

Senators Suggest Immigration Reform Plan

Monique Kreisman, staff writer

On January 28th, the Senate published a bipartisan plan for immigration reform. The House Judiciary Committee has held a hearing regarding the issue. Reform has been largely unsuccessful since President Bush's attempt failed to pass in the Senate in 2007, but now, things may be different. While conservative Republicans tend to oppose any plan that would grant amnesty to undocumented immigrants living in the United States, they are newly motivated in the wake of the 2012 election (in which 70% of Hispanic voters supported Obama) to collaborate with Democrats.

The Senate's plan was drafted by Senators Schumer (D-NY), McCain (R-AZ), Durbin (D-IL), Graham (R-SC), Menendez (D-NJ), Rubio (R-FL), Bennett (D-CO), and Flake (R-AZ). The plan leads with the statement, "We recognize that our immigration system is broken. And while border security has improved significantly over the last two Administrations, we still don't have a functioning immigration system. This has created a situation

where up to 11 million undocumented immigrants are living in the shadows... We will ensure that this is a successful permanent reform to our immigration system that will not need to be revisited."

The first goal of the plan is to create a "tough but fair" path to citizenship for undocumented residents, to provide for heightened border security, and to address the problem of residents who outstay their visas. For republicans, the first part of the goal is contingent upon the latter two more conservative elements. The path to citizenship involves passing a background check and paying fines and back taxes to earn probationary legal status; illegal residents convicted of crimes are ineligible for the plan and would be deported. Residents under probationary status would be placed at the back of the line for green cards behind immigrants who are following legal procedures. The plan states that, "Our purpose is

"We recognize that our immigration system is broken."

to ensure that no one who has violated America's immigration laws will receive preferential treatment as they relate to those individuals who have complied with the law." Children and agricultural workers would be treated differently from other immigrants under the plan—children because they did not choose to immigrate and violate the law, and agricultural workers because of the importance of their work to the country at large.

The second goal is to improve the pathway for lawful immigration for families and to "attract the world's best and brightest." Graduates of American universities with PhD's or Master's degrees in science, technology, engineering, or math would be awarded green cards under the plan.

The third goal is to create "a tough, fair, effective and mandatory" employment verification system to prevent identity theft and penalize employers who knowingly hire undocumented

workers.

The fourth goal is to create a program for admitting workers that deters them from illegal occupations such as drug trafficking. The program would place an emphasis on the agricultural industry, and the number of jobs offered to immigrants would fluctuate based on the strength of the economy. A provision is included to grant green cards to immigrants who have worked successfully in the United States for many years.

The Senate's plan grants undocumented residents a path to citizenship while addressing the complaints that existing laws ought to be enforced and that border security ought to be heightened. It is unknown whether or not the plan will become law, but it can at least be said that legislators are willing to collaborate and compromise.

The text of the Senate's plan can be found at <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/01/23/us/politics/28immigration-principles-document.html>.

Ravens Win Superbowl XLVII, Celebrate Ray Lewis

Maitlyn Healy, staff writer



Image via SuperBowlLive2013.com

There was nothing pretty about Super Bowl XLVII. The Baltimore Ravens' respected defense went head to head with the NFL's best post-season defense found in the San Francisco 49ers. This was a game of stamina, strength, and faith in the game of football and in one another, both on the field and in the bars that housed all of those nail-biting fans.

The game started off in the Ravens' favor and very quickly shifted after the power outage at the beginning of the second half. The Ravens were up 21-6 at the half, allowing Ravens fans to very comfortably focus on Beyoncé's rocking performance and worry less about overcoming a 15-point deficit. The Ravens started out the second half with a Jacoby Jones punt return for a touchdown, which put the Ravens up 28-6 in a matter of seconds. The 49ers came back in a major way after the 34-minute power outage, however. The 49ers scored 17 unanswered points in the second half, making it a 23-28 game. This is where Ravens fans began to sweat. The game, although seemingly wrapped up after the first half, came down to the wire as the Ravens came up with a goal-line stand at

the 5-yard line and sealed a 34-31 victory over the 49ers. A sigh of relief and tears of joy were shed in Baltimore. As the city celebrated with fireworks over the Inner Harbor, fans ran to the streets, singing the "Seven Nation Army" chant that Baltimore has made so popular.

This was one of the most unique Super Bowls in the history of the NFL due to the power outage that fateful Sunday night and what happened off the field for both teams during the 2012 season. The Baltimore Ravens endured several struggles during the regular season with injuries, the loss of former owner Art Modell and wide receiver Torrey Smith's younger brother, Tevin, and the announcement of Ray Lewis' retirement. The Ravens also went through a major coaching change as Jim Caldwell replaced the offensive coordinator, Cam Cameron, on December 10. This took the team some getting used to, but even Cameron acknowledged that the swap was best for the Ravens' offense. The team wrapped up the regular season with a heart-breaking announcement that Ray Lewis would retire at the end of this year. The "GOAT" is the heart of

the team and the heart of Baltimore. Every player from that announcement forward vowed to win it all for Ray, and the Ravens did just that. Despite all of the trials and tribulations the Ravens faced, they still came out on top. The 49ers had it easier in terms of tragedy this season but did go through a major change in terms of their roster. Jim Harbaugh, the 49ers head coach, had to substitute Colin Kaepernick in as quarterback for Alex Smith after Smith suffered a concussion against the St. Louis Rams in week 10. The 2012 season is only Kaepernick's second in the NFL, but the kid rose to the occasion. Kaepernick finished the season out with a win-loss record of 7-9 before the Super Bowl. Kaepernick was recognized quickly for how many rushing yards he accumulated and his

skill at reading the field. Kaepernick's Super Bowl appearance was only his 10th start in the NFL. This player definitely shows promise as a future elite quarterback.

This game had another unique twist: it was the "Harbowl." John and Jim Harbaugh had to set their brotherly love aside, and their parents had to resist cheering for just one team this time. Ultimately, the big brother came out on top as John led the Ravens to their second franchise Super Bowl victory.

Super Bowl XLVII saw several twists and turns, joys and sorrows, but, in the end, the Baltimore Ravens did what they set out to do- they got Ray Lewis a second ring on his last Super Bowl ride.

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