



Immigration Works National Survey



Key findings from a series of focus groups, conducted April 6, 12, and 15, 2010 and a national survey of 800 likely voters, conducted May 3-5, 2010

#10292



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Methodology

Public Opinion Strategies is pleased to present the key findings of a series of focus groups and a national telephone survey. The focus groups were completed on April 6, 2010 in Dallas, TX, April 12, 2010 in Omaha, NE, and April 15, 2010 in Nashville, TN. The survey was completed May 3-5, 2010 among 800 likely voters and has a margin of error of $\pm 3.46\%$.

Glen Bolger was the principal researcher on this project. Dave Wilson was the project director, and Bryan Kitz provided analytical support.

A majority of voters feel that immigration hurts the U.S. more than it helps.

“Thinking now about issues...Now, I am going to read a pair of statements. After I read them, please tell me which statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right...”

41%

Immigration helps the U.S. more than it hurts.

...OR...

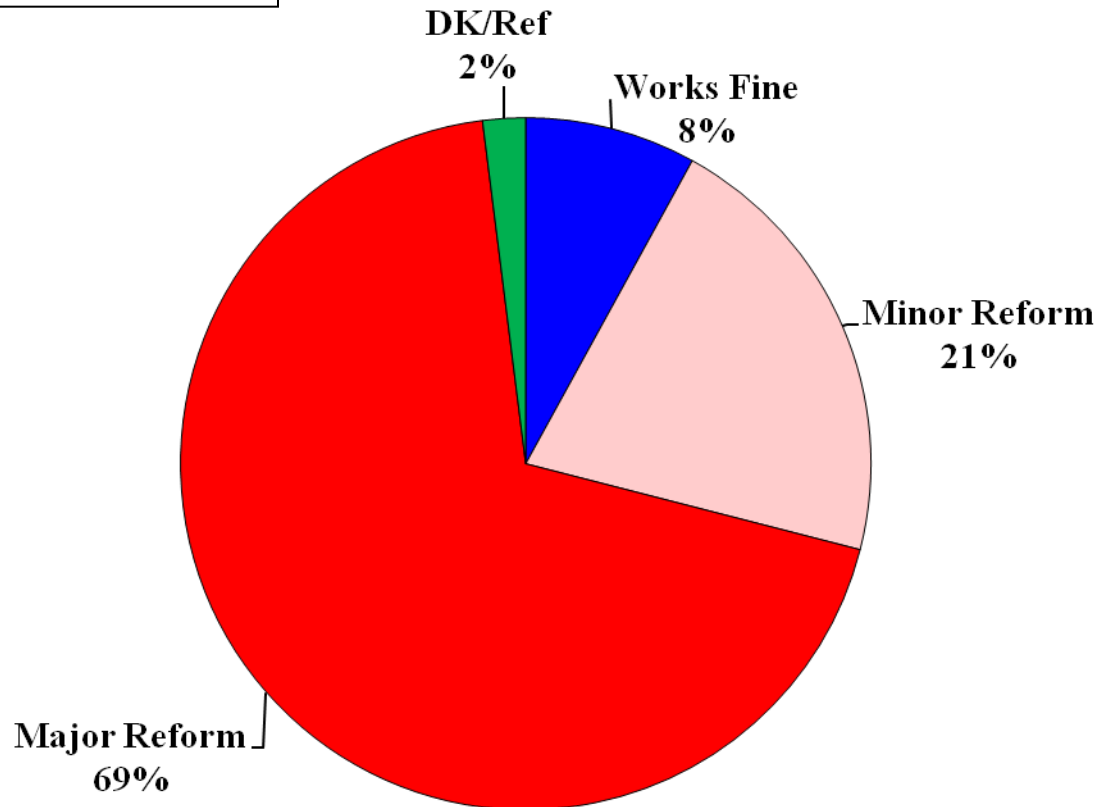
52%

Immigration hurts the U.S. more than it helps.

A large majority of voters think the immigration system needs major reform.

“Do you think America’s current immigration system works fine, or do you think America’s current immigration system needs reform?”

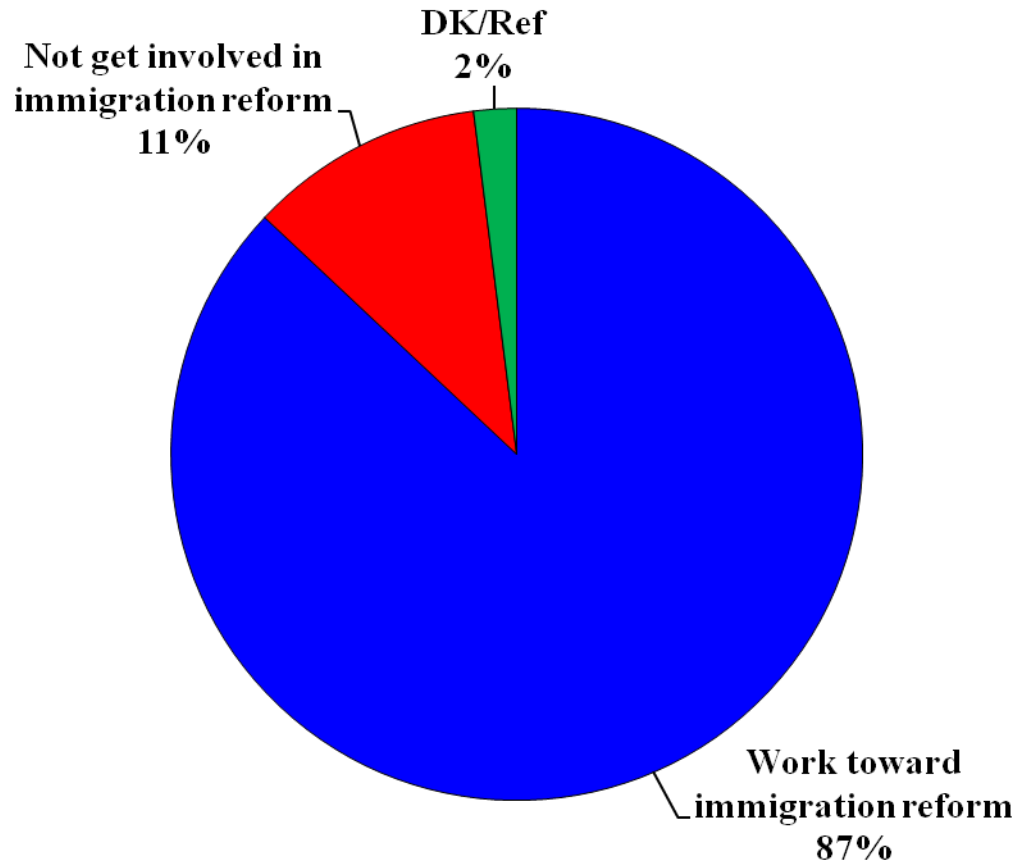
Total Reform: 89%*



**Denotes Rounding*

Voters decidedly want their member of Congress to work toward immigration reform.

“And, do you want your Member of Congress to work toward immigration reform, or do you want your Member of Congress to not get involved in immigration reform?”



Important Note

The “Immigration Reform Proposal” mentioned on the previous page – and subsequent pages – refers to the bipartisan reform plan outlined in the op-ed piece written by Senators Schumer and Graham and published in the Washington Post on March 19th.

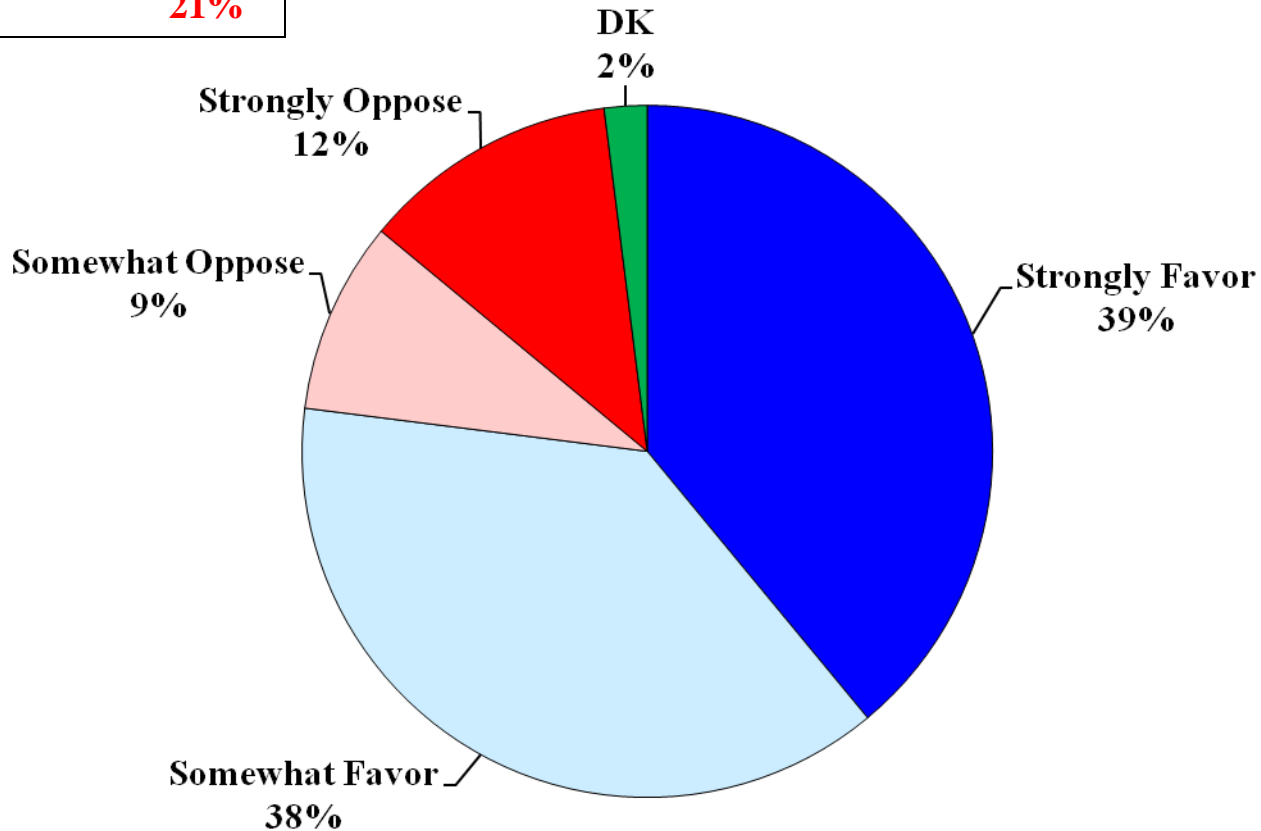
This bipartisan proposal was tested among survey respondents in two separate parts:

- ✓ **First was the three pillars of reform – border security, work site enforcement, and a way for future workers to enter the country legally.**
- ✓ **Second was the fourth pillar – what to do about illegal immigrants already in the country**

A majority of voters support the proposal. Intensity in favor is strong.

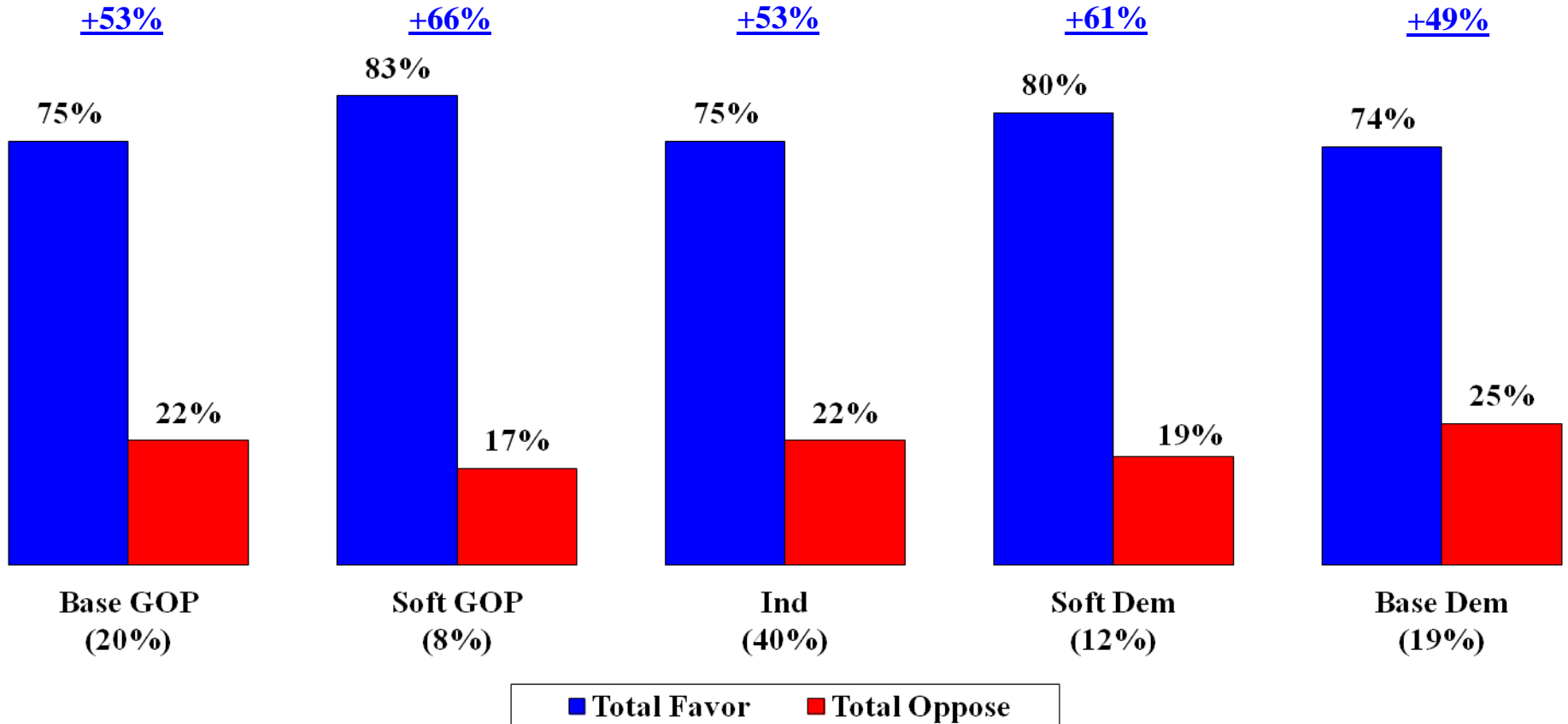
“Thinking now about a bill that was proposed in the U.S. Senate to reform immigration laws...I’m going to read you a description of the bill and please tell me if you favor or oppose it.

Total Favor:	77%
Total Oppose:	21%



The immigration reform proposal receives broad, bipartisan support.

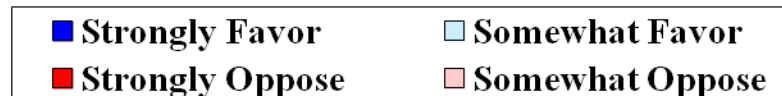
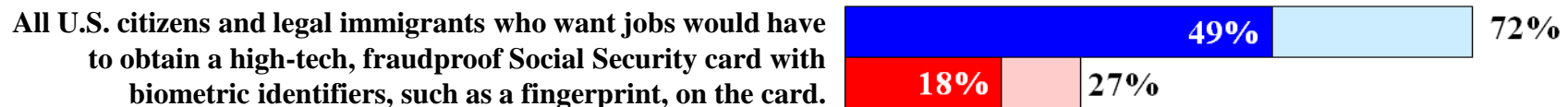
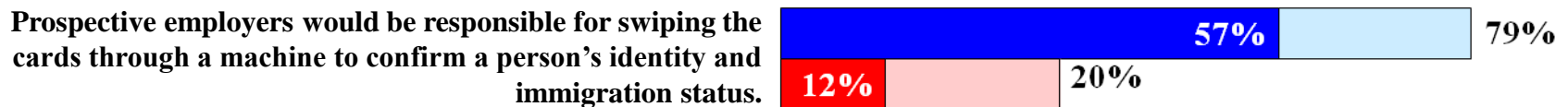
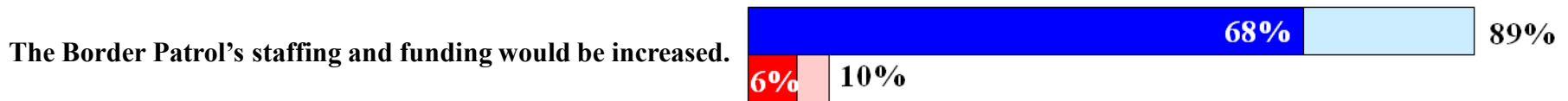
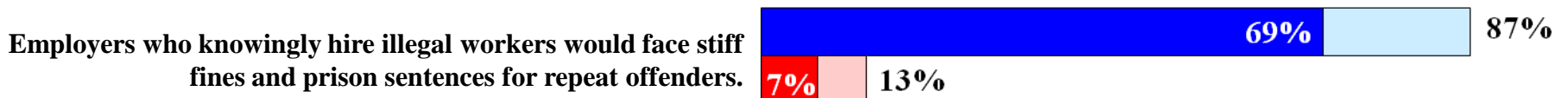
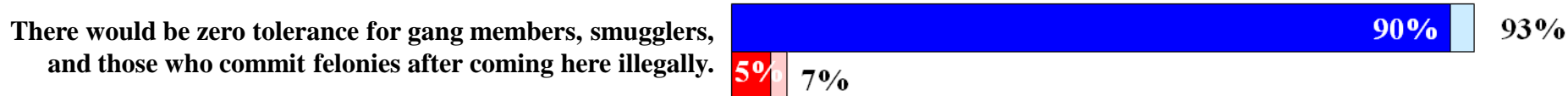
Immigration Reform Proposal by Party



Zero tolerance for crime, penalties for hiring illegals, and strengthened Border Patrol are the strongest individual portions of the bill.

“Thinking more about this proposed bill...I am going to read you each part of the proposal and after I read each one please tell me if you favor or oppose that part of the proposal.”

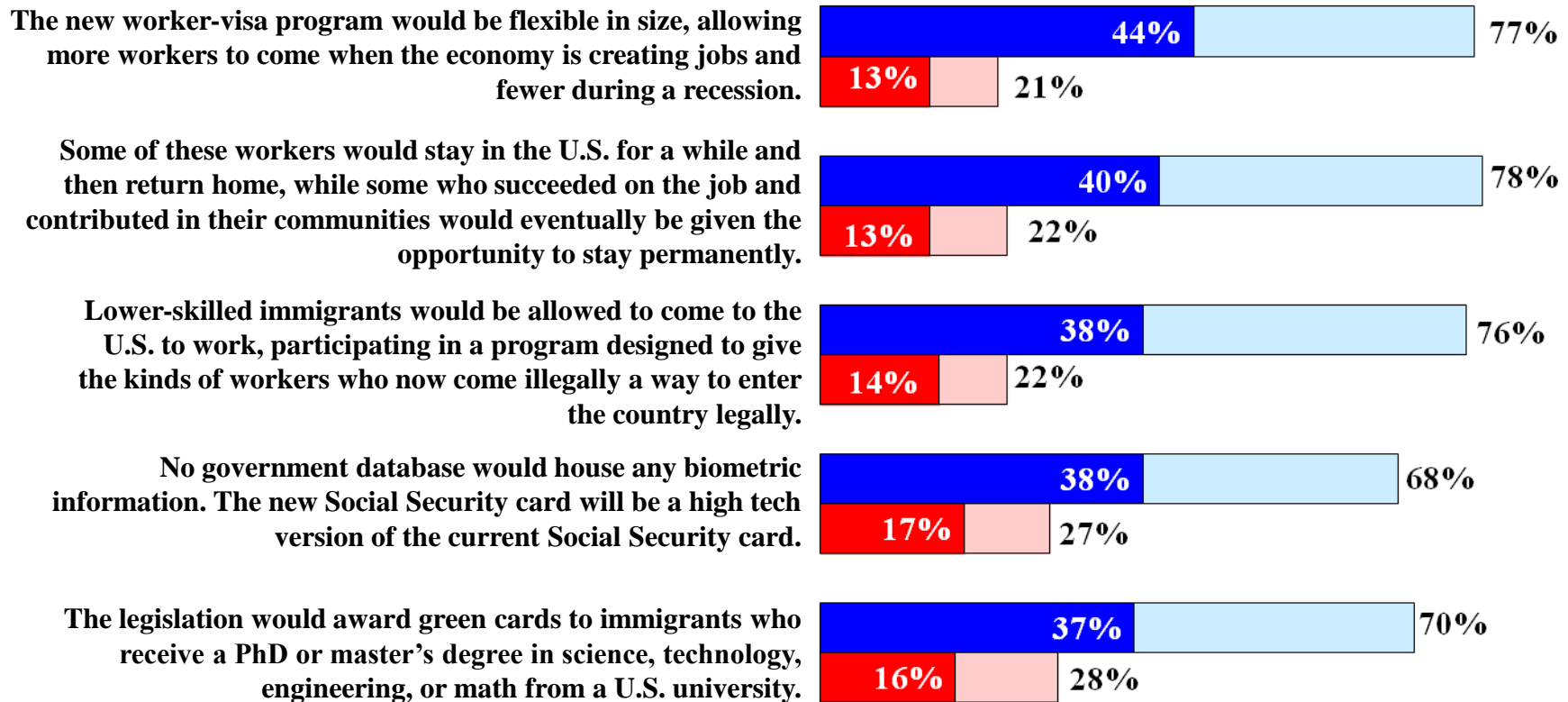
Ranked by % Strongly Favor



The flexible worker visa program and allowing some workers who succeed to stay permanently are popular as well.

“Thinking more about this proposed bill...I am going to read you each part of the proposal and after I read each one please tell me if you favor or oppose that part of the proposal.”

Ranked by % Strongly Favor



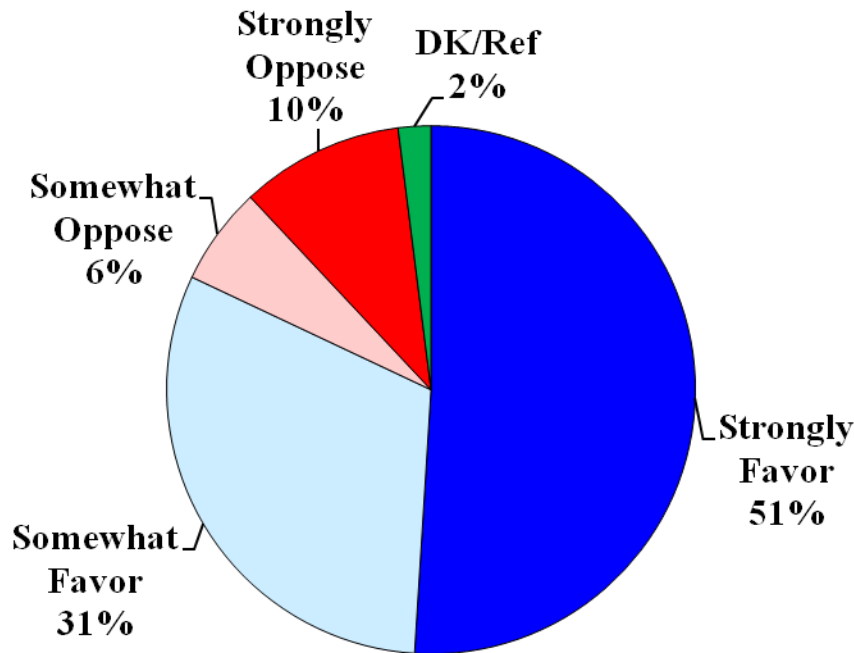
There is no difference between using “legal status” and “citizenship” in this proposed addition to the proposal.

“Thinking further about this, there is are additional parts that may be added to the proposal. After I read each of these new parts, please tell me if you favor or oppose it...”

This legislation would give illegal immigrants already in the country an opportunity to earn legal status. Under this part of the proposal, illegal immigrants would be required to pay fines and back taxes. They would also be required to pass background checks, be proficient in English and could not earn legal status before those who have already applied and are waiting for it.

Total Favor: 83%*
Total Oppose: 16%

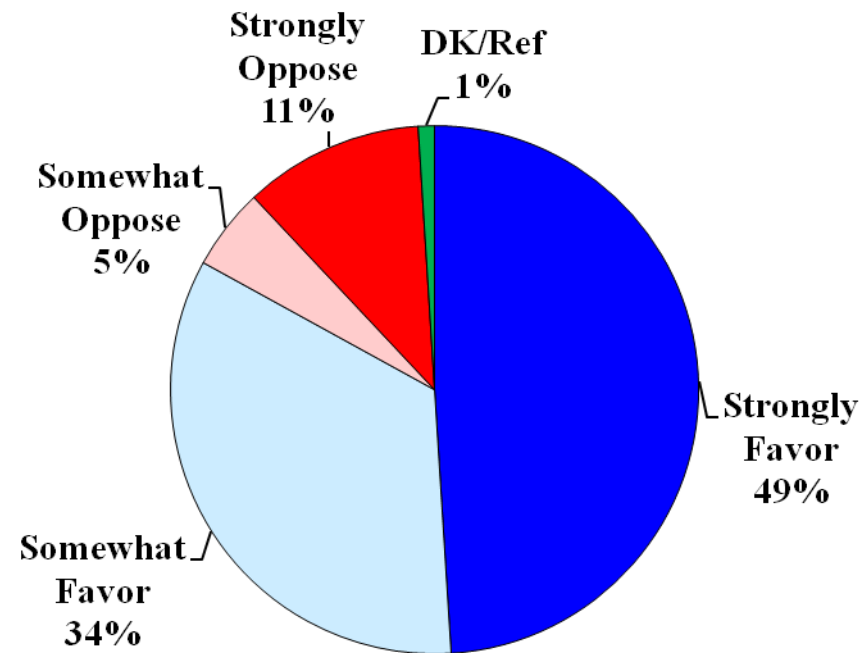
Split Sample, N=401



This legislation would give illegal immigrants already in the country an opportunity to earn citizenship. Under this part of the proposal, illegal immigrants would be required to pay fines and back taxes. They would also be required to pass background checks, be proficient in English and could not earn citizenship before those who have already applied and are waiting for it.

Split Sample, N=399

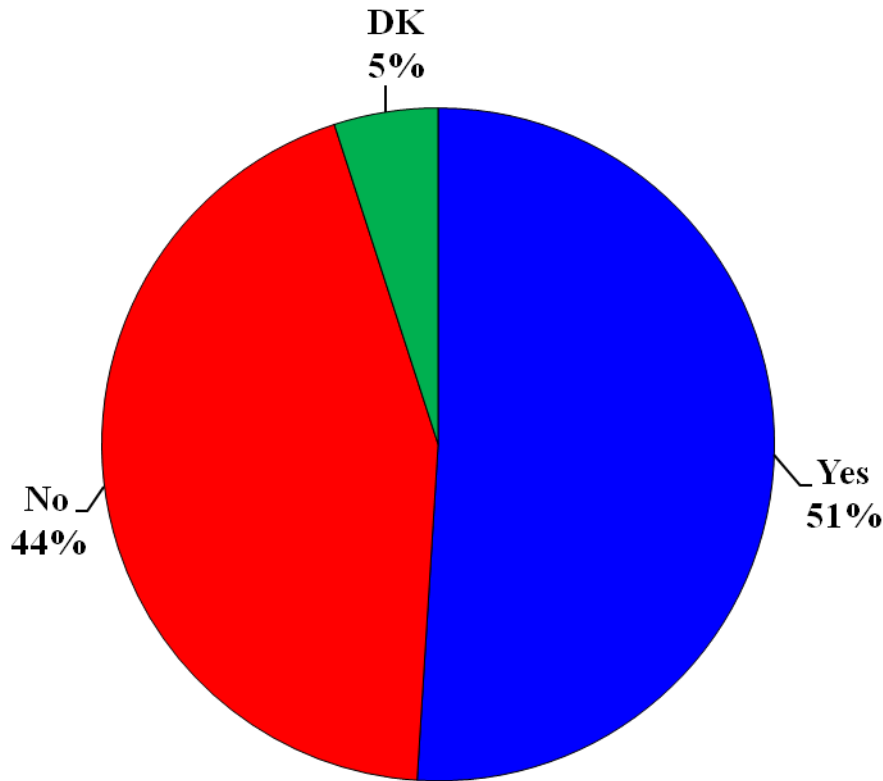
Total Favor: 83%
Total Oppose: 16%



*Denotes Rounding

Women – especially Hispanics, base GOPers, and conservatives are the most likely to consider the new parts of the proposal amnesty.

“And, do you consider these new parts of the proposal to be amnesty for illegal immigrants?”



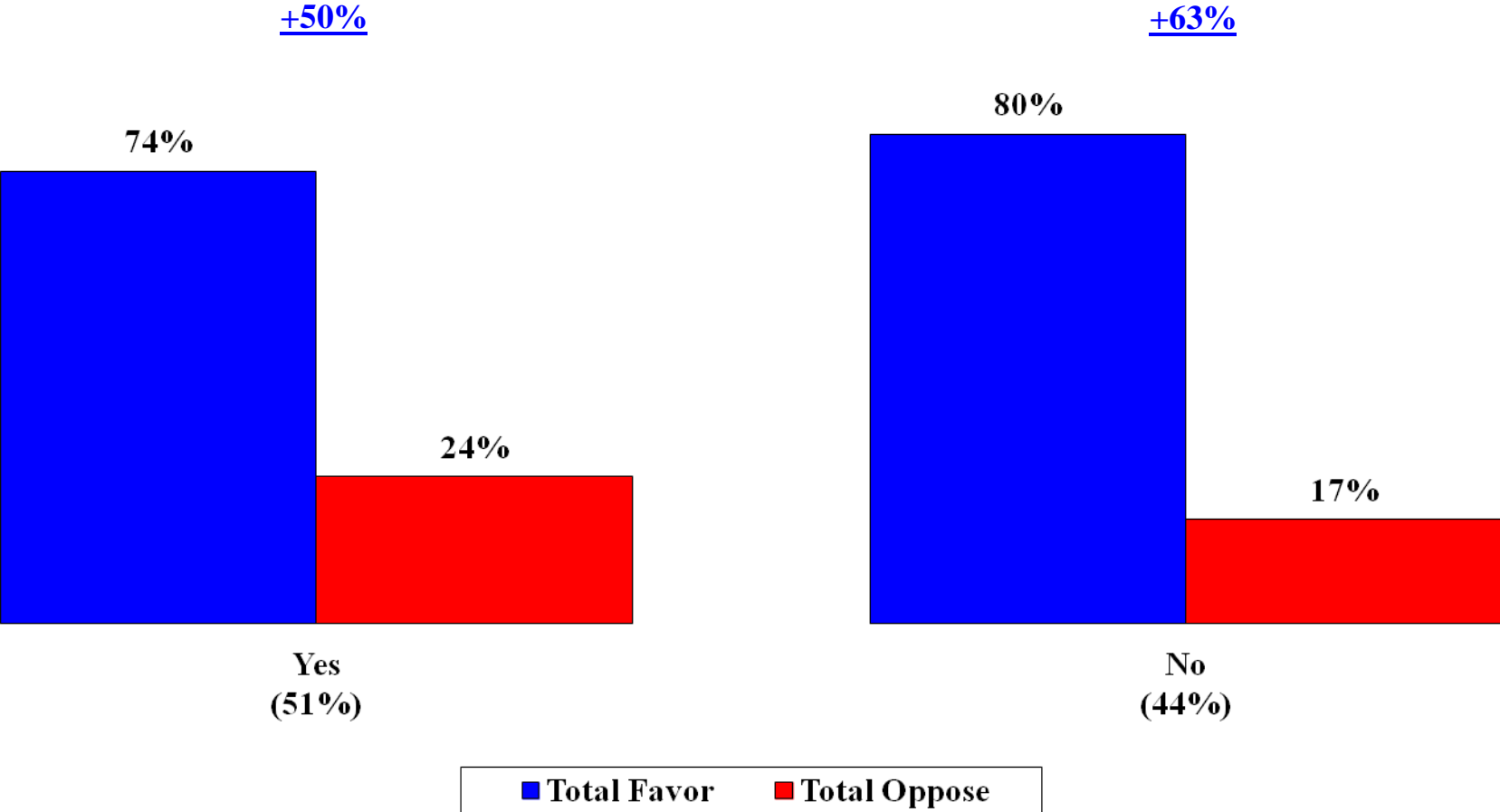
Top Groups

Yes (51%)

Hispanic Women	75%
Women 18-34	63%
Base GOP	61%
Very Cons	61%
Part Time Emp	60%
Cons/Ind Dems	59%
Hispanic	58%
Mid West Region	58%
18-34	58%
African American Men	57%
Immigrant Parents	57%
Ind Women	56%
Ind 55+	56%
Women Hourly Emp	56%
HS or Less Educ	56%
Mother	56%
Single w/o Kids	56%
Urban Women	56%
Suburban Women	56%

While, “amnesty” may be a radioactive word, those who view this proposal as being amnesty are not opposed to the proposal.

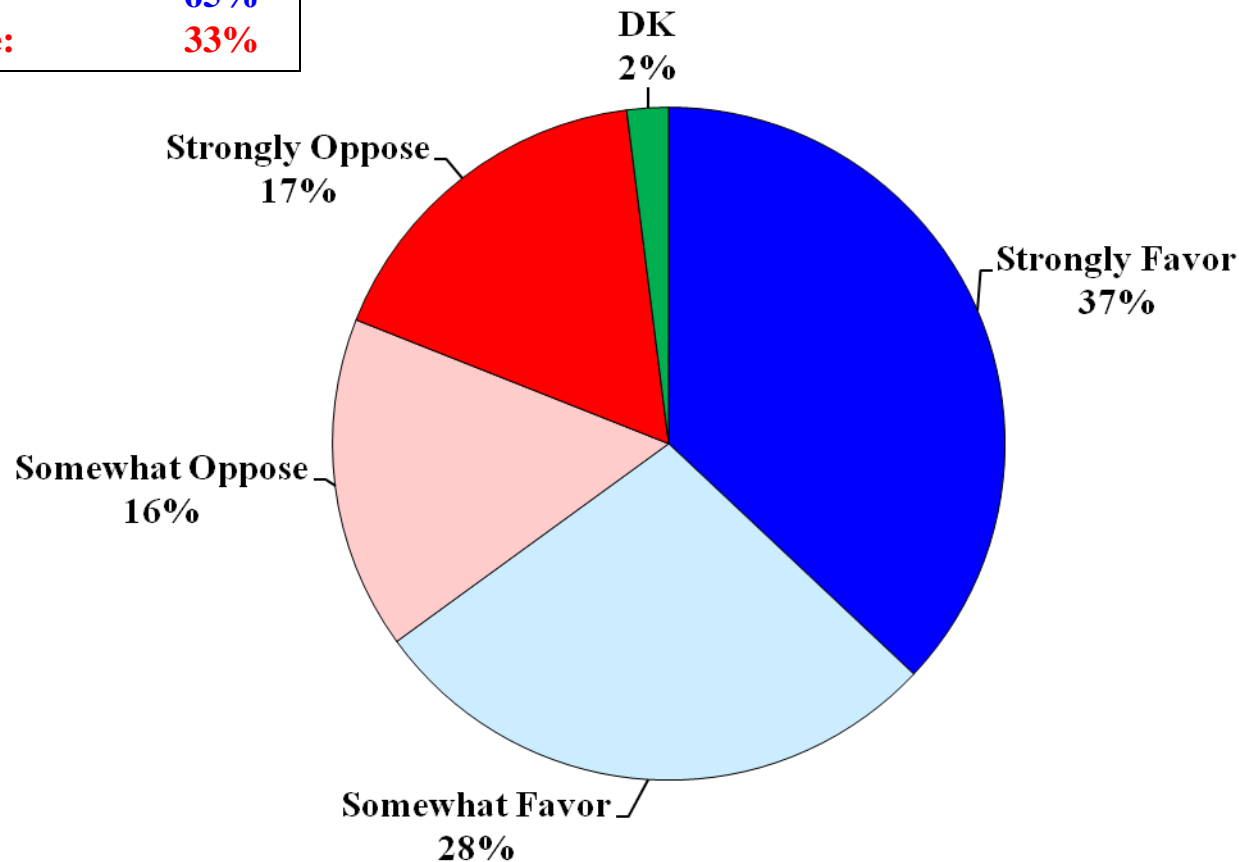
Immigration Reform Proposal by Amnesty



Tightening border security before implementing the other proposals is popular as well.

“The next new part would be...None of these proposals would go into effect until after border security was significantly tightened by additional manpower, resources, and technology – even if this meant significant delays in implementing the other elements. Would you favor or oppose this new part of the proposal?”

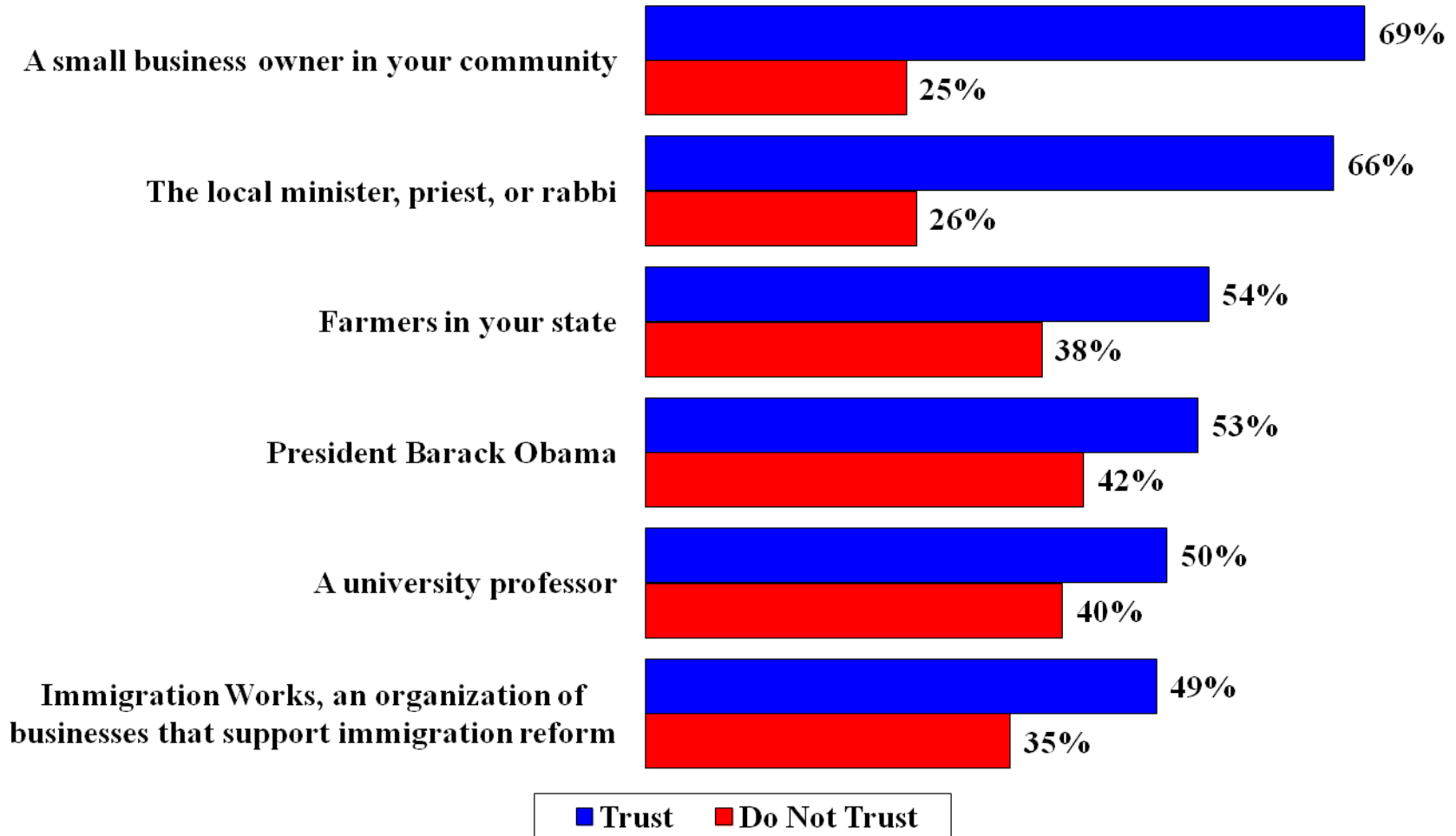
Total Favor:	65%
Total Oppose:	33%



Voters trust the opinions of small business owners and their religious leaders on immigration reform.

“Now, I would like to read you some people or groups of people, and for each one, please tell me if you trust or do not trust their opinions on immigration reform.”

Ranked by % Trust

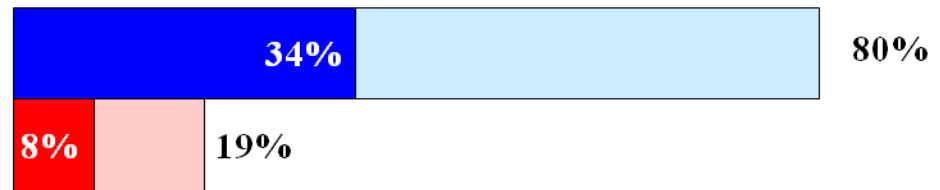


Voters believe that skilled immigrants make valuable contributions to our society, but don't think that there are too few domestic workers for high tech companies.

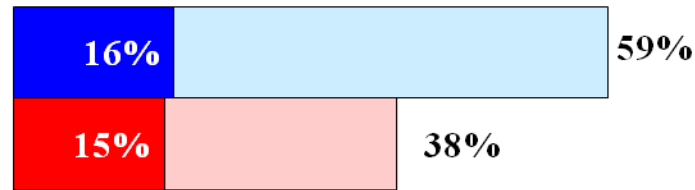
“Let’s talk for a while just about skilled immigration. I would like to read you some statements made about skilled immigrants, and for each one I read you, I would like you to tell me how believable you find that statement to be...”

Ranked by % Very Believable

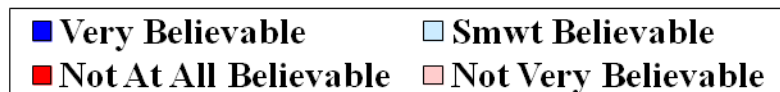
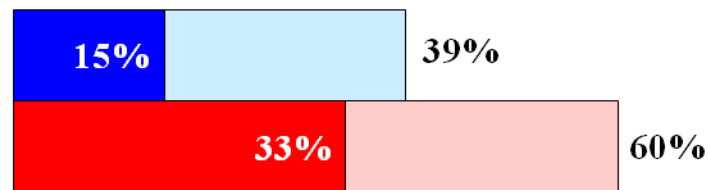
Skilled immigrants make a valuable contribution to the American economy. Skilled immigrants who come to this country are involved in starting engineering and technology companies, they are doctors in areas that don't have enough doctors, and they are involved in research and development for many American companies.



The number of skilled and highly educated immigrant workers allowed legally into the country each year is too low. Many engineers and technology experts who want to come to America are turned away by a broken immigration system and go to other countries where they help companies that compete with American technology and engineering companies.

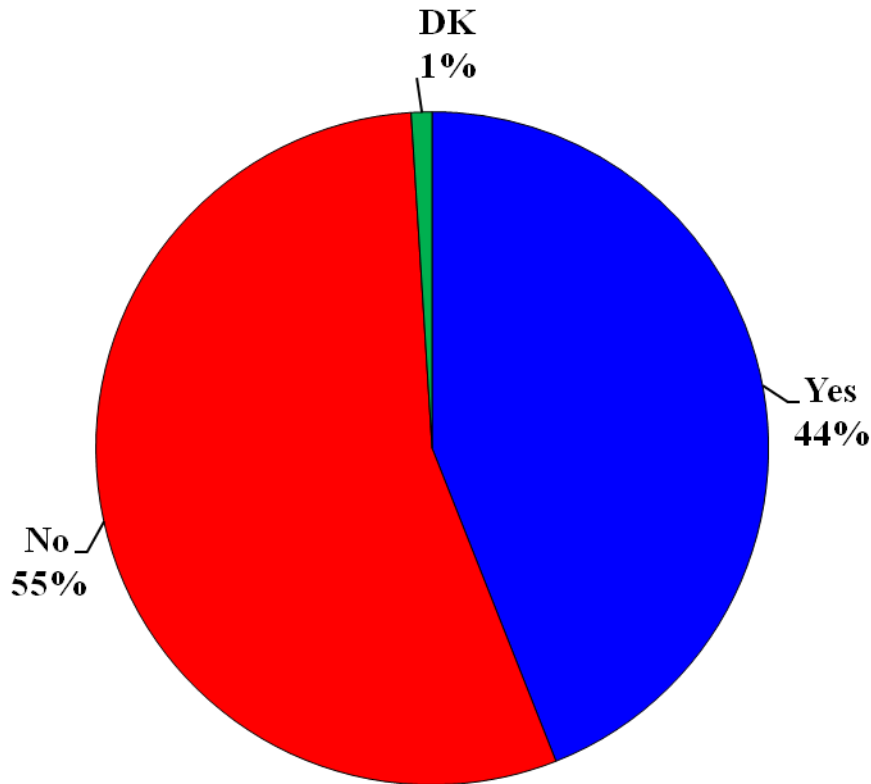


High tech companies are increasingly moving part of their operations to other countries because they can not get enough American or skilled immigrant software engineers for their high-tech workforce.

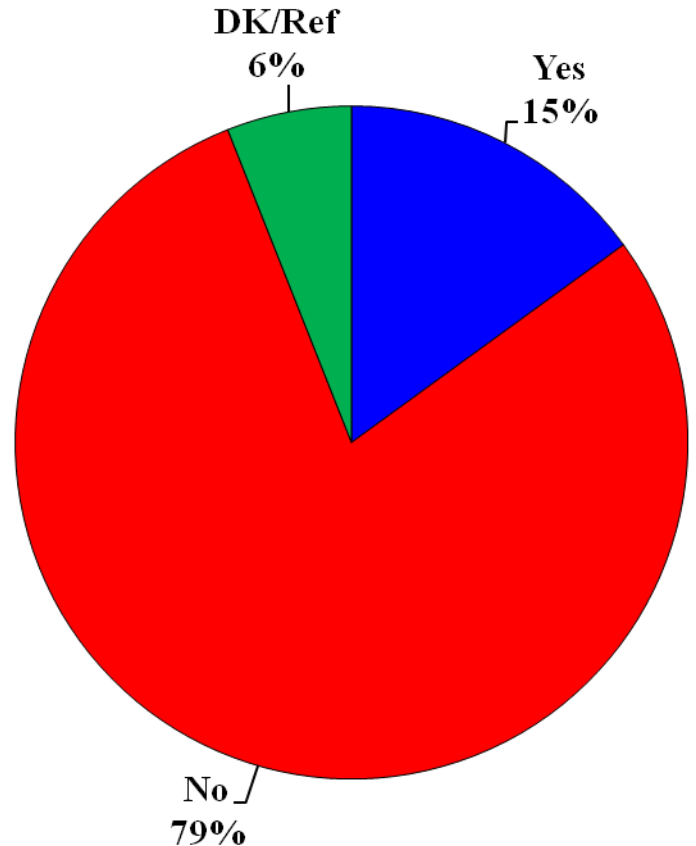


A slim majority of voters do not think it is easy for businesses to find American workers for low skill jobs, but most agree that children don't aspire to low skill jobs.

“Now, thinking about less skilled workers...Do you think that it is easy for businesses to find Americans who are willing to do farm labor, clean hotel rooms, or move around the country for short-term, low-paying menial jobs?”



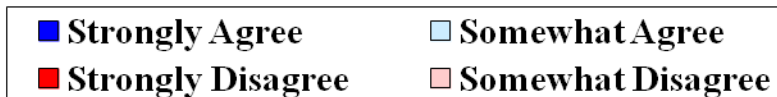
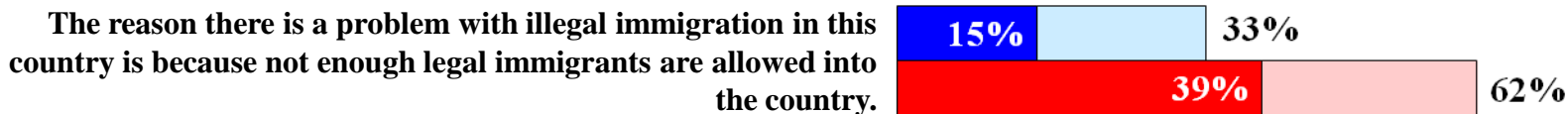
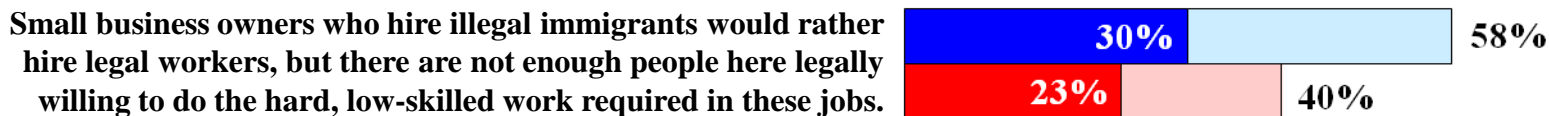
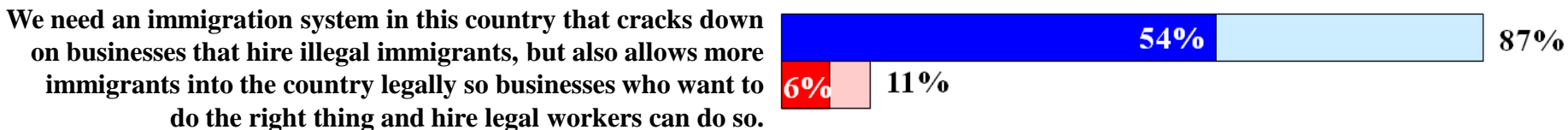
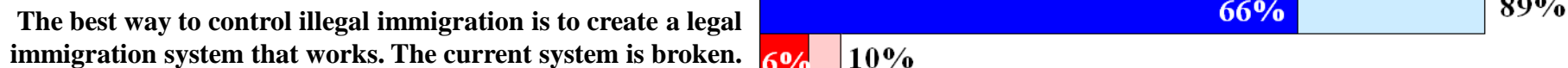
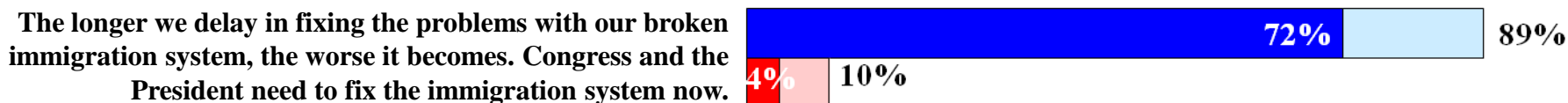
“And, now thinking about the children in your neighborhood...when they grow up, will they want to do farm labor or seasonal low-paying jobs?”



Stop delaying fixing the problem as it becomes worse and creating an immigration system that works resonate with voters the most strongly.

“Now, I would like to read you various statements about America’s immigration system. After I read each statement, please tell me if you AGREE or DISAGREE with that statement.”

Ranked by % Strongly Agree



Listening to America: Focus Group Quotes

“If you were giving your U.S. Senator one piece of advice on the issue of immigration, what would you tell him or her?”

And I think that it, if we pass a bill like this, that we would also, we have to find a way to include the illegal immigrants that are here now also. That would have to be part of the bill.

– Omaha Swing Voter Female



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**For more information about this presentation or about
Public Opinion Strategies, please give us a call.**

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