



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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North Carolinians split over immigration

Raleigh, N.C. – A recent survey conducted on June 18, 2007 by Public Policy Polling (PPP) found that most North Carolinians do not support allowing the almost 12 million undocumented immigrants in this country to gain legal status. Fifty percent of respondents said they oppose a plan that would allow illegal immigrants to start on a path to citizenship.

North Carolinians are also split over a temporary guest worker program, with 47% in favor and 45% opposed. However, when asked what priority the federal government should give to those being admitted into the country, a majority of people, 57%, favored admitting immigrants based on skills and education rather than family ties.

On the issue of smoking, a majority of respondents supported both banning smoking in public places and on college campuses. The bans received 62% and 58% support, respectively. There is still a vocal minority who oppose banning smoking, though. Twenty-four percent of people strongly opposed both measures.

When it comes to gas prices and how to deal with their rising cost, responses were not surprising. There is strong support for requiring auto makers to increase the fuel economy on the cars they sell, with 66% supporting. However, people are not willing to incur a higher gasoline tax in an effort to force investment in alternative fuel sources. Seventy-five percent of respondents were opposed to the idea of a higher gas tax, with 56% being strongly opposed.

This survey was a project of Mark Yacoub, a junior at NC State University.

PPP surveyed 779 likely voters on June 18. The survey had a margin of error of +/-3.5%. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify.

Complete results are attached and can be found at www.publicpolicypolling.com. For more discussion of the poll visit the Public Policy Polling blog at <http://publicpolicypolling.blogspot.com>. If you have questions about this release or would like an interview regarding this release, please contact Mark Yacoub at 919-649-5263.

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Immigration, Smoking and Gas Prices in North Carolina

June 25, 2007

Introduction

Public Policy Polling surveyed likely North Carolina voters on Thursday, June 14, 2007 in order to better understand voters' opinions on the issues of immigration reform, the price of gasoline, and smoking. We cross tabulated the responses to each of the seven questions asked against four key demographic measures: gender, political affiliation, race, and age.

Results

Immigration

Respondents were asked three questions concerning immigration reform and the recent immigration bill in Congress. When asked if allowing the illegal immigrants already in the United States to start on a path to citizenship, 50% of respondents were opposed, while 39% were in favor. Although most people were opposed to the idea of citizenship for illegal immigrants, the breakdowns by gender and party on the issue were very telling.

Although 60% of men opposed the idea, a plurality of women, 45%, supported it, with only 39% of women being opposed. The fact that men tend to be more Republican while women are generally more Democratic could help to explain why men were much more strongly opposed.

In terms of party, the issue breaks down as expected. Thirty-three percent of Republicans are opposed and 56% favor, while 48% of Democrats favor and 35% oppose. Republicans have a much more negative view of illegal immigration. Democrats, on the other hand, seem to feel less strongly about the issue of immigration in general, as shown by the 17% of Democrats polled who are unsure about the issue of citizenship.

When it comes to people's views on a temporary guest worker program, respondents as a whole evenly split: 47% favored such a measure and 45% opposed.

Cross tabulating by party reveals a split on the issue. A majority of Democrats support a guest worker program (52%) but Republicans are split evenly, which also mirrors the debate in the Senate over the issue. While many Republicans are backing the idea of a guest worker program, the more conservative members of

the party are still very much opposed to the idea and are more negative toward illegal immigrants in general.

The last question about immigration asks about the basis on which we admit immigrants into this country and whether it should be based on family connections or education and skills. The responses to this question differed very little based on any of the demographic categories: a majority of every demographic group favors admitting immigrants based on skills and education rather than family, even though men and Republicans more strongly favor skills.

The one clear finding from these results is that North Carolinians are split over how to approach immigration reform. Although most people do not want to give undocumented immigrants legal status, there is no consensus over implementing a guest worker program. This lack of clarity over how to approach the issue has led to problems at both the state and national levels. Voters in North Carolina are unsure as to whether or not they should support the Congressional immigration reform bill because representatives themselves from both parties are split over their support. While moderate Republicans support the bill, most conservatives are opposed; as are some liberal Democrats, though the majority of Democrats favor the proposal. Nationally, the lack of clear support for such a bill and the measures included in it are a major deterrent to a comprehensive plan achieving success.

Smoking

Two questions were included in the survey about smoking: one concerned banning smoking in public places and the other with banning smoking on college campuses. In both cases, a majority of respondents supported the measures. Sixty-two percent of likely voters said they strongly or somewhat supported banning smoking in public places and 58% said they supported banning smoking on college campuses. A plurality of respondents also said they strongly supported each measure, showing that support for smoking bans is widely held throughout the state.

Differences in opinion are starkest between men and women. Men are almost twice more likely to strongly oppose banning smoking, while women support both measures at higher rates than men.

The most interesting result is the responses given based on age. For both issues, support grows with greater age. Respondents in the lowest age group, 18-29, strongly oppose each measure more than any other age group. This is startling considering how much information is available to young people concerning the

health effects of cigarettes and might indicate a growing disdain for government regulation among young people in North Carolina.

Gas Prices

A large majority, 66% of respondents favor requiring automobile manufacturers to increase the gas mileage on their cars. This percentage, though, is lower than that of national polls. A Gallup pole in March of this year found that 79% of people favored setting higher auto emissions standards for automobiles. Men, Republicans, whites, and people between the ages of 30 and 60 in North Carolina were more opposed to such a measure, however, evidencing conservative opposition to government regulation, whatever it may entail.

On the issue of a higher gas tax, not surprisingly, there was overwhelming opposition. A majority of people, 56%, were strongly opposed to a higher gas tax, and 75% of respondents were opposed overall. A majority of every demographic group opposed the measure, but again, men, Republicans, and those between the ages of 30 and 60 were more heavily opposed. People are generally supportive of measures that would help lower gasoline costs or aid the environment, as long as those measures do not create a higher tax burden on themselves.

Methodology

Public Policy Polling surveyed 779 likely North Carolina voters on June 14. The samples were chosen by randomly selecting voters from the North Carolina voter file who had a history of voting in statewide election during the last 4 years.

Our surveys are conducted using Interactive Voice Response (IVR) phone technology. The same recorded voice is played to every respondent, who answer questions using their telephone keypad. The standardized voice dramatically reduces the effect of interviewer bias.

The survey responses are weighted to accurately reflect the demographic breakdown of the desired population. The survey has a margin of error of $\pm 3.46\%$. Other factors, such as refusal to be interviewed and weighting, may introduce additional error that is more difficult to quantify. The exact wording of questions can be found on the respective survey results page.

Who We Are

Since 2001 Public Policy Polling (PPP) has provided poll data and expert analysis for the public, opinion leaders and public policy makers in the state of North Carolina. PPP continues to be dedicated to tracking issue trends, campaign

match-ups, and approval ratings on key figures in the state. You can find more of our polling data and analysis at our website, www.publicpolicypolling.com.

Mark Yacoub is a junior Political Science major at NC State University. He is from Raleigh and has lived there since 1997.



NC Issues Survey Results

Q1 There are currently almost 12 million illegal immigrants living in the United States. Would you favor or oppose allowing those who have been living and working in the United States for a number of years, and who do not have a criminal record, to start on a path to citizenship. If you favor, press 1. If you oppose, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

Favor39% *Not Sure*.....11%
Oppose50%

Q2 Would you favor or oppose a program allowing people from other countries to be guest workers in the U.S. for a temporary period of time, and then be required to return to their home country? If you favor a temporary guest worker program, press 1. If you oppose it, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

Favor.....47% *Not Sure*..... 8%
Oppose45%

Q3 When the U.S. government is deciding which immigrants to admit to this country, should priority be given to people who have family members already living in the U.S., or should priority be given to people based on education, job skills and work experience? If priority should be given to family members, press 1. If priority should be given based on education and skills, press 2. If you are not sure, press 3.

Family Connections22% *Skills*.....57%
Not Sure.....21%

Q4 Some people have proposed that for health reasons, smoking should be banned in all public work places, including bars and restaurants. Others think that the government should not regulate smoking in public areas. How likely are you to support or oppose a bill banning smoking in public work places - strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose? If you strongly support, press 1. If you somewhat support, press 2. If you somewhat oppose, press 3. If you strongly oppose, press 4. If you are not sure, press 5.

Strongly Support ...48% *Strongly Oppose* ...24%
*Somewhat Support*14% *Not Sure*..... 2%
*Somewhat Oppose*13%

Q5 1. Some people also argue that smoking should be banned on college campuses, not only in dorms and classrooms, but on campus grounds in general. How likely are you to support or oppose such a proposal - strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose? If you strongly support, press 1. If you somewhat support, press 2. If you somewhat oppose, press 3. If you strongly oppose, press 4. If you are not sure, press 5.

Strongly Support....41% *Strongly Oppose*....24%
*Somewhat Support*17% *Not Sure*..... 3%
*Somewhat Oppose*16%





Q6 Recently, gas prices have again climbed to above \$3 per gallon and some people argue that automobile manufacturers should be forced to increase gas mileage and cut back emissions. How likely are you to support or oppose a bill that would require automakers to increase the gas mileage of cars sold in North Carolina - strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose? If you strongly support, press 1. If you somewhat support, press 2. If you somewhat oppose, press 3. If you strongly oppose, press 4. If you are not sure, press 5.

Strongly Support40% *Strongly Oppose*16%
Somewhat Support 26% *Not Sure*..... 3%
Somewhat Oppose .15%

Q7 Another proposal being considered to lower our dependence on oil is to institute a higher gasoline tax. Proponents of a higher gas tax argue that it would encourage conservation by forcing us to invest in alternative fuel sources, while others are opposed because it would increase the cost of gasoline. How likely are you to support or oppose an increased gas tax to reduce our dependence on oil - strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, or strongly oppose? If you strongly support, press 1. If you somewhat support, press 2. If you somewhat oppose, press 3. If you strongly oppose, press 4. If you are not sure, press 5.

Strongly Support10% *Strongly Oppose*56%
Somewhat Support .11% *Not Sure*..... 3%
Somewhat Oppose .19%

Q8 If you are a woman, press 1, if a man, press 2.

Women51% *Men*.....49%

Q9 What is your political affiliation? If Democrat, press 1. If Republican, press 2. If other, press 3.

Democrat36% *Other*.....23%
Republican.....40%

Q10 If you are white, press one now. If you are African-American, press two now. If other, press 3.

White88% *Other*..... 6%
Black..... 7%

Q11 If you are 18 to 29 years old, press 1 now. If you are 30 to 45, press 2. If you are 46 to 60, press 3. If older, press 4.

18-29..... 6% *46-60*.....33%
30-45.....23% *Older than 60*.....38%





NC Issues Crosstabs

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
Illegal Immigrant Citizenship			
Favor	38%	45%	30%
Oppose	49%	39%	60%
Not Sure	13%	16%	10%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
Guest Worker Program			
Favor	47%	47%	46%
Oppose	45%	43%	48%
Not Sure	8%	10%	6%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
How to Admit Immigrants			
Family Connections	21%	20%	22%
Skills	57%	53%	61%
Not Sure	22%	26%	17%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
Ban Smoking in Public Places			
Strongly Support	47%	51%	42%
Somewhat Support	14%	15%	13%
Somewhat Oppose	13%	12%	14%
Strongly Oppose	24%	18%	30%
Not Sure	2%	3%	1%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
Ban Smoking in College			
Strongly Support	40%	43%	36%
Somewhat Support	18%	19%	16%
Somewhat Oppose	16%	16%	15%
Strongly Oppose	23%	17%	30%
Not Sure	4%	5%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
Increase Auto Gas Mileage			
Strongly Support	40%	41%	39%
Somewhat Support	27%	29%	23%
Somewhat Oppose	14%	13%	15%
Strongly Oppose	15%	10%	21%
Not Sure	4%	6%	2%

	Base	Gender	
		Women	Men
Increase Gas Tax			
Strongly Support	10%	9%	10%
Somewhat Support	11%	12%	10%
Somewhat Oppose	19%	21%	16%
Strongly Oppose	56%	50%	62%
Not Sure	5%	8%	2%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Illegal Immigrant Citizenship				
Favor	38%	48%	33%	29%
Oppose	49%	35%	56%	60%
Not Sure	13%	17%	11%	11%





NC Issues Crosstabs

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Guest Worker Program				
Favor	47%	52%	47%	37%
Oppose	45%	39%	46%	55%
Not Sure	8%	8%	7%	8%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
How to Admit Immigrants				
Family Connections	21%	25%	20%	16%
Skills	57%	51%	59%	62%
Not Sure	22%	23%	20%	22%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Ban Smoking in Public Places				
Strongly Support	47%	49%	49%	40%
Somewhat Support	14%	15%	13%	14%
Somewhat Oppose	13%	14%	11%	15%
Strongly Oppose	24%	20%	25%	28%
Not Sure	2%	1%	2%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Ban Smoking in College				
Strongly Support	40%	44%	39%	34%
Somewhat Support	18%	22%	16%	14%
Somewhat Oppose	16%	13%	15%	19%
Strongly Oppose	23%	17%	25%	30%
Not Sure	4%	4%	4%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Increase Auto Gas Mileage				
Strongly Support	40%	47%	33%	38%
Somewhat Support	27%	26%	30%	22%
Somewhat Oppose	14%	12%	15%	17%
Strongly Oppose	15%	9%	19%	20%
Not Sure	4%	6%	3%	3%

	Base	Party		
		Democrat	Republican	Other
Increase Gas Tax				
Strongly Support	10%	12%	7%	11%
Somewhat Support	11%	13%	10%	9%
Somewhat Oppose	19%	20%	17%	18%
Strongly Oppose	56%	48%	63%	59%
Not Sure	5%	7%	3%	3%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Illegal Immigrant Citizenship				
Favor	38%	41%	25%	36%
Oppose	49%	49%	43%	59%
Not Sure	13%	10%	32%	5%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Guest Worker Program				
Favor	47%	48%	43%	36%
Oppose	45%	44%	47%	59%
Not Sure	8%	8%	9%	5%





NC Issues Crosstabs

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
How to Admit Immigrants				
Family Connections	21%	21%	15%	32%
Skills	57%	58%	51%	57%
Not Sure	22%	20%	34%	11%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Ban Smoking in Public Places				
Strongly Support	47%	48%	43%	45%
Somewhat Support	14%	14%	11%	16%
Somewhat Oppose	13%	12%	15%	18%
Strongly Oppose	24%	24%	23%	20%
Not Sure	2%	1%	8%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Ban Smoking in College				
Strongly Support	40%	41%	32%	36%
Somewhat Support	18%	16%	25%	27%
Somewhat Oppose	16%	17%	11%	11%
Strongly Oppose	23%	24%	21%	20%
Not Sure	4%	2%	11%	5%

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Increase Auto Gas Mileage				
Strongly Support	40%	41%	32%	45%
Somewhat Support	27%	26%	26%	30%
Somewhat Oppose	14%	15%	13%	9%
Strongly Oppose	15%	16%	13%	16%
Not Sure	4%	2%	15%	-

	Base	Race		
		White	Black	Other
Increase Gas Tax				
Strongly Support	10%	10%	8%	16%
Somewhat Support	11%	12%	6%	11%
Somewhat Oppose	19%	20%	15%	16%
Strongly Oppose	56%	57%	55%	48%
Not Sure	5%	2%	17%	9%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-60	Older than 60
Illegal Immigrant Citizenship					
Favor	38%	44%	39%	35%	39%
Oppose	49%	41%	53%	54%	44%
Not Sure	13%	14%	8%	12%	17%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-60	Older than 60
Guest Worker Program					
Favor	47%	51%	41%	44%	51%
Oppose	45%	43%	49%	48%	42%
Not Sure	8%	6%	10%	8%	8%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-60	Older than 60
How to Admit Immigrants					
Family Connections	21%	32%	24%	20%	19%
Skills	57%	52%	56%	55%	60%
Not Sure	22%	17%	20%	25%	21%





NC Issues Crosstabs

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-60	Older than 60
Ban Smoking in Public Places					
Strongly Support	47%	37%	52%	43%	51%
Somewhat Support	14%	11%	16%	15%	12%
Somewhat Oppose	13%	18%	11%	14%	13%
Strongly Oppose	24%	33%	22%	26%	22%
Not Sure	2%	1%	1%	3%	2%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-60	Older than 60
Ban Smoking in College					
Strongly Support	40%	32%	38%	34%	47%
Somewhat Support	18%	6%	20%	21%	17%
Somewhat Oppose	15%	23%	13%	17%	13%
Strongly Oppose	23%	33%	28%	24%	17%
Not Sure	4%	5%	1%	3%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-60	Older than 60
Increase Auto Gas Mileage					
Strongly Support	40%	44%	30%	36%	48%
Somewhat Support	26%	26%	29%	27%	25%
Somewhat Oppose	14%	11%	18%	15%	12%
Strongly Oppose	15%	17%	18%	20%	9%
Not Sure	4%	3%	4%	2%	6%

	Base	Age			
		18-29	30-45	46-60	Older than 60
Increase Gas Tax					
Strongly Support	10%	8%	11%	11%	9%
Somewhat Support	11%	12%	8%	7%	15%
Somewhat Oppose	19%	26%	12%	15%	24%
Strongly Oppose	56%	51%	65%	63%	45%
Not Sure	5%	3%	3%	4%	7%

