

Federation for American Immigration Reform
House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
December 4, 2025

FAIR is a national, nonprofit, public-interest organization comprised of millions of concerned citizens who share a common belief that our nation's immigration laws must be enforced, and that policies must be reformed to better serve the national interest. Our organization examines trends and effects, educates the public on the impacts of sustained high-volume immigration, and advocates for sensible solutions that enhance America's environmental, societal, and economic interests today, and into the future. FAIR has over three million members and supporters of all racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds, and across the political spectrum.

A 2025 FAIR analysis revealed there were at least 18.6 million illegal aliens residing in the United States – an 11 percent jump from FAIR's 2023 estimate of 16.8 million.¹ Since December 2020, FAIR assessed that the illegal alien population grew by 4.1 million, or 28.2 percent.²

Some key takeaways from our analysis include:

- In the eight full fiscal years (FY) before the Biden administration took office (FY 2013-2020), annual encounters of illegal border crossers nationwide averaged 735,895.³ Nationwide encounters in FY 2021 surged to nearly 2 million.⁴ FY 2022 saw a record total of 2.766 million encounters, and that figure jumped again to 3.2 million in FY 2023.⁵ The Biden administration's last full year, FY 2024, saw only a slight decrease in encounters, to 2.9 million.⁶
- In December 2024, the Census Bureau admitted that net foreign migration to the U.S. was "significantly higher" than previous estimates.⁷ This admission was coupled with significant changes to Census Bureau methodology to capture the sheer scope of the

¹ Federation for American Immigration Reform, "How Many Illegal Aliens Are in the United States? 2025 Update," *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, Mar. 7, 2025, <https://www.fairus.org/issue/how-many-illegal-aliens-are-united-states-2025-update>.

² Ibid.

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Mark Gross, Jacqueline Lamas, Yeris H. Mayol-Garcia and Eric Jensen, "Census Bureau Improves Methodology to Better Estimate Increase in Net International Migration," *United States Census Bureau*, Dec. 19, 2024, <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2024/12/international-migration-population-estimates.html>.

Biden administration’s illegal immigration crisis, which previous survey methods had not accounted for.⁸

- This surge in population has been felt nationwide, affecting large and small cities across the country. Large cities with “sanctuary” policies often received the initial influx of illegal aliens, who then either remained or moved on to smaller communities.⁹

Currently, because congressional reapportionment and Electoral College votes are determined by census results – and the census counts all people without differentiating who is here illegally – illegal aliens residing in the United States unfairly skew the results. Even more concerning, after the 2020 Census, the average congressional district was comprised of 761,169 residents, meaning that FAIR’s most recent estimate of the illegal alien population is the equivalent of more than 24 congressional districts.¹⁰ And, because the number of seats in the House is fixed by law at 435, when one state adds a seat, another state loses one.

Congressional reapportionment based on the 2020 census led to multiple congressional seats changing across the country. States such as New York, Illinois, and California all lost one House seat each, while Florida gained one seat and Texas two.¹¹ Without serious reforms, these consequences will be magnified in 2030, as the 2020 Census was conducted before the unprecedented wave of illegal immigration under the Biden administration’s failed policies.

FAIR strongly supports swift consideration and passage of H.R. 151, the *Equal Representation Act*. H.R. 151 is a crucial step towards ensuring that the anti-borders policies of the previous administration do not further distort congressional and Electoral College apportionment. Americans deserve to have their voices fully represented in our nation’s capital, not diluted by those who chose to violate our laws and enter the country illegally.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Federation for American Immigration Reform, “How Many Illegal Aliens Are in the United States? 2025 Update,” *Federation for American Immigration Reform*, Mar. 7, 2025, <https://www.fairus.org/issue/how-many-illegal-aliens-are-united-states-2025-update>.

¹⁰ United States Census Bureau, “Historical Apportionment Data (1910-2020),” *United States Census Bureau*, April 26, 2021, <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/dec/apportionment-data-text.html>.

¹¹ Ibid.