



Government Role in Immigration

Four in ten Americans report that those who have spoken out against immigration have been treated unfairly.

Washington, DC, December 4, 2018 – Immigration is an issue that often divides, and a new Ipsos poll confirms that is the case when it comes to how people that oppose immigration are treated. Overall, four in ten Americans (41%) believe that politicians, media outlets, and others in the U.S. who have spoken out in opposition to immigration have been treated unfairly. While a majority of Republicans (58%) agree, a plurality of Democrats believe people who speak out in opposition to immigration are treated fairly. Just one third disagree; Independents are evenly split.

One area where Americans may find some common ground is whether the government is hiding the true cost of immigration to taxpayers and society; more than half of Americans (55%) agree. This sentiment is particularly shared by Republicans (67%), but a majority of Independents (59%) and near-majority of Democrats (49%) also agree. A lot more Americans agree (40%) than disagree (7%) that the U.S. government has deliberately tried to make American society more ethnically diverse through its immigration policy in the last 20 years.

1. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The government is hiding the true cost of immigration to taxpayers and society.”

	Total (N = 1,006)	Democrats (N = 326)	Republicans (N = 352)	Independents (N = 208)
Strongly agree	26%	22%	36%	21%
Somewhat agree	29	26	31	38
Neither agree nor disagree	29	31	19	28
Somewhat disagree	9	11	9	7
Strongly disagree	7	10	6	5
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>55%</i>	<i>49%</i>	<i>67%</i>	<i>59%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>12</i>

2. To what extent do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “In the last 20 years, the U.S. government has deliberately tried to make American society more ethnically diverse through its immigration policy.”

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Strongly agree	17%	11%	30%	12%
Somewhat agree	23	23	26	24
Neither agree nor disagree	30	30	23	36
Somewhat disagree	13	19	9	12
Strongly disagree	10	15	5	12
Don't know	7	3	6	5
<i>Agree (net)</i>	<i>40%</i>	<i>34%</i>	<i>56%</i>	<i>36%</i>
<i>Disagree (net)</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>5</i>

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Press Release – continued –

3. Politicians, media outlets and others in the U.S. who have spoken out in opposition to immigration have been...

	Total	Democrats	Republicans	Independents
Treated completely fairly	12%	15%	11%	9%
Mostly treated fairly	24	32	16	30
Mostly treated unfairly	24	24	30	22
Treated completely unfairly	17	9	28	17
Don't know	23	20	15	22
<i>Treated fairly (net)</i>	<i>36%</i>	<i>48%</i>	<i>27%</i>	<i>39%</i>
<i>Treated unfairly (net)</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>33</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>38</i>

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Press Release – continued –

About the Study

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted October 11-12, 2018. For the survey, a sample of 1,006 adults 18+ from the continental U.S., Alaska and Hawaii were interviewed online in English. The sample includes 326 Democrats, 352 Republicans, and 208 Independents.

The sample for this study was randomly drawn from Ipsos' online panel (see link below for more info on "Access Panels and Recruitment"), partner online panel sources, and "river" sampling (see link below for more info on the Ipsos "Ampario Overview" sample method) and does not rely on a population frame in the traditional sense. Ipsos uses fixed sample targets, unique to each study, in drawing a sample. After a sample has been obtained from the Ipsos panel, Ipsos calibrates respondent characteristics to be representative of the U.S. Population using standard procedures such as raking-ratio adjustments. The source of these population targets is U.S. Census 2016 American Community Survey data. The sample drawn for this study reflects fixed sample targets on demographics. Post-hoc weights were made to the population characteristics on gender, age, race/ethnicity, region, and education.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls. All sample surveys and polls may be subject to other sources of error, including, but not limited to coverage error and measurement error. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding. The precision of Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 3.5 percentage points for all respondents. Ipsos calculates a design effect (DEFF) for each study based on the variation of the weights, following the formula of Kish (1965). This study had a credibility interval adjusted for design effect of the following (n=1,005, DEFF=1.5, adjusted Confidence Interval=+/-5.0 percentage points).

This study also has a credibility interval of 6.2 percentage points for Democrats, 6.0 percentage points for Republicans and 7.7 percentage points for Independents.

For more information about conducting research intended for public release or Ipsos' online polling methodology, please visit our [Public Opinion Polling and Communication](#) page where you can download our brochure, see our public release protocol, or contact us.

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Press Release – continued –

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About Ipsos

Ipsos is an independent market research company controlled and managed by research professionals. Founded in France in 1975, Ipsos has grown into a worldwide research group with a strong presence in all key markets. Ipsos ranks fourth in the global research industry.

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Ipsos researchers assess market potential and interpret market trends. They develop and build brands. They help clients build long-term relationships with their customers. They test advertising and study audience responses to various media and they measure public opinion around the globe.

Ipsos has been listed on the Paris Stock Exchange since 1999 and generated global revenues of €1,780.5 million in 2017.

GAME CHANGERS

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At Ipsos we are passionately curious about people, markets, brands and society.
We make our changing world easier and faster to navigate and inspire clients to make smarter decisions.
We deliver with security, speed, simplicity and substance. We are Game Changers.

Ipsos is listed on Eurolist – NYSE-Euronext.
The company is part of the SBF 120 and the Mid-60 index
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