

## **Rights rallies set on holiday; IMMIGRANT WORKERS FOCUS OF MARCHES**

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### **Body**

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With ambitions to equal the turnout of massive immigration **rallies** in April and May, organizers announced Wednesday plans for Labor Day **marches** in the Bay Area and across the nation.

The Sept. 4 **marches** in San Jose, Oakland, San Francisco and other U.S. cities, organizers say, will hopefully kick-start the stalled immigration reform legislation.

Conflicting bills approved by the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate have yet to reach compromise discussions.

"On this day we want to send a message to Congress to resolve the issue for 12 million undocumented **immigrants** in this country," said Jose Sandoval of the Voluntarios de la Comunidad, one of the San Jose organizing groups behind the **march**.

Starting Thursday, Sandoval and other volunteers will collect signatures for a banner to be carried by marchers on the national **holiday**. Like the May 1 **march** -- which drew an estimated 125,000 people to San Jose streets -- the group will gather on the East Side and **march** to City Hall.

"We hope to have a good mass of folks," said Larisa Casillas, new executive director of the Bay Area **Immigrant Rights** Coalition.

"It's a fitting day to highlight the contribution of **immigrant workers**," she said. "Congress is back in session on Sept. 1 and we want to continue to keep putting on pressure for immigration reform."

**Marches** and **rallies** are also being organized in Los Angeles, Chicago and New York City.

Sandoval said he and other organizers hope to equal the attendance of the massive **marches** in April and May.

"I'm optimistic," said Walter Rodriguez, a volunteer organizer for the September **march**. "People are tired of waiting for Congress to do its work on immigration reform."

The **march** will **focus** on legalization for illegal **immigrants** and stopping a House-approved bill that would make it a felony to be in the United States illegally.

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Roberta Allen, a San Jose small-business owner who organized a counterprotest to ``A Day Without Immigrants'' in May, said she knew of no plans to hold a counterprotest on Labor Day.

``I think people are getting a little tired of people who are here illegally demanding rights in this country," she said. ``We're not anti-immigrant. It's illegal immigration that we're against."

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