

## **Obama and Romney React to Court's Immigration Decision**

The New York Times Blogs

(The Caucus)

June 25, 2012 Monday

Copyright 2012 The News York Times Company All Rights Reserved

**Section:** US; politics

**Length:** 787 words

**Byline:** MICHAEL D. SHEAR

**Highlight:** President **Obama** and Mitt **Romney reacted** to the Supreme **Court's decision** to strike down parts of a tough Arizona **immigration** law.

### **Body**

---

The rivals for the presidency **reacted** swiftly on Monday to the **Supreme Court's decision** [\*to strike down parts of Arizona's aggressive immigration laws\*](#) while letting a controversial provision stand.

**President Obama** said the **decision** to stop enforcement of parts of the Arizona law underscored the need for comprehensive **immigration** reform by the federal government. But he said he remained concerned about a provision that requires the police to check the status of people they suspect may be in the country illegally.

"I remain concerned about the practical impact of the remaining provision of the Arizona law that requires local law enforcement officials to check the **immigration** status of anyone they even suspect to be here illegally," Mr. **Obama** said. "No American should ever live under a cloud of suspicion just because of what they look like."

**Mitt Romney** issued a brief statement saying he supported aggressive efforts by states to fight illegal **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**, the presumptive Republican nominee, said in a written statement.

Neither candidate chose to make remarks on camera. Mr. **Obama** was traveling to New Hampshire and Boston for campaign events on Monday. Mr. **Romney** was campaigning in the West, including a fund-raising stop in Arizona.

In his statement, Mr. **Obama** vowed to "work with anyone in Congress" to make progress on comprehensive **immigration** reform. But he said that in the meantime he would "continue to use every federal resource," a reference to the deportation policy he announced two weeks ago.

Under that policy, some immigrants who were brought illegally to the country as children will not be deported.

Last week, Mr. **Romney** avoided any mention of the Arizona law during [\*an appearance before Latino public officials in Florida\*](#). On Monday, he also steered clear of commenting on the details of the **court's decision**.

In his statement, Mr. **Romney** said that the ruling "underscores the need for a president who will lead on this critical issue and work in a bipartisan fashion to pursue a national **immigration** strategy. President **Obama** has failed to provide any leadership on **immigration**. This represents yet another broken promise by this president."

But he did not say whether he thought the court had erred in invalidating parts of the state's law. Nor did he express specific support for the Arizona provisions that the court upheld.

## Obama and Romney React to Court's Immigration Decision

Hours after the Supreme Court ruling, Mr. **Romney** was flying to Arizona to appear at a fund-raising luncheon at the Scottsdale Plaza Resort. He was not scheduled to make any public appearances during his brief visit to Arizona on Monday. The timing of his visit to Arizona was coincidental, an aide said.

But the politics are tricky for him.

More specific expressions of support for the law's controversial provisions would be likely to undermine his efforts to increase support among Latinos. But if Mr. **Romney** distances himself from the Arizona law, he runs the risk of alienating conservative **Tea Party** supporters who back aggressive enforcement.

During the Republican primary, Mr. **Romney** said he would have withdrawn the federal government's lawsuits against the Arizona law, an indication of broad support for the controversial provisions that angered Hispanics.

Now that the court has overturned several of those provisions, Mr. **Romney** may be under pressure to explain why he would have disagreed with the court and let them stand.

And in the days ahead, he will probably be pressed on whether he agrees with the **court's decision** to uphold the provision on checks of **immigration** status.

As he courts Hispanic voters ahead of the election in November, Mr. **Romney** is eager to portray the president as having failed on the issue of **immigration**.

"As candidate **Obama**, he promised to present an **immigration** plan during his first year in office," Mr. **Romney** said in his statement. "But four years later, we are still waiting."

In making that case, Mr. **Romney** is getting help from the **Republican National Committee**, which issued a statement echoing the one from Mr. **Romney**'s campaign.

"In the absence of presidential leadership, states have acted on their own to serve their people and enforce the law, but the issue cannot fully be resolved with a president unwilling to keep his promises," said **Reince Priebus**, the chairman of the R.N.C. "This **decision** makes that job even more difficult."

But Mr. **Romney** starts with an electoral deficit - most polls show Mr. **Obama** well ahead among Latino voters, especially in critical swing states like Virginia, Colorado, Nevada and Florida.

## Classification

---

**Language:** ENGLISH

**Document-Type:** News

**Publication-Type:** Web Blog

**Subject:** **IMMIGRATION** (91%); ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS (90%); US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT (90%); **DECISIONS** & RULINGS (89%); LITIGATION (89%); LAW ENFORCEMENT (78%); CAMPAIGNS & ELECTIONS (78%); US REPUBLICAN PARTY (77%); RULE OF LAW (77%); US STATE GOVERNMENT (77%); BORDER CONTROL (73%); SUPREME COURTS (73%); FUNDRAISING (73%); POLITICAL CANDIDATES (72%); LAW COURTS & TRIBUNALS (66%); JUDICIAL ERROR (61%)

**Organization:** Supreme Court

Obama and Romney React to Court's Immigration Decision

**Person:** BARACK **OBAMA** (79%); **Obama**, Barack; **Romney**, Mitt

**Geographic:** ARIZONA, USA (95%); UNITED STATES (79%); Arizona

**Load-Date:** June 25, 2012

---

End of Document