



Americans Talk about Illegal Immigration
Original Poll Questions
(April 2006)

1. I'd like to ask you a few questions about immigration into the U.S., that is, when people from other countries come to live in the United States. Currently, immigration is the driving force behind population growth in the U.S. If present rates of fertility and immigration continue, the nation's population is expected to be about 420 million people by the year 2050, up from about 300 million now.

Currently, the U.S. accepts about one million new legal immigrants a year. In addition, about 500 thousand immigrants come to this country each year illegally and settle here permanently. Legal and illegal immigration combined, therefore, has been close to one and a half million people a year in recent years.

This question is about legal immigration only, currently about one million a year. What do you think would be the most desirable number of legal immigrants to allow into the U.S. each year? Do you think we should allow:

- A. No Immigrants
- B. Fewer than 100,000
- C. 100,000 to under 300,000
- D. 300,000 to under 600,000
- E. 600,000 to under 1,000,000
- F. One million to two million
- G. Over two million
- H. It doesn't matter/No Limit (VOL)
- I. Don't know
- J. Refused

2. As I mentioned earlier, the current size of the U.S. population is about 300 million people. If present rates of fertility and immigration continue, our population will grow to around 420 million by 2050 – 44 years from now. In your judgment, which of the following population sizes would be best for our country to have in the long run?

- A. Under 150 million
- B. 150 million to under 300 million
- C. 300 million – the size we have right now
- D. 301 million to under 400 million
- E. 400 million or more
- F. It doesn't matter/No Limit (VOL)
- G. Don't know
- H. Refused

3. I am going to read a list of the types of legal immigrants the U.S. allows into the country. For each one, based on anything you might have seen or heard, please tell me whether you think the U.S. should allow more, less, or current levels of these kinds of immigrants into the country each year.

- Immediate families, such as spouses and children under the age of 21 of current U.S. citizens and legal resident aliens. Currently, about 500,000 are admitted each year.
- Extended families, such as parents, adult children, and brothers and sisters of current U.S. citizens and legal resident aliens. Currently, about 120,000 are admitted each year.
- Persons determined to be fleeing oppression or hardship abroad. Currently, about 118,000 are admitted each year.
- Highly skilled workers. Currently, about 153,000 are admitted each year.
- Unskilled workers. Currently, about 4,000 are admitted each year.
- Persons with a high school education or equivalent chosen by lottery from countries sending relatively few immigrants to the U.S. Currently, about 50,000 are admitted each year.

4. Present law requires that employers check the legal status of job applicants. Some argue that a law is also needed that would require people to go through a verification check of their U.S. citizenship or lawful presence when applying for additional things such as a driver's license, a bank account and the like. Please tell me if you agree or disagree that such a check be done when:

	Strong Agree	Moderately Agree	Mildly Agree	Mildly Disagree	Moderately Disagree	Strong Disagree	Don't Know	Refuse
Applying for a Driver's License	6	5	4	3	2	1	X	Y
Seeking Medical Care in a Hospital	6	5	4	3	2	1	X	Y
Enrolling in an institution for post-high school education (such as a technical school or college)	6	5	4	3	2	1	X	Y
Opening a bank account	6	5	4	3	2	1	X	Y

5. The Bush administration and some senators are promoting a program that would allow upwards of 10 million illegal immigrants now residing in the U.S. to remain as guest workers for 6 years, with the possibility of then applying for permanent residence. Based on anything you might have seen or heard, do you support or oppose this program? If you don't feel you are familiar enough with the program to make a judgment, just let me know.

- A. Support strongly
- B. Support moderately
- C. Support mildly
- D. Oppose mildly
- E. Oppose moderately
- F. Oppose strongly
- G. Don't know
- H. Refused

I am going to read some statements. For each one I read, please tell me whether you agree or disagree with it.

6. First, "Congress should act now to set a goal of halting completely the annual entry of an estimated 500 thousand new illegal immigrants." Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- A. Agree strongly
- B. Agree moderately
- C. Agree mildly
- D. Disagree mildly
- E. Disagree moderately
- F. Disagree strongly
- G. Don't know
- H. Refused

7. Here is another statement. "Congress should set a goal of reducing the 10 to 12 million illegal immigrants already present in the U.S. to near zero." Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- A. Agree strongly
- B. Agree moderately
- C. Agree mildly
- D. Disagree mildly
- E. Disagree moderately
- F. Disagree strongly
- G. Don't know
- H. Refused

8. And another statement: “To achieve the goal of halting completely the annual entry of an estimated 500 thousand new illegal immigrants, Congress should authorize tough measures to do it, up to and including a mandatory prison sentence and fine, followed by deportation, for anyone here illegally.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- A. Agree strongly
- B. Agree moderately
- C. Agree mildly
- D. Disagree mildly
- E. Disagree moderately
- F. Disagree strongly
- G. Don't know
- H. Refused

9. Here's another statement: “To achieve the goal of reducing the number of illegal immigrants already living permanently in the U.S. from 10 to 12 million to near zero, Congress should authorize tough measures to do it, up to and including a mandatory prison sentence and fine, followed by deportation, for anyone here illegally.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- A. Agree strongly
- B. Agree moderately
- C. Agree mildly
- D. Disagree mildly
- E. Disagree moderately
- F. Disagree strongly
- G. Don't know
- H. Refused

10. And next: “A practical way to reduce to near zero the number of illegal immigrants now living here permanently is for Congress to make penalties for illegal presence here so severe that illegal immigrants would leave voluntarily rather than run the risk of being caught and penalized.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- A. Agree strongly
- B. Agree moderately
- C. Agree mildly
- D. Disagree mildly
- E. Disagree moderately
- F. Disagree strongly
- G. Don't know
- H. Refused

11. And next: “About 380,00 babies are born each year in the United States to illegal immigrants and automatically become American citizens because they are born here. Congress should act to deny automatic U.S. citizenship to babies born here to illegal immigrants.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- A. Agree strongly
- B. Agree moderately
- C. Agree mildly
- D. Disagree mildly
- E. Disagree moderately
- F. Disagree strongly
- G. Don't know
- H. Refused

12. And finally: “The Federal government should strictly enforce present laws calling for criminal penalties for employers who, after having been repeatedly cited, continue to knowingly hire illegal immigrants.” Do you agree or disagree with this statement?

- A. Agree strongly
- B. Agree moderately
- C. Agree mildly
- D. Disagree mildly
- E. Disagree moderately
- F. Disagree strongly
- G. Don't know
- H. Refused