



A Union of Professionals

Immigration Fact Sheet

The 2018 elections have taken on an urgency we haven't experienced in recent memory. This is truly a "which side are you on?" moment.

We have a president who ran as a populist but is governing as an elitist. Unions are under attack. Instead of bring the country together, the Trump administration and its allies have spent more than a year undermining our democratic norms and pushing an agenda for the rich—from ripping healthcare away from millions to his new tax law that gives 83 percent of the benefits to the top 1 percent.

But unions are built for these times; they were born out of tough times. Across the country, we have members who are showing up and joining the fight to protect public education and vital public services; to demand safe, gun-free schools; to make higher education affordable; to ensure affordable healthcare for those with pre-existing conditions; and to make our country welcoming to all nationalities. In fact, nearly 300 members have decided to run for office this year.

We have chosen to be educators, nurses and health professionals, and public service employees because we care for others—for our students, our patients and the public we serve.

Immigration:

- Trump's harsh immigration policies are some of the most extreme, targeting immigrant youth, Dreamers, individuals eligible for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals or temporary protected status, and refugee families, through an immigration enforcement-only approach and discriminatory executive orders.
- The Trump administration's zero tolerance policies and executive orders on immigration and refugees are directly opposed to the AFT's historical positions on these issues. We oppose these orders, the racist and xenophobic logic that underlies them, the havoc they have created in the lives of those affected, and the damage they have done to America's standing in the world and to our national security.
- Facts on this issue:
 - The administration terminated the DACA program, leaving 800,000 undocumented immigrant youth at risk of deportation. Large-scale work-site raids similar to the ones that took place in California, Ohio and Tennessee have devastated communities. In Tennessee, more than 500 children missed school the day following a raid.

The **American Federation of Teachers** is a union of professionals that champions fairness; democracy; economic opportunity; and high-quality public education, healthcare and public services for our students, their families and our communities. We are committed to advancing these principles through community engagement, organizing, collective bargaining and political activism, and especially through the work our members do.

Randi Weingarten
PRESIDENT

Loretta Johnson
SECRETARY-TREASURER

Mary Cathryn Ricker
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO • 555 New Jersey Ave. N.W. • Washington, DC 20001 • 202-879-4400 • www.aft.org



- The Trump administration has terminated temporary protected status for more than 300,000 immigrants from Haiti, El Salvador, Honduras, Nepal, Sudan and other countries, many of whom have lived in the United States for over 20 years.
- The Trump administration's zero tolerance policies are ripping children from their parents' arms and placing them in detention centers. In the first six weeks that the program was implemented, 2,000 children were separated from their families. These policies are typical of tyrannical and dictatorial regimes, not democracies.
- The AFT is working with community partners for a permanent fix for DACA and the more than 20,000 DACA-eligible bilingual teachers who are filling critical teacher shortages, solutions for temporary protected status recipients, and efforts to push back on the immigration enforcement raids.

This election is a "which side are you on?" moment. Will you support candidates whose policies will separate children from their parents, leave 800,000 undocumented immigrant youth at risk of deportation, and end emergency protections for those from countries that have had disasters or have ongoing armed conflicts, or candidates who welcome immigrants and recognize their historic and continuing contributions to this country?