term commitment and a way for you to protect your assets and provide for your family while leaving a legacy to FAIR.

### IRA Rollover Extended!

*In October, the President signed legislation that includes immediate and retroactive extension of the tax provision that allows taxpayers to make tax-free distributions from their IRA directly to a charity in 2008 and 2009.*

*Owners of Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) are required by law to take a minimum yearly distribution from their IRAs when they reach age 70 with the amount of distribution varying depending on IRA value and age of the owner. In many cases, this mandatory distribution will trigger required payment of additional federal income taxes.*

*But, thanks to the Pension Protection Act of 2006, you can avoid the increase to your taxable income. By choosing to donate all or part of your 2008 and 2009 required distribution (up to \$100,000) directly to FAIR, you will reduce your tax burden while also making a significant investment in our nation's future.*

*If you are eligible to take advantage of this extraordinary tax incentive, I hope you will consider directing your IRA administrator to transfer some or all of your required distribution to FAIR. Forms for effecting the transfer are available from FAIR. Contact Marjorie Wilkinson at (202) 328-7004 or by e-mail to [bfelser@fairus.org](mailto:bfelser@fairus.org).*



## Give a FAIR Gift Membership and Get a Gift!

Giving a gift membership is easy. Just fill out the coupon below or contact Melissa Bradley-Wilson at FAIR, using our toll-free number, (877) 627-3247, and for a contribution of \$25 or more, we will send a confirmation letter to you and a welcome letter to the gift recipient.



And to show our appreciation for your support of FAIR, we will send you and the gift recipient a complimentary FAIR BIC® Tote Bag.

This attractive and durable tote measures 15 1/2" w x 13 1/2" h x 3 1/2" d, is perfect for shopping, vacations or for carrying files and notes and has a zippered main compartment, a mesh pocket designed to hold a water bottle, and adjustable shoulder strap.

### Here's an Additional Contribution. Keep up the Good Work!

Cut here and mail to FAIR

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*All contributions are tax-deductible.*

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I would like to receive the FAIR Immigration Report and Legislative Updates online.

I would like to receive only the Legislative Updates.

Here is my email address: \_\_\_\_\_

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## OUR GOALS ARE THE SAME AS YOURS.

- ▶ End illegal immigration
- ▶ Restore common sense to immigration policies
- ▶ Enforce immigration laws
- ▶ Stop terrorists at our borders
- ▶ Find a balance between people and resources

The immigration issue has never been bigger or hotter – and that means the challenges we face – and the opportunities – are greater than ever. As America approaches a defining moment in its immigration history, your pledge to FAIR in the 2008 Combined Federal Campaign is needed now more than ever. Look for FAIR under our full name in your CFC brochure.

Federation for American  
Immigration Reform

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