

Immigration Survey of San Diego County Voters

Commissioned by the
Immigrant Rights Consortium of San Diego County
May-June 2007

www.immigrantsandiego.org

Immigrant Rights Consortium

- In 2007, more than twenty five community, faith, labor, and legal organizations came together under a formal agreement to pursue common goals that include ...
 - Supporting comprehensive immigration reform.
 - Stopping the spread of local policies and practices that target and violate the civil and human rights of immigrants.

Consortium Made Up of ...

- Faith organizations
 - American Jewish Committee, Catholic Charities, Council on American Islamic Relations, Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights, Justice Overcoming Boundaries
- Labor organizations
 - Employee Rights Center – Labor Council of San Diego and Imperial Counties, SEIU 1877, Interfaith Committee for Worker Justice
- Legal organizations
 - ACLU, American Immigration Lawyers Association, La Raza Lawyers Association, National Lawyers Guild, People for the American Way
- Community organizations
 - ACORN, Border Angels, Border Meetup, Center for Social Advocacy, Chaldean Federation, City of San Diego Human Relations Commission, Coalition for Peace Justice & Dignity, Filipino American Community Empowerment, Latino Policy Institute, Power PAC, South Bay Forum

Survey

- To get a baseline understanding of how San Diegans feel about immigrants and certain immigration proposals, the Immigrant Rights Consortium commissioned a poll ...
 - Conducted by Fairbank, Maslin, Maullin & Associates.
 - 600 respondents were randomly selected from registered voters in San Diego County who voted in the last several elections.
 - Conducted between May 29 and June 3, 2007, in phone interviews that lasted 25 minutes each. All interviews conducted in English.
 - The error margin for the survey results is plus or minus 4 percent.

Survey Respondents

- Respondents reflect the likely voters in San Diego County - they are older, wealthier, white, conservative
 - 87% are native-born US citizens
 - 76% are home owners
 - 72% self-identify as Anglo/White
 - 53% state they have completed four years of college
 - 53% are female; 47% are male
 - 49% are over 50 years old
 - 42% are Republican; 34% are Democrat; 20% decline to state
 - 37% self-identify as conservative; 36% as middle of the road

General Sentiments

Ranking of Issues

- Survey respondents rank immigration as one of their top three local concerns ...
 1. Affordable housing
 2. Affordable gas
 3. Impact of immigration in San Diego County
 4. Affordable health care
 5. Rate of growth and development / Local budget deficits
 6. Environmental pollution / Crime
 7. Secure, good paying jobs
 8. Potential for terrorist attacks in the area

Negative Impact of Undocumented

- Survey respondents appear uncertain about the impact of the undocumented, but a slight majority feel they have a negative impact on ...
 1. Public health services
 2. Quality of public schools
 3. Local crime rate
 4. County welfare system

Positive/No Impact of Undocumented

- A majority of respondents feel the undocumented have a positive or no impact on ...
 1. Diversity of food, culture, music, arts
 2. Strength of local economy
 3. Family values
 4. Religious values
 5. Standard of living

Statements About Immigrants

- Respondents agree with the following statements about immigrants ...
 - They have **strong family values** (74⁰% agree)
 - San Diego benefits from their **strong work ethic** (69⁰% agree)
 - They are **good neighbors** (62⁰% agree)
 - They have strong **religious values** (59⁰% agree)

Statements About “Undocumented” Immigrants

- Undocumented immigrants are hard workers ...
 - 85 percent agree that “*undocumented* immigrants are mostly hard working people trying to make a better life for themselves compared to where they came from”
- It is impractical to send them back ...
 - 66 percent agree that “it’s impractical to talk about sending back the estimated 12 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. A more practical approach is needed that recognizes that most of these immigrants will stay in the U.S. no matter what.”

Comprehensive Immigration Reform Proposals

Earned Legalization

- A clear majority favors earned legalization ...
 - 61 percent of all agree with “Allowing the more than 12 million undocumented immigrants in the U.S. today to earn legal status by paying fines and back taxes, proving good moral character and learning English.”
 - 67 percent of Democrats agree.
 - 57 percent of Republicans agree.

Every Congressional District Supports Earned Legalization

- 63 percent of 49th District (Issa)
- 58 percent of 50th District (Bilbray)
- 56 percent of 51st District (Filner)
- 60 percent of 52nd District (Hunter)
- 67 percent of 53rd District (Davis)

DREAM Act

- An overwhelming majority **favors** legalizing undocumented youth ...
 - **75 percent of all agree** with “Allowing undocumented youth who were brought to this country as children, went to school in the U.S., received a high school degree here and stayed out of trouble to gain permanent legal status.”
 - **85 percent of Democrats agree.**
 - **66 percent of Republicans agree.**

Every Congressional District Supports DREAM Act

- 69 percent of 49th District (Issa)
- 75 percent of 50th District (Bilbray)
- 72 percent of 51st District (Filner)
- 72 percent of 52nd District (Hunter)
- 85 percent of 53rd District (Davis)

Temporary Guest Workers

- An overwhelming majority favors a temporary guest worker program ...
 - 70 percent of all agree with “Creating a guest worker program that provides for a fixed temporary stay in the U.S. for work purposes.”
 - 76 percent of Democrats agree.
 - 65 percent of Republicans agree.

Every Congressional District Supports Temporary Guest Workers

- 67 percent of 49th District (Issa)
- 71 percent of 50th District (Bilbray)
- 77 percent of 51st District (Filner)
- 64 percent of 52nd District (Hunter)
- 72 percent of 53rd District (Davis)

Increasing Family Visas

- A clear majority favors increasing family-based visas ...
 - 65 percent of all agree with “Increasing the availability of family immigrant visas to reduce the long, multi-year wait times for people seeking visas to reunite with their families in the U.S.”
 - 74 percent of Democrats agree.
 - 56 percent of Republicans agree.

Every Congressional District Supports Increasing Family Visas

- 59 percent of 49th District (Issa)
- 66 percent of 50th District (Bilbray)
- 69 percent of 51st District (Filner)
- 59 percent of 52nd District (Hunter)
- 71 percent of 53rd District (Davis)

Border Enforcement

- An overwhelming majority **supports** reasonable border enforcement ...
 - **72 percent of all support** “Establishing border enforcement procedures that facilitate cross-border flow of goods and people that is essential to a vibrant border economy.”
 - **75 percent of Democrats** agree.
 - **69 percent of Republicans** agree.

Every District Supports Reasonable Border Enforcement

- 75 percent of 49th District (Issa)
- 70 percent of 50th District (Bilbray)
- 69 percent of 51st District (Filner)
- 72 percent of 52nd District (Hunter)
- 77 percent of 53rd District (Davis)

Border Wall

- But a majority **opposes** expanding the wall ...
 - 52 percent of all oppose “Building a wall the entire length of the border.”
 - 65 percent of Democrats oppose.
 - 42 percent of Republicans oppose.

Almost Every Congressional District Opposes the Border Wall

- 51 percent of 49th District (Issa)
- 51 percent of 50th District (Bilbray)
- 49 percent of 51st District (Filner)
- 54 percent of 52nd District (Hunter)
- 53 percent of 53rd District (Davis)

Immigration Enforcement

Vigilantes

- A clear majority of respondents **oppose** vigilantism...
- 60 percent disapprove of “private citizens taking the enforcement of immigration laws into their own hands independent of federal immigration authorities.”

ICE Raids

- A majority of respondents **disapprove** of “allowing Immigration agents to look for undocumented immigrants by conducting **raids on schools, local buses and local grocery stores**, all places where children and families are likely to be found.”
 - 59% of respondents disapprove.

Deportation of Family Members

- A majority of respondents disapprove of “immediately deporting apprehended undocumented immigrants [] if doing so breaks up families and leaves minor children behind.”
 - 53% of respondents disapprove.

Door-to-Door Searches

- A majority of respondents disapprove of “allowing Immigration agents to go door-to-door in local neighborhoods in search of undocumented immigrants.”
 - 69% of respondents disapprove.

For more information about the Survey and
the Immigrant Rights Consortium...

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