Strong Support for 'Controlled Immigration' Among Evangelical Likely Republican Voters

September 9, 2013

METHODOLOGY: This is a compilation of surveys conducted during the Spring 2013 Senate debate on immigration legislation. The surveys were in politically competitive states, primarily ones with a Senator from each party or with Senators from a party other than the one that won the presidential voting in 2012: On April 3, 2013 in NC, WV and AK. On April 15-17, 2013 in IA, NH, OH, LA, KY, AR, MT, IN, SD, MI, VA, CO. On April 23-25, 2013 in NV, MO, PA, WI, ND, and IL. On May 20-21, 2013 in TN and NE. National surveys were conducted on April 18 and May 20, 2013.

The margin of sampling error was +/- 1.9% percentage points with a 95% level of confidence. Pulse Opinion Research, LLC is an independent public opinion research firm using automated polling methodology and procedures licensed from Rasmussen Reports, LLC. The survey was conducted using an established automated polling methodology: 90% of the sample calls were placed to randomly-selected phone numbers through a process that insures appropriate geographic representation; 10% of the sample was conducted via online surveys of those individuals who use a cell-phone as their primary telephone. After the calls and on-line surveys are completed, the raw data is processed through a weighting program to insure that the sample reflects the overall population in terms of age, race, gender, political party, and other factors. The processing step is required because different segments of the population answer the phone in different ways. For example, women answer the phone more than men, older people are home more and answer more than younger people, and rural residents typically answer the phone more frequently than urban residents. The population targets were based upon census bureau data, a series of screening questions to determine likely voters, and other factors. Pulse Opinion Research determines its partisan weighting targets through a dynamic weighting system that takes into account voting history, national trends, and recent polling.
1. The government reports that 20 million Americans who want a full-time job cannot find one. Over the next two years how would you rate their prospects of getting a job?

- Excellent: 6%
- Good: 9%
- Fair: 30%
- Poor: 52%
- Not Sure: 3%
2. Congress is considering a bill to give work permits to an estimated 7 million illegal immigrant workers. Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose or strongly oppose the work permits?

- Strongly support: 7%
- Somewhat support: 9%
- Somewhat oppose: 19%
- Strongly oppose: 63%
- Not Sure: 2%

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3. *(Answered only by the 16% of likely voters who support work permits)* Do you support giving work permits to nearly all illegal immigrants, most of them, or some of them?

- Nearly All: 33%
- Most: 28%
- Some: 34%
- Not Sure: 5%

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4. Do you believe less educated illegal immigrants compete with less-educated Americans for construction, manufacturing, hospitality and other service jobs?

- Yes: 73%
- No: 16%
- Not Sure: 11%

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5. How much moral responsibility do you feel Congress has to help protect the ability of current illegal immigrants to hold a job and support their families without fear of deportation: a lot, some, very little or none?

- A lot: 13%
- Some: 15%
- Very Little: 25%
- None: 40%
- Not Sure: 7%

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6. How much moral responsibility do you feel Congress has to help protect unemployed or low-wage Americans from having to compete with foreign workers for U.S. jobs: A lot, some, very little or none?

- A lot: 54%
- Some: 23%
- Very little: 12%
- None: 8%
- Not sure: 3%

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7. In recent years, the government has issued permanent green cards to approximately 1 million new immigrants each year. Is this number too high, too low or about right?

- Too high: 64%
- Too low: 5%
- About right: 21%
- Not sure: 11%

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8. Do you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree that the United States is faced with labor shortages and needs more immigrant workers?

- Strongly agree: 7%
- Somewhat agree: 8%
- Somewhat disagree: 24%
- Strongly disagree: 56%
- Not sure: 6%

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9. On the issue of fighting illegal immigration, is the government doing too much, not enough or about the right amount?

- Too much: 8%
- About the right amount: 7%
- Not enough: 77%
- Not sure: 7%

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10. SOME in Congress propose work permits for illegal immigrants first, followed by 10 years of implementing border and workplace enforcement to stop future flows of illegal workers. OTHERS in Congress say full enforcement at the borders and workplace must be implemented first and then work permits can be considered. Which do you prefer?

- Work permits first, followed by 10 years of implementing enforcement: 13%
- Full enforcement first, before considering work permits: 80%
- Not sure: 8%

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11. Are you more likely to vote for a political party that supports enforcing immigration laws first or that supports legalizing illegal immigrants first?

- A political party that supports enforcing immigration laws first: 84%
- A political party that supports legalizing illegal immigrants first: 7%
- Not sure: 8%

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12. What is the government's most urgent priority in setting immigration policy this year: Bring otherwise law-abiding illegal immigrants out of the shadows, protecting unemployed less-educated Americans from competition from foreign workers, or ensuring that employers get the foreign workers they need to keep the economy strong?

- Bring illegal immigrants out of the shadows: 17%
- Protect unemployed Americans from foreign-worker competition: 68%
- Ensure employers get workers they need for strong economy: 9%
- Not sure: 5%

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13. Do you favor or oppose requiring all employers to use E-Verify to electronically ensure that they are hiring only legal workers for U.S. jobs?

- Favor: 83%
- Oppose: 6%
- Not sure: 11%

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14. In terms of dealing with the illegal immigrant population of 11 million, would you prefer that the United States deport most, deport only some but ensure the rest take no jobs or taxpayer assistance, or provide most with legal status and work permits?

- **Deport most**: 46%
- **Deport some but ensure no jobs or assistance for the rest**: 32%
- **Legal status and work permits for most**: 12%
- **Not sure**: 10%

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