



Polls Show a Majority of Americans Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform

December 2011

By consistently strong majorities, Americans support comprehensive immigration reform. Conventional wisdom has held that voters oppose this type of reform, but a look at opinion polls from 2008 to today proves that conventional wisdom is wrong.

December 2011-Latino Decisions Tracking Poll

In December 2011, impreMedia-Latino Decisions conducted a tracking [poll](#) of 500 Latino voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4.3%.

Immigration ties with jobs and the economy as the most important issues facing the Latino community. When asked to name “the most important issues facing the Latino community that you think Congress and the President should address,” 42% of Latino voters mentioned immigration reform or the DREAM Act. Twenty-three percent mentioned jobs, and 20% mentioned the economy, making jobs/the economy and immigration by far the two top issues mentioned.

December 2011-Fox News Poll

In December 2011, Democratic pollster Anderson Robbins Research and Republican pollster Shaw & Company Research conducted a [poll](#) of 911 registered voters for Fox News. The poll has a margin of error of +/-3% across the full sample, +/-5% among the Democratic subsample and +/-5.5% among the Republican subsample.

Two-thirds of voters support a path to citizenship; less than 20% support mass deportation. When asked “what government policy should be toward illegal immigrants currently in the United States,” 66% percent of voters said that the government should “allow illegal immigrants to remain in the country and eventually qualify for U.S. citizenship” if they meet requirements including a background check and learning English. Only 19% of respondents elected to “send all illegal immigrants back to their home country.” (Thirteen percent of voters supported a guest worker program.) [[Fox News](#)]

A strong majority of Republican voters favor a path to citizenship. Among Republican voters, 57% chose the path to citizenship option described above. Only 26% of Republican voters said that the government should send all illegal immigrants back to their home countries.

December 2011-MSNBC Poll of GOP in South Carolina and Florida

In December 2011, Marist College's Institute for Public Opinion conducted a poll of 2,107 registered voters (including 635 likely Republican primary voters) in [South Carolina](#), and 2,119 registered voters (including 469 likely Republican primary voters) in [Florida](#). The margins of error for the poll are as follows: +/-2.1% for all South Carolina voters; +/-3.9% for likely South Carolina Republican primary voters; +/-2.1% for all Florida voters; +/-4.5% for likely Florida Republican primary voters.

A majority of Florida voters, and of likely voters in Florida's Republican primary, consider it "acceptable" for a Republican nominee to support "limited amnesty." When asked "Would it be acceptable or not acceptable if the Republican presidential nominee supports limited amnesty for some illegal immigrants?" 51% of all voters said it would be acceptable, while 42% said it would be unacceptable. Among Republican primary voters, 53% said it would be acceptable for their party's nominee to support "limited amnesty," while 41% said it would be unacceptable. [[MSNBC](#); [MSNBC](#)]

Even in South Carolina, many Republican primary voters are open to candidates who support "limited amnesty." As noted above, a majority of likely Republican primary voters in Florida and a majority of the general public said it would be acceptable for a Republican primary nominee to support "limited amnesty" for some undocumented immigrants. In South Carolina, overall voters were slightly more likely to say such a position would be *unacceptable* (49%) than acceptable (45%), and 48% of likely Republican primary voters said it would be unacceptable and while 46% said it would be unacceptable. [[MSNBC](#); [MSNBC](#)]

December 2011-National Journal Poll

In December 2011, National Journal conducted a [poll](#) of 1,008 adults. The poll has a margin of error of +/-3.7%.

Two-thirds of the public want at least some undocumented immigrants to stay. When asked "Which one of the following steps, if any, do you think the government should take to deal with illegal immigrants?" only 25% of respondents chose "Deport all illegal immigrants, no matter how long they have lived in the U.S." Thirty-nine percent, a plurality, said that the government should "Deport some illegal immigrants, but allow those who have been here many years and broken no other laws to stay here legally." And 28% said that the government should "Allow all illegal immigrants to stay, provided they have broken no other laws and commit to learning English and U.S. history." [[National Journal](#)]

December 2011-Pew Research Center for the People and the Press Poll

In December 2011, the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press conducted a [poll](#) of 2,001 adults. The poll has a margin of error of +/-3%.

Two-thirds of public believe a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants should be among the government's priorities in immigration policy. When asked what the priority for “illegal immigration policy should be,” 29% said “better border security and stronger enforcement” and 24% said “a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants in the U.S.” A plurality of 43% thought that both should be equal priority—putting 67% of the sample in favor of an immigration policy that included a path to citizenship. [[Pew Research Center](#)]

December 2011-New York Times/CBS News Iowa Poll

In December 2011, CBS and the New York Times conducted a [poll](#) of 640 likely Republican caucus-goers in Iowa. The margin of error for the poll is +/-4%.

Immigration is not a top issue for caucus-goers. When asked “Which one of the following issues will be the most important in deciding who you will support in the Iowa Republican Presidential Caucus?”, only 4% of caucus-goers selected “Illegal immigration.” It was the least popular of the six other issues the poll suggested and the “Something else” option. [[New York Times](#)]

Caucus-goers trust Gingrich, Perry on immigration. When asked “Which candidate do you trust most to deal with the issue of illegal immigration?”, 21% of likely caucus-goers selected Newt Gingrich and 20% selected Rick Perry—making the two candidates who have been attacked for their supposedly “soft” immigration stances also the two most trusted by likely caucus-goers. Fifteen percent of the sample named Ron Paul, and 13% named Mitt Romney; other candidates were named by less than 10% of the sample each. [[New York Times](#)]

December 2011-Washington Post/ABC News Iowa Poll

In December 2011, the Washington Post and ABC News conducted a [poll](#) of 858 potential Iowa Republican caucus-goers. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4% for the sample of potential caucus-goers, and +/-6% for the sample of likely caucus-goers.

Immigration is not a top issue for caucus-goers. Immigration ranked low among the most important issues for caucus-goers, with only 3% of likely participants ranking it as their top issue. By comparison, 38% of likely caucus-goers named “economy and jobs,” 28% named “federal budget deficit,” and 15% named “social issues like abortion and gay marriage.” [[Washington Post](#)]

Gingrich's immigration stance attracts twice as many caucus-goers as it repels. The poll listed a series of controversies that had arisen during the primary campaign, asking respondents if they considered each issue a major factor to support the candidate in question, oppose the candidate, or if it was not a major factor. When asked about “Newt Gingrich's position on illegal immigration,” which includes a path to legal status for some longtime undocumented immigrants, 34% of potential caucus-goers and 38% of likely caucus-goers said it was a major reason to support Gingrich, while only 16% of potential caucus-goers and 15% of likely caucus-goers said it was a major reason to oppose him. [[Washington Post](#)]

Caucus-goers trust Gingrich, Perry on immigration. When caucus-goers were asked to name the candidate they trusted most “to handle immigration issues,” the most popular candidates by far were

Newt Gingrich and Rick Perry—two candidates who have been labeled as “soft” on immigration by the rest of the field. Twenty-seven percent of likely caucus-goers named Gingrich, and 18% named Perry. Thirteen percent named Ron Paul, who has an enforcement-only voting record but has expressed discomfort with some hardline enforcement measures such as mandatory E-Verify and a border fence. Mitt Romney, who has launched most of the immigration attacks on his opponents and is currently portraying himself as a hardliner, was named by only 8% of likely caucus-goers. [[Washington Post](#)]

December 2011-Public Policy Polling Iowa Poll

In December 2011, Public Policy Polling conducted a [poll](#) of 572 likely Iowa Republican caucus-goers. The poll has a margin of error of +/-4.1%.

Only 25% of caucus-goers support mass deportation. When asked “Do you think people who have immigrated to the United States illegally but have lived here 25 years, have paid taxes, and have obeyed the law should be deported or not?”, only 25% of likely caucus-goers said they should be deported, while 44% said they should not be. Twenty-seven percent were unsure. [[Public Policy Polling](#)]

Immigration not a top issue for caucus-goers. Immigration was far from a driving force for Republican caucus-goers, as only 3 percent ranked “illegal immigration” as their most important issue when deciding their vote. In comparison, 43 percent named “government spending, reducing the debt,” 27 percent “jobs/economy,” 9 percent “social issues,” and 4 percent “taxes.” [[Public Policy Polling](#)]

November 2011-Partnership for a New American Economy Iowa Poll (Selzer & Co.)

In November 2011, Iowa-based pollster Selzer & Company conducted a [poll](#) of 400 likely Iowa Republican caucus-goers for the Partnership for a New American Economy. The margin of error for the whole sample is +/-4.9%.

Immigration not as critical as other issues to caucus-goers. When asked whether a series of issues were “critical,” “important,” or “somewhat important,” Iowa caucus-goers were much more likely to label economic issues as “critical” than immigration. Forty-six percent of caucus-goers considered “Halting illegal immigration” to be “critical,” while 85% categorized “Reforming government spending and debt” as critical; 70% categorized “Creating jobs in the U.S.” as critical; 64% categorized “Encouraging the creation of new businesses in the U.S.” as critical; and 52% categorized “Reforming taxes” as critical. [[Partnership for a New American Economy](#)]

Iowa caucus-goers support measures to increase legal immigration. The poll did not ask about proposals to deal with undocumented immigrants already here, such as a path to citizenship or, alternatively, mass deportation. However, it did ask respondents about a range of proposals to increase legal immigration to the country for entrepreneurs, high-skilled workers, seasonal workers and foreign-born students educated in the U.S. All four of these proposals received the support of at least 60% of caucus-goers. [[Partnership for a New American Economy](#)]

November 2011- impreMedia-Latino Decisions Poll of General Electorate

In November 2011, impreMedia-Latino Decisions conducted a [poll](#) of 1000 registered voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.1%.

Majority of voters support path to citizenship for the undocumented. Asked whether they supported mass deportation, a guest-worker program or a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already here, 58% said they supported the option providing a path to citizenship. Twenty-five percent supported mass deportation, and 13% preferred the guest-worker program. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Voters care whether a candidate matches their views on immigration. When asked how they would feel toward a candidate who agreed with them about the economy but said that “we can never support amnesty for illegals,” 41% of voters said they would be less likely to support the candidate. Twenty-five percent said they would be more likely, and only 19% said they would not care about their immigration position. When asked how they would feel toward a candidate who agreed with them about the economy and said “we need to treat immigrants with respect and dignity and help them assimilate into America instead of attacking them,” 46% of voters said they would be more likely to support the candidate while 15% said they would be less likely; 22% said they would not care about the candidate’s immigration statement. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Over 60% of voters see “secure the border” as an excuse, not a legitimate policy proposal. When asked “When you hear some candidates say that immigration reform must wait until the border is completely secure, do you think that is a legitimate concern that needs to be addressed, OR they are using that as an excuse to try and block action on immigration reform?” 62% of voters said it was an excuse. Only 24% said it reflected a legitimate proposal. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Majority of voters continue to support DREAM Act. 58% of voters either “strongly support” or “somewhat support” the DREAM Act. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

November 2011-Latino Decisions Latino Poll

In November 2011, impreMedia-Latino Decisions conducted a [poll](#) of 1000 Latino voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.1%.

Two-thirds of Latino voters support path to citizenship for the undocumented. Asked whether they supported mass deportation, a guest worker program or a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants already here, 67% of Latino voters said they supported the option providing a path to citizenship. Fourteen percent supported mass deportation, and 14% preferred the guest worker program. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Anti-immigrant sentiments seriously damage candidates with Latino voters. When asked how they would feel toward a candidate who agreed with them about the economy but said that “we can never support amnesty for illegals,” 59% of Latino voters said they would be less likely to support the candidate. Fourteen percent said they would be more likely, and only 15% said they would not care about their immigration position. When asked how they would feel toward a candidate who agreed with them about the economy and said “we need to treat immigrants with respect and dignity and help them assimilate into America instead of attacking them,” a stunning 76% of Latino voters said they would be

more likely to support the candidate while only 6% said they would be less likely; 11% said they would not care about the candidate's immigration statement. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Two-thirds of Latino voters see “secure the border” as an excuse, not a legitimate policy proposal. When asked “When you hear some candidates say that immigration reform must wait until the border is completely secure, do you think that is a legitimate concern that needs to be addressed, OR they are using that as an excuse to try and block action on immigration reform?” 67% of voters said it was an excuse. Only 17% said it reflected a legitimate proposal. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Latinos continue to overwhelmingly support DREAM Act. Eighty-four percent of Latino voters either “strongly support” or “somewhat support” the DREAM Act. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

November 2011-Arizona State University Poll

In November 2011, the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University conducted a [poll](#) of 600 adults. The margin of error for the poll is +/- 4.0%.

Overwhelming majority of Arizonans support path to citizenship. When asked “Would you support or oppose legislation that would allow” undocumented immigrants who have lived in the state for many years “to be put on a path to becoming American citizens” if they met certain criteria, an overwhelming 78% of Arizonans said they would support it, and only 16% said they would oppose it. [[Arizona State University](#)]

October 2011- impreMedia-Latino Decisions Tracking Poll

In August 2011 impreMedia-Latino Decisions conducted a tracking [poll](#) of 600 Latino voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4.0%.

Immigration, jobs most important issues facing Latino community. When asked to name “the most important issues facing the Latino community that you think Congress and the President should address,” 42% of Latino voters mentioned immigration reform or the DREAM Act. An equal number mentioned either jobs (30%) or the economy (12%). [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Over three-quarters of Latino voters support new deportation policy. When asked about “the Obama administration’s new policy specifically asking the immigration agency to use discretion” in certain categories of deportation cases, a majority—55%—said they “strongly supported” the policy. In all, 77% of the sample said they supported it at least somewhat. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

October 2011-Fox News Poll

In October 2011, Anderson Robbins Research and Shaw & Company Research conducted a [poll](#) of 904 registered voters for Fox News. The poll’s margin of error is +/-3% for the full sample.

Strong majority of registered voters across the ideological spectrum believe DREAMers should be eligible for a path to citizenship. Sixty-three percent of all voters agreed that “illegal immigrants who

have lived in the United States since they were children should be eligible for legal citizenship.” Thirty-one percent said they should not. Among independent voters, the split was even more pronounced, with 68% of independents supporting citizenship and only 27% opposing it. Majorities of self-identified liberals (78%), moderates (63%) and conservatives (55%) all supported citizenship. [[Fox News](#)]

September 2011-Resurgent Republic poll

In September 2011, Ayers, McHenry and Associates conducted a [poll](#) of 1200 Hispanic voters in Florida, Colorado and New Mexico for the Republican organizations Resurgent Republic and the Hispanic Leadership Network. The margin of error is +/- 4.25-4.90%.

Strong majorities of Hispanic voters support earned legalization. When asked whether they supported earned legalization for undocumented immigrants who met certain “strict guidelines” like registration, lack of criminal background, paying a fine, and learning English, strong majorities of Hispanic voters in all states supported it. Sixty-seven percent of Florida Hispanics said they supported earned legalization; 63% of Colorado Hispanics; and 59% of New Mexico Hispanics. [[Resurgent Republic](#)]

Hispanic voters strongly prefer comprehensive immigration reform to “border-first” measures. Respondents were presented with three ideas for bills: one that included border security and earned legalization “because any solution to the immigration problem must deal with all of the problems with our immigration system;” one that included border security and a guest-worker program, “because we have to address the need for immigrant workers if we are ever going to get control of the border;” and one that included only border security, “because we have to secure the border first.” In all three states, majorities of Hispanic voters preferred the first, comprehensive bill: 55% in Florida, 53% in Colorado, and 50% in New Mexico. Furthermore, the enforcement-only bill with its “border first” reasoning was the least popular option in all three states: only 19% of Florida Hispanics endorsed it, 15% of Hispanic voters in Colorado, and 17% in New Mexico. [[Resurgent Republic](#)]

Strong majorities of Hispanic voters support the DREAM Act. When asked about allowing “children of undocumented immigrants who have grown up in America to attain legal residency status if they complete college or serve in the U.S. military” (a slightly vague and misleading warning that ignores the fact that many children of undocumented immigrants were born in the United States and are therefore U.S. citizens), strong majorities of Hispanic voters in all states signaled their support. Sixty-seven percent of Florida Hispanics supported DREAM; 63% of Colorado Hispanics; and 59% of New Mexico Hispanics. [[Resurgent Republic](#)]

August 2011- impreMedia-Latino Decisions Tracking Poll

In August 2011 impreMedia-Latino Decisions conducted a tracking [poll](#) of 500 Latino voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 4.3%.

Majority of Latinos consider immigration reform one of most important issues facing Latino community. When asked to name “the most important issues facing the Latino community that you think Congress and the President should address,” 51% of Latino voters named immigration reform or

the DREAM Act, making it by far the most common issue. Thirty-five percent mentioned jobs or the economy, and 18% mentioned education or schools. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Three-quarters of Latino voters support path to citizenship. When asked “what government policy should be toward illegal immigrants currently residing in the United States,” 75% of Latino voters said the government should “allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States and eventually qualify for U.S. citizenship” if they meet certain requirements. Fourteen percent preferred a guest worker program, and only 10% said the government should make all “illegal immigrants” felons and deport them. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Strong majorities affirm only federal government should check immigration status. 68% of Latino voters disapproved of laws requiring state and local police to check immigration status, and a majority of the total sample—56%—said they “strongly disapproved.” By contrast, a 52% majority said they would “strongly approve” of a law *prohibiting* state and local police from checking immigration status; in all, 62% of the sample approved of such a law. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Strong majorities support providing in-state tuition to undocumented students. Seventy-eight percent of respondents supported allowing undocumented students to attend college in their states at in-state tuition rates, and over two-thirds—68%—said they “strongly approved.” [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

A majority of Latino voters “strongly support” executive action halting deportations of all DREAMers. Fifty-seven percent of Latino voters would “strongly support” an action by President Obama to stop the deportation of all high-school or college-aged undocumented youth who has not committed a crime; 66% of all voters would support it at least somewhat. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

June 2011-impreMedia-Latino Decisions Tracking Poll

In June 2011 impreMedia-Latino Decisions conducted a tracking [poll](#) of 500 Latino voters. The poll has a margin of error of +/- 3.1%.

Majority of Latino voters consider immigration the highest Latino-community priority for Congress and the President. When asked to name the most important issue facing the Latino community that should be addressed by Congress and the President, 51% of respondents answered immigration. Thirty-five percent of respondents answered either “the economy” or “jobs,” making that the second most common issue. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Strong disapproval of police immigration-status checks. When asked about a law which would require state and local police to check on immigration status, 68% either somewhat disapproved or strongly disapproved. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

Strong majority of Latino voters support allowing undocumented immigrant children to qualify for in-state tuition. When asked if they supported allowing undocumented immigrant children who graduate from high school to qualify for in-state tuition rates if they attend college, 78% of Latino voters either somewhat approved or strongly approved. [[impreMedia-Latino Decisions](#)]

May 2011-Pew Research Center

In May 2011, the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press released a [poll](#), “Beyond Red vs. Blue: The Political Typology.” The study is based on two surveys with a combined sample of 3,029 adults, conducted Feb. 22-Mar. 14, 2011 and a smaller callback survey conducted April 7-10, 2011 with 1,432 of the same respondents. The margins of sampling error for survey A and B is plus or minus 2.2.

Majority of public supports citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently in the country. Respondents were asked: “Thinking about illegal immigration in the United States, do you favor or oppose providing a way for illegal immigrants currently in the country to gain legal citizenship if they pass background checks, pay fines, and have jobs?” By a 72%-24% margin overall, voters supported a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants currently in the United States.

When broken up by political typology as defined by the study authors, “Main Street Republicans” support a path to citizenship 58%-39%; “Libertarians” support it 66%-32%; “Disaffecteds” support it 65%-29%; “Post-Moderns” support it 87%-13%; “New Coalition Democrats” support it 80%-12%; “Hard-Pressed Democrats” support it 61%-35% and “Solid Liberals” support it 94%-4%. Even “Staunch Conservatives,” the only type without majority support for a path to citizenship, are split: 49%-49%. [[Pew Research Center, Center for American Progress](#)]

February 2011- impreMedia and Latino Decisions

In January-February 2010, impreMedia and Latino Decisions conducted a [poll](#) of 500 registered Latino voters in the 21 states with the largest Hispanic populations. (The Hispanic population of those states comprises 94% percent of the total US Hispanic electorate.) The margin of error is +/- 4.38% on the full sample.

Immigration ranked top-priority issue to be addressed. Respondents were asked to name the most important issues facing the Latino community that need to be addressed by lawmakers and the President. Forty-seven percent of respondents named immigration, making it the most commonly named top-priority issue. Jobs and the economy (combined) were the next most commonly named issue, with 34% of respondents naming at least one. Education and health followed with 20% and 12% respectively. [[Latino Decisions](#)]

Strong majority support DREAM Act. The poll found that 85% of respondents either strongly approve or somewhat approve of the DREAM Act, which would provide undocumented immigrant children a path to citizenship if they attend college or serve in the U.S. Military. [[Latino Decisions](#)]

December 2010-Boise State University Public Policy Center

Boise State University’s Public Policy Center’s 20th Idaho Public Policy Survey [polled](#) 525 randomly selected Idaho residents. The poll’s margin of error is +/-5% across the full sample.

73% Think We Should Allow Undocumented Immigrants to Stay In the Country. When presented with the statement “A program should be created that would allow illegal immigrants to stay in this country

permanently,” 73% of respondents either “strongly agreed” or “somewhat agreed” with the statement. [[Boise State University Public Policy Center](#)]

December 2010-Gallup

Results for this Gallup [poll](#) are based on telephone interviews conducted Dec. 3-6, 2010, on the Gallup Daily tracking survey, with a random sample of 1,003 adults, aged 18 and older, living in all 50 U.S. states and the District of Columbia, selected using random-digit-dial sampling.

Majority of Americans support DREAM Act. When asked if they would vote for a law “that would allow illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college?”—a version of the DREAM Act—54% of respondents said they would vote for such a law. [[Gallup Poll](#)]

November 2010 – Lake Research Partners Poll

In November 2010, Lake Research Partners conducted a [poll](#) of 1,200 likely voters that included questions about immigration. Polling was conducted by telephone October 31 – November 2, 2010.

Overwhelming majorities of Democrats, Republicans and independents support comprehensive immigration reform including a path to citizenship. When given a brief description of a comprehensive immigration reform proposal that would include a path to citizenship, 84% of Democrats, 82% of Republicans and 80% of independents said they supported the proposal. [[Lake Research Partners](#)]

Majorities of Democrats, independents and Republicans support the DREAM Act. The poll found that after hearing a brief description of the DREAM Act, 81 percent of Democrats, 60 percent of independents and 57 percent of Republicans supported the bill. [[Lake Research Partners](#)]

A majority of voters think that immigration is a federal issue, not a state issue. The poll found that 56 percent of voters believed that immigration was an issue best dealt by the federal government. Only 20 percent believed the issue was best handled by the states. Another 19 percent believed both the federal and states’ governments should play a role. [[Lake Research Partners](#)]

More than three-fourths of voters said it was unrealistic to deport the 11 million undocumented immigrants living in the U.S. The poll found that 76 percent of voters agreed with the statement, “Deporting all 11 million illegal immigrants currently in the United States is unrealistic.” The majority of Democrats, independents and Republicans alike agreed with the sentiment: 83 percent of Democrats, 75 percent of independents and 70 percent of Republicans said they agreed. [[Lake Research Partners](#)]

Immigration is not a top issue for most voters. According to Lake Research Partners, “Immigration was not a top issue for the vast majority of voters. Immigration was the most important issue for only 2% of voters overall, including 1% of independents and 3% of Republicans. By contrast, the economy was the top issue for 27%, followed by jobs at 15%.” [[Lake Research Partners](#)]

November 2010-Latino Decisions

From October 28-November 1, 2010, Latino Decisions conducted a [poll](#) of Latinos in eight states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New Mexico, Nevada and Texas) who were “extremely likely” to vote in the 2010 elections. The weighted sample produced 400 surveys per state and 3,200 surveys in all eight states, for a margin of error of +/-1.7% across the national sample and +/-4.2% across any given state sample.

Immigration is a top issue for Latino voters. In each state, immigration was among the top two issues that voters said they wanted lawmakers to focus on. Overall, 48% of Latino voters chose either “jobs” or “the economy” as a top concern, while 37% chose “immigration.” In Arizona, immigration (45%) polled ahead of jobs and the economy combined (41%). [[Latino Decisions](#)]

Majority of Latinos said immigration was an important motivator of their voting decisions. Sixty percent of respondents said immigration was either “the most important” issue or “one of the most important” issues in deciding whether to vote and which candidates to vote for. Twenty-three percent said it was somewhat important to determining their vote, and only 14% said it was not important. In Arizona and Nevada, 69% of Latino voters said immigration was one of the most important factors in their voting decisions. [[Latino Decisions](#)]

Strong majority of Latino voters oppose the Arizona anti-immigration law. The poll found that 74 percent of Latino voters across the country opposed Arizona’s immigration law, while 17% supported it. Only 9% had no opinion on the matter. [[Latino Decisions](#)]

August 2010 - Fox News Poll

On August 10-11, 2010, Fox News conducted a telephone [poll](#) of 900 registered voters. The margin of error was +/-3%.

A majority of voters want the government to secure the borders and reform immigration laws at the same time. When Fox News asked whether the government should first secure the border, pass new immigration laws, or do both at the same time, 68% of respondents said the government should do both. This extended across the political spectrum, with 72% of Democrats, 67% of independents and 65% of Republicans saying the government should secure the border and pass new laws at the same time. [[Fox News](#)]

More than two-thirds of voters favor allowing undocumented immigrants who pay taxes and obey the law to stay in the U.S. According to the poll, 68 percent of voters favor allowing undocumented immigrants who pay taxes and obey the law to stay in the U.S. That includes majorities of Republicans (63 percent), independents (69 percent) and Democrats (75 percent). [[Fox News](#)]

August 2010 - Chicago Tribune and WGN Poll

In August 2010, the Chicago Tribune and WGN conducted a [poll](#) of 800 heads of households across the Chicago region.

A majority of Chicago residents don't want police to seek out undocumented immigrants for deportation. The poll found that "57 percent of the respondents did not want police to seek illegal immigrants for deportation." [[Chicago Tribune](#)]

Overwhelming majority of Chicagoans support granting legal status to law-abiding undocumented immigrants that are already in the U.S. Eighty-seven percent of respondents "believed that some sort of legal status should be offered to the nearly 11 million people in the country illegally, provided that the immigrants aren't dangerous felons, that they learn English and that they pay fines and back taxes." [[Chicago Tribune](#)]

August 2010 - Ipsos Public Affairs Poll of Colorado

In August 2010, Ipsos Public Affairs conducted a [poll](#) of 601 registered voters in Colorado for Reuters. The margin of error for the poll is +/- 4.0% for the sample of registered voters; +/-4.6% for likely voters; +/-6.1% for the subsample of registered Democrats; and +/-5.9% for the subsample of registered Republicans.

Two-thirds of Colorado voters believe that undocumented immigrants should be given a path to legalization if they have a clean record, pay a fine and pay their taxes. The poll found that 64 percent of Colorado voters agreed with the statement "A person residing illegally in the United States with a clean record should be able to pay a fine, their taxes, and then have the opportunity to become US citizens." [[Ipsos Public Affairs](#)]

Fifty-eight percent of Colorado voters oppose mass deportation. The poll found that 58 percent of Colorado voters disagreed with the statement: "all people residing illegally in the United States should be detained and sent back to their home country, with no exceptions." [[Ipsos Public Affairs](#)]

Sixty-two percent of Colorado voters want the government to deport only undocumented immigrants who have committed other crimes, and allow the rest to stay in the country. The poll found that 62 percent of Colorado voters agreed that "People residing illegally in the United States who are arrested for other crimes should be sent back to their home country, but the rest left alone." [[Ipsos Public Affairs](#)]

June 2010 – Washington Post and ABC News Poll

The Washington Post and ABC News conducted a telephone [poll](#) of 1,004 adults over June 3-6, 2010. The margin of error across the full sample is +/-3%.

A majority of Americans support a program giving undocumented immigrants legal status if they pay a fine and meet other requirements. Respondents were asked "Would you support or oppose a program giving ILLEGAL immigrants now living in the United States the right to live here LEGALLY if they pay a fine and meet other requirements?" Fifty-seven percent of respondents said that they would support the program, while 40 percent of respondents said they would oppose it. [[Washington Post](#)]

A majority of Americans also favor Arizona's immigration law. When told that "A new law in Arizona would give police the power to ask people they've stopped to verify their residency status," with half of respondents also told that "Supporters say this will help crack down on illegal immigration" and the other half told that "Opponents say it could violate civil rights and lead to racial profiling," 58% of respondents said they support the law. Forty-one percent said they oppose it. [[Washington Post](#)]

Fifty-two percent of respondents think it is the federal government's responsibility to make and enforce immigration laws. When asked "Regardless of what you think about the Arizona law, immigration currently is regulated by federal law enforced by the federal government. In general, do you think STATES should be allowed to make and enforce their own immigration laws, or should this be left to FEDERAL jurisdiction?", 52 percent of respondents said they believed the federal government should have jurisdiction over immigration laws, as opposed to states. [[Washington Post](#)]

May 2010 - NBC, MSNBC and Telemundo Poll

In May 2010, NBC, MSNBC and Telemundo [polled](#) 700 adults, with an oversample of 300 Hispanic adults. The margin of error was +/- 3.7% for the full sample, and +/- 5.66% for the subsample of Hispanic.

Sixty-five percent of Americans support allowing undocumented immigrants to become citizens if they pay a fine, learn English and go to the back of the line. The poll found that 65 percent of Americans favor "allowing undocumented immigrants who are already in the country to pay a fine, learn English, and go back to the line for the opportunity to become American citizens." [[NBC News](#)]

Sixty-one percent of Americans support the Arizona immigration law. Sixty-one percent of respondents said they supported the Arizona law. Seventy percent of white respondents approved of the law, while only 31 percent of Latinos agreed. [[NBC News](#)]

May 2010 – AP/Univision Poll (GfK Roper Public Affairs and Media)

In May 2010, GfK conducted [polls](#) of 1,002 adults and of 901 Hispanic adults for the AP and Univision. The margin of error is +/-4.3% for the sample of all adults, and +/-5.3% for the sample of Hispanic adults.

Fifty-nine percent of the public, and 86% of Hispanics, support providing a pathway for citizenship to undocumented immigrants in the U.S. When asked whether they favored "providing a legal way for illegal immigrants already in the United States to become U.S. citizens," 59% of respondents said they favored such a proposal. Eighty-six percent of Hispanics were in favor. [[AP](#)]

Forty-two percent of respondents, and 15% of Hispanic respondents, support Arizona's immigration law. When asked whether they favored or opposed Arizona immigration law SB 1070, 42% of respondents said they supported it. Only 15% of Hispanic respondents were in favor of the law. [[AP](#)]

April/May 2010 – New York Times/CBS News Poll

The New York Times and CBS News conducted a [poll](#) of 1,079 adults over the period April 29-May 2, 2010.

Over 60 percent of Americans want to allow undocumented immigrants to stay in some capacity. When asked to evaluate the statement “illegal immigrants who are currently working in the U.S... should be allowed to stay in their jobs and to eventually apply for U.S. citizenship, or they should be allowed to stay in their jobs only as guest workers,” 64% of respondents agreed. [[New York Times](#)]

The majority of Americans think that laws regarding undocumented immigration should be determined by the federal government. When asked whether laws regarding undocumented immigrants should be determined by federal or state governments, 57% of respondents said that the federal government should determine immigration laws, while 34% said each state government should determine them. [[New York Times](#)]

Thirty-six percent of respondents said the Arizona law went too far, while 51% said it was “about right.” Respondents were asked: “The state of Arizona recently passed a law that gives police the power to question anyone they suspect is in the country illegally, requires people to produce documents verifying their status if asked, and allows officers to detain anyone who cannot do so. Do you think this law goes too far, doesn’t go far enough, or is about right?” Thirty-six percent of respondents said the law went too far, while 51% said it was “about right.” Nine percent of respondents said the law didn’t go far enough. [[New York Times](#)]

Overwhelming majorities of Americans agree that Arizona’s immigration law will likely encourage racial profiling. When asked if they thought that Arizona’s immigration law “would lead to police officers detaining people of certain racial or ethnic groups more likely than other racial or ethnic groups,” 50% of respondents said they found this “very likely,” and another 32% said it was “somewhat likely.” Only 15% of respondents either said racial profiling was “not very likely” or “not at all likely” to result from the law. [[New York Times](#)]

May 2010 – America’s Voice/America’s Voice Education Fund Poll

In May 2010, Lake Research Partners and Public Opinion Strategies conducted a [bi-partisan poll](#) of 1100 registered voters with an oversample of 300 Latino registered voters. The margin of error for the poll is +/-3.5% across the sample of registered voters.

Support for comprehensive immigration reform is overwhelming. When initially asked about comprehensive immigration reform, 57% of voters said they supported comprehensive reform and 18% opposed it. After hearing a description of the reform proposal, however, 78% of voters declared support for comprehensive immigration reform, with only 16% maintaining opposition. The support is broad-based, crosses party lines, and stays consistent across the country, with especially high levels of support seen among Republicans (84%-12% support) and voters in border states (81%-13% support). [[America’s Voice and America’s Voice Education Fund](#)]

A majority of voters supports the new Arizona law, but Latinos oppose the law in large numbers and with great intensity. While overall voters favored the Arizona anti-immigration law by a 60%-23% margin (with an additional 18% expressing uncertainty), Latinos opposed the AZ law by a 55%-35% split (with 10% unsure). [[America’s Voice and America’s Voice Education Fund](#)]

Support for Arizona law comes out of a desire for national action to fix our broken immigration system. When asked why they support the Arizona law, a majority of those in support favored the measure because “the federal government has failed to solve the problem” (52%), compared to 28% who said because “it will reduce illegal immigration” and 12% who said “it will reduce crime.” [[America’s Voice and America’s Voice Education Fund](#)]

Support for Arizona’s immigration law is not mutually exclusive with support for comprehensive immigration reform. In fact, supporters of the Arizona law support national comprehensive immigration reform by a decisive 84%-12% margin. [[America’s Voice and America’s Voice Education Fund](#)]

Even though they support the Arizona law, voters do not want to see it copied all over the country. Instead, they are demanding federal action on comprehensive immigration reform. By a 53%-35% margin, voters preferred the notion that “A state by state approach just won’t work. Immigration needs a national solution that tightens the border, cracks down on illegal hiring, and requires illegal immigrants to register, pay taxes, and learn English” over the alternative, “I think we need a version of Arizona’s law in our state. We need to give police here the tools to enforce our laws and finally crack down on illegal immigrants.” [[America’s Voice and America’s Voice Education Fund](#)]

Voters want federal action, not state-by-state laws on immigration. By a 56%-22% margin, voters initially think the issue of immigration should be dealt with at the federal level rather than at the state level. [[America’s Voice and America’s Voice Education Fund](#)]

A majority of voters believe immigration will be a very or extremely important factor in their vote this fall. The poll found, 56% of overall respondents said that immigration would be “extremely” or “very important” to their 2010 midterm vote. [[America’s Voice and America’s Voice Education Fund](#)]

Voters overwhelmingly want Congress to take action now on comprehensive immigration reform rather than waiting to take action later. By a 76%-19% margin, voters want Congress to take action on immigration reform now. Sixty-seven percent of voters “strongly favored” action now. [[America’s Voice and America’s Voice Education Fund](#)]

May 2010 – America’s Voice Poll of Americans in Moderate-Conservative States (Hart Research Associates)

On behalf of America’s Voice, Hart Research Associates conducted a poll of 1,608 Americans in Arkansas, Colorado, Missouri and Ohio from April 14-18, 2010.

Voters favor a comprehensive immigration reform plan by a 14 point margin. Even after exposure to harsh criticism from opponents and Democratic responses, a majority of voters still support the plan. Clear majorities support the plan in Colorado, Missouri and Ohio, while Arkansas voters are evenly divided. [America’s Voice/Hart Research Associates]

The comprehensive immigration reform plan was subjected to a variety of Republican attacks, yet voters still favor the comprehensive approach. These attacks included labeling the approach as

“amnesty” and calling for a “border security first” approach. Comprehensive reform wins over an “amnesty” attack 52%-39% overall and by 54%-37% in Colorado and 55%-32% in Ohio. The comprehensive approach is preferred to “border security first” approach by a 51%-40% margin overall and by a full 20-point margin in Ohio and 17 points in Missouri. [America’s Voice/Hart Research Associates]

Earned legalization is the plan’s strongest provision, not a vulnerability. The most convincing reason to support comprehensive immigration reform, according to 51% of the respondents, is that “immigrants will be required to get legal and pay their fair share of taxes,” vs. 21% who say it “cracks down on employers” who hire undocumented workers and only 15% who like the plan because it “improves border security.” [America’s Voice/Hart Research Associates]

Confidence in Democrats grows after a tough debate on the issue. In all four states, confidence in the Democrats to handle the immigration issue grows considerably after voters hear the plan and subsequent debate. Democrats start with a 12-percentage point deficit on “which party do you trust on immigration?” After describing reform proposals and related party positions, Democrats end with a 4-percentage point advantage – a 16-percentage point swing. [America’s Voice/Hart Research Associates]

March 2010 – L.A. Times and University of Southern California (Greenberg Quinlan Rosner and American Viewpoint)

On behalf of the Los Angeles Times and the University of Southern California, Greenberg Quinlan Rosner and American Viewpoint conducted a random survey of 1,515 registered voters in California from March 23-30, 2010. [The poll](#) questioned voters about a variety of policy issues as well as the political landscape in California and nationwide. The margin of error was +/- 2.6%.

Two-thirds of California voters support a path to citizenship; 70% support an expanded temporary-worker program. When presented with different policy options including a temporary worker program, a path to citizenship and a Proposition 187-like proposal, 70% of respondents supported an expanded guest-worker proposal and 67% supported creating a path to citizenship for those who pay fines and back taxes and learn English.

By a slim margin, California voters oppose proposals to deny social services to undocumented immigrants. By a 45%-47% margin voters were split over a Proposition 187-like proposal to deny all social services to the state’s undocumented population. [L.A. Times, USC, Greenberg Quinlan Rosner, and American Viewpoint, 4/3/10]

March 2010 – Public Policy Institute of California Statewide Poll on Californians and their Government

The Public Policy Institute of California conducted [a statewide poll](#) of 2,002 Californian residents from March 9 to 16, 2010. The margin of error was +/- 2%.

Strong majorities of all adults and likely voters in California believe immigration policy in the United States is in need of major changes. Sixty-eight percent of all respondents agreed with the statement that “immigration policy in the United States is in need of major changes,” with an even stronger majority of likely voters (72%) agreeing with the sentiment. Voters across parties agree: 73% of Republicans, 68% of Democrats, and 67% of independents say major changes are needed. Over two-thirds of Latinos (74%) and whites (69%) believe immigration policy needs major changes. [[Public Policy Institute of California](#)]

Seventy percent of Californians want a path to citizenship for most undocumented immigrants. Seventy percent of respondents agreed that undocumented immigrants who have been living and working in the United States for at least two years should be allowed to keep their jobs and eventually apply for legal status. Only 25% believe those immigrants should be deported back to their native countries. Majorities of Democrats and independents favor legalization over deportation, while Republicans are divided. Nearly all Latinos (90%) and 62% of whites prefer giving undocumented working immigrants a chance to stay in the United States. Of those who believe major changes are needed to immigration policy, 67% prefer legalization over deportation. [[Public Policy Institute of California](#)]

A majority of Californians believe immigrants are a benefit to the state. A majority of all adults (54%) say that immigrants living in California are a benefit to the state because of their hard work and job skills. Thirty-nine percent of Californians, on the other hand, said that immigrants are a burden because they use public services. This issue divides voters along party lines; 64% of Democrats and 52% of independents say that immigrants are a benefit, while 68% of Republicans say they are a burden. Of those who call immigrants a benefit, 63% believe major changes are needed to U.S. policy and 89% support a pathway to legal status. Of those who call them a burden, 78% say major changes are needed and fewer than half—45% —support a pathway to legalization (49% favor deportation). [[Public Policy Institute of California](#)]

March 2010 – Public Religion Research Institute Poll on Religion, Values and Immigration Reform

The Public Religion Research Institute conducted [a national poll](#) of 1,201 American voters from March 5 to 11, 2010, and included oversamples in Ohio and Arkansas with 402 phone interviews in each state. The margin of error for the national sample is +/- 3%.

The current system is widely understood to be broken. Nationally, 56% of Americans of faith say that the immigration system is largely or completely broken. [[Public Religion Research Institute](#)]

Americans seek a practical way to deal with the undocumented population. The poll found, 68 percent of participants surveyed said that it is an “extremely serious” or “very serious” problem that “the immigration system has no practical way of dealing with all the illegal immigrants who are already here.” Only 8% of respondents called the problem “not too serious” or “not at all serious.” [[Public Religion Research Institute](#)]

Comprehensive immigration reform is more popular than mass deportation by a 2:1 margin. When presented with a pair of statements about what we could do to reform immigration, 65% of respondents across all faith traditions said that a practical solution to undocumented immigration was “to require all illegal immigrants to register with the government and meet certain requirements including working, paying taxes and learning English before having the opportunity to apply for citizenship.” Only 30% said that undocumented immigrants “should not be allowed to become citizens and compete with jobs that are already hard to come by” and should instead be sent back to their home countries. [[Public Religion Research Institute](#)]

Support for comprehensive reform is high across all denominations. The poll found, 92 percent of Catholics said that they “strongly favor” or “favor” the comprehensive reform proposal outlined above, with 62% saying “strongly favor.” Among white Evangelicals, 89% “strongly favor” or “favor” comprehensive reform, with 66% selecting “strongly favor.” Sixty percent of white mainline Protestants “strongly favor” comprehensive reform, and the combined population of white mainline Protestants who said they “strongly favor” or “favor” the proposal was 86%. [[Public Religion Research Institute](#)]

Mass deportation is roundly rejected. A majority of voters--56%--disagree with the statement that “we should make a serious effort to deport all illegal immigrants back to their home countries.” [[Public Religion Research Institute](#)]

March 2010 – Resurgent Republic Poll of Hispanic Voters (The Tarrance Group)

On behalf of the conservative group Resurgent Republic, The Tarrance Group conducted [a national poll](#) of 800 Hispanic voters from March 7-10, 2010. The margin of error was +/- 3.5%.

Sixty-six percent of Hispanic voters believe Congress should take a comprehensive approach to immigration reform rather than a border security first approach. A majority of all three partisan affiliations support the comprehensive approach: 56% of Republicans, 62% of Independents and 73% of Democrats. [[Resurgent Republic](#)]

Seventy percent of the Hispanic electorate supports undocumented immigrants being allowed to earn a path to citizenship. Fifty-three percent of Hispanic voters “strongly” support this approach. Support for this approach stretches across the partisan spectrum: 62% of Republicans, 62% of Independents, and 77% of Democrats. [[Resurgent Republic](#)]

Hispanic voters agree that, because the weak economy has slowed undocumented migration, now is a good time to pass immigration reform. Fifty-six percent of Hispanic voters agree with this sentiment, while 37% disagree. Those who agree include 50% of Republicans, 52% of Independents, and 61% of Democrats. [[Resurgent Republic](#)]

Hispanic voters are evenly split (47% to 47%) when asked if President Obama has broken his promise to pass immigration reform. When asked if Obama is delaying immigration reform to keep other Democratic interest groups happy, 46% agree while 48% disagree. In addition, a majority of Hispanic voters (57%) disagree with the assertion that Democrats in Congress and President Obama plan to use

immigration reform only as a political issue and never intend to pass comprehensive immigration reform. [[Resurgent Republic](#)]

March 2010 – Latino Decisions Poll of Latino Voters

Latino Decisions conducted [a poll](#) of 500 registered Latino voters from February 24 – March 5, 2010. The margin of error was +/- 4.3%.

The proportion of Latino registered voters saying they are very enthusiastic about voting is at an all-time low. Only 49% of registered Latino voters say they are very enthusiastic about voting in the 2010 midterms. For comparison, self-reported enthusiasm among Latinos prior to the 2006 midterm election was 77%, but only 60% turned out. [[Latino Decisions](#)]

Latino voters also say they aren't very excited about either political party. When asked how their excitement for each political party had changed since January 2009, neither party had gotten a majority of Latinos more excited. Eighteen percent of Latinos are more excited about the GOP than they were in 2009, compared to 62% who are less excited and 20% for whom there is no change. Thirty-eight percent of Latinos are more excited about the Democrats than they were in 2009, 40% are less excited and 22% say there is no change. [[Latino Decisions](#)]

December 2009 – America's Voice National Poll of Latino Voters (Bendixen & Amandi)

On behalf of America's Voice, Bendixen & Amandi conducted [a national poll](#) of 1,010 Latino voters in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Nevada, New York, New Mexico, New Jersey, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia in December 2009. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and English and the margin of error was 3%.

Immigration is a key issue for the Latino electorate. While more respondents chose issues such as the economy and health care than immigration as their number one priority, 78% said the immigration issue is important to them and their family, including 51% who called it "very important." The issue is particularly salient among the 55% of respondents who were foreign-born; 84% of foreign-born voters called the immigration issue "important," with 64% labeling it "very important." [[America's Voice/Bendixen & Amandi](#)]

The vast majority of Latino voters support comprehensive immigration reform. By a 77%-11% margin, respondents favored an immigration plan that would legalize undocumented workers over one that would force most of the undocumented population to leave the country. [[America's Voice/Bendixen & Amandi](#)]

Immigration reform is a personal issue to Latinos. The poll found 62 percent of respondents reported having an undocumented friend, family member, neighbor, or co-worker. For these respondents, immigration reform is not an abstract concept discussed on the nightly news, but a personal matter that requires a fair and humane solution. [[America's Voice/Bendixen & Amandi](#)]

Latino voters still support President Obama, but give lower marks to his performance on immigration thus far. While President Obama retains support among Latino voters, with 65% of respondents describing his job performance as “excellent” or “good,” his marks on immigration issues are less impressive. Half of respondents said President Obama has done a “mediocre” or “bad” job on immigration issues, while just 40% called his performance on immigration excellent” or “good.” [[America’s Voice/Bendixen & Amandi](#)]

Still, Latino voters trust Obama to do the right thing on immigration, in stark contrast to their feelings about Republicans in Congress. While Latino voters may give President Obama mixed marks on immigration issues thus far, 71% of respondents still trusted him to “do the right thing” on immigration issues vs. 20% who did not. Trust in Obama eclipsed voters’ trust in congressional Democrats, who were trusted by 62% and not trusted by 27%. Notably, 64% of respondents did not trust Republican Members of Congress on immigration issues, while 24% did. [[America’s Voice/Bendixen & Amandi](#)]

Latinos are poised to make a difference in November. While this survey was conducted a year before the next election and a lot can change in that time frame, 73% of respondents said they were very likely to vote in November 2010, and 20% said they were somewhat likely. Fully 65% said they were more likely to support generic Democratic candidates for the U.S. House and U.S. Senate, while 20% said they would vote Republican and 15% were undecided. However, 72% of Latino voters said they would not even consider voting for a candidate whose stance on immigration reform was to try and deport most undocumented immigrants. [[America’s Voice/Bendixen & Amandi](#)]

December 2009 – America’s Voice National Poll (Benenson Strategy Group)

Benenson Strategy Group conducted a national poll from December 19 to 21, 2009 for America’s Voice, following up on questions asked in May 2009. The December poll surveyed 800 likely voters and had a margin of error of ±3.46%.

Sixty-five percent of respondents supported congressional action on comprehensive immigration reform in 2010. According to the December poll, 65% of voters prefer for Congress to take up the immigration issue this year rather than wait until later. The poll found, 66 percent of respondents supported comprehensive immigration reform before even hearing details of the plan. Support for reform continued to cut across party lines, with 69% of Democrats, 67% of independents, and 62% of Republicans supporting comprehensive reform. When given details, support for comprehensive reform climbed. Requiring undocumented immigrants to register with the government and meet certain conditions, including working, paying taxes and learning English in order to apply for citizenship, was supported by 87% in December. These findings show continued support for reform following similar polls in November 2008 and May 2009, even during the country’s harshest economic crisis in decades. [[America’s Voice/Benenson Strategy Group](#)]

A majority of voters said the issue was crucial due to the poor economy, and preferred that undocumented immigrants become legal taxpayers to a mass-deportation approach. The sense of urgency has been bolstered by the poor economy. Fifty-five percent of respondents said that the poor economy makes it more crucial that Congress address immigration reform, while 42% believed it was not the right time. An overwhelming margin of voters, 67% to 28%, prefer that undocumented

immigrants take steps to become legal taxpayers over an option to deport them because they are “taking jobs.” [America’s Voice/Benenson Strategy Group]

Sixty-six percent of voters support requiring undocumented immigrants to register and work towards citizenship. When given details about what is included in comprehensive immigration reform, including access to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who register and meet state criteria, support remains strong and consistent. Roughly the same percentage of voters in May and December 2009, 66%, support a program that requires undocumented immigrants to register, meet certain requirements, and become legal taxpayers on their way to becoming full U.S. citizens. Only 22% of voters believed that those immigrants should be required to leave and 11% believe that they should be allowed to stay temporarily. [America’s Voice/Benenson Strategy Group]

October 2009 – CNN (Opinion Research Corporation)

CNN conducted a [telephone poll](#) from October 16-18, 2009. The poll was conducted through interviews with 1,038 adult Americans on the phone by Opinion Research Corporation. The poll had a sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

Americans want to reduce undocumented immigration, but not through mass deportation. A CNN poll found that 73% of Americans want undocumented immigration reduced, while 3% want it increased and 22% want it to stay the same. But only half of those who want it reduced—37% of the entire sample—said mass deportation was the way to accomplish the goal. [[CNN](#)]

Even in this poll, often cited by restrictionists as proving their case, a majority of respondents favored an immigration solution other than mass deportation. More than 60% of those surveyed either did not want to see undocumented immigration decreased, or did not want mass deportation. While we do not know what type of solution they would embrace, since the question was not asked, other polls indicate consistent majority support for comprehensive immigration reform. [[CNN](#)]

June 2009 – America’s Voice and Center for American Progress Action Fund Congressional District Polling (Benenson Strategy Group)

On behalf of America’s Voice and the Center for American Progress Action Fund, Benenson Strategy Group conducted a poll of three battleground Congressional districts between May 27 and June 1, 2009. The poll surveyed 500 likely voters each in Idaho’s 1st Congressional District, Alabama’s 2nd Congressional District, and California’s 3rd Congressional District. The margin of error was $\pm 4.38\%$ in each district.

A majority of voters in these districts supported comprehensive immigration reform and candidates who support reform. Nearly two-thirds of respondents in these districts supported comprehensive immigration reform when asked generically (65% in ID-1, 65% in AL-2 and 67% in CA-3), while support climbed to nearly 90% after the details of comprehensive reform were explained (88% in ID-1, 87% in AL-2, and 83% in CA-3). Respondents were also more likely to support Congressional candidates who

championed comprehensive reform rather than those who opposed it (85% in ID-1, 83% in AL-2, 79% in CA-3). [America's Voice/Center for American Progress Action Fund/Benenson Strategy Group]

A majority of voters in these districts supported a pathway to citizenship over deportation. Two thirds of respondents preferred a comprehensive approach to the status quo of continued enforcement and forced departure (65% over 34% in ID-1, 63% over 35% in AL-2, 63% over 34% in CA-3). A vast majority chose legalization of undocumented workers that included a pathway to citizenship, over deportation or temporary status (65% in ID-1, 62% in AL-2, 63% in CA-3). [America's Voice/Center for American Progress Action Fund/Benenson Strategy Group]

These voters believed that comprehensive reform is good for taxpayers and the economy. A majority of voters believed that comprehensive reform would be helpful and fair to taxpayers by making the undocumented into legal taxpayers. By a 3 to 1 margin, voters would rather turn undocumented immigrants into legal taxpayers than force them to leave because they are taking jobs (68% to 28% in ID-1, 65% to 31 in AL-2, 73% to 23%). [America's Voice/Center for American Progress Action Fund/Benenson Strategy Group]

A majority of voters in these districts also believed the time for enacting comprehensive immigration reform is now. Seven in ten of these voters want Congress to act now on immigration. They said that the recession makes it more important that we address immigration and rejected the argument that the President and Congress should focus solely on other issues. [America's Voice/Center for American Progress Action Fund/Benenson Strategy Group]

May 2009 - America's Voice National Poll (Benenson Strategy Group)

On behalf of America's Voice, Benenson Strategy Group conducted a national poll from May 9 to 12, 2009. The poll surveyed 1,000 likely voters and had a margin of error of 3.1%.

Three-quarters of voters supported congressional action on immigration reform in 2009; 57% said the issue was crucial due to economic situation. Seventy-five percent of respondents believed Congress should tackle immigration reform in 2009. The sense of urgency was boosted by the poor economy. 57% of respondents said that the poor economy makes it more crucial that Congress address immigration reform as opposed to the 39% who believed it was not the right time. In general, voters support a member of Congress willing to tackle immigration more so than one who will not. [America's Voice/Benenson Strategy Group]

Over two-thirds of voters support pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants--including 62% of Republicans. Support for comprehensive immigration reform has remained stable since a previous poll taken in November 2008. Roughly the same percentage of voters, 68%, support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants allowing them to register, meet certain requirements and become legal taxpayers. Support is bi-partisan, as 62% of Republicans support the same position. Only 20% of voters believed that undocumented immigrants should be required to leave, and 10% believe that they should be allowed to stay temporarily. [America's Voice/Benenson Strategy Group]

Over 70% of voters would rather see undocumented immigrants stay and become legal taxpayers than force them to leave. An overwhelming margin of voters, 71% to 26%, believed that undocumented

immigrants should take steps to become legal taxpayers. Seventy-one percent of polls respondents also believe that those undocumented immigrants should not be forced to leave and were not responsible for taking American jobs. [America's Voice/Benenson Strategy Group]

May 2009 – Pew Research Center

The Pew Research Center for the People & the Press conducted a [2009 Values Survey](#). The first part of the poll was conducted from March 31 to April 6, 2009 reaching 1,506 voters. The second poll was conducted from April 14 to April 21, 2009 reaching 1,507 voters. There was no reported margin of error in the topline report.

Over 60% of respondents supported a pathway to citizenship, representing an increase of 5% from 2007. Support for a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants has risen from 58% in 2007 to 63% in 2009. 73% of Democrats support this position along with 50% of Republicans and 61% of Independents. [[Pew Research Center](#)]

April 2009 - America's Voice National Poll of Latino Voters (Bendixen & Associates)

On behalf of America's Voice, Bendixen & Associates conducted a national poll of 800 Latino voters in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Nevada, New York, New Mexico, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia from April 28 to May 5, 2009. Interviews were conducted in Spanish and English and the margin of error was 3.5%.

Latino voters overwhelmingly supported Obama; 83% believed he would “do the right thing” for immigration reform. Latino voters across 13 states overwhelmingly believed President Obama's campaign promise to pass comprehensive immigration reform. 72% of respondents believed it will happen in 2009. 75% of respondents rated Obama favorably when asked whether he was tackling the “issues and concerns of Hispanic families.” Furthermore, 83% of respondents believed Obama would “do the right thing” when passing comprehensive reform, only 10% said that he will “not do the right thing.” [America's Voice/Bendixen & Associates]

Only 23% of Latino voters trusted Republicans in Congress to tackle immigration reform. Latino voters responded unfavorably towards congressional Republicans when asked about their approach to comprehensive immigration reform. Only 23% of respondents trusted Republicans to tackle the issue, while 69% trusted Democrats in Congress. [America's Voice/Bendixen & Associates]

Eighty-seven percent of Latino voters would not vote for a congressional candidate who supported mass deportation. Eighty-two of respondents said the immigration issue was “personally important” to them. Furthermore, voters responded unfavorably towards a hypothetical congressional candidate who did not support a pathway to citizenship for those undocumented. Eighty-seven percent of Latino voters surveyed would not support a candidate who favored mass deportation for undocumented immigrants. [America's Voice/Bendixen & Associates]

Eighty-nine percent of Latino voters support path to citizenship; only 4% think undocumented immigrants should leave. Eighty-nine of respondents believed undocumented immigrants in the country

should be given a pathway to citizenship, while only 4% supported immediate deportation. [America's Voice/Bendixen & Associates]

April 2009 - Washington Post/ABC News Poll

The Washington Post-ABC News conducted a [telephone poll](#) of 1,072 adults from April 21- 24, 2009. The poll had a margin of error of plus or minus three points.

Sixty-one percent of respondents supported a program allowing undocumented immigrants in the United States to live here legally after meeting certain requirements. To the question "Would you support or oppose a program giving ILLEGAL immigrants now living in the United States the right to live here LEGALLY if they pay a fine and meet other requirements?" 61% of respondents said yes and 35% said no. [[Washington Post/ABC News](#)]

Support for legalization has increased over previous years. When asked the same question in June of 2007, 52% supported legalization and 44% opposed. In December 2007, 49% supported and 46% opposed. [[Washington Post/ABC News](#)]

April 2009 - New York Times/CBS Poll

The New York Times / CBS poll conducted a [telephone survey](#) of 973 adults from April 22 to 26, 2009 with 973 adults. The poll had a margin of error of +/-3%.

Support for pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants higher in 2009 than in 2008. Forty-four percent of poll respondents supported a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. 21% believed that they should be given temporary legal status, while 30% believed they should be required to leave the country. Two years ago, in December 2007, 38% of respondents to the same poll chose a path to citizenship, 28% chose temporary status and 28% chose removal. [[New York Times](#)]

Fifty-nine percent of Americans believed Obama would pass significant immigration reform in his first term. Fifty-nine percent of respondents believed Obama would pass significant immigration reform in his first term; only 35% thought reform was unlikely. [[New York Times](#)]

March 2009 - Washington Post/ABC News Poll

The Washington Post-ABC News [telephone survey](#) of 1,000 adults was conducted from March 26 to 29, 2009 and the results were published on April 30, 2009. The poll had a margin of error of +/-3%.

Over sixty percent of Americans support allowing undocumented immigrants who meet certain requirements to live in the United States. 61% of respondents supported allowing undocumented immigrants to live in the U.S. "if they pay a fine and meet other requirements." In 2007, roughly 49% of people supported giving undocumented immigrants the right to live in the country; that number has grown by 12% in 2009. Fifty-nine percent of Republicans support this position, up 17% from 2007, while 68% of Democrats expressed their support, up only 9% from 2007. [[ABC News](#)]

Majority support for legalization extends across Democrats, Republicans, independents, moderates, And conservatives. Seventy percent of liberals, 68% of Democrats, and 59% Republicans and Independents alike supported legalization. [[ABC News](#)]

November 2008 - America's Voice National Poll (Lake Research Partners and Benenson Strategy Group)

On behalf of America's Voice, Lake Research Partners and Benenson Strategy Group conducted a [survey](#) of 1000 voters between November 5 and 9, 2008. The poll included an oversample of 250 Latino voters with bilingual interviewing, for a total of 371 Latino interviews. The margin of error was +/- 3.1% for the base sample and 5.1% for Latinos.

Seventy-eight percent of voters, and 71% of Latinos, believe that undocumented immigration is a serious problem. When asked whether they believed undocumented immigration was a problem facing the country, 43% of respondents said it was a very serious problem, 35% said it was a somewhat serious problem, while only 21% said it was somewhat not serious or not at all serious. Among Latino voters, 36% said it was a very serious problem, 35% said it was a somewhat serious problem, 17% said it was somewhat not serious, while only 11% said it was not serious at all. [America's Voice]

Fifty-five percent of all voters, and 61% of Latino voters, believe immigration reform should be a high priority for Congress. The majority of respondents believed that enacting immigration reform should be a high priority for the new Congress. 61% of Latinos believed it should be a top priority, with 10% responding that it is the single highest priority for the new Congress. Only 3% of all respondents believed it should be the single highest, while 27% said it should be a very high priority. [America's Voice]

Two-thirds of voters agree that undocumented immigrants should be required to "register and become legal." When asked "Most government officials believe that to deal with the problem of illegal immigration, we need to make our borders secure, crack down on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants, and deport illegal immigrants who commit crimes. In addition to these steps, what should be done about the 12 million illegal immigrants here in the United States?", 67% of all respondents said that undocumented immigrants should be required to register and become legal, 14% said they must leave the country, and 13% said they should be allowed to stay temporarily. Meanwhile, 71% of Latino voters supported a path to citizenship, 17% said those undocumented should be allowed to stay temporarily, and only 8% said they must leave the country. [America's Voice]

Voters agree that Congress should pass comprehensive immigration reform rather than simply enforcing current law. By a margin of 27%, voters preferred comprehensive immigration reform to enforcement of existing law. Sixty percent of voters, including 69% of Latino voters, believed the new Congress should pass comprehensive legislation to address immigration reform. Thirty-three percent of all respondents, including 22% of Latino respondents, supported enforcing current legislation. [America's Voice]

Sixty-two percent of voters would rather allow undocumented immigrants to stay in the country and become legal taxpayers than force them to leave on the theory that they are "taking American jobs." Sixty-two of respondents believed that undocumented immigrants should be allowed to become legal

taxpayers rather than forcing them to leave the country because they were taking American jobs, while only 21% said they should leave the country. Sixty-nine of Latinos surveyed supported this position, while 13% of Latinos said they should leave. [America's Voice, 11/13/08]

September-November 2008 - America's Voice Local Polling (Lake Research Partners and Benenson Strategy Group)

Statewide and congressional district-wide polling was conducted for America's Voice by Benenson Strategy Group and Lake Research Partners before and after the 2008 November election. The Benenson Strategy Group and Lake Research Partners conducted 3371 [poll](#) of likely voters in 9 swing congressional districts from September 23 to October 5. The margin of error for overall results is $\pm 1.89\%$. 402 swing district general election voters were also [interviewed](#) after the election from November 6 - November 9, 2008. The margin of error for the post-election poll was $\pm 4.89\%$.

Percentage of voters in swing districts who believed immigration was a "serious problem" remained stable before and after the 2008 election. In pre-election polling, 84% of swing district voters believed that immigration was a serious problem, 79% of Democrats, 83% of independents, and 92% of Republicans. In post-election polling, 80% of voters believed that immigration was a serious problem. [[America's Voice/Benenson Strategy Group/Lake Research Partners](#); [America's Voice/ Benenson Strategy Group](#)]

After the election, 46% of voters believed immigration reform was a high priority. Forty-six percent of voters polled after the election believed enacting immigration reform was a high priority. Only 15% of voters considered it a low priority, while 37% said it was medium. [[America's Voice/Benenson Strategy Group/Lake Research Partners](#); [America's Voice/ Benenson Strategy Group](#)]

Sixty-seven percent of voters surveyed after the election believed undocumented immigrants should be eligible for a pathway to citizenship. In post-election polling, 67% of voters in the nine swing districts surveyed believed that the 12 million undocumented in the country should be required to register to become legal, undergo background checks and be provided a pathway to citizens. Only 16% said they should be required to leave the country, 10% thought they should be allowed to stay temporarily, and 7% said they did not know. [[America's Voice/Benenson Strategy Group/Lake Research Partners](#); [America's Voice/ Benenson Strategy Group](#)]

Sixty-six percent of voters would rather allow undocumented immigrants to stay in the country and become legal taxpayers than force them to leave on the theory that they are "taking American jobs." Sixty-six of respondents believed that undocumented immigrants should be allowed to become legal taxpayers rather than forcing them to leave the country because they were taking American jobs, while only 23% said they should leave the country. [[America's Voice/Benenson Strategy Group/Lake Research Partners](#); [America's Voice/ Benenson Strategy Group](#)]

Sixty-six percent of voters prefer comprehensive immigration reform to other options, including border enforcement. According to the polls, 66% of swing district voters favor a comprehensive approach to immigration reform over other options, while 27% prefer other options. [[America's Voice/Benenson Strategy Group/Lake Research Partners](#); [America's Voice/ Benenson Strategy Group](#)]

Sixty-four percent of voters, including 74% of Democrats, wanted to see Congress pass comprehensive immigration reform. Nearly two-thirds (64%) of voters said they preferred passage of a new comprehensive immigration reform bill to enforcing current legislation, while only 27% said they preferred enforcement of current legislation to a new bill. Support is bipartisan: 74% of Democrats, 64% of independents, and 54% of Republicans all support comprehensive reform. Furthermore, 63% of voters who were conflicted about which candidate to support preferred comprehensive reform to enforcement of current law. [[America's Voice/Benenson Strategy Group/Lake Research Partners; America's Voice/ Benenson Strategy Group](#)]

Seventy percent of voters believed undocumented immigrants should be eligible for a pathway to citizenship, rather than receiving temporary status or being deported. Almost 70% of voters in swing districts supported a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Only 15% believed undocumented immigrants should be forced to leave, while 13% believed that they should be granted temporary status. [[America's Voice/Benenson Strategy Group/Lake Research Partners; America's Voice/ Benenson Strategy Group](#)]

September 2008 – NDN Polling (Bendixen & Associates)

NDN commissioned a poll of 2,000 voters, 500 each in Florida, Colorado, New Mexico and Nevada. The poll was conducted from August 6 – August 14, 2008 in English and Spanish and had an over-sampling of at least 150 Hispanic voters. The margin of error was 4%.

Roughly 60% of battleground-state voters believe undocumented immigrants are not taking jobs from American citizens. Voters overwhelmingly agreed with the sentiment that undocumented immigrants in the country were not taking jobs from American citizens, but were rather taking jobs that nobody else wanted. Sixty percent of voters in Florida, 60% in Colorado, 60% in New Mexico and 53% in Nevada supported this position. Only 31% of voters in Florida, 27% in Colorado, 28% in New Mexico and 35% in Nevada believed undocumented immigrants were taking jobs from American citizens and legal immigrants. [NDN]

Over two-thirds of voters in battleground states support comprehensive immigration reform. When asked whether they supported comprehensive immigration reform, 67% of voters in Florida said yes, 69% of Colorado voters, 66% of New Mexico voters and 67% of voters in Nevada. Less than 25% of the respondents in each state opposed comprehensive immigration reform. NDN's poll defined comprehensive immigration reform as system that "strengthens border security, sets up an employment verification plan, establishes serious criminal penalties for employers that hire illegal workers, creates a new visa program for 200,000 workers annually, substantially increases the number of family visas available for the immediate relatives of legal immigrants, and grants illegal immigrants conditional legal status for six years and then a path to permanent residency and citizenship if they meet certain requirements." [NDN]

Hispanic Voters Trusted Democrats More Than Republicans To Tackle Immigration Reform. Hispanic voters trusted the Democratic Party more than the Republican Party to tackle immigration reform in Congress. The margins were 48% to 29% in Florida, 48% to 14% in Colorado, 46% to 19% in New Mexico, and 58% to 20% in Nevada. [NDN]