Immigration

Who Should We Welcome? What Should We Do?

NOW THAT YOU'VE HAD a chance to participate in a forum on this issue, we'd like to know what you're thinking. Anonymous responses will be included in summary reports on the forums and in research to help us better understand how people are thinking about current issues.

1. Here are some priorities for improving the US immigration system. Thinking about yourself and your community, which of these items do you see as one of the top two or three priorities for improving the system, which do you see as helpful but not a top priority, which is not a priority at all, and which do you oppose? Keep in mind that making major changes in the US immigration system will be difficult, and we'll have to make some choices about what to work on first.

	One of my top three priorities	Helpful but not a top priority	Not a priority at all	I oppose this	I am unsure about this
A. Giving undocumented adults who entered the US without permission years ago a chance to pay a fine and back taxes and earn a pathway to legal status					
B. Building a secure wall along our southern border to prevent the constant flow of illegal immigrants, drug dealers, and other criminals among them					
C. Prosecuting employers if they hire workers without legal papers					
D. Giving legal status to "DREAMers"—the children of undocumented immigrants brought to this country with their families when they were very young					
E. Deporting those who entered the US illegally and requiring them to apply for legal entry just as many others already do					
F. Reducing the number of legal immigrants and refugees admitted to the US every year					
G. Restricting family reunification to spouses and young children (immediate, rather than extended, family members) to better control the number of legal immigrants allowed to enter the country each year					
H. Ensuring that children caught up in the immigration system remain with their families and receive good care and schooling					
I. Requiring all immigrants who apply for permanent residency to learn English					

For the following questions, let us know *which is more important to you*. If you're not sure, please let us know.

2. To show we are a nation of laws and prevent people who break the law from getting an unfair advantage, we should deport the millions of immigrants who came here illegally and make them reapply for entry to the US. ☐

    VERSUS:

    Deporting millions of people who are living and working here peacefully because they entered the country illegally years ago is cruel. In this case, the punishment far outweighs the crime. ☐

    OR:

    Not sure ☐

3. Welcoming newcomers from around the world makes our country vibrant and strong; we should keep immigration at current levels. ☐

    VERSUS:

    Current levels of immigration are too high, and the country is now becoming so diverse that we are endangering our ability to assimilate newcomers and maintain our national unity. ☐

    OR:

    Not sure ☐

Forum questionnaires are designed to help individual participants and forum groups clarify their priorities. The results should not be interpreted as a scientific public opinion study.

4. Welcoming immigrants who want to work since they are badly needed in a number of low- and high-skilled fields ☐

    VERSUS:

    Giving preference to well-educated, financially self-sufficient immigrants who will not take jobs away from low-income Americans or become a burden on their community's social services ☐

    OR:

    Not sure ☐

For the following questions, let us know *which statement comes closer to your view*. If you're not sure, please let us know.

5. Pressuring so-called sanctuary cities to cooperate with federal immigration agents is merely enforcing the law. We can't allow communities to set up their own rules in defiance of federal legislation. ☐

    VERSUS:

    Local communities are right to push back against federal authorities who might harass and frighten undocumented residents. Local police forces can determine whether immigrants pose a danger or not. ☐

    OR:

    Not sure ☐

6. Deporting millions of undocumented immigrants working illegally across the country would give many Americans a chance at jobs they need. ☐

    VERSUS:

    Deporting these immigrants would wreak havoc on a number of American industries, such as farming and meatpacking, that depend heavily on these workers. Most Americans don't want these jobs. ☐

    OR:

    Not sure ☐

7. Thinking about your forum overall, how much disagreement was there among the group?

    ☐ A lot of disagreement ☐ Some disagreement ☐ Hardly any disagreement at all

8. Did you talk about aspects of the issue you hadn't considered before? ☐ Yes ☐ No

    If so, please explain. _____

    _____

9. Were there ideas or proposals that you tended to favor coming into the forum that you now have second thoughts about?

    ☐ Yes ☐ No

    If so, please explain. _____

    _____

10. What could citizens, working together, do in their own communities to address this problem? _____

    _____

    _____

11. Not including this forum, how many National Issues Forums have you attended?

    ☐ 0 ☐ 1-3 ☐ 4-6 ☐ 7 or more ☐ Not sure

12. Are you male or female? ☐ Male ☐ Female ☐ Other (please specify) _____

13. How old are you?

    ☐ 17 or younger ☐ 18-30 ☐ 31-45 ☐ 46-64 ☐ 65 or older

14. Are you: ☐ African American ☐ Asian American ☐ Hispanic or Latino ☐ Native American

    ☐ White/Caucasian ☐ Other (please specify) _____

15. In what type of community do you live? ☐ City/Urban ☐ Suburban ☐ Rural

16. What is your ZIP code? _____ What state do you live in? _____

17. What issue would you like to see covered in a future forum? _____

Please give this form to the moderator, email to forumreports@nifi.org, or mail to: National Issues Forums Institute, 100 Commons Road, Dayton, Ohio 45459. You may also fill out this questionnaire on line at www.nifi.org/questionnaires.