

# Presidential ‘Parole’ in U.S. Immigration Policy: A Historic and Upcoming Challenge in Elections

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In the U.S., the use of immigration “parole” has become a critical tool for presidents, including Joe Biden, to create legal channels for immigrants. This executive power may face its most significant test yet in the 2024 presidential elections.

Biden has notably utilized parole to enable at least 1 million temporary stays with work eligibility, standing in stark contrast to his predecessor, Donald Trump, who has vowed to terminate such use of parole if elected again.

Originating from a 1952 law, parole allows entry on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit and has been used by all presidents since its inception, except Trump, as reported by David Bier from the Cato Institute.

Personal histories from immigrants who benefited from major parole programs over the last 72 years were shared with the Associated Press, highlighting the lasting impact of this immigration tool.

## **Hungary: 1956 Parole Wave**

Edith Lauer’s family left Budapest amidst the 1956 Soviet interventions, finding refuge in the United States through parole. Their successful integration into American society is a testament to the opportunities provided by this immigration policy.

## **Vietnam: 1975 Parole Initiative**

Approximately 340,000 individuals from Southeast Asia were given a new life in the U.S. through parole post-Vietnam War. Stories like Kim-Trang Dang’s, who transitioned from law student to social worker, showcase the policy’s transformative potential.

## **Cuba: 1980 Mariel Boatlift**

The Mariel boatlift facilitated the parole of roughly 125,000 Cubans into the U.S. Mabel Junco’s journey from arriving in Key West to becoming a teacher in Jacksonville, Florida, illustrates the hope and opportunity that parole can bring.

## **Venezuela: 2023 Parole Actions**

With over 7.7 million Venezuelans displaced, the U.S. extended parole to many, including Berioskha Guevara, whose life dramatically improved upon arrival, reflecting the vital role of parole in humanitarian relief.

The Biden administration's expansion of the parole program is under legal scrutiny by Texas and 20 other states, suggesting that a judicial decision might shape the future application of this executive power. The upcoming 2024 elections will likely bring this issue to the forefront, testing the boundaries and political acceptance of presidential 'parole.'

Contributing to the report, Associated Press writer Elliot Spagat offers a broader view of the implications of this policy.

## **FAQ Section**

### **What is immigration 'parole'?**

Immigration 'parole' in the United States is a mechanism by which the president can admit individuals on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit.

### **Which U.S. president has made the most use of immigration 'parole'?**

As of the latest reports, President Joe Biden has made the most use of immigration 'parole' to address immigration and create legal pathways for immigrants.

### **Has every U.S. president used immigration 'parole'?**

Every U.S. president since the creation of the parole system in 1952 has used it except for Donald Trump, according to data from the Cato Institute.

### **What are some historical instances of immigration 'parole'?**

There have been several significant instances of immigration 'parole' over the past 72 years, including during events such as the Hungarian Revolution in 1956, the Vietnam War in 1975, the Cuban Mariel boatlift in 1980, and the Venezuelan crisis in 2023.

### **What is the current legal stance on immigration 'parole'?**

The legality of the Biden administration's use of immigration 'parole', especially for large groups, faces challenges from several states and awaits a judicial ruling.

## **Conclusion**

Immigration 'parole' has played a significant role in U.S. immigration policy over the years. Presidents have leveraged this executive power to provide humanitarian relief and manage migration flows effectively. The continued use and extent of immigration 'parole' face both legal and political challenges as the nation approaches the pivotal 2024 elections. The impact of this tool transcends administrations, influencing the lives of numerous immigrants and reflecting the ongoing debate over the balance of executive and legislative power in U.S. immigration policy.