



Conservative Reform Agenda “Secure Borders”

Background

For the last four years the crisis at our southern border has not improved. Today, approximately the same number of illegal crossings occur on our southern border as occurred four years ago. That averages about 5,000 illegal crossing per day and approximately 5 million illegal crossings since Janet Napolitano became Governor. In a post 9/11 world this is unacceptable.

In 2003, 2004 and 2005 Janet Napolitano made almost no mention of our border crisis in her State of the State address. Finally in 2006, as we began the election cycle, she made brief mention in her State of the State address of the crisis at the border but did little to back up her words.

Janet Napolitano has staked her claim to handling the immigration crisis on one thing -- waiting for the federal government to act. After opposing use of the National Guard early in her administration, the political ground shifted beneath her feet and she reacted by flip-flopping and then taking credit when President Bush began to use the Guard at the border.

In point of fact, Janet Napolitano does not believe we can secure our southern border. Her own words in the Washington Post reveal this:

"We're not going to seal the border; we can't," she said, referring to vast stretches of forbidding desert. "When I hear congressional and media people saying, 'Shut the border,' I think to myself, 'They've never seen the border.' You can't possibly have been to the Arizona-Mexico border and believe that is possible."

The first purpose of government is to provide for the security of its citizens. In the 20th century we liberated Europe twice and put a man on the moon. Do we seriously believe that in the 21st century we are unable to secure a few hundred miles of Arizona's southern border?

Put simply, after four years of inaction, Janet Napolitano cannot be trusted to provide the security our state demands at the border.

The people of Arizona are ready to take action. The money we spend to deter illegal crossings will be more than made up for by the protection this will provide from terrorist threats, crime, environmental damage, and overcrowded schools, emergency rooms and other drains on social services.

In 2006, Arizonan taxpayers are burdened with annual costs of approximately \$1.3 billion due to illegal immigrants residing in the state. The three areas that create the greatest costs are education, health care and prison expenses. These costs are broken down as follows:

- Education - \$800 million
- Health care - \$400 million
- Incarceration - \$100 million

(Costs are estimates based on analysis by the Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) and other published reports.) If the approach advocated by the current governor (to simply wait for the federal government to address the problem) is continued over the next four years, we can expect the costs to increase by approximately another \$1 billion dollars for a total cost of \$2.3 billion annually.

These are costs borne primarily by the taxpayers of the state of Arizona.

If the anti-illegal immigration measures passed by the legislature but vetoed by the current governor had been enacted, there would clearly have been a significant decrease in all of these costs. For example, a decrease of 50 percent would have saved the state \$650 million annually based on current expenditures alone.

Our approach to border security requires an up-front investment that will reap huge financial and quality of life dividends for Arizonans very quickly.

Policy

(1) Immediately deploy the Arizona National Guard and assign it the mission of securing Arizona’s southern border, working cooperatively with U.S. Border Patrol and ongoing Operation Jump Start. The Governor is authorized under A.R.S. sec. 26-172 to “mobilize all or any part” of the National Guard when the Governor proclaims an emergency or “deems it necessary to protect lives or property.”

(2) Seek funding to create the “Arizona Border Patrol” as a division of the Department of Public Safety. Law enforcement will play a significant role in safeguarding Arizona from the ongoing effects of illegal immigration.

(3) Seek funding to deploy radar technology the entire length of Arizona’s southern border, complementing current Border Patrol efforts and covering those areas that are currently unprotected.

(4) Provide additional resources to law enforcement, the courts and all necessary components for the criminal justice system to process illegal aliens quickly and move them out of the state system.

Below is a summary of estimated costs to implement these goals:
(Dollars in Thousands)

	<u>FY 2007</u>	<u>FY 2008</u>	<u>FY 2009</u>	<u>FY 2010</u>
(1) National Guard	40,000	20,000	10,000	5,000
(2) Arizona Border Patrol	25,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
(3) Radar Technology	50,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
(4) Additional State Resources	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>	<u>50,000</u>
Totals	165,000	125,000	115,000	110,000

* Numbers assume 400 National Guard in FY 2007

(5) Work with the Attorney General’s Office to form a new “Illegal Alien Prosecution Unit” tasked with not only prosecuting violations of Arizona’s Anti-Coyote Law resulting from the deployment of state resources to the border, but to also complement any efforts undertaken by County Sheriffs to enforce the Anti-Coyote Law.

(6) Work in partnership with the Legislature to craft additional legislation to provide Arizona law enforcement with additional tools to address the ongoing impact and effects of illegal immigration. These efforts will include a criminal trespass measure and employer enforcement provisions designed to punish employers who knowingly hire illegal aliens.

(7) Partner with our federal counterparts to develop a formal protocol resulting in a commitment from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) to take custody of individuals identified as illegal aliens within 24 – 72 hours of their initial detention and for local law enforcement to be reimbursed the costs of detention.

(8) Advocate for greater participation by Arizona law enforcement agencies in the free training provided by ICE to qualify designated law enforcement officers to conduct the initial immigration interview process to speed transfer of custody from Arizona law enforcement agencies to ICE for further proceedings.