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# Texans Support Immigration Compromise



Recent reports have indicated that policymakers are hard at work trying to strike a compromise around immigration in the final weeks of this Congress. To help members of the US House and Senate better understand how their constituents would react to such a deal, Third Way worked with Republican research firm GS Strategy Group to poll 800 Texas likely voters from December 7th-11th, 2022, to get their sense of the underlying issues the proposal seeks to solve as well as the policy specifics that may be on the table.

## Texans are Torn on the Issue of



undocumented immigrants currently living in the US to earn citizenship (68% to 23%). That desire is shared by 62% of Texas Republicans, 63% of self-described conservative voters in the state, and 63% of Texans who say they have a favorable view of Donald Trump. By a similar margin of 42 points, Texas voters say it would be more practical and cost effective for American taxpayers to provide such a pathway than to deport the 11 million undocumented immigrants currently living in America.

## Texans Strongly Support the Deal on the Table

This openness to an earned pathway to citizenship is even more widespread when asked specifically about the population of undocumented immigrants referred to as “Dreamers,” those who were brought to this country as children through no fault of their own. Nearly eight in ten Texas voters say they believe those folks should have an earned pathway to citizenship (56% strongly), with less than 15% voicing opposition to that proposition. Among both Republicans and self-described conservatives, support for a path to citizenship for Dreamers held at 69%, and it was 70% among Texans who have a favorable view of Donald Trump.

When presented with the totality of the compromise as reported in the press, including the pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, Texans support the entire package by 57 points (73% to 16%). A more detailed description doesn’t erode support—after hearing further details, Texas voters ended up at 58 points in favor of the deal (74% to 16%). And when asked how they would feel if Congress passed an immigration reform bill that fit this detailed description, Texas voters used words like “good,” “hopeful,” “encouraged,” and “optimistic.”





officers, and more judges—to better handle the rise in migrants seeking asylum and speed up the application process. Among GOP voters, conservative voters, and those with a favorable view of Trump, support for this provision was 76%, 74%, and 73% respectively.

- By 63 points (76% to 13%), Texans want Congress to dedicate more funding and resources to quickly remove anyone who did not qualify for asylum and to help locate and deport migrants who have fled from law enforcement and remain at large. Among GOP voters, conservative voters, and those with a favorable view of Trump, support for this provision was 87%, 84%, and 87% respectively.
- By 62 points (76% to 14%), voters in Texas want to send more funding to the Border Patrol to help hire more officers and provide pay raises for the agents on the ground. Among GOP voters, conservative voters, and those with a favorable view of Trump, support for this provision was 88%, 84%, and 89% respectively.
- Finally, by 54 points (71% to 17%), Texans want people to be able to apply for asylum at the southern border and stay if they can make their case under US law. Even among GOP voters, conservative voters, and those with a favorable view of Trump, support for this provision was 58%, 57%, and 56% respectively.

In short, each piece of this deal has at least 7 in 10 Texans on board, with opposition bouncing around somewhere in the teens.

## Conclusion

It's clear that if policymakers move forward with the compromise under discussion in Washington, Texas voters will not punish them for it. By contrast, they may even reward those they feel have taken popular action on an issue that drives high levels of concern that has seen little to no

progress over the past few decades.

## Toplines

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