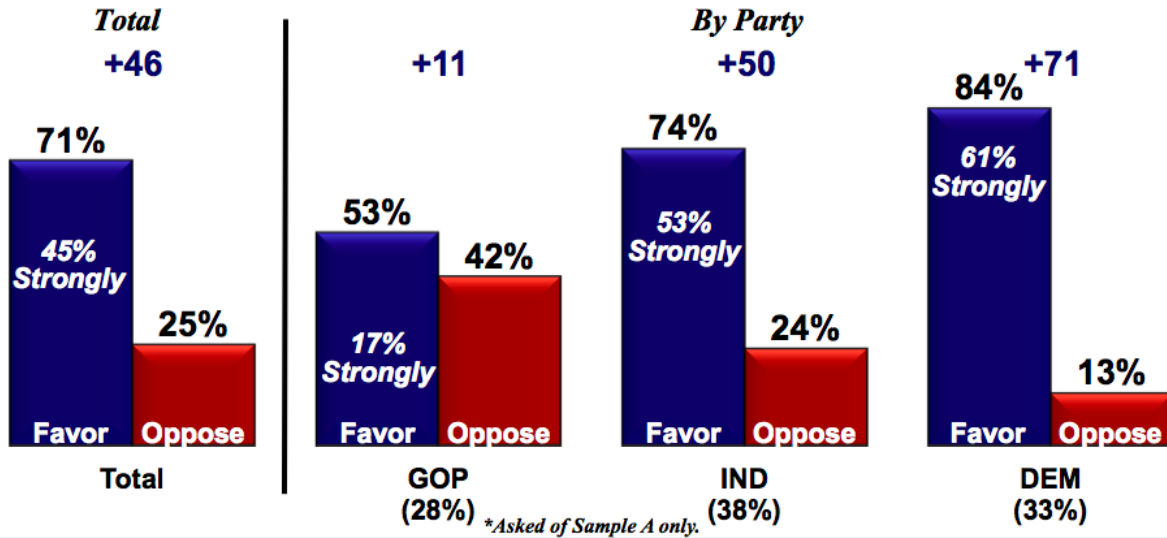


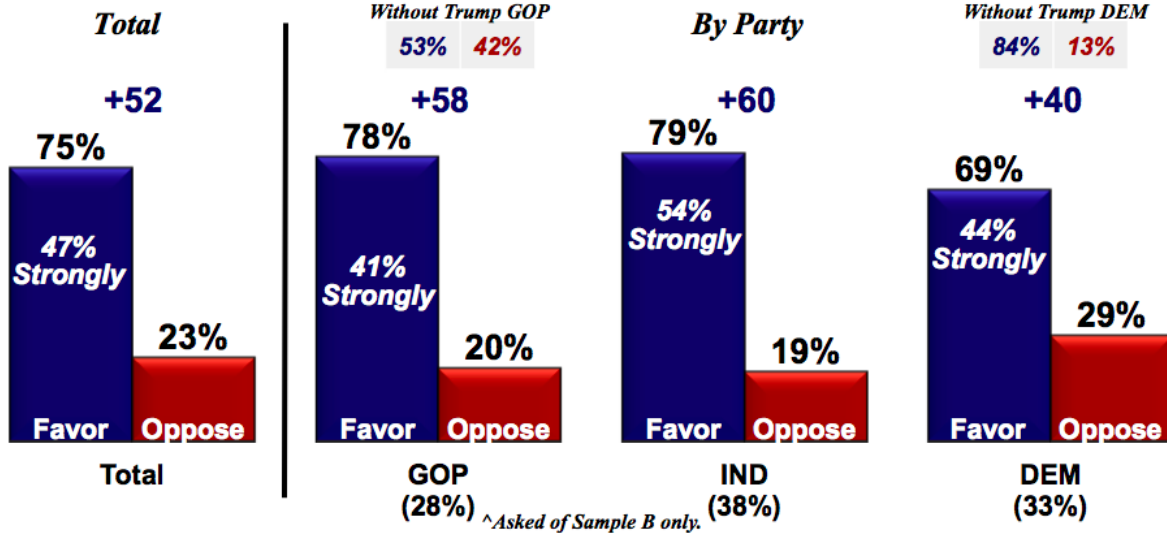
# On a “split-sampled” question, voters across party lines overwhelmingly support continuing to protect undocumented immigrants who came to the US as minors from deportation.

*As you may know, current immigration law protects undocumented immigrants who came to the US as minors from deportation. Do you favor or oppose continuing this provision of the law?\**



# When the other voters are told that Trump has continued this program and asked whether they favor or oppose his position, support hits the 75% level.

As you may know, current immigration law protects undocumented immigrants who came to the US as minors from deportation. President Trump has so far decided to continue this program. Do you favor or oppose President Trump's position on this issue?^



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** INTERESTED PARTIES  
**FROM:** NEIL NEWHOUSE - PUBLIC OPINION STRATEGIES  
CELINDA LAKE/DAVID MERMIN – LAKE RESEARCH  
NICK GOUREVITCH – GLOBAL STRATEGY GROUP  
KRISTEN SOLTIS ANDERSON – ECHELON INSIGHTS  
**DATE:** JUNE 27, 2017  
**SUBJECT:** NATIONAL IMMIGRATION POLL SUMMARY

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On behalf of FWD.us and the Emerson Collective, Public Opinion Strategies, in conjunction with Global Strategy Group, Echelon Insights and Lake Research, conducted a national survey of 800 registered voters. The survey was conducted May 17-21, 2017 and has a margin of error of +/- 3.46% in 95 of 100 cases.

The purpose of this memo is to review the key findings of the poll.

Even though President Trump was elected espousing a divisive policy on immigration, Americans reach consensus on several key aspects of the issue:

- ✓ ***Americans across the board support a pathway to citizenship.***  
There is majority support, across party lines for an immigration proposal that allows undocumented immigrants who have passed a background check to earn legal status and eventually citizenship over a number of years. This proposal wins two-thirds support from Republicans.
- ✓ ***Voters see many undocumented immigrants as deserving of citizenship***  
There is broad support for undocumented immigrants who have jobs, came to the US at a young age or have come to the US as recently as three years ago to be eligible to earn citizenship in the US.
- ✓ ***Most Americans appreciate why undocumented immigrants came to the US.***  
Americans believe that most undocumented immigrants came to the US to make a better life for their families and that they are hard-working people. They also believe that few pose a public safety risk to the US, weaken the country's culture and identity, and take jobs away from Americans.
- ✓ ***Americans support "Dreamers" and their families.***  
Voters across party lines, including a majority of Republicans, support immigration laws that protect undocumented immigrants who came to the US as minors from deportation, and they also support providing their parents protection from deportation. Additionally, when voters are informed of President Trump's stated support for DACA, support from Republicans moves to nearly 80%.

These findings are significant, as they demonstrate a consensus across party lines and contradict much of the Trump campaign rhetoric.

At the same time, though, the poll reveals some significant challenges specifically on the issue of how involved local communities and law enforcement should be in the enforcement of federal immigration laws:

- ✓ While a majority of voters believe that enforcing federal immigration laws should be left to the federal government, a majority of GOP voters believe that local law enforcement should be involved.
- ✓ Americans are evenly divided on whether local police forces should ask detained individuals for proof they are in the country legally.
- ✓ The issue of “Sanctuary Cities” divides the electorate right down the middle and along partisan lines, with voters siding in equal numbers in support of and opposition to it after hearing arguments on either side.

Despite the President’s harsh anti-undocumented immigrant messaging during the campaign, attitudes toward immigration, specifically a “road to citizenship” remain strong and bi-partisan, with significant support for “dreamers.”

The polling indicates there are clear obstacles ahead in the next steps of the immigration debate, specifically related to local vs. federal enforcement of immigration laws:

- ✓ First, it’s important to understand that the public is divided down the middle on whether local police should always be required to comply with requests from federal law enforcement regarding whether undocumented immigrants arrested by local police should be transferred to federal authorities for deportation.
- ✓ Second, the phrase “sanctuary cities” is extremely polarizing, with voters closely divided along partisan lines and shifting very little after hearing arguments on both sides. As long as this debate continues in its current framing, neither side is likely to gain ground or reach solid majority support.
- ✓ Shifting the debate on these two issues to “enforcement priorities” could help relieve some of the intensity of sentiment on this issue.

### ***The Bottom Line***

- Americans have increasingly embraced a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, with just a narrow slice of the electorate preferring a mass deportation strategy. Positioning these differing approaches strongly favors the pathway to citizenship.
- The debate over criminality and who should or shouldn’t be deported isn’t helpful. Instead, center the debate on positive attributes of immigrants that earn them citizenship – for example, their tenure in the U.S. or their job status.

- Acknowledge there are problems with the current immigration system. After all, it's a mish-mash of regulations and laws cobbled together over the past two-plus decades. Don't feel the need to defend the current system (no one likes it!); you want to improve the law.
- "Sanctuary cities" is a baked-in political issue with near unanimous GOP opposition. Talking about the issue immediately moves voters to their partisan corners; instead, focus on local enforcement priorities and the impact on local public safety.