

Immigration Reform Survey

Immigration reform continues to gain momentum with the government reopening, however there is still much debate not only in regards to whether or not there should be an immigration reform, but also in regards to what makes a reform plan comprehensive. President Obama has [urged House Republicans](#) to support a reform plan before the end of 2013 and during the government shutdown the House Democrats introduced an immigration reform plan on October 2, 2013. Mark Zuckerberg's organization FWD.us recently announced that in collaboration with LinkedIn and its founder Reid Hoffman, it will be hosting a [DREAMer Hackathon](#) in which undocumented students will work hand in hand with top Silicon Valley programmers in an effort to draw attention to the need for Immigration Reform. Meanwhile, political movements such as [Yo Soy 132 Bay Area](#) and [By Any Means Necessary](#) (BAMN) continue to take action in marches asking Obama to end deportations and demand full citizenship rights for all.

According to the Pew Research Center, California is the state with the [largest population of undocumented immigrants](#). This survey is an opportunity for you to express your thoughts and opinions on immigration reform and what makes a plan comprehensive or not. Where do you fall in the immigration reform debate, and would an immigration reform affect you?

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey on

immigration reform. Your insight will be compiled into an article in which any questions and concerns that arise will also be addressed. Stay tuned for more on immigration reform at NatyRockdriguez.com.

Labor Organizer, Al Rojas, Opposes Guest Worker Programs

Labor Organizer, Al Rojas, Opposes Guest Worker Programs as a Part of Immigration Reform from Natalie Rodriguez on Vimeo.

The [International Longshore and Warehouse Union \(ILWU\)](#) local 34 Hall in San Francisco Calif., hosted the panel “Northern California Braceros, Immigration, Labor & Human Rights” with former farm workers and organizers Al Rojas and Juan Martinez. The event took place as part of LaborFest 2013 on Tuesday, July 30. This year the festival commemorates its 20th anniversary with the theme “Solidarity Has No Borders.” The panel focused on the relationship between guest worker programs and the proposed comprehensive immigration reform.

Rojas is a labor organizer with the [Labor Council for Latin American Advancement \(LCLAA\)](#) and former farm worker. He was also a former [organizer of the United Farm Workers \(UFW\)](#) and worked side by side with the historic [Cesar Chavez](#).

According to laborfest.net, “The history of California and the Bracero Program is one of the key issues in the debate in Congress

Worker Programs as a Part of Immigration Reform

about 'immigration reform'." The [Bracero Program](#) was a guest worker program that began in 1942 and ended in the 1964.

[Chavez](#) the labor union organizer of the UFW, [opposed](#) the guest worker program known as the [Bracero Program](#) on the basis that it undermined union efforts for fair pay because, guest workers were paid less than union workers and hired to work when union workers went on strike. Rojas sustains this argument to this day. He refers to the proposed immigration reform as "the greatest attack against working people in this county," referring to guest worker programs as a form of "slavery."

Martinez has been working on the [Bracero Memorial Highway Project](#) and has put together an exhibit of Bracero memorabilia including tools and newspaper articles of the times. The project is meant to commemorate the lives of Braceros who were killed in two tragic accidents during 1958 and 1963 in the [Salinas Valley](#). Growing up in the valley he says, "the abuse was clear."

Prof. Alex Saragoza teaches history in the department of comparative Ethnic Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. He believes that "the issue is not, for me, the guest worker program, per se, but rather the conditions and the enforcement of the conditions." Saragoza claims that the problem of wages being suppressed "is a generic problem," that is "not unique to guest worker programs."

Currently there is a guest worker

program in place that grants seasonal agricultural workers [H-2A Visas](#). The proposed [immigration reform bill](#) includes guest worker programs for agricultural and high skilled workers alike.