



**Side-by-Side Comparison of Presidential Candidates'
Positions on Immigration**

DEMOCRATS								
	Joe Biden	Hillary Clinton	Chris Dodd	John Edwards	Mike Gravel	Dennis Kucinich	Barack Obama	Bill Richardson
Immigration	<p>If elected president, Biden has said his first step would be to "deal with Mexico," which he described as a "rich country" with a "dysfunctional distribution of opportunity" that drives illegal immigrants into the United States. He favors "earned citizenship" for illegal immigrants currently in the country, tougher employer sanctions and a guest-worker program. Biden voted yes on the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006, which would have increased border security and would have created a path to citizenship for long-time illegal immigrants.</p>	<p>Clinton supports comprehensive immigration reform based on strengthening America's borders and implementing new enforcement laws. She advocates providing a path to legal status for undocumented workers already in the U.S. Clinton supports a proposal in New York state to allow undocumented, illegal immigrants to gain U.S. government identification, but she came under fire from her Democratic opponents in an October 2007</p>	<p>Dodd supports creating a pathway to earned citizenship for undocumented workers already in the U.S. He also favors increased penalties for employers of illegal immigrants, and strengthening the Mexican border through a partnership with the Mexican government. Dodd voted for the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006. He is a fluent Spanish speaker and opposes efforts to make English a national language.</p>	<p>Edwards supports increased border security and a path to citizenship for undocumented workers. He says that immigration reform is central to alleviating poverty in the United States and that domestic policy goals like raising the minimum wage are connected to immigration reform because illegal immigrants make up a "sizeable chunk" of impoverished Americans.</p>	<p>Gravel wants to overhaul the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in order to reduce Mexican migration to the United States. According to Gravel's analysis, NAFTA has led to the loss of more than 1.3 million Mexican jobs, and NAFTA partners need to renegotiate in order to "allow Mexican workers to remain in their motherland."</p>	<p>Kucinich has said that "those who have been here, who have paid their taxes and paid their dues and been part of our economy for the last decade need to have a chance to have a path to citizenship." He has also said that he believes all American children should learn to speak Spanish.</p>	<p>Obama supports immigration reform that strengthens border security while creating a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants already in the country. He has been a proponent of guest worker programs that first offer available jobs to American workers. Obama has said that he will "not support any bill that does not provide [an] earned path to citizenship for the undocumented population."</p>	<p>Richardson supports a legalization process for illegal immigrants already in the United States that requires immigrants to speak English, pass background checks and pay back taxes. He also favors increased border security without a border fence, penalties for employers that hire undocumented workers and diplomatic efforts with Mexico to decrease the number of illegal immigrants.</p>

		debate for appearing to change positions on the issue. In the past, Clinton has used the Bible to criticize a Republican plan to make it a federal crime to offer aid to illegal immigrants, saying the proposed policy "is certainly not in keeping with my understanding of the Scripture because this bill would literally criminalize the Good Samaritan and probably even Jesus himself."							
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Source: The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life <http://pewforum.org/religion08/compare.php?Issue=Immigration>