

Election quiets candidates on immigration

by UPI

WASHINGTON - U.S. Republican presidential hopefuls have been saying little on the issue of immigration since declaring their candidacies, The Washington Post reported.

Most notably, U.S. Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., has delegated congressional handling of crafting reforms to two fellow Republicans and made no mention of the issue when he declared himself a candidate in New Hampshire last month.

Prior to that, McCain had teamed with U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., to create a bill that would tighten border security and create a guest-worker program for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the country.

The newspaper also noted how former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani has said very little on the issue since declaring his candidacy. As mayor, Giuliani sued the federal government on immigration policy and advised the police force to focus on crime rather than immigration offenses.

Meanwhile, senators from both parties and White House officials are working to meet a Wednesday deadline Democrats set in Congress for an immigration reform bill. The Post said it includes giving illegal immigrants "a path" to legal status after clearing criminal checks and paying fines, along with tougher border security and enforcement of workplace rules.

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