

POLITIFACT

Donald Trump says Democrats want to give cars to undocumented immigrants. Nope

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Want a free car? President Donald Trump has told his audiences that undocumented immigrants are in luck, if the Democrats have their way.

In an Oct. 19 rally in Mesa, Ariz., Trump said, "Democrats want to give illegal aliens free welfare, free health care, and free education. Give them a driver's license. Give them a driver's license. Next thing you know, they want to buy them a car. Then they'll say the car's not good enough, how about a Rolls-Royce?"

The hypothetical morphed into something more the following day at a rally in Elko, Nev. No longer was this idea simply the "next thing" Democrats were going to dream up — by then, the Democratic proposal he mentioned had purportedly already surfaced.

Referring to Democrats, Trump said, "They want to take away your Second Amendment. They want to raise your taxes. They want to open your borders — let people in, illegally. And then they want to pay for those people for health care, for education. They want to give them cars, they want to give them driver's licenses. I said last night — we did a great, great rally in Arizona last night — and I said last night, what kind of car will they supply them? Will it be a Rolls-Royce?"

Twelve states have indeed chosen to offer driver's licenses to undocumented immigrants, which cannot be used for federal identification purposes. According to the National Conference of State Legislatures, they are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Vermont and Washington, along with the District of Columbia. Typically, an applicant must provide certain documents to obtain one, such as a foreign birth certificate, a foreign passport, or a consular card, along with evidence of current residency in the state. (Many of these states are solidly Democratic in their leanings, though some such as Nevada and New Mexico are mixed, and Utah is solidly Republican.)

But cars? That's fantasy.

Based on Google and Nexis searches, we found no indication that any Democratic official had proposed giving free cars to undocumented immigrants, be it a Rolls-Royce or a clunker.

"I've never heard any plan to give illegal immigrants cars at taxpayer expense," said Alex Nowrasteh, a policy analyst at the libertarian Cato Institute who closely tracks legislative proposals on immigration.

Asked whether he'd heard any of discussion of this idea among congressional Democrats, Drew Hammill, a spokesman for House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Trump's remark was "fiction."

We reached out to the White House but did not receive a reply.

Our ruling

Trump said that Democrats "want to give (undocumented immigrants) cars." There is no evidence for this. It rates Pants on Fire.