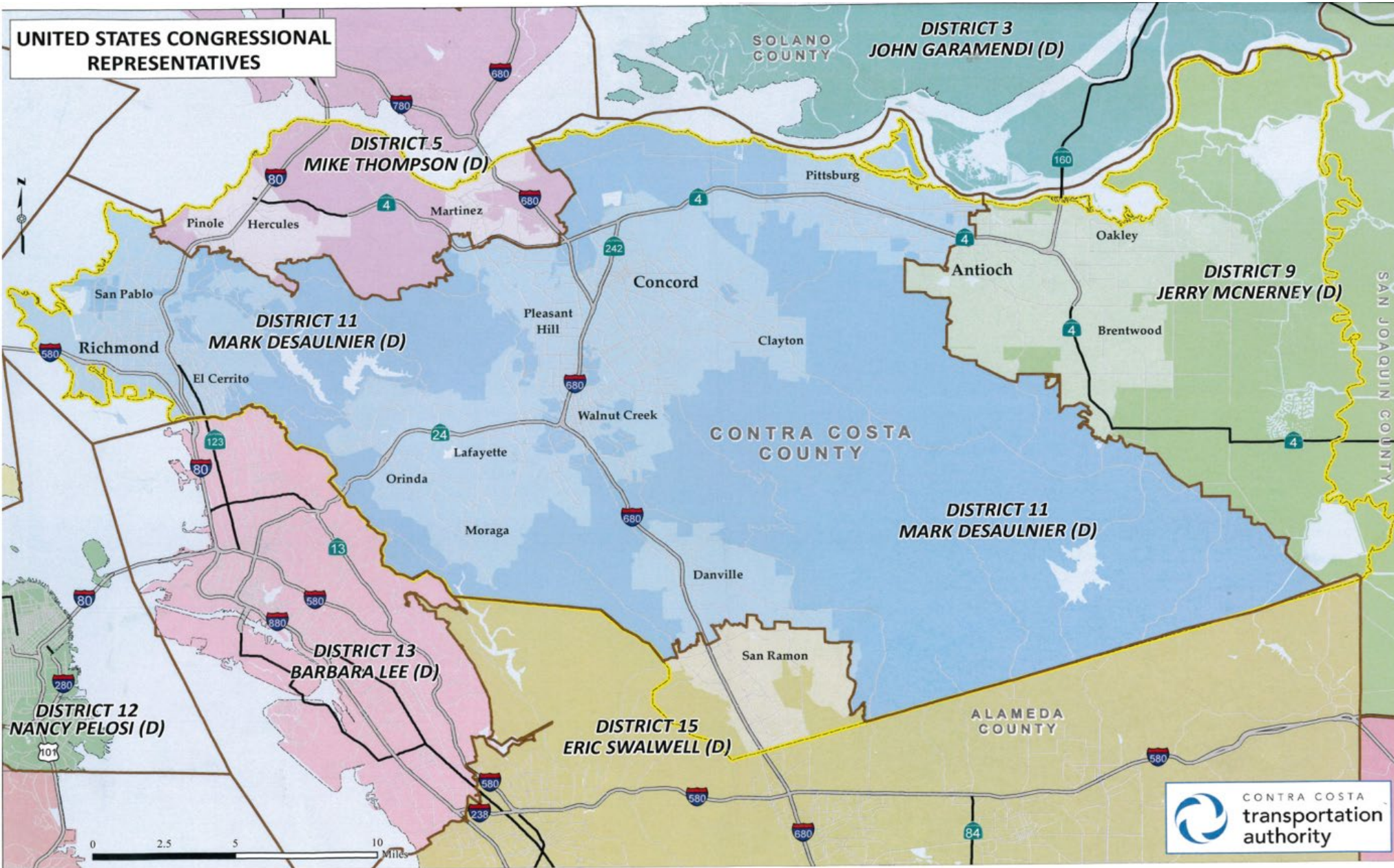




Immigration Town Hall

with Special Guest Jennifer LaForce, USCIS

MAY 28, 2021



“I've spoken of the shining city all my political life, but I don't know if I ever quite communicated what I saw when I said it. But in my mind it was a tall, proud city built on rocks stronger than oceans, windswept, God-blessed, and teeming with people of all kinds living in harmony and peace; a city with free ports that hummed with commerce and creativity. **And if there had to be city walls, the walls had doors and the doors were open to anyone with the will and the heart to get here.** That's how I saw it, and see it still.”

*President Ronald Reagan
Farewell Address
January 11, 1989*

Immigration Law: A History

- ▶ **1790** – 1790 Naturalization Act – established the country’s first uniform rule for naturalization. Allowed all “free white persons” who resided in the U.S. for 2 years to be granted citizenship.
- ▶ **1882** – Chinese Exclusion Act – suspends immigration of Chinese laborers for 10 years. This is the first of many bills restricting or limiting Chinese immigration.
- ▶ **1921** – 1921 Emergency Quota Act – Congress’s first attempt to regulate immigration by setting admission “quotas” based on nationality. It limited the number of immigrants annually to 3 percent of the number of foreign-born persons of that nationality present in the U.S.

Immigration Law: A History

- ▶ **1965** – 1965 Immigration and Nationality Act– abolishes the national-origins quota system and replaces it with a family-based and employer-based system.
- ▶ **1980** – Refugee Act of 1980 – establishes a new statutory system for processing and admitting refugees and asylum seekers and broadens the definition of refugee.
- ▶ **1982** – Immigration Reform and Control Act – imposes sanctions on employers who knowingly hire undocumented immigrants and creates 2 legalization programs, resulting in ~2.7 million people eventually becoming lawful permanent residents.
- ▶ **1990** – 1990 Immigration Act – raises legal admissions on employment-based immigrants and limits the government’s power to deport immigrants for ideological reasons.

Modern Immigration Law & Actions

- ▶ **2001** – USA Patriot Act – broadens terrorism grounds for excluding people from entering the U.S.
- ▶ **2002** – Homeland Security Act – creates the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Immigration, customs, and border security agencies begin operating under DHS.
- ▶ **2005** – REAL ID Act – establishes statutory guidelines for removal cases, expands terrorism-related grounds for deportation and inadmissibility, increases border infrastructure, and requires states to implement REAL ID driver's licenses.
- ▶ **2012** – President Obama creates Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

The Many Benefits of Immigration

- ▶ Immigrants added about **\$2 trillion to the U.S. GDP** in 2016
 - ▶ Researchers estimate in California they added between \$4.6 and \$8 billion*
- ▶ In 2010, more than **40% of Fortune 500 companies** were founded by immigrants and their children
- ▶ 20 million adult U.S.-born children of immigrants have higher incomes than their parents
- ▶ Immigration induced a **4% real wage increase** for the average **native worker** between 1990 and 2004
- ▶ The inflow of STEM workers driven by H-1B visas during the period 1990-2010 **explains up to 30% of the productivity growth** in U.S. cities

Biden Administration's Actions

- ▶ Ended discriminatory travel bans
- ▶ Halted construction of US-Mexico border wall
- ▶ Suspended Migrant Protection Protocols (Remain in Mexico policy)
- ▶ Increased annual refugee cap from 15,000 to 62,500
- ▶ Established Interagency Task Force on the Reunification of Families

Trip to the Border

Trip #1 hosted by the Democratic Women's Working Group to McAllen and Brownsville, TX.

Federal courthouse, Border Patrol Processing Center, Port Isabel Detention Center, and Brownsville Point of Entry

Trip #2 hosted by Rep. Juan Vargas to San Ysidro San Ysidro Port of Entry, border infrastructure system, border barrier



Contact Our Office

Walnut Creek

3100 Oak Road
Suite 110
Walnut Creek, CA
(925) 933-2660

Richmond

440 Civic Center Plaza
Second Floor
Richmond, CA
(510) 620-1000

Washington, DC

503 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC
(202) 225-2095

Main Immigration Point of Contact: Ryan-Thomas Brown
Ryan-Thomas.Brown@mail.house.gov (925) 933-2660



Facebook: [/RepMarkDeSaulnier](https://www.facebook.com/RepMarkDeSaulnier)



Instagram: [@RepDeSaulnier](https://www.instagram.com/RepDeSaulnier)



Twitter: [@RepDeSaulnier](https://twitter.com/RepDeSaulnier)



Website: desaulnier.house.gov