

Immigration Protests Planned Across U.S. to Spur Congress to Pass Reform Bill

FOX NEWS

Friday, May 4, 2007*



LOS ANGELES — With millions of illegal immigrants planning to demand a path to citizenship by marching through the nation's streets on Tuesday, Los Angeles and other major cities are bracing for rally gridlock.

Demonstrators hope the marches will push Congress to answer their calls for action for an estimated 12 million illegal immigrants currently living in the United States before the presidential primary season. Cities from coast to coast were preparing for the marches and voter registration drives stretching from California to New York on the May 1 International Workers' Day

In Los Angeles, march organizers say there will be fewer people this year but the events will still cause traffic jams and disruptions to mass transit and businesses. Police are preparing for about 100,000 people, putting the department on maximum deployment with at least 1,000 officers. "Everyone who can work will be working. Everyone who can be in uniform will be in uniform. All our detectives and sworn support personnel will be available to go out," LAPD Capt. Andy Smith told the Los Angeles Times.

March organizers say the events nationwide aim to target lawmakers. "If we don't act, then both the Democratic and Republican parties can go back to their comfort zones and do nothing," said Angelica Salas, director of the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles. "They won't have the courage to resolve a major situation for millions of people." In Miami, Democratic Party Chair Howard Dean was scheduled to speak to a coalition of immigrant groups, while Ricardo Chavez, the brother of famed agricultural labor leader Cesar Chavez, was expected address crowds in Milwaukee.

In Washington, D.C., about 400 members of Asian groups from across the country were set to make a lobbying push with lawmakers. Students planned to march in Chicago. In New York, groups are planning an "American Family Tree" rally, where immigrants will pin paper leaves on a large painting of a tree to symbolize the separation of families because of strict immigration laws. The event is a response to a White House immigration reform proposal in March, said Chung-Wa Hong, executive director of the New York Immigration Coalition. The plan would grant illegal immigrants three-year work visas for \$3,500 but also require them to return home to apply for U.S. residency and pay a \$10,000 fine. It has been roundly criticized by immigrant groups.

1. In paragraph form, thoroughly describe and explain the reasoning behind the recent implementation of multiple preventive measures taken across the nation on May 1 International Workers' Day?
2. As discussed in the passage above, in paragraph form, compare and contrast the variety of immigrant activities taking place nationwide this past Tuesday.
3. What is the purpose or agenda behind the nationwide rallies and what is it in response to? Is this the best possible approach to gain the attention of lawmakers? Explain.
4. As of Tuesday, May 01, 2007 at approximately 12:20 p.m. E.D.T., the current estimated population in the U.S. was 301,739,460. What percentage of the U.S. is *not* an illegal immigrant? Additionally, as a ratio expressed in simplest form, what is the probability of encountering an illegal immigrant nationwide?
5. Analyze and interpret the position, roles, and perspectives of Chung-Wa, Angelica Salas, Howard Dean, and Ricardo Chavez. In your opinion, who is perhaps the most influential character? Explain.
6. Assuming all of the nations illegal immigrants elected to pursue a work visa, how much less money would these funds generate for the economy versus fine?
7. Has your opinion of illegal immigration been altered or remained unchanged in the past year? What factors have led you to this belief or point of view?
8. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least five ways using the "Four-Step Reading" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
9. In complete sentences, using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the italicized words: *bracing*, *gridlock*, and *coalition*. Additionally, use each in a sentence to demonstrate further comprehension.
10. In paragraph form, explain at least five legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.