

Survey Finds Most Americans Favor Deportation for Illegal Immigrants

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Thirty-five percent of Americans feel that first priority should be given to legal immigration applicants who have U.S. resident family members — according to a nationwide Qualtrics survey.

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The survey showed 28 percent of respondents feel employability should be given the most weight in a potential immigrant's application for residency, with 26 percent favoring a first-come-first-served policy. Most respondents — 35 percent — felt family relationships should determine priority status.

'Immigration is a hot, but sensitive topic of debate among the political community right now,' says Ryan Smith, Qualtrics Director. 'We know what our leaders and candidates think, but we hoped an anonymous survey to a large panel would help discover the average American's opinion on the issue.'

While deportation was the most popular solution offered for illegal immigration, 20 percent of respondents say immigrants should be given legal status and a chance at citizenship. Ten percent are happy with the current system, and the remaining two percent want to see illegal immigrants in jail.

When asked about funding for national border security, 68 percent want to see an increase, and 27 percent are happy with the status quo. Considering legal immigration to the United States, most Americans feel it should be more difficult — with precedence going to those with U.S. family-members.

'It's interesting to see a strong, American value like family relationships come through in an analysis of survey data on a topic like this,' Smith says. 'It's satisfying — in a strange, statistical kind of way.'

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