



**NORTHERN ARIZONA  
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**IMMIGRATION: HOT BUTTON ISSUE IN ARIZONA;  
ARIZONANS WEIGH IN ON IMMIGRATION PROPOSALS**

Immigration has moved to the forefront of concerns in Arizona, according to recent *Grand Canyon State Poll* results. Today, more than a third of Arizonans say immigration is the most important issue facing the state. Twice as many Arizonans think immigration has been “bad” for the United States rather than “good” for the country. Arizonans favor a variety of proposals designed to handle illegal immigration in the United States, including those proposed by Arizona lawmakers including Senators Jon Kyl and John McCain, and Representatives J.D. Hayworth and Rick Renzi.

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted by the Social Research Laboratory at Northern Arizona University. Calling took place between October 13 and October 16, 2005. A total of 406 randomly-selected Arizonans participated in the survey. Results are accurate within a +/- 4.9 percent margin of error, at a 95 percent confidence level.

**IMMIGRATION IS NUMBER ONE CONCERN**

More than one-third of Arizonans (34%) say immigration issues are the number one concern facing Arizona today. Concern for immigration today eclipses concern for the economy (15%), the environment and growth (14%), and education (13%). Just two

years ago, Arizonans were more concerned about education and the economy than about immigration.

When asked if immigration of people from other countries to the U.S. in recent years has been good or bad for the country, Arizonans are almost twice as likely to say “bad” for the country rather than “good.” While forty-five percent of Arizonans say immigration has been “bad” for the country, 24 percent say it has been “good” for the nation. One-fifth of Arizonans (20%) believe immigration has not made much of a difference in the United States.

### **MANDATE FOR ACTION**

Many lawmakers, including several from Arizona, are proposing policies that represent a variety of approaches to the issue of illegal immigration in the United States. The *Grand Canyon State Poll* asked Arizonans whether they support or oppose proposals put forward by President George W. Bush, Senators John McCain and Jon Kyl, and Representatives J.D. Hayworth and Rick Renzi. The results clearly indicate that Arizonans are ready to accept a variety of approaches to handling illegal immigration in the U.S.

Arizonans expressed greatest support for a proposal put forward by Representative J.D. Hayworth. His proposal would increase penalties on employers who hire illegal immigrants, end automatic citizenship for children born in the U.S. to non-citizens, and require U.S. citizens to obtain a new Social Security identification card with a photograph. Sixty percent of Arizonans support this proposal and 29 percent oppose it.

Proposals being put forward by Senators Kyl and McCain receive similar levels of support. Fifty-nine percent of Arizonans support Senator Kyl’s plan to require illegal aliens in the U.S. to leave the country and allow them to return legally to work temporarily if there are no U.S. workers available to fill a job. Thirty percent of Arizonans oppose this policy.

Fifty-eight percent support Senator McCain’s proposal to allow illegal immigrants in the U.S. to pay a fine and apply for a temporary work visa. After a number of years, these immigrants could apply for permanent residence and eventually citizenship. Thirty-four percent of Arizonans oppose this policy.

President Bush’s and Representative Renzi’s proposals receive more divided support. Half of Arizonans support President Bush’s proposal to allow some illegal immigrants currently in the U.S. to legally stay in this country for several years as long as they hold jobs that no U.S. citizen wants. The plan would require these immigrant workers to return to their countries after their time under this program has expired. Forty-one percent oppose this plan.

Representative Renzi proposes to use military technology to help the U.S. Border Patrol look into Mexico to locate and track the movements of potential illegal immigrants before they cross the border. This proposal is supported by 48 percent of Arizonans and opposed by 44 percent.

Dr. Nancy Wonders, NAU professor and internationally recognized expert on immigration issues, commented: “It’s clear that immigration is now the most important issue facing the state. Although the public is open to a variety of strategies to address the challenges created by immigration, this poll sends a loud message that Arizona citizens want politicians to make immigration policy a priority.”

	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>
Rep. Hayworth’s Proposal	60%	29%
Senator Kyl’s Proposal	59%	30%
Senator McCain’s Proposal	58%	34%
President Bush’s Proposal	50%	41%
Rep. Renzi’s Proposal	48%	44%



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*GRAND CANYON STATE POLL*  
BACKGROUND MEMO  
Fall 2005

The *Grand Canyon State Poll* was conducted between October 13 and October 16, 2005. A random sample of 406 adult residents of Arizona was asked questions regarding issues related to immigration. Results are subject to a sampling error of +/- 4.9 percent at a 95 percent confidence level. Sampling error is the probable difference in results between interviewing everyone in the population versus a scientific sample taken from the population. Sampling error does not take into account additional sources of error inherent in any study of public opinion. The data referred to in this release are presented below.

In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing Arizona today?

	<b>Fall 2005</b>	Spring 2005	Spring 2004	Fall 2003	Spring 2003
Border issues/immigration	<b>34%</b>	27%	16%	13%	6%
Budget deficit/the economy	<b>15%</b>	11%	14%	22%	29%
Environment/Growth	<b>14%</b>	4%	4%	3%	3%
Education	<b>13%</b>	20%	17%	30%	32%
Gas/Gas Lines/Transportation	<b>7%</b>	3%	6%	2%	--
Crime	<b>3%</b>	1%	2%	2%	1%
Health Care	<b>2%</b>	2%	4%	6%	4%

Overall, do you think immigration of people from other countries to the United States in recent years has been good or bad for the country, or hasn't it made much of a difference?

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Bad	45%	177
Good	24%	96
Hasn't made much difference	20%	78
Don't know	12%	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>N = 397</b>

As you may know, federal lawmakers are discussing several proposals for handling concerns about illegal immigration in the United States.

*[The following five proposals were presented to respondents in random order]*

One proposal would allow some illegal immigrants currently in the U.S. to legally stay in this country for several years as long as they hold jobs that no U.S. citizen wants. The plan would require these immigrant workers to return to their countries after their time under this program has expired. Do you support or oppose this plan? *[President Bush's Proposal]*

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Strongly support	22%	90
Somewhat support	28%	111
Somewhat oppose	14%	55
Strongly oppose	27%	108
Don't know	10%	39
<b>Total</b>	<b>101%</b>	<b>N = 403</b>

One proposal would require illegal aliens in the US to leave the country and allow them to return legally to work temporarily if there are no US workers available to fill a job. Do you support or oppose this proposal? *[Senator Kyl's Proposal]*

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Strongly support	31%	124
Somewhat support	28%	113
Somewhat oppose	12%	50
Strongly oppose	18%	72
Don't know	10%	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>99%</b>	<b>N = 399</b>

One proposal would allow illegal immigrants in the US to pay a fine and apply for a temporary work visa. After a number of years, they could apply for permanent residence and eventually citizenship. Do you support or oppose this proposal? *[Senator McCain's Proposal]*

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Strongly support	27%	110
Somewhat support	31%	123
Somewhat oppose	11%	46
Strongly oppose	23%	93
Don't know	8%	32
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N = 404</b>

One proposal would increase penalties on employers who hire illegal immigrants, end automatic citizenship for children born in the US to non-citizens, and require US citizens to obtain a new Social Security identification card with a photograph. Do you support or oppose this proposal? [*Representative Hayworth's Proposal*]

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Strongly support	37%	148
Somewhat support	23%	91
Somewhat oppose	11%	45
Strongly oppose	18%	70
Don't know	11%	45
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N = 399</b>

One proposal involves using military technology to help the US Border Patrol look into Mexico to locate and track the movements of potential illegal immigrants before they cross the border. This program would cost approximately \$500 million a year. Do you support or oppose this plan? [*Representative Renzi's Proposal*]

	<b>Percent</b>	<b>Count</b>
Strongly support	30%	119
Somewhat support	18%	73
Somewhat oppose	18%	71
Strongly oppose	26%	105
Don't know	8%	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>N = 401</b>