

Immigrants as Gifts

Proposal

Sanctuary cities will provide sanctuary to people who could greatly increase the economic strength of our communities without increasing the crime rate or stealing American jobs. Sanctuary cities make us all safer and better off, so this is why NC should promote sanctuary cities and repeal Senate Bill 45, which make sanctuary cities illegal.¹ America is a gift to many immigrants, but the immigrants are a gift to us as well. We must have sanctuary cities to protect our gifts and their families.

Introduction

The issue of immigration has always been a major topic of discussion in the United States. This country has been a nation of immigrants since its founding and it continues to be so to this day.

- The foreign-born population reached 40 million in 2010.²
- 10 million documented immigrants entered the country in the first decade of the 21st century.³
- There are currently 11 million undocumented immigrants in the US.⁴

THE ISSUE OF FEDERALISM

Many Cities Argues that it is their right to choose whether or not to help federal agents deport or detain their residents.

The Federal Government argues that the supremacy clause requires cities to support them in their efforts because federal law supersedes state and local law. They argue that it is not an issue of the the 10th amendment.

¹ Senator Sander. "Senate Bill 145." (NC General Assembly, Raleigh, NC; 2017). <https://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=%0A2017%0A&BillID=S0145>

² "The Foreign-Born Population in the United States," (Census Bureau, Washington DC, 2012.) 2010.

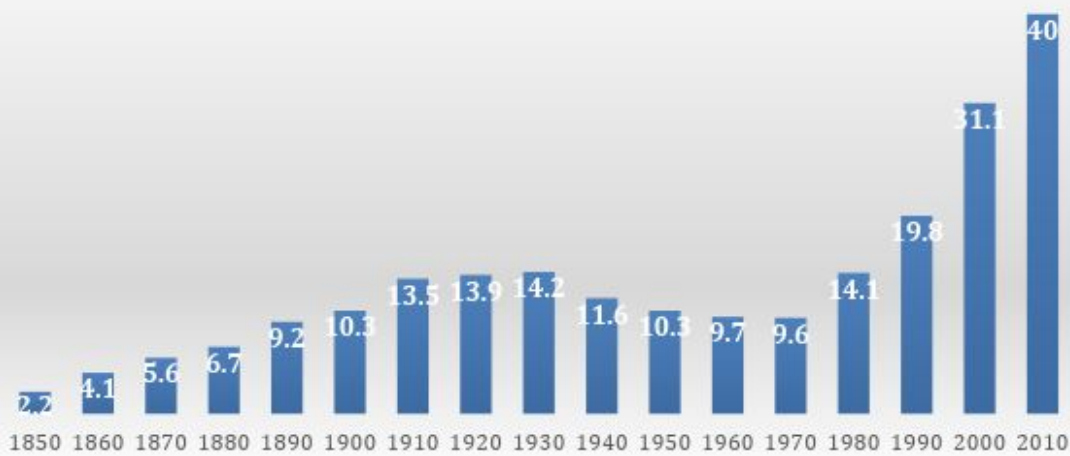
³ Deneesh Sohoni, "Restrictionist Discourse by the Number: The Framing of Demographic Impacts of Immigration," *Journal of Social Problems* 64, no.4 (2017) 476-496. <https://academic.oup.com/socpro/article/64/4/476/4111338>

⁴ Jens Manuel Krogstad, Jeffrey S. Passel, and D,Vera Cohn, "5 Facts about Illegal Immigration in the U.S."

Pew Research Center, Apr 27, 2017. <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/04/27/5-facts-about-illegal-immigration-in-the-u-s/>

Foreign-Born Population

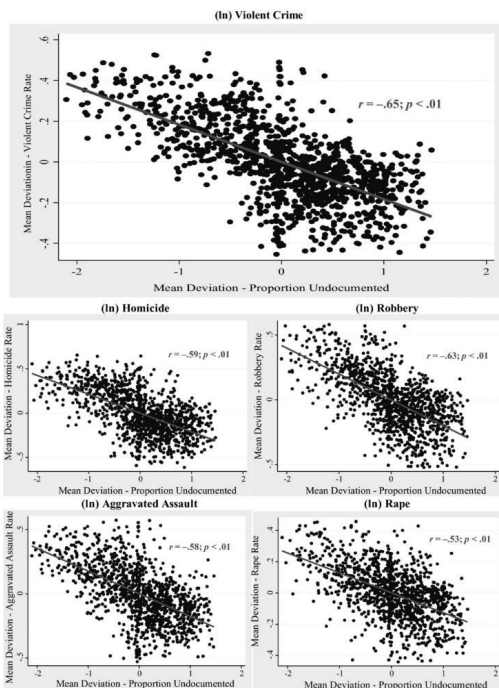
Foreign Born Population (Millions)



One of the most important debates to come out of the growing foreign-born

population in the United States is the issue of sanctuary cities. **Figure 1** records the number of both undocumented and documented immigrants throughout American history. Sanctuary cities provide refuges for immigrants by refusing to work with immigration authorities such as ICE.⁵ The debate has centered around the issue of federalism.

Immigration and Crime



There is a common belief that immigrants commit more crimes than native born citizens. In reality immigrant commit less crimes than their native-born counterparts and actually reduce the crime rate in cities.⁶ **Figure 2** to the left shows immigrants actually decrease the crime rate in communities because they are less likely to commit a crime than native-born Americans. It is

Cities." *Boston College Law Review* 59, no.5 (2018) 1703-1774. [lection=journals&handle=hein.journals/bclr59&id=1735&men_tab=s](https://onlinejournal.bclrlaw.com/handle/hein.journals/bclr59&id=1735&men_tab=s)

⁶ Michael T. Light and Ty Miller "Does Undocumented Immigration Increase Crime?," *Criminology* 56, no. 2. (2018) 370-401. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/1745-9125.12175>

dangerous for foreign-born immigrants, especially undocumented foreign-born immigrants, to commit crimes because they could be sent back to their country of origin.

Immigration and the Economy

Immigrants are economic boons to cities because they create many jobs for both native-born and foreign-born Americans and have little impact on American wages and job prospects. 51% of billion-dollar startups are created by

immigrants.⁷ Immigrants found more billion-dollar startups than native-born citizens, even though immigrants make-up less of the total population of the United States. They create jobs for hard-working

American families. It has also been found that there is no statistically significant impact of immigration on the wages and job prospects of native-born citizens.⁸ Taken together, these two facts show that immigrants are job creators instead of job stealers.

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⁷ Stuart Anderson, "Immigrants and Billion-Dollar Start-Ups," *National Foundation for American Policy*, 2016. 1-33.
<http://nfap.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Immigrants-and-Billion-Dollar-Startups.NFAP-Policy-Brief.March-2016.pdf>

⁸ Giovanni Peri and Chad Sparber. "Task Specialization, Immigration, and Wages," *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 1 no.3 (2009) 135-169.
https://www.jstor.org/stable/25760175?pg-origsite=summon&seq=1#metadata_info_tab_content

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