FOR CENTURIES, people from other countries have come to the United States in search of a better life. The steady influx of newcomers helped build America, creating a mix of cultures, religions, and ethnicities not found anywhere else in the world. Today, people born in another country make up around 13 percent of the US population.

Who should we welcome, what should we do?

Option 1: Welcome Immigrants, Be a Beacon of Freedom

- **Actions:** Give those who entered the US without permission years ago a path to legal status. It's time to bring in and welcome those who have become part of our communities.
- **Drawbacks:** Millions of Americans are unemployed. We should focus on the training needed to upskill our own citizens.

Welcome immigrants who are willing to work, whether in low-skilled jobs many Americans do not want, or in high-skill jobs where there are shortages.

Accept more refugees fleeing war and persecution in countries like Syria. We have a moral obligation to help.

Provide legal residency and the ability to apply for citizenship to unconditional immigrants who were brought to the United States as young children, sometimes called ‘DREAMers.’

Allow all residents to vote in state elections, regardless of whether they are citizens or not.

Option 2: Enforce the Law, Be Fair to Those Who Follow the Rules

- **Actions:** Identify people who entered the country illegally and deport them. Require that they apply for entry.
- **Drawbacks:** This undermines law enforcement by making immigrants afraid of reporting crimes and talking to police. It also leads to racial profiling. This will harm families and communities apart. The punishment far outweighs the crime and is impractical.

THIS OPTION SAYS THAT IMMIGRATION HAS HELPED MAKE AMERICA WHAT IT IS TODAY—a dynamic and diverse culture, an engine of the global economy, and a beacon of freedom around the world. We should develop an immigration policy that builds on that tradition, one that welcomes newcomers, helps integrate immigrant families stay together, and protects those fleeing from war and oppression. Welcoming immigrants is not only the right thing to do; it benefits our culture and our economy. To remain competitive in a fast-changing global marketplace, the United States needs newcomers who are willing to contribute their talents to strengthening America’s culture of ingenuity and entrepreneurship.

A Primary Drawback

This will harm millions of people now living in our communities and contributing to our society. It will spread hate in cities and towns across the United States.

Option 3: Slow Down and Rebuild Our Common Bonds

- **Actions:** Reduce the number of legal immigrants admitted to the United States each year.
- **Drawbacks:** This undermines the long-term image of the United States as a welcoming land of freedom, and expression of the workers serving in key industries like agriculture and construction.

This would place an extra burden on some immigrants—especially those who are willing to take on some of the back-breaking jobs most Americans do not want.

Restrict family reunification to spouses and young children, and concentrate on admissible immigrants who will work in areas where we need them.

Rather than focusing on providing bilingual school programs, schools should ramp up efforts to help newcomers learn English and advance curricular efforts to learn about American culture and democratic values.

Welcome refugees feeling political and religious persecution while making sure they are not all resettled in the same place, which undermines a community’s ability to provide the help refugees need and makes it harder for refugees to become part of the larger community.