

This Week's Friday Report



San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

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FRIDAY REPORT: Jul 11, 2008

Upcoming Events

Jul 11 - Business Mixer with California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Jul 11-12 - Quarterly Board Meeting with California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Jul 17 - Latina Style Business Series

Check the "Mark Your Calendars" Section for more information about these events.

Weather

San Francisco Weekend Weather



NEWS

Immigrant Pathways to Legal Permanent Residence: Now and Under a Merit-Based System -- Route to Getting a Green Card Often Includes Illegal Entry or Visa Violation

By Joseph M. Hayes and Laura E. Hill, Public Policy Institute of California
SAN FRANCISCO, California , June 4, 2008

Many immigrants who recently became legal permanent residents first lived in the United States illegally, according to a report released today by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC). This is particularly true in California , where more than half lived in the state illegally before getting green cards.

The report analyzes the pathways immigrants take to become legal permanent residents and finds them far from straightforward. It sheds light on the poorly understood system that selects which immigrants can live here permanently. The findings can help guide lawmakers as they weigh policy changes, from sweeping reform bills like the one debated in 2007 to current efforts aimed at securing more green cards for foreign-born engineers.

The report finds that rather than being new arrivals, most immigrants have lived in the United States for some time when they get their green cards, the official identification of a legal permanent resident.

"The public debate about immigration can be so simplistic," says Laura Hill, PPIC research fellow, who co-authored the report with PPIC research associate Joseph Hayes. "Immigrants are characterized as either legal or illegal. But it's more complicated. It's very common for immigrants to move from illegal to legal status. It's also common for them to move from legal to illegal if they overstay a visa."

The report is based on a representative survey of immigrants who became legal permanent residents in the United States in 2003. This information is more detailed and rich than typical federal data on the foreign-born. Among its findings:

- Fewer than four in 10 (38%) legal permanent residents were new to the United States when they got their green cards and many had lived here illegally for at least some time. In California , more than half (52%) had lived in the country illegally. They either crossed the border illegally (35%) or violated the terms of their visas by overstaying a tourist visa or by working when they were not authorized (18%). In the United States , about four in 10 (42%) first lived in the country illegally. This group was more evenly divided between those who crossed the border illegally (20%) or violated their visa terms (22%).
- In the nation as a whole, the pathways that immigrants ? whether legal or illegal ? took to legal residency differed significantly according to their home countries. Those who came from Asia and the Pacific were more likely to be new arrivals to the U.S. (53%). Those who came from Latin America and the Caribbean

were more likely to have crossed the border illegally (41%) than immigrants from other regions. Those who violated their visa terms at some point before getting green cards were more likely to have come from the Mideast/North Africa (31%) or Europe/Central Asia (27%).

- In the U.S. overall, immigrants who crossed the border illegally before becoming legal permanent residents were likely to be less educated and less proficient in English than recent permanent residents overall, but they were much more likely to be currently employed (72% vs. 56%). Immigrants who had violated the terms of their visas before becoming legal permanent residents were more educated, more likely to speak English well or very well, and also more likely to be currently employed than recent legal permanent residents overall (66% vs. 56%).
- Understanding how factors such as country of origin or education currently affect immigrants? opportunities and choices about settling in the United States can help policymakers as they consider proposals for change. The current system, in effect since 1965, gives preference to immigrants who seek to reunite with family members already here or to those in certain occupational categories.

The PPIC report, *Immigrant Pathways to Legal Permanent Residence: Now and Under a Merit-Based System*, also analyzes the potential impact of the reform bill of 2007. Although the measure failed, key aspects are likely to resurface in the future.

The reform bill included a merit-based point system that placed greater weight on employment in the United States in specific fields, advanced education, and English proficiency in considering who should be allowed to immigrate. The study concludes that the many of the intended reforms of the bill may not have occurred in practice. For example, an engineer with a PhD and English proficiency would not necessarily have enough points to become a legal permanent resident without some prior work experience in the United States. This analysis can inform policy debate in the future by showing whether the goals of new reform proposals are likely to be met in practice.

ABOUT PPIC

The Public Policy Institute of California is a private, nonprofit organization dedicated to informing and improving public policy in California through independent, objective, nonpartisan research on major economic, social, and political issues. The institute was established in 1994 with an endowment from William R. Hewlett. PPIC does not take or support positions on any ballot measure or on any local, state, or federal legislation, nor does it endorse, support, or oppose any political parties or candidates for public office.

[DOWNLOAD FULL REPORT](#)

Consumer Alert

The IRS warns taxpayers to be on the alert for e-mails and phone calls they may receive which claim to come from the IRS or other federal agency and which mention their tax refund or economic stimulus payment. These are almost certainly a scam whose purpose is to obtain personal and financial information ? such as name, Social Security number, bank account and credit card or even PIN numbers ? from taxpayers which can be used by the scammers to commit identity theft. The e-mails and calls usually state that the IRS needs the information to process a refund or stimulus payment or deposit it into the taxpayer's bank account. The e-mails often contain links or attachments to what appears to be the IRS Web site or an IRS "refund application form." However genuine in appearance, these phonies are designed to elicit the information the scammers are looking for.

The IRS does not send taxpayers e-mails about their tax accounts. Additionally, the way to get a tax refund or stimulus payment, or to arrange for a direct deposit, is to file a tax return.

For more information on consumer scams, see *Suspicious e-Mails and Identity Theft* by visiting <http://www.irs.gov/newsroom/article/0,,id=155682,00.html>

Unprecedented Campaign to Win Health Reform in 2009 Launches in California and Nationwide -- Mayor Newsom Joins with Community, Labor, and Grassroots Groups in Push for Quality, Affordable Health Care for Every American

07/08/08

In key California cities of national importance to the health care reform debate, and in 52 other cities across the country, including 37 state capitals, a new national campaign is bringing together millions of Americans to demand quality, affordable health care for all.

Health Care for America Now (HCAN) is being launched nationally by over 100 national and local groups that represent community organizations, labor, doctors, nurses, women, small businesses, faith-based organizations, people of color, netroots activists, and think tanks. Health Care for America Now is organizing to assure that the first order of business of the next President and Congress is to pass legislation in 2009 that guarantees quality, affordable health care for all.

A BROAD COALITION: Health Care for America Now is an unprecedented coalition led by ACORN, AFSCME, Americans United for Change, Campaign for America's Future, Center for American Progress Action Fund, Center for Community Change, MoveOn, National Education Association, National Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, SEIU, United Food and Commercial Workers, and USAction.

"In 2009, we will either have a guarantee of quality, affordable health care we all can count on or we will continue to be at the mercy of the private health insurance industry that is charging us more, giving us less and putting company profits before our health," said Nancy Berlin, director of the California Partnership. "We'll be asking our elected leaders "what side are they on?" Are you on the side of quality, affordable health care? Or are you on the side of being left alone to fend for yourself in a complicated, bureaucratic insurance market?" said Giselle Quezada, board member of ACORN at the city, state, and national levels.

AN UNPRECEDENTED EFFORT: Starting today, the campaign is spending an initial \$1.5 million on national television, print, and online advertising and is sending out an email blast to more than 5 million people. Over the next five months, Health Care for America Now plans to spend \$25 million in paid media and have 100 organizers in 45 states.

THE CAMPAIGN IN CALIFORNIA: Leading the field effort in California is Health Access California, California ACORN, and the California Partnership, in active partnership with many of the California groups participating in the launch events, including: the California Labor Federation, AFSCME, CREDO Mobile, MoveOn, California Teachers Association, Committee of Interns and Residents, Planned Parenthood Affiliates of California, SEIU, Small Business Majority, Universal Health Care Action Network, United Nurses Association of California, United Food and Commercial Workers, and others.

This campaign focused on Congress will be coordinate with continued active efforts of California organizations to press for state-based health reform. "We believe we have opportunities at both the state and federal levels to push for health reform in 2009; California can and should be a leader, to influence the national discussion and to meet the particularly urgent needs here in the Golden State ." Said Anthony Wright, executive director of Health Access California, the statewide consumer advocacy coalition. "We need the federal government to be a partner and a leader, rather than an obstacle, in reforming our health system. We will work to ensure that commitment is shared by our elected leaders."

The events in California spotlighted the challenges and opportunities of this national campaign.

- An event in front of Los Angeles County Hospital spotlighted the city as "ground zero" for the health care crisis nationally, with closing emergency rooms and one of the highest rates of uninsured in the nation. "I've seen the insurers and the special interests line up against health reform again and again, and this

campaign is needed to make sure it gets done." said Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, who formerly served as California's Insurance Commissioner and was a leader in the national health reform debate in the early 1990. "Nobody needs health reform more than Californians facing a broken health system,"

- An event in front of City Hall in San Francisco spotlighted a city not only hosts the leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, but that also shows health reform is possible and meet many of the principles advanced by the HCAN coalition. " San Francisco has shown that healthcare reform is not only the right thing to do but is economically feasible," said Mayor Gavin Newsom, who just celebrated the one-year anniversary of the implementation of their universal healthcare program, Healthy San Francisco. "What San Francisco has done is not the end but the beginning. We need our state and federal leaders to take immediate and aggressive action on health reform."

Health Care for America Now offers a bold new vision for health care reform: Americans can keep the private insurance they have, but would also have new options, including a choice of private or public health coverage plans. The campaign also calls for new rules to be enforced on an insurance industry which consistently charges whatever it wants, sets high deductibles, denies coverage based on pre-existing conditions, and drops coverage when people get sick.

Health Care for America Now started with a financial commitment of at least \$500,000 from each of the 13 steering committee members and a \$10 million grant from NY-based Atlantic Philanthropies.

Health Care for America Now ("HCAN"), a section 501(c)(4) issue advocacy organization, is a broad coalition of nonprofit and political organizations that are working to promote quality, affordable health care for all Americans. HCAN and each of its members conducts and funds only activities appropriate to its tax and election law status.

Mayor Newsom Lauds Passage of Legislation to Improve Construction Contracting with City

07/08/08

Mayor Gavin Newsom today praised the Board of Supervisors' passage of legislation sponsored by Supervisor Carmen Chu, which implements several recommendations developed by a City Task Force that will make it easier for qualified construction contractors to bid on and receive payment for major City projects.

The legislation addresses several barriers to efficient contracting between City Departments and qualified construction and engineering firms, including timely payments for completed projects, limiting the number of bidders for major projects to only the most qualified firms and improving integration between the design and construction phases of projects to keep them within budget.

"With a building boom still underway in California and around the world, we face a very competitive bidding environment for the City's major infrastructure and construction projects, today and in the future," said Mayor Newsom. "This contracting reform legislation will make it easier for the most qualified firms to bid on our most important projects and help ensure better cooperation, payment processing and fiscal accountability once they're awarded."

Supervisor Chu's legislation was developed in concert with the City Construction Contracting Task Force, the City Attorney's Office, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC), Department of Public Works and other City Departments. The Task Force found that contractors were reluctant to bid with the City due to high costs of bids, perceived bureaucratic delays and a large list of requirements unique to San Francisco. The legislation amends Chapter Six of the Administrative Code and brings City contracting requirements in line with those of the State.

"Bidding for work on city projects has become more and more difficult," said Supervisor Chu. "With the passage of this legislation, we are able to remove some of the bureaucratic hurdles that come with working with the City. The result will be more bidders on city work and money saved for the City."

"This legislation will greatly improve the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of contracting with the City," said City Attorney Dennis Herrera. "It addresses many of the hurdles that even the most qualified bidders face when competing for City construction projects while preserving the economic and social responsibilities that San Francisco requires of its contractors."

The legislation's provisions will:

- Expedite payment processing: The legislation reduces the maximum amount the City may withhold in retention during the course of a project. It also removes the requirement that once a contract is 95% complete, the City makes no further payments to the contractor until the project is 100% complete.
- Support the most qualified bidders: The legislation allows the City to prepare a bid list for design-build construction contracts based upon qualifications, and to prepare from the pool of qualified bidders a restricted list based on qualification ranking. The ordinance allows the City, at its discretion, to grant a "stipend" for complex projects to enable bidders to develop designs as part of their bids. This change will likely increase the number of contractors willing to bid on design-build contracts, which can be very complex to prepare.
- Expand City's flexibility in setting bid requirements and negotiating contracts: When a contract has been advertised and no bids have been received, or only one bid is received, departments are authorized to modify some requirements of the contract in order to make the contract more attractive to contractors. If further outreach efforts or modification of the contract would not seem to entice more bidders, then the city may negotiate with a qualified contractor in order to execute the contract.
- Improve coordination, fiscal accountability of projects: The legislation authorizes and clarifies the process for Integrated Project Delivery. This is an approach to procurement of construction services where a construction manager/general contractor is retained during the design process to review the architect/engineer's design for constructability and cost. Having a construction manager/general contractor participate in the design process on certain projects can help those projects stay within budget.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Jul 11 - Business Mixer with California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

Northern Region Members of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce (CHCC) will meet July 11th to kick off the agenda for the State Convention scheduled in San Francisco in August.

Join us for this unique Business Mixer to gather convention participants, Chamber hosts of the convention, and all those interested in learning more about the convention activities to enjoy lively conversation, mix and mingle, build new contacts and get re-acquainted with old ones at some of San Francisco's grandest hotels.

Join the CHCC and SFHCC in partnership with the Hispanic Chambers of the Northern Region for a unique opportunity to network with other Latino professionals and learn how the different organizations can make your business grow. Remember, people are more likely to do business with and refer to someone they know and trust!

Hosted by: California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce & San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Time: 6:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Location: Intercontinental Mark Hopkins Hotel

Cost:

Members: \$5

Non-Members: \$10

[Register Online](#)

Jul 11-12 - Quarterly Board Meeting with California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

The California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce have board meetings scheduled at the legendary Intercontinental Mark Hopkins located at 1 Nob Hill. The Northern Region board meeting is scheduled from 8am-5pm on Friday, July 11th. The state board meeting is scheduled from 8am-5pm on Saturday, July 12th. If you are interested in regional or state activities and discussion items, you are welcome to participate.

Jul 17 - Latina Style Business Series

Join us from 8a-4p at the Grand Hyatt San Francisco on Union Square at 345 Stockton Street for the most successful development program for Latina business women in the nation.

LATINA Style Magazine, the premier magazine addressing the needs of the Latina professional and business owner, is proud to present the LATINA Style Business Series. This interactive business development program brings together Latina business owners with key corporations and government agencies that provide the goods and services needed by these outstanding entrepreneurs to create or expand their business. Over 10,000 Latina entrepreneurs have participated in the Business Series since its inception in 1998 with the guidance of the U.S. Small Business Administration.

- Do you have what it takes to run a multimillion dollar enterprise?
- Are you providing your team with essential tools and benefits to succeed?
- Do you want to take your business communications and network to the next level?
- Want to learn how to succeed in today's Supply Chain?
- Is your branding and image where it needs to be?
- Are you balancing your business and personal life in a meaningful way?

Then don't miss the premier business development program for women in the nation!

Take advantage of the discounted registration fee of \$30 by Mon Jul 14 (\$60 after Jul 14). For more information or to register, visit www.bs.latinastyle.com or contact Randy Ramat at 800-651-8083 or by emailing randy@latinastyle.com.

PROCUREMENT

Jul 18 - Northern California Supplier Development Council Minority Business Opportunity Expo



2008 promises to be our most valuable and memorable Expo to date! Join us at the Festival Pavilion @ Fort Mason located at Marina Boulevard and Buchanan Street from 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

NCSDC will provide display area and signage; save time & money on logistics, concentrate on business relationships. Internet Café - stay connected while you pursue new business. Customized one-on-one matchmaking opportunities.

For more information please contact NCSDC @ (510) 686-2555 .

Registration: http://ncsdc.org/Register_EventMember_Login.aspx?id=141

Contracting Newsletter

The Business Outreach Committee has introduced a Contracting Newsletter to assist DBE and SBE firms in doing business with Bay Area Transportation Agencies. It will provide one document that offers links to agency procurement information, information on upcoming DBE and SBE events, and agency contact information for AC Transit; BART; Central Contra Costa Transit Authority; Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District; Metropolitan Transportation Commission; San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency; SamTans; and VTA.

[Newsletter](#)

Business Outreach Committee Contracting Newsletter #2, June 2008

[Click Here to download](#)

EVENTS BY OTHER ORGANIZATIONS

July 12~15 - 2008 NCLR Annual Conference



The National Council of La Raza (NCLR) is thrilled to host the 2008 NCLR Annual Conference in San Diego , a city with Latin flare, rich history, and world-class attractions. our attendance at Conference will enable you to not only explore the beautiful city of San Diego, but will also give you an opportunity to network with fellow attendees in one of the largest Hispanic communities in the country. Don't miss out on this opportunity to connect with key community leaders, attend cutting-edge workshops, and hear presentations from speakers with national and international prominence! The Annual Conference will be held July 12-15, 2008 at the San Diego Convention Center , 111 West Harbor Drive , San Diego , CA .

For more information, visit <http://www.nclr.org/section/events/conference>

Jul 17 - [Infobayarea.com](http://www.infobayarea.com) Mixer

Business Networking Mixer from 6p-9p at Jillian's at Metreon located at 101 Fourth St #1070. FREE! Enjoy gourmet appetizers and chocolate, music, and win prizes too! Best business is personal business... infoBayArea.com events are unique - Experience the difference! Network and socialize with many business owners and professionals in an upscale, fun, business-casual environment, with a twist of friendly hospitality.

Sponsored by Wells Fargo

RSVP is appreciated: <http://jul17jillians.eventbrite.com>

Aug 5 - District 9 Neighborhood Merchants Summit

The San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and the Office of Supervisor Tom Ammiano will present the District 9 Neighborhood Merchants Summit in conjunction with local businesses and neighborhood associations to bring district merchants together with their supervisor and city officials to discuss their specific concerns and issues. The summit will be held at the San Francisco City College Mission Campus, located at 1125 Valencia St. on Tuesday, Aug. 5, 8-10:30 am (registration begins at 7:45 am). The program will begin with an introduction by Supervisor Ammiano, followed by presentations on such topics as:

- Neighborhood beautification (graffiti clean-up, trash pick-up)
- Lease negotiation
- Small Business Assistance Center update

Representatives from the San Francisco Police Department and other city departments and small business resource providers will be on hand to provide information and answer specific questions. This is a free event.

Complimentary refreshments will be provided. Merchants not located in District 9 are also invited to attend. To register, contact Maya Lewis at 415-352-8840 or mlewis@sfchamber.com.

Aug 7 - The California Latino Legislative Caucus Foundation Presents Health Summit 2008

The goals of the Summit include new learning from the nation's leading health thinkers and researchers, and a debate about core issues among legislators, the health care community, government, non-profit and private sector groups. The ultimate goal is the development of 'actionable' legislative policy concepts that will bring about positive change in the health field.

Members of the California Legislature, legislative staff, non-profit and for profit groups, physicians, nurse practitioners, medical students, and other interested parties are encouraged to attend. Attendance is limited to 150. The event will take place at the Beverly Hilton Hotel (9876 Wilshire Blvd , Beverly Hills , CA 90210) and at the University of California at Los Angeles campus.

Each presenter or panelist will share his/her message and data. The second part of each session will include a facilitated discussion of the issues presented. Each attendee is expected to participate.

There is no cost for those registered to attend the summit sessions.

A block of hotel rooms at the Beverly Hilton Hotel has been set aside to support this event. The hotel is offering a special rate of \$289 per room. Please call 1-800-HILTONS(445-8667) and mention the 'Latino Caucus Foundation Health Summit' event to reserve your room at the special rate.

Email registration to Armando Chavez at Armando.Chavez@asm.ca.gov or fax to (916) 319-2123. If you have questions or want information contact Mike Welch at (916) 319-2023.

FEATURED MEMBERS

Self Storage

All Store Center

345 Shaw Road
South San Francisco CA, 94080
P:(650) 873-8020
F:(650) 873-9196
www.allstorecenter.com

NEW MEMBERS

Chamber members have access to exclusive benefits that build relationships, increase visibility, and generate business leads. They're the first to learn about economic trends and developments that shape the City's business environment and their own companies' growth. And they influence decision makers in San Francisco and beyond, helping ensure that San Francisco means business-in every sense. Welcome additions to the San Francisco Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. Memberships can be purchased online using the following link:

<https://sfhccregistration.chamberbusinesssuite.com/>

Ellen Chavez

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Individual Membership

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