

## **Build the Wall?**

The answer is simple, right? Just close the borders! Just “complete the wall”, along all 1,954 miles of the southern border, over mountains and through rivers. Place a few thousand armed guards along the border and at all the border gaps and stop entry by the use of ladders and crow-bars or wire cutters. Easy!

As of October 2020, the U.S. Customs and Border Protection reported that there were 669 miles of “primary barrier” along the southern border. How many miles of new primary border wall were built during the Trump presidency?

When Donald Trump says the figure is “over 500 miles,” the former president is referring to the total of all wall construction during his presidency, which was 458. The cost of the wall repair and construction is estimated to be around \$11 billion, which translates to nearly \$20 million per mile. According to a review of federal spending data, the cost of the border wall project increased by billions of dollars due to modifications to contracts, with supplemental agreements and change orders alone adding at least \$2.9 billion to the cost. However, the White House under the Biden administration reported that some segments of the wall cost American taxpayers up to \$46 million per mile.

However, the word “built” should read “completed”. The amount of new wall construction completed was only 52 miles, according to a federal report.

This cost of Trump wall construction is about five times more expensive than the border fencing built during the Bush and Obama administrations. The Trump administration initially proposed building 1,000 miles of wall, but later revised that figure down to 450 miles. The Department of Homeland Security’s internal estimate in early

2017 was that the proposed border wall would cost \$21.6 billion and take 3.5 years to build. The effort diverted critical resources away from military training facilities and schools, with some wall segments costing American taxpayers up to \$46 million per mile. The environmental cost is another matter.

(Sample text from Broken Border: Understanding the Global Forces Shaping the Immigration Crisis, by Tim Trott (Amazon.com: ISBN 9798876767332, ASIN B0CSV8VD42 + B0CSWKW22Q <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B0CSV8VD42>)