

# IMMIGRATION 101

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Christ United Methodist Church

April 27, 2025

# WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES?

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- 1. Compassion and Justice:** Throughout the Bible, there is a consistent call to show compassion and justice to immigrants and refugees. This is often tied to reminders of the Israelites' own experience as strangers in Egypt. (Exodus 22:21, Leviticus 19:33-34, Deuteronomy 10:18-19)
- 2. Hospitality:** The Bible teaches the importance of hospitality towards strangers, as seen in verses like Hebrews 13:2, which says that some have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it. (See also Matthew 25:35)
- 3. Protection and Care:** God instructs His people to protect and care for immigrants and refugees, along with other vulnerable groups such as orphans and widows. (Jeremiah 22:3)
- 4. Love for Others:** The overarching message of love for others, which is central to Christian ethics, applies to immigrants and refugees as well. Christians are called to love their neighbors as themselves, regardless of their nationality or background. (Matthew 22:39)

# THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

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<sup>13</sup> When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

<sup>14</sup> So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, <sup>15</sup> where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."

–Matthew 2:13–15

# IMMIGRATION AND THE STORY OF JESUS

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Jose y Maria, Everett Patterson

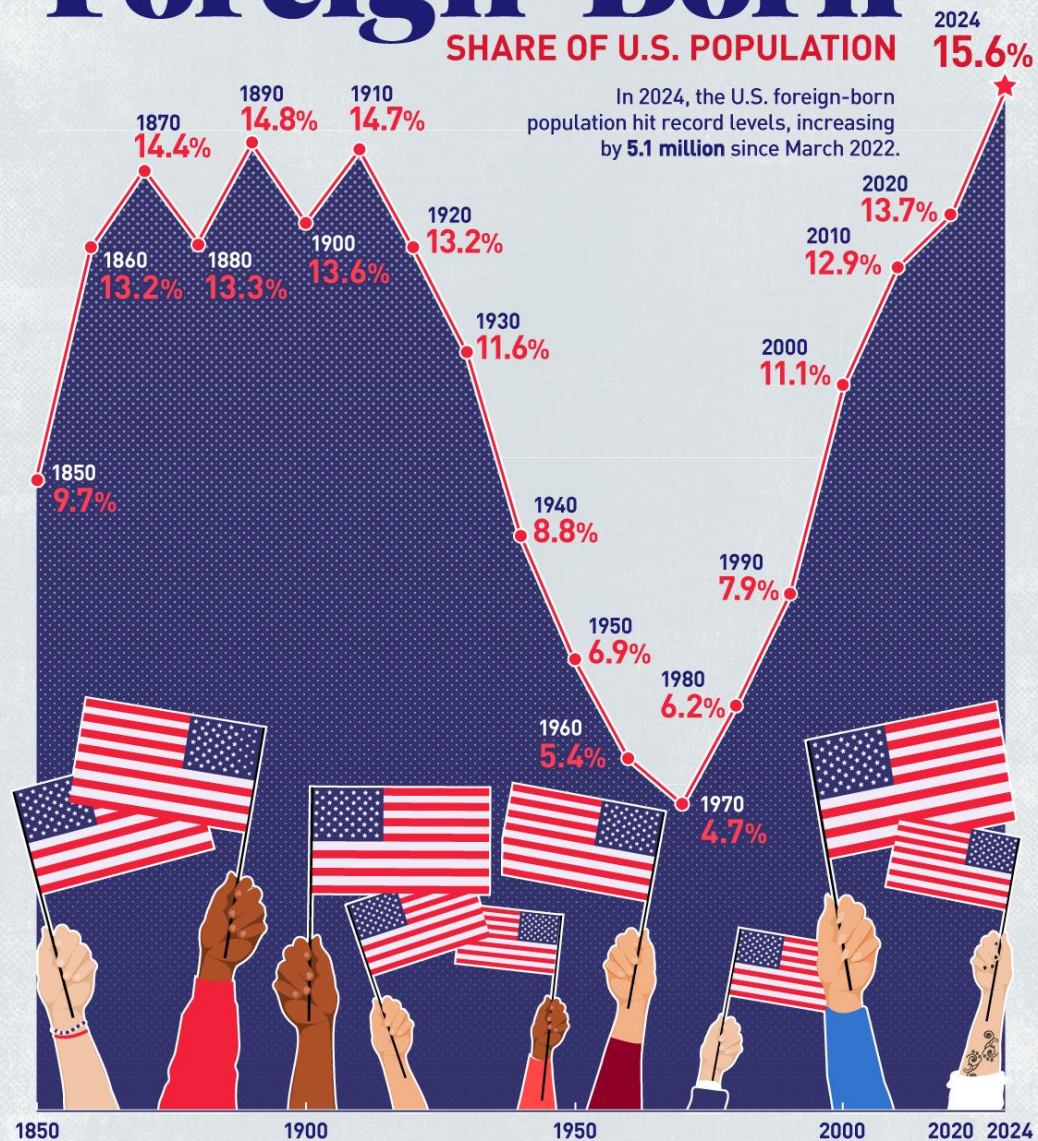


La Sagrada Familia, Kelly Latimore

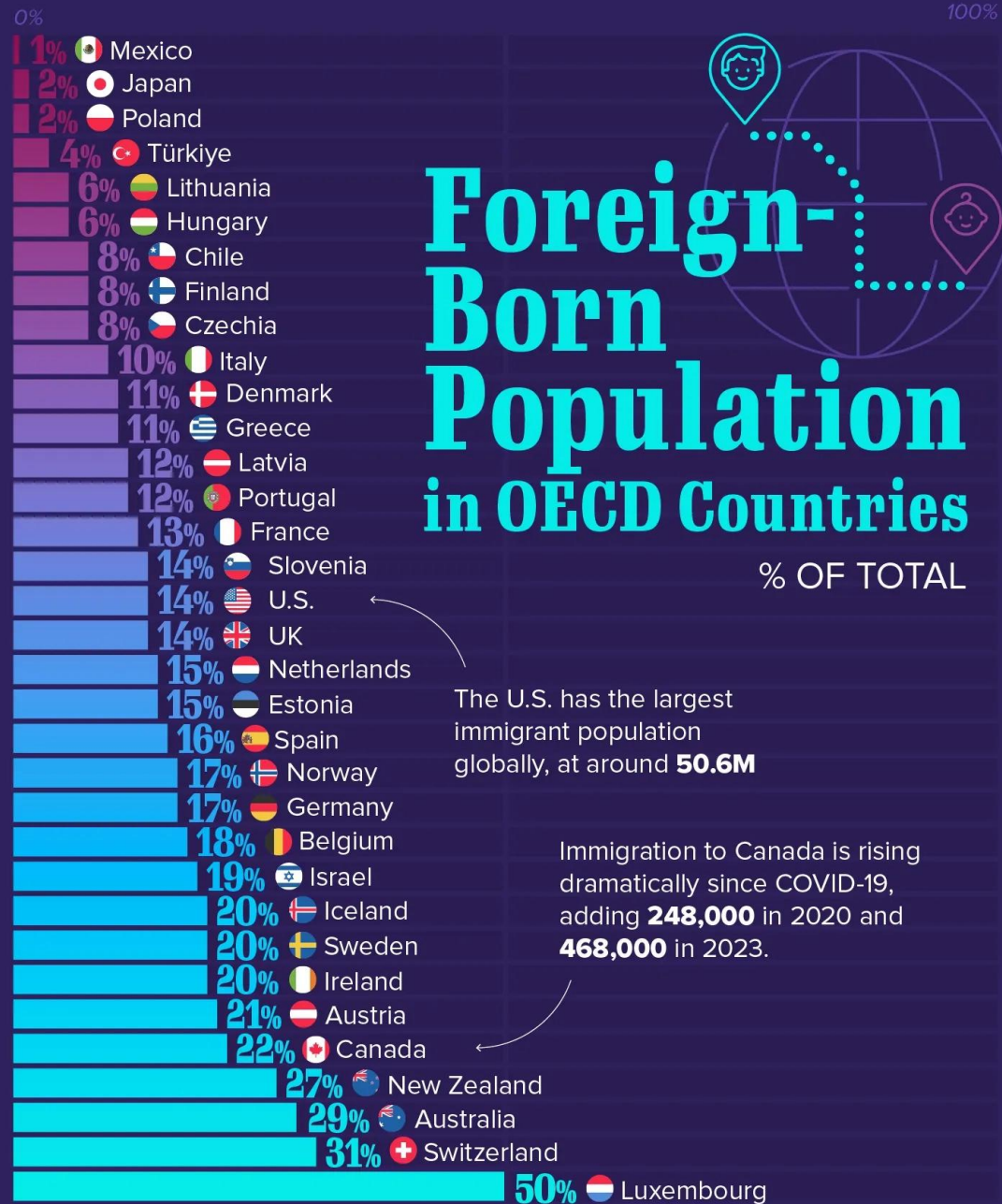


# Foreign-Born

SHARE OF U.S. POPULATION

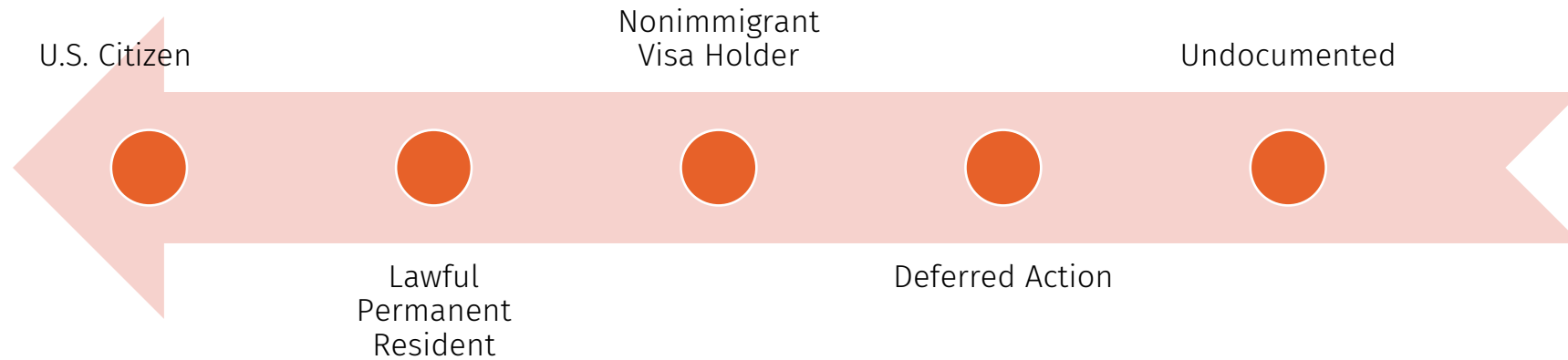


Source: U.S. Census Bureau



# Simple spectrum of status

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# PERMANENT RESIDENT VS. CITIZEN

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Permanent resident aka green card holder



Citizen



Permanent residents can live and work permanently in the U.S. Permanent residents cannot vote, serve on a jury, etc. Permanent resident status can be lost or abandoned.

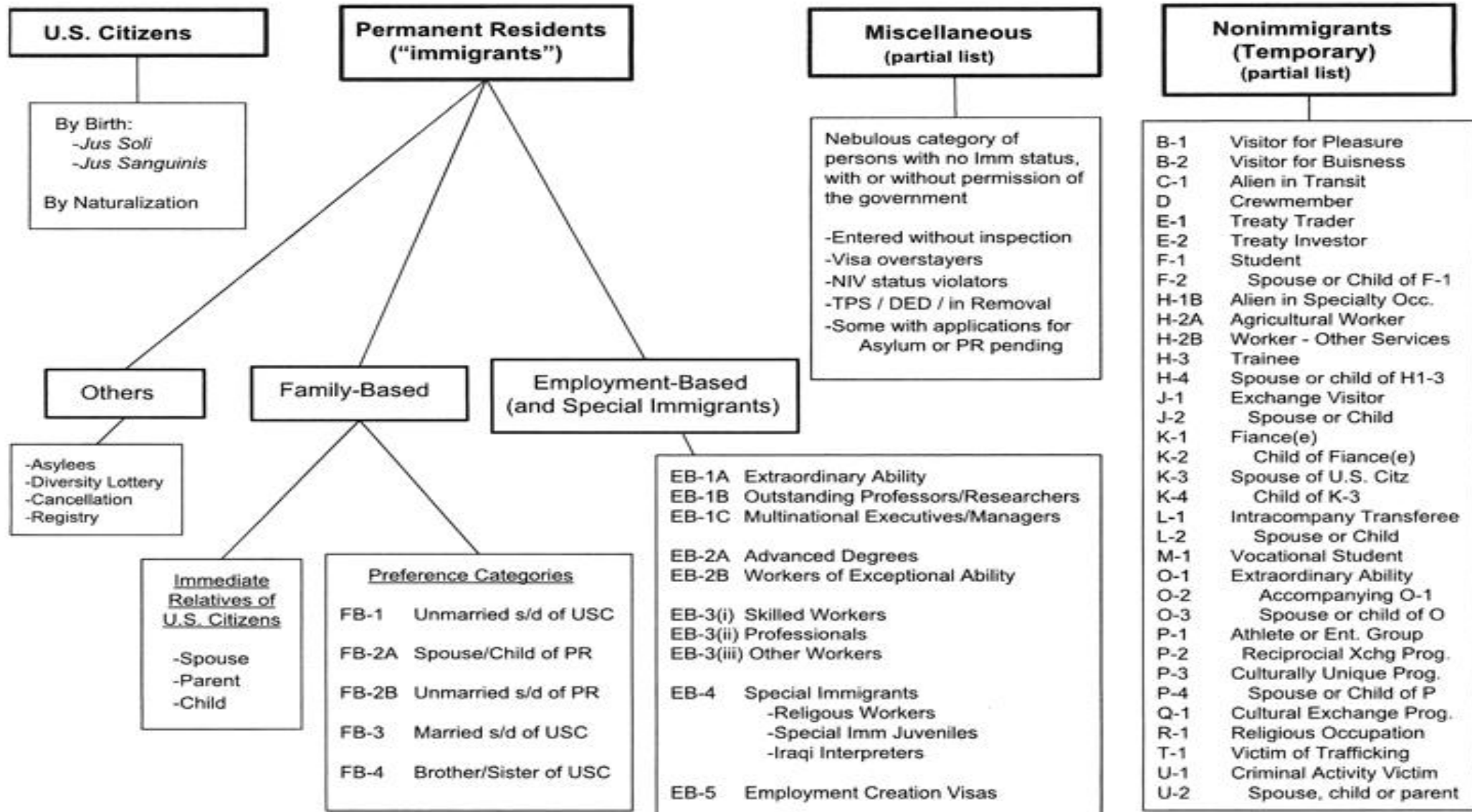
To become a citizen by naturalization, you must first have been a permanent resident for 3–5 years and meet other criteria.



# PATH TO CITIZENSHIP?



## CATEGORIES OF MOST PERSONS IN THE UNITED STATES







# US CITIZENS

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- By birth (jus soli)
  - Everyone born in the US, regardless of status of their parents
  - Aka "birthright citizenship"
  - Enshrined in the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment
  - Does not apply to children of diplomats b/c not "subject to jurisdiction of the US"
- By blood (jus sanguinis)
  - At least one US citizen parent who has spent a certain amount of time in the US
  - Comes up with children born outside the US to US citizen parent(s)
- By naturalization
  - Applying for citizenship after having a green card for at least 5 years (or 3 if married to a US citizen)





# IMMIGRANTS: FAMILY BASED

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- Family
  - Close relative (spouse, parent, ADULT child (over 21), brother or sister) who is already a U.S. citizen or permanent resident
  - No numerical limit for spouses, unmarried children under 21, or parents of US citizens
  - Numerical limits if the relative is an LPR instead of a citizen; or if different relationship than the above - certain number of each type can be granted per country, per year. Creates a "wait list" for your case that can be years long.



# IMMIGRANTS: EMPLOYMENT BASED

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- Most require a labor certification - proof that there are no willing, qualified, and able U.S. workers to take the job. Involves advertising the job to see if any U.S. workers apply.
  - This process takes two years, at minimum, before you can even apply for permanent residence (usually even longer).
  - Employer must pay all costs of labor certification - usually thousands of dollars.
  - In most cases, employee must be maintaining some form of status to be able to use this to get a green card - usually won't work for an undocumented worker.





# EMPLOYMENT BASED PART 2

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- Narrow exceptions where labor certification is not required:
  - Extraordinary ability
  - Outstanding professor/researcher
  - Multinational exec/manager
  - National interest waiver
  - Certain religious workers
  - Investors
- Still have same restrictions that the worker must be in-status to benefit.





# IMMIGRANTS: SPECIAL LAWS

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- Visas for victims of crime (U visas)
- Asylum - meet the definition of refugee but already in U.S. - well-founded fear of persecution in home country
- TPS - Temporary Protected Status / DED - Deferred Enforced Departure
- DACA - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals
- Military benefits - Parole in Place
- Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS)
- Diversity Lottery



# NON-IMMIGRANTS

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- "Alphabet soup" of different visa categories
- Tourist - B visas
- Fiancé - K visas (where the show 90-Day Fiancé gets its name)
- Employment/School
  - H-1B (bachelor's degree holders) - 85,000 available vs. 470,000 entrants in lottery
  - H-2A / H-2B - agricultural and seasonal workers
  - J - exchange programs
  - F - students
  - O - extraordinary ability
  - P - performers and athletes
  - R - religious occupations



THE CHART THAT  
CHANGED MY LIFE....

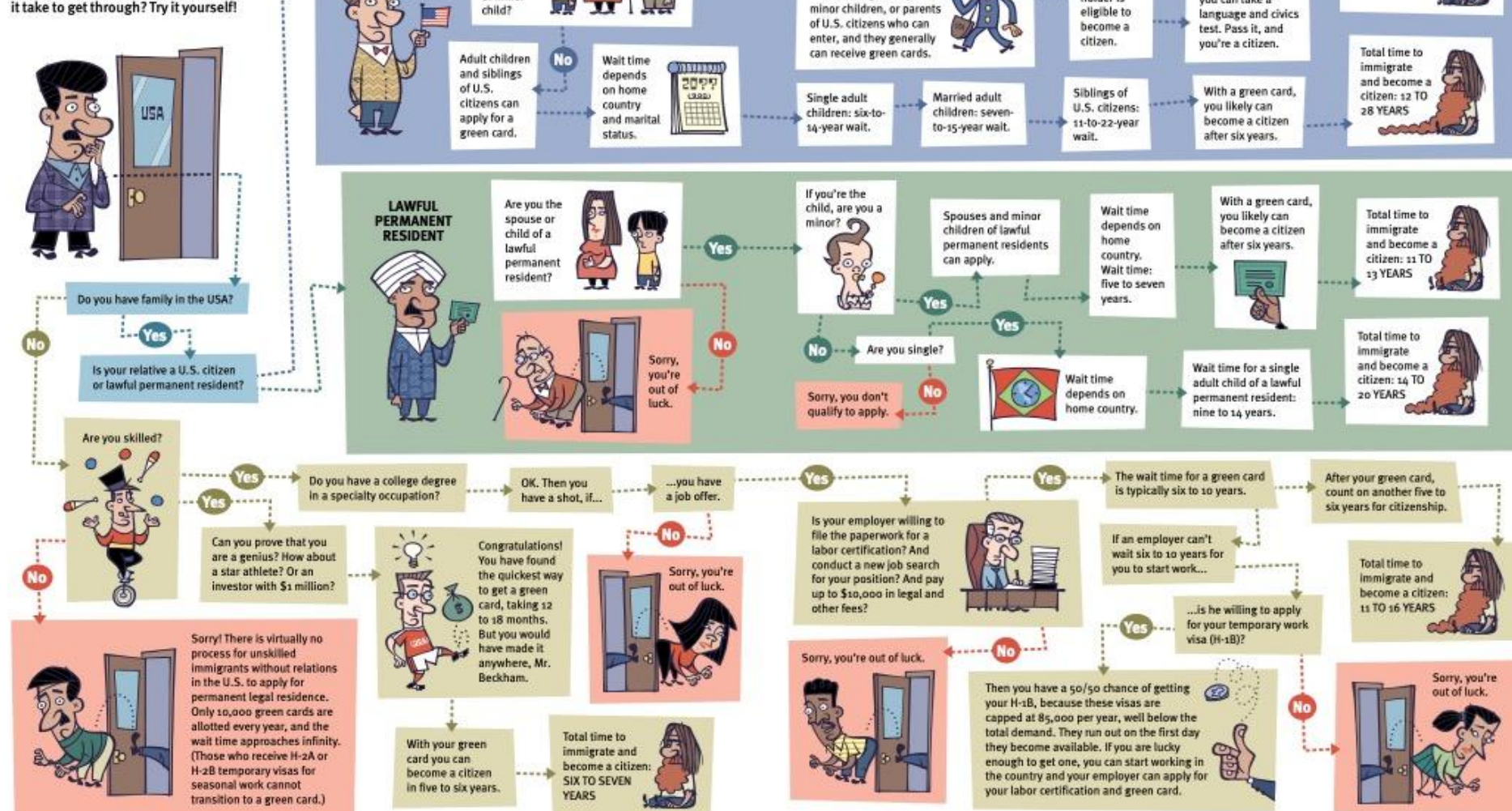


# What Part of Legal Immigration Don't You Understand?

Mike Flynn and Shikha Dalmia

Illustrated by Terry Colon

Opponents of illegal immigration are fond of telling foreigners to "get in line" before coming to work in America. But what does that line actually look like, and how many years (or decades) does it take to get through? Try it yourself!



(Flynn is director of government affairs and Dalmia is a senior policy analyst at Reason Foundation. This chart was developed by Reason Foundation in collaboration with the National Foundation for American Policy.)



THE STORY OF IMMIGRATION TO THE UNITED STATES



# QUESTIONS?

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