

# REFORM

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that a delay could so discourage Democratic-leaning Latino voters that they would stay home from the polls in November.

Some Democrats thought pushing a bill through now might help their party, or at least their own re-election prospects.

Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, whose campaign is struggling in heavily Hispanic Nevada, unveiled an outline — not legislation — on Thursday for an immigration bill at a packed news conference. Asked when it might advance, he declined to set an "arbitrary deadline."

If immigration goes nowhere this year, Democrats can blame Republican resistance, though in reality many Democrats didn't want to deal with an immigration bill this year either.

The Democrats' draft proposal, obtained by The Associated Press on Tuesday, called for, among other things, meeting border security benchmarks before anyone in the country illegally can become a legal permanent U.S. resident.

Obama praised the outline and said the next step is ironing out a bill. He said his administration will "play an active role" trying to get bipartisan supporters.

Republican Sens. Jon Kyl of Arizona and Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, who had been working with Democrats on immigration reform, criticized the proposal as "nothing more than an attempt to score political points."

By Wednesday, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi offered little hope that the issue was still alive on Capitol Hill.

"If there is going to be any movement in this regard, it will require presidential leadership, as well as an appetite, is that the word? ... as well as a willingness to move forward in the Congress," she said.

House Republican leader John Boehner was more blunt. "There is not a chance that immigration is

going to move through the Congress," he said Tuesday.

Rep. Luis Guterrez, the Democrats' leading advocate for immigration reform, has said he voted for health care reform on the understanding that Obama and congressional Democrats would move a major immigration bill.

Even though he would like to see Latinos turn out to vote for Democrats in 2010, Guterrez said "many will probably decide to stay home." However, he added, a strict, new immigration law in Arizona may change that dynamic. The law requires law enforcement officers to question anyone they suspect is in the country illegally.

"On one hand you are not going to vote because you don't believe people you voted for are doing a

good enough job," Guterrez said. "Then you say, I got to vote, because the enemy is so mean and vindictive, I got to get out there."

The Hispanic vote is growing, largely because of Latinos' increasing population. The 9.7 million Latinos who cast ballots in 2008 made up about 7.4 percent of the electorate, according to a 2009 Pew Research Center study.

Hispanic voters helped flip the battleground states of Colorado, Florida, Nevada and New Mexico from Republican to Democratic in the 2008 presidential election.

But even though Latinos' numbers have been increasing, in some parts of the country their portions of voting populations are not large enough to affect election outcomes.

# TREE

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use and add beauty to our homes and neighborhoods.

Hoffart, who has been the forestry specialist in Yankton for more than 30 years, has been integral to Yankton earning the designation for the 27th time. Vermillion has earned the award for the 25th time.

"The designation just gives us a sign of quality," Hoffart said. "When you buy something you look for the UL (product safety) rating, that is what this is. It shows that Yankton cares."

Meeting the standards for becoming a Tree City provides initial direction for an urban or community forestry program.

"When I first started here in Yankton, my goal was to replace the trees we had to take down," Hoffart said. "At first, we had to take so many elms down, we couldn't replace every one. Now that we have cleaned out the inferior trees, we prioritize and replace what we have taken down, and replace now what we have taken down in the past. I also usually try to rework one area and redo the landscaping (each) year. Then there are always new areas in the city as well."

Hoffart said that, on average, Yankton will plant more than 100 trees per year.

"Last year we spent in the \$50,000 range on planting trees. That does include labor and all the administrative type costs as well," he said.

In honor of Arbor Day 2010, the Keep Yankton Beautiful organization and the City of Yankton will be holding a tree planting ceremony at noon today (Friday) at the corner of Third and Capitol, where the proclamation will be read and a tree planted.

More information about Tree City USA can be found at [www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA](http://www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA).

# SPILL

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The Coast Guard worked with BP, which operated the oil rig that exploded and sank last week, to deploy floating booms, skimmers and chemical dispersants, and set controlled fires to burn the oil off the water's surface.

The Coast Guard urged the company to formally request more resources from the Defense Department. A BP executive said the corporation would "take help from anyone."

Government officials said the blown-out well 40 miles (64 kilometers) offshore is spewing five times as much oil into the water as originally estimated — about 5,000 barrels, or 200,000 gallons (757,000 liters), a day.

At that rate, the spill could eclipse the worst oil spill in U.S. history — the 11 million gallons that leaked from the grounded tanker Exxon Valdez in Alaska's Prince William Sound in 1989 — in the three months it could take to drill a relief well and plug the gushing well 5,000 feet (1,500 meters) underwater on the sea floor.

Ultimately, the spill could grow much larger than the Valdez because Gulf of Mexico wells typically hold many times more oil than a single tanker.

Doug Suttles, chief operating officer for BP Exploration and Production, had initially disputed the government's larger estimate. But he later acknowledged on NBC's "Today" show that the leak may be as bad as federal officials say. He said there was no way to measure the flow at the seabed, so estimates have to come from how much oil rises to the surface.

Mike Brewer, 40, who lost his oil spill response company in the devastation of Hurricane Katrina nearly five years ago, said the area was accustomed to the occasional minor spill. But he feared the scale of the escaping oil was beyond the capacity of existing resources.

"You're pumping out a massive amount of oil. There is no way to stop it," he said.

An emergency shrimping season was opened to allow shrimpers to scoop up their catch before it is fouled by oil. Cannons were to be used to scare off birds. And shrimpers were being lined up to use their boats as makeshift skimmers in the shallows.

Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal declared a state of emergency Thursday so officials could begin preparing for the oil's impact. He said at least 10 wildlife management areas and refuges in his state and neighboring Mississippi are in the oil plume's path.

The declaration also noted that billions of dollars have been invested in coastal restoration projects that may be at risk. He also asked the federal government if he could call up 6,000 National Guard troops to help.

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