

TO: Interested Parties
FROM: Global Strategy Group and BSP Research on behalf of Catalyze/Citizens
DATE: April 24, 2024
RE: New polling on popular, balanced immigration solutions

On behalf of Catalyze/Citizens, Global Strategy Group and BSP Research recently conducted public opinion research on the issue of immigration. This memo reflects the findings from a survey of 800 interviews with likely voters in the 2024 presidential battleground states (AZ, GA, MI, NV, NC, PA, WI) between April 8th and April 15th, 2024, and 600 interviews among Hispanic voters in key Congressional districts and battleground states between April 15th and April 20th, 2024. Key findings are as follows:

Battleground voters want to see a balanced approach to immigration. In keeping with previous research among battleground voters, the majority (66% overall, and 73% of Hispanic voters in key Congressional districts/states) want a balanced approach to immigration "that includes both border security and protects Dreamers, providing them and other eligible immigrants who have been here for many years a pathway to citizenship" over an enforcement-only approach "that only focuses on border security, deportations, and limiting the use of asylum" (34% overall, 27% Hispanic).

This preference is reflected in voters' high levels of support for a slate of both security-oriented policies and paths to citizenship and legal status for undocumented immigrants. Consider the following:

- Voters remain strongly supportive of security-forward policies:
 - o 91% support and just 6% oppose investing in increased screening capacity at the border to find fentanyl and other illegal drugs
 - o 89% support and just 6% oppose improving technology and infrastructure at the border
- There are nearly equally high levels of support for paths to citizenship and legal status for many of the undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S.:
 - o 82% support and just 14% oppose creating pathways to citizenship for immigrants who have been living in the U.S. for many years and pass a background check and pay taxes
 - o 76% support and just 20% oppose providing work permits to Dreamers and other undocumented immigrants who have lived here for many years and pass a background check
- Honing in specifically around the issue of family caregivers, voters deeply support them being able to stay here legally:
 - o 74% support (84% Hispanic) and just 19% oppose expanding the ability for family caregivers to stay here legally, and together with their families, if they have lived in the U.S. for many years and they are caregivers to a spouse or child who is a U.S. citizen or legal resident

	Overall	% Support
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	Support	Oppose	Dem	Ind	Rep	Hisp
<i>Investing in increased screening capacity at the border to find fentanyl and other illegal drugs</i>	91	6	91	84	93	88*
<i>Improving technology and infrastructure at the border to modernize the way the border is monitored</i>	89	6	92	79	89	84*
<i>Creating pathways to citizenship for immigrants who have been living in the U.S. for many years and pass a background check and pay taxes</i>	82	14	94	71	74	86*
<i>Providing work permits to Dreamers and other undocumented immigrants who have lived here for many years and pass a background check</i>	76	20	91	68	63	83*
<i>Expanding the ability for family caregivers to stay here legally, and together with their families, if they have lived in the U.S. for many years and they are caregivers to a spouse or child who is a U.S. citizen or legal resident</i>	74	19	89	70	60	84

*These questions were not asked on the Hispanic oversample of this poll. However, they were asked of a Hispanic oversample on a similar battleground poll conducted earlier this year between February 7th and February 19th.

Voters find many different groups of undocumented immigrants to be sympathetic and deserving of legal status, including family caregivers and those married to a U.S. citizen or legal resident. At least 65% of voters in the battleground support allowing undocumented immigrants who fit the following criteria to stay in the country:

- Those who have served, or had a spouse or child serve, in the U.S. armed forces (77% of voters overall say all/most should be able to stay in the U.S., 15% say all/most should be deported; among Hispanic voters, 80% say stay, 14% deport)
- Those who are regularly employed and paying taxes (73% stay, 20% deport overall; 76% stay, 19% deport among Hispanic voters)
- Those who are married to a U.S. citizen or legal resident (73% stay, 18% deport overall; 78% stay, 17% deport among Hispanic voters)
- Spouses of citizens who have lived here for more than 5 years (71% stay, 19% deport overall; 78% stay, 16% deport among Hispanic voters)
- Those who are Dreamers, who came to the United States as children (69% stay, 21% deport overall; 76% stay, 20% deport among Hispanic voters)
- Those who have passed a background check and have no criminal record (69% stay, 25% deport overall; 77% stay, 18% deport among Hispanic voters)
- Those who are family caregivers to a spouse/child who is a citizen/legal resident (68% stay, 22% deport overall; 76% stay, 17% deport among Hispanic voters)

While many voters are unaware of President Biden's accomplishments on immigration, they support what the President has done when they learn more about it. Further, learning about the President's accomplishments improves his standing on the issue. In testing a list of President Biden's policy successes on immigration, majorities of voters recognize a range as a good thing. After being presented with all of them, Biden's job approval on the issue of immigration jumps 28 points among the overall electorate, and 31 points with Hispanic voters. Chief among them:

- Increasing fentanyl seizures at the border (71% a good thing, 11% a bad thing)
- Hiring hundreds of additional personnel at the border (68% good, 13% bad)
- Allowing military veterans who have been deported because of their immigrant status to access a path to return to the U.S. (68% good, 13% bad)
- Reuniting over 700 immigrant families who were separated under the previous administration (58% good, 20% bad)
- Reducing the backlog of citizenship applications (57% good, 21% bad)
- Modernizing ports of entry (54% good, 18% bad)

	% Good Thing				
	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	Hisp
President Biden has increased fentanyl seizures by 54% at the border compared to previous years	71	85	62	60	67
President Biden has hired hundreds of additional personnel at the border, including the first increase in the number of Border Patrol Agents in 11 years	68	85	63	53	60
President Biden allowed U.S. military veterans who have been deported because of their immigrant status to access a path to return to the U.S. and earn citizenship	68	86	59	53	71
President Biden has reunited over 700 immigrant families who were separated under the previous administration	58	88	51	32	68
President Biden reduced the backlog of citizenship applications so that more hard-working immigrants who qualify can become U.S. citizens	57	84	51	32	62
President Biden has provided \$3.4 billion to build and modernize ports of entry on the country's northern and southern borders	54	77	49	33	55

Donald Trump and Republicans have weak spots on immigration that Democrats can take advantage of, with targeted messaging about their cruel policies like family separation and the way they've made immigrants targets for hate and violence. Overwhelming majorities of battleground voters continue to oppose bringing back the Trump-era policy of separating immigrant families at the border (21% support, 67% oppose) – presenting a vulnerability for Trump and his party. Likewise, their cruel and inhumane immigration policies and their spreading of hatred and bigotry when it comes to immigrants stand out as troubling to voters.

	% Concerning				
	Overall	Dem	Ind	Rep	Hisp
Donald Trump and Republicans want to bring back cruel policies that do nothing to secure the border or fix our immigration system, including the inhumane family separation policy that separated children from their parents at the border	58	89	53	30	69
Donald Trump and Republicans have consistently used fear, hate, and racism in the way they speak about immigrants – which has emboldened white supremacists and MAGA extremists and made immigrants targets for hate and violence	58	91	56	25	68
Donald Trump and the Republicans opposed and killed the strongest border security bill to reach Congress in decades . They opposed a bill that would have secured the border, increased screenings to find fentanyl and other illegal drugs, and added more Border Patrol agents	55	88	54	23	63
Donald Trump and the Republicans have an extreme agenda that goes far beyond addressing the recent influx of migrants. If Trump wins back the presidency, he wants to conduct sweeping raids across the country to separate families, round up and deport millions of people, including Dreamers who came here as children, and others who have lived and worked here for decades	54	87	44	24	67

Learning more about what Biden has done, presented against a contrast of Trump's past policies and 2024 vision, moves voters to trust President Biden more on immigration than Donald Trump. After voters have seen President Biden's policy successes and messaging against Trump and Republicans on immigration, their trust in Biden over Trump to handle the issue improves, ending with 51% trusting Biden more and 47% trusting Trump more, up from a deficit of 12 points initially in the poll. Among Hispanic voters, Biden has a 36-point advantage after messaging (66% Biden/30% Trump), up from a 20-point advantage initially.

ABOUT THE POLL

Global Strategy Group conducted a survey of 800 likely voters in the battleground states of Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin between April 8th and April 15th, 2024. The survey has a confidence interval of +/-3.5%. All interviews were conducted via web-based panel. BSP Research conducted a survey of 600 Latino registered voters, in battleground states and Congressional districts, between April 15th and April 20th, 2024. The survey has a margin of error of +/- 4.0%. All interviews were conducted via phone or online. Care has been taken to ensure the geographic, political, and demographic divisions of the population of likely voters are properly represented.