



Key Findings from a National Survey of on Immigration April 10, 2013

1. Roughly seven out of ten voters say they favor Congress establishing a guest worker program that would give work permits to people who are already in the U.S. illegally if they pass a background check and have a job (69% favor/31% oppose).
2. When specifically asked about the number of guest worker permits made available, the majority of voters want employer demand and need to be the determining factor, not the federal government setting quotas (65% employer demand and need/27% federal government setting quotas).
 - Survey respondents were asked the following question: *“Do you think the number of guest worker permits made available and distributed to non-citizens should be determined by...The federal government setting quotas on the number of jobs that can be filled by guest workers...or...Employer demand and need of guest workers to fill jobs that cannot be filled by American workers?”*
3. We tested six specific components of a proposal to establish a guest worker program. Majorities of voters favor each component we tested. The table below shows this data.

Guest Worker Program Components	% Favor	% Oppose
Guest workers would have to pass a security background check and have a job.	90%	9%
Guest workers would receive a work permit smart card that includes a photograph of the worker, employment information, and biometric data such as fingerprints.	85%	14%
Guest workers would be able to renew their work permit without leaving the U.S.	83%	16%
The work permit smart card would be for a set period of time and have an expiration date.	81%	16%
This program is a way for non-citizens to legally live and work in the U.S. and provides no special treatment or advantage toward citizenship, which is a completely separate process.	76%	21%
Guest workers would be able to switch employers without having to reapply for a new work permit.	59%	40%

4. And when asked overall as one proposal, nearly eight out of ten voters favor establishing this six-part guest worker program (79% favor/19% oppose).
 - Majorities of Republicans, Independents, and Democrats support the establishment of this six-part guest worker program.

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>
Republicans	74%	23%
Independents	68%	28%
Democrats	88%	11%

5. Voters agree that a guest worker program is the best way to get control of our borders (71% agree/26% disagree).
 - Survey respondents were read the following statement and asked whether they agree or disagree with the statement: *“The best way to get control of our border is to have a system for handling guest workers. Without a guest worker program, we are just inviting more illegal border crossings.”*
6. Immigration reform is a high priority for a plurality of voters (47% very high/high priority, 39% medium priority, 13% low priority).
 - Survey respondents were asked the following question: *“While Congress is debating several important issues dealing with the federal budget and deficit, there is also significant debate on immigration reform. Thinking about all of the issues that Congress is facing, how high a priority should fixing our immigration system be compared with all the other issues?”*
7. We tested eight immigration reform goals for Congress. Americans place the highest priority on the following three goals for Congress in reforming the immigration system today:
 - Make sure all immigrants pay taxes;
 - Pass a long-term solution that fixes the immigration problem once and for all; and,
 - Come up with an immigration reform plan that can be supported by both Republicans and Democrats.

METHODOLOGY:

Public Opinion Strategies and Ciruli Associates conducted a national telephone survey among 700 registered voters March 23-27, 2013. The survey has a margin of error of $\pm 3.7\%$.