

UNITED STATES SENATE (US SENATE)

STUDY GUIDE

Consideration of Legislative
Proposals to Reform the United
States Immigration System

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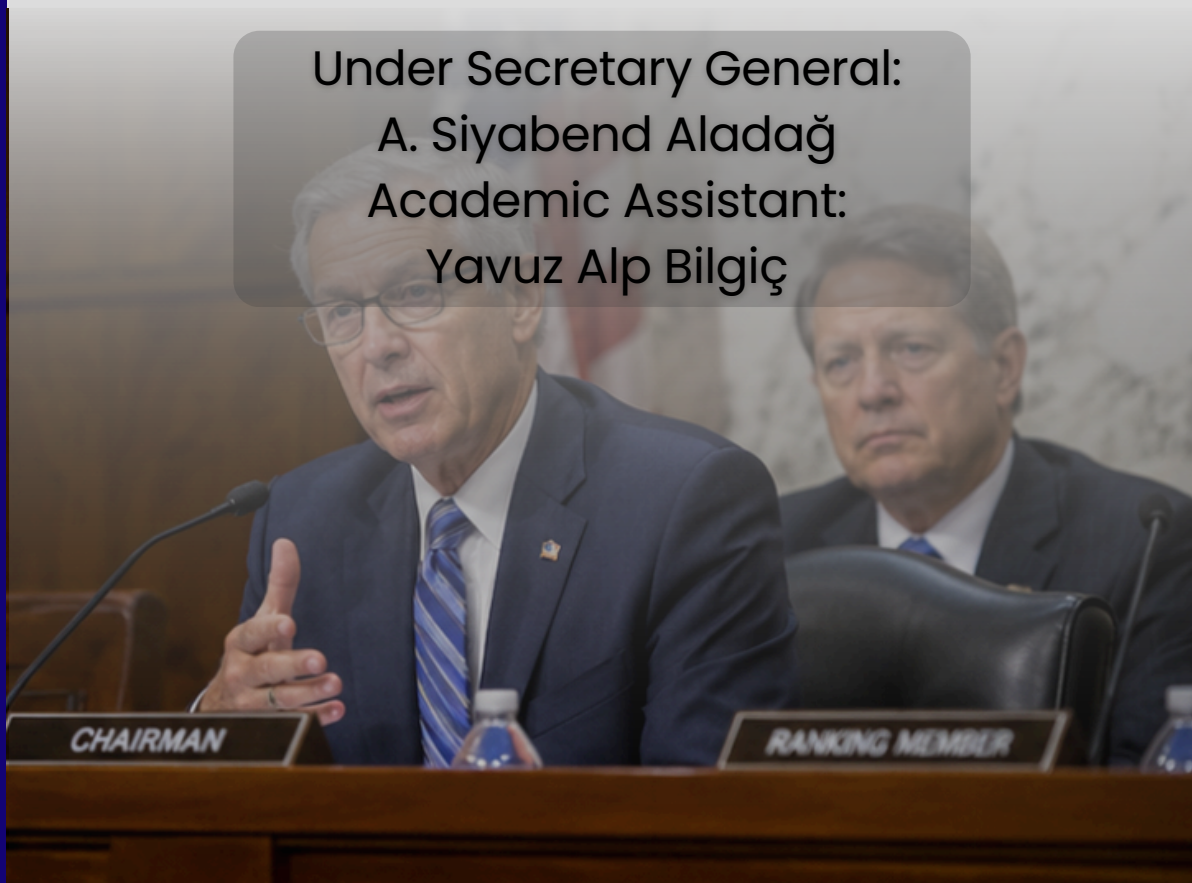


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1) Letter From Secretary General

Dear Esteemed Delegates, Academic Team, Hardworking Organization Team, Advisors, Staff and Partners,

I would like to welcome all of you to the third official session of the Model United Nations of Izmir Science High School! I am Hazal KUŞ and I am more than proud to serve as your Secretary General in this amazing conference.

Our aim is to ensure that all of your needs are covered. While preparing for the conference, our executive, organization and academic teams worked really hard to provide you with everything and I would like to express my biggest appreciations to them for their efforts. We are sure that MUNIFL'26 will be the best conference you've ever been in!

During the conference, you will not only be a part of diplomacy and discussing current topics, but you will also engage in meaningful debates, exchange diverse perspectives, and develop critical thinking and communication skills. At the same time, you will create strong bonds with others, build lasting friendships, and gain unforgettable experiences that go beyond the formal sessions.

As the Secretary General of this conference, I suggest you to read your study guides properly and do research about your agenda item as it will make your experience even more productive. I hope you all will have a fantastic conference full of unforgettable memories.

Best Regards!

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2) Letter From Under Secretary General

Hello there!

I am Ardeşir Siyabend Aladağ and I will be serving as your Under Secretary General in this 3-day journey. I am deeply motivated for academic excellence in this committee as I have had similar experiences in the past and I already believe in each one of you.

I aim to educate the community on congressional committees such as this one and hopefully see many more examples in the future. I can sympathize with you if you're worried that you have been allocated to this committee. That's exactly what I had felt in my first congressional committee experience but I guarantee that you will gradually feel comfortable as the committee academically progresses and evolves. It is for sure that we have an academically challenging committee and procedure and that's the reason why this guide must be thoroughly understood.

Ardeşir Siyabend Aladağ
Under Secretary General

3) Introduction

3.1) Introduction to the committee

The United States Senate is a chamber of the bicameral United States Congress; it is the upper house, and the U.S. House of Representatives is the lower house. Together, the Senate and House have the authority under Article One of the Constitution to make and pass or defeat federal legislation.

The Senate has exclusive power to confirm U.S. presidential appointments, to approve or reject treaties, and to convict or exonerate impeachment cases brought by the House. The Senate and the House provide a check and balance on the powers of the executive and judicial branches of government. The composition and powers of the Senate are established by Article One of the U.S. Constitution, which has been in effect since March 4, 1789. Each of the 50 states is represented by two senators who serve staggered six-year terms, for a total of 100 members.

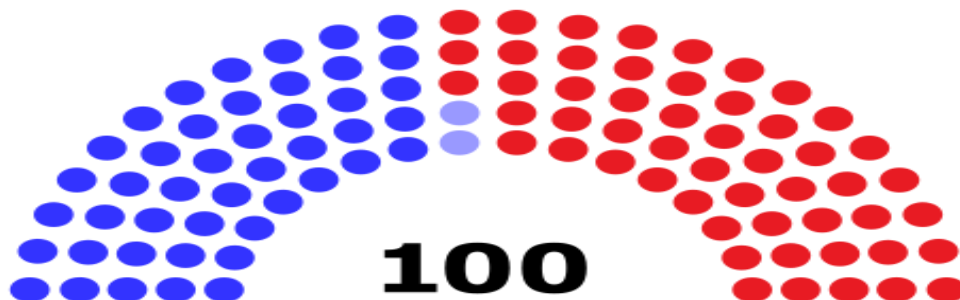
Distribution of representatives in the Senate as of June 23, 2026

Majority (53)

-  Republican (53)

Minority (47)

-  Democratic (45)
-  Independent (2)



3.2)Introduction to agenda item

Consideration of Legislative Proposals to Reform the United States Immigration System

3.2.1)Historical Context:

3.2.1.1)Colonial era:

The aftermath of Starving Time began the first and longest era of immigration that lasted until the American Revolution in 1775. Settlements grew from initial English toeholds from the New World to British America. It brought Northern European immigrants, primarily of British, German, and Dutch extraction. The English ruled from the mid-17th century and were by far the largest group of arrivals remaining within the British Empire. Over 90% of those early immigrants became farmers.

3.2.1.2)1850 to 1930:

Between 1850 and 1930, about 5 million Germans migrated to the United States, which peaked between 1881 and 1885, when a million Germans settled, primarily in the American Midwest. The Dakota Sioux had signed several treaties with the U.S. government, including the Treaty of Traverse des Sioux (1851) and the Treaty of Mendota (1851), which ceded large portions of their land to the U.S. in exchange for promises of annuities, supplies, and reservations and by 1862, the U.S. government failed to uphold its end of these agreements and the Dakota were facing terrible economic conditions. The Dakota uprising ignited the US government to use the opportunity to clear the land and make way for more European settlement.

Between 1820 and 1930, 3.5 million British and 4.5 million Irish entered America. Before 1845, most Irish immigrants had been Protestants. After 1845, Irish Catholics began arriving in large numbers that were largely driven by the Great Famine.

After 1880, larger steam-powered oceangoing ships replaced sailing ships, which resulted in lower fares and greater immigrant mobility. In addition, the expansion of a railroad system in Europe made it easier for people to reach oceanic ports to board ships. Meanwhile, farming improvements in Southern Europe and the Russian Empire created surplus labor. Young people between the ages of 15 and 30 were predominant among newcomers. In this wave of migration, constituting the third episode in the history of U.S. immigration, nearly 25 million Europeans made the long trip. Italians, Greeks, Hungarians, Poles, and other Slavs made up the bulk of this migration, with 2.5 to 4 million Jews being among them.

3.2.1.3)New Immigration:

"New immigration" was a term from the late 1880s that refers to the influx of Catholic and Jewish immigrants from southern and eastern Europe. The great majority came through Ellis Island in New York, thus making the Northeast a major target of settlement. However there were a few efforts, such as the Galveston Movement, to redirect immigrants to other ports and disperse some of the settlement to other areas of the country.



3.2.1.4)1920 to 2000:

3.2.1.4.1)Restrictive Immigration Laws in the 1920s:

The United States had strict immigration laws in the 1920s. After World War I, the United States changed the way it handled immigration. The National Origins Formula of 1921 and the Immigration Act of 1924 created rules about who could come to the United States.

These laws made it easy for people from Western Europe to move to the United States, but it was very hard for people from Southern and Eastern Europe and almost impossible for people from Asia. Because of these rules, few people were able to move to the United States in the early 1920s.

However, people from Latin America like Mexico and the Caribbean were not part of these rules and could move to the United States more easily.

3.2.1.4.2)Refugees Between 1924 and 1965:

The United States accepted some refugees between 1924 and 1965. These refugees were allowed to move to the United States for humanitarian reasons.

Some of these refugees were people escaping Nazi Germany, people who survived the Holocaust after World War II, Hungarians who were fleeing their country after a failed uprising in 1956, and Cubans who were fleeing their country after the Cuban Revolution.

Even though some refugees were allowed to move to the United States, the overall rules for immigration stayed very strict for decades.

3.2.1.4.3)Mexican Immigration:

Many Mexicans moved to the United States in the 20th century. They were escaping violence, poverty, and political instability in their country. They moved to states like Texas, California, and New Mexico.

In the 1950s, the United States government tried to reduce the number of people moving to the country illegally from Mexico. They started a program called "Operation Wetback" in 1954, which sent Mexican workers back to their country.

At the same time, the Bracero Program allowed Mexican farm workers to work legally in the United States.

3.2.1.4.4)Equal Nationality Act of 1934:

The Equal Nationality Act of 1934 was an important change for women. It allowed children of mothers who were born in other countries to become United States citizens.

It also made it easier for foreign husbands of women to become citizens. This law made things more equal between men and women when it came to immigration.



3.2.1.4.5)Filipino Immigration:

The Tydings–McDuffie Act of 1934 got the Philippines ready to become an independent country. It also restricted the number of Filipinos who could move to the United States.

However, after some changes to immigration laws in 1965, many Filipinos were able to move to the United States. Filipino immigration became an important part of Asian immigration to the United States.

3.2.1.4.6)Post–World War II Immigration:

After World War II, more people started moving to the United States. The War Brides Act of 1945 allowed wives and fiancés of soldiers to move to the United States.

The Displaced Persons Act of 1948 allowed many European refugees and Holocaust survivors to move to the United States. During the Cold War, the United States also accepted refugees who were fleeing communist governments.

3.2.1.4.7)Immigration Policies in the 1950s:

In the 1950s, the Immigration and Nationality Act continued to use a quota system. It did not include spouses and children of United States citizens in these quotas.

At the same time, many Cubans were fleeing their country after the Cuban Revolution. The Cuban Adjustment Act of 1966 made it easier for Cuban immigrants to become permanent residents.

3.2.1.4.8)Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965:

The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1965 was a turning point in the history of United States immigration. This law, also called the Hart–Celler Act, ended the quota system based on where people were from.

It replaced it with a system based on family relationships and work skills. As a result, many more people from Asia, Africa, and the Middle East started moving to the United States after 1970.

Countries like China, India, Korea, Pakistan, and the Philippines became major sources of immigrants.

3.2.1.4.9)Vietnamese and Southeast Asian Immigration:

After the Vietnam War, the United States accepted Vietnamese refugees. It also accepted refugees from Cambodia and Laos.

Many of these refugees had experienced trauma and had a hard time adjusting to their new lives. Despite these challenges, Vietnamese immigrants made big contributions to American society, especially in business and food.

3.2.1.4.10)Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986:

The Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 introduced penalties for employers who hired people who were in the United States illegally.

At the same time, it gave amnesty to millions of people who were already living in the United States without documents, most of whom were from Mexico.

3.2.1.4.11)Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996:

The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 made immigration laws stricter. It increased security at the borders and made it harder for people to seek asylum.

It also increased deportations, expanded detention policies, and introduced penalties for people who stayed in the United States longer than they were allowed.

These reforms had an important impact on immigration policy at the end of the 20th century.



3.2.1.4.5)2000 to Present Time:

3.2.1.4.5.1)The Aftermath of the September Attacks:

After the attacks of September 11, 2001, immigration policy changed to have a higher emphasis on tighter national security. On October 26, 2001, the United States passed the Patriot Act which would expand U.S. government surveillance and monitoring to prevent terrorism in the country. This act affected immigration by choosing stronger surveillance and criteria for those allowed into the country.

In 2002, the Homeland Security Act was passed to address terrorism, immigration, and manage border security. This act would create the Department of Homeland Security and combine 22 previously existing agencies.

After 2003 immigration dropped to around 703,000, down from 841,000 as it had previously seen in 2000. Between 2004 and 2006 the number of immigrants would increase from 957,000 to 1.2 million.



Homeland Security

3.2.1.4.5.2) Formation of US Immigration and Customs Enforcement:

The Immigration and Naturalization Service and the United States Customs Service were dissolved on 2003, when the Homeland Security Act of 2002 transferred most of their functions to three new entities – United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) – within the newly created United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS), as part of a major government reorganization following the September 11 attacks of 2001. ICE is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security and a contributor to the FBI's Joint Terrorism Task Force. The agency operates with a significant budget and workforce.



U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement

3.2.1.4.5.3)2010's

In 2012, President Barack Obama passed DACA, a policy that gave temporary protection from deportation and work rights to immigrants who arrived as children.

The DREAM Act was repeatedly introduced in Congress but never passed. It aimed to give a path to permanent residency for undocumented immigrants brought to the U.S. as children, known as “Dreamers.”

In 2014, DAPA was introduced to protect undocumented parents of U.S. citizens, but it was blocked by courts and later removed in 2017.

In 2015, about 2.1 million immigrants in the U.S. were from Africa, with large groups from Nigeria, Ethiopia, and Egypt.



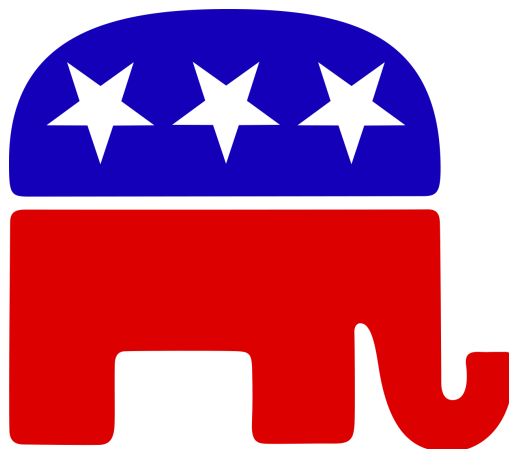
3.2.1.4.5.4)2020's

The public charge rule allowed U.S. immigration officials to deny entry or residency based on factors like age, education, and income.

After the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, about 88,500 Afghan immigrants entered the country, many through the Special Immigrant Visa program.

Between 2020 and 2025, around 11 million immigrants arrived in the United States as immigration policies shifted

In 2025, immigration enforcement increased, with stricter border control and more deportations, and warnings were issued to undocumented immigrants about leaving the country.



3.2.2)Glossary:

- **Immigration:** The movement of people to another country to live permanently.
- **Migrant:** A person who moves from one place to another, usually for work or safety.
- **Refugee:** A person forced to leave their country because of war, violence, or persecution.
- **Asylum Seeker:** Someone asking another country for protection and refugee status.
- **Deportation:** The removal of a person from a country by government order.
- **Border Security:** Measures taken to control and protect a country's borders.
- **Naturalization:** The legal process of becoming a citizen of another country.
- **Visa:** An official document allowing entry into a country.
- **Quota System:** A system limiting the number of immigrants allowed from certain countries.
- **Undocumented Immigrant:** A person living in a country without legal permission or documents.
- **DACA:** A U.S. policy protecting some undocumented immigrants who arrived as children.
- **ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement):** A U.S. agency responsible for immigration enforcement.
- **USCIS (United States Citizenship and Immigration Services):** The U.S. agency handling citizenship and immigration services.
- **CBP (Customs and Border Protection):** The U.S. agency responsible for border control.

- **Amnesty:** A government pardon allowing undocumented immigrants to stay legally.
- **Patriot Act:** A U.S. law passed after 9/11 to increase national security and surveillance.
- **Homeland Security:** Government actions and agencies focused on protecting the country from threats.
- **Permanent Resident:** A person legally allowed to live permanently in a country without full citizenship.
- **Assimilation:** The process of adapting to a new country's culture and society.
- **Citizenship:** Legal membership in a country with rights and responsibilities.
- **Work Permit:** Official permission allowing a foreigner to work legally in a country.

4)Additional analytics and data

4.1) Current demographic percentiles of illegal aliens

Data research shows that immigration to the United States is most commonly active from countries with poor economic, political and social stability. The most popular countries being El Salvador; where gang activity and distress is common

Guatemala; where slavery is partially recognized in some legal districts, Honduras; where a proletarian regime has ruled for decades and has turned the country to a haven for drug dealers and crime bosses, India; the country with the lowest human talent recognition statistic and lastly Mexico with mass corruption and the hardest access to quality education in Northern America according to the human development index. The analytics show that the wave of mass illegal immigration to the United States has no intellectually awarding as shown in the 2nd chart as the education levels of illegal migrants are much weaker than the average US citizen by a leap. This is why the Democrats call for a softer policy on softer laws for younger migrants as they can be educated and integrated into society while middle to older migrants can pursue migrating when manpower is needed for work classified as “Blue collar work”. While Republicans push for overall harsher border policies no matter the background or age group. The trend for welcoming migrants has changed drastically for the Republicans in the last 40 years as we can clearly see a change for preferred migrants from the Carter campaign to the Trump campaign. The Senate must push for legalized migration and the specification of preferred groups.

Chart 1:

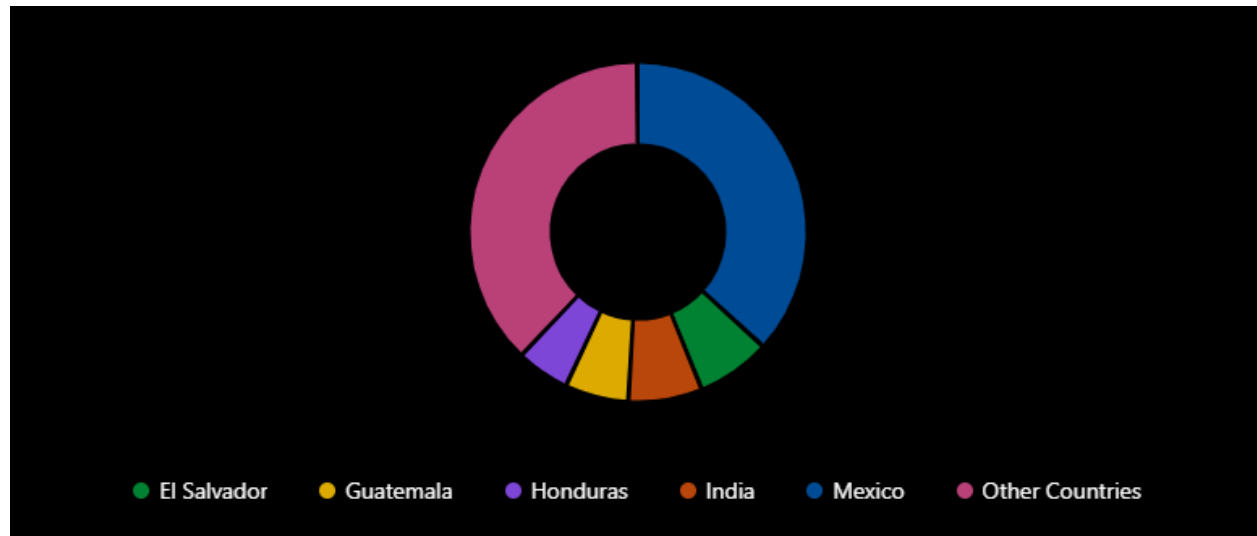
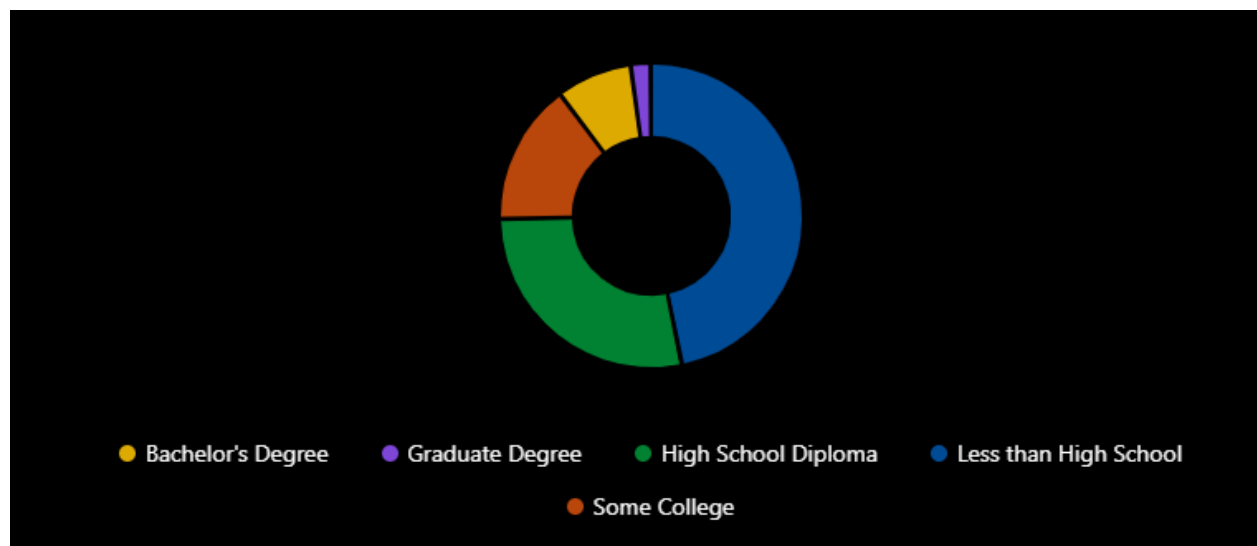


Chart 2:



4.2) Financial budget for border control over the years

1985 (≈\$2.1B) – Under Ronald Reagan, border enforcement spending was relatively small and mostly focused on traditional immigration policing along the southern border during a period when illegal immigration was present but not yet a dominant national political issue.

1990 (≈\$2.8B) – During George H. W. Bush spending increased slightly as immigration enforcement became more organized, but it still remained a low-priority budget category compared to defense and domestic economic issues.

1995 (≈\$3.5B) – Under Bill Clinton, border enforcement began to grow more politically important, with early “prevention through deterrence” strategies shifting resources toward border zones rather than interior enforcement.

2000 (≈\$5.2B) – In the late Clinton era, immigration became more visible politically, especially with rising unauthorized migration flows in the 1990s, leading to increased funding for Border Patrol staffing and surveillance.

2005 (≈\$10.8B) – Under George W. Bush, spending nearly doubled after the creation of the United States Department of Homeland Security in response to the 9/11 attacks, which merged immigration and border enforcement into a national security framework.

2010 (≈\$17.1B) – During Barack Obama, funding rose further as deportation capacity increased, surveillance technology expanded, and enforcement priorities intensified even during broader debates over immigration reform.

2015 (≈\$19.5B) – Immigration remained highly politicized, with increased attention on the U.S.–Mexico border, unaccompanied minors, and asylum processing, while enforcement budgets stayed elevated but relatively stable.

2020 (≈\$23.6B) – Under Donald Trump, border enforcement became a central political focus, with funding directed toward detention expansion, increased staffing, and attempts to construct new border barriers.

2025 (≈\$30.2B) – Under Joe Biden, spending remains high due to continued political polarization over immigration, increased asylum claims, staffing demands, and ongoing investment in border technology and processing infrastructure.

U.S. Border & Immigration Enforcement Spending (1985–2025)

Estimated federal spending on border security, immigration enforcement, and related agencies in billions of USD.

