

Congressman Tom Suozzi on Immigration



*"America is founded on the basic principle that **'all men and women are created equal,'** not just all men and women with a green card, passport, or from a particular country. Everyone is entitled to be treated with respect and human dignity."*

- Tom Suozzi, 1/1/94

As a first generation American, whose father came from Italy and lived an American success story, Tom Suozzi has compiled a distinguished record as a passionate supporter and defender of immigrants rights and common sense solution throughout his 25 years in public service.

Mayor of Glen Cove

- As Mayor of Glen Cove, Tom opened the first "shape up center" on the east coast of the United States, a safe location where undocumented workers could find work, learn English, and take other job skill training. At the same time, illegal housing, code violation, and quality of life crimes were prosecuted. Today, the residents of Glen Cove live harmoniously while the same conflict that was addressed in Glen Cove 25 years ago still rages across the country.

Nassau County Executive

- Under Tom's leadership, the Nassau County Police Department worked hard to build trust and facilitated "community policing" so immigrants were not fearful to go to the police for protection.
- The police department issued an administrative order stating that it is not police policy to inquire about the immigration status of any person unless they are arrested for a crime.
- Brought together the president of the Long Island Association (LI's chamber of commerce), the Bishop of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, the NY State Secretary of State, the police commissioner, and health and education professionals, to facilitate policies that promote respect for and responsibility in the immigrant community.
- Called for a federal investigation into poorly implemented ICE raids conducted in Nassau County, which endangered the safety of residents and police officers, and jeopardized the community trust between the Police Department and immigrants.

Member of Congress

- As a member the bipartisan Problem Solver's Caucus in Congress, Tom helped negotiate compromise legislation for immigration reform. Tom supports comprehensive immigration reform including:
 1. Stronger border security
 2. Regularizing the 11 million undocumented persons currently in America, including a pathway to citizenship for DREAMers
 3. Treating all men, women and children, regardless of where they are from, like human beings
- Adamantly against separating children from their parents. Tom traveled to the border in El Paso, Texas to meet with border patrol officials, and inspect the Tornillo facility housing children who've been separated from their parents. Also, visited MercyFirst facility in Syosset.
- Co-sponsor of over ten bills that address responsible immigration reform, including the Dream Act of 2017, the Keep Families Together Act, the Freedom of Religion Act and several bipartisan bills.