

# EDITORIAL

## Fill the need

Work visas at record pace, reform still sorely needed

**B**usinesses across the country, and across virtually all industries, are underperforming because they can't find enough workers to operate at higher levels. The resulting shortage of goods is leaving the need for many products unmet and is contributing to inflation.

Part of the worker shortage is due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but another major factor was the restrictive immigration policies of the previous administration.

The U.S. Department of Citizenship and Immigration Services now reports that it likely will issue more employment-based residency visas this fiscal year than any other year in our nation's history.

That increase, and the benefits it will bring to our lagging economy, is great news, but it still won't adequately meet businesses' need for workers, or foreigners' requests for permission live and work in the United States. Congress still needs to revise our work visa laws to help meet our economic needs.

Current law allows the issuance of up to 140,000 employment-related green cards, as the residency permits are known. Because of delays and other reasons, USCIS already had issued 263,000 work-related green cards this fiscal year as of Aug. 31, CQ-Roll Call reported last week.

This is welcome news, and we hope it represents a commitment from the agency to process visas as quickly and efficiently as possible, without compromising necessary reviews.

While unallocated residency visas based on family requests can roll over to the next year, job-related permits can't, and tens of thousands of them have gone unused for the past several years. It's good to see that the administration has stepped up processing of the visas so that more workers, most of them highly skilled, can work in this country to benefit both their families and ours.

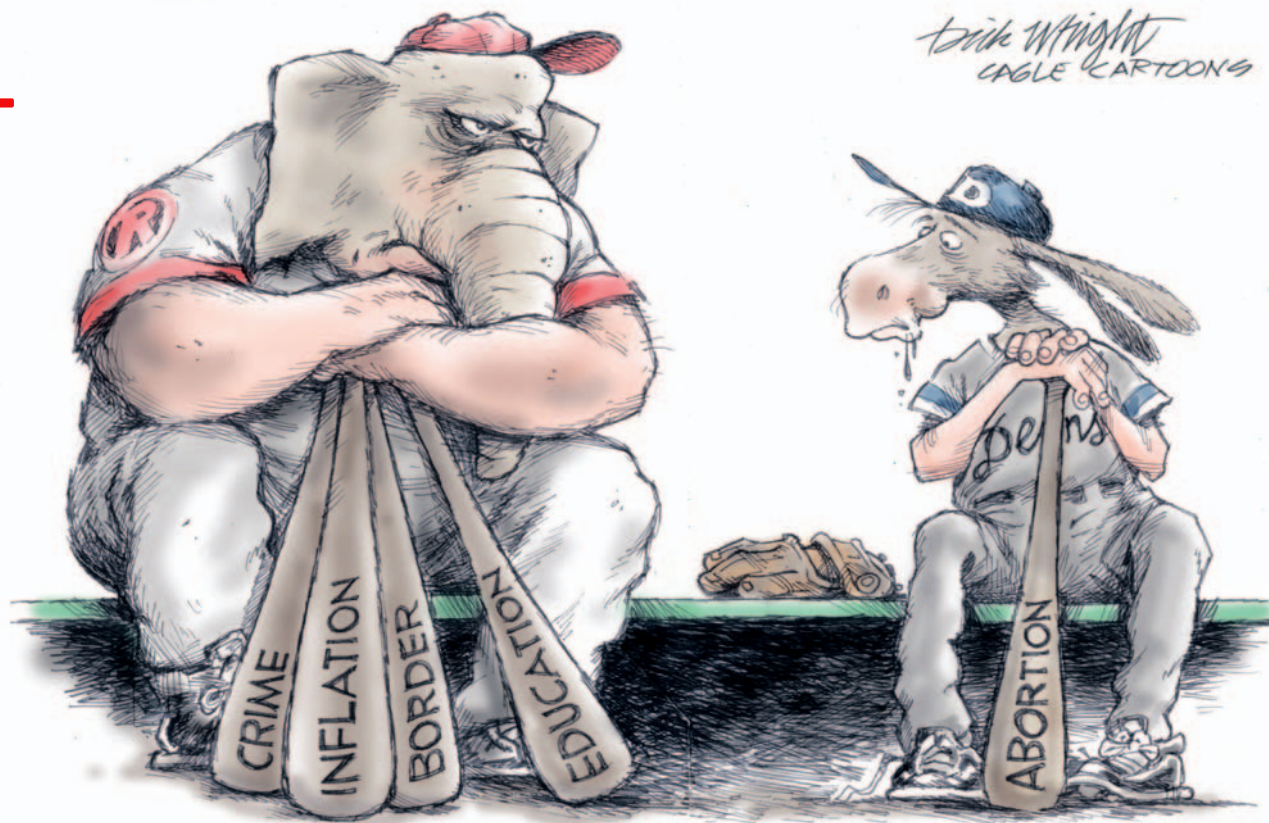
However, the need for workers doesn't disappear simply because the visas weren't allocated. Congress should allow unused work visas to roll into the next year as well.

Our lawmakers also should eliminate the archaic and unwieldy caps for each nation, which don't allow for global changes. Some countries such as South Korea, for example, have progressed rapidly since our visa quotas were set, and other countries such as Nicaragua and Venezuela have regressed. Those countries' problems might bring more refugees to our borders, but not necessarily skilled workers.

The system also doesn't allow for unused visas from one country to help fill need that residents from other countries could meet. That's yet another change that needs congressional attention.

Immigration reform usually is seen as one comprehensive issue. In reality it is a huge amalgam of widely different issues and needs. They can't be addressed all at once, and they don't have to be. Instead of trying to compile everything into one massive omnibus bill, Congress should address issues that can be addressed, and need to be addressed, quickly even as they work on other aspects of immigration law.

Our economy is suffering from a lack of workers that myriad foreign workers are eager and able to fill. Our representatives should help the diligent people at USCIS address the shortage, and improve the lives of American consumers.



## YOUR VOICES

### Flores backed

**Editor:**

Who is Mayra?

Mayra Flores is a woman who will support what we in South Texas need.

A real voice for South Texans. She is new blood.

Mr. Jaudzemis claims that we need someone in Congress who will support a higher minimum wage, tackle climate change, fight gun violence and support workers and the shrinking middle class (Letters, Sept. 8 Your Voices, Sept. 6). Oh yeah? Well, obviously the current folks in Congress have not worked well on that agenda. Oh, and by the way, abortion is a crime.

So yes. Mayra Flores can get the job done and she has a lot of folks backing her for that reason.

**M.C. Garcia  
Brownsville**

### Ballot inspection raises concerns

**Editor:**

The Republican "Big Lie" is now being orchestrated in Texas. Votebeat reported that a legal opinion by indicted Attorney General Ken Paxton allows anyone to examine ballots right after the election. Right after the election? This clearly destroys the custodial and preservation period required by Texas law for our ballots and opens the window for potential criminal exposure to election officials.

State and federal law require that ballots be secured for 22 months after an election for possible recount and challenges. This law has been in place in Texas for decades. Paxton's opinion doesn't carry the force of the law, but it does allow for anyone such as an aggrieved voter or out-of-state entity to call into question the election and access ballots as soon as the day after they are counted. Remember the 2020 election recount in Arizona's largest county by Republicans that revealed absolutely no wrongdoing?

Will every Democratic county in Texas be the next target for these "Big Lie" deniers in November? Has the Texas Republican Party now become the party of chicanery and chaos?

**Diane Teter  
Edinburg**

### Baha'is face oppression

**Editor:**

"Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion ...." So begins Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, an important document in the history of human rights. The right to the freedom of religion is taken for granted in the United States. But not in Iran. The Baha'is, the largest religious minority in that country, have experienced waves of repression since the mid-19th century. They are currently facing an ominous crackdown.

Since July 31, members of the Baha'i faith in Iran have been unjustly targeted more than 200 times. Arrests and detentions. Home invasions and searches. The destruction of houses and confiscation of property. The denial of higher education. Excessive jails,

### JOIN THE DEBATE

The Brownsville Herald welcomes letters. Letters must be signed and give the writer's address and daytime telephone number for verification. Letters of 200 words or fewer will be given preference. Letters may be edited for length, grammar and clarity. Letters may be mailed to The Herald at: 222 N. Exp. 77/83, Suite 176, Brownsville, TX 78520. Email us at letters@brownsvilleherald.com.

beatings and the denial of medication to prisoners. All this in a country where the official news media are being used to incite hatred against the Baha'is.

In one outrageous propaganda ploy, agents entered a kindergarten in a major city in Iran. They distributed Baha'i books and pamphlets to the teachers and ordered them to say, on camera, that Baha'is had brought the materials and distributed them to teachers. All of this to suggest that Baha'is are trying to convert Muslim children. The opposite is true. Numerous government documents testify to Iran's plan to convert Baha'i children to Islam.

The international community is coming to the defense of the Baha'is of Iran. An outpouring of statements, news coverage and social media posts continues. Government officials, international and national media outlets, and dozens of prominent civil society actors and individuals have condemned the crackdown and hate propaganda and demanded an end to the persecution of the Baha'is.

The Baha'is of the Rio Grande Valley are grateful for this support. We look forward to the day when people of faith everywhere can live and practice their religions freely, without fear of repression, in a world at peace.

**Steve Wilder  
Harlingen**

### Oil releases questioned

**Editor:**

I read a very detailed article explaining why gas prices have come down, and I learned some things. However, I also felt one aspect of the "price reduction" was missing: the tapping of our emergency oil reserves.

As of March 25, the U.S. oil reserves were at 568 million barrels.

According to Bloomberg (March 31), the Biden administration is releasing (I call it depleting) 1 million barrels per day out of the strategic oil reserves for six months (total 180 million barrels).

This will leave 388 million barrels in emergency stock. I felt more comfortable when the USA was the No. 1 leader of oil production, answering to no one.

The six months would end Nov. 1. The general election is Nov. 8. What a coincidence!

**Marcia Raley  
Brownsville**

### Trump dislike not understood

**Editor:**

Again, I find it necessary to reply to those who continue to use this forum to launch vicious attacks against former President Trump and his supporters.

It is beyond comprehension why/how anyone can have so much hatred and animus in their heart for others based solely on their political affiliation. Such hatred/animus borders on the pathological. Those who spew such venom on an almost weekly basis need to get a life instead of spending so much time disparaging and demonizing Trump and his supporters.

**Ben Castillo  
Harlingen**

### Republicans receive fire

**Editor:**

Now that the economy is looking brighter than a few months ago, President Joe Biden is telling the American people truthfully that the price of gas is going down, many jobs have been created in the short time of his presidency and the red wave claimed by the GOP is not as glowing.

But if the Republicans were to win their only purpose would be to shield Donald Trump from accountability and clear the way for his bid in 2024 and the authoritarian lawlessness. If the goal for Trumpists is to live under a dictatorship, we Democrats who still want a democracy will come out in droves to vote because that'll be the only way to keep the crazies away from the White House.

That's my opinion. But with all the crimes being alleged against the Donald, why his political admirers still believe his lies is beyond belief.

President Biden won the last election fairly and legally. Trump lost and he is a poor loser. He still claims he should be in the Oval Office, still implying Joe Biden is an illegitimate president. Wow. I say numbers don't lie. And the Congress certified the votes on Jan. 6, 2021, period.

Long live President Biden and long live the USA and democracy.

**Oscar Garza  
Palmview**

### Hispanics aren't seen

**Editor:**

I loved reading Ned Sheats' letter on the lack of Hispanic reporters or announcers on Fox news, so why see the network (Sept. 9). On ABC, CBS, NBC or CNN it's the same problem because mostly Whites and Blacks work on those networks, even when reporting from the open borders and from Uvalde, where mainly Mexican Americans reside and Spanish is spoken.

"Aviator Joe" has many Blacks in top positions in his administration because he thinks they helped him get elected, but our Raza are Democrats (not me, I'm independent) and we are 25% of the national population, so our votes count more than the Blacks who constitute only 15%.

Just look at the movies or commercials and even in cartoons; we are ignored by the networks.

So my Raza, let's be united so there can be a Lopez, Rodriguez, Castillo or even a Rosales in the Casa Blanca in 2024 so the future president can invite Jill Biden for hot tacos with coffee so maybe she will respect our Spanish ancestry (Spain is the motherland!).

Viva nuestra Raza.

**Ricardo Rosales Sr.  
Pharr**

**The Herald**

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This newspaper is dedicated to giving our readers accurate, relevant and timely news and entertainment. We hope to provide local residents and leaders information that will help them make decisions that will benefit our community.