



CRITICAL ISSUES POLL

With Nielsen Scarborough

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American Views on Immigration, Refugees, and Other Issues

Survey Methodology

The survey was carried out March 15–April 2, 2019 online from a nationally representative sample of Nielsen Scarborough’s probability-based panel, originally recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of adults. The poll was conducted among a national poll of 3,015 respondents, with a margin of error of +/- 1.78%. Overall, the sample was adjusted to reflect population estimates (Scarborough USA+/Gallup) for Americans. The survey variables balanced through weighting were: age, gender, race/ethnicity, household income, level of education, census regional division, and political party affiliation.

Note: These questions were fielded as part of a larger poll on foreign and domestic issues. Participants in this study were provided by Nielsen from Nielsen's sample of respondents.

Immigration

Now we are going to ask you about immigration.

Q30. The policy commonly known as Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) allowed certain undocumented immigrants, who entered the United States as minors, to be deferred for deportation on a renewable two-year basis and to be eligible for work permits. The policy was rescinded last March, but various courts have blocked its phase out. Do you approve or disapprove of allowing undocumented immigrants to be deferred for deportation? **[PLEASE RANDOMLY REVERSE THE ORDER OF THE ANSWER CHOICES]**

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Strong Approve	16%	43%	28%	30%
2. Somewhat Approve	32	30	33	31
3. Somewhat Disapprove	25	12	23	18
4. Strongly Disapprove	27	15	16	20

Q31. Do you approve or disapprove of the current immigration raids that are being carried out across the country by federal immigration enforcement agents? **[PLEASE DISPLAY ANSWER CHOICES IN THE SAME ORDER AS Q30]**

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Strong Approve	65%	5%	21%	32%
2. Somewhat Approve	23	14	26	19
3. Somewhat Disapprove	9	25	32	19
4. Strongly Disapprove	4	56	20	30

Q32. Which comes closest to your views regarding the immigration raids being carried out by the Trump administration?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. The immigration raids are only targeting undocumented immigrants who have a criminal record	37%	3%	12%	19%
2. The immigration raids are targeting all undocumented immigrants, regardless of whether they have a criminal record	35	81	52	58
3. I don't know who the immigration raids are targeting	28	15	37	23

Q88. As you may know, the Secretary of Homeland Security has the authority to give Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to individuals already in the United States, who are nationals of countries undergoing armed conflict, natural disasters, epidemics, or other crises that would make it unsafe for them to return. There are estimated to be over 400,000 people under this program and most TPS holders have been in this country for over a decade. Under the program, individuals with Temporary Protected Status (TPS) can reside, work, and travel throughout the United States. Currently there are ten countries designated for TPS, including Haiti, El Salvador, Syria, and South Sudan. Do you believe the program should be terminated and individuals currently protected be either forced to return to their country of origin or to another, third country?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Yes	40%	9%	18%	23%
2. No	30	74	42	52
3. Not sure	30	17	41	25

Q33. Would you say immigration helps the United States more than it hurts it, or immigration hurts the United States more than it helps it?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Helps more than it hurts	18%	67%	29%	42%
2. Hurts more than it helps	41	9	22	24
3. A little of both	41	24	49	34

Q34. In general, do you think it should be harder or easier for people to legally immigrate to the United States?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Harder	56%	20%	43%	38%
2. Easier	27	53	29	39
3. Not Sure	17	27	28	23

Q35. In your view, should LEGAL immigration be kept at its present level, increased, or decreased? **[RANDOMLY REVERSE]**

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Increased	18%	38%	22%	28%
2. Present Level	45	33	33	38
3. Decreased	27	9	16	18
4. Not Sure [FIXED]	10	20	29	16

Q36. When the U.S. government is deciding which immigrants to admit to this country, should priority be given to people who have family members already living in the U.S., or should priority be given to people based on education, job skills and work experience?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Family Members	14%	35%	24%	25%
2. Education, job skills, and work experience	74	41	44	56
3. Not sure	12	24	32	20

Q37. Which comes closest to your view about illegal immigrants who are currently living in the United States? **[RANDOMLY REVERSE]**

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. They should be allowed to stay in the United States and to eventually apply for U.S. citizenship.	25%	80%	53%	53%
2. They should be allowed to remain in the United States, but not be allowed to apply for U.S. citizenship.	8	8	10	8
3. They should be required to leave the U.S.	67	12	38	39

Q38. As you may know, when some families trying to enter the U.S. illegally at the southern border have been caught and detained, U.S. officials have separated parents from their children. Do you think this separation of parents and children is acceptable, unacceptable, or haven't you heard enough about it to say?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Acceptable	49%	5%	18%	25%
2. Unacceptable	34	92	68	65
3. Not Sure	17	3	15	10

Q39. When immigrants and their children are detained at the U.S. border for coming into the country illegally, do you think the U.S. should do everything it can to keep such families together, even if it means that fewer face criminal prosecution, or should the U.S. do everything it can to prosecute immigrants entering illegally, even if it means their families are separated?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Everything to keep families together	24%	87%	53%	56%
2. Everything to prosecute	58	7	21	30
3. Not Sure	17	7	26	13

Q40. As you may know, a judge has ordered the Trump administration to reunite parents and children who were separated at the border. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Trump administration has handled the reunifications so far?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Approve	60%	13%	28%	35%
2. Disapprove	11	76	40	44
3. Not Sure	28	11	32	21

Q41. In general, do you think undocumented immigrants are more likely to commit crimes than American citizens?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Yes	56%	8%	24%	30%
2. No	23	82	49	54
3. Not Sure	21	10	27	16

Q42. Based on information we have about crimes committed in the United States, which of the following comes closer to your view?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Undocumented immigrants commit crimes at a higher rate than the rest of the population.	48%	6%	17%	25%
2. Undocumented immigrants commit crimes at a lower rate than the rest of the population.	8	54	27	32
3. Undocumented immigrants commit crimes at the same rate as the rest of the population.	44	40	55	43

Refugees

Now we're going to ask you about refugees.

As you may know, since 2001 the United States has admitted about 1,022,000 persons with refugee status from around the world, or about 54,000 people a year on average. In U.S. law, a refugee is a person who is already living outside their own country because of a "well-founded fear of persecution." This definition can include those fleeing civil war in their home country. It excludes those who "participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion." Those applying as refugees for asylum in the U.S. are investigated by various arms of the U.S. government. This process takes about two years.

Q43. In general, do you support or oppose the United States taking in refugees from the conflicts in Syria and other Middle Eastern countries after screening them for security risks?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Support Strongly	9%	38%	20%	23%
2. Support somewhat	36	42	39	39
3. Oppose somewhat	29	13	25	21
4. Oppose strongly	26	7	16	16

Q44. It's estimated that over 5.6 million Syrian refugees have been settled in neighboring countries, such as Turkey, Jordan, and Egypt, with 360,000 housed in refugee camps, in need of resettlement. The European Union has absorbed about 1,000,000, while the U.S. has taken in about 21,050. Entry to the United States by Syrian citizens is currently forbidden by a travel ban. Assuming extensive background checks are in place to ensure there are not terrorist links, should the U.S. accept refugees from Syria specifically?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Yes	28%	79%	49%	54%
2. No	72	21	51	46

Q45. [Among those supporting absorbing refugees, Q44=1] How many refugees should the U.S. sponsor and resettle in 2020?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Less than 20,000	30%	14%	23%	18%
2. 20,000 – 50,000	40	28	33	31
3. 50,000 – 100,000	20	29	28	27
4. More than 100,000	11	29	16	24

Q46. [Among those opposing absorbing refugees, Q44=2] Which of the following concerns you most about absorbing refugees? [RANDOMIZE]

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. I'm concerned about terrorism	28%	45%	28%	32%
2. I'm concerned about having more Muslims in the U.S., even if they are peaceful	12	2	4	9
3. I'm concerned about the economic burden of absorbing refugees of any kind	56	45	45	53
4. Other [ANCHOR]	4	8	23	7

Q47. In your estimation, how many refugees have been arrested in the United States since 9/11 over terrorism charges?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Fewer than 5	4%	19%	7%	11%
2. Fewer than 25	16	30	22	23
3. Fewer than 100	33	32	38	33
4. 100 or more	47	20	33	33

Q48. If some of the refugees from the Middle East came to live in your state or community, do you think they would be welcomed?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Yes	57%	73%	63%	65%
2. No	43	27	37	35

Q49. Here are some ways the U.S. might respond to the refugee crisis. Please tell us whether you support or oppose the following measures **[RANDOMIZE ROWS; DON'T SHOW NUMBERS]**:

Q49a. The U.S. government should take in more [war] refugees, allowing them into the U.S.

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Support Strongly	4%	37%	13%	20%
2. Support somewhat	21	39	36	31
3. Oppose somewhat	33	17	26	25
4. Oppose strongly	42	7	25	24

Q49b. U.S. individuals and community groups (e.g. churches) should sponsor more refugees, helping them with funds and assistance to settle in the U.S.

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Support Strongly	11%	40%	20%	25%
2. Support somewhat	30	42	43	37
3. Oppose somewhat	26	13	20	19
4. Oppose strongly	33	6	17	19

Q49c. The U.S. should offer financial support to charities who are helping refugees abroad

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Support Strongly	11%	33%	15%	22%
2. Support somewhat	33	47	47	41
3. Oppose somewhat	23	13	20	18

4. Oppose strongly	33	7	18	20
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Q49d. The U.S. should send professionals in humanitarian work, such as nurses, doctors, and teachers to help refugees in camps abroad

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Support Strongly	25%	52%	32%	38%
2. Support somewhat	47	38	48	43
3. Oppose somewhat	15	8	13	12
4. Oppose strongly	13	2	7	8

Q50. Apart from the question of whether the U.S. should accept more refugees, does the U.S. have a moral obligation to help refugees from conflict regions around the world including the Middle East?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. No obligation	61%	17%	41%	38%
2. Some obligation	36	54	50	46
3. High obligation	3	29	8	16

Q51. On a scale of 0-10, where 0 is “not being open” and 10 is “being very open,” rate your degree of openness for refugees from the following region [**PRESENT ON SCREEN IN GRID FORMAT – RADIAL BULLETS EVENLY SPACED, TEXT AS LISTED ABOVE 0 AND 10 AND NUMBERS ABOVE RADIAL BULLET FOR EACH NUMBER**] [**RANDOMIZE ROWS**]:

Q51a. South America

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Not being open	25%	4%	18%	15%
2. “1”	9	3	1	5
3. “2”	7	2	2	4
4. “3”	9	4	7	6
5. “4”	6	3	5	5
6. “5”	23	20	31	22
7. “6”	6	5	6	6
8. “7”	6	11	11	9
9. “8”	4	10	6	7
10. “9”	1	7	2	4
11. Being very open	4	32	11	18

Q51b. Central America

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Not being open	25%	5%	19%	15%
2. "1"	8	3	2	5
3. "2"	9	2	2	5
4. "3"	9	4	8	7
5. "4"	8	4	6	6
6. "5"	21	19	27	21
7. "6"	5	5	5	5
8. "7"	4	10	11	8
9. "8"	4	10	6	7
10. "9"	1	7	2	4
11. Being very open	4	32	12	18

Q51c. Africa

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Not being open	26%	5%	19%	15%
2. "1"	7	2	1	4
3. "2"	8	3	3	5
4. "3"	8	3	6	6
5. "4"	7	2	7	5
6. "5"	24	19	27	22
7. "6"	5	5	5	5
8. "7"	5	11	10	8
9. "8"	4	11	4	8
10. "9"	1	6	4	4
11. Being very open	5	33	13	19

Q51d. The Middle East

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Not being open	35%	9%	22%	22%
2. "1"	12	3	6	7
3. "2"	9	4	5	6
4. "3"	9	5	7	7
5. "4"	6	4	9	5
6. "5"	16	19	25	18
7. "6"	4	5	2	4
8. "7"	2	10	11	7
9. "8"	2	10	3	6
10. "9"	1	6	2	3
11. Being very open	3	27	9	15

Q51e. East Asia

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Not being open	23%	5%	16%	14%
2. "1"	6	2	3	4
3. "2"	7	2	3	4
4. "3"	7	4	7	6
5. "4"	7	5	6	6
6. "5"	25	20	27	23
7. "6"	7	5	6	6
8. "7"	5	10	10	8
9. "8"	6	12	6	9
10. "9"	1	5	2	3
11. Being very open	5	30	12	17

Q52. Some believe that the term "refugee" should refer only to those individuals fleeing their home country to escape violence or persecution. Others argue "refugee" should also apply to those seeking to escape poverty in their home country. Which is closest to your view?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. "Refugee" should refer only to those fleeing violence or persecution	87%	57%	72%	72%
2. "Refugee" should include those seeking to escape poverty	13	43	28	28

Q53. [If Q43=1 or 2 ("Strongly Support" or "Somewhat Support"), ask Q53] Which of the following factors was most important in determining your decision to support taking in refugees? [RANDOMIZE]

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Moral obligation	44%	63%	41%	55%
2. U.S. national security interests	32	6	17	15
3. The fact that the U.S. is a signatory to a U.N. Convention, which obligates it to accept refugees	12	24	22	20
4. Other [FIXED]	12	6	20	9

Q54. Do you support congressional legislation to extend refugee status to victims of natural disasters?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Support	21%	66%	40%	44%
2. Oppose	45	10	22	27
3. Neither	34	23	37	29

Border Wall

Now we are going to ask you about the building of a wall along the southern border.

Q55. On a scale where 1 is “not close at all” and 5 is “very close”, please rate each opinion based on how closely it aligns with your own views. **[PRESENT ON SCREEN IN GRID FORMAT – RADIAL BULLETS EVENLY SPACED, TEXT AS LISTED ABOVE 0 AND 10 AND NUMBERS ABOVE RADIAL BULLET FOR EACH NUMBER] TEXT ABOVE RADIAL BULLETS→ [RANDOMIZE ROWS]**

Q55A. Those who support the building of a border wall along the southern border (Mexico) argue that it is the United States’ right to establish and protect its sovereign borders and to control who does and who does not enter the country. Proponents also argue that the wall is necessary to make sure that crime and drugs do not flow over from Mexico and to protect U.S. workers from undocumented and cheap labor that they would be forced to compete with.

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. “Not Close at All”	5%	62%	29%	34%
2. “2”	4	13	12	9
3. “3”	8	10	24	10
4. “4”	12	6	12	9
5. “Very Close”	72	8	24	37

Q55B. Those who oppose the building of a border wall along the southern border (Mexico) argue that the wall will do very little to stop illegal immigration because the problem is more attributed to visa overstays than to illegal border crossings. Opponents also point to the prohibitive cost of building and maintaining the wall and that for a country built by immigrants, the wall sends the wrong message about the values America wants to promote.

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. “Not Close at All”	63%	9%	19%	33%
2. “2”	13	5	11	9
3. “3”	10	8	23	10
4. “4”	6	18	16	13
5. “Very Close”	7	60	31	34

Q56. Now tell me, which one is ultimately closer to your view?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. I support the building of a border wall along the southern border	88%	10%	42%	47%
2. I oppose the building of a border wall along the southern border	12	90	58	53

Q57. Regardless of whether you support or oppose the building of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, do you believe the wall will be built?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Yes	65%	15%	31%	39%
2. No	13	52	32	33
3. Not sure	22	32	37	28

Q58. Do you believe the current number and nature of individuals attempting to enter into the United States through its southern border constitutes a ‘national emergency.’

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Yes	77%	9%	25%	40%
2. No	15	84	57	51
3. Not sure	7	8	18	8

Q59. How much new wall do you believe the Trump Administration has constructed along the U.S. -Mexico border (which spans 1,954 miles) since taking office?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. None	14%	41%	37%	29%
2. Less than 100 miles	41	38	33	39
3. Less than 300 miles	29	14	15	20
4. Less than 600 miles	10	3	8	7
5. 600 miles or more	7	4	8	6

Q60. Congress recently passed a budget resolution to keep the government open that allocated a much smaller amount of money than President Trump wanted for a structure/wall at the southern border. As a result, President Trump has declared a national emergency “at the southern border of the United States” which would allow him to tap into funds from other government programs especially the military to build a structure/wall that he argues would enhance security at the southern border. Do you agree or disagree with the president’s declaration of a national emergency at the southern border?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Agree	74%	5%	20%	36%
2. Disagree	19	92	57	57
3. Not sure	7	3	23	7

Middle East Policy

Now we would like to ask you specifically about American foreign policy toward the Middle East.

Q80. One of the issues of tension between the United States and Israel has been its construction of Israeli settlements in the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war. These settlements are considered illegal by most of the international community and have been opposed by every U.S. administration, both Republican and Democratic. The Israeli government has continued to build settlements arguing that they have the right to do so, or that these are not obstacles to peace. How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements? **[RANDOMLY REVERSE]**

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Do nothing	41%	16%	32%	28%
2. Limit U.S. opposition to words, but take no other action	31	22	23	26
3. Impose some economic sanctions, either through the United Nations or unilaterally	16	40	21	28
4. Take more serious action	7	17	14	12
Refused	5	5	9	6