



MEMORANDUM

To: Immigration Hub
From: Drew Linzer, Civiqs
Date: April 21, 2021
RE: Results of National Survey, April 2021

Major Findings

A Civiqs poll conducted for the Immigration Hub from April 15-20, 2021 interviewed 3,032 registered voters across the United States. Americans do not think harsher immigration policies will keep people from migrating across the Mexico-US border. Instead, they prefer investing in a new and more cost-effective strategy that focuses on smart border management, infrastructure, and technology.

There is overwhelming support for a multinational approach to addressing the issue of migration to the United States. Fully 85% of Americans believe that the US government should work with other countries in the region to reduce migration before it starts.

Most Americans believe that it is OK for people to immigrate to the United States—even if they were crossing the border illegally—if they are fleeing violence in their home country or if they are seeking asylum.

Immigration Policy

There is exceptionally high 85% agreement among Americans that the US government should work more closely with other countries in the region to preemptively reduce migration. This policy has broad and consistent bipartisan support, including 86% of Democrats, 87% of Republicans, and 81% of Independents.

A majority of voters feel that it is acceptable for immigrants to enter the United States—even illegally—if they are fleeing violence in their home country (57%) or seeking asylum (52%). They are least likely to support immigration for people who are reuniting with family members (36%) or seeking work (31%). One-third of Americans (32%) do not think that there are any conditions under which illegal immigration is acceptable, including 60% of Republicans, 34% of Independents, and 7% of Democrats.

A plurality (47%) of Americans support ending the use of for-profit prisons for immigration detention, including 67% of Democrats, 47% of Independents, and 24% of Republicans.

Border Security

A majority of Americans (54%) think that future spending on border security should shift to a new, more cost-effective strategy that focuses on smarter border management, infrastructure, and technology. However, 71% of Republicans believe the opposite: that what is needed is more agents, a wall, and a tougher approach on refugees.

Looking to the future, Americans do not think that harsher immigration deterrents work. Instead, they support collaboration with other countries and investing in smarter border management. Nearly two-thirds (61%) of Americans believe that harsher immigration policies, like family separation, will not keep people from migrating across the Mexico-US border, including 87% of Democrats, 60% of Independents, and 30% of Republicans.

Methodology

Civiqs interviewed 3,032 registered voters in the United States from April 15-20, 2021. The survey was conducted online, among selected members of the Civiqs research panel. Sampled individuals were emailed by Civiqs and responded using a personalized link to the survey at civiqs.com. The survey results are weighted by age, race, gender, education, party identification, and region to be representative of the population of registered voters in the United States. The general design effect due to weighting is 1.12. The survey has a margin of error of 1.9% at the 95% confidence level, accounting for the design effect. More information about Civiqs can be found online at civiqs.com/methodology.