

# Welcome



# Thanks to Our Speakers

- **Amanda Skinner**, President & CEO of Planned Parenthood of Southern New England, speaking on reproductive rights
- **Sarah Fox**, CEO of CT Coalition to End Homelessness, speaking on housing
- **Glenda Armstrong**, President of Danbury NAACP, speaking on civil rights
- **Dan O'Keefe**, speaking on the ideology economy
- **Maggie Mitchell Salem**, Executive Director of IRIS, speaking on immigration
- **Dan Barrett**, Legal Director of ACLU of CT, speaking on Project 2025
- **Karen DuBois-Walton** will moderate Q&A

# Thanks to Our Action Tables

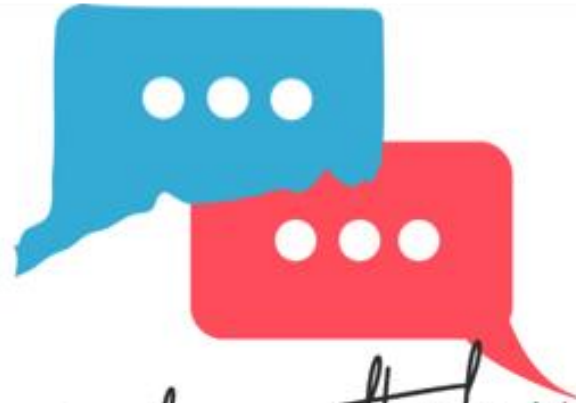


**Thanks to our Legislators and  
Candidates for Office  
Who Are Here Today**



# Welcome Senator Blumenthal

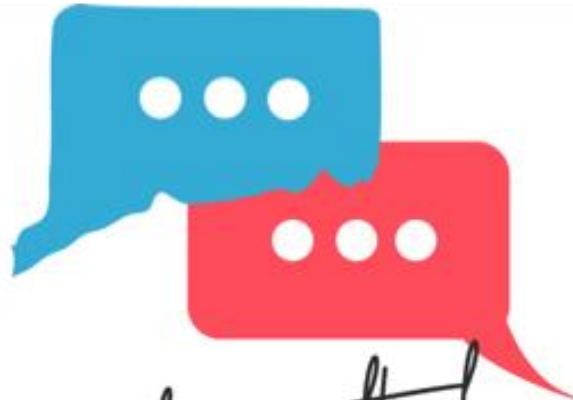
IMPACT



*Individuals multiplying  
personal action CT*

# Welcome Attorney General Tong

IMPACT



*Individuals multiplying  
personal action CT*



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Planned Parenthood of Southern New England

# Building the Future We Want: The Fight for Reproductive Freedom

Amanda Skinner

President & Chief Executive Officer

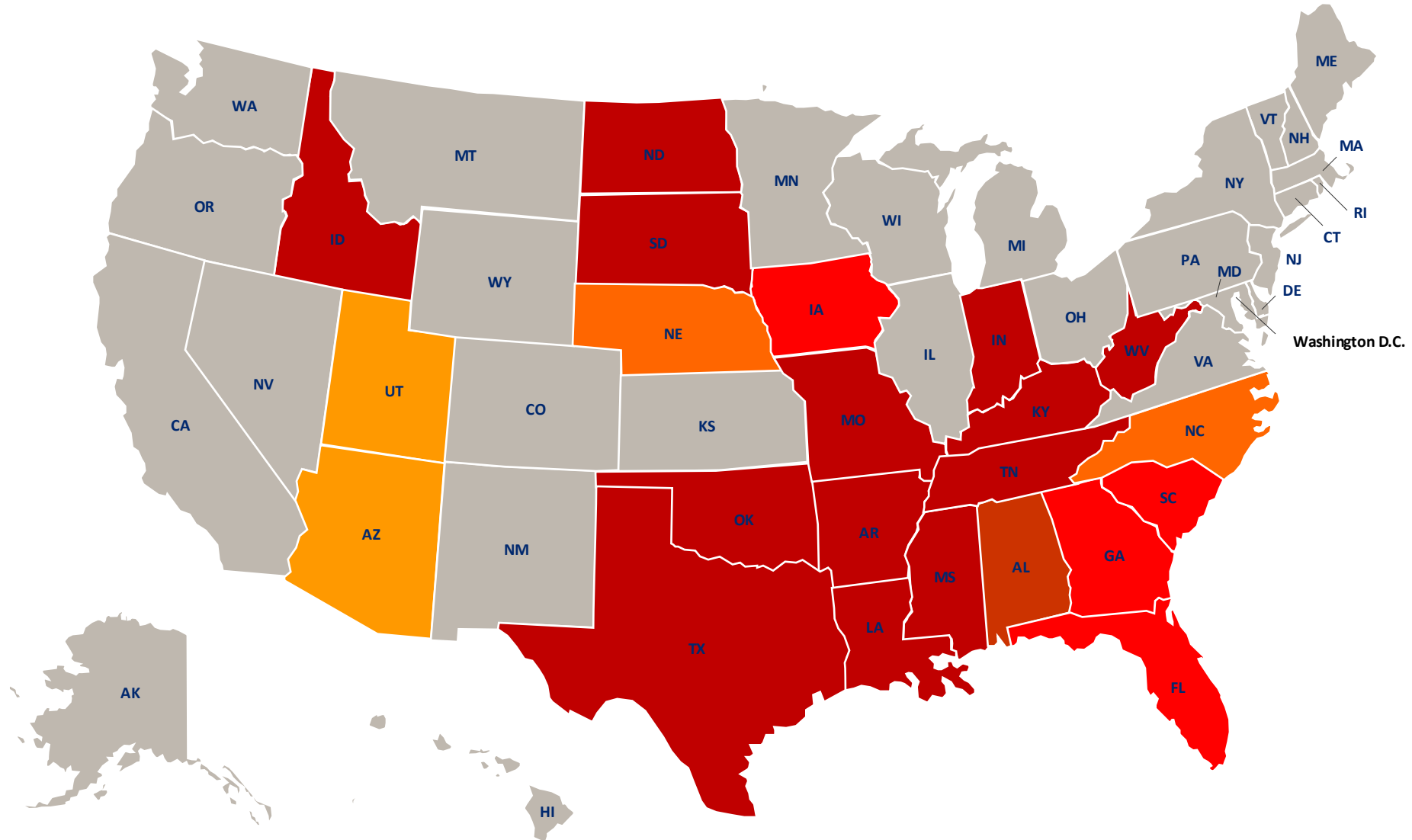




The movement for reproductive freedom spans generations.



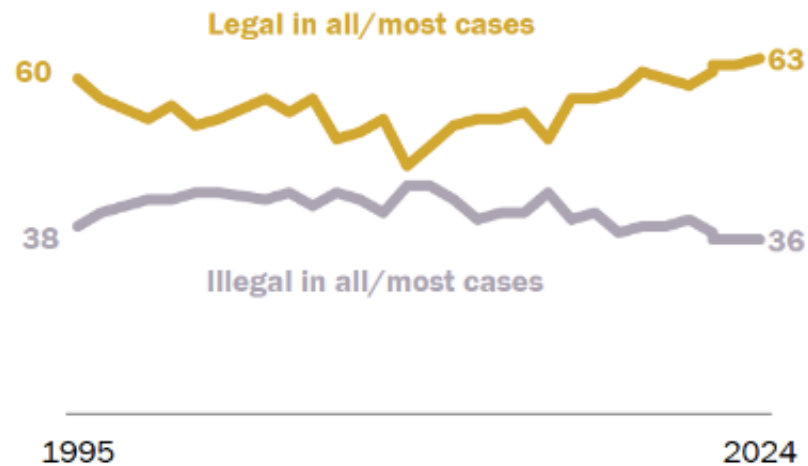
# Currently 22 states have banned some or all abortions.



# Abortion access on the ballot in 2024

## Majority of Americans say abortion should be legal in all or most cases

% who say abortion should be ...




Note: No answer responses are not shown.

Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted April 8-14, 2024.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER





A group of people, including men and women in professional attire, are gathered around a wooden table outdoors. One man is seated at the table, signing a document. Several blue pens are scattered on the table. Other people are standing around the table, some looking at the document and others looking towards the camera. The background shows trees and a clear blue sky. A dark blue overlay covers the left side of the image, containing white text.

Connecticut has  
made significant  
progress over the  
past several years to  
protect abortion  
access.



Yet we still face  
many challenges in  
Connecticut.

**Report: CT Medicaid  
underpays many health care  
providers**

*For Abortion Providers, a Tough  
Business Gets Even Tougher*







**Even in Connecticut, the care  
Planned Parenthood patients rely  
on remains at risk.**



# HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS IN CONNECTICUT

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Sarah Fox, Chief Executive Officer,  
CT Coalition to End Homelessness

# Vision + Mission

## **Our Vision:**

To prevent and solve homelessness in Connecticut.

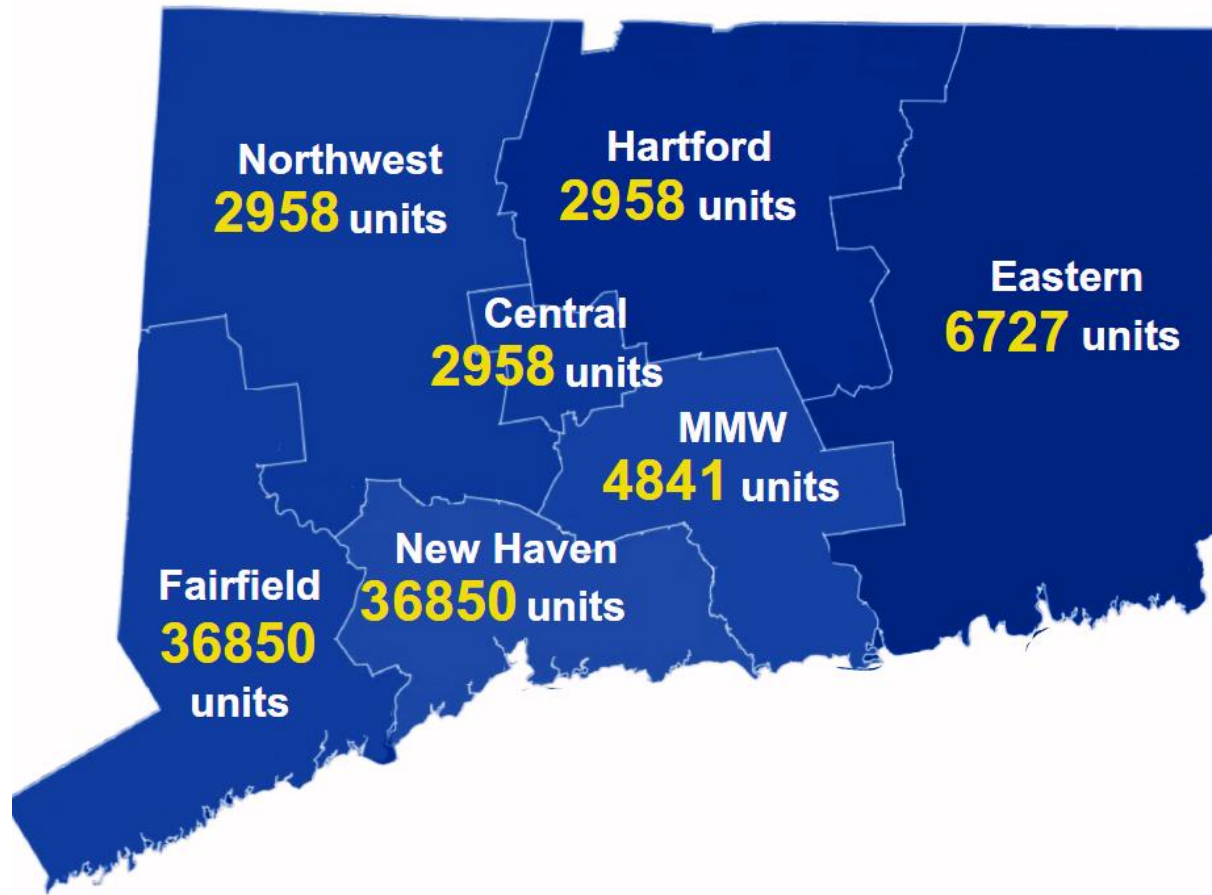
## **Our Mission:**

The Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness, in partnership with providers, state agencies, and communities statewide, drives transformative change through leadership, advocacy, and capacity building. Our mission is to address homelessness equitably, ensuring effective responses to emergency situations and fostering long-term solutions.





# THE HOUSING GAP



Connecticut needs **98,144** affordable units to close the housing gap.

# CONNECTICUT FACES A SEVERE HOUSING BURDEN

**143,607 (30%)**

Renter households below 30% AMI

**\$934/mo**

Affordable Rent for Household at 30% of AMI

**\$1,455/mo**

1-Bedroom Fair Market

Rent

**71%**

Extremely low income renter households with a severe cost burden



# HIGH RENT EQUALS HIGH HOMELESSNESS



The average housing wage needed to afford a **\$1,796** two-bedroom apartment is **\$34.54** per hour.



With rising rent and the loss of federal pandemic funding we have seen a **13%** rise in homelessness in 2024.



**People need help:** we have see a **57%** increase in calls to 2-1-1 for housing and shelter from 2021-23. **1,693** people sought services through the Coordinated Access Network hubs in June.

**5,000** people are experiencing homelessness right now in CT.

**800** are outside in places unfit for human habitation.

**500** are children.

**We CAN solve  
homelessness** with a  
united approach and a  
combination of truly  
affordable housing and  
fully-funded homeless  
services.



# JOIN US!



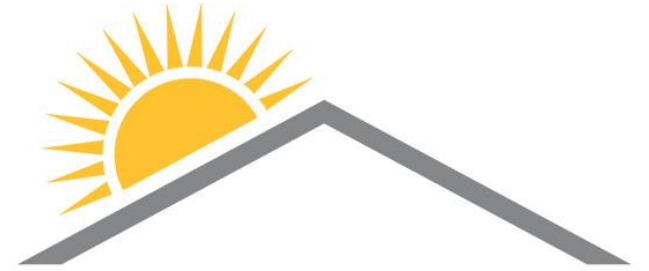
**cceh.org**



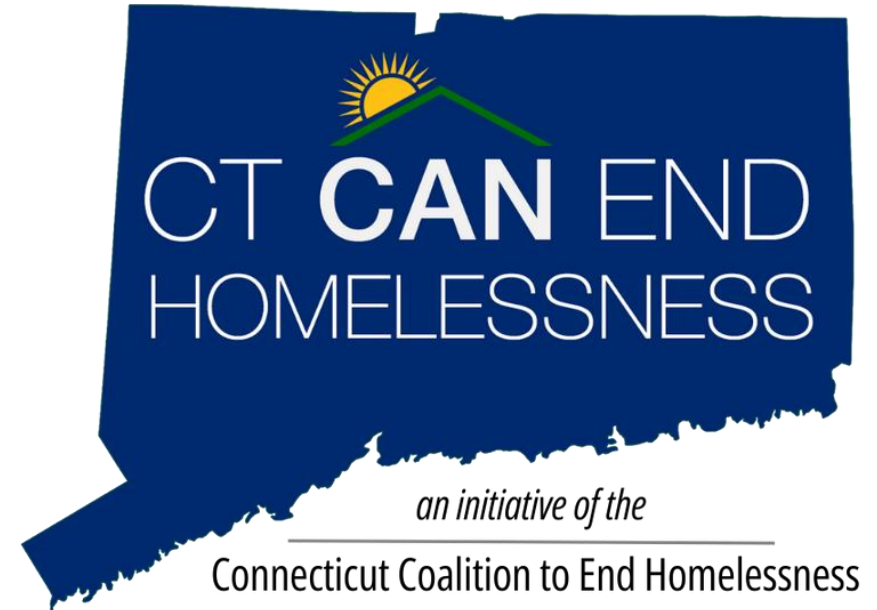
**info@cceh.org**



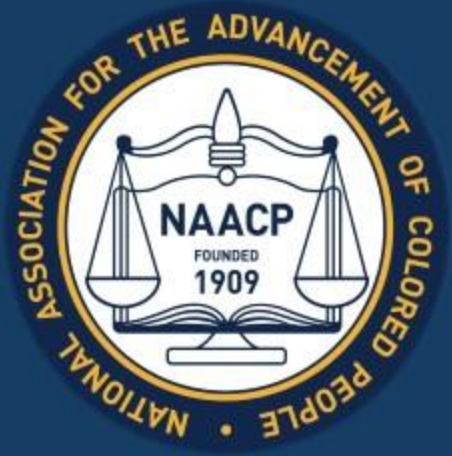
**860.721.7876**



CONNECTICUT COALITION to  
**END HOMELESSNESS**







# NAACP

*Greater Danbury Branch*

Glenda Armstrong, President



# WE'RE ALL IN FOR DEMOCRACY

## **Race & Justice**

Fighting racial injustice by building Black political, social, and economic power

## **Health & Well-being**

An inclusive culture of health and equitable social health systems

## **Policy & Legislation**

We work to turn the Black community's priorities into public policy through the legislative process

## **Education Innovation**

A world-class education for all students

## **Inclusive Economy**

Mobility and a thriving Black economy

## **Next Generation Leadership**

Support for young leaders and change agents

## **Environmental & Climate Justice**

An environmental, social, and economic revolution

## **Advocacy & Litigation**

Fair and just representation for all by standing up for our rights in the courts and in Congress



NAACP.org

# Economic Dynamics of Political Ideology

Daniel O'Keefe  
9/30/24

# Classic Paradigm

## **Democrat Liberalism**

Larger Government

Progressive taxes

Strong regulatory frameworks

Spend on social safety net

Better for the marginalized

Better for labor

Better for the environment

## **Republican Conservatism**

Smaller Government

Cut Taxes

Free market / reduce regulation

Spend on defense

Better for business

Better for economy

Better for markets

# 48 Years of Performance: 1977-2024



Jimmy Carter  
1977 - 1981



Bill Clinton  
1993 - 2001



Barack Obama  
2009 - 2017



Joe Biden  
2021 -



Ronald Reagan  
1981 - 1989



George H.W. Bush  
1989 - 1993

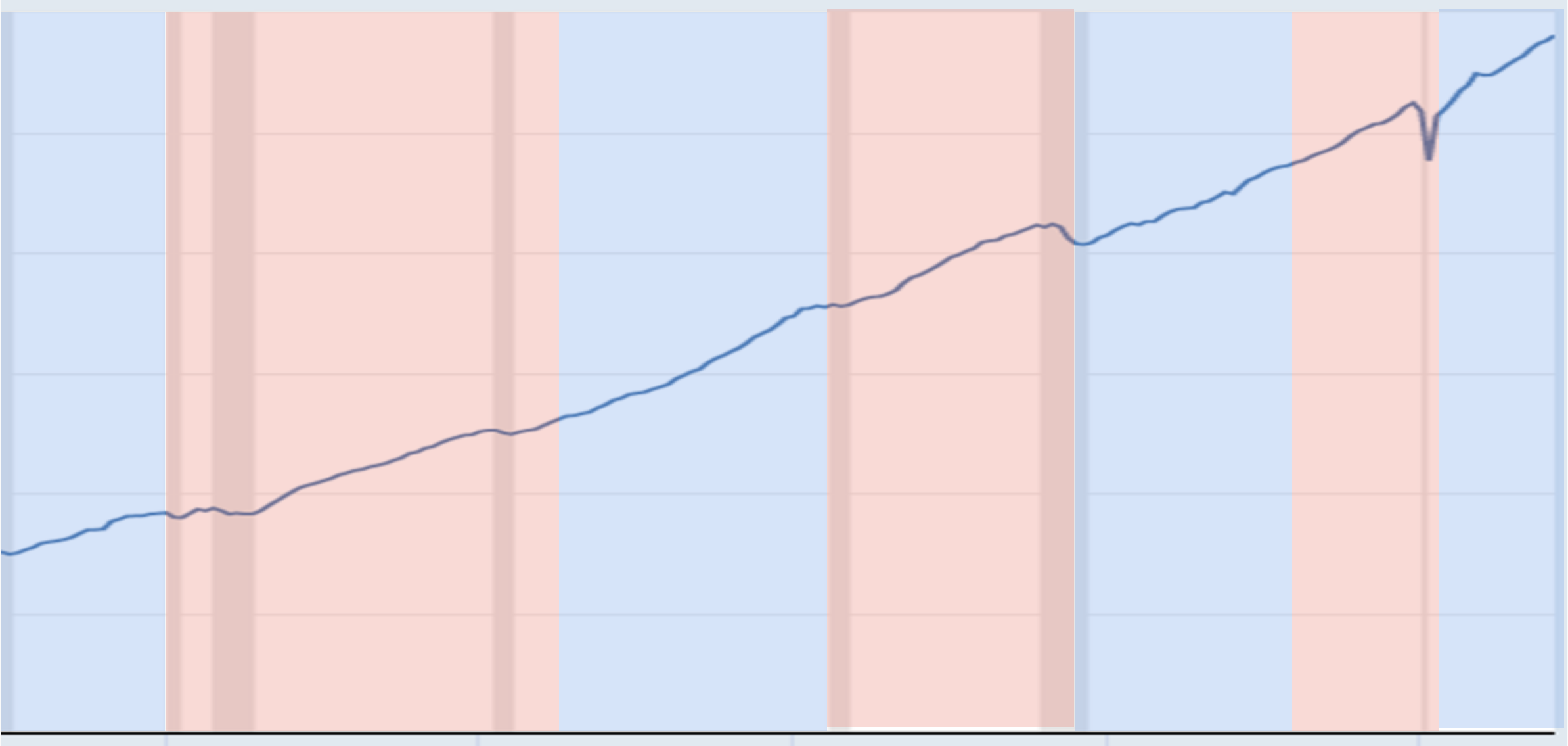


George W. Bush  
2001 - 2009

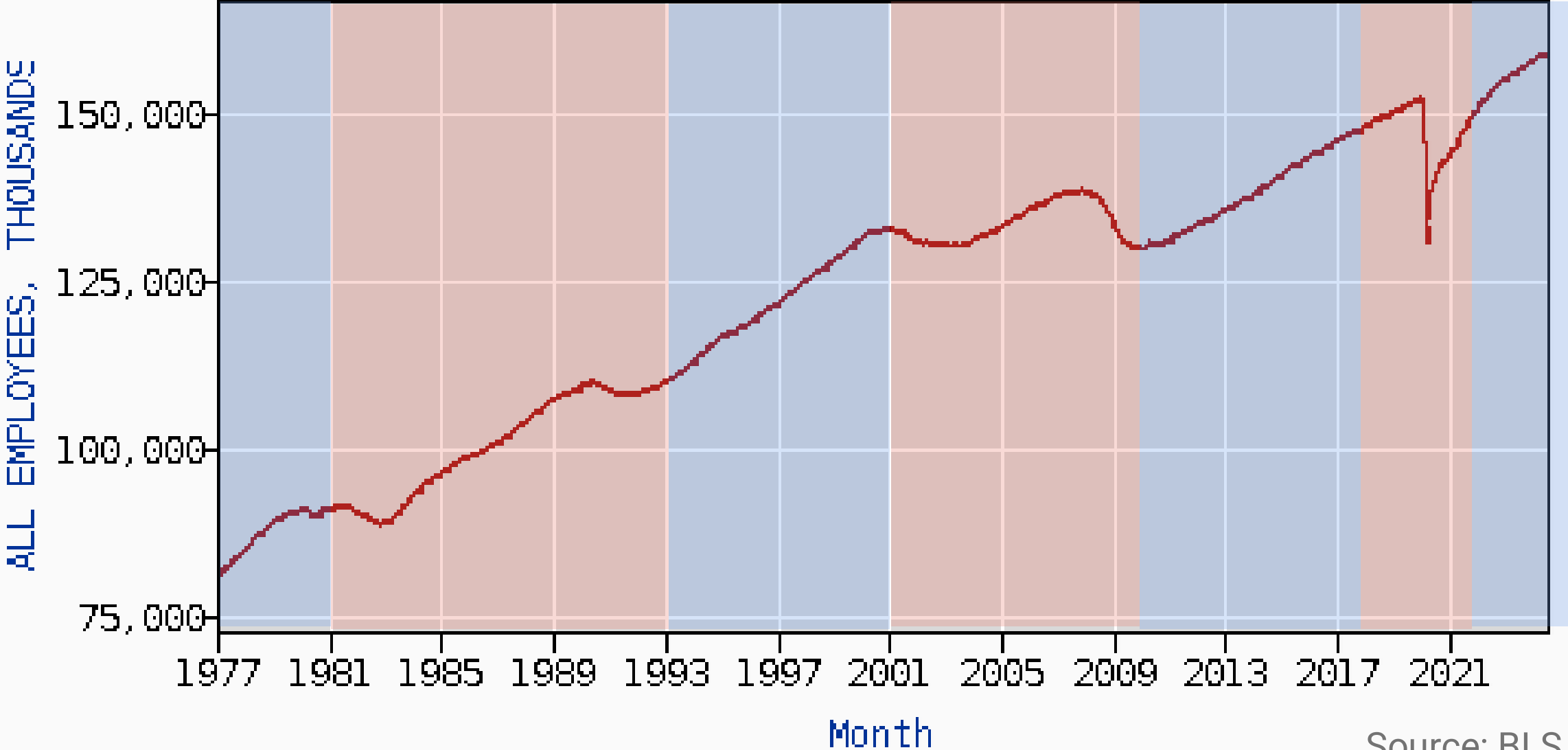


Donald Trump  
2017 - 2021

Real GDP (quarterly)



# Jobs - Non Farm Payroll (quarterly)



Source: BLS

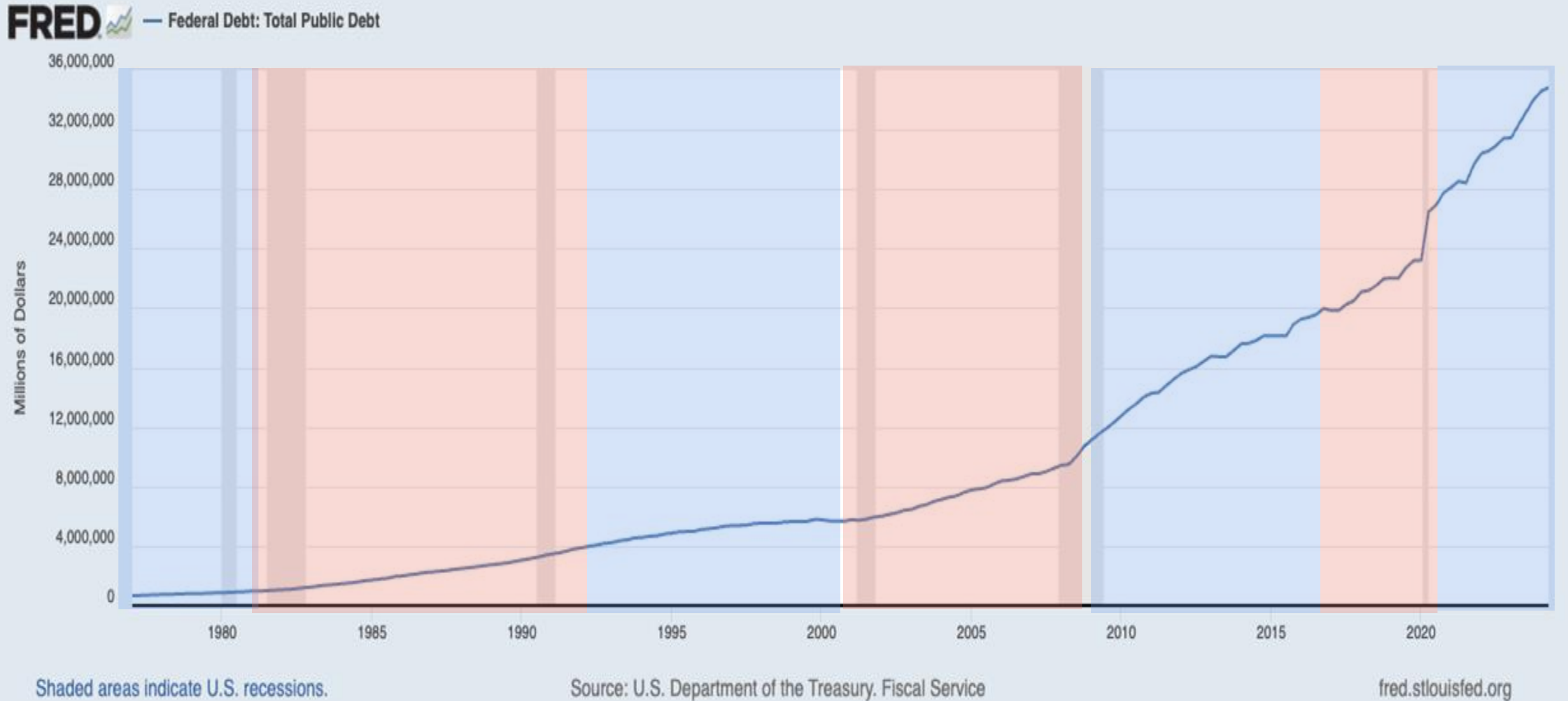
# S&P 500



Source: BEA

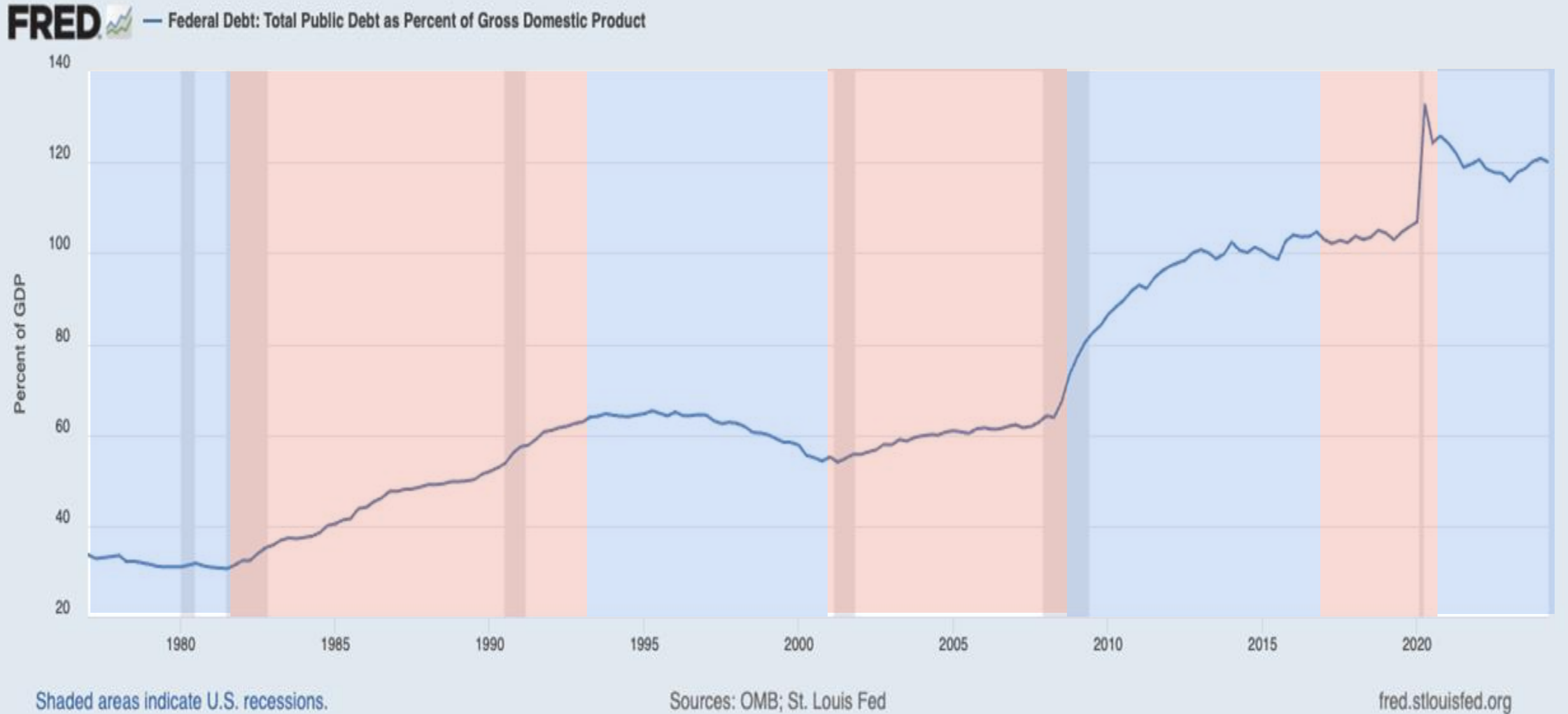


# Federal Debt



Source: Treasury

# Debt to GDP



Source: OMB, St. Louis Fed

## The Results

GDP Growth

Dem  
57%

Rep  
43%

Jobs Created

Dem  
80%

Rep  
20%

Financial Markets

Dem  
62%

Rep  
38%

## Results Continued

Federal Debt

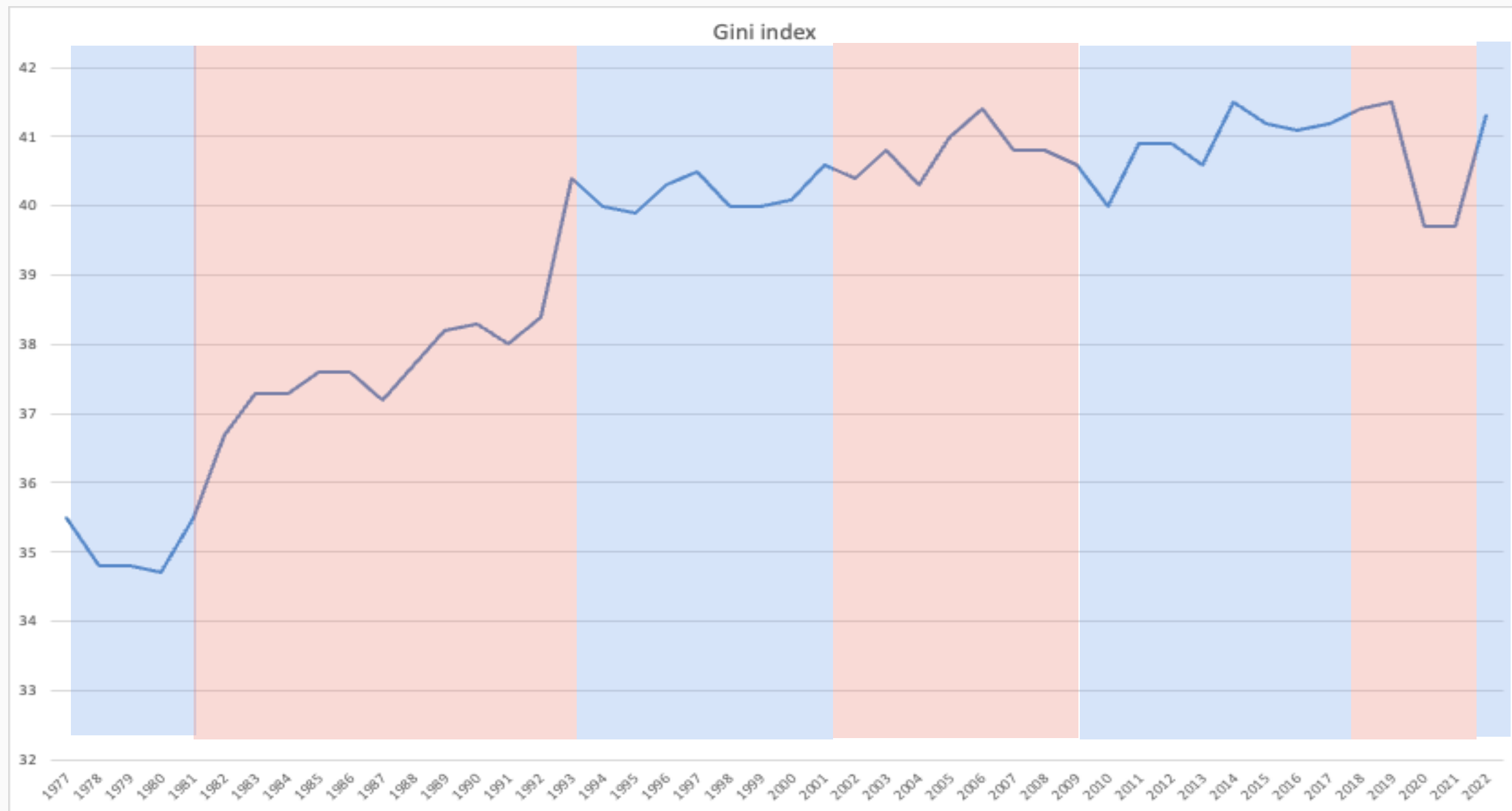
Dem  
39%

Rep  
61%

Leverage Ratio  
(debt / GDP)

Dem  
22%

Rep  
78%



# The Connecticut Experiment

6 years of budget surpluses

Paid down over \$8b of liabilities

Historic middle class tax cut

Accelerating economic growth

Population growing again





# **AN OVERVIEW OF THE US IMMIGRATION SYSTEM**



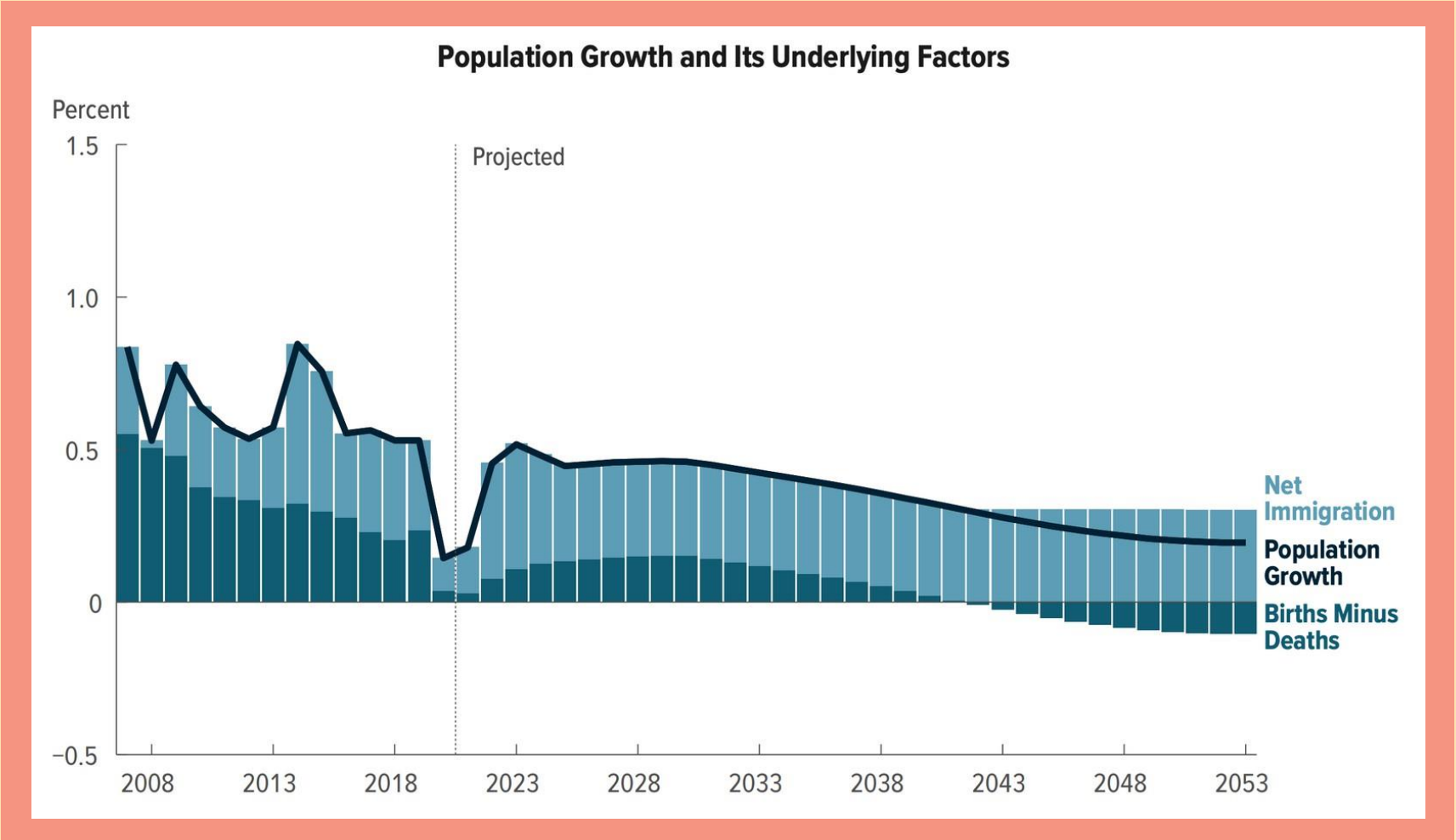


**Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services (IRIS)** is a non-profit organization whose mission is to help refugees and other displaced people establish new lives, strengthen hope, dare to dream, and contribute to the vitality of communities in Connecticut and across the country.

# “Immigration”, anyone?

- Americans are arguing about “immigration” though they’re often arguing about different meanings of that word.
- What does it mean? “The act of someone coming to live in a different country.” Can we have secure AND humane borders?
- Can we facilitate trade, investment, talent, tourism, and travel while also resettling those fleeing repression, war, and climate-related crises?
- Does the intense politicization of Americans on this critical topic help or hurt our global competitiveness?

# US Population Projections



Source: U.S. Congressional Budget Office, The Demographic Outlook: 2023 to 2053

# Migrant Resettlement Areas

## 20 U.S. metropolitan areas with the largest number of immigrants in 2022



Note: Each metropolitan area has at least about 450,000 immigrants. Circles are scaled to size of population.  
Source: Pew Research Center analysis of 2022 American Community Survey (1% IPUMS).

PEW RESEARCH CENTER

# Immigration Timeline

1882: Chinese Exclusion Act

Immigration Act of 1982

1891: Immigration Bureau formed

1907: Expatriation Act

1917: Banned Zone Act (Middle East)

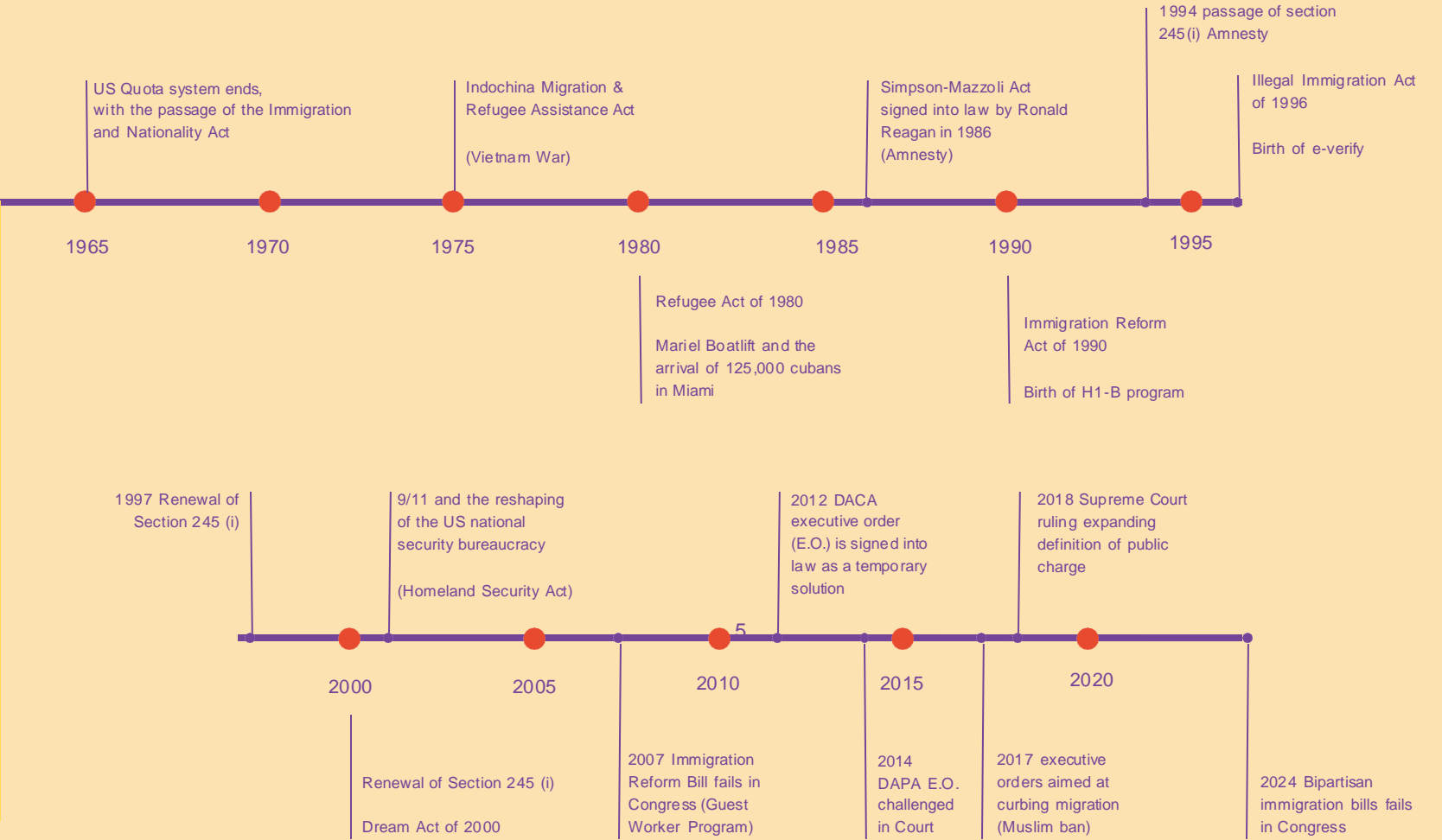
1942: Executive Order 9066

(Japanese internment)

1948: Displaced Persons Act

1953: Refugee Relief Act

Operation Wetback



# Immigration & Nationality Act (INA)

- The INA allows the U.S. to issue up to 675,000 permanent immigrant visas annually across various categories.
- There is no limit on visas for spouses, parents, and children under 21 of U.S. citizens.
- The president consults with Congress annually to set the number of refugees admitted through the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program.
- Programs like asylum and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) have no visa caps but are subject to specific eligibility restrictions.
- Tourist Visas - not subject to any particular cap

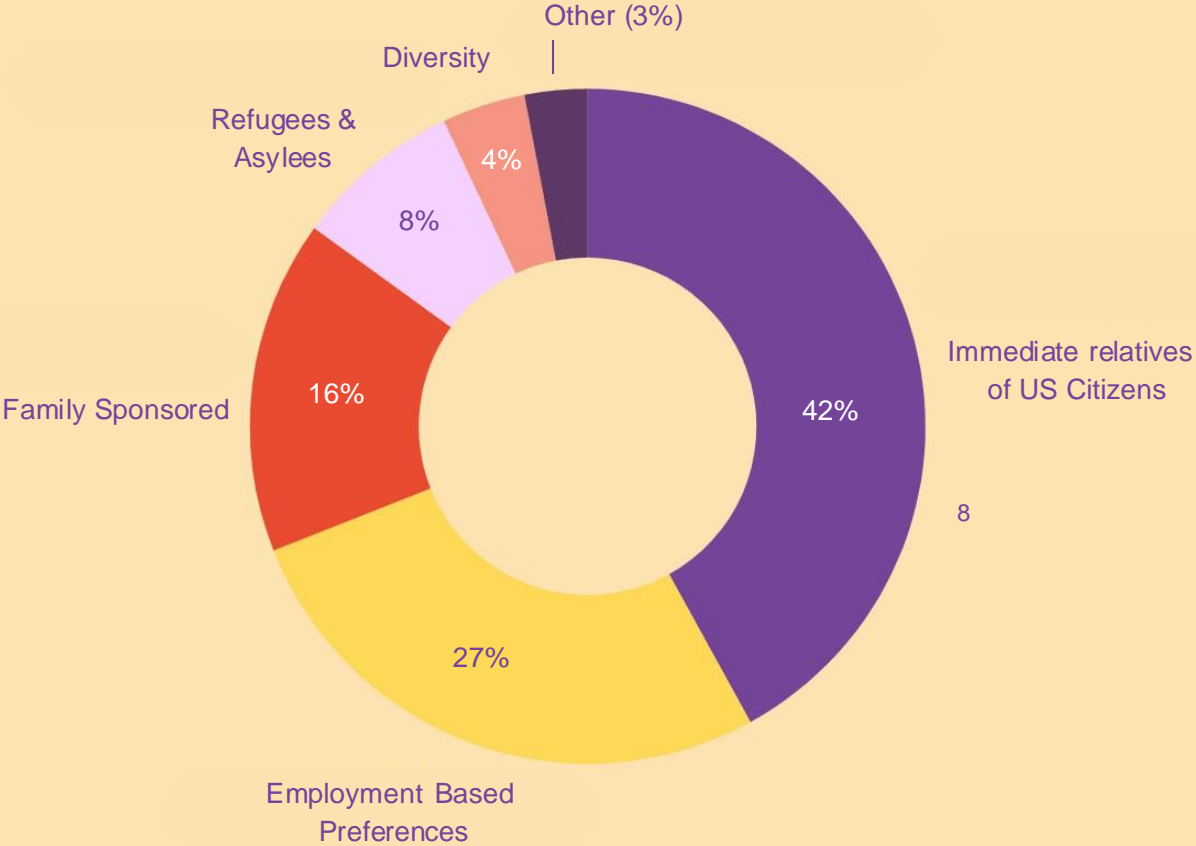
# Legal Immigration Pathways

- The INA allows the U.S. to issue up to 675,000 permanent immigrant visas annually across various categories.
- There are four major categories for immigration
  - Family Based Immigration
  - Employment-Based Immigration
  - Diversity Visa Program: increase immigration from underrepresented countries
  - Humanitarian Relief (15 percent of total pool)
    - ***(Refugees, TPS, Asylum, & Humanitarian Parole)***

7



# Visa Distribution Among Categories (2022 Figures)



# Employment Based Immigration



In FY22, immigrants admitted through the employment preferences made up 27% of all new LPR.

Certain "special immigrants" including religious workers, employees of U.S. foreign service posts, former U.S. government employees and other classes of aliens.

Limit = 9,940

Investor Visa's, Persons who will invest at least the minimum amount required and remain invested for at least two years, in a job-creating enterprise that employs at least 10 full time U.S. workers

Limit = 9,940

Source: "Fact Sheet: How the US Immigration System Works," American Immigration Council, June 2024

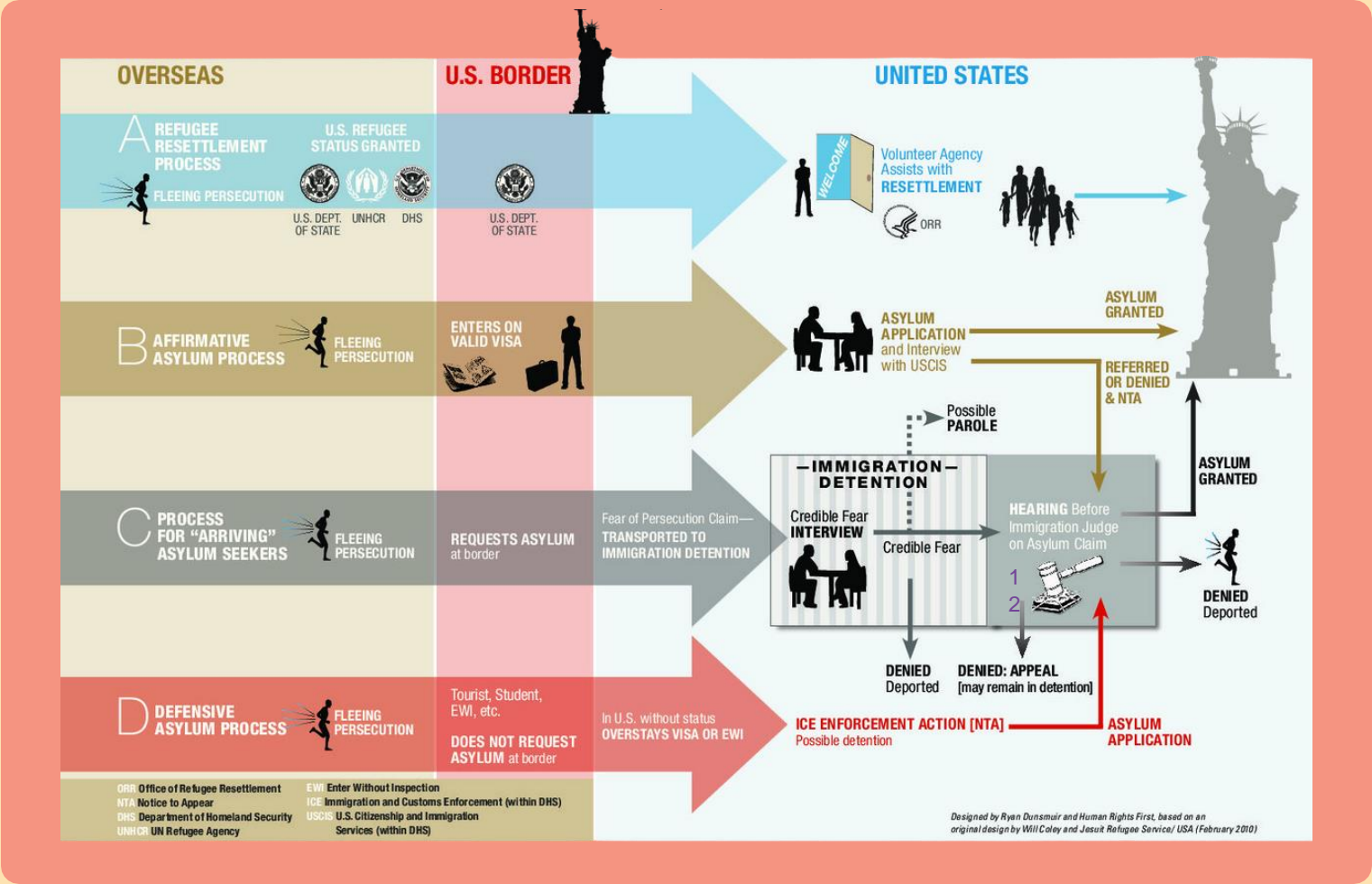
# What does it mean to be a “refugee” or “asylum-seeker”?

- Refugees: Admitted based on a 'well-founded fear of persecution.'
- Asylees: People in the U.S. or arriving at port of entry seeking protection.
- Temporary Protected Status (TPS): For those unable to return home due to crises there.
- DACA - Deferred Action for Childhood Arrival aka “DREAMers.”

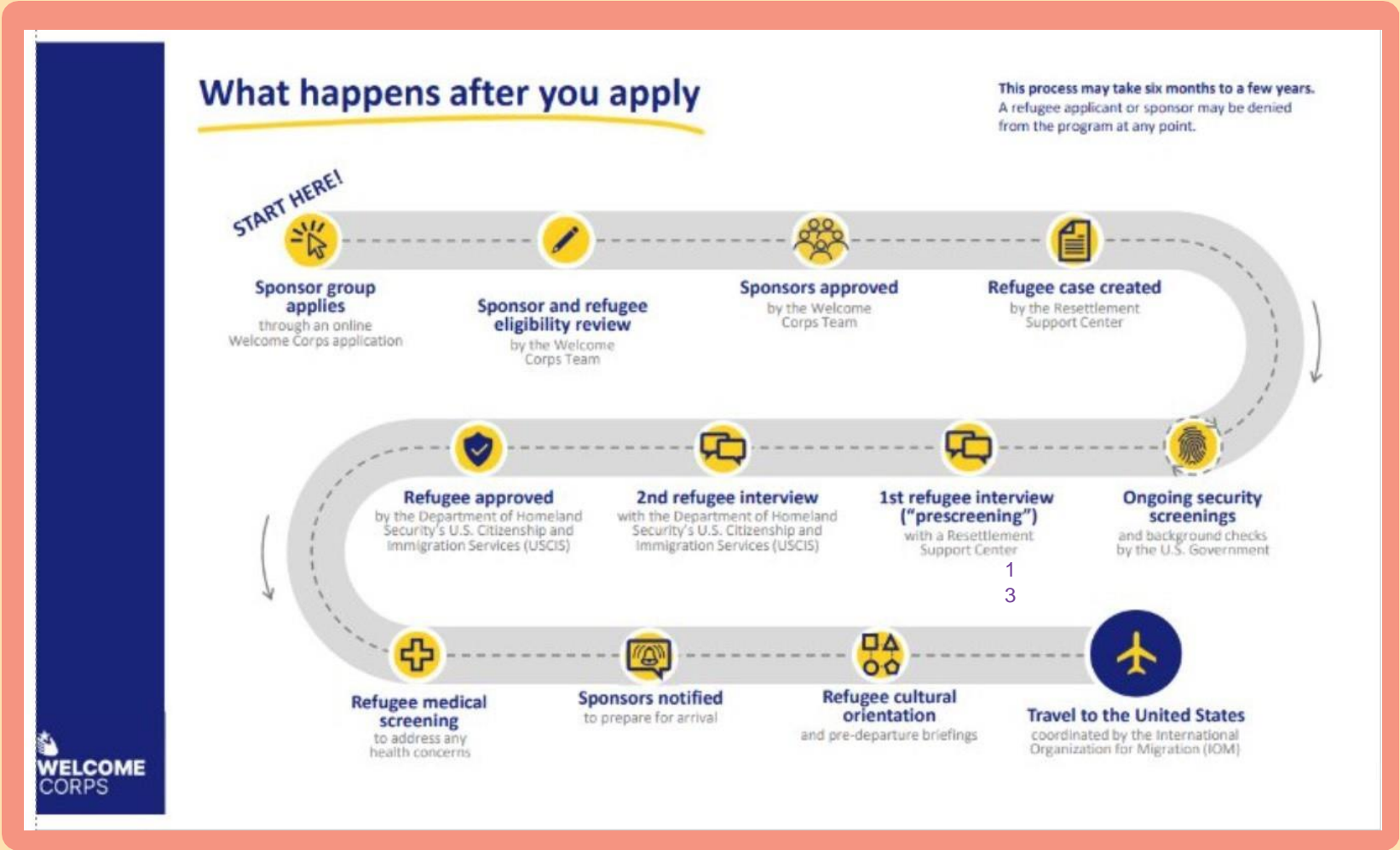
# Resettlement of Refugees is a Global Issue

- UNHCR estimates that there are an estimated 110 million displaced people worldwide, more than at any other time in history
- **US Goal:** Resettle **125,000+** Refugees to the U.S. in 2024. In addition, the US (under presidential determination), has the capacity to issue 40,000 additional special immigrant visas this year.
- NEW Programs launched to empower everyday Americans to welcome refugees.
- These new programs are increasing arrivals to resettlement agencies nationwide.
- In 2024, IRIS has already supported over 1500 refugees and other immigrants and helped hundreds of Americans across the U.S. who want to resettle refugees in their communities.

# How Refugees/Asylumseekers Get to the U.S.

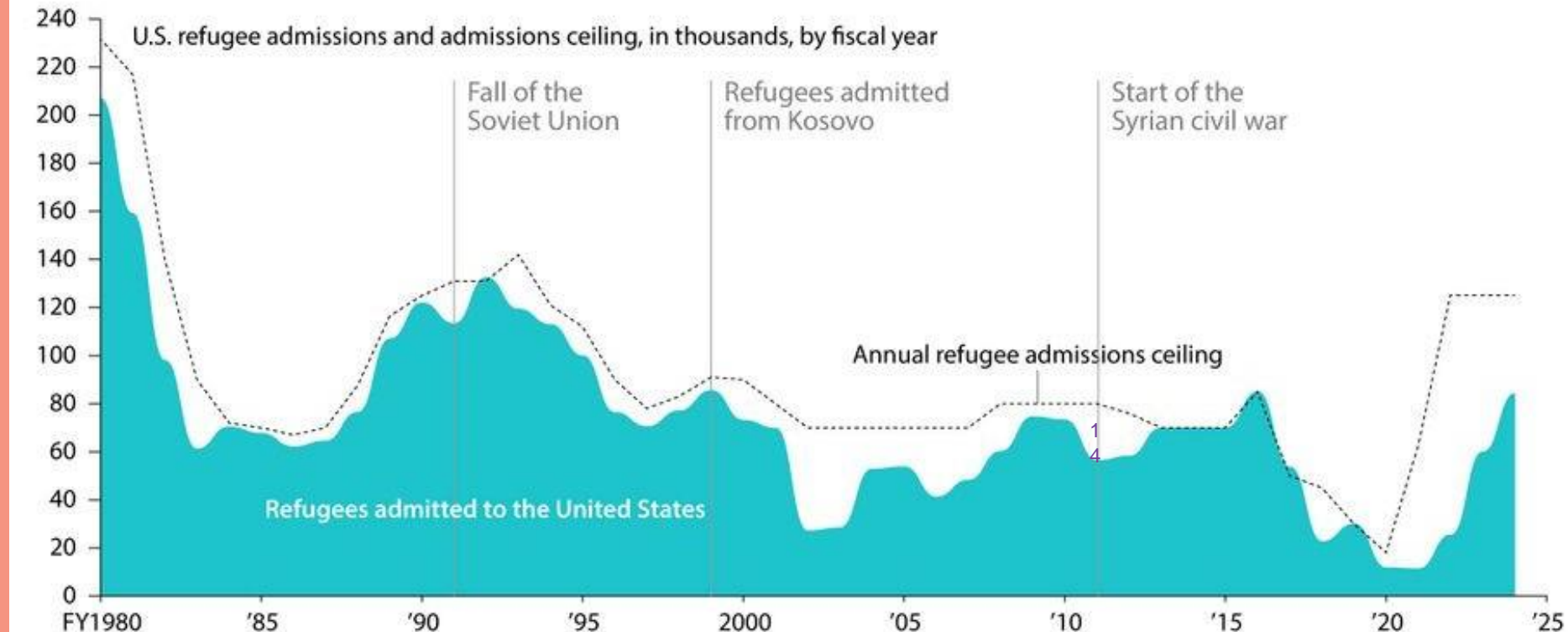


# Refugee Resettlement Process



# Modern US Refugee Admissions

After peaking in the wake of the Vietnam War, U.S. refugee admissions have ebbed and flowed, often below an annual cap.



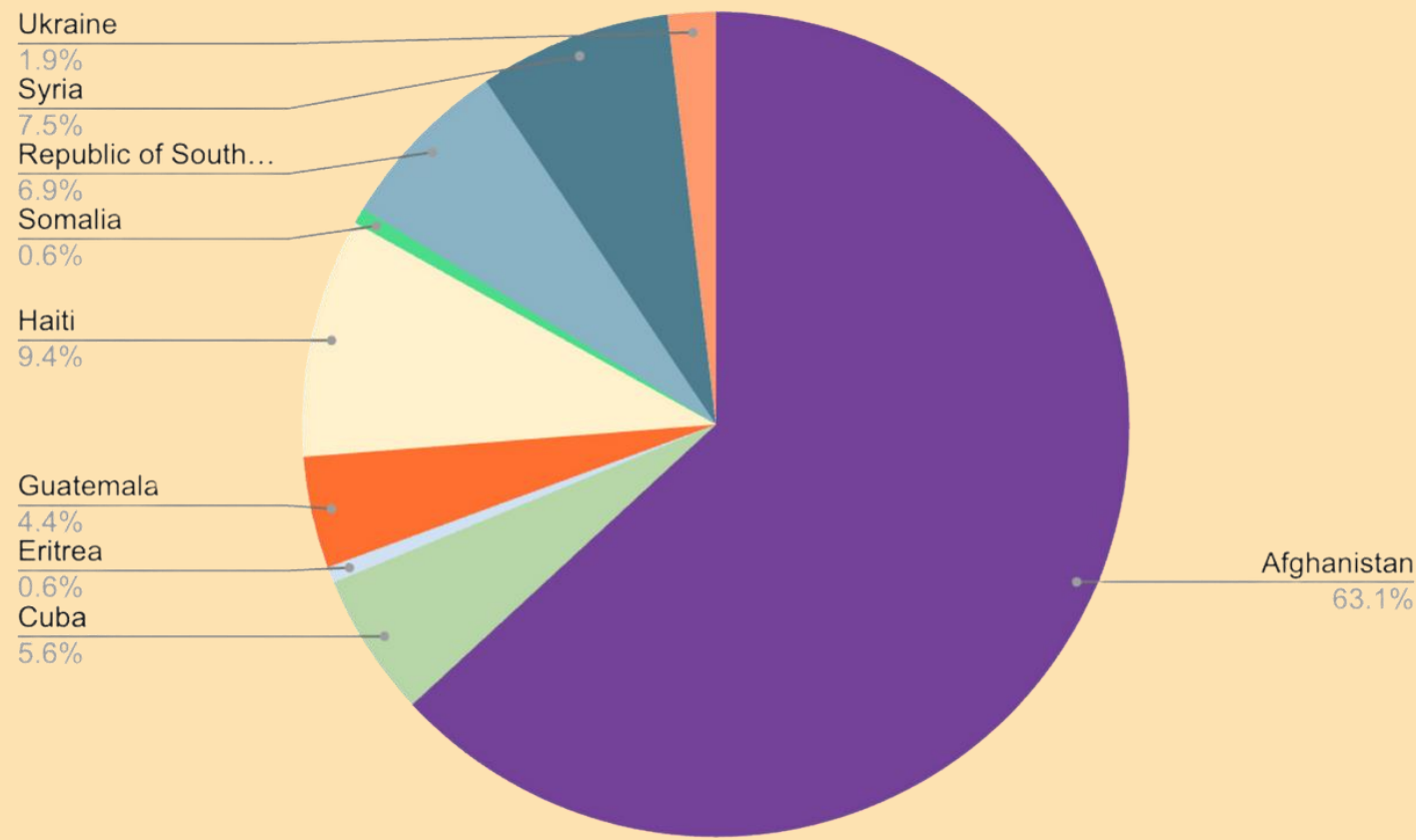
Source: U.S. State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration



# IRIS' Role: Self-Sufficiency of Refugees & Assistance for Immigrants



# IRIS Clients





[www.irisct.org/volunteer](http://www.irisct.org/volunteer)

**Dan Barrett**  
**Legal Director**

**ACLUCT.org**  
**@acluct**

**ACLU**  
Connecticut



## Disclaimer:

The ACLU doesn't endorse or oppose  
candidates for elected office,  
but we recognize that the 2024 presidential election  
has immense implications  
for the future of our democracy.



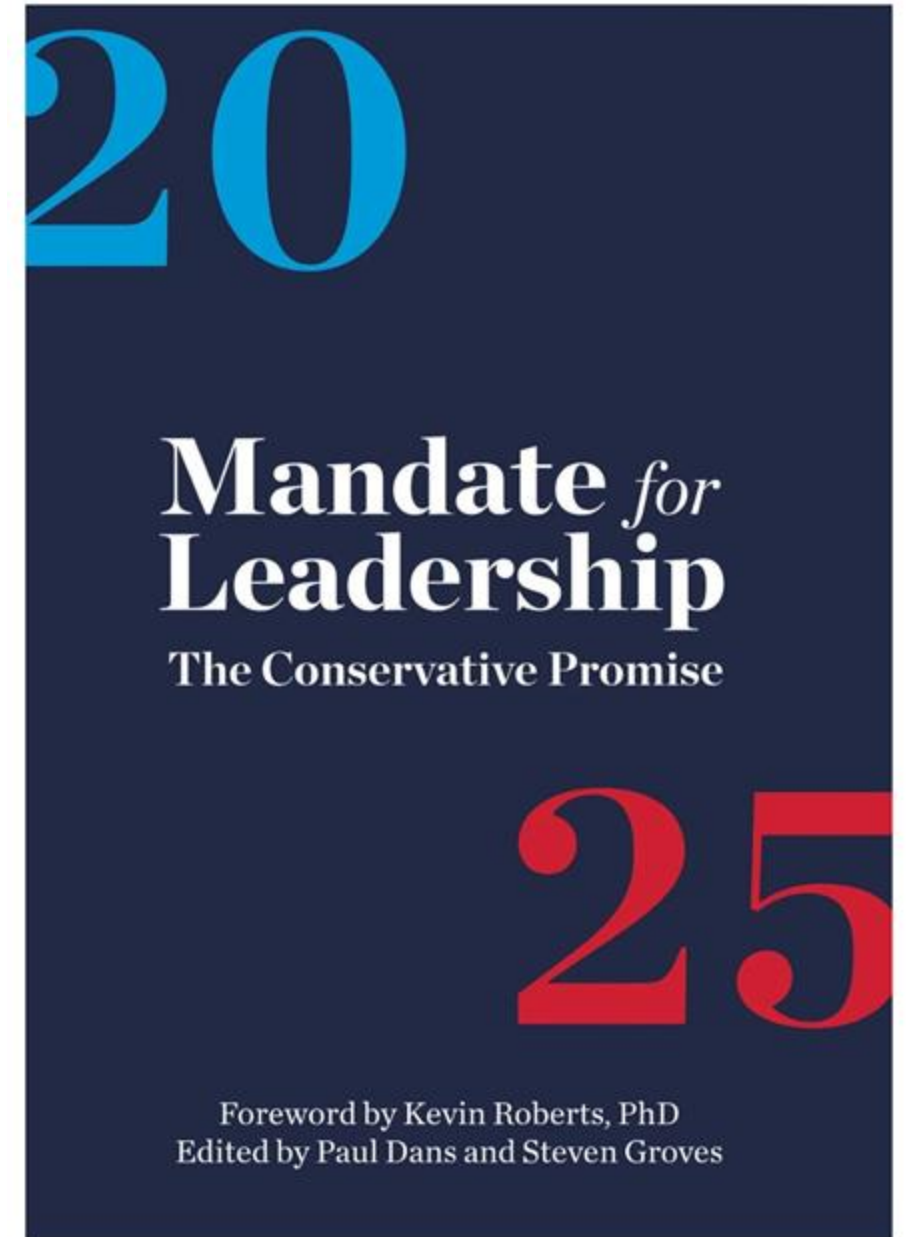


**What is Project 2025?**

**Where did it come from?**



- 900 page manual
- Reorganization of USFG
- Extremist, anti-democratic agenda



- **Heritage Foundation**
  - **Conservative think-tank**
  - **Opposes:**
    - **Abortion**
    - **LGBTQ+ rights**
    - **Immigrants' rights**
    - **Racial equity**
- **140 former Trump staffers**

**What's included in Project 2025?**



- **Gutting Abortion Access**
- **Mass Deportations**
- **Abusing Warrantless Surveillance**
- **Undue Force on Protestors**
- **Severe Voter Suppression**
- **Censoring Speech in Classrooms**
- **Rollback of LGBTQ+ Rights, especially trans rights**





There's more...

*A lot more.*



- **Replacing career civil servants with MAGA loyalists (p. 363+)**
- **Shuttering Dept. of Education (p. 319)**
- **Cut Medicare (p. 449)**
- **Repeal ACA (p. 449)**
- **End Climate Protection (p. 417)**
- **End DEI & civil rights protections in gov't (p. 545+)**
- **And much, much more...**

What is the ACLU doing?



## The Trump & Harris Memos

[www.aclu.org/campaigns-initiatives/project2025](http://www.aclu.org/campaigns-initiatives/project2025)



# THE TRUMP MEMOS

The ACLU's Roadmap for Protecting Civil Rights  
and Civil Liberties Under a Trump Administration



ACLU



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**What about the ACLU  
in Connecticut specifically?**







[www.acluct.org/memo](http://www.acluct.org/memo)

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>VOTING RIGHTS</b></p>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Direct pressure on the Governor, Attorney General, and Secretary of the State to create a voting rights firewall that enshrines current voting rights in CT and paves the way for expansion in the future</li> <li>• Push to enforce CT Voting Rights Act and expand access to the ballot</li> <li>• Reactive litigation in various courts to establish new and fortify previous case law surrounding voting rights</li> <li>• Public campaigns and focused media to galvanize voting blocs for public and private support in CT</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOM</b></p>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demand Connecticut maintain and fortify its status as an abortion sanctuary state</li> <li>• Seek to attract abortion providers</li> <li>• Demand state funding for abortion</li> <li>• Be prepared for litigation as necessary, and for sustained public pressure, protests, and proactive public action prior to further loss of constitutional rights</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>IMMIGRATION</b></p>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand existing cooperation with immigrants groups and other groups to maintain and codify legal protections</li> <li>• Urge lawmakers, advocates, and others to proactively design programs and set expectations for the protection of immigrant communities</li> <li>• Increase non-English media campaigns and communications so that non-native English speakers can know their rights</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>CRIMINAL LEGAL SYSTEM</b></p>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hold state actors accountable (litigation and communications)</li> <li>• Ensure constitutional protections and implement safeguards immediately (during or after litigation, and in statehouse)</li> <li>• Pressure on governor and DOC directly</li> <li>• Continue to advocate for evidence-based solutions to public safety and support data-driven alternatives to incarceration that center equity and human dignity</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>LGBTQIA+ RIGHTS</b></p>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue our track record of filing lawsuits against those governmental actors that would discriminate against and strip rights from LGBTQIA+ people</li> <li>• Currently coordinating and planning with networks to demand full protection and civil rights/freedom from discrimination</li> <li>• Public action, collective and collaborative movement from pro-equality government officials</li> </ul>  |



**NO MATTER WHAT,  
...WE HAVE A PLAN.**



**ACLU**  
Connecticut



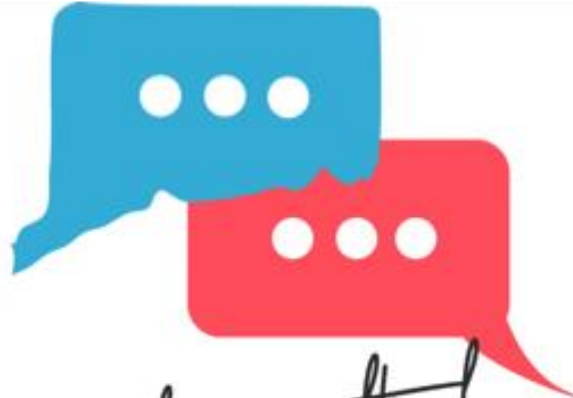
# Panel Moderator

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**Karen DuBois-Walton**

**President, Elm City Communities / Housing Authority  
of the City of New Haven**

# IMPACT



*Individuals multiplying  
personal action CT*