

TRUMP KILLED A BIPARTISAN IMMIGRATION SOLUTION

The Republican House of Representatives and Republican Senators agonized over the number of migrants entering the country through the country's southern border.

The Republican candidate for president, calls the migrants: Aliens; Killers; Criminals, Animals and Predators. His others statements are: "The Hispanic Invasion of Texas" and "Stop the invasion of our southern border" and "The migrants are poisoning the blood of our country".

The Speaker of the House demand that there must be a border policy addressed to protect the country's southern border.

Three Senators decided to take on the challenge from the Speaker to develop a Bipartisan Border policy. Senators Lankford (R) of Oklahoma, Sinema (I) of Arizona and Chris Murphy (D) of Connecticut, agreed on The Border Act for the Senate's approval and forward the Senate bill to the House of Representatives; as requested by the Speaker.

Here are the key broad provisions from the The Border Act:

Hiring, Training and Systems Modernization

- Hire more Asylum Officers
- Hire more Border Patrol Agents

Modernize Asylum Processing at the Border

Asylum Processing Enhancements - Asylum can only be accepted if the migrants come through legal ports of entry.

Border Emergency Authority - Allows for the closing of the borders and all migrants will be deported immediately each day until the total number of encounters drops at least 25 percent for 7 consecutive days.

President Biden also received agreement to include \$20 billion for border security which includes:

- Additional 1,500 new Customs and Border Protection personnel
- Additional 4,300 new Asylum Officers
- Additional 10,000 new detention beds
- Additional 100 immigration judges and their associated staff
- Additional funding to install 100 cutting-edge fentanyl inspection machines at the ports-of-entry
- Includes \$1.4 billion for the cities and states who are providing critical services to newly arrived immigrants and to expedite work permits for qualified immigrants

President Biden was willing to compromise with the Congress and sign the bill if it reached the President's desk.

Candidate Trump demanded that the Republican Caucus in the House and the Republican Senate Conference to abandon this effort. He does not want a bipartisan border bill to pass the Congress. He also stated, "Blame it on me; I do not want a new Border bill before the election".

As a result, the Republican Senators did not support the bipartisan border bill. As a result, the Speaker of the House refused to place the bill onto the House floor for consideration.

Without Congressional action, any executive action by the President is only temporary. Without Congressional action there is also no funding to support any solution for immigration and border control.

However, President Biden announced several Executive Actions to bar migrants who cross into the country illegally from receiving asylum. The Executive Action will make it easier for immigration officials to remove migrants without a lawful basis to remain in the United States.

The Key Parameters:

1. *Bar Migrants Who Cross the Southern Border Unlawfully From Receiving Asylum*
 - This action will be in effect when the border is overwhelmed.
 - This action will discontinue when the migrants who cross the border between ports of entry is low enough for the immigration system to safely and effectively manage the border.
2. *Strengthen the Asylum Screening Process*
 - Enhanced security and deliver more timely consequences for those that do not have legal basis to remain in the US.
3. *Action to More Quickly Resolve Immigration Cases*
 - The Department of Justice and Department of Homeland Security will launch a “Recent Arrival Docket to resolve a portion of immigration cases for migrants.
4. *Revoke Visas of Anyone Who Profit From Migrant Coming to the US Unlawfully*
5. *Expanded Efforts to Dismantle Human Smuggling and Support Immigration Prosecutions*
 - The Departments of State and Justice launch an “Anti-Smuggling Rewards” Initiative
 - The Department of Justice will seek new and increased penalties for human smuggling
 - The Department of Justice will partner with Homeland Security to direct additional prosecutors and support staff to increase immigration related prosecutions.
6. *Enhancing Immigration Enforcement*
 - Department of Homeland Security will surge agents to the border when the border is at a record number of migrants to expedite removal.
7. *Seizing Fentanyl at Our Border*
 - Installation of 40 drug detection machines across point of entry
 - Work closely with the government of Mexico to hold drug traffickers to account.

President Biden’s Executive Actions is very similar to the Bipartisan bill. Executive Actions do not have the heft as compared to Congressional Action, especially when it comes to funding the required programs associated with a Border Security.

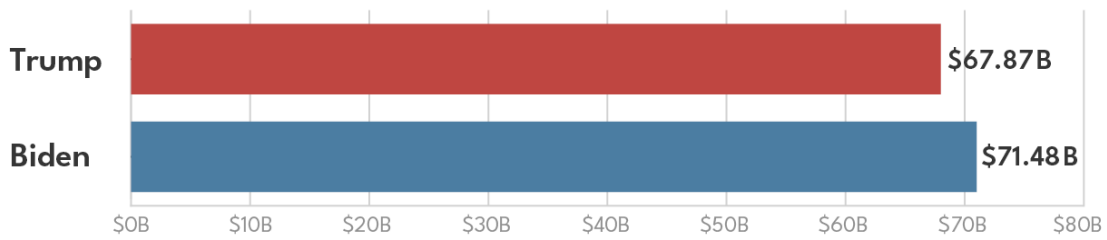
The lesson of this story: Republicans Blame the Biden Administration for the crises at the southern border and do absolutely nothing in terms of legislation because any solution would hurt the campaign of presumptive candidate Trump.

Candidate Trump stated that to the Republican senators and representatives to blame the rejection of the bipartisan border bill on him. We agree, it is Candidate Trump’s fault.

However, Third Way, a Washington, D.C.-based public policy think tank found that Biden funded the border patrol's budget requests at a higher rate as compared to Trump. Biden also expelled more undocumented people as compared to Trump and Trump allowed more undocumented people into the United States as compared to Biden.

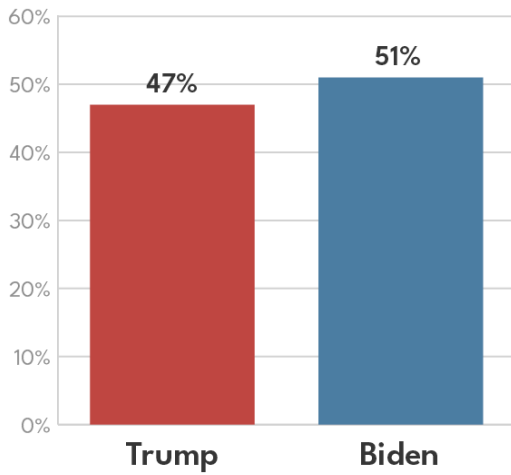


Total CBP Funding Request

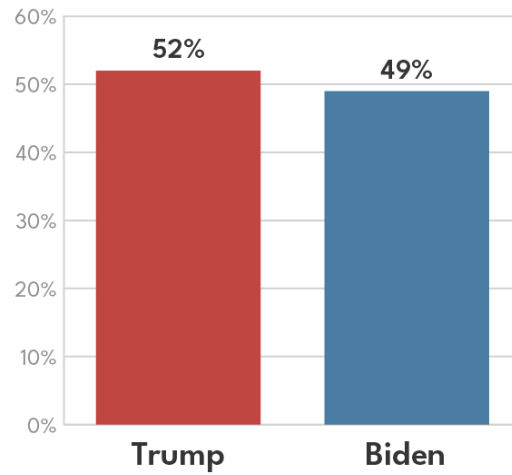


Source: Author's calculations based on CBP data.

Illegal Crossers Expelled



Illegal Crossers Released into US



Source: Bier, David J. "New Data Show Migrants Were More Likely to Be Released by Trump Than Biden." Cato At Liberty, Cato Institute, 02 Nov. 2023, <https://www.cato.org/blog/new-data-show-migrants-were-more-likely-be-released-trump-biden#:~:text=Under%20Biden%2C%20DHS%20made%20over,Biden%20DHS%20removed%20a%20majority>. Accessed 13 Feb. 2024.