

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED PARTIES
FROM: GLEN BOLGER & JIM HOBART, PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES
DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2021
SUBJECT: KEY FINDINGS FROM A NATIONAL SURVEY ON IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

METHODOLOGY

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity, Public Opinion Strategies conducted a national online survey of 1,000 Registered Voters, September 22-27, 2021. Results from the survey have a credibility interval of ± 3.53 percentage points.

SURVEY OVERVIEW

Voters are clearly tired of the status quo on immigration. They are very supportive of legislation that undertakes strengthening security at the border, a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, and a streamlined agricultural guest worker program that includes an earned path to legal status.

However, the strong initial support numbers do not mean that passing these types of proposals will be easy. Efforts to garner support from elected officials will need to focus on the details that are key to garnering support from both parties.

Messaging should emphasize the current system not working, which necessitates these types of new solutions.

KEY FINDINGS

- 1. *More than 90% of voters believe politicians promise action on the border and immigration reform but fail to deliver, and intensity is extremely high.***

Voters read the following statement:

“Politicians keep promising action on immigration and the border, but never work together to pass legislation to do anything about it. The time for talk has long passed. It is time for solutions on immigration and the border.”

An incredible 93% of voters agree with the statement, and just 7% disagree. Well more than half (58%) strongly agree, including 62% of Republicans, 57% of Independents, and 55% of Democrats.

- 2. *Voters across partisan lines say Congress should act on border security before the 2022 elections.***

This is clearly a top priority for voters. Fully 69% of Republicans, 75% of Independents, and 80% of Democrats say that Congress should address border security and reform immigration before the 2022 elections.

3. Significant majorities (more than 70%) of voters back three distinct proposals related to immigration and border security.

There is strong support for:

- Strengthening border security through enhanced personnel and patrol, improved technology, and more immigration judges to speed up legal processing of individuals crossing the border. An even higher 82% of voters back this proposal, while just 18% are opposed.
- Creating a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children (Dreamers), with 74% of voters in favor, compared to 26% who are opposed.
- Ensuring a legal, reliable workforce for America’s farmers and ranchers by streamlining the agricultural guest worker program and providing earned legal status for essential undocumented agricultural workers. Fully three-quarters (75%) are in favor of this proposal, with 25% opposed.

Support for each of these proposals crosses ideological lines, is consistent across gender/age groups, and is strong in every corner of the country.

These proposals are contained in legislation that has been introduced in Congress within the last two sessions, including the Bipartisan Border Solutions Act, the Dream Act of 2021, and the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021

	Total GOP (39%)	Independents (16%)	Total Dem (45%)
Border Security	92% Favor/ 8% Oppose	82% Favor/ 18% Oppose	72% Favor 28% Oppose
Pathway to Citizenship	56% Favor/ 44% Oppose	71% Favor/ 29% Oppose	90% Favor/ 10% Oppose
Agricultural Workers	61% Favor/ 39% Oppose	74% Favor/ 26% Oppose	88% Favor/ 12% Oppose

Importantly, the proposals we tested are very detailed and are more than just short-hand descriptions of these proposals. Providing these types of details help prevent opponents from labeling them as amnesty programs (pathway for Dreamers and the agricultural guest worker program) or as pursuing Trump-era policies (border security).

4. Given the strong numbers for each of these individual policies, it is no surprise that a merged bill that includes them is also backed by an overwhelming 78% of voters.

We also tested a comprehensive bill that included each of these three policies. This proposed bill is backed by 78% of voters, with just 22% opposed.

Once again, support crosses partisan lines.

	Total GOP (39%)	Independents (16%)	Total Dem (45%)
Merged Bill	67% Favor/ 33% Oppose	71% Favor/ 29% Oppose	90% Favor/ 10% Oppose

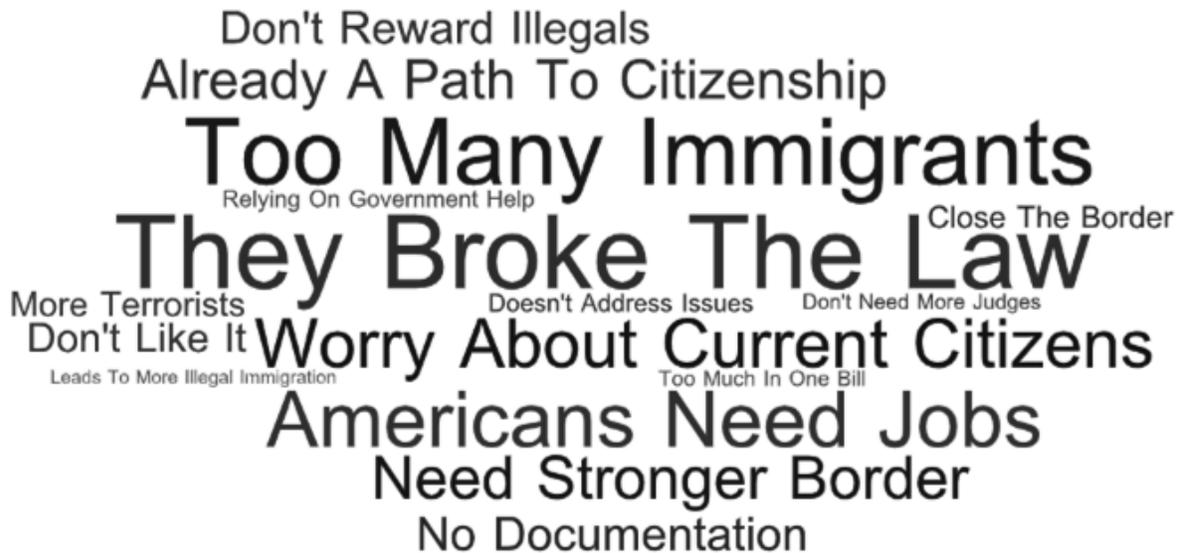
5. Asked why they are in favor of this bill, voters focus on the need for more workers, that the proposal is common sense and fair, and that the current system is not working.

Respondents were asked:

“Why do you favor this proposal in Congress that would address immigration, border security, and agricultural worker immigrants?”



Voters who are opposed to the bill were also asked an open-ended question on why they were opposed.



6. Including certain requirements on a potential pathway to citizenship for Dreamers is extremely popular and could help increase support for the proposal.

We tested four potential requirements for Dreamers to become a United States citizen. All four were supported by north of 85% of voters overall, and by more than 80% of Democrats.

Potential Requirement	% Total Favor Overall	% Total Favor Among GOPers	% Total Favor Among Inds	% Total Favor Among Dems
Have a clean criminal record	93%	95%	90%	93%
Learn English	91%	95%	92%	86%
Have a full-time job	88%	92%	85%	84%
Have at least a high school degree	86%	92%	87%	81%