

## **Talk Show Host J.D. Hayworth: Republican Expert on Immigration Policy and Losing Elections**

Talk show host and former Congressman J.D. Hayworth has been asked to [testify](#) at the next Senate Immigration Subcommittee hearing by the panel's ranking member, John Cornyn (R-TX). However, Hayworth's credentials as an anti-immigrant Congressman who lost his reelection bid in a majority Republican district, may be of more interest to Senators assessing how to move on immigration this year.

Throughout his 12 years in Congress, Hayworth distinguished himself as one of the most hardline opponents to comprehensive immigration reform. Most notably, Hayworth voted against the "Sensenbrenner" immigration reform bill that sparked mass rallies across the nation in 2006 because it did [not do enough](#) to "turn back the massive invasion of our country by illegal aliens."

Hayworth's positions earned him praise from hardline anti-immigrant extremist groups. But in what has become something of a pattern over several election cycles, support by anti-immigrant extremists seems to inspire an opposite reaction from voters hungry for real, mainstream immigration reform. Comprehensive Immigration Reform supporter, Harry Mitchell ended Hayworth's Congressional career in the 2006 election.

The dangers for the Republicans in maintaining the "Hayworth approach" were made clear in a series of new polls released this week. Gallup [found](#) that self-identified Republicans had dropped to a near-historic low of 21% and that the GOP's share of nearly every major demographic subgroup had shrunk since 2001. Meanwhile, new polling of Hispanic voters in 13 states conducted by Bendixen & Associates [found](#) that, by a 71 percent to 11 percent margin, respondents believed that the Democratic Party best represented the opinion of the Hispanic community on immigration issues vs. the Republican Party. Additionally, only 23 percent of respondents in the Bendixen poll thought that Congressional Republicans "will do the right thing" on immigration issues, while a whopping 60 percent thought Republicans "will not do the right thing" (17 percent don't know).

According to an opinion piece in the [San Antonio Express](#), "Hayworth's support in Hispanic-influenced districts fell to 36 percent from 48 percent" during his failed 2006 reelection bid. And as [Hayworth's](#) positions on immigration became more extreme, his overall winning percentage dropped from 59 percent in 2004 to 46 percent in 2006.

The [Arizona Republic](#) notably dropped its previous endorsement of Hayworth in favor of his 2006 opponent, Harry Mitchell, in part because of Hayworth's extreme views.

"During this past term, Hayworth has devolved from a windy and sometimes cartoonish politician into an angry demagogue who has shamelessly and divisively exploited the immigration issue, arguably the No. 1 concern of Arizonans. Hayworth and Joe Eule, his chief of staff, rushed out a quickie border-security book, *Whatever It Takes*, and the congressman transformed himself into Mr. Tough Guy on illegal immigration, reliably appearing on the cable-TV news shows as a spokesman for the fire-breathing hardliners."

Hayworth gave the Arizona Republic and voters plenty of reasons to sour on him:

Hayworth calls previous generations of American immigrants "illegal invaders"

- Hayworth wrote, "Who can blame millions of unskilled and poverty-stricken Mexicans and others who come here? They rightly see the present-day guest-worker proposals as an invitation to cross our border illegally, hunker down in the underground economy **and wait until the United States gives them the same legitimate status as generations of previous illegal invaders who traveled the same path.**" [Op-ed, Washington Times, 12/14/05]

Equates hardline immigration stance to “standing up for our culture”

- Hayworth wrote, “Immigration reform is being stymied by an unholy alliance of big business, big labor, Dems and GOPers cynically looking to woo Latino voters, and left-wing extremists out to **alter the essential character of America.**” [Op-ed, Human Events Online, 11/25/03]
- In “Whatever It Takes” Hayworth’s book on his vision for immigration policy, Hayworth wrote, “**We act like a bunch of defeatist wimps unwilling to stand up for our culture**, our borders, our security, or our own laws.” [Washington Times, 2/14/06]
- From his January, 2006 op-ed in the [Arizona Republic](#): “How different are these radical Islamists from the Mexican politicians who push for a Mexico without borders and undermine our efforts at assimilation? **...In France, they have a minister of social cohesion. How long before we need one here?**”

Advocates ban on *legal* immigration from Mexico

- Hayworth proposed a **three-year ban on legal immigration** from Mexico. [Atlantic Monthly, 5/1/06]

Defends “people ‘hunting’ migrants along the border”

- According to the [Arizona Republic](#), Hayworth accused President Bush of having “maligned” the Minuteman Project. The article states “White House spokesman Taylor Gross said Wednesday that no apology will be coming from the White House. Gross explained that on March 23, when asked by a reporter about his view of people “hunting” migrants along the border, Bush simply said he was opposed to “vigilantes in the United States of America.””

In his anti-immigrant manifesto, “Whatever It Takes,” Hayworth praised the cultural views of notorious anti-Semite, Henry Ford. [The Forward](#) reported on the controversy:

In the 1920s, Ford’s Dearborn Publishing Company released “The International Jew,” a conspiratorial, four-volume work that portrays Jews as scheming to assert world domination. In it, Ford lays out the theory that Judaism and “Americanism” are inherently at odds with one another. Ford was also known to have accepted the Grand Service Cross of the Supreme Order of the German Eagle, an award bestowed on him by Hitler.

Hayworth’s book, a 194-page manifesto on the failures of American immigration policy, assails multiculturalism and voices support for the Minutemen, a vigilante group that has charged itself with monitoring American borders. In his chapter on the merits of assimilating immigrants into American society, Hayworth quotes from a 1914 New York Times article in which Ford said: “These men of many nations must be taught American ways, the English language, and the right way to live.” In his book, Hayworth wrote, “Talk like that today and our liberal elites will brand you a cultural imperialist, or worse. But if you ask me, Ford had a better idea.”

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR), labeled an anti-immigrant hate group by the Southern Poverty Law Center and other extreme anti-immigrant organizations have praised Hayworth. FAIR published a glowing review of Hayworth’s book on their [website](#):

There are a handful of brave souls in Congress waging the good fight and doing whatever it takes to bring some semblance of order to our nation’s immigration policies. Congressman J.D. Hayworth (R-Ariz.) must certainly be included among this elite group of legislators, as he has used not only his position in Congress, but the communications talents he honed as a radio talk show host to raise national awareness of the crisis this country is facing.

And in a December, 2005 [press release](#), FAIR’s executive director Dan Stein lauded Hayworth’s need to *out extreme* even his fellow anti-immigrant Congressional colleagues:

The Federation for American Immigration Reform (FAIR) congratulates Rep. J.D. Hayworth (R-AZ) on his speech on the House floor...about the true nature of the Sensenbrenner/King border security bill (note: FAIR believes this bill much weaker than TRUE Enforcement-which Hayworth supports-and could set the table for an indentured worker program coming from the Senate in the Spring). Hayworth repeatedly asked his colleagues to stop calling this ‘comprehensive reform’ because it provides shallow enforcement, maybe, in years to come, while an indentured worker program is rammed down our throats by the Bush administration and House and Senate allies.

Mark Krikorian, executive director of the [Center for Immigration Studies](#) (CIS), which, along with FAIR has close ties to John Tanton, white nationalist and godfather of the anti-immigrant movement, brought attention to

Hayworth's role as a Congressional leader in a January, 2004 [article](#) in the National Review. Krikorian: "Rep. J. D. Hayworth, an Arizona Republican, got 63 colleagues to sign a letter to President Bush urging him to reject 'any and all forms of amnesty.'"

The extremist website [VDARE](#), named in honor of Virginia Dare, the first English child born in the new world, is a web portal filled with anti-immigrant rants and which regularly publishes the work of well known white nationalists, praised Hayworth's legislation:

Even Congress is getting the message. Rep J.D. Hayworth (R-Ariz) has included reform in his recently introduced Enforcement First Immigration Act of 2005 bill. [Hayworth targets migrants with immigration bill Billy House and Susan Carroll The Arizona Republic September 29 2005] Some idea of the strategic importance of the issue can be seen in the inevitably pro-immigrant coverage of the issue by The Atlanta Journal-Constitution [Birthright citizenship under attack Mary Lou Pickel and Eunice Moscoso September 29 2005].

And an article advocating support of Hayworth's reelection bid was even published on [DavidDuke.com](#) – the website of Klansman David Duke.

Senator Cornyn has turned to a talk show host and failed Congressional candidate for his views on immigration policy. Strange as that may be, Hayworth's political credentials are further evidence of the perilous path Congressional Republicans are still trudging. Hayworth's extreme views on immigration were soundly rejected by Arizona voters in 2006 and in [20 out of 22 Congressional elections in 2008](#).

The evidence is abundantly clear, right wing talk show hosts should not be crafting national policy on immigration or any issue. Voters clearly want comprehensive immigration reform and Senators of both parties should work together to deliver it before the 2010 election.