

Topic: Border Security

Issue: Should the U.S. government build a border wall in Southern Arizona and add 15,000 more Border Patrol and Immigration Officers?

Our Position: We should not build a border wall or additional detention facilities or add more personnel to secure the border. Fostering relationships across borders builds security in both countries.

Why do we have this position?

2015 had the fewest border apprehensions in the Tucson Sector in the past 25 years.

"Shifting Challenges on Rugged Arizona Line," Peria Treviso, Arizona Daily Star, July 10, 2016.

In the past 10 years the number of Border Patrol agents has grown from 12,000 to 20,000, and the Customs and Border Patrol budget has doubled to \$13.6 billion a year.

Department of Homeland Security Budgets 2006 & 2016. www.dhs.gov.

Trump's wall could cost from \$27-\$40 billion. This money could better be used for border technology and for schools, healthcare, job training, roads and bridges.

"Bad Math Props Up Trump's Border Wall," Konstantin Kakaes, MIT Technology Review, 1/18/16.

Insisting that Mexico, our 3rd largest trade partner, pay for the wall, has created strains in U.S.-Mexico relationship.

"Tillerson, Kelly head to Mexico amid deep strains in bilateral ties," Antonio Olivo, The Washington Post, 2/23/17.

The wall and an estimated 20% import tax could negatively impact the 100,000 jobs in Arizona that are supported by trade with Mexico.

"Proposed 20% tax could have a huge impact on AZ economy," Barbara Grijalva, TucsonNewsNow, 1/27/17.

According to the Arizona Daily Star: "It is tough to find anyone living along the borderlands—even those who agree with Trump that the international line is not secure—who thinks a wall is the solution."

"Arizona Daily Star Opinion: We do not need Trump's Wall," Editorial Board, Arizona Daily Star, 1/28/17.

Most hard drugs come through U.S. ports of entry, not across the borderlands.

Arizona Daily Star Opinion: We do not need Trump's Wall," Editorial Board, Arizona Daily Star, 1/28/17.

Tunnels, drones, catapults, etc. can make walls ineffective.

"As Donald Trump Calls for Wall on Mexican Border, Smugglers Dig Tunnels," Ron Nixon, New York Times, 9/2/16.

Less costly and more humane controls on migrants who await their hearings should be expanded rather than building new detention facilities. Today's 34,000 detention beds cost U.S. taxpayers \$5.5 million a day.

"Alternatives to Detention," Detention Watch Network, www.detentionwatchnetwork.org.

"The Immigration Facts Donald Trump Doesn't Like," Editorial Board, New York Times, 2/25/17.

"Expedited Removal," a process in which low-level immigration officers use their unchecked authority to quickly deport migrants who have no right to appeal their deportation, and little time to gather evidence or find lawyers to support their right to remain in the U.S., will be expanded by adding 10,000 new immigration and customs agents.

"Executive Order: Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States," The White House, 1/25/2017.

"A Primer on Expedited Removal," American Immigration Council, 2/20/17.

Operation Streamline, while not held at the border, has as its objective the deterring of migrants from crossing it. It is a mass sentencing and imprisonment of the undocumented that has been criticized for its lack of due process, high cost of imprisonment (mostly in private prisons), and failure to deter migrants from entering the U.S. We oppose any expansion of Operation Streamline in Tucson and in Yuma.

"Streamline: Measuring Its Effect on Illegal Border Crossing," Office of Inspector General, Homeland Security, May 15, 2015.