



## IMMIGRATION REFORM – A TEXAS PERSPECTIVE

**New statewide survey shows that a majority of Texas voters favor a comprehensive solution to the nation's broken immigration system and want Congress to fix the problem this year.**

### Summary of Key Findings

**Immigration is a hot topic among Texas voters.** 90% have heard, read or seen “a lot” or “some” recently about the immigration laws of the United States, and 77% say illegal immigration is an “extremely serious” or “very serious issue” for Texas.

**Texas voters overwhelmingly believe immigration our nation's immigration system needs a major overhaul and they want Congress to act this year.** When asked about their view of the nation's immigration system, three-quarters agree that it “is broken and needs a major overhaul.” Similar numbers, 76%, believe Congress and the President should act this year to address the issue.

**The proposed comprehensive immigration bill is supported by almost 6 in10 Texas voters, including majorities of both Republicans and Democrats.** When presented a short description of the current proposed Senate legislation, 59% say they favor it. And there is little difference along party lines – Republicans (59%), Democrats (62%), and Independents (55%) support it in almost equal numbers.

**Strong majorities of Texas voters also support the major individual provisions of the bill.**

- **Border Security:** 73% favor doubling the number of Border Patrol agents, building hundreds of miles of fencing and increasing the use of advanced technology along the border. This includes 86% of Republicans, 61% of Democrats, and 68% of Independents.
- **Workplace Enforcement:** 83% favor imposing tougher penalties on employers who hire illegal immigrants while giving them better methods of verifying the status of their workers to ensure they are hiring legal workers. This includes 86% of Republicans, 76% of Democrats, and 87% of Independents.
- **Temporary Worker Program:** 63% favor creating a temporary worker program allowing foreign workers to enter the U.S. for jobs Americans are not doing, with these temporary workers having to return to their country after a set number of years. This includes 61% of Republicans, 66% of Democrats, and 63% of Independents.
- **Process for Legalization:** 63% favor creating a system that would provide illegal immigrants already in this country a chance to obtain legal status by registering with the government, paying a fine, passing a background check, and paying any back taxes owed. This includes 56% of Republicans, 71% of Democrats, and 62% of Independents

**Texas voters think they bill should be voted on by the full U.S. Senate.** 84% agree that a U.S. Senator should allow a full vote on the immigration bill, even if the Senator opposes the bill

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### **About the poll**

The poll was conducted via telephone June 13-17, 2007, by the market research firm Baseline & Associates ([www.baseline.com](http://www.baseline.com)).

The sample included 1001 randomly selected Texas registered voters and has been weighted slightly to reflect the state's demographic and political makeup.

The margin of error is +/-3.1%