

12th Virginia Immigrant Advocates Summit (Virtual)
Tuesday and Wednesday, November 9th and 10th, 2021
Virginia

Summit Goals:

1. To educate and motivate diverse stakeholders in addressing the multiple needs and issues impacting immigrant communities in Virginia;
2. To identify concrete rallying points around which advocates, and stakeholders can mobilize themselves to take immediate action;
3. To identify and understand the many challenges facing Virginia as a result of the state's changing demographics and develop positive means to address those challenges and promote community reconciliation;
4. To create a forum for advocates and stakeholders to plan and develop action steps that address the specific concerns of the immigrant communities they serve;
5. To create a safe place where advocates and stakeholders can form supportive networks that actively advocate for immigrant communities and their families.

Summit Program:

Day 1 – Tuesday, November 9, 2021

9:00am	Introduction and welcome remarks
9:10am	Summit overview <ul style="list-style-type: none">● MC of the day: Beatriz Amberman, Chair, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO) Welcome remarks: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Maribel Castañeda, Director of Appointments and Director of Latino Outreach Governor Ralph S. Northam
09:10am – 10:40am	Topic 1) Virginia Legislative Update from the 2021 General Assembly, and upcoming 2022 General Assembly post 2021 Virginia state elections - This plenary session will discuss legislative victories during the 2021 Virginia General Assembly that impact immigrant communities in VA such as the provision of financial aid for immigrant students regardless of their legal status and new privacy protections of driver privilege card holders among others. It will also provide a legislative forecast for the 2022 General Assembly. Panelists: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Sookyung Oh, Virginia Director, NAKASEC● Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, Legal Director, Legal Aid Justice Center● Freddy Mejia, Healthcare Policy Analyst, The Commonwealth Institute● Kim Bobo, Executive Director, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy● Yanet Limon Amado, Virginia Program Manager, National Domestic Worker Alliance, Care in Action.

	Moderator: Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, Executive Director, Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations, Senior Lead Organizer, Legal Aid Justice Center
10:40am – 10:50am	Break
10:50am – 11:50am	<p>Topic 2): Implementation of Virginia’s New Driver Privilege Card law -This panel will discuss the application processes and requirements of Virginia’s driver privilege card law that has expanded driver privilege access to tens of thousands of undocumented immigrant residents. We will provide an overview of the application process, discuss frequent barriers and trouble spots and potential remedies that applicants themselves can use to complete the application process.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Richard D. Holcomb, Virginia DMV, Commissioner (invited) • Edgar Lara, Executive Director, Sin Barreras • Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, Co-founder Drive Virginia Forward/Senior Lead Organizer IAP- LAJC
11:50 am - 12:00pm	Break.
12:00pm - 1:00pm	<p>Topic 3 - Racial Inequities in U.S. Immigration Laws</p> <p>In order to fully understand our current broken immigration system, it is necessary to understand how we got to where we are today. This presentation will track the racist history of the major immigration policies in the United States and illustrate the endemic inequities that pervade our current immigration structure.</p> <p>Presenter: Dominique Poirier, Director of Legal Services at Just Neighbors. Facilitators: Fazia Deen & Stephanie Barnes</p>
1:00pm - 1:10pm	Closing of the day.

Day 2 – Wednesday, November 10, 2021

9:00am - 9:10am	<p>Welcome 2nd day and instructions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC of the day: Luis Oyola, Director of Organizing, Legal Aid Justice Center.
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9:10am- 10:40am —	<p>Topic 4: Virginia and the Federal Landscape of Immigration: For the past 10 months, the new Biden Administration has been taking steps to reverse anti-immigrant policies from the Trump Administration while simultaneously rebuilding the immigration infrastructure. Both immigrant and refugee advocates have been taking action to push for pro-immigrant policies that defend human rights and keep families together.</p> <p>This discussion will do a recap on what the Biden Administration has been faced with, where the immigration landscape stands right now, and what actions Congress and the President need to take to ensure we have long-standing humane policies for the immigrant and refugee communities. In addition, speakers will give insight on various movements in the immigration sphere including a pathway to citizenship for undocumented youth, TPS holders, essential workers, and farm workers.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overview of the Pathway to Citizenship: Immigration Hub ● Meredith Owen, Church World Services ● Diana Konaté, African Communities Together <p>Moderator: Ariel Garayar</p>
10:40am- 10:50am	<p>Break</p>
10:50am – 11:50am	<p>Topic 5: Abolishing Immigration Detention in Virginia and Beyond</p> <p>As a presidential candidate, Biden promised to reduce ICE detention and end contracts with private prison companies. But as president, his administration has only canceled two detention contracts in the whole country; has renewed and expanded ICE contracts with private prison companies and local jails; has fought a court case against California’s attempts to end privatized ICE detention; and has presided over a massive increase in the number of detained immigrants from January to November 2021. Given the Biden Administration’s surprising intransigence, many activists in Virginia and across the country are turning to state- and even local-based strategies to end immigration detention.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Didier Mbalivoto, former detainee at Farmville Detention Center ● Azadeh Shahshahani, Legal & Advocacy Director, Project South (Georgia) ● Fred Tsao, Senior Policy Counsel, Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights ● Flor Lopez Trejo, Community Organizer, Legal Aid Justice Center; Member, FreeThemAllVA Coalition

	Moderator: Simon Sandoval-Moshenberg, Legal Director, Immigrant Advocacy Program, Legal Aid Justice Center.
11:50pm –12:00pm	Break
12:00pm-1:00pm	<p>Topic 6: Race, Ethnicity and Criminal Justice</p> <p>Racial profiling has led countless people of color to live in fear, casting entire communities as suspects simply because of what they look like and where they come from. Police protest that they do not share information with ICE, but the evidence shows otherwise. This panel will examine what progressive prosecutors, social justice leaders and advocates feel are the key impediments to a fair and equitable criminal justice system, and what they are doing to effect change. Summit participants will be able to probe panelists about the effectiveness of what is being done and raise alternatives they think might work better.</p> <p>Panelists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Descano, Fairfax County Commonwealth Attorney • Rev. Jamar A. Boyd, II, Justice Reform Organizer, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy • Diane Burkley Alejandro, Lead Advocate, ACLU People Power Fairfax <p>Moderator: Stephanie Niedringhaus, Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy</p>
1:00pm – 1:10pm	Closing of the summit and call for action: Maria Chavalan Sut, Asylum seeker. Maria took sanctuary at the Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church. Maria fled her native country Guatemala to avoid persecution. Her home was set on fire with her children still inside. She came to this country seeking refuge to save her life.

Organized by ACLU People Power Fairfax, Centreville Immigration Forum (CIF), Congregation Action Network (CAN), Dar Al Hijrah Islamic Center, Drive Virginia Forward (DVF) Dreamer Mothers In Action (DMIA), Edu-Futuro, Just Neighbors, Legal Aid Justice Center (LAJC), Sin Barreras (Without Barriers), Virginia Interfaith Center for Public Policy (VICPP), Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights (VACIR) Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO)