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Hollings Program Room, Thomas Cooper Library

IMMIGRATION AND THE BORDER IN THE 2024 ELECTION

Immigration and border security are routinely identified as two of the most important issues in the current presidential election cycle. This is because the Trump campaign has used them as a brush with which to paint the policies supported by President Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris as dangerous threats, and because the migrant situation itself—in the United States, throughout the Americas, and around the world—is changing rapidly.

Meanwhile, immigrant rights advocates are frustrated that Democrats, who are supposed to be their allies, seem to be caving to Republican pressure to take punitive action. While this moment is in some ways unique to American history, it also echoes earlier moments. This lecture provides the historical context necessary for understanding what we're witnessing today.



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