

Immigration

The Augusta County Democratic Committee believes that immigrants are not a “problem” to be solved, but rather a defining aspect of the American character and our shared history. The United States was founded as, and continues to be, a country of immigrants from all corners of the world, a beacon of hope for people seeking safety, freedom, and security but never forgetting the heritage of those that were brought here involuntarily. Other than Native Americans, all residents of Augusta County are descended from people of other lands. Yet, we recognize that the current immigration system is broken. Today, without time and money, becoming a citizen is an almost insurmountable task. Fixing this situation must be done in a humane manner and consistent with our values. We believe:

- A legal immigration system should, within reasonable limits, meet the needs of families, communities, and the economy. There must be no barriers set so high as to make it impossible for immigration and naturalization to be legally achieved.
- The mass deportations, the deportation of “Dreamers,” and the deportation of hard working contributors to our society with only minor legal infractions must stop. No one disagrees that undocumented immigrants convicted of violent crimes should be deported, and this is where our valuable immigration enforcement resources should be expended.
- No family should be forced to separate, nor should parents have their babies and children forcibly taken from them simply in the name of “law and order” unless the situation involves a violent offender.
- Any immigrant serving in or honorably discharged from the United States military must be given a fast track to citizenship.
- The Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans executive orders must be made permanent and include a reasonably attainable pathway to citizenship.
- The more than 11 million people living in the shadows without proper documentation must be treated with compassion, dignity, and respect as fellow human beings. These hard working members of our communities should be incorporated into our society through legal processes including a reasonably attainable pathway to citizenship.

- Border security should be maintained using the latest technology to allow proper and effective enforcement of immigration laws, not a wasteful and ineffective wall.
- There should be no religious test imposed to bar immigrants or refugees from entering the United States.
- The Temporary Protective Status Program (TPS) must be preserved and the 500,000 people who entered our country legally under this program must be protected.
- Local law enforcement should not be used as ersatz federal immigration officers but rather should be working to build relationships within the communities they are sworn to protect.