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BIOMETRICS

CBP using biometrics

Customs & Border Patrol, July 2024, <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/biometrics>, Say hello to the new face of security, safety and efficiency

CBP has successfully implemented facial biometrics into the entry processes at all international airports, known as Simplified Arrival, and into the exit processes at 53 airport locations. CBP also expanded facial biometrics at 39 seaports and all pedestrian lanes at both Southwest Border and the Northern Border ports of entry.

To date, CBP has processed more than 540 million travelers using biometric facial comparison technology and prevented more than 2,000 impostors from entry to the U.S.

ELECTION

Immigration is a key election issue, Trump leads on it now

Michael Tesler, August 8, 2024, Why immigration is a better issue for Trump than it was in 2020, <https://abcnews.go.com/538/immigration-issue-trump-2020/story?id=112648693>

The issue of immigration has fueled former President Donald Trump's dominance over the Republican Party for the past nine years. When he first ran for office, negative views of immigrants were an important factor in him winning the GOP nomination. Those views were an even stronger predictor of voting for him in the 2024 primaries. It's no surprise, then, **that immigration was the defining issue of last month's Republican National Convention**. Multiple speakers criticized President Joe Biden's immigration record, often in misleading ways. **Trump announced** Sen. JD Vance, a fellow immigration hawk, **as his running mate**. A sea of "Mass Deportation Now" signs swamped the convention floor. And in his own speech, Trump called illegal immigration an "invasion that is killing hundreds of thousands of people a year" and promised the "largest deportation operation in the history of our country." Now that Biden is no longer running, **Republicans have quickly transitioned to attacking Vice President Harris's immigration record as the so-called "border czar"**. Last week, Vance toured the U.S.-Mexico border in Arizona, where he proclaimed, "It's hard to believe, until you see it with your own eyes, just how bad the policies of the Kamala Harris administration have been when it comes to the southern border." But these appeals are no longer just for hardcore supporters. They've also become a good general-election strategy. **Trump's immigration positions have much more support now than they did in 2016 or 2020**. Trump's victory in 2016 might have seemed like a mandate for his restrictive views. But a backlash against the Trump administration's immigration policies pushed public opinion about immigration to the left. **By 2020, the share of Americans who favored increased levels of immigration (34 percent) surpassed the share favoring decreased levels (28 percent) in Gallup polling for the first time since the organization began asking the question in 1965**. As a result, Biden had a sizable advantage over Trump on the issue in 2020. Four years ago, he led Trump by over 15 percentage points on the question of which candidate would do a better job of handling immigration. But public opinion about immigration has swung sharply back to the right **since Biden became president. There has been an 11-point increase in the share of Americans who say that "immigrants drain national resources," a 12-point increase in support for deporting undocumented immigrants and record support for the U.S.-Mexico border wall**. There has been an even more dramatic change in support for decreasing immigration levels. The share of Americans favoring such reductions surged from 28 percent in May 2020 to 55 percent in June 2024 — the highest percentage recorded in Gallup's polling since October 2001. In a new Democracy Fund report, John Sides, Robert Griffin and I explain what has happened. The public's immigration attitudes have largely followed the changing discourse over the issue since Biden became president. As politicians and the media have shifted from criticizing unpopular Trump-era policies like family separation to expressing concern about the record number of border crossings under Biden, the opinions of average Americans shifted in a similar way. Obviously, those concerns are much more prevalent among Republican politicians and conservative media. We show, for example, a sharp spike in discussion of immigration on outlets like Fox News. As a result, **this rightward shift in public opinion is more pronounced among Republican voters**. As of 2024, a record-high 88 percent of Republicans want to decrease immigration, up from 48 percent in 2020. But **Democratic attitudes have changed, too. The percentage who wants to reduce immigration has increased from 13 percent in 2020 to 28 percent in 2024**. This arguably reflects the prevailing messages from Democratic leaders, who have also expressed concerns about the situation at the border. Indeed, in January, Biden called it "broken." The public's growing opposition to immigration has helped turn Trump's liability into one of his greatest strengths. Before Biden dropped out, polls consistently showed that far more voters trusted Trump on this issue than Biden. Similarly, Trump's biggest issue advantage over Harris in a YouGov poll conducted shortly after Biden's withdrawal was on which candidate would do a better job of handling immigration as president; he led her on that question by a 45-percent-to-30-percent margin. **Immigration is also a more important issue to voters**

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than it was four years ago. Our Democracy Fund report shows that the share who say immigration is "very important" grew from 47 percent in 2020 to 54 percent in 2024, with an 11-point increase among independents. Likewise, immigration was named as the country's top problem for a record three straight months in Gallup polls from February, March and April. These dramatic swings in immigration attitudes over the past eight years dovetail with one influential account of public opinion: the thermostatic model of policy attitudes. In the thermostatic model, the public's policy attitudes shift against the current president's policies in response to real or perceived changes in the status quo — just like a thermostat will cool down a house when it gets too hot, or heat it up when it gets too cold. Thermostatic patterns have long been documented in attitudes toward government spending and programs. But for a long time, issues related to immigration did not display these thermostatic patterns. That no longer appears to be the case, largely because the Democratic and Republican parties themselves have changed. With the parties pushing different immigration policies even more than in the past, the public appears to be pushing back, with their opinions moving to the left under Trump and back to the right under Biden. That raises a cautionary note for Trump. If he wins a second term, he has promised a mass deportation of undocumented immigrants and sharp limits on legal immigration. Such a dramatic pivot in policy is likely to push public opinion in a liberal direction once again. So even if immigration helps Trump win in 2024, his advantage on the issue may prove fleeting.

Harris vulnerable on immigration

Tami Luhby, 8-9, 24, CNN, GOP launches new immigration attacks on Harris highlighting Walz's policies, <https://www.cnn.com/2024/08/09/politics/immigration-trump-harris-walz-policies/index.html>

— Vice President **Kamala Harris' newly named running mate is giving** former President Donald **Trump** even more **fodder to attack his Democratic rival as being weak on immigration** — an issue that's a top concern for many Americans in this presidential election. **The Trump campaign and Republicans are pointing to several laws that** Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz **signed last year that open state services and benefits to undocumented immigrants as examples of the Harris-Walz campaign's "radical left" policies.** "This is a guy who wants to give driver's licenses to illegal aliens," JD Vance, the Republican vice presidential hopeful, said of Walz at a campaign stop in Michigan on Wednesday, while stressing that Trump will stop the influx of migrants into the US. "This is a radical human being who comes from the far-left wing of the Democratic Party." Early in a news conference on Thursday, Trump slammed Walz on immigration, saying the governor doesn't want to have borders or any form of safety for the US. His comments followed a video the GOP posted on X showing both Harris and Walz expressing support for sanctuary states and cities, with Walz saying that if the definition of a sanctuary state is that the federal government enforces immigration law and local law enforcement handles local laws, he agrees with it. The Trump campaign will use Walz, who has implemented an array of progressive policies as governor, as a way to draw even starker contrasts between the candidates and to highlight her perceived vulnerability — that she's a San Francisco liberal, said John Thomas, a Republican strategist. "By selecting Walz, it was a tacit endorsement of Walz's track record and his policy agenda," Thomas said. "Trump will seek to brand her with Gov. Walz's liberal track record, particularly on the issue of immigration." Asked for comment, a Harris campaign official said that the governor and vice president support the bipartisan border deal — which Republicans blocked in the Senate earlier this year after Trump voiced opposition to the bill — and President Joe Biden's executive orders, which reduced border crossings. Immigrant-friendly laws Aided by a Democratic sweep of the state legislature last year, Walz signed several bills into law that make Minnesota more welcoming to undocumented immigrants. The Trump campaign has focused on legislation Walz signed last year that allows people in Minnesota to obtain driver's licenses regardless of immigration status, joining other states with similar laws. According to a March 2023 press release from the governor's office, which noted that there are an estimated 81,000 undocumented immigrants in the state, the measure will increase safety by ensuring that all drivers are licensed and insured. The legislation moves "us toward our goal of making Minnesota the best state to raise a family for everyone," Walz said in the release, emphasizing "everyone." **Undocumented immigrants will also be eligible for MinnesotaCare**, which provides health insurance for lower-income residents who don't qualify for Medicaid, starting in 2025. The measure, which is expected to extend coverage to 40,000 people and cost \$109 million through fiscal 2027, was part of the One Minnesota Budget that Walz signed in the spring of 2023. Plus, undocumented Minnesota residents whose families earn less than \$80,000 are eligible for the North Star Promise Scholarship, which covers tuition and fees at two- and four-year public colleges in the state, under a bill Walz signed last year. Connecting Walz and Harris **Positions like these become vehicles for Trump and the Republican National Committee to go after Harris' existing record on immigration**, said Doug Heye, a Republican strategist. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, who has bused migrants to northern cities, quickly made the connection, posting on X: "Harris/Walz—the most dangerous P/VP ticket ever." "She supports free health care to illegal immigrants. He signed laws giving state services to them," Abbott posted on Tuesday, the day Harris named Walz her running mate. "Both provide magnets for more illegal immigration."

28% consider immigration to be the #1 issue

Diana Roy, Claire Klobucista, and Amelia Cheatham, 8-7, 24, The U.S. Immigration Debate, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/us-immigration-debate-0>

A February 2024 poll by Gallup showed **that 28 percent of surveyed Americans considered immigration to be the top problem facing the United States.** In a separate Gallup poll conducted that same month, the majority of respondents felt that illegal immigration was a “critical” threat to U.S. national security.

PRO

Surveillance Key

Surveillance Generally Important to Reduce Illegal Immigration

Need to include surveillance; a multi-layered strategy is necessary

Statement of David J. Berteau President and CEO, The Professional Services Council July 9, 2024
A Multi-Layered Border Security Strategy, House Homeland Security Committee Joint Hearing
Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement and Subcommittee on Oversight
Investigations and Accountability “Smart Investments: Technology’s Role in a Multi-Layered
Border Security Strategy”, <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024-07-09-BSEOIA-HRG-Testimony-1.pdf>

A multi-layered border security strategy needs to include the necessary ends, ways, and means of any good strategy. But what would a multi-layered border security strategy need to cover? It’s critical to address the immediate zone of border crossings (detection, identification, interception, etc., both at or away from authorized ports of entry) of both the southern and northern borders as well as coastlines and airports, but a multi-layered strategy is more useful if it covers additional topics, including but not limited to, for example: • **U.S. needs for better intelligence before individuals arrive at any border • entry points** that are not at the land boundaries of the nation (air, sea) • **drugs or other unwanted materiel arriving in small packages or in containers (or via drones) • tracking people, processing cases, and managing and reducing case backlogs** • **detention, housing and medical care, etc., of individuals** This broader, multi-layered approach would involve more than CBP to include not only the relevant agencies and components of the federal government but also state and local governments and other nations. In all of these interactions, a **multi-layered strategy would be better to the extent it incorporates new technology and innovation in products, systems, and processes, leading** to better success across the broad definition of “border security.” Most importantly, for border security, a multi-layered strategy needs to be more than simply “ends, ways, and means.” The actions (the “ways”) and the resources (the “means”) need to be integrated, tied together in a common operating picture and interoperable, accessible, and useable by all players. Doing that demands better use of new technology and innovation across the board.

Surveillance reduces illegal immigration

Thaddeus C. Cleveland Sheriff Terrell County, Texas, 7-9, 24, For a Hearing BEFORE U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security ON “Smart Investments: Technology’s Role in a Multi-Layered Border Security Strategy”, “Smart Investments: Technology’s Role in a Multi-Layered Border Security Strategy”, <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024-07-09-BSEOIA-HRG-Testimony-1.pdf>

I have seen the U.S. Border Patrol evolve with **technology. Technological evolutions have assisted the U.S. Border Patrol achieve tremendous success with border security. I’ve witnessed seismic and magnetic sensors evolve into imaging sensors, scope trucks have evolved from black blobs on a screen to Mobile Video Surveillance** Systems, which use infrared night vision and radars with a near crystal clear view. As the Patrol Agent in Charge of the Sanderson Border Patrol Station, I worked with Sheriff Ronny Dodson of Brewster County, former Terrell County Sheriff Clint McDonald to develop a network of Buckeye game cameras that shared real-time images to our respective offices. This was a collaborative effort to enhance border security and was the first effort of its kind along the U.S./Mexico border. Also, during my command of the Border Patrol Station in Sanderson, Texas, **we received and deployed our first eight Autonomous Surveillance Towers. This is an incredible asset, yet we quickly learned**

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they detected more activity and we did not have the manpower to pursue everything the towers revealed.

With that being said, you can have as much technology on the border, but without the right balance of manpower, the technology is useless. The State of Texas is also utilizing various technology platforms along the U.S./Mexico border. In 2008, I was assigned as U.S. Border Patrol's representative to the State of Texas, during this time, Texas Department of Public Safety first deployed their Drawbridge game cameras along the along the U.S./Mexico border. This program now has over 7,000 game cameras along the border. The State of Texas has also constructed over 40 miles of border wall in Texas and has mounted camaras systems on the wall as well. As Sheriff, through Operation Lone Star, my office has been able to receive night vision and thermal imaging devices and we are waiting on approval of three Mobile Video Surveillance platforms. I think defining success for border security initiatives at the county level involves a collaborative approach and setting realistic, localized objectives. Success at the county level is measured by our ability to effectively utilize limited resources to enhance security and reduce illegal activity. This means fostering strong partnerships with federal and state agencies, maximizing the impact of every dollar spent, and ensuring our personnel are well-trained and equipped. Sheriff Thaddeus Cleveland July 9, 2024 5 One key indicator of success has been our effective use of grants and state programs. For example, through Operation Lone Star and Operation Stone Garden, we've been able to hire additional deputies, acquire new vehicles, and obtain vital technology like thermal cameras and night vision equipment. These resources have significantly bolstered our capability to patrol and secure the border. Our success is also evident in the reduced level of illegal activity in Terrell County. **By taking control of the highways and leveraging**

surveillance technology, we've deterred illegal crossings and forced smugglers to reroute further north, avoiding our jurisdiction.

This shift is confirmed through intelligence reports and feedback from sources on the ground. At the federal level, success is often measured by broader metrics, such as overall apprehension numbers and the implementation of large-scale infrastructure projects. The federal government operates with a much larger budget and a focus on nationwide border security strategies. In contrast, at the county level, we work with more constrained budgets and focus on immediate, localized impacts. Ultimately, success for us is defined by our ability to protect our community efficiently and effectively, using available resources and strong partnerships to fill gaps where federal and state support is limited. This local perspective ensures that we address specific threats and challenges unique to our region, contributing to the overall border security efforts in a meaningful way. The chaos along our Southwest Border is solvable and preventable. Solutions exist, they need only ask those of us on the ground dealing with this every day. The border is open, overrun, and the criminal organizations are taking full advantage of our political gridlock.

Surveillance Protects Airspace

Surveillance protects the border from drone threats

Carl Landrum Vice President of Civilian Programs and Strategy Dedrone, July 9, 2024, <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/2024-07-09-BSEOIA-HRG-Testimony-1.pdf>, Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement and Subcommittee on Oversight Investigations and Accountability “Smart Investments: Technology’s Role in a

U.S. BORDERS LACK AIRSPACE SECURITY At present along our international borders, **the Border Patrol maintains only basic C-UAS capability, using only decoding RF methodology to detect, track and identify (DTI), from only a single manufacturer, DJI. For context, Dedrone maintains a library of over 150 unique drone manufacturers, from our deployments around the world. Additionally, even with just this basic DTI capability deployed along our international borders, there have been approximately 37,423 flights detected near the border** (within 400 meters) in FY2024 year-to-date (YTD), of which >2,492 of those drones flew illegally across the border. **Along our southwest border specifically, the use of drones by the TCOs is growing at a rapid rate as they innovate to further their illicit activities. Drones are currently being used by TCOs and other illicit bad actors to: • Conduct surveillance of U.S. government personnel and facilities along the international border; • Conduct counter-surveillance on rival TCO and Government of Mexico (GoM) Military positions; • Provide overwatch and guide groups of migrants attempting to avoid apprehension; • Provide overwatch and guide individuals and groups smuggling narcotics into the U.S.; • Physically drop narcotics via drone delivery across the border; • Physically drop bundles of currency as payments to individuals on the U.S. side of the border.** ¹ Narcosis, 8 Arrested in Mexico For Manufacturing Drone Explosives, ATLAS NEWS (Oct. 9, 2023). ² CJNG attack against indigenous community of Michoacán denounced, EJE CENTRAL (Jul. 4, 2024). Mark Stevenson, Mexican cartels now use IEDs as well as bomb-dropping drones, ASSOCIATED PRESS (Feb. 4, 2022). Gabriel Mondragon Toledo, NarcoDrones Have Become a Growing Scare Tactic in Mexico’s Drug Wars, INKSTICK (Nov. 7, 2023). ³ Julian Resendiz, AMLO seeks enhanced penalties to curtail drone attacks, NEWSNATION (Aug. 10, 2023). At the same time **TCOs are using drones more frequently, they are also continuously altering their technologies and methods, and flying many different types of drones to defeat USBP’s very limited DTI capability – specific to only non-tampered DJI drones. At present, Border Patrol Agents have virtually zero capability to detect non-DJI, modified DJI or encrypted DJI drones.** LAREDO DEMO In January of this year, Dedrone entered into an official contract with CBP – at no cost to the government – to perform a demonstration project of C-UAS capabilities along a five-mile stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border in Laredo, TX. To date, Dedrone has invested over \$3.3 million to establish full spectrum C-UAS DTI capabilities including RF, radar, and camera sensor hardware, as well as software powered by artificial intelligence (AI), including machine learning and computer vision. This Laredo Demo can detect nearly 600 different drone models including altered drones and even homemade drones. In addition to non-tampered DJI drones, the Laredo Demo project also detected the following drone types: In the first 80 days of the Laredo Demo, Dedrone detected 682 unique serial numbers operating along this five-mile section of the border. It is important to note that this accounted for only 71% of the total drone detections made during this period. There were an additional 16 drone manufacturer types that would NOT have been detected but for the Laredo Demo project. These detections comprise 29% of the total made during this period and would not have been detected prior to the Laredo Demo. **The full spectrum of sensing capability – RF, radar, and camera – combined with the AI-driven sensor fusion, temporarily deployed by Dedrone, allow CBP to have complete air domain awareness along these five miles of border.** Without it, CBP is limited to their basic DTI capability – specific to only non-tampered DJI drones – and would be blind to 29% of all drone flights. RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESS • C-UAS Authorization Legislation o We strongly urge Congress to enact comprehensive C-UAS authorization legislation this year to ensure that CBP’s C-UAS authorities to protect people

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and property continue well into the future. o We applaud Chairman Green and Ranking Member Thompson for their leadership and tireless work on H.R. 8610, the Counter-UAS Authority Security, Safety, and Reauthorization Act, and we strongly support the framework and principles of the bill. o Any authorization must include a multi-year renewal of federal authorities. • As is envisioned in H.R. 8610, Congress should enact a multi-year extension and enhancement of C-UAS authorities under 6 USC 124n for federal government agencies like CBP. • Providing agencies with adequate certainty over multiple years will allow for better planning and budgeting for C-UAS programs and activities. Statement of Carl Landrum July 9, 2024 Page 7 of 8 o H.R. 8610 also contains provisions that clarify the rules for how and when law enforcement can utilize RF decoding to DTI unauthorized drones. While RF decoding has its limitations, it **remains a useful tool, and it is vitally important to clarify the policies law enforcement must adhere to.** • **DHS Appropriations o Increase funding for the procurement of C-UAS capabilities by CBP** • As the Subcommittees know, the House recently passed a DHS Appropriations bill for FY2025 that included a generous increase in funding to enable CBP to procure additional C-UAS capabilities. Thank you for this very timely and important investment in our border security. • Based on my three decades of experience executing and leading border security operations, including the past nine focused on C-UAS threats and capabilities, it is my view **that CBP requires a \$1 billion program of record to counter current and emerging threats, and achieve appropriate airspace security along our international borders.** • Based on this metric, I believe **that Congress should appropriate \$250 million as an initial down payment for the procurement of CBP C-UAS capabilities.** o Congress should direct and encourage CBP to fund C-UAS programs and activities that move beyond single manufacturer RF decoding including: • Expand RF sensing to DTI all RF based drones including spoofed or encrypted drones as well as homemade drones. As previously described, there are many limitations to relying solely on decoding as part of a CUAS apparatus. • Full RF sensing includes localization through different types of triangulation (ie: angle of arrival and time difference of arrival) to offer a more failsafe way to detect and locate drones. o Angle of arrival (AOA): Using this method, one sensor can be used to determine the direction of the drone and multiple sensors can be leveraged to calculate the exact position of the drone based on triangulation from multiple direction sensing sensors. o Time difference of arrival (TDOA): This method measures the difference in time of arrival between several sensors. TDOA depends on the distance between the drone and sensors. • Further enhance DTI capabilities to detect autonomous drones (no RF signal) and drones at greater distances by bringing long-range radar and long-range camera (for visual confirmation and payload detection) into a single fused instance from these multiple sensor types • Enhance non-kinetic mitigation capabilities to allow CBP personnel to safely address unauthorized drone activity. • Develop and deploy advanced jammer-based mitigation that is effective against single drones as well as drone swarms (defined as Statement of Carl Landrum July 9, 2024 Page 8 of 8 more than one drone) and sustainable as the threat seen around the world evolves in the U.S.

Cartels using drones along the southern border

Haye Castelo, August 9, 2024, Suspected Cartel Drones Near Southern Border: Heightened Security Measures Implemented, <https://dronexl.co/2024/08/09/cartel-drones-southern-border/>

Mexican cartels are employing increasingly sophisticated tactics along the U.S.-Mexico border,

including the use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), reports the NY Post. These cartel drones serve multiple purposes, from surveillance to potential attacks. In the Sonora region, just south of Arizona, rival criminal groups have been observed using explosive-laden drones against each other. The frequency of drone sightings near the border is alarming.

Estimates suggest over 1,000 UAVs cross into U.S. airspace monthly, raising significant

national security concerns. “I don’t know the actual number — I don’t think anybody does — but it’s in the thousands,” Air Force Gen. Gregory Guillot, commander of North American Defense Command and US Northern Command, said in a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. “We ... probably have over 1,000 a month.” **These incursions highlight vulnerabilities in current border monitoring systems, which were primarily designed to detect larger aircraft.** Law enforcement agencies face new challenges as cartels leverage this technology. Border Patrol agents report drones being used to monitor their operations, potentially compromising the effectiveness of their efforts to curb illegal activities. **This tactic allows criminal organizations to adapt quickly to enforcement strategies. The threat extends beyond**

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mere surveillance. In parts of Mexico, such as Michoacán, cartel-operated drones have been used in attacks, resulting in casualties among Mexican military personnel. Cartel Drones Threat at the Border The proximity of these activities to U.S. territory underscores the urgency of addressing this evolving threat. Key concerns include: Intelligence gathering by cartels Potential for cross-border attacks Drug smuggling facilitation Interference with law enforcement operations U.S. lawmakers are taking notice of this emerging threat. **Proposed legislation aims to enhance the nation's capability to counter unmanned aerial systems (CUAS). These efforts include:** Creating specialized task forces **Implementing new detection technologies** Conducting military exercises to simulate drone threats Improving coordination between defense and homeland security agencies **The current radar systems, while effective for tracking commercial aircraft, struggle to detect smaller, low-flying drones.** This limitation extends to domestic military installations, many of which lack adequate sensors for identifying miniature UAVs. Experts stress the need for a comprehensive approach to border security that incorporates advanced drone detection and countermeasures. This may involve: Upgrading existing radar systems Deploying specialized anti-drone technologies Enhancing inter-agency cooperation Developing new Legal frameworks for addressing aerial incursions The drone threat is not confined to the southern border. Similar concerns exist along the northern border with Canada, prompting calls for a unified strategy to protect U.S. airspace from all directions. As criminal organizations continue to adopt cutting-edge technologies, law enforcement and defense agencies must evolve their tactics accordingly. The use of drones by cartels represents a significant shift in the landscape of border security and drug trafficking operations. The implications of this technological arms race extend beyond immediate border concerns. The potential for drones to be used in various criminal activities, from smuggling to acts of terrorism, necessitates a proactive and adaptable security posture. As the situation evolves, ongoing research and development in counter-drone technologies will play a crucial role. Innovations in electronic warfare, signal jamming, and kinetic interception systems may provide new tools for combating this aerial menace. The drone threat at the border exemplifies the dynamic nature of modern security challenges. It underscores the need for agility in policy-making and technological adoption to stay ahead of criminal innovations. The featured image is for illustration purposes only.

Over 1,000 drones cross into US airspace every month

Air Force general reveals 'alarming' number of drones crossing into US airspace at southern border: 'Over 1,000 a month'

By Victor Nava, 3-15, 24, NY Post, <https://nypost.com/2024/03/15/us-news/air-force-general-reveals-alarming-number-of-drones-crossing-into-us-airspace-at-southern-border/>

Published March 15, 2024, 12:52 a.m. ET 94 Comments **More than 1,000 drones per month are crossing into US airspace near the border with Mexico**, a top general told lawmakers Thursday. **The number of unmanned drone incursions is "alarming" and presents a "growing" potential threat to national security**, Air Force Gen. Gregory Guillot, the commander of North American Defense Command and US Northern Command, said during a Senate Armed Services Committee hearing. "The number of incursions was something that was alarming to me as I took command last month," Guillot said in response to a question from Sen. Ted Budd (R-NC). There has been a count of more than 1,000 drones per month crossing into US airspace near the border with Mexico, according to a general. There has been a count of over 1,000 drones per month crossing into US airspace near the border with Mexico, according to a general. U.S. Border Patrol "I don't know the actual number – I don't think anybody does – **but it's in the thousands,**" he added. The video player is currently playing an ad.

When pressed by Budd on the timeframe the general was using to make his estimation, Guillot responded, "We can probably have over 1,000 a month."

Backlog

Backlog Uniqueness

Asylum system backlogged now

Diana **Roy**, Claire Klobucista, and Amelia Cheatham, **8-7**, 24, The U.S. Immigration Debate, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounders/us-immigration-debate-0>

Until 2013, almost all of those trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border were Mexican citizens, and most were individuals seeking work. Between 2013 and 2021, most immigrants came from Asia, particularly China and India. Mexico has since regained its status as the top country of origin, and Central Americans have made up an increasingly larger share of migrants at the southern U.S. border. Generally, they are coming not for work but to make asylum claims, and many of them are unaccompanied children. Some of these immigrants have different legal rights from Mexican nationals in the United States: Under a 2008 anti-human trafficking law, unaccompanied minors from noncontiguous countries have a right to a hearing before being deported to their home countries. **The increase in Central American migration has strained the U.S. immigration system. At the end of FY 2023, there were nearly 2.8 million cases pending in immigration courts,** the most on record.

Human Agents Fail

Low morale and empirical failure for human agents

Emily Green, 8-7, 24, Why the Border Patrol Went MAGA,
<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2024/08/national-border-patrol-council-union-brandon-judd-trump/>

Despite the looser grooming standards, agency morale has since plummeted, according to the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General, former Border Patrol agents, and even Judd—who testified before Congress that, in 25 years, he had “never seen the morale lower.” A massive number of agents who were brought on during a hiring spree in the early 2000s are expected to retire soon. Amid a record level of migrants entering at the southern border—apprehensions have more than doubled since 2019—workloads have increased dramatically as staffing has stayed consistent, according to the inspector general. As the union predicted years ago, the border wall hasn't deterred anyone, and immigration is once again one of the top issues on voters' minds.

Economy

Education Trade-Off

Even when considering positive tax revenues, spending on immigrants still creates education trade-offs

Congressional Budget Office, July 2024, Effects of the Immigration Surge on the Federal Budget and the Economy, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-07/60165-Immigration.pdf>

CBO estimates that the immigration surge will add \$1.2 trillion in federal revenues over the 2024– 2034 period. The annual increase in revenues grows over time and reaches \$167 billion (or 2.2 percent of total revenues) in 2034 in the agency’s projections. Individual income taxes and payroll taxes paid by immigrants who are part of the surge are responsible for most of the effects on revenues. In addition, the surge is projected to boost economic activity and, in turn, tax revenues. The immigration surge adds \$0.3 trillion to outlays for federal mandatory programs and net spending for interest on the debt over the 2024–2034 period in CBO’s projections. Annual outlays for certain mandatory programs increase over time as more immigrants in the surge population and their children who are born in the United States receive benefits. In 2034, those benefits add \$23 billion (or 0.4 percent) to total mandatory spending. In addition, the economywide effects of the surge boost annual spending by growing amounts that reach \$27 billion in 2034. Most notably, **spending for interest on the government’s debt increases, primarily because of the higher interest rates resulting from the surge in immigration**. In total, projected outlays in 2034 are boosted by \$50 billion because of the surge. Contents Summary 1 CBO’s Population Categories 3 CBO’s Projections of the Immigration Surge 6 Revenues Collected From and Spending on Benefits for Immigrants in the Surge Population and Their Children 10 Budgetary Effects of Changes in the Economy Stemming From the Immigration Surge 16 Effects of the Immigration Surge on Discretionary Appropriations 17 Long-Term Budgetary Effects of the Immigration Surge 19 Economic Effects of the Immigration Surge 19 Uncertainty 23 Table 1. Estimated Effects of the Immigration Surge on Deficits Billions of dollars Total 2024 2025 2026 2027 2028 2029 2030 2031 2032 2033 2034 2024– 2028 2024– 2034 Increases in revenues From taxes paid by immigrants in the surge population 31 41 53 59 65 72 79 86 94 101 108 249 788 From changes in the economy 11 13 18 27 33 36 40 45 49 54 60 103 387 Total 42 55 71 86 99 108 119 131 143 155 167 352 1,175 Increases and decreases (-) in mandatory outlays and net spending for interest From benefits provided to immigrants in the surge population and their children 7 11 13 14 15 16 17 19 20 21 23 61 177 From changes in the economy -1 -2 -2 * 1 3 9 16 23 27 27 -4 101 Total 6 9 11 14 16 19 27 35 43 48 50 56 278 Decrease (-) in the deficit Net effect of taxes paid by and benefits provided to immigrants in the surge population and their children -24 -30 -39 -45 -50 -56 -61 -68 -74 -79 -85 -189 -611 From changes in the economy -12 -16 -20 -26 -33 -33 -31 -29 -26 -27 -33 -107 -285 Total -36 -46 -60 -72 -83 -89 -92 -96 -99 -107 -117 -296 -897 Data source: Congressional Budget Office. See www.cbo.gov/publication/60165#data. * = between -\$500 million and \$500 million. Box 1. The Effects of the Immigration Surge on State and Local Governments’ Spending and Revenues 4 JULY 2024 EFFECTS OF THE IMMIGRATION SURGE ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND THE ECONOMY 3 Those estimates do not include any effects on discretionary spending (which is controlled by appropriation acts), though CBO expects the **immigration surge will put pressure on the budgets of many programs and activities funded through discretionary appropriations, including some administered or undertaken by the Department of Homeland Security and the Office of Refugee Resettlement (in the Department of Health and Human Services)**. Funding for certain discretionary activities related specifically to immigration totaled \$37 billion in 2024—an increase of \$1 billion from the 2019 amount after the effects of inflation are removed—and the Administration has requested additional funding for 2024. **In addition, the surge is likely to affect other discretionary programs whose operations are affected by the size of the population, including those that provide funding for elementary and secondary education, income support, and infrastructure**. If discretionary funding for the broad budget categories that are likely to be affected by a larger population was increased in proportion to the increase in the population from the surge, those funding increases would total \$24 billion in 2034 and \$0.2 trillion over the 2024–2034 period, CBO estimates. The reason CBO’s estimates do not include discretionary funding is that such funding will depend on future actions taken by lawmakers. Increasing funding for certain purposes could be accomplished by boosting total appropriations or by shifting resources from other areas

Debt

Even when accounting for revenue, increased immigration expands the US debt

Congressional Budget Office, July 2024, Effects of the Immigration Surge on the Federal Budget and the Economy, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-07/60165-Immigration.pdf>

Revenues **CBO expects the surge in immigration to increase** economic activity and, in turn, boost **tax revenues**. For example, businesses that see increased demand for their products because of the immigration surge will probably hire more workers and invest in more machinery. In turn, their profits might rise. Furthermore, innovation-related productivity is expected to be higher, leading to higher income from both labor and capital. In CBO's projections, those effects add a total of \$387 billion in revenues over the 2024–2034 period: \$229 billion in individual income and payroll taxes and \$157 billion in other taxes, including corporate income taxes. To estimate the effects that the broad economic changes brought on by the surge would have on individual income and payroll taxes, CBO used its individual tax microsimulation model. Specifically, CBO compared the model's results for the baseline population and economic forecast that includes the immigration surge (adjusted to account for the lower expected income of immigrants) with the results for the counterfactual scenario that excludes the boost to the economy resulting from the immigration surge. That comparison includes the effects on various parameters of the tax system stemming from changes in inflation and average wages. **EFFECTS OF THE IMMIGRATION SURGE ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND THE ECONOMY JULY 2024** wages. CBO then subtracted its estimate of the revenue effects attributable to taxes paid by people in the surge population from the total difference in revenues under the baseline and counterfactual scenarios to arrive at its estimate of the effects that the broad economic changes stemming from the surge have on individual income and payroll tax revenues in its baseline projections. CBO used its budgetary feedback model to estimate the effects that the broad economic changes have on other revenue sources, including the corporate income tax.²² The agency uses that model to estimate the revenue implications of changes to the overall economy when sufficient detail is lacking to use its wider array of revenue models. Net Spending for Interest and Mandatory Spending **The economywide changes stemming from the immigration surge add \$101 billion to net interest costs and mandatory spending over the 2024–2034 period in CBO's projections. Most of that amount is for interest on federal debt, which is greater than it would have been if the surge did not occur, primarily because of the higher interest rates resulting from the surge.** (Those effects are partially offset by a reduction in annual deficits and the federal debt.) CBO estimates that net interest costs will ²². For more information about CBO's budgetary feedback model, see Nathaniel Frentz and others, A Simplified Model of How Macroeconomic Changes Affect the Federal Budget, Working Paper 2020-01 (Congressional Budget Office, January 2020), www.cbo.gov/publication/55884. be \$84 billion higher over the projection period because of the economywide effects of the surge. The \$17 billion increase in noninterest spending is the net effect of several changes, mostly small in magnitude, that affect spending for mandatory programs. For example, in CBO's projections, **prices are slightly higher because of the surge; those higher prices increase cost-of-living adjustments in programs that apply them (including federal retirement programs, SSI, and Social Security) and payment rates in health care programs.** In CBO's projections, the economywide effects of the surge account for about \$8 billion of outlays for unemployment insurance from 2024 to 2034. (That amount is partially offset by a \$4 billion increase in revenues over the period that results from states' increasing their unemployment taxes to maintain a balance in their unemployment trust fund accounts.) **The agency expects that with the expansion of the labor force brought on by the surge, more people will be unemployed at some point** in the projection period. In all, CBO estimates that in each year of the 2024–2034 period, between 100,000 and 200,000 more people will collect unemployment benefits as a result of the surge. The agency did not estimate how many of those beneficiaries would be part of the surge population. (Some immigrants who are part of the surge will be eligible to receive benefits if they become unemployed, as long as they are legally authorized to work and meet other criteria for eligibility as determined by their state.)

State and Local Budget Pressure

Immigration surges put pressure on state and local budgets

Congressional Budget Office, July 2024, Effects of the Immigration Surge on the Federal Budget and the Economy, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-07/60165-Immigration.pdf>

The surge in immigration will also affect the budgets of states and localities; its impact will vary among jurisdictions. Research has generally found that increases in immigration raise state and local governments' costs more than their revenues, and CBO expects that finding to hold in the case of the current immigration surge. The surge population shares some characteristics with the immigrant populations examined in the existing research studies but differs from them in other ways, and CBO has not fully analyzed the effects of the immigration surge on the budgets of state and local governments. (See Box 1 for further discussion.)

Immigration surge creates costs for state and local governments

Congressional Budget Office, July 2024, Effects of the Immigration Surge on the Federal Budget and the Economy, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-07/60165-Immigration.pdf>

The effects of the surge in immigration on the budgets of state and local governments differ from those on the federal budget. **The research literature has generally found that increases in immigration raise state and local governments' spending— particularly on education, health care, and housing—more than their revenues.** The impact, which depends on the size of the immigrant population and local policy choices about spending and taxation, varies greatly across jurisdictions. The Congressional Budget Office does not produce baseline projections of state and local revenues or spending that would allow for the same type of analysis that the agency has undertaken for the federal budget. For this report, CBO focused on key areas of states' spending and reviewed recent research. Spending According to the National Association of State Budget Officers, education and Medicaid account for almost half of states' spending.¹ **State and local governments begin incurring education and health care costs for new immigrants soon after their arrival. Most school-age children who are part of the immigration surge will impose costs on state and local governments. All states have a law making elementary and secondary education compulsory, and they cannot exclude children from public education** because of their immigration status.² Although the federal government provides some support for education, one study¹. National Association of State Budget Officers, 2023 State Expenditure Report: Fiscal Years 2021–2023 (2023), www.nasbo.org/reports-data/state-expenditure-report. 2. Plyler v. Doe, 457 U.S. 202 (1982). found that in 2021, 89 percent of funding for elementary and secondary education came from state and local governments.³ States pay a portion of Medicaid costs, known as the state match. (That portion varies by state and from year to year but averages about 35 percent of Medicaid spending.)⁴ Immigrants are eligible for emergency benefits without a waiting period, and 35 states have opted to provide full benefits to children under Medicaid or the Children's Health Insurance Program without a waiting period. States and localities face additional budgetary costs from immigration that will probably vary among jurisdictions. For example, New York City spent \$4.3 billion from July 2022 to March 2024 to accommodate immigrants and comply with existing local and state housing policies.⁵ In addition, 25 states have policies offering in-state college tuition to unauthorized immigrant students.⁶ Depending on how prepared they are to receive large numbers of new immigrants, state and local governments may face even greater budgetary pressure as a result of the immigration surge. Revenues The surge in immigration is expected to boost the revenues of state and local governments. All immigrants will pay state and local sales taxes in

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jurisdictions that collect such taxes. As is the case with federal income taxes, most immigrants will pay state income taxes, though CBO expects that immigrants without work authorization are less likely to do so than the rest of the population. Furthermore, the additional demand for housing stemming from the immigration surge is expected to increase receipts from property taxes. Studies that have considered the effects of immigration on the federal government and on state and local governments have generally found that the revenues that state and local governments collect from immigrants amount to between 50 percent and 60 percent of the federal revenues collected from that population. That is, in part, because state and local tax systems are smaller than the federal tax system, together raising between 50 percent and 55 percent of the revenues that the federal tax system raises in a typical year.

Relevance of Existing Research to the Surge **Researchers have generally found that increases in immigration tend to raise the federal government's revenues more than its costs but increase state and local governments' costs more than their revenues.**⁷ CBO expects that general pattern to hold for 7. See, for example, Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation, *The Fiscal Impact of Refugees and Asylees at the Federal, State, and Local Levels From 2005 to 2019* (February 2024), <https://tinyurl.com/jx2mbrnb>; Alex Nowrasteh, the immigration surge considered in this report—the additional 8.7 million people in the other-foreign-national category who migrate to the United States or remain in the country after an authorized stay from 2021 to 2026 and their U.S.-born children.

Interest Rates

Immigration leads to interest rates increases

Congressional Budget Office, July 2024, Effects of the Immigration Surge on the Federal Budget and the Economy, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-07/60165-Immigration.pdf>

In general, **interest rates are projected to be slightly higher because of the immigration surge.** In CBO's projections, the surge's effect on the 10-year Treasury note rate, for example, increases by about one basis point per year over the next decade, so in 2034, that rate is about 0.1 percentage point higher than it would have been without the surge. (Initially, the Federal Reserve responds to a marginally weaker labor market in 2024 and 2025 by keeping short-term rates about the same as they would have been in the absence of the surge.) **Higher interest rates affect the federal budget primarily by boosting the costs of servicing federal debt. They have competing effects on credit programs, such as student loan programs: They increase the interest collected from borrowers** (and thus reduce the costs of the programs), Figure 4.

Contributions of Changes in the Components of GDP to the Overall Increase in Real GDP Resulting From the Immigration Surge Percentage points -0.5 0 0.5 1.0 1.5 2.0 2.5 3.0 2022 2025 2028 2031 2034 Personal consumption expenditures Nonresidential fixed investment^b Net exports Residential investment^a Government consumption and investment Data source: Congressional Budget Office. See www.cbo.gov/publication/60165#data. Real values are nominal values that have been adjusted to remove the effects of changes in prices. GDP = gross domestic product. a. Includes home construction, renovations, and brokers' commissions. b. Also known as business fixed investment. Includes businesses' purchases of equipment, structures, and intellectual property products, such as software. At the end of the projection period in 2034, real GDP is 2.9 percent greater in CBO's projections because of the immigration surge. Most of that increase comes from the surge's effects on personal consumption expenditures. JULY 2024 EFFECTS OF THE IMMIGRATION SURGE ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND THE ECONOMY 23 but they also decrease the present value of future principal repayments.²⁹

Housing. Costs

Immigration increases housing costs

Congressional Budget Office, July 2024, Effects of the Immigration Surge on the Federal Budget and the Economy, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-07/60165-Immigration.pdf>

In CBO's projections, **from 2024 to 2034, inflation is almost unchanged by the surge in immigration. Prices grow more quickly economywide by an average of about one basis point per year because of the surge. The greatest upward pressure on prices comes from increased demand for housing.**

Answers to: Need Workers

There are plenty of legal immigrants

Diana **Roy**, Claire Klobucista, and Amelia Cheatham, **8-7**, 24, The U.S. Immigration Debate, <https://www.cfr.org/backgroundunder/us-immigration-debate-0>

The United States granted more than one million individuals [PDF] legal permanent residency in FY 2022, close to pre-pandemic levels. Some 58 percent of them were admitted on the basis of family reunification. Other categories included: employment-based preferences (27 percent), refugees (3 percent), diversity (4 percent), and asylees (5 percent). As of late 2023, more than four million applicants were on the State Department's waiting list [PDF] for family- and employer-related immigrant visas, nearly a third of whom were from Mexico

Hundreds of thousands of foreign nationals work legally in the United States under various types of nonimmigrant visas. In FY 2023, the United States granted more than 265,000 visas for high-skilled workers [PDF], known as H1B visas, **and over 310,000 visas for temporary workers in agriculture and other industries, or H2A visas**. H1B visas are capped at 85,000 per fiscal year, with exceptions for certain fields.

Answers to: CBO Report Proves Minimal Harms

CBO report underestimates the economic impact

Federation for American Immigration Reform, August 6, 2024, attest CBO Report Again Fails to Estimate the Total Cost of Illegal Immigration,
<https://www.fairus.org/legislation/congress/latest-cbo-report-again-fails-estimate-total-cost-illegal-immigration>

Last month, the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) issued a report entitled, “The Effects of the Immigration Surge on the Federal Budget and the Economy.” The report aims to estimate how illegal aliens entering between 2021 and 2026 will impact the United States’ economy over the next decade. Its findings assert that the “immigration surge” will have a net positive impact on our economy through increasing revenue despite increases in mandatory spending. However, **CBO’s estimates are incomplete as the report fails to consider several important factors impacting the fiscal burden of illegal immigration, namely discretionary spending and state and local costs.** The report is the most recent development in a congressional push for transparency on the real costs of the Biden-Harris Administration’s border crisis. In May, the House Budget Committee held a hearing to examine the cost of the border crisis where FAIR’s executive director, Julie Kirchner, served as an expert witness. Following the hearing, Budget Committee Chairman Jodey Arrington (R-Texas) sent a letter to CBO to request a full report on the direct spending effects of illegal migration on the federal budget, particularly its impact on entitlement programs. Main Findings In response to Chairman Arrington’s letter, CBO released its most recent report arguing that illegal immigration will benefit the economy over the next decade. The report concludes that the surge of illegal aliens will reduce the federal deficit by \$897 billion, with revenues increased by \$1.175 trillion and mandatory spending increased by \$278 billion. Subtracting out payroll taxes dedicated to Social Security spending lowers the projected deficit reduction to \$550 billion, before any of the discretionary or state costs are included. According to the report, the size of the “surge population” is staggering. CBO estimates that from 2021 to 2026 this so-called surge population of illegal aliens entering the country will total 8.7 million people, with most of the illegal aliens, according to CBO, entering the United States as parolees, gotaways who were not encountered by Customs and Border Protection (CBP), or foreign nationals who overstayed their visas. By 2034, CBO also estimates that about 2 million children will be born in the United States to the surge population, bringing the total population size to more than 10 million. However, even with a dramatic spike in illegal immigration growth from 2021-2026, the report inexplicably concludes that by 2027 illegal border crossings will fall drastically to just 200,000 per year. This projection is the result of CBO’s “standard method of using information consistent with historical experience for its long-term projections.” CBO also estimates that large portions of the surge population will be eligible for federal benefits at the expense of American taxpayers. According to the report, around 35 percent of the surge population will be considered qualified aliens upon arrival, and by 2034 about 60 percent of the population will be eligible for at least some federal benefits. After a five-year waiting period, qualified aliens may receive benefits under Medicaid, Social Security, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), and Federal Student Aid. On top of that, the surge population’s estimated 2 million U.S.-born children will be eligible for benefit programs immediately. CBO also estimates that around half of the surge population will receive employment authorization within six months of their illegal entry. In fact, in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 alone, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) approved 2 million employment authorizations and “about 1.3 million of those applications were for people in the categories that immigrants in the surge population are likely to be in, such as asylum applicants and parolees.” This spike in illegal aliens accessing federal benefits parallels testimony given by Ms. Kirchner in May. During her testimony, she discussed the massive costs that illegal aliens, specifically parolees, will rack up for American taxpayers. Parolees are immediately eligible for work permits, Social Security numbers, Obamacare, and tax credits. And after a five-year waiting period, those parolees can receive additional benefits under various taxpayer-funded programs. Further, Cuban and Haitian entrants—who make up 15 percent of CBO’s surge population—as well as Afghan and Ukrainian parolees, are exempt from that five-year waiting period. In her testimony, Kirchner said that, “Parole has become a shadow immigration system. It is essentially supplanting the family and employment-based systems. They’ve created a completely separate system for hundreds of thousands of people who have no legal basis to enter this country.” Finally, the CBO report estimates that the surge population will generate increased tax revenue and grow economic productivity over the next decade. According to the report, this population is projected to increase tax revenue by contributing \$788 billion in income and payroll taxes. But at the same time that CBO estimates a massive tax revenue increase, the report concedes that, according to CBO estimates, “rates of compliance among the surge population are 15 percent lower for income taxes and 10 percent lower for payroll taxes, on average, than those among the total population.” Moreover, much of the revenue from Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) payroll taxes is specifically set aside for Social Security and Medicare spending in the future. The CBO report, however, includes all payroll taxes as part of its overall revenue projections without accounting for long-term Social

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Security and Medicare costs. The report estimates that over the relevant time period, 2024-2034, Social Security costs will amount to just \$1 billion and Medicare costs to \$600 million. The report goes on to state, however, that while payroll taxes are expected to generate \$443 billion in increased revenue, the vast majority of that, \$348 billion, is dedicated to Social Security trust funds.

Shortfalls **While the report's findings appear to demonstrate a net positive impact of the surge in illegal immigration, there are numerous gaps in the data CBO uses to make its estimates.** As a

result, the report falls short in delivering a well-rounded assessment. **First, the report fails to fully consider the impact of illegal immigration on discretionary funding through the appropriations process.** CBO

argues that despite the fact that discretionary appropriations will almost certainly be impacted by the border crisis, "no clear basis exists for projecting how the immigration surge will affect funding decisions." This demonstrates a massive shortfall in CBO's estimates as the border crisis has created immense pressure to appropriate increased funds to address the heightened flow and presence of illegal aliens. And, although the report does estimate that discretionary funding stemming from the surge in illegal immigration will total around \$200 billion over the next decade, that is not included in the report's final estimates. **CBO also**

fails to account for the skyrocketing costs of illegal immigration for state and local

governments. Even though these costs are not included, the report notes that "increases in immigration tend to... increase state and local governments' costs more than their revenues. CBO expects that general pattern to hold for the immigration surge considered in this report." As detailed in FAIR's recent cost study, the majority of the record costs from illegal immigration—over \$100.4 billion—are borne by state and local governments. **During May's Budget Committee hearing, Kirchner**

showed that K-12 education of the children of illegal aliens costs taxpayers \$70 billion annually, and medical expenditures for illegal aliens add another \$22 billion. Failing to factor

in state and local governments, who shoulder the largest costs, is a critical gap in CBO's

estimates. Perhaps the most concerning, CBO concludes its report by noting that there are

major sources of uncertainty in its estimates. The report argues that when calculating the

impact of illegal immigration on the economy, there are a variety of unknown factors that

could affect the legitimacy of their findings including: (1) the number of foreign nationals in

the immigration surge; (2) the duration of the surge; (3) the characteristics of illegal aliens

entering the country including age, family composition, education, and skills; and (4) how

these aliens will affect overall economic productivity. In short, nearly every factor CBO uses in

its report to measure the impact of illegal immigration on the economy is also a source of

uncertainty that affects their final estimates. Conclusion CBO's report vastly understates the true costs of the

border crisis and is indicative of a lack of transparency from the Biden-Harris Administration surrounding its harmful policies.

Without accountability and meaningful change, the disaster at our borders will only continue to rack up costs at every level, and Americans will be forced to continue paying the price.

Drugs

Surveillance Solves Drugs

AI pattern recognition enables drugs detection

Lauren Markham, September-October 2024, Mother Jones, The Future of the Border Is Even More Dystopian Than You Thought, <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2024/08/border-patrol-wall-automated-surveillance-artificial-intelligence-security-expo/>

Just last year, **CBP's AI monitoring system flagged "a suspicious pattern in the border crossing history" of a car in Southern California. Upon further review, 75 kilos of drugs were found in the vehicle, and the driver was arrested.**

AI can scan inside containers

Lauren Markham, September-October 2024, Mother Jones, The Future of the Border Is Even More Dystopian Than You Thought, <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2024/08/border-patrol-wall-automated-surveillance-artificial-intelligence-security-expo/>

Like nearly everyone else, CBP leadership has a serious case of AI fever, and officials make clear that this kind of technology acts as a "force multiplier" to Border Patrol agents themselves. **Surveillance tower cameras and drones can alert agents when a vehicle or person comes into view and help CBP ascertain the threat level. AI tools also help screen cargo coming into the country and scour data from CBP One—a notoriously glitchy app that asylum seekers must use to navigate their legal process—to detect cases of suspicious identity.**

Empirically, surveillance finds drugs

US Customs and Border Protection, 8-9, 24, CBP finds methamphetamine in shipment of tomatillos at Otay Mesa Commercial Facility, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/local-media-release/cbp-finds-methamphetamine-shipment-tomatillos-otay-mesa-commercial>

U.S. Customs and Border Protection **(CBP) officers at the Otay Mesa Commercial Facility seized 378 pounds of methamphetamine worth thousands of dollars hidden in a shipment of fresh tomatillos, this past weekend.**

CBP officers at the Otay Mesa Commercial Facility seized 378 pounds of methamphetamine worth thousands of dollars hidden in a shipment of fresh tomatillos.

On Sunday, at approximately 12:35 p.m., CBP officers working at the Otay Mesa Commercial Facility encountered a 35-year-old man driving a commercial tractor-trailer with a shipment manifested for fresh tomatillos, applying for admission into the United States from Mexico. The driver, a valid border crossing card holder, was referred for further examination along with the tractor-trailer and shipment.

In the secondary inspection area, non-intrusive scanning technology was utilized to conduct a thorough scan of the tractor-trailer. CBP officers observed irregularities and further examined the shipment. CBP officers discovered and extracted a total of 50 packages concealed within the shipment of fresh tomatillos. The contents of the packages were tested and identified as methamphetamine with a total weight of 378 pounds, and an estimated street value of \$453,600.

“The dedication and vigilance demonstrated by our officers in protecting our nation’s borders while enhancing economic prosperity truly reflect the culture and values of CBP,” stated Rosa E. Hernandez, Port Director for the Area Port of Otay Mesa. “This seizure highlights criminal organizations’ efforts to smuggle narcotics in agricultural products and showcases our officers’ skills in detecting and preventing harmful drugs from entering our country and communities.”

CBP officers seized the narcotics and commercial tractor-trailer. The driver was turned over to the custody of Homeland Security Investigations for further investigation.

This seizure is the result of Operation Apollo, a holistic counter-fentanyl effort that began on Oct. 26, 2023, in southern California, and expanded to Arizona on April 10, 2024. Operation Apollo focuses on intelligence collection and partnerships, and utilizes local CBP field assets augmented by federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial partners to boost resources, increase collaboration, and target the smuggling of fentanyl into the United States.

Terrorism

Information from surveillance is shared globally, protecting the borders

Lauren Markham, September-October 2024, Mother Jones, The Future of the Border Is Even More Dystopian Than You Thought, <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2024/08/border-patrol-wall-automated-surveillance-artificial-intelligence-security-expo/>

US border defense is ever-expanding in reach—moving not just deep into our country’s interior, but also far beyond our own walls. “Most people don’t know there are Border Patrol agents today deployed around the globe in dangerous areas,” Chief Owens explained to the crowd on the Expo’s opening day, “with the express purpose of making sure that they can stop the threat from ever reaching our borders in the first place.”

Powell, too, spoke of the need to “[push] our borders out beyond what we’ve traditionally been focused on, an outline of the United States...out through Western and Eastern hemispheres to identify who is thinking, planning, and attempting to make entry into the US and then why.” By collecting and sharing data with intelligence agencies across international borders, the thinking goes, we’ll be better able to defend our own. Ultimately, the future of the border is one of endless expansion and externalization—well staffed and automated, optimized by artificial intelligence, and implemented by men in green.

CON

No Immigration Crisis

Immigration arrests decreasing; no crisis

AP, 8-1, 24, US arrests at Mexico border are expected to drop 30% in July to a new low for Biden's presidency, <https://apnews.com/article/border-patrol-crossings-arrests-asylum-july-fad8cec06bd730049e7dad9c7fc7ac29>

Arrests of migrants for illegally crossing the border to the United States from Mexico

plummeted about 30% in July to a new low for Joe Biden's presidency, U.S. authorities said, raising prospects that a temporary ban on asylum may be lifted soon. **The U.S. Border Patrol continued making arrests** Wednesday, the last day of July. **But the monthly tally was expected to be around 57,000 when all are tallied, down from 83,536 arrests in June**, the previous low mark of Biden's presidency, according to two U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because figures had not been released publicly. It would be the lowest monthly tally since 54,771 arrests in September 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic slowed movement across borders in many countries, including to the United States. Advertisement **Even before Biden's Democratic administration invoked powers to suspend asylum on June 5, border arrests had fallen by about half from a record-high of 250,000 in December amid increased Mexican enforcement.** Since June 5, arrests have fallen by half again, helping the White House fend off attacks by former President Donald Trump and other Republicans that Democrats, including Vice President Kamala Harris, have allowed the border to spiral out of control. RELATED COVERAGE Image FACT FOCUS: A look at claims made by Trump at news conference Image Analysts shocked as Mexico's central bank clocks rise in inflation and cuts interest rates

Surveillance Capitalism

Border surveillance becomes normalized and spreads into society

Lauren Markham, September-October 2024, Mother Jones, The Future of the Border Is Even More Dystopian Than You Thought, <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2024/08/border-patrol-wall-automated-surveillance-artificial-intelligence-security-expo/>

At the Expo, Border Patrol officials insisted that their work is saving lives—and that the latest technological acquisitions support this mission. But **some border tech is inherited from war zones or inspired by them**; notably, many of the vendors also contract with the Department of Defense. As Harvard researcher Petra Molnar, author of *The Walls Have Eyes*, argues, **border zones are perfect test sites for technologies with questionable human rights applications, since they're often obscured from public view. Once refined and normalized at the border, they can more easily slip into the mainstream—iris scans at airports, for instance, or automated traffic tickets issued to anyone who runs red lights** (which the Texas legislature outlawed in 2019). Maass **argues that surveillance reliant upon algorithmic technology can make mistakes—with consequences that can be dangerous for the person on the other end.**

Northern Border Trade-Off

Resources for the Southern Border trade-off with resources for the Northern border

Lia Chien, 8-8, 24, Arizona Mirror, Congress aims to boost enforcement at the border – with Canada, <https://azmirror.com/2024/08/09/congress-aims-to-boost-enforcement-at-the-border-with-canada/>

WASHINGTON – While much of U.S. border security talk focuses on the southwest corner of the country, **the U.S. Senate passed a bipartisan bill in June aimed at a different target — growing migration along the U.S.-Canada border.** The legislation, titled the Northern Border Coordination Act, was co-authored by Sens. Susan Collins, a Maine Republican, and Gary Peters, a Michigan Democrat. **The measure would hire additional U.S. Border Patrol agents for critically understaffed areas of the northern border and establish the Northern Border Coordination Center at Selfridge Air National Guard Base near Detroit to coordinate border security strategy.** The Senate passed the measure by unanimous consent, but the House has not acted on it. The northern border is the longest international border in the world at just over 5,500 miles, divided into eight patrol sectors comprising 49 official border crossing stations. It is also largely undefended. Much of the border is undefined and unobstructed, marked only by a 6-foot clearing, or vista, that follows the length of the border, hundreds of white markers, and naturally occurring boundaries like streams or lakes. GET THE MORNING HEADLINES DELIVERED TO YOUR INBOX SUBSCRIBE Illegal crossings up There has been growing attention from northern-state lawmakers in recent years over increased attempted illegal border crossings as migration from Latin America grows due to economic and political conditions. In 2023, CBP encountered almost 190,000 individuals attempting to cross from Canada to the United States. That's almost seven times more than in 2021. CBP encountered almost 2.5 million individuals on the southern border in 2023. The Swanton Sector, a 24,000-square-mile area spanning the northern borders of eastern New York, Vermont, and New Hampshire, has seen the highest number of illegal crossings. From October 2022 to September 2023, CBP saw a 550% increase in apprehensions of people crossing from Quebec into the sector. Encounters are when border officials catch individuals illegally crossing from one country to another either at or between ports of entry. Individuals can then be sent back to their country of origin, Canada, or released into the U.S. Colleen Putzel, an associate policy analyst at the Migration Policy Institute, a liberal-leaning immigration policy think tank, said in an interview with States Newsroom that encounter numbers don't perfectly reflect the number of people entering the U.S. "The encounter numbers may be increasing, but it doesn't necessarily mean that the number of people actually entering are increasing," Putzel said. Understaffed Staffing on the northern border remains a critical issue in maintaining border policies and security. **The U.S. Government Accountability Office conducted a study in 2019 and found there were "an insufficient number of agents that limited patrol missions along the northern border." GAO attributed many of the staffing shortages to be a result of "competing priorities along the U.S.-Mexico border."** A CBP spokesperson told States Newsroom in a written statement that more congressional support is needed to address northern border issues.

Privacy

Border patrol tech monitors neighborhoods

Lauren Markham, September-October 2024, Mother Jones, The Future of the Border Is Even More Dystopian Than You Thought, <https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2024/08/border-patrol-wall-automated-surveillance-artificial-intelligence-security-expo/>

Those of us who live far from the border might imagine surveillance towers situated in remote swaths of the desert. Some of them are. But often they are positioned in border towns near schools and downtown shopping centers, on Native American reservations, and alongside the highways where we all drive. “We are actually talking about a surveillance network that monitors communities...that have nothing to do with transport or crime,” Maass told me. “They are just living their lives, doing their thing, but they’ve got the CBP tower looking in their window.”

Economy

General Economic Gains

Immigration boosts employment, productivity, and wage gains

Congressional Budget Office, July 2024, Effects of the Immigration Surge on the Federal Budget and the Economy, <https://www.cbo.gov/system/files/2024-07/60165-Immigration.pdf>

the Immigration Surge The budgetary effects that CBO attributes to broader economic changes arise from the immigration surge's effects on these aspects of the economy in particular: GDP and income, the labor market, interest rates, and inflation. GDP and Income **Over the next decade, in CBO's projections, GDP is greater than it would have been if the surge did not occur. Income—including wages and salaries and domestic corporate profits—closely tracks GDP. Those increases in income generate additional revenues.** In all, projected nominal GDP over the 2024–2034 period is \$8.9 trillion greater because of the surge in immigration. The key drivers of that increase are as follows (see Figure 2):

- **A \$7.8 trillion increase from the larger population. This estimate accounts only for the additional number of people in the country because of the immigration surge.** This part of the surge's total effect on GDP was calculated as though the surge population's characteristics were the same, on average, as the overall population.
- **A \$1.5 trillion increase from the greater labor force participation of the surge population.** This estimate accounts for how the labor force participation of the surge population differs from that of the population as a whole because of differences between those groups in terms of age, sex, and participation rates by age and sex.
- **A \$1.1 trillion decrease from the different employment composition of the surge population.** This estimate accounts for the differences in education and experience (which are consistent with differences in occupation and industry) between the surge population and the overall population.
- **A \$0.6 trillion increase from greater productivity related to innovation.** This estimate captures the effect that workers in the surge who are in the fields of science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) have on total factor productivity (TFP, the average inflation-adjusted output per unit of combined labor and capital services).
- **A \$0.1 trillion increase from transitory factors.** This estimate accounts for the difference between CBO's estimates of the surge's effect on actual output and of its effect on potential output (the maximum sustainable output of the economy). It represents the effects of factors such as the temporary boost to residential investment caused by the increased demand for housing. The estimates for all the key drivers other than transitory factors add up to the total effect on potential output. They all include an associated effect on capital services that was determined by proportionally allocating the total increase in the capital services component of potential output that is attributable to the surge. (Capital services are the services provided by capital assets, such as equipment, software, factories, and homes.) CBO estimates that 3 percent of adults in the immigration surge will be employed in STEM fields. On the basis of existing research on the relationship between immigration, rates of innovation, and economic growth, the agency estimates **that such immigrants will begin contributing to innovation-related activity shortly after their arrival and that their innovations will have the greatest effect on economic growth between 5 and 15 years after their arrival.**²⁸

Because the increases in population stemming from the surge are spread out over time, the overall effect of innovation-related activity ²⁸. For examples of the studies underlying those estimates, see Shai Bernstein and others, The Contribution of High-Skilled Immigrants to Innovation in the United States, Working Paper 30797 (National Bureau of Economic Research, December 2022), www.nber.org/papers/w30797; Marta Prato, The Global Race for Talent: Brain Drain, Knowledge Transfer, and Growth (SSRN, November 2022), <https://doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.4287268>; Keith W. Crane and others, Economic Benefits and Losses From Foreign STEM Talent in the United States, IDA Document D-31855 (Institute for Defense Analyses, Science & Technology Policy Institute, October 2021), <https://tinyurl.com/bdd5heaj>; and Leonid Kogan and others, "Technological Innovation, Resource Allocation, and Growth," Quarterly Journal of Economics, vol. 132, no. 2 (May 2017), pp. 665–712, <https://doi.org/10.1093/qje/qjw040>.

20 EFFECTS OF THE IMMIGRATION SURGE ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND THE ECONOMY JULY 2024 on economic growth builds up slowly. That increase in innovation-related productivity and a decrease in productivity stemming from the different employment composition of the surge population affect the change in potential TFP in CBO's projections. After 10 years, the two effects roughly offset each other (see Figure 3). CBO also examined the effects of the surge on the components of GDP as measured in real terms (that is, adjusted to remove the effects of inflation). **In 2034, real GDP is 2.9 percent greater in CBO's projections because of the immigration surge.** From 2024 to 2029, growth in personal consumption expenditures accounts for about one-half of the total growth in real GDP stemming from the immigration surge (see Figure 4). Between 20 percent and 30 percent of the additional GDP growth over that period is attributable to nonresidential fixed investment, and roughly 20 percent, to

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residential investment. Investment grows as firms acquire equipment for the larger labor force and build more housing for those workers and their families. By 2034, consumption's contribution to annual growth in real GDP increases to about 70 percent, and nonresidential fixed investment's and residential investment's contributions each drop to about 10 percent as the economy adjusts to the surge and investment patterns return to their historical averages. Labor Market The surge boosts the size of the labor force, slightly lowers the unemployment rate, and, initially, reduces average wage growth in CBO's economic projections. The agency's projections of outlays for unemployment insurance are particularly sensitive to changes in labor market conditions. The surge adds to the working-age population (mostly between the ages of 16 and 54), and CBO estimates that within a year after their arrival—when most applications for employment authorization have been processed—men over the age of 30 will participate in the labor force at rates that are roughly 10 percent higher than those of other men in the country of the same age. As a result, the overall labor force participation rate in the economy increases in CBO's projections starting in 2025. The overall unemployment rate is mostly unaffected by the immigration surge because two factors offset one another. In 2024, during the peak of the surge in CBO's projections, the unemployment rate of new arrivals is relatively Figure 2. Key Drivers of the Increases in Nominal GDP Attributable to the Immigration Surge Billions of dollars –200 0 200 400 600 800 1,000 1,200 1,400 2022 2025 2028 2031 2034 Population TFP innovation Labor market composition Labor force participation Transitory factors Data source: Congressional Budget Office. See www.cbo.gov/publication/60165#data. The effects driven by changes in population, labor force participation, labor market composition, and TFP innovation add up to the total change in potential GDP (that is, the maximum sustainable output of the economy). The effects driven by transitory factors account for the difference between increases in potential GDP and nominal GDP. GDP = gross domestic product; TFP = total factor productivity. The increase in the size of the population is by far the largest driver of the growth in nominal GDP attributable to the surge, accounting for \$7.8 trillion of the \$8.9 trillion the surge adds to GDP from 2024 to 2034. JULY 2024 EFFECTS OF THE IMMIGRATION SURGE ON THE FEDERAL BUDGET AND THE ECONOMY 21 high (because it takes them time to find work), which increases the overall unemployment rate. That effect is offset by an increase in the demand for goods and services following the surge in immigration, which reduces the unemployment rate. **On average, the unemployment rate is about** one basis point lower from 2024 to 2034 because of the surge. (A basis point is one one-hundredth of a percentage point.) Although the unemployment rate is largely unaffected, the number of people who are unemployed in the economy increases as the labor force grows. In the agency's projections, growth in average compensation per hour from 2024 to 2031 is about one and one-half basis points slower as a result of the surge, mainly because the recent arrivals have less education, on average, and earn below-average wages. **Within educational groups, the average wages of people in the surge population converge with those of the total population over an eight-year period. After 2031, growth in average compensation per hour is faster because of that convergence and because of an overall increase in TFP growth stemming from innovation attributable to new arrivals who work in STEM fields.** Wage growth of people in the United States who are not part of the surge—primarily U.S. citizens—is also affected by the immigration surge in CBO's projections; the size of the effect varies for people with different levels of educational attainment: • **For people with 12 or fewer years of education, wage growth slows from 2024 to 2026 because the increase in the supply of workers with similar skills puts downward pressure on that growth.** • Workers who have more than 12 years of education see little change in their wage growth in the initial years of the surge. The increase in workers with less education increases the demand for more-educated people to work with them, and the resulting upward pressure on wage growth roughly offsets the downward pressure that stems from a greater supply of workers with similar skills. After 2026, wage growth of people in the United States who are not part of the surge increases slightly, on average, in CBO's projections, because of higher overall productivity from the immigration surge. That increase in productivity boosts wage growth for all groups of workers in the longer term, more than offsetting shortterm reductions in wage growth for some groups

Answers to: Takes Jobs of Low Wage Workers

Huge law wage labor shortage we need migrants to fill

Ella Ceron, 8-9, 24, From New York to Denver, US Cities Are Seeking Migrants for Jobs

,<https://www.msn.com/en-us/money/markets/ar-AA1owt8B>, From New York to Denver, US Cities Are Seeking Migrants for Jobs, DOA: 8-10, 24

'Radical Centrist' Berzins, a self-described "radical centrist" who has made campaign donations to both Democrats and Republicans, tries to stay out of the politics of immigration, one of the top issues for swing-state voters in this year's presidential election. He's aware of concerns that a wave of newcomers will displace native-born workers, but says he can't find anyone to fill his kitchen jobs. He knows some people see the migrants as a burden, particularly in so-called sanctuary cities where they were bused, but points out that allowing them to work will reduce dependence on handouts. "You really can't have it both ways: You can't complain and say, these guys are a burden on the system, and we're having to put them in housing and all these things, and then complain when they're taking a job so that they can pay their own way," Berzins said. "Pick one or the other." Denver's program seeks to help asylum seekers with English and computer skills, as well as obtaining federal work authorization. Asylum hopefuls generally become eligible for work permits about six months after applying for legal status, though paperwork backlogs can delay the process. Denver requires at least one person per household to take part in the program if they want to receive services from the city, which has for months been one of the primary destinations for migrants after they reach the southern US border. **In North Dakota, which has the second-lowest US unemployment rate, state officials recently created the Office of Legal Immigration to address widespread worker shortages across industries.** In a report released in May, the agency identified recent arrivals with work authorization as a potential resource for local businesses willing to take them on. It's in its early days, but the hope is that the agency will be able to advise businesses on navigating the paperwork and helping newcomers acclimate to the sparsely populated state and its frigid winters. "I summarize the whole thing in six words," said North Dakota state Senator Tim Mathern, a Democrat who sponsored the legislation last year that created the department. "We need them. They need us." Political Tension Foreign-born workers represent less than 7% of the state's labor force, compared with the national average of about 19%. **Still, the foreign-born population almost tripled between 2010 and 2023, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. Much of the inflow has been concentrated in health-care jobs, particularly to address a post-pandemic shortage of nurses. It also helped offset the effect that an aging population has on the labor force,** said Erick Garcia Luna, the regional outreach director at the Minneapolis Fed. Mathern acknowledged some political tension tied to the idea of welcoming asylum seekers to North Dakota, where Republicans have won every presidential contest since 1968. He's disappointed that the word "Legal" was added to the department's name during the legislative process, but understands it was an attempt to ward-off criticism. GOP presidential candidate Donald Trump has repeatedly claimed that migrants are taking jobs from Americans. He and his allies blame his Democratic opponent, Vice President Kamala Harris, for not doing enough to slow arrivals to the southern border. Read More: NYC Migrants Are Being Called by Kansas City to Fill Jobs Demand Harris' Overambitious Immigration Plan Sets Up Trump Attacks A paper from the National Bureau of Economic Research, released in April, found that the inflow of immigrants between 2019 and 2022 marginally boosted wages for native-born workers. Other studies have found that immigration tends to put downward pressure on wages, particularly for the least skilled workers. In the first three months of the year, the US approved some 380,000 employment authorizations for asylum seekers, the most in a single quarter since the start of the migrant crisis. Giovanni Peri, a professor of economics at the University of California, Davis who wrote the NBER paper, said **that the US immigration system prioritizes highly-skilled workers, such as doctors or those who work in tech. But the labor shortage is most acute for lower-skilled jobs. "Construction workers, health-care providers that don't have a college degree, people in food and in hospitality — there are no real visas for these people to come," Peri said. "The asylum seeker application is the only way in which these people can get in."** New York City has seen some 200,000 migrant arrivals since 2022. The state Department of Labor is seeking to connect migrants with work permits to employers open to hiring them. The state has since identified more than 45,000 jobs that asylum seekers might apply for, particularly in the food service and hospitality industries. **Advocates for migrants and industry groups say they've seen more people with work authorization in recent months, meaning local businesses can put these folks to work.** 'Survival

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Mode' At La Colmena, a nonprofit on Staten Island, migrants can obtain safety certification needed for construction and day labor jobs. The organization is also running a pilot program that teaches hospitality skills for hotel work. **The American Hotel and Lodging Association, a national interest group, advocates for cutting wait times for work authorization as one way to address worker shortages.** When buses filled with migrants first appeared in cities like New York and Denver two years ago, the underground economies of those cities were saturated with would-be day laborers, as well as delivery and restaurant workers. Now, the focus is on getting them into the formal economy. Denver's WorkReady program has 350 people enrolled. The city has spent \$74 million on the emergency response to migrants, including about \$90 a person a day in shelters, and the thinking is that helping people land above-the-table work will lessen costs overall. So far, more than 100 employers have expressed interest in tapping into eligible workers, according to Jon Ewing, a city spokesperson. "The obstacle is getting them out of survival mode because they've been in shelter forever and they're like, 'We'll do anything for money,'" Ewing said. "And we're like, 'No, no, we want to know what you want to do for the rest of your life.'"

Answers to: Immigrants. Don't Pay. Taxes

Unauthorized immigrants pay taxes

Marla Bautista, 8-9, 24, USA Today, Trump's lies about undocumented immigrants hide the truth: They pay their share of taxes,
<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/columnist/2024/08/09/immigrants-pay-taxes-trump-immigration-lies/74697353007/>

No matter the political nonsense you hear spouted about immigration, legal and otherwise, here's the truth: **America needs more immigrants, documented and otherwise.** If you aren't already mad after reading the preceding sentence, hold my beer. **Immigrants coming into America boost our economy.** And **undocumented immigrants in the United States play an astonishing role in strengthening the nation through their substantial tax contributions.** Yes, they pay taxes, lots of taxes, to the tune of nearly \$100 billion dollars in 2022. These payments fund essential public services and immigrants' own paths to legal status. Misinformation about undocumented immigrants in America is harmful and leads to stereotypes and policies that not only hurt immigrants but Americans and businesses, too. Numbers prove both Trump and Texas Gov. Greg Abbott wrong. Former President Donald Trump greets Texas Gov. Greg Abbott at the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee in July 2024. In 2015, when Donald Trump began his campaign for the presidency, he often touted claims that undocumented immigrants were "bringing drugs, they're bringing crime, they're rapists" to appeal to what would become his MAGA base. It wasn't the first or last time that Trump and other Republicans attacked undocumented immigrants. False claims that undocumented immigrants are more likely to commit crimes than citizens or are a danger to public health help to fuel border security measures that endanger migrants' lives far more than ours. Laken Riley's death made the news, but here's the real story on undocumented migrants. And here's a truth that Abbott didn't acknowledge: According to the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy, in Texas **in 2022, undocumented immigrants paid \$4.9 billion in state and local taxes. That was more than the combined taxes collected in Texas for alcohol, cigarette/tobacco, hotel occupancy and utility. Undocumented immigrants pay taxes on goods and services, on homes that they own or rent and on the income they earn. That money helps to pay for essential services such as education and health care.** Blame 1924 National Origins Quota Act: Trump and Biden blame each other for illegal immigration. But Congress created it. Get the The Right Track newsletter in your inbox. Columnist Nicole Russell on conservative values, family and religion. Delivery: Tue, Thu Your Email Lies about immigrants hurt our nation. Misinformation that immigrants do not pay taxes or that they drain public resources is not only untrue but also detrimental to societal cohesion. These misconceptions fuel unjust policies and distract from the real issues, ultimately hurting all of us by undermining the economic and social contributions of immigrant communities. America has been home to immigrants, legal and undocumented, since its inception. Recognizing and valuing their contributions is the right thing to do. So, too, is fostering a more inclusive and fair immigration system that benefits everyone.

Asylum

Answers to: People Can Still Apply for Asylum

Border patrol agents are not allowing apprehended individuals to apply for asylum

Alisa Reznik, 8-8, 24, Report: Border officers in Arizona are turning away asylum seekers despite U.S. law, <https://www.kjzz.org/kjzz-news/2024-08-08/report-border-officers-in-arizona-are-turning-away-asylum-seekers-despite-u-s-law>,

A new report from a group of immigrant aid and legal rights organizations alleges that **asylum seekers being apprehended along the U.S.-Mexico border under a set of new restrictions are not being given the chance to ask for protection in the U.S., despite U.S. law requiring that access.** In June, the Biden administration enacted a temporary executive order that severely limits border asylum, citing the high number of migrant encounters by border officers in recent months. Rights groups filed suit against it — arguing the order violates a portion of U.S. immigration statute that says anyone presently in the U.S. has a right to seek asylum, regardless of how they arrived. Researchers say they've spoken with hundreds of asylum seekers removed through Arizona, Texas and California since the order went into effect. "Overwhelmingly, we're hearing from people who have been deported without being referred for a fear screening, that they've been told the border is closed, don't come back, there is no asylum," said report co-author Christina Asencio, director of research and analysis and refugee protection at Human Rights First. Under the order, border officers are no longer required to ask migrants if they fear being sent back. But those who express that fear themselves are supposed to be referred for additional screenings with asylum officers at Citizenship and Immigration Services, or USCIS. At a recent media tour of a Customs and Border Protection facility where migrants are processed in Tucson, agency personnel pointed out a row of phone booths where a handful of people were undergoing screenings with USCIS. They said migrants who express fear of returning to their countries are sent to the booths to convene with asylum officers and, if they're available, lawyers. But according to the report, **many of the migrants subject to the order were sent back to Mexico or their home countries through expedited removal, even after asking for asylum or protection in the U.S.** "They're sharing the persecution that they experience, like why they're fleeing harm, they even showed injuries and bruises that they had, specifically requested asylum, were visibly sobbing or pleading to be heard," Asencio said. Customs and Border Protection did not respond to requests for comment about the report's findings. USCIS data shows the number of fear screenings asylum officers conducted fell sharply from about 20,000 in May to less than 2,000 in July.

Caught individuals are not given the chance to apply for asylum

Human Rights First, July 2024, https://humanrightsfirst.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/08/IFR-report_formatted.pdf, "DON'T TELL

ME ABOUT YOUR FEAR **As part of a June 2024 asylum ban rule, the Biden administration eliminated a safeguard that had been in place for nearly 30 years to protect people seeking asylum from being summarily deported without a chance to present their asylum claim.** This provision, included in an Interim Final Rule (IFR) titled "Securing the Border" that went into effect immediately on June 5th, eradicates a key requirement for immigration officers to ask people arriving in the United States about their fear of return. In just two months, this change has had disastrous consequences. **Based on countless interviews conducted by our legal service organizations with asylum seekers impacted by this policy since it was implemented in June, immigration officials are failing to comply with U.S. and international refugee law and summarily deporting people who fear return without a screening on their asylum claim (referred to as a "credible fear interview," or CFI).** The effects of the new policy include: • Immigration officers are

removing people from the United States without a CFI even when they are required by law to be referred for a CFI because they express fear of return, including survivors of gender-based violence, people whose family members were assassinated, LGBTQI+ people, individuals with visible marks and bruises from attacks, and people fleeing death threats and other harms with

young children. • Many people who are detained and processed under expedited removal are not given an opportunity to express their fear of return and are summarily deported without a CFI, with immigration officers routinely telling them they are not allowed to speak, that there is no more asylum, and that they are being deported. • Elimination of the safeguard is fueling family separation, where family members are arbitrarily removed from the United States without a CFI while their loved ones are referred for a CFI, including where their asylum cases could have been processed together.

Answers to: Crime

It doesn't matter if we use surveillance to catch illegal immigrants; they are released

NY Post Editorial Board, 8-10, 24, Democrats are responsible for migrant crime waves across the US, <https://nypost.com/2024/08/10/opinion/democrats-are-responsible-for-migrant-crime-waves-across-the-us/>

Venezuelan migrant Daniel **Hernandez Martinez, 30**, is the latest “poster boy” for Team Biden-Harris and Democrats’ refusal to enforce law after law after futile law when it comes to criminal border crossers. He **was nabbed after a multistate crime spree that began with an illegal gun arrest in Chicago, then a stopover in Denver where he pistol-whipped two women before stealing their jewelry, before hitting the Big Apple.** A suspected Tren De Aragua gang member, **he committed at least 22 criminal offenses in New York City from June to November last year.** His transgressions — attacking three strangers and two cops — resulted in eight arrests on 14 different charges. Yet **he got released every time. When border agents first arrested Hernandez Martinez at the Texas border in January 2023, they suspected he was a Tren gang member and returned him to Mexico under the Trump-era Title 42 COVID expulsion order.** Explore More Dems' childish obsession with Momala and 'daddy' Walz is beyond bizarre Police officers clashing with rioters in Manchester, England on Aug. 3, 2024. Riots in Britain should be warning to US Democratic vice presidential running mate Minnesota Governor Tim Walz speaks during a campaign event in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, August 7, 2024. This Minnesotan warns: You REALLY don't want Tim Walz taking his act nationally **Yet he later made his way back in:** There's always a way under Biden-Harris, with dozens of parole and “passthrough” programs and specific loopholes for “asylum seekers” from over 100 countries. Then he expertly exploited “sanctuary city” laws across the country to avoid expulsion: At no point during his crime wave and multiple arrests did local authorities turn Hernandez Martinez over to federal immigration enforcement agents for deportation. In Democratic-run cities, the combo of “sanctuary” rules and “criminal justice reforms” virtually guarantees that migrant criminals get “catch-and-release” treatment, even though cops know the tattoos that signal membership in MS-13, Tren and other vicious gangs. 8 What do you think? Post a comment. Meanwhile, Biden-Harris “leadership” aims to keep us all in the dark: Homeland Security officials stonewalled congressional requests for months about Daniel Hernandez Martinez.

Answers to: Need to Track Russian Ships

This is silly. We obviously aren't going to pull any surveillance systems from a mission to track Russian ships and redeploy them at the border. The US would purchase new surveillance technologies for the southern border or pull them from a less essential mission if needed.

It's empirically denied. The US is increasing its military presence in the Middle East in response to Iran's threats against Israel. This obviously includes surveillance. If surveillance trades-off, it already would have.

We don't need surveillance. Cuba. Just tells us where Russia is

Radio Free Liberty, June 6, 2024, <https://www.rferl.org/a/cuba-russia-navy-submarine-us/32982274.html>, Cuba Says Russian Nuclear Sub To Dock In Havana Next Week

A Russian nuclear-powered submarine will visit Havana next week, Cuba's communist authorities said on June 6. The nuclear submarine Kazan, which will not be carrying nuclear weapons, and three other Russian naval vessels -- the missile frigate Admiral Gorshkov, an oil tanker, and a salvage tug -- will dock in the Cuban capital from June 12-17, Cuba's Revolutionary Armed Forces Ministry said. The unusual deployment of the powerful Russian submarine so close to the United States comes amid major tensions over the war in Ukraine. During the Cold War, the deployment of Soviet nuclear missile sites on the island triggered the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

US surveils Russian ships with aircraft

Constantin Toropin, 6-12, 24, Military.com, Russian Flotilla Off Florida Coast Sparks Deployment of US Navy Destroyers, Planes, <https://www.military.com/daily-news/2024/06/12/navy-deployed-3-destroyers-planes-monitor-russian-submarine-and-frigate-off-florida-coast.html>

The Pentagon deployed three Navy destroyers and maritime patrol aircraft this week to keep tabs on a group of Russian ships that conducted missile exercises and reportedly got within 30 miles of the Florida coast.

"In accordance with standard procedure, we've been actively monitoring the Russian ships as they transit the Atlantic Ocean within international waters," a defense official, who spoke on the condition his name not be used, told Military.com in an emailed statement Wednesday.

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Putin does not seek to expand his global dominance

David **Ljunggren et al. 24**. Ronald Popeski and David Brunnstrom. *Covers Canadian political, economic and general news as well as breaking news across North America, previously based in London and Moscow and a winner of Reuters' Treasury scoop of the year. **Writers for Reuters. 2/9/24. "Putin tells Tucker Carlson Russia has no interest in wider war".

<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/putin-rare-us-interview-says-russia-has-no-interest-attacking-poland-or-latvia-2024-02-09/>. BP

Russian President Vladimir **Putin said** in an interview that aired on Thursday that Russia **will fight** for its interests **"to the end"** but has **no interest in expanding** its **war in Ukraine to other countries** such as Poland and Latvia.

In his first interview with an American journalist since before Russia's invasion of Ukraine nearly two years ago, Putin said Western leaders had come to realize it was impossible to inflict a strategic defeat on Russia and were wondering what to do next.

"We are ready for this dialogue," he said.

Putin also said he believed it was possible to reach an agreement to free U.S. journalist Evan Gershkovich of the Wall Street Journal, who has been detained in Russia for nearly a year and is awaiting trial on spying charges.

Putin made the comments in a more than two-hour interview with conservative talk-show host Tucker Carlson that was conducted in Moscow on Tuesday and aired on tucker Carlson.com.

Asked if he could imagine a scenario in which he would send Russian troops to Poland, a NATO member, Putin replied:

"Only in one case, if Poland attacks Russia. Why? Because we have no interest in Poland, Latvia or anywhere else. Why would we do that? We simply don't have any interest."

Putin spoke in Russian and his remarks were dubbed into English. He began with lengthy remarks about Russia's relations with Ukraine, Poland and other countries.

Putin devoted a substantial part of the interview to complaining that Ukraine had been on the verge of agreeing a deal to end hostilities at talks in Istanbul in April 2022, but backed away, he said, once Russian troops withdrew from near Kyiv.

"Well now let them think how to reverse the situation," he said. "We're not against it. It would be funny if it were not so sad that. This endless mobilization in Ukraine, the hysteria, the domestic problems, sooner or later it will result in an agreement."

The Russian leader said the U.S. had pressing domestic issues to worry about. **"Wouldn't it be better to negotiate with Russia? Make an agreement. Already understanding the situation that is developing today, realizing that Russia will fight for its interests to the end,"** Putin said.

Washington, which has sent Ukraine more than \$110 billion in aid since Russia invaded in February 2022, has made clear it has no interest in talking on Putin's terms

Putin was last formally interviewed by a U.S. media outlet in October 2021, when CNBC's Hadley Gamble spoke to him.

The Carlson interview came as U.S. lawmakers debate whether to provide more money for Ukraine's war effort. It also aired the same day as Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy replaced the popular army chief with his ground forces commander.

A procedural vote in the U.S. Senate helped advance a bill that includes \$61 billion in new funds for Ukraine, but it faces uncertainty in the Republican-dominated House of Representatives where dozens of members, particularly those closely allied with former President Donald Trump, have voted against Ukraine aid.

Predictions about Putin fail.

Stephen M. **Walt 24**. Columnist at Foreign Policy and the Robert and Renée Belfer professor of international relations at Harvard University. "Nobody Actually Knows What Russia Does Next". 4/2/24. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/04/02/russia-putin-nato-warning-war-west>

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Apparently, key members of the Western foreign-policy elite are mind readers: They claim to know exactly what Russian President Vladimir Putin's intentions are. Prominent officials and political commentators increasingly agree that his ambitions are limitless and that Ukraine is just his first target.

U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin has said, "Putin will not stop at Ukraine." Former CIA Director David Petraeus told CNN's Christiane Amanpour, "Putin won't stop there." Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky warned, "Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Moldova may be next," and U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain Jane Hartley said that "anybody who thinks that Russia may stop after this ... is wrong." Lithuanian Foreign Minister Gabrielius Landsbergis is on the same page, having said, "Russia is not going to stop. ... [Putin's] obviously got plans to go further." U.S. President Joe Biden issued the exact same warning back in December 2023, and so did NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. Western officials aren't sure when Russia is going to go after NATO, but a growing chorus seems to believe a wider war is inevitable if Moscow is not decisively defeated.

As Walter Lippmann warned, "When all think alike, no one thinks very much." The plain fact is that none of these people know what Putin or Russia will do if the war in Ukraine ends with Russia in control of some of Ukraine's pre-2022 territory. Neither do I, and neither does anyone else, except maybe Putin himself (and he may not know for sure). It's possible that Putin does have vast ambitions and will try to follow a costly success in Ukraine with a new attack somewhere else. But it is also entirely possible that his ambitions do not extend beyond what Russia has won—at enormous cost—and that he has no need or desire to gamble for more. Putin recently declared that Russia was not going to attack NATO, for example, though he also pointed out that F-16s or other aircraft being provided to Ukraine would be legitimate targets once they are deployed there (duh). No one should take Putin's assurances at face value, but neither should one automatically assume that everything he says is a lie.

Of course, those Western experts issuing lurid warnings about Putin's future actions are trying to convince Western publics (and the U.S. Congress) to pony up more aid for Ukraine and more money for European defense. To be clear, I'm also in favor of continuing aid for Ukraine, and I'd like to see NATO's European members bolster deterrence by building up their conventional forces. What bothers me is the reflexive threat inflation that inspires such pronouncements, along with the tendency to treat these gloomy forecasts as if they were established truths, and to portray anyone who questions them as naïve, a pro-Russian stooge, or both.

The belief that Putin has unlimited ambitions rests, in part, on the familiar liberal claim that all autocrats are innately aggressive and difficult to deter. The logic is simple: "All dictators seek to expand; Putin is a dictator; ergo, Putin won't stop with Ukraine. QED." This syllogism is an article of faith among liberal elites, but there is little evidence to support it. To be sure, some dictators—such as Napoleon or Adolf Hitler—were dangerous serial aggressors, which is why any autocrat we happen to be at odds with today inevitably gets labeled as "another Hitler." But other dictators were rather well-behaved on the international stage, however egregious their conduct at home might have been. Mao Zedong was a tyrant by anyone's definition, and his policies were responsible for the deaths of millions of his countrymen, but Mao's only war of conquest was the seizure of Tibet in 1950. Otto von Bismarck's Prussia fought three separate wars in a span of eight years, but the unified Germany forged in 1871 was a resolutely status-quo power for the rest of the century. As Stanislaw Andreski argued many years ago, many military dictatorships are peacefully inclined because going to war would require them to arm their own citizens, and doing so might threaten their hold on power. The fact that Putin is a ruthless dictator who imprisons or murders his domestic rivals and engages in other despicable

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acts tells us almost nothing about whether he wants to conquer a bunch of Russia's neighbors or believes he would be able to do so. And one hardly needs to be a dictator to launch an unprovoked, illegal, and highly destructive war; I can think of some prominent liberal democracies that have done so on several occasions.

Second, Russia will be in no shape to launch new wars of aggression when the war in Ukraine is finally over. U.S. intelligence believes Russia has lost more than 300,000 troops killed or wounded in Ukraine, along with thousands of armored vehicles and dozens of ships and aircraft. Putin has been reluctant to order additional troop mobilizations (though he may do so now that his "reelection" is over), both because such measures will weaken the Russian economy further and risk fueling popular discontent. Western sanctions have not hurt the Russian economy as much as the United States and its allies hoped, but the long-term economic consequences for Russia are still going to be severe. Fighting a long conventional war is costly, and starting another one whenever the current one ends would be even more foolhardy than Putin's original decision to launch what he believed would be an easy "special military operation." Isn't it just as likely that Russia's difficulties in Ukraine will make Putin far more cautious in the future, even if his army eventually ekes out a Pyrrhic victory?

Third, if the main reason that Putin decided to invade was to prevent Ukraine from moving into the West's orbit and someday joining NATO, then he might be satisfied if that possibility is foreclosed in a subsequent peace agreement. States often go to war out of fear rather than greed, and if Russia's security fears diminish, its incentive to go after other countries in Europe would presumably decline as well. NATO's members should not take this possibility for granted, of course, but it is as plausible as the assumption that Putin's aims have no limit.

Some observers in the West maintain that NATO enlargement was irrelevant, and insist that Putin invaded because he believes Ukrainians and Russians share deep cultural and historical roots and must therefore be politically aligned if not formally united. In this view, NATO enlargement had nothing to do with his decision to start the war; it's just an example of good old-fashioned Russian cultural imperialism. If that is the case, however, it implies that Ukraine is sui generis in Putin's thinking, and his reasons for invading (and for thinking it would be easy) do not apply anywhere else. Interestingly, this conclusion is consistent with the point that then-Ambassador William Burns made back in 2008, when he warned Washington that "Ukrainian entry into NATO [was] the brightest of all red lines for the Russian elite (not just Putin)." Russia reluctantly tolerated earlier rounds of NATO enlargement, but Ukraine was in a very different category. Whatever one thinks of Putin's convoluted claims about the "historical unity of Russians and Ukrainians," he doesn't see Finland or Sweden or Poland or anyone else in the same way. The status of Russian-speaking minorities in the Baltic states might provide a pretext for subsequent Russian interference, but would Putin risk a direct clash of arms with NATO over countries where most of the people are not Russian and firmly hostile to being reincorporated?

My point is that if you believe Putin invaded primarily because he thinks Russians and Ukrainians are "one people," then you might reasonably conclude his ambitions are limited to that one unique case.

Lastly, the claim that Putin is an unappeasable serial aggressor who will launch new wars if he is not totally defeated impedes efforts to end the war and spare Ukraine further damage. If you believe that total defeat is the only thing that will prevent Putin from starting a new war, then

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you are in effect saying that the current fighting must continue until Ukraine regains all its territory—full stop. I would love to see that happen, but that outcome seems increasingly unlikely, even if additional Western support is forthcoming. And by the way, have any of those cockeyed optimists who wrongly predicted that Ukraine's counteroffensive last summer would succeed apologized for their error and explained why they were wrong?

To repeat: I'm not saying that I know what Putin will do—I don't. Nor do I think we should simply assume that his intentions are benign or that he will reliably uphold the status quo in Europe once the war in Ukraine is over. What I'm objecting to are all those influential voices who claim to know exactly what he will do and who are basing the continued pursuit of unrealistic objectives on mere guesswork.