

HOUSE CANDIDATE WANTS ILLEGAL IMMIGRANT 'CAMPS'

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Highlight: A fellow Republican **candidate** is "stunned" by Marg Baker's idea.

Body

A **candidate** for **House** District 48 says that **illegal immigrants** are such a problem for Florida that "**camps**" should be built to **house** them until they can be sent back to their homeland.

"You don't need to think of them as prisons or as luxury accommodations, just regular homes like a lot of poor people live in," said Marg Baker, who's seeking the Republican nomination for the statehouse seat that covers much of northern Pinellas County.

"Collect enough **illegal aliens** until you have enough to ship them back. E-verify ... but we have got to get the **illegal immigrants** off the streets."

E-Verify is an Internet-based system that allows an employer to determine the eligibility of an employee to work in the United States.

The other two Republicans in the race say that, while **illegal** immigration needs to be addressed, they're opposed to "**camps**" being the solution.

"I was almost floored when she (Baker) said she **wanted** to put people in detention **camps** like the 1940s," said Rep. Peter Nehr, the incumbent who's trying to win a third term. "I'm stunned and I didn't know where that came from.

"We do have an **illegal** immigration problem, but we can't start just putting people in **camps**. ... I've known Marg for many, many years and I was stunned to hear her say that."

Steve Mueller is the other **candidate** seeking the Republican nomination in the Aug. 24 primary.

"We need to enforce our current laws that we have," he said. "There is nothing I can say on where (Baker) stands, but I just think that our current laws need to be enforced."

Baker told a group of people: "We can follow what happened back in the '40s or '50s."

"I was just a little girl in Miami, and they built **camps** for the people that snuck into the country because they were **illegal**," Baker said. "They put them in the **camps** and they shipped them back. We can do that. We can do E-Verify. We must stop them."

Baker could not be reached Wednesday to clarify what **camps** she means. But in World War II, the U.S. government forced about 110,000 Japanese-Americans and Japanese into internment **camps** after Japan attacked Pearl Harbor. Presidents have apologized to those who were interned, and Congress voted for compensation.

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During an interview this week, Baker noted the difficulty Arizona is having dealing with the influx of illegal immigrants. Baker said the handcuffs should be taken off police officers who try to follow the law, and should be put on the illegal immigrants instead. She said the issue is costing Florida billions of dollars a year.

"We've got to get them off the street, and they have to live and sleep somewhere," Baker said. "Not in prison, but they should be held until we ship them out and they should not mingle among the people."

"Who knows what diseases they are carrying or if they are criminals? They snuck in here and are walking among us. This is wrong."

"Over \$3.9 billion that it's costing Florida. If we can gather them up and ship them back home, wherever they came from, we will have a balanced budget."

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Graphic

PHOTO: Baker

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