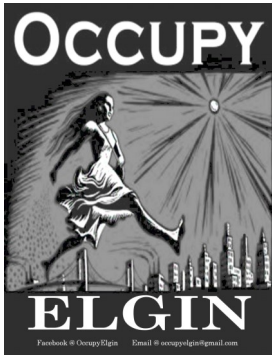


We Stand With Migrants!



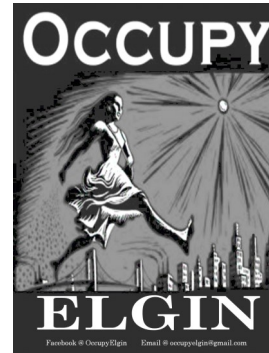
Biden's popularity is plummeting. In the face of withering Republican attacks, he's further weakening his bid for a second term with his willingness to compromise on humane immigration reform, which in 2020 was a cornerstone of his campaign.

CBS in a recent report explains why. Republicans in the House have refused to release emergency military funding for Israel, Taiwan, and Ukraine until Biden agrees to build Trump's wall and militarize the border. Biden is desperate and has allegedly signaled his willingness to effectively close the border by increasing deportations, exacting harsher detentions, and denying asylum-seekers their right to screenings, all in an effort to deter migrants from coming.

At the start of his administration, Biden ended some of Trump's worst migrant policies. But since then, Democrats have sidelined the issue and, except for Ukrainian war refugees, Biden's support has virtually disappeared. Last year 142,000 migrants were deported, double the number in 2022; of these, nearly 18,000 were parents and children traveling as families. By way of comparison, during Trump's last year in office, 14,400 of such family units were deported.

More ominously, a *Wall Street Journal* poll last month reported that, next to the economy, the southern border is the second most important election issue and that 54% said Trump could handle it better than Biden while only 24% believed the reverse. Meanwhile, the US Secretary of State visited with Mexico's president and urged him to stop migrants from reaching the US/Mexico border.

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Readers of our past flyers on immigration need no reminder that Mexico will not do our government's dirty work for it, nor do they need reminders that US sanctions, violence, poverty, and climate change—much of it the result of US imperialism—are a major cause of forced migration from Venezuela, Cuba, and Central America.

As though people in the US were not confused and frightened enough by this manufactured “border crisis,” Texas Governor Abbott has further stoked the flames of racism and xenophobia by sending busloads and planes filled with homeless migrants northward. Without water, food, or proper winter clothing, they are being dropped off unannounced in places across the United States unprepared to shelter them.

In 2023, Illinois received 27,000 migrants from Texas. Chicago has threatened to issue fines if Texas fails to give prior notice and last December 13th it actually impounded a bus, so now buses are unloading in Elburn and Aurora and planes are flying into Rockford rather than O'Hare or Midway. None of these communities has the resources or personnel to handle the influx—and Washington is providing no assistance while calling for more deportations and stricter, Trump era family detentions.. It's unconscionable!

With little evidence to back up their hysterical claims of “unprecedented levels” of “illegal migrant crossings,” Republicans have cowed Democrats into silence. Call President Biden (202-456-1111 and urge him to stand firm in support of a speedy and fair process of safe passage into the US for all asylum seekers and migrants.

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