20 Ways States Can Prevent Illegal Immigration
Illegal immigration has soared to record highs under the Biden Administration’s purposeful dismantling of our nation’s borders and our immigration enforcement infrastructure. Due to radical open-border policies and the current border crisis, states across the country are bearing the consequences of illegal immigration like never before. While it is true that the federal government has primary responsibility to enforce our immigration laws, they are failing to do so. States can play a crucial role in upholding our country’s laws and fighting illegal immigration, protecting their own citizens. States can help enforce the law by deterring illegal aliens from residing in their states and publicizing the problems caused by uncontrolled, illegal immigration. The list that follows can act as a roadmap and starting point in that effort.
1. **Require E-Verify**

Requiring licensed businesses to use this Web-based verification system can quickly and accurately reveal the authenticity of the information and credentials offered by new hires so employers hire authorized workers.

2. **Target Business Licenses of Employers Hiring Illegal Aliens**

Requiring employers to use the federal government’s own system and laws for checking immigration status, then suspending or revoking the license of a business if an employer knowingly hires an illegal alien is a right held by states and upheld by the Supreme Court since 2011—it helps fight willful ignorance of immigration status by businesses.

3. **Pass Vehicle Laws Preventing Day Labor**

Passing vehicle laws—such as those making it illegal to stop and impede traffic to hire someone or pick up a passenger—cuts down on the “day labor” practices of illegal aliens trying to avoid official work verification.
4 Require State/Local Law Enforcement to Determine/Communicate Immigration Status

Requiring law enforcement to attempt to determine the immigration status of anyone (if reasonable suspicion exists that the person is unlawfully present in the United States) they stop, detain, or arrest is reasonable and doable through U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)’s 24-hour Law Enforcement Support Center and allows agencies to report illegal aliens’ status to the federal government.

5 Prevent Sanctuary Cities and Counties

Passing state laws forbidding state, county, or local jurisdictions and officials from operating under “sanctuary policies” (withholding information from federal law enforcement) protects law enforcement, Americans, and migrant communities.
6 Empower State Residents to Sue Officials Who Obstruct Federal Law Enforcement

Allowing legal residents to sue officials who carry out sanctuary policies reinforces opposition to sanctuary policies and prevents political subdivisions within the state from obstructing the state’s cooperation with federal law enforcement.

7 Require the Majority of Law Enforcement Agencies to Participate in the 287(g) Program

Requiring state and local law enforcement agencies to participate in this program—authorizing U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to enter into agreements with the agencies, train local and state officials, and supervise them—expands immigration enforcement.
Require Small, Rural Jurisdictions to Enroll in the Warrant Service Officer Program

Enrolling law enforcement officials from rural or low-budget jurisdictions in the 1-day training for the Warrant Service Officer (WSO) program, rather than the full, 4-week 287(g) program training, allows warrant service officers in these smaller jurisdictions to at least serve administrative warrants and execute arrests on behalf of ICE.

Enact Laws Making It a Crime to Transport/Conceal/Induce an Illegal Alien

Passing laws making it a crime to knowingly transport and further the illegal presence of an alien in the U.S., harbor an alien from detection in any place or building in the state, or encourage an alien to come into the state, discourages residents from aiding illegal aliens.
Prohibit Illegal Aliens from Receiving Driver’s Licenses/License Plates/Business, Commercial, Professional Licenses

Prohibiting driver’s licenses prevents illegal aliens from obtaining downstream benefits, such as voter registration, government benefits, bank accounts, and credit cards.

Prohibiting license plates makes it difficult to drive undetected and unlicensed.

Collect Data and Publish Crimes Committed by Illegal Aliens

Collecting data on immigration status of arrested and incarcerated criminals in state and local prisons and jails provides states with valuable information to address the problem.

Publishing this data and these stories fights the open borders narrative that Americans are unharmed by high illegal immigration and sanctuary policies.
Prevent or Tax Remittances Sent Abroad
Requiring banks to verify immigration status or imposing taxes on remittances sent abroad disincentivizes illegal aliens from sending wages back to their home country.

Prohibit State and Local Taxes from Funding Attorneys for Removeable Aliens
Pass laws stating that taxpayer funds shall not go to attorneys or NGOs to pay for aliens’ legal representation in immigration proceedings, including appeals, as they seek relief from removal.

Revise Definition of State Residence
Ensuring that “state residents” are clearly defined as legal citizens and lawful aliens helps to prevent illegal aliens from obtaining state benefits, voter registration, identification, etc.
15 Prohibit Business Licenses/Contracts/Grants for NGOs Transporting/Smuggling

Prohibiting licenses/contracts/grants for NGOs transporting or assisting in the transport of aliens discourages organizations from funding, operating, or aiding smuggling operations.

16 Prevent Biggest State Costs for Illegal Aliens

Requiring agencies and social service providers to verify immigration status and benefit eligibility by using SAVE (a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services online tool to quickly verify a benefit applicant’s immigration status) prevents aliens from illegally obtaining public funds for education, health, social services, etc.
17 Require Voter ID and Clean Voter Rolls Regularly

Requiring Voter ID would prevent aliens from voting illegally.

Cleaning up voter rolls regularly ensures that aliens who have purposely or inadvertently been registered to vote are removed.

18 Sue the Federal Government

As seen in Biden vs. Texas, suing federal government officials for reckless or illegal changes made to immigration policies—as well as disregard for states’ interests—can better force accountability for the federal government when it comes to the enforcement of proper immigration law and policy.
19 Pass Laws Prohibiting State Colleges/Universities from Giving In-State Tuition to Aliens

Passing state laws preventing colleges and universities from offering in-state tuition to illegal aliens upholds and reinforces existing federal immigration law and makes it harder for future governors to ignore.

20 Provide a Private Right of Action for Citizens of the State to Sue State Colleges/Universities That Offer In-State Tuition to Aliens

Setting up treble damages for each violation or setting a high fine (e.g. $1 million per violation) within the statute empowers taxpayers who have been forced to subsidize the education of illegal aliens to hold the state accountable to the law.
Building an America where freedom, opportunity, prosperity, and civil society flourish.