

**TO: Interested Parties**  
**FROM: Geoff Garin**  
**DATE: May 24, 2022**  
**RE: Voters Support Allowing Refugees at the Southern Border to Apply for Asylum**

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The central issue at the heart of the Title 42 debate is whether refugees arriving at the U.S.-Mexico should be allowed to apply for asylum as provided for by law.

The United States has long tradition of providing refuge for people escaping violence in their home countries, and **our recent polling of voters in battleground states shows that voters continue to support the asylum process.**

Across six key battleground states (Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin), for example, voters say by a margin of 58% to 32% that they would prefer a candidate who favors allowing people to legally request asylum at the southern border over a candidate who opposes doing so. Two-thirds of battleground voters support the idea that “people fleeing violence and oppression should have an opportunity to have their asylum cases heard and fairly considered.”

Another key finding from these battleground states is that “cracking down on illegal immigration with stronger border enforcement” is not a winning message for a candidate when contrasted against a candidate who says the priority should be to build “a function immigration system that processes migrants at the border in a fair, orderly, and humane way.” By a margin of 53% to 40%, voters across the six battleground states prefer the candidate who emphasizes a fair, orderly, and humane system over the candidate whose priority is on cracking down on illegal immigration with stronger border enforcement.

## Hart Research Associates

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Our battleground polling highlights the kinds of steps voters support in restoring the legal asylum process at the southern border and ensuring that migrants are processed in a fair, orderly, and humane way. These include:

- Improving technology and infrastructure at the border to modernize management of the border;
- Significantly increasing asylum officers, facilities, and funding to process asylum seekers; and,
- Evaluating asylum cases thoroughly to ensure that only people with valid claims are allowed to stay in the United States.

It is important for leaders to reject the anti-immigrant claim that allowing families at risk of violence and prosecution to come to our country is somehow akin to having “open borders.” Voters in battleground states, and we suspect across the country, believe that America “should have a balanced approach to the border that both enforces our laws and protects genuine refugees.”