



Immigration Reform

There is no question that the U.S. immigration system is broken. Our current system is not serving the interests of our economy, businesses, or our society. Changes to our immigration policy must be developed to secure our borders, respond to the labor needs of the economy and address the issues of the 11 million undocumented immigrants already living and working in the U.S.

The TwinWest Chamber of Commerce recognizes that a comprehensive approach is needed to fix our immigration system. We need an immigration system with laws that are easy to enforce, make sense, and work. The TwinWest Chamber supports legislative action that:

- Provides a comprehensive federal solution rather than a state by state approach, which provides consistency and predictability for employers.
- Promotes our national security interests by continuing to focus on securing our borders while pursuing other immigration reform initiatives.
- Addresses both our current and future economic needs for both high skilled and lower skilled workers through the creation of work visas programs. These work visa programs must be tied to market demands that go beyond high skilled, seasonal, and agriculture, and include other areas where employers face demonstrated labor shortages. Such programs would also increase national security and reduce illegal immigration by creating a functional, controlled system meeting workforce needs—a need not met by prior immigration legislation.
- Creates a workable, reliable national employee verification system. We are ready to move forward with the E-Verify system nationally, provided there is no obligation to re-verify the entire current workforce for private employers, and a safe harbor for good faith efforts by employers.
- Provides a path out of the shadows for the 11 million undocumented immigrants who live in the United States today with the understanding that they will meet strict conditions that are consistent with current immigration requirements such as paying civil penalties and back taxes and learning English.

Taken together, these proposals can help fix our broken immigration system and return business owners to doing what they do best: creating jobs.