The Impact of Immigrants in Massachusetts

Immigrants are vital to the Commonwealth:

- Massachusetts is home to over 1 million foreign-born residents, almost 16% percent of the total population.
- 1 in 5 workers in MA are foreign born, making them essential for the preservation and growth of the economy.
- Of the foreign born population more than half (52%) are naturalized and the rest are non-citizens.
- 15.5% of registered voters are naturalized immigrants or U.S. born children of immigrants.

Economic Contribution of Immigrants

Latinos and Asian immigrant entrepreneurs contribute tens of billions of dollars and tens of thousands of jobs to the economy of Massachusetts

- 21 percent of entrepreneurs in MA are immigrants, employing 134,477 people.
- 58% of Fortune 500 businesses in MA were founded by Immigrants.
- Immigrants earned 15% of all income in MA and contributed around $4.5 billion in federal and $3 billion in local and State tax revenues.
- Through their individual wage contributions, immigrants also paid about $4.6 billion into the Social Security and Medicare programs that year.

(Source: The New American Economy 2016)

Did you know?

In 2011, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) earned almost 168 patents, placing it among the top 10 most productive in the country. More than 72 percent of those patents had at least one foreign-born inventor.
Social Impact of Immigrants

Massachusetts has an aging population and immigrants and the children of immigrants are vital for supplying workers for the economy now and in the future.

- Without population growth from immigrants, the state population would have declined by three percent.
- The Commonwealth faces a shortage of STEM and healthcare professionals. Immigrants help fill up the huge gap between advertised positions and supply of professionals in industries that keep our knowledge-based economy thriving.
- 28 percent of children under 18 in Massachusetts are growing up in families with at least one immigrant parent. 86% of these children are U.S. born.


Immigrants are safe neighbors!
Numerous researches from around the country prove that foreign born American residents (citizens and non-citizens) have a significantly lower rate of offense than native-born population.

(Source: American Immigration Council 2013)

What about Unauthorized Immigrants?

If all unauthorized immigrants were removed from Massachusetts, the state would lose $12.0 billion in economic activity, $5.3 billion in gross state product, and approximately 55,467 jobs.

Unauthorized immigrants pay taxes
Unauthorized immigrants in Massachusetts paid $196.9 million in state and local taxes in 2012

(Source: Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy)

America was built by Immigrants!