

# OUR VIEW: Let voters decide who is best for Idaho

Doug Bauer, for the editorial board

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Rifts between politicians can run deep, even for those of the same political stripe.

So we weren't surprised when Idaho Sen. Mike Jorgenson, R-Hayden, took issue with state Rep. Raul Labrador's plans to enter the 1st Congressional District race.

But Jorgenson's demand that Labrador, R-Eagle, immediately drop out of the running was over the top.

"Raul Labrador is an immigration attorney and admits to defending illegal immigrants in his law practice," Jorgenson told news outlets. "His pro-illegal immigrant stances are wrong for Idaho taxpayers and Idaho's unemployed."

Who is Jorgenson to say which candidate is best for Idaho? The last we checked, that's for the state's voters to decide.

Furthermore, not all "illegal immigrants" are thugs and malcontents hellbent on invading the United States for immoral purposes. Many of them are good, honest people who are trying to find a better life for themselves and their families, who entered the country by any means necessary to seek an American dream they couldn't otherwise realize.

Faced with a similar predicament, we'd consider the same drastic measures.

Our immigration system is far from perfect, as evidenced by the recent situation involving Katarzyna Dziwanowska. She had been conducting valuable research at the University of Idaho on temporary work visas for several years before being denied legal permanent residency because of a period of unauthorized work days, during which she was renewing her visa.

Without a good immigration lawyer, Dziwanowska wouldn't have been able to remain in the United States.

No doubt Labrador has had similar cases cross his desk, and although his work in the legal arena might not get him elected, it certainly shouldn't keep him from trying.

