

LWV VA is a member of VACIR - Virginia Coalition of Immigrant Rights

The Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights Opposes Governor Youngkin's Executive Order Forty-Seven

Alexandria, VA - Undocumented Virginians play a vital role in our Commonwealth. They pay taxes, actively contribute to our localities, and are beloved members of our communities. The overwhelming majority of undocumented residents desperately want to obtain status, but due to Congressional failure have been unable to do so.

Governor Youngkin's Executive Order Forty-Seven continues dangerous xenophobic stereotypes of hard-working immigrants that are not founded in fact. A 2024 [study](#) by the American Immigration Council showed that immigrants are substantially less likely than U.S.-born individuals to commit crimes. "As immigration increased, the crime rate declined, according to the American Immigration Council's analysis of demographics and crime data. Between 1980 and 2022, the immigrant share of the U.S. population more than doubled, from 6.2% to 13.9%, while the total crime rate dropped by 60.4%, from 5,900 crimes per 100,000 people to 2,335 crimes per 100,000 people. Specifically, the violent crime rate fell by 34.5% and the property crime rate fell by 63.3%.

These statistics challenge the narrative that higher immigration leads to higher crime rates, showing instead that crime rates have dropped even as the number of immigrants has grown.

Governor Youngkin's reckless executive order diverts already strained state police and state correctional facilities resources to carry out duties that should belong squarely to the federal government. This harms community safety by needlessly targeting immigrant community members, increasing fear, and eroding trust which could lead to unreported crimes leading to the victimization of immigrants.

Undocumented Virginians make up less than 3% of the Virginia population. In a time when our Commonwealth is facing historic economic attacks on federal workers, our Governor has decided to terrorize immigrant farm workers, domestic workers, and other essential workers.

The real security threat is misrepresenting facts about immigrant communities, sowing divides, and fueling hate which is morally reprehensible. Shame on Governor Youngkin! He is failing Virginians.

The Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights ([VACIR](#)) is a multi-racial and multi-ethnic coalition of 51 organizations that exists to win dignity, power and quality of life for all immigrant and refugee communities.

