



behavior research center's

Rocky Mountain Poll

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73% FAVOR IMMIGRATION REFORM TO PERMIT WORKERS TO ENTER U.S. WITHOUT BREAKING THE LAW

MOST SEE NO TERRORIST THREAT FROM ILLEGAL WORKER IMMIGRANTS

Phoenix, Arizona, May 30, 2006. Seven of ten Arizonans favor immigration law reform that permits foreign workers to enter the U.S. without breaking U.S. law. The figure rises to over 92 percent in counties that border Mexico and where local economies are closely tied to the availability of Mexican laborers and where Hispanic families often constitute more than a quarter of the population.

Simultaneously, three-quarters believe it is the responsibility of the federal government, not state government, to secure the borders. State funds, it is believed, should be used for such things as education, transportation and job development.

Additionally, despite much fanfare that seeks to justify militarizing or building walls along the border in the name of anti-terrorist defense, barely four percent in this border state believe that illegal Mexican immigrants include terrorists planning violence against the United States.

Such findings appear in stark contrast to the election year drumbeat from some politicians to “seal” the southern border and deport illegal workers in the name of national security.

The survey also finds that a majority of Arizonans (56% to 60%) reject assertions that the deportation of all illegal workers would cause collapse to the U.S. economy or collapse to the economies of nations such as Mexico or Guatemala, yet about three in ten harbor beliefs that this might be true.

The issue that most sharply divides Arizonans is whether it is “morally wrong” for the U.S. government to deport illegal workers when doing so may break up family units, such as when the parents of U.S. born Hispanics are deported. On this issue 44 percent agree that it is immoral for the government to do so, while 44 percent disagree. This issue finds older citizens and likely voters among the most inclined to consider it immoral for the U.S. government to pursue such deportations.

Most Arizonans (67%) do not agree with the view that people who enter the United States illegally to seek employment are no better than “common criminals”. Further, three quarters reject the assertion that America is over crowded and we should simply close our borders to all new immigration.

This report is based on a survey of 808 adults across Arizona conducted between May 1st and May 9th, 2006, by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona as part of the Center’s independent and non-partisan Rocky Mountain Poll series. The public is welcome to visit www.brcpolls.com for this and other polls.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This Rocky Mountain Poll Arizona (2006-II-05) is based on 808 telephone interviews with adult heads-of-household, conducted from May 1st through May 9th, 2006. In the overall sample, one may say with 95 percent certainty that the results have a statistical precision of plus or minus 3.5 percent of what they would have been had the entire adult population been surveyed. The Rocky Mountain Poll is conducted by the Behavior Research Center of Arizona and is an independent and non-partisan research program.

This statement conforms to the principles of disclosure of the National Council on Public Polls.

ENCLOSED: Statistical data for reference.

STATISTICAL DATA

Behavior Research Center
Rocky Mountain Poll – Arizona
2006-II-05

For this and other polls, see www.brcpolls.com/results.

“Next, would you say you personally agree or disagree with the following statements about immigration?”

		<u>AGREE</u>	<u>DISAGREE</u>	<u>UNSURE</u>
<i>“Immigration law should find a way for immigrant workers to come and go without breaking U.S. law.”</i>	State	73%	25%	2%
	Border	92	8	--
<i>“Many illegal immigrants from Mexico are terrorists planning violence against the United States.”</i>	State	4	86	10
	Border	5	80	15
<i>“It is the responsibility of the federal government to secure our borders, not the various states. State funds should be used for such things as education, transportation and job development.”</i>	State	76	16	8
	Border	76	22	2
<i>“Securing our borders should be our top priority, but humane and fair treatment of foreign workers is also very important.”</i>	State	84	14	2
	Border	81	16	3
<i>“People who enter the United States illegally to seek work are no better than common criminals.”</i>	State	27	67	6
	Border	27	69	4
<i>“It is morally wrong for the United States government to deport workers when doing so results in breaking up the family unit.”</i>	State	44	44	12
	Border	50	41	9
<i>“America is already overcrowded. We should just close the borders to immigrants from anywhere else in the world.”</i>	State	17	76	7
	Border	15	75	10
<i>“If illegal immigrants were all deported, the U.S. economy would sink into economic recession.”</i>	State	32	60	8
	Border	30	58	12
<i>“If illegal immigrants were all deported, the economies of countries such as Mexico and Guatemala would collapse.”</i>	State	29	56	15
	Border	20	66	14

* BORDER COUNTIES: YUMA, PIMA, SANTA CRUZ AND COCHISE

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“Next, would you say you personally agree or disagree with the following statements about immigration?”

		AGREE	DISAGREE	UNSURE
<i>“Immigration law should find a way for immigrant workers to come and go without breaking U.S. law.”</i>	Republican	76%	23%	1%
	Democrat	66	33	1
	Independent	74	23	3
<i>“Many illegal immigrants from Mexico are terrorists planning violence against the United States.”</i>	Republican	5	86	9
	Democrat	1	96	3
	Independent	3	87	10
<i>“It is the responsibility of the federal government to secure our borders, not the various states. State funds should be used for such things as education, transportation and job development.”</i>	Republican	72	15	13
	Democrat	93	5	2
	Independent	81	15	4
<i>“Securing our borders should be our top priority, but humane and fair treatment of foreign workers is also very important.”</i>	Republican	92	7	1
	Democrat	87	10	3
	Independent	68	25	7
<i>“People who enter the United States illegally to seek work are no better than common criminals.”</i>	Republican	26	65	9
	Democrat	31	68	1
	Independent	34	62	4
<i>“It is morally wrong for the United States government to deport workers when doing so results in breaking up the family unit.”</i>	Republican	40	48	12
	Democrat	53	42	5
	Independent	39	51	10
<i>“America is already overcrowded. We should just close the borders to immigrants from anywhere else in the world.”</i>	Republican	17	74	9
	Democrat	21	73	6
	Independent	13	87	0
<i>“If illegal immigrants were all deported, the U.S. economy would sink into economic recession.”</i>	Republican	22	70	8
	Democrat	35	60	5
	Independent	41	51	8
<i>“If illegal immigrants were all deported, the economies of countries such as Mexico and Guatemala would collapse.”</i>	Republican	25	59	16
	Democrat	34	48	18
	Independent	26	68	6