

Fighting the TX Amnesty Solution

Posted May 31st, 2014 by Julie: H/T Julie McCarty & North Tarrant County Tea Party



Conservatives statewide are being called upon to help fight against a plank pushing for amnesty in the TX GOP platform. The plank outlines several good ideas, and then throws in a few dangerous ones. Here's what the Texas Amnesty Solution asks for:

- 1. Secure Our Borders – The U.S. Border must be secured immediately!** We demand the application of effective, practical and reasonable measures to secure our borders and to bring safety and security for all Americans along the border and throughout the nation.
- 2. Modernize the United States Social Security Card – We support the improvement of our 1936 Social Security card to use contemporary anti-counterfeit technology.** The social security card will not be considered a National ID card for U.S. citizens.
- 3. Birthright Citizenship – We call on the Legislative, Executive, and Judicial branches of the United States to clarify Section 1 of the 14th amendment to limit citizenship by birth to those born to a citizen of the United States with no exceptions.**
- 4. Create an Effective and Efficient Temporary Worker Program – A national Temporary Worker Program should be implemented to bring skilled and unskilled workers into the United States for temporary periods of time when no U.S. workers are currently available.** The program should also require:
 - Self-funding through participation fees and fines
 - Applicants must pass a full criminal background check
 - Applicants with prior immigration violations would only qualify for the program if they paid the appropriate fines.
 - Applicants and/or employers must prove that they can afford and/or secure private health insurance
 - Applicants must waive any and all rights to apply for financial assistance from any public entitlement programs
 - Applicant must show a proficiency in the English language and complete an American civic class.
 - Temporary Workers would only be able to work for employers that deduct and match payroll taxes
 - All participants would be issued an individual Temporary-Worker Biometric Identification Card that tracks all address changes and both civil and criminal court appearances as a defendant.

WHY PUSH BACK?

- The first 3 items of the Texas Solution are good and worthy, but #4 is an outline for a guest worker program which basically grants amnesty to anyone currently in the country illegally.
- **NO ENFORCEMENT**: The platform does not contain anything about punishing employers who hire illegals.
- **Security is a serious issue, particularly for Border States like Texas.** Drug traffickers, human traffickers, terrorists, and other criminals are crossing our borders unchecked.
- **The financial burden on the American taxpayer will be high.** Current net fiscal cost per illegal household is about \$14,387/yr. Once legal status of any kind is achieved, it opens the door for more federal benefits, raising that number to about \$29,000/year. Extrapolated out, the conservative estimate for the total net cost of granting amnesty is \$6.3 TRILLION. Heritage Action has a great flyer that summarizes the fiscal cost of illegals. You can view it here:
 - **FRONT** <http://www.netarranteparty.com/wp-content/uploads/HandoutFront.pdf>
 - **BACK** <http://www.netarranteparty.com/wp-content/uploads/HandoutBack.pdf>
- **If the Texas GOP adopts this platform, with built in amnesty under the guise of the guest worker program, it will provide incentive to national Republican leadership to push for the same in other states and in Congress.** (“If Texas, the conservative bastion of states, is on board, then it must be good for conservatives!”)

WHAT IS THE GOAL?

- **Ensure that the legal status amnesty provision is not included in the 2014 platform first and foremost.** Bonus points for improving upon the positive enforcement provisions contained in the 2012 platform to align more closely with the 2010 platform.

Given that the process and committees are stacked against this effort, the next important and more achievable goal, if this first goal is not met, is to...

- **Ensure that 2014 platform that includes a legal status amnesty is seen as *highly contentious, toxic, and without support of the conservative movement within the Texas GOP.***

Even if the first goal is not achieved, the second goal makes it politically difficult for national party leaders to utilize the Texas Amnesty Solution as a vehicle to advance comprehensive immigration reform.

While not the ideal first choice, if the amnesty plank is politically neutered, then the Texas Amnesty Solution in the platform becomes little more than a clerical nuisance, to be rectified in 2016.

OVERCOMING OBJECTIONS:

You will hear many arguments for the Texas Solution. Here are a few examples, and how to counteract the objection:

Argument: It's NOT amnesty

Response: Yes it is! It is nearly the same plan that Reagan passed in 1986, and he called it amnesty, former Attorney General Edwin Meese called it amnesty, and everyone else at the time called it amnesty. If they are arguing that it's not amnesty, they are arguing against Reagan.

(See [op ed by Ed Meese in Wall Street Journal: "I Recall The 1986 Immigration Act Rather Differently"](#))

Argument: The guest worker program (GWP) will bring the illegals out of the shadows, and we'll be able to track them.

Response: A GWP applied to people who are currently residing in the US illegally would undermine the rule of law and would be a slap in the face to legal immigrants and those patiently waiting in line outside the country! A GWP would also bring with it a huge local and federal fiscal burden. In addition, it would likely lead to increased chain migration, with even more benefit obligations.

Argument: The GWP states that those people receiving temporary worker status may not apply for or receive federal benefits, so receiving benefits is not a problem.

Response: Already folks are waiting in the wings to file lawsuits when temporary workers are denied benefits. They will claim denying benefits is a human rights issue, that it constitutes taxation without representation, and very soon the courts will declare that temporary guest workers must be given access to full US benefits, including the right to vote. And remember how Obamacare was not going to be available to illegals? How's that working out?

Argument: The GWP provides for a fine to be levied on each applicant, so they're being punished for coming here illegally.

Response: The fine is about \$5000, so it doesn't even put a dent in the future tax burden to the US. It's not really a fine, it's an investment plan. (Pay \$5000 one time, stay in the US, tap into future potential benefits to the tune of about \$29,000 per year)

Argument: A GWP would stimulate the economy, providing new workers to take low paying jobs that Americans do not want.

Response: We already have a high rate of unemployment. The GWP would flood the employment market with new unemployed workers, making it even harder for citizens to find work. The increase in the supply of labor would suppress wages of hardworking Americans. Even if the GDP goes up as a result of additional workers, the US debt will rise with it, so the net effect is negative.

Argument: If we don't pass immigration reform, the Republicans will never again win a Presidential election.

Response: If we DO pass immigration reform, Republicans will never win again, because millions of new voting immigrants will continue to vote Democrat. When Reagan was re-elected in 1984, he received 37% of Hispanic vote. In 1986 he passed immigration reform with amnesty. In 1988 the Republican candidate (GHW Bush) received 31% of the Hispanic vote. Amnesty made NO DIFFERENCE!

Argument: Hispanic voters can be won over to the Republican Party because they share our family values.

Response: While Hispanic voters share our family values, they also come from countries where all wealth and prosperity flow through the government. In their world, bigger government equals more wealth and prosperity. They will continue to vote mostly Democrat!

WHAT CAN WE DO?

- Email your name, cell phone number and name of your US Congressman to Mike Olcott at marika.mike@me.com. This will enable us to send out urgent text alerts during the convention if action is needed right away.
- “Like” the facebook group dedicated to fighting this: [Protect Texas](#).
- If you are a delegate at the convention, at your first SD meeting before anything happens, ask for a point of inquiry. Then ask if the person being considered for permanent SD chair supports the Guest Worker Program in the Texas Solution platform plank. If s/he does, it might be a good idea to select a different chair.
- Contact your SREC member that is on the Platform Committee to tell them how you feel about the TX Solution in a respectful and logical way. [Here’s the list](#) of members. Also make sure to contact [Tom Mechler, the Chair](#) of this committee. He plans to run for State GOP Chair when Steve Munisteri steps down. If he wants to win that election, he might want to lighten up on his support of the Texas Amnesty Solution.
- If you are a delegate, you can testify to the platform committee against this plank. Use the arguments provided above, and state your case simply, quickly, and to-the-point. If you have never testified before, do not let that intimidate you. There will be tea parties at every meeting that you can talk with and get encouragement from. The Arlington Tea Party is making sure of that. If as many folks show up to testify every day as there were at our meeting on Friday night, we would win this thing. Below is a current schedule; however, things are very fluid. [To get the most up-to-date schedule, please click here.](#)
<http://www.texasgop.org/convention/agenda-activities/>

- MONDAY, June 2nd, noon, Temporary Platform Committee, Room 108
- TUESDAY, June 3rd, 8:30am: Temporary Platform Committee, Room 108
- WEDNESDAY, June 4th, 8:30AM Temporary Platform Committee, Room 108
- WEDNESDAY, June 4th, 4:00PM SREC Meeting, Room 201
- THURSDAY, June 5th, **5:00PM First SD Caucus Meeting, caucus rooms as assigned**
- **Election of Permanent SD Chair
Election of Permanent Committee Representatives (Rules, Platform, Credentials, Nominations)**
- THURSDAY, June 5th, 7:00PM Permanent Platform Committee, Room 108
- FRIDAY, June 6th, 9:30AM Possible Reconvene for Rules Debate **(may also include debate on PLATFORM! BE AWARE!)**
- SATURDAY, June 7th, **9:15AM Fourth General Session – Debate and Adoption of RPT platform**
- SATURDAY, June 7th, NOON, Break for lunch if needed
1:00PM Resume Fourth General Session, if needed ←- DO NOT MISS THIS!!!!

Bottom line? Be Persuasive. Ee LOUD! Remember that if we push back enough, even the adopted platform as written will carry less weight because of the grassroots uproar. (Remember how conservatives pushed back against immigration reform in 2006, during the Bush administration? We need to do it again!)



**STOP
AMNESTY**

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