

**1. How is the border crisis impacting your agency's personnel and financial resources?**

- a. As a border state, Texas is greatly affected by illegal immigration. The State defends the largest section of the southern border in the nation, and failure to properly enforce the law directly and immediately endangers our citizens and law enforcement personnel. Several OAG divisions work on illegal immigration issues, including the Criminal Justice, Law Enforcement, and Special Litigation Divisions. Each division has dedicated their time to lawsuits, outreach, and aiding local law enforcement for the purpose of undoing the damage the Biden Administration policies have inflicted on Texans.
- b. As the criminal and humanitarian crisis at the border reaches emergency proportions and demands immediate assistance to protect our State and our country, vital human trafficking trainings, investigators, local government experts, and law enforcement agents are reprioritized to quell the growing criminal activity.
- c. Human trafficking is actively affecting Texas citizens. Children throughout the state are being horrifically abused. The OAG does not have the resources to both protect them with all of our might and provide both justice and care for the illegal immigrants crossing our border each day.

**2. What could your agency be doing if it was not having to respond to immigrant surges?**

- a. The OAG, like Border Patrol, DPS, and many others, is challenged with existing resources to respond to this crisis with assistance, while still performing our regular duties to the state.
- b. Several OAG divisions that are contributing legal and law enforcement assistance to the border efforts and migrant centers are the same teams that fight human trafficking, child exploitation, and criminal law at both a state and nationwide level.

**3. What is the biggest challenge for your agency related to the current border crisis?**

- a. The biggest challenge we're facing is ensuring that Texas is upholding law and order, fighting this crisis appropriately, providing care when necessary, and removing dangerous criminals, many of whom were previously convicted of felonies. The Biden Administration's failing policies and refusal to assist or even acknowledge the severity of the border crisis is forcing the OAG and our entire state to stand alone against this influx and overburden current agents and staff.
- b. During the Trump Administration, the stay-in-Mexico policy known as the Migrant Protection Protocols relieved our state of providing valuable state resources, which are allocated for citizens of Texas, to those who violate the law and enter the country illegally. Texas spends over \$850 million providing services to illegal immigrants each year, and under President Biden's unlawful directives and policy changes, those costs will increase while including lawsuits, additional assistance to facilities and law enforcement, and additional trainings.

**4. How has this border crisis differed from previous surges?**

- a. Border Patrol officials have indicated they expect to take more than 16,000 children into custody in March. Texas has never faced an illegal immigration surge of this magnitude involving children, many of whom are without parents or any identifiable relatives. The migrant facilities throughout the state are simply not equipped to safely provide care for this number of children.

**5. How has the federal government helped your agency in responding to this border crisis?**

- a. The Biden Administration has only made it more difficult for the OAG to do its job, which has had dire consequences as immigrants continue to flood the border at an alarming rate.