ASK THE CANDIDATES

Where do you stand on immigration and refugee policies?

- What would you include in your approach to immigration enforcement on the U.S.-Mexico border? What will you do to ensure the U.S. upholds national and international law by giving those fleeing violence and persecution safe and fair opportunities to seek asylum? What will you do to make sure no families are separated due to immigration enforcement or detention?

- Will you commit to increasing the annual refugee cap? How will you assist integration of and support for refugees and asylees once they are in the U.S.?

- Do you believe state and local law enforcement resources should be used to assist in ICE operations? How would you limit state or local law enforcement collaboration with ICE? What will you do to ensure North Carolina’s courthouses, schools, and medical facilities are safe from immigration enforcement operations?

- Do you support a pathway to citizenship for DREAMers and recipients of Temporary Protected Status (TPS) that is independent of increased funding for ICE? How do you plan to otherwise improve our immigration system and to reduce backlogs on humanitarian, family, and employment-based visas?

The Trump Administration is intentionally stoking fear and misinformation about immigrants and refugees.

President Trump has long used the issue of immigration to divide our country. Through misguided and dangerous policy decisions, as well as anti-immigrant rhetoric and fear mongering, he has torn families apart, shirked international obligations, worked to exclude both people of color and people of low or moderate incomes from the U.S. His decisions have led to unprecedented backlogs in visa processing and in the courts, keeping U.S. citizens and lawful residents separated from their families and preventing U.S. employers from sponsoring workers they need to compete in a global economy.

FACTS YOU CAN USE

- Immigrants make up nearly 8 percent of North Carolina’s population and 11 percent of the state’s labor force. They are our neighbors, classmates, co-workers, and family members. They operate roughly 20 percent of North Carolina’s Main Street businesses, and account for 80 percent of the net new Main Street businesses opened in the last two decades.

- There are almost 34,000 individuals in North Carolina who are eligible for DACA and nearly 12,000 who are eligible for TPS.

- Since January 2017, the Trump Administration has separated more than 5,400 children from their families at the border.

- The Trump Administration recently set the ceiling for 2020 refugee resettlements to the United States at 18,000, 16 percent of the 110,000-person cap that existed when Trump took office.

- As of February 2020, there are over 1 million cases pending in the immigration court system, almost double the number of cases (516,031) that were pending at the end of 2016.

- More than 20 other states guarantee in-state tuition for qualified high school graduates, regardless of their immigration status. Currently, undocumented students and DACA beneficiaries are charged out-of-state tuition, even if they have lived in North Carolina for most of their lives and have graduated in good standing from a North Carolina high school.

DID YOU GET A REAL, MEANINGFUL ANSWER TO YOUR QUESTION?

If not, here are some follow-up questions that might help you get a more specific answer:

- Please be more specific about the actions you will take to implement your plan.
- Can you tell me about what principles or values will guide your decisions on this issue?
- What are the problems you see in the current approach?

VISIT WWW.NCJUSTICE.ORG/ELECTION2020 TO SHARE THE ANSWERS YOU RECEIVED.