

ASSEMBLY FOR HOPE



BUILDING A WELCOMING MICHIGAN

2026 POLICY PLATFORM

PREAMBLE

Driven by our faith's call to welcome the stranger, Strangers No Longer is committed to **walking alongside our immigrant neighbors** in prayer, hope, and action for a **Michigan that upholds the dignity of all human beings** and values the contributions of every resident of our great state.

Through our direct accompaniment of immigrant communities statewide, we have identified five central themes that **unite us as one people**. These themes are not simply common ground between U.S-born and foreign-born Americans, but rather a **declaration of our shared humanity**, rooted in **solidarity** and **the common good**. For Michigan to be a welcoming state, the following should hold for all families and residents:

1

Everyone deserves to live without fear of forcible separation.

2

Everyone deserves safety and protection.

3

Everyone deserves quality community programs and resources.

4

Everyone deserves the opportunity to fully participate in civic and economic life.

5

Everyone deserves the dignity of due process and constitutional protections.

Strangers No Longer understands that there must be federal policy changes to successfully address the ongoing immigration crisis in the U.S. These changes must begin by **exposing the racial and socioeconomic discrimination** that has fueled the current immigration system and end by **embracing a new system that centers compassion and respect for the intrinsic and inviolable human dignity of all people**.

Everyone deserves to live without fear of forcible separation.



TESTIMONIAL

"My husband, an asylum seeker from Venezuela, never came home from work one day. Despite following every requirement of his asylum case, ICE detained him at his workplace. We had just learned that we were expecting our third child. It has been nearly 14 months since he was taken from our family. Our baby boy is now eight months old, but his father has never held him. My older children break down in tears whenever they talk about their dad, asking when he is coming home. My husband missed the birth of our son. He has missed birthdays, milestones, and everyday moments that we, as a family, will never get back. Our children are growing up without their father—not because he committed a crime, but because our family was separated while we sought protection."

TALKING POINT

According to a study conducted by the nonpartisan institute, Brookings, an estimated 205,000 children are affected by parental detention and deportation, and a majority of these children, 145,000, are U.S. citizens.

Providing reasonable pathways to citizenship allows families to stay together.

TALKING POINT

A 2026 report by the Cato Institute found that in each year from 1994 to 2023, across all levels of government, immigrants paid more in taxes than they received in benefits. This resulted in a cumulative fiscal surplus of \$14.5 trillion in real 2024 U.S. dollars, including savings on interest payments on the national debt.

POLICY PROPOSAL

"Do you support a meaningful federal immigration reform, like that proposed by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and the American Immigration Council, that offers: pathways to citizenship for long-term residents; alternative compliance processes, in lieu of detention and removal; and humanitarian protections and due-process to refugees and asylum seekers?"

*This policy proposal is suitable for federal-level political candidates.



Everyone deserves safety and protection.



TESTIMONIAL

“In speaking with my local law enforcement, I realized that they were unaware of the negative consequences of 287(g) agreements, which are formal contracts between local police and federal immigration agencies. Once they knew, they said they had no interest in signing onto one. They understood that these agreements undermine community trust in police.”

“I am a schoolteacher. This past year, I had a student who needed medical attention. Due to the family’s immigration status and fear of possible ICE detention at the hospital, the appropriate medical care was not given until the child needed emergency surgery. The child missed the rest of the school year and suffered needlessly.”

TALKING POINT

Per the U.S. Constitution, immigration enforcement is strictly a federal responsibility. According to *Police Chief Magazine*, research consistently shows that when local police act as immigration agents, undocumented immigrants are far less likely to report violent crimes, sexual assaults, and domestic abuse for fear of deportation. This undermines the safety of entire communities, effectively placing community-driven public safety goals on the back burner, all in exchange for federal funding.

TALKING POINT

A 2023 UCLA study found that nearly every type of immigration enforcement encounter was associated with delays in seeking healthcare among Latino and Asian immigrants.

A 2025 national survey published in the *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* found that most Americans believe immigration enforcement in hospitals, schools, and places of worship would deter immigrants from seeking needed medical care.

POLICY PROPOSALS

“Do you support legislation prohibiting local law enforcement agencies from entering into 287(g) agreements with ICE, as states such as New York, Illinois, New Jersey, and Colorado have already done?”

“Do you support legislation, like MI Senate Bill 508, that would designate locations, such as places of worship, hospitals, and schools, as protected spaces, allowing federal immigration enforcement to enter only with a valid judicial warrant?”

*These policy proposals are suitable for state-level political candidates.



Everyone deserves quality community programs and resources.



TESTIMONIAL

“In my culture, making extended eye contact, either while speaking or listening, is considered disrespectful and is usually avoided when speaking to an elder or an authority figure. My son was raised this way. If he were to be stopped by a police officer, he would avoid eye contact to show respect and compliance. I worry that a police officer could misunderstand this. With my son being Black and speaking limited English with an accent, I am scared that he could be turned over to ICE for no reason. This situation makes me and my family feel at risk and unwelcome in our new home.”

TALKING POINT

Local law enforcement often lack the training and resources needed to effectively navigate the challenges created by increased federal immigration enforcement. Misunderstandings about cultural norms or uncertainty about legal responsibilities can compromise public safety and create unnecessary risks for both residents and officers. Surveys published by *Police Chief Magazine* show that many law enforcement officials believe current federal immigration enforcement practices damage relationships with immigrant communities.

TALKING POINT

State agencies, like Office of Global Michigan, play a key role in strengthening local economies by supporting New American integration. Research from the Center for American Progress estimates that full immigrant integration could create more than 438,800 new jobs through increased consumer spending, entrepreneurship, and investment. When these efforts are underfunded, communities miss opportunities to grow their workforce, attract investment, and realize the full economic and social benefits immigrants bring to Michigan.

POLICY PROPOSALS

“Do you support funding the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) to train state and local law enforcement on immigrant rights, cross-cultural communication, and de-escalation strategies, and provide general guidance on matters concerning interactions between local police and federal immigration enforcement?”

“Do you protect the Office of Global Michigan’s funding and support their mission to make Michigan a state that is welcoming and inclusive to newcomers?”

*These policy proposals are suitable for state-level political candidates.



Everyone deserves the opportunity to fully participate in civic and economic life.



TESTIMONIAL

“For me and for many immigrants in Michigan, leading full civic and economic lives means having the opportunity to obtain a driver’s license. The importance of this license is evident in my own family. Without a driver’s license, our daily lives become very difficult. Everyday tasks like going to the grocery store, taking my children to school, or to the doctor when they’re sick, and visiting relatives who live far away become sources of stress and anxiety. This is because driving without a license puts us at risk of being pulled over by law enforcement, turned over to ICE, and ultimately separated from our families.”

TALKING POINT

Until 2008, all Michigan residents had the ability to obtain a driver’s license after passing a driver’s test and meeting other requirements.

If legislation to restore drivers licenses to all residents were to become law, the Michigan League for Public Policy estimates that over the course of three years, 55,000 Michiganders would apply for a driver’s license, leading to 20,000 vehicle purchases.

TALKING POINT

The Michigan League for Public Policy estimates that reinstating driver’s licenses for undocumented immigrants would boost state revenue by \$13.5 million and contribute \$12 million in recurring revenue, \$9 million of which would be from sales and gas taxes related to vehicle ownership. Over the course of 10 years, this policy would generate nearly \$100 million for the state of Michigan.

POLICY PROPOSAL

“Do you support legislation, similar to that of Washington D.C. and 19 other states, to restore driver’s licenses to all age-eligible Michigan Residents?”

*This policy proposal is suitable for state-level political candidates.



Everyone deserves the dignity of due process and constitutional protections.



TESTIMONIAL

"After falsely accusing me of missing my immigration hearing, and refusing to accept the proof proving otherwise, ICE detained me at the North Lake Processing Center in Baldwin for nearly two months. There, medical care depended on the clock, not the urgency of your condition. If you became sick after a certain hour, guards told you to wait until morning. One night, a friend of mine suffered severe chest pain, difficulty breathing, numbness in his limbs, and uncontrollable vomiting. I immediately alerted a guard, but it took more than 40 agonizing minutes for a nurse to respond. Even then, my friend was never physically examined. As we waited, we had no idea whether he was having a medical emergency that could turn fatal."

TALKING POINT

Custody data released by ICE in December 2025 shows that the vast majority, 90% of the daily average population at North Lake Processing Center, have not been charged with a crime.

In January 2026, a congressional investigative report identified over 1,000 credible reports of human rights abuses in federal detention centers, including reports of physical and sexual abuse, medical neglect, and denial of food or water.

TALKING POINT

The January 2026 congressional investigation revealed that the North Lake Processing Center in Michigan placed 87 calls to emergency medical services over 6 months.

In April 2026, a significant portion of North Lake's roughly 1,400 detained immigrants launched a hunger strike to protest medical neglect, subprime conditions, and legal stonewalling.

POLICY PROPOSAL

Federal Candidate: "Do you support a federal investigation into the health and safety conditions of all Michigan immigrant detention centers, including the North Lake Processing Center, call for an indefinite moratorium on new immigrant detention facilities, and pursue humane, community-based alternatives instead?"

State Candidate: "Do you support a call for an inspection by the MI Dept. of Health to investigate the health and safety conditions at all privately run or county-run immigrant detention centers in Michigan, and oppose the expansion of new detention facilities in the State."





Strangers No Longer

This platform was unanimously ratified by Strangers No Longer members on Monday, June 29, 2026, in Detroit, Michigan. We extend our gratitude to all members and allies present at ratification. Thank you.

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Circles of Support Present

- Adrian Dominican Sisters
 - Ann Arbor Community Reformed Church
 - Birmingham Unitarian Church
 - Christ our Light Church, Troy
 - Christ the Good Shepherd, Lincoln Park
 - Christ the King, Detroit
 - Christ the Redeemer Catholic Community, Lake Orion
 - Coalition for Compassion, Metro-Detroit
 - Gesu Catholic Parish, Detroit
 - Grosse Pointe Unitarian, Grosse Pointe
 - Holy Trinity Catholic Community, Port Huron
 - Holy Trinity Parish, Detroit
 - Hombres St. Andre Bessette, Ecorse
 - Mujeres St. Andre Bessette, Ecorse
 - Mujeres, St. Mary's Student Parish, Ann Arbor
 - Nativity / St. Charles Borromeo, Detroit
 - Nativity Episcopal Church, Bloomfield Hills
 - Our Lady of the Woods, Woodhaven
 - Our Mother of Perpetual Help, Oak Park/Ferndale
 - Resurrection Catholic Parish, Canton
 - Ss. Peter and Paul Jesuit Church, Detroit
 - St. Clement Church, Romeo
 - St. Francis of Assisi, Ann Arbor
 - St. Mark the Evangelist, Goodrich
 - St. Mary Student Parish, Ann Arbor
 - St. Michael Catholic Community, Sterling Heights
 - St. Peter Episcopal, Detroit
 - St. Regis Catholic Church, Bloomfield Hills
 - Youth in Action for Immigration (Statewide)
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Community Allies Present

- Amnesty International - Detroit Chapter
- Faith and Race Project - Livingston County
- Livingston Diversity Council
- Weather Watchers (Watching for ICE)
- Episcopal Diocese of Michigan
- Rising Voices
- Pax Christi Michigan
- IHM Sisters
- Sisters of Mercy
- Holy Faith - Voices of Justice
- Detroit Friends Meeting
- Macomb Embracing Liberation Together (MELT)

To add your organization's name, please contact Odalis Perales at perales.o@strangersnolonger.org or Bill O'Brien at (313) 549-0421.

Strangers No Longer (SNL) is a statewide network of Circles of Support inspired by Catholic Social Doctrine that provides education, direct support, and advocacy to promote humane immigration policies.

For more information about SNL, contact info@strangersnolonger.org.

Scan the QR code to sign up for our monthly newsletter.

