



Ipsos Poll conducted for Reuters, April 2012

IMMIGRATION ATTITUDES POLL

NOTE: all results shown are percentages unless otherwise labeled.

These are findings from an Ipsos poll conducted for Thomson Reuters from April 9th – 26th, 2012. For the survey, a sample of 2,079 Americans was interviewed online. The precision of the Reuters/Ipsos online polls is measured using a credibility interval. In this case, the poll has a credibility interval of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points for all respondents. For more information about credibility intervals, please see the appendix.

The data were weighted to the U.S. current population data by gender, age, education, ethnicity and a political values scale. 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. Figures marked by an asterisk () indicate a percentage value of greater than zero but less than one half of a per cent. Where figures do not sum to 100, this is due to the effects of rounding.*

IMMIGRATION POLITICS

Q1. In your opinion, which candidate for President has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following?

		All	White	African American	Hispanic
Healthcare	Barack Obama, Democrat	33	24	74	35
	Mitt Romney, Republican	29	36	4	17
	None	18	19	8	21
	Don't know	21	21	14	27
The war on terror	Barack Obama, Democrat	32	27	63	28
	Mitt Romney, Republican	24	29	9	17
	None	18	18	10	28
	Don't know	26	27	18	28
Iran	Barack Obama, Democrat	29	24	58	29
	Mitt Romney, Republican	22	26	8	19
	None	18	19	8	22
	Don't know	31	31	25	30
The US Economy	Barack Obama, Democrat	30	23	67	25
	Mitt Romney, Republican	33	41	11	21
	None	17	16	7	28
	Don't know	20	19	15	26
Immigration	Barack Obama, Democrat	28	21	55	33
	Mitt Romney, Republican	28	33	14	14
	None	17	18	7	21
	Don't know	28	27	25	32
Social Security	Barack Obama, Democrat	31	22	69	39
	Mitt Romney, Republican	25	31	6	12
	None	18	20	8	20
	Don't know	26	27	17	29
Medicare	Barack Obama, Democrat	30	22	67	29
	Mitt Romney, Republican	26	32	4	15
	None	19	20	11	26
	Don't know	26	26	18	30



		All	White	African American	Hispanic
Taxes	Barack Obama, Democrat	34	25	67	42
	Mitt Romney, Republican	30	37	9	17
	None	15	16	7	17
	Don't know	22	21	18	24

Q2. In your opinion, which political party better serves the needs of...

		All	White	African American	Hispanic
... Americans over age 65?	Democratic Party	34	26	68	36
	Republican Party	27	33	8	18
	Independents/None/Other	17	20	10	17
	Don't know	22	22	15	29
... manufacturing workers?	Democratic Party	38	33	67	38
	Republican Party	22	27	8	15
	Independents/None/Other	17	19	10	17
	Don't know	22	21	15	31
... poor Americans?	Democratic Party	45	39	74	43
	Republican Party	15	19	5	6
	Independents/None/Other	21	23	10	23
	Don't know	19	18	11	28
... middle class Americans?	Democratic Party	35	26	74	38
	Republican Party	28	33	8	21
	Independents/None/Other	20	24	9	13
	Don't know	18	17	9	27
... young Americans?	Democratic Party	37	28	65	51
	Republican Party	20	26	5	6
	Independents/None/Other	21	23	19	19
	Don't know	22	24	11	25
... Hispanic Americans?	Democratic Party	43	40	64	43
	Republican Party	14	16	5	11
	Independents/None/Other	17	17	12	18
	Don't know	27	27	19	27
... Black Americans?	Democratic Party	50	46	72	47
	Republican Party	12	15	3	8
	Independents/None/Other	15	15	12	18
	Don't know	23	23	13	27
... Veterans and their families?	Democratic Party	32	23	65	36
	Republican Party	30	36	10	22
	Independents/None/Other	16	18	10	12
	Don't know	23	22	16	31
... Business and corporations?	Democratic Party	19	14	42	21
	Republican Party	51	56	41	41
	Independents/None/Other	11	12	6	10
	Don't know	19	18	12	28



Q3. In your opinion, which political party has a better plan, policy or approach to each of the following?

		All	White	African American	Hispanic
Healthcare	Democratic Party	34	26	68	36
	Republican Party	27	33	8	18
	Independents/None/Other	17	20	10	17
	Don't know	22	22	15	29
The war on terror	Democratic Party	38	33	67	38
	Republican Party	22	27	8	15
	Independents/None/Other	17	19	10	17
	Don't know	22	21	15	31
Iran	Democratic Party	45	39	74	43
	Republican Party	15	19	5	6
	Independents/None/Other	21	23	10	23
	Don't know	19	18	11	28
The US Economy	Democratic Party	35	26	74	38
	Republican Party	28	33	8	21
	Independents/None/Other	20	24	9	13
	Don't know	18	17	9	27
Immigration	Democratic Party	37	28	65	51
	Republican Party	20	26	5	6
	Independents/None/Other	21	23	19	19
	Don't know	22	24	11	25
Social Security	Democratic Party	43	40	64	43
	Republican Party	14	16	5	11
	Independents/None/Other	17	17	12	18
	Don't know	27	27	19	27
Medicare	Democratic Party	50	46	72	47
	Republican Party	12	15	3	8
	Independents/None/Other	15	15	12	18
	Don't know	23	23	13	27
Taxes	Democratic Party	32	23	65	36
	Republican Party	30	36	10	22
	Independents/None/Other	16	18	10	12
	Don't know	23	22	16	31



ARIZONA IMMIGRATION LAW

Q4. Do you favor or oppose the following?

State laws requiring law enforcement officers to check the immigration status of any person they suspect is in the United States illegally.

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly favor	42	50	30	22
Somewhat favor	30	30	36	25
Somewhat oppose	15	12	23	22
Strongly oppose	14	9	12	31
Total favor	71	79	65	47
Total oppose	29	21	35	53

State laws allowing law enforcement officers to arrest anyone who is not able to produce documentation of their immigration status.

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly favor	34	41	22	12
Somewhat favor	32	32	30	40
Somewhat oppose	20	16	31	24
Strongly oppose	15	12	17	25
Total favor	65	72	52	51
Total oppose	35	28	48	49

State laws that make it a crime for an illegal immigrant to apply for, solicit or otherwise perform work in the United States.

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly favor	44	53	25	23
Somewhat favor	27	27	37	22
Somewhat oppose	18	14	26	29
Strongly oppose	11	7	11	26
Total favor	71	79	62	45
Total oppose	29	21	38	55



Q5. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

Immigration is a national issue and laws relating to it should only be made by the federal government

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly agree	28	26	25	35
Somewhat agree	24	24	32	19
Neither agree nor disagree	23	22	26	27
Somewhat disagree	16	17	13	13
Strongly disagree	10	12	3	6
Total agree	52	50	57	54
Total disagree	16	29	16	19

Individual states have the right to make laws governing immigration within their borders

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly agree	30	35	22	14
Somewhat agree	29	27	40	27
Neither agree nor disagree	18	16	19	25
Somewhat disagree	13	13	9	17
Strongly disagree	12	9	11	18
Total agree	59	62	62	41
Total disagree	25	22	20	35

Q6. As you may know, the state of Arizona passed a law a few years ago that about immigration checks. The law specifies that after a law enforcement officer stops someone for any issue, the officer is required to verify the immigration status of anyone the officer reasonably suspects of being in the country illegally. Do you favor or oppose this law?

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly favor	41	49	27	18
Somewhat favor	31	31	35	29
Somewhat oppose	15	11	23	26
Strongly oppose	14	10	15	27
Total favor	71	80	62	47
Total oppose	29	20	38	53

Q7. Have you heard about the Supreme Court reviewing the Arizona immigration law? (Select one)

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Yes	46	52	34	32
No	54	48	66	68



IMMIGRATION ATTITUDES

Q8. When you think about immigration, which of the following solutions come closest to your opinion?

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
All illegal immigrants should be able to stay in the US legally	2	1	3	4
Most illegal immigrants should be able to stay in the US, with some exceptions	21	16	34	35
Most illegal immigrants should be deported, with some exceptions	37	40	33	24
All illegal immigrants should be deported	32	36	18	26
Unsure	9	7	13	12
Total stay	23	17	37	39
Total deported	69	76	51	50

Q9. Please indicate the extent to which you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?

In the last five years, the United States has become more welcoming to immigrants

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly agree	12	12	14	6
Somewhat agree	22	23	20	20
Neither agree nor disagree	41	41	41	42
Somewhat disagree	16	17	12	18
Strongly disagree	9	7	13	13
Total agree	34	35	34	26
Total disagree	25	24	25	31

Minorities are treated fairly in the United States

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly agree	13	16	8	6
Somewhat agree	27	30	19	21
Neither agree nor disagree	30	29	24	38
Somewhat disagree	23	20	30	28
Strongly disagree	8	5	19	7
Total agree	40	46	27	27
Total disagree	31	25	49	35

Minorities are being targeted by restrictive state legislations in some US States

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly agree	13	9	23	16
Somewhat agree	20	15	36	29
Neither agree nor disagree	39	38	31	48
Somewhat disagree	15	20	5	4
Strongly disagree	14	18	5	3
Total agree	33	24	59	45
Total disagree	29	38	10	7



If I knew people outside the country, I would encourage them to move to the US

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly agree	9	8	11	11
Somewhat agree	19	17	15	26
Neither agree nor disagree	42	42	49	37
Somewhat disagree	17	19	15	14
Strongly disagree	13	14	11	12
Total agree	28	25	26	37
Total disagree	30	33	26	26

If I knew people outside the country, I would encourage them to move to the US even if they could not get proper papers

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly agree	4	2	9	5
Somewhat agree	5	3	8	11
Neither agree nor disagree	23	18	30	38
Somewhat disagree	22	22	20	22
Strongly disagree	47	55	33	25
Total agree	9	5	17	16
Total disagree	69	77	53	47

Minority Americans have to work harder to achieve the same levels of success as white Americans

	All	White	African American	Hispanic
Strongly agree	19	10	53	32
Somewhat agree	23	23	19	26
Neither agree nor disagree	27	27	27	29
Somewhat disagree	17	22	--	9
Strongly disagree	14	19	1	4
Total agree	42	23	72	58
Total disagree	31	41	1	13



How to Calculate Bayesian Credibility Intervals

The calculation of credibility intervals assumes that Y has a binomial distribution conditioned on the parameter θ , i.e., $Y|\theta \sim \text{Bin}(n, \theta)$, where n is the size of our sample. In this setting, Y counts the number of “yes”, or “1”, observed in n trials. This model is often called the likelihood function, and it is a standard concept in both the Bayesian and the Classical framework. The Bayesian¹ statistics combines both the prior distribution and the likelihood function to create a posterior distribution. The posterior distribution represents our opinion about which are the plausible values for θ adjusted after observing the sample data. In reality, the posterior distribution is one’s knowledge base updated using the latest survey information. For the prior and likelihood functions specified here, the posterior distribution is also a beta distribution ($\pi(\theta/y) \sim \beta(y+a, n-y+b)$), but with updated hyper-parameters.

Our credibility interval for ϑ is based on this posterior distribution. As mentioned above, these intervals represent our belief about which are the most plausible values for ϑ given our updated knowledge base. There are different ways to calculate these intervals based on the posterior distribution. Since we want only one measure of precision for all variables in the survey, analogous to what is done within the Classical framework, we will compute the largest possible credibility interval for any observed sample. The worst case occurs when we assume that $a=1$ and $b=1$ and n is the sample size. Using a simple approximation of the posterior by the normal distribution, the 95% credibility interval is given by, approximately:

$$\left[\frac{y-1.96\sqrt{y(n-y)}}{n}, \frac{y+1.96\sqrt{y(n-y)}}{n} \right]$$

For this poll, the Bayesian Credibility Interval was adjusted using standard weighting design effect $1+L=1.3$ to account for complex weighting²

Analysis Domain	Sample size	Credibility intervals
All Americans	2,079	2.5
White (only)	1,397	3.1
African American (only)	239	7.4
Hispanic	290	6.7

¹ *Bayesian Data Analysis, Second Edition, Andrew Gelman, John B. Carlin, Hal S. Stern, Donald B. Rubin, Chapman & Hall/CRC | ISBN: 158488388X | 2003*

² *Kish, L. (1992). Weighting for unequal Pi. Journal of Official, Statistics, 8, 2, 183200.*