

## IMMIGRATION

### The Facts

Of the estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States, [2.9 million](#) (26%) live in California and are predominantly Latino.

California's Latinos are living in mixed-status households. [81% of non-citizen](#) Latinos live in households with citizens.

Immigrants in California overall, both documented and undocumented, contribute \$715 billion to the state's economy.

Over 65% work in agriculture, 50% work in manufacturing, and over 40% work in trade and construction.

[Sanctuary cities](#) have been found to experience 35% less crime, \$4,353 higher in median wages, and 2.3% reduced poverty levels than non-sanctuary city.

California is home to the largest number of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients in the country at 223,000 (28%). DACA recipients in California contribute [\\$11.6 billion](#) to the state's economy.

### Current Immigration News in California

- ▶ On January 8, 2018, President Trump ended Temporary Protected Status ([TPS](#)) for 200,000 El Salvadorans.
- ▶ In October 2017, Governor Jerry Brown signed the California Values Act ([SB 54](#)), also known as the Sanctuary State bill, which limits state and local cooperation with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. Attorney General Jeff Sessions has been a vocal opponent of this bill.
- ▶ While other states have passed laws that shore up protections for immigrants, the California bill, has been described as the most comprehensive in the country. Measures range from treating schools, courthouses and hospitals as "safe zones" to restricting the ability of local police to detain people on behalf of federal immigration agents.
- ▶ During the debate over the bill, several [immigrant activists](#) were concerned that too many concessions were made. The primary complaint was the list of crimes exempt from preventing local authorities to cooperate with federal immigration agents (i.e. felony convictions).

- ▶ Acting ICE Director [Thomas Homan](#), in response, stated that the agency will now increase ICE Agents in California.
- ▶ In September 2017, Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed a [lawsuit](#) against the Trump Administration’s decision to rescind DACA, claiming that it violates the fifth amendment (due process) and the Administrative Procedure Act (ending DACA without allowing public comment).
- ▶ Since the onset of the Trump Administration, ICE has conducted [immigration raids](#) in “sanctuary” cities across the state, especially in Southern California and the Central Valley. An estimated 500 undocumented immigrants across the state have been arrested to date.
- ▶ Attorney General Jeff Sessions [threatened Stockton, CA](#) to withhold federal funds to fight crime if they did not comply with immigration enforcement agents (later [overruled](#) by the courts).
- ▶ In September 2017, Attorney General Xavier Beccera also filed a [lawsuit](#) against President Trump’s border wall claiming it would violate state and federal environmental laws. Specifically, the lawsuit claims that the Trump Administration is not complying with the Clean Water Act or the National Environmental Policy Act, and is sidestepping these environmental protections to build a border wall that would endanger wildlife.

## Further Reading

- California Immigrant Policy Center, “[Resilience in an age of Inequality: Immigrant Contributions to California.](#)”
- Center for American Progress, “[The Effects of Sanctuary Policies on Crime and the Economy.](#)”