

Romney Silent on Court's Immigration Ruling

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Highlight: Mitt **Romney** is ready to talk about health care, but not the Supreme **Court's** split decision on Arizona's **immigration** law.

Body

PHOENIX - Mitt **Romney**'s campaign chartered a private plane this week to have his traveling press corps nearby when the Supreme Court issues its decision on President Obama's health care law.

But when the Supreme Court **ruled** on Arizona's tough **immigration** law Monday morning, invalidating part of it, Mr. **Romney** was less eager to expound on the particulars.

Shortly after that decision was issued, Mr. **Romney**'s campaign released a short statement criticizing President Obama for having "failed to provide any leadership on **immigration**."

"I believe that each state has the duty - and the right - to secure our borders and preserve the **rule** of law, particularly when the federal government has failed to meet its responsibilities," Mr. **Romney** said in the statement. "As Candidate Obama, he promised to present an **immigration** plan during his first year in office. But four years later, we are still waiting."

But when reporters on the chartered plane asked Rick Gorka, Mr. **Romney**'s traveling press secretary, if the candidate would discuss the specifics of the **court's ruling** and offer a more detailed statement, Mr. Gorka said it was unlikely.

"Probably not," he said. "The governor's been pretty clear on his stance on **immigration**."

But in his statement, Mr. **Romney**, the former governor of Massachusetts, did not comment on the provisions of the 2010 Arizona **immigration** law that the court struck down, nor did he express support for the one provision **the court upheld** - what critics call the "show me your papers" provision, which requires state law enforcement officials to determine the **immigration** status of anyone they stop or arrest if they suspect the person might be in the country illegally.

When asked why Mr. **Romney** had chartered a plane for the express purpose of commenting on some of the **court's** rulings (see: health care), but not others (see: **immigration**), Mr. Gorka explained, "We were very clear that this was about Obamacare."

Mr. Gorka later held a seven-minute briefing with reporters on the topic, but again offered almost no specifics, refusing to address what Mr. **Romney** thinks of the **court's** decision or what Mr. **Romney** thinks of the Arizona **immigration** law.

"The governor supports the rights of states - that's all we're going to say on this issue," Mr. Gorka said.

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Mr. **Romney** is trying to thread something of a needle on **immigration** now that he has secured his party's nomination. During the early nominating contests, he took a hard-line stance on the topic, encouraging illegal immigrants to "self-deport" and saying he would veto the Dream Act, which would provide a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants who were brought into the country at a young age and went on to attend college.

But as he pivots to the general election, he has begun softening his tone in an attempt to woo Hispanic voters, who are crucial voting blocs in many swing states like Colorado, Florida, Nevada and Virginia. Mr. **Romney's** challenge is to appeal to Hispanic voters, while not seeming to shift from the **immigration** positions he took during the primary contests, which could alienate his conservative base and put him at risk to charges of flip-flopping.

Mr. **Romney** also steered clear of the Arizona law in a major [speech](#) to Hispanic leaders Thursday in Lake Buena Vista, Fla.

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- [In Florida, Obama Assails Republicans Over Immigration Policy](#)
- [Romney Touts a Book, but Reads It Selectively](#)
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