Story of our Movement
History: 1850’s to 1950’s
Immigration Laws & Racism

- Chinese Exclusion Act (1882) & other Acts banning particular people
- The Quota Law of 1921
- National Origins Act of 1924
- Bracero program 1942-1964
- Operation Wetback 1954
Movement: 1850’s to 1950’s

Civil Rights Movement

Farmworkers Movement
History: 1980’s - 2000
IRCA 1986 Amnesty and Backlash

• 1994 California Prop 187
• 1994 NAFTA
  Displaces millions in Mexico
• 1996 IIRAIRA, AEDPA, Welfare Reform:
  Enacts harsh enforcement to keep family and employment-based immigration

- SEIU - Justice for Janitors Campaign
- “”Fix-96”
- 2000: AFL-CIO resolution
- SEIU organizes 20,000 person Los Angeles sports arena event
- 2001: DREAM Act introduced
- 2003: Immigrant Worker Freedom Rides
Movement Lessons 1980-2003

- Decision by SEIU, labor, and community groups to make voter mobilization a priority
  - Naturalization drives & voter registration drives
  - “California went blue – next, the country!”

- Vision of what might be possible for a national movement

- Need to develop from service to organizing

- Need to build a stronger coalition and base
History: 2001-2006

• 2001 9/11 hysteria and aftermath
  NSEER Special registration, PATRIOT Act, Bush-Fox immigration reform talks collapse

• 2003 Latinos pronounced nation’s largest minority group at 37 million

• 2005 Kennedy/McCain bill

• 2005 Sensenbrenner bill HR-4437
Movement: 2006-2007

- **Mass Mobilizations**
- **Labor & community groups** come together to do electoral work together – raised more money, had better coordination, in more places

- **What did we learn?**
  - We can mobilize!
  - “Today we march, tomorrow we vote!”
Response to Raids
Legislative Push
Kennedy/Kyl bill
Anti-immigrants shut down Capitol switchboard

Movement: 2007-2008
What did we learn?

- Movement dis-unity could eat us alive
- Our opponents were fired up
- We simply did not have enough power
What did we learn?

- 4 Pillars: integrated Legislative + Policy + Communications + Field
- Fix our capacity to make calls
- Built the first coast-to-coast field program
- Keep investing in voter mobilization
History: 2008-2010

- Obama wins, Democrats control House and Senate
- Stimulus and Affordable Care Act passes
- Reform Immigration FOR America organizes – but we never get a bill
- Skyrocketing deportations
2008-2010: Lessons Learned

- Power of Coming Out – Undocumented and Unafraid!
- Proved our list-building and phone-call ability
- Were in denial about the President’s leadership and how long the health care fight would take
- Can’t just organize on the Left
History: 2010-2012

- Arizona passes SB-1070 and Alabama passes HB-56
- 2010: GOP wins House
- Latino vote keeps Senate in D’s hands
- DREAM Act vote in lame duck passes House, fails in Senate
- Deportations/enforcement continues
Movement: 2010-2012

- Movement fights back against AZ, AL, etc. Ousts AZ Senate President Russell Pearce in recall election
- Continued coming out
- Electoral and movement pressure wins DACA from Obama administration
- Latino & immigrant vote delivers Obama’s re-election
2012 Lessons Learned

- 2012 Election
- Our narrative broke through
Overall Lessons: Grow the Movement

All along the way we

- Built political capacity
- and expanded the map
- Took risks
- Built alliances