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May. 10, 2011

Driving the Conversation:

Arena Ref: [David Mark](#)

Is immigration really a winner for Democrats?

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Roger Pilon

Vice President for Legal Affairs, Cato Institute :

Immigration will be a winning issue for Democrats only if Republicans allow it, which they're quite capable of doing. Where's the anti-immigrant part of the Republican base going to go - to the Democrats? Hardly. With so much else at stake, will they sit out the 2012 elections, over this one issue? Please.

If Republicans play it right, this can be a winner. No one seriously believes that the estimated 10 to 12 million illegal immigrants in the country, most working, can or should be sent back to their countries of origin. So the main issues are paving the way to legalization, better securing the borders, and providing for a rational guest worker program. If Republicans got behind a package like that, immigration would cease to be a Democratic issue. This isn't rocket science.

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