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Presidential and Policy Changes: The Effect on the U.S-Mexico Border

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Abstract

Studies have been done concerning how policies from the Clinton administration up to the Obama administration effect the U.S-Mexico border. These studies typically do not compare administrations, but speak solely on certain differences. This research analyzes how each administration has created or changed policies regarding immigration, border control and building a border wall, and how these changes have effected, and continue to effect, politics surrounding the border.

PRESIDENTIAL AND POLICY CHANGES: THE EFFECT ON THE U.S-MEXICO BORDER

Researchers have studied the changes in U.S presidential policies, impacts of the implementation of a border wall, and the use of fear/intimidation against immigrants crossing the U.S Mexico border. My research will combine these factors to discuss how changes since the Clinton administration up to the Biden administration have/will effect border policies.

UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS POPULATION PERCENTAGE



According to PewResearch, in 2017, Mexican immigrants made up 47% of the undocumented immigrant population, a lower percentage from 2007's 57%. Since the 1960s, Mexican immigrants have flowed to the U.S more often, due to the end of the Bracero program, and the pull from the U.S seeking low-wage workers.

George W. Bush Administration

During President George W. Bush's time in office:

- Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) raids often occurred at places of work. This allowed for fear and intimidation of deportation to spread through mainstream media (Meierotto et al.).
- This was contradictory to the administrations of George H.W Bush and Raegan where "Family Fairness" policies were implemented. This called stated that if one parent or spouse was eligible for legal status, the other members of the family would not be separated from each other (Meierotto et al.).

Trump Administration

- Over the past four years, the Trump administration allowed for ICE raids to spread across the country (compared to Obama's tactics of focusing on apprehensions within 100miles of the border) (Meierotto et al.).
- In 2017, the executive order Enhancing Public Safety in the Interior of the United States was enacted, whose second order "is so broad that anyone who committed...a minor offense, such as a traffic violation...could be deported" (Meierotto et al.).
- These fear and intimidation based tactics result in negative perspectives directed towards Mexican immigrants.

How Political Changes Have Effected Views of the Border

Over the past two decades, the United States has experienced a sort of "flip-flop" in presidential policies. There is a continuing battle against drug and human trafficking, as well as fighting the risk of dangerous people entering the country. The Obama administration aided families by creating DACA and DAPA, while the Trump administration pushed for closed borders. Over the next four years, the Biden administration will either prove to follow Biden's campaign plans, or the country will see tighter restrictions on immigration and closed borders.

METHODS

- Peer-reviews research articles
- Administration campaign plans
- Pew Research Center surveys and graphs

CLINTON ADMINISTRATION

The Clinton administration created a plan to deal with immigration, listing:

- Strengthening border control through more personnel
 - Enforcing employers to not hire undocumented immigrants
 - Developing the National Detention and Removal Program to deport criminals
 - Aid those coming to the U.S seeking asylum or citizenship
- (National archives and Records administration)

Obama Administration

While deportation rates were higher during the Obama administration than any other presidential term, the creation of DACA (Meierotto et al.) and DAPA aided in lessening the fear of deportation in Mexican communities. The Obama administration attempted to implement reforms that compromised the ideals of those who wanted stricter immigration reforms and those who wanted more open U.S borders (Skrentny et al.).

Biden Administration

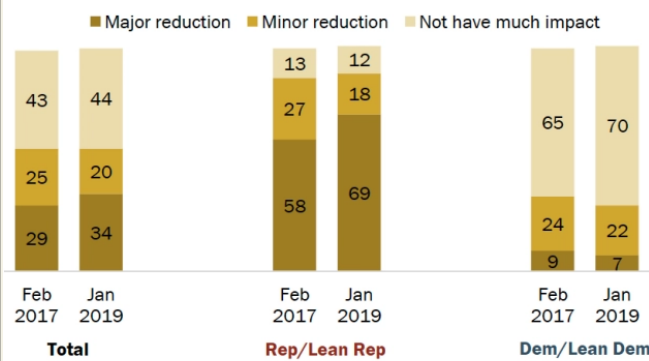
The recent inauguration of President Joe Biden signifies a turn in politics and policies that will effect immigration as well as decisions on open or closed borders and border control. few of Biden's plans during his campaign contained:

- The implementation of more effective border screening
- Reversing cruel policies under the Trump Administration
- Ending mismanagement of asylum seekers, those that fuel chaos and violence along the borderlands.

As it is still early into the Biden administration, it is hard to say whether or not these plans will play out. (The Biden Plan for Securing Our Values as a Nation of Immigrants)

Share of Republicans saying border wall would reduce illegal immigration increases

% who say substantially expanding the wall along the border with Mexico would lead to ____ in illegal immigration into the U.S.



Notes: Don't know responses not shown. In 2017, question was worded "a wall along the entire border with Mexico." See topline for full question wording.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted Jan. 9-14, 2019.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

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