VOTERS ACROSS THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM OPPOSE TRUMP'S IMMIGRATION POLICIES

November 2020

Since the beginning of his campaign for president in 2015, President Trump has made immigration a centerpiece of his policy agenda. After campaigning on promises to deport undocumented immigrants and build a border wall, President Trump has spent his years in the White House undermining U.S. immigration policy. He has repeatedly attempted to unilaterally jam through hundreds of executive orders, rules and memos, bypassing the will of the Congress and the American people in the process. From attempting to dismantle DACA to separating families at the southern border, the Trump administration has only worsened an already broken immigration system. The Trump administration's actions and rhetoric on immigration have sharpened political divides and devastated immigrant families across the country.
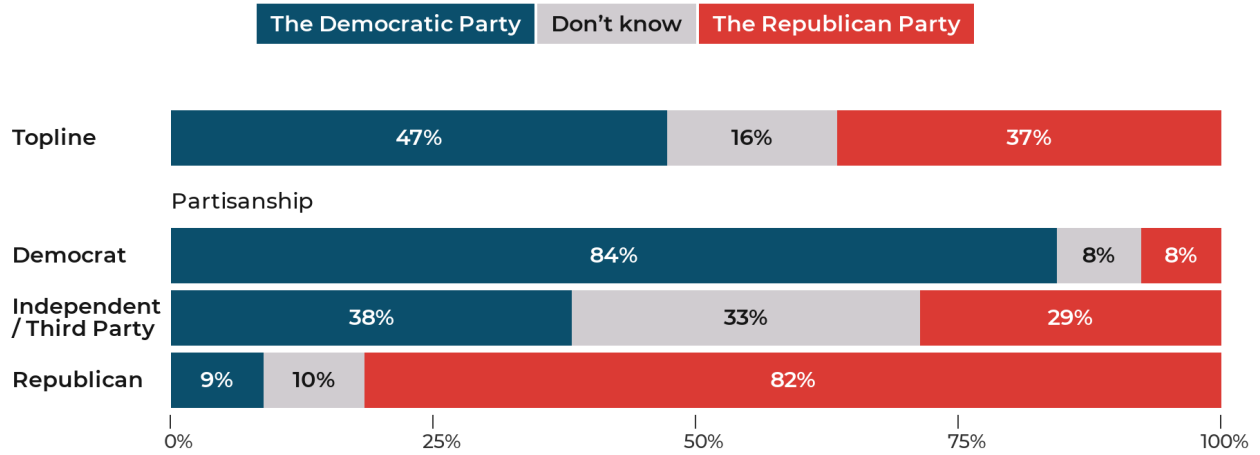
Despite facing the unprecedented coronavirus (COVID-19) public health and economic crises in his re-election year, President Trump has continued to make immigration a focus of his campaign. While Trump lauds his record on immigration policy at campaign rallies, more than 230,000 Americans have died from the coronavirus under his watch. As he faces a tough re-election against Democratic nominee Joe Biden, President Trump's immigration agenda is on the ballot.

In a series of October surveys, Data for Progress asked likely voters nationwide which political party they trust to handle immigration and whether they support or oppose key immigration policies including DACA, family separation, and a pathway to citizenship. While Trump continues his anti-immigration rhetoric on the campaign trail, likely voters across the political spectrum reject the Trump administration's approach to immigration and instead support proposals to reform and strengthen our nation's immigration system.

When asked whether they trust the Democratic or Republican Party more on the issue of immigration, a plurality of all likely voters (47 percent) say they trust the Democratic Party more. The Democratic Party also earns more support beyond its base than Republicans do on the issue of immigration. A plurality of voters who self-identify as independents (38 percent) say they trust the Democratic Party over the Republican Party on the issue of immigration. That said, a third of independents (33 percent) do not know which party to trust on immigration, indicating room for the Democratic Party to grow support for their immigration platform.

Voters Trust the Democratic Party to Handle Immigration

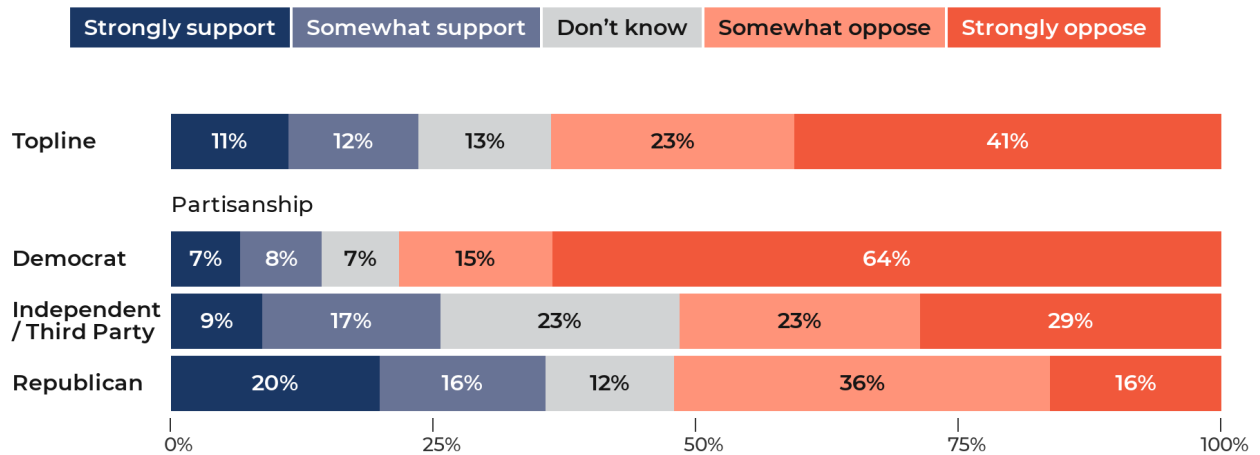Which party do you trust more on the following issues? -- Immigration

The Democratic Party	Don't know	The Republican Party

Topline
| 47% | 16% | 37% |

Partisanship

Democrat
| 84% | 8% | 8% |

Independent / Third Party
| 38% | 33% | 29% |

Republican
| 9% | 10% | 82% |

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

Oct 28 to Oct 29, 2020 survey of 1253 likely voters

DATA FOR *PROGRESS*

The Trump administration's forceful separation of immigrant families at the southern U.S. border is extremely unpopular among voters across the political spectrum. A majority of voters (64 percent) oppose this policy to force family separation at the border. Opposition is bipartisan: A majority of Democrats (79 percent), independents (52 percent), and Republicans (52 percent) all oppose separating families at the southern U.S. border.

A Majority of Voters Oppose Family Separation Policies

Do you support or oppose a policy forcing families to separate at the U.S.-Mexico border?

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose

Topline
| 11% | 12% | 13% | 23% | 41% |

Partisanship

Democrat
| 7% | 8% | 7% | 15% | 64% |

Independent / Third Party
| 9% | 17% | 23% | 23% | 29% |

Republican
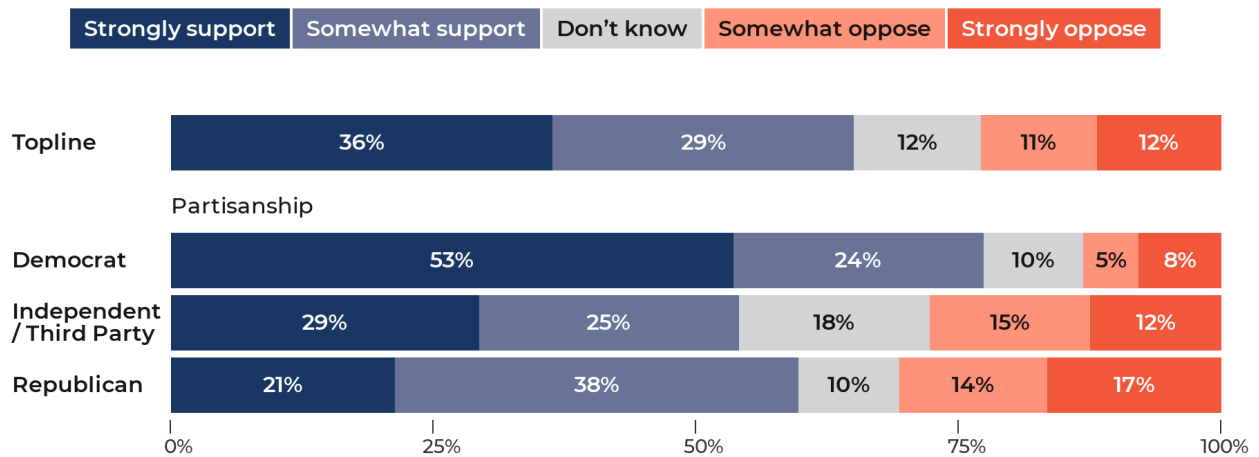| 20% | 16% | 12% | 36% | 16% |

0%   25%   50%   75%   100%

Oct 24 to Oct 25, 2020 survey of 979 likely voters

DATA FOR *PROGRESS*

Following the June Supreme Court ruling that upheld the DACA program and continued to shield hundreds of thousands of young immigrants from deportation, a majority of voters (65 percent) voiced support for the DREAM Act. Again, support for this proposal is bipartisan, with the majority of Republican, independent and Democratic voters in favor of the DREAM Act. A majority of Democrats (77 percent), independents (54 percent), and Republicans (59 percent) all support this proposal to provide DACA recipients with a pathway to U.S. citizenship.

A Majority of Voters Support the DREAM Act

Do you support or oppose Congress passing the Dream Act, which would giving DACA recipients, undocumented immigrants who entered the country as children, the ability to earn United States citizenship?
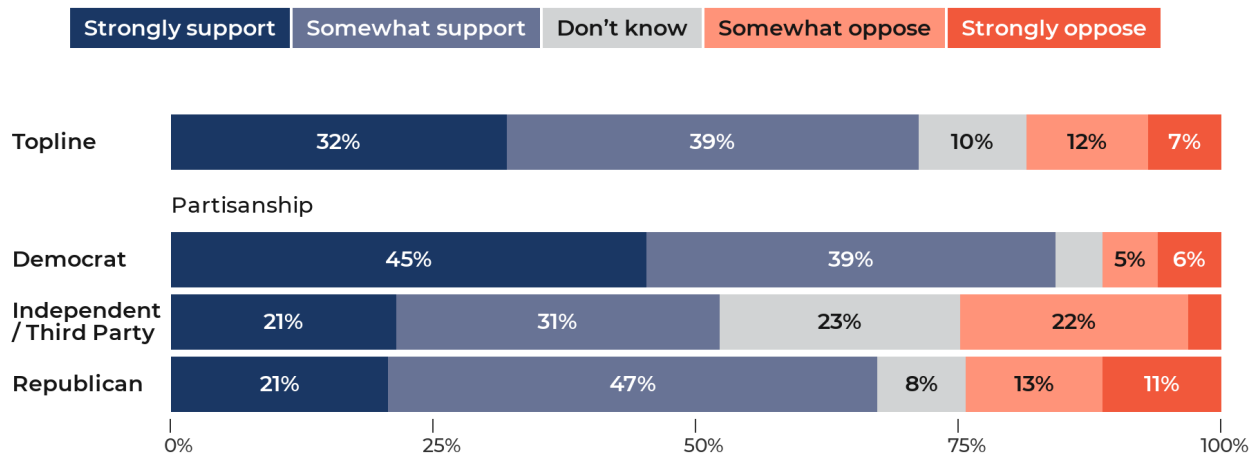
Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Topline	36%	29%	12%	11%	12%
Partisanship					
Democrat	53%	24%	10%	5%	8%
Independent / Third Party	29%	25%	18%	15%	12%
Republican	21%	38%	10%	14%	17%

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

Oct 24 to Oct 25, 2020 survey of 979 likely voters

DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

A proposal for a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the U.S. also enjoys high levels of bipartisan support. A majority of all voters (71 percent) support this proposal, including a majority of Democrats (84 percent), independents (52 percent), and Republicans (68 percent).

A Majority of Voters Support a Pathway to Citizenship for Undocumented Immigrants

Do you support or oppose an earned pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who can pass a background check and have long-standing ties to the U.S?

Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose

	Strongly support	Somewhat support	Don't know	Somewhat oppose	Strongly oppose
Topline	32%	39%	10%	12%	7%
Partisanship					
Democrat	45%	39%		5%	6%
Independent / Third Party	21%	31%	23%	22%	
Republican	21%	47%	8%	13%	11%

0% 25% 50% 75% 100%

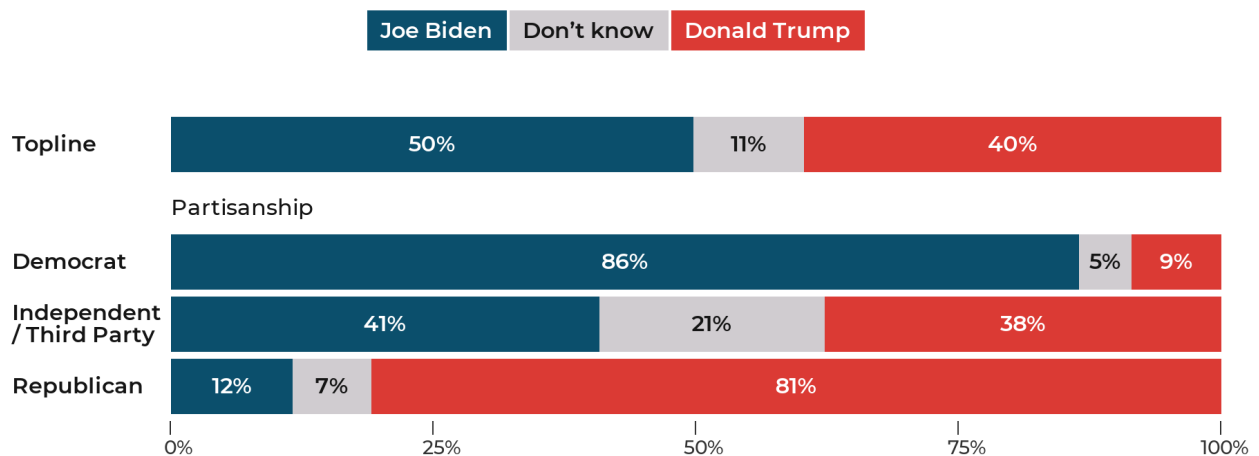Oct 24 to Oct 25, 2020 survey of 979 likely voters

DATA FOR **PROGRESS**

To assess how support for these proposals stand up to partisan attacks on the campaign trail, we provided voters with messaging about DACA from both Joe Biden and Donald Trump. A plurality of voters (50 percent) more closely agree with Biden's position on DACA than that of Trump. A majority of Democrats (86 percent) and a plurality of independents (41 percent) agree with Biden's messaging that Trump has spent years trying to end DACA, demonize immigrants, and separate families at the border rather than focus on actual measures of homeland security like dealing with the coronavirus pandemic. That said, a majority of Republicans (81 percent) agree with Trump's messaging around DACA.

Voters Agree with Joe Biden's Position on DACA

Some lawmakers are trying to end the DACA program, which gives undocumented immigrants who came to the United States as children protections from deportation and the ability to work legally in the country. Donald Trump wants to end the DACA program because he says it was a policy that President Obama made to keep illegal immigrants in the United States and take jobs from hard working Americans and they should be deported back to their home countries. Joe Biden says Donald Trump's Department of Homeland Security Spent years trying to end DACA, demonizing immigrants and even separating over 5,000 kids from their parents at the border instead of focusing on actual homeland security like preparing for or dealing with a pandemic like COVID-19. Who do you more closely agree with?
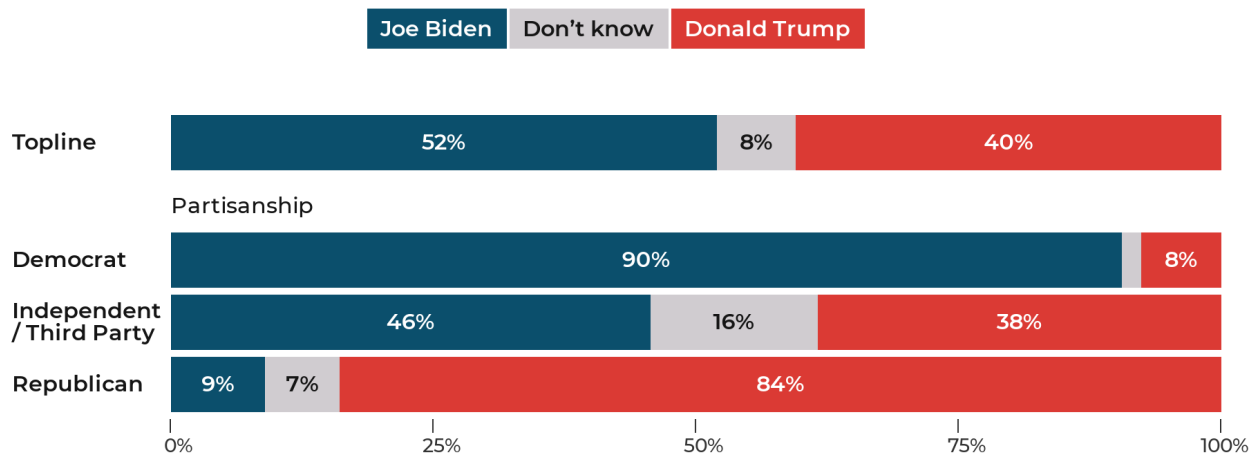

Oct 24 to Oct 25, 2020 survey of 979 likely voters

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A majority of voters (52 percent) also agree with Biden's position on a pathway to citizenship rather than Trump's position on deportations. Again, a majority of Democrats (90 percent) and a plurality of independents (46 percent) agree more closely with Biden on this issue. However, Republicans side strongly with Trump, as a majority (84 percent) agree with the president rather than Biden on the issue of deportations and a proposal for a pathway to citizenship.

Voters Agree with Joe Biden's Position on a Pathway to Citizenship

Some lawmakers are proposing a legal pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants in the United States. President Trump wants to ramp up efforts to deport as many of the 11 million undocumented immigrants as possible, including by threatening to pull funds from so- called "sanctuary cities" that refuse to coordinate and assist in these deportations. Joe Biden believes we should have a pathway to citizenship for those who can earn it, and instead of trying to deport millions, we should focus on enforcing actual public safety threats. Who do you more closely agree with on this issue?

| Joe Biden | Don't know | Donald Trump |

	Joe Biden	Don't know	Donald Trump
Topline	52%	8%	40%

Partisanship

	Joe Biden	Don't know	Donald Trump
Democrat	90%		8%
Independent / Third Party	46%	16%	38%
Republican	9%	7%	84%

0%　　25%　　50%　　75%　　100%

Oct 24 to Oct 25, 2020 survey of 979 likely voters

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As the 2020 election draws to a close, it is clear that voters reject the Trump administration's destructive immigration policies. Among likely voters nationwide, there is bipartisan opposition for separating families at the border and strong bipartisan support for passing the DREAM Act and establishing a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Given such high levels of support for these policies, voters are gravitating towards the Democratic Party and Joe Biden, who are championing a pathway to citizenship instead of deporting millions of hardworking immigrants. Should Biden prevail in this election, he will enter office knowing that the voters who elected him reject the Trump administration's disastrous immigration policies and support his administration passing critical, long-overdue reforms to the nation's immigration system.

Survey Methodology

From October 24 to October 25, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 979 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ±3.1 percentage points.

From October 28 to October 29, 2020, Data for Progress conducted a survey of 1,253 likely voters nationally using web panel respondents. The sample was weighted to be representative of likely voters by age, gender, education, race, and voting history. The survey was conducted in English. The margin of error is ±2.8 percentage points.

COVER PHOTO
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