



## National Toplines | June 2026

2810 likely 2026 voters in the United States from June 18 - 29, 2026.

Margin of error: +/- 1.9%

### Q1. Of the following, which best describes your family's immigration history?

- 6% I immigrated to the United States
- 9 My parents were born outside the United States
- 12 My grandparents were born outside the United States
- 69 My family has lived in the United States for more than three generations
- 4 Not sure / Prefer not to say

### Q2. Do you support or oppose deporting people who are in the United States illegally?

- 38% Strongly support
- 19 Somewhat support
- 19 Somewhat oppose
- 19 Strongly oppose
- 4 Not sure

**58% Total Support**

**38% Total Oppose**

### Q3. Do you approve or disapprove of how Donald Trump is handling immigration as president?

- 32% Strongly approve
- 11 Somewhat approve
- 6 Somewhat disapprove
- 48 Strongly disapprove
- 3 Not sure

**43% Total Approve**

**54% Total Disapprove**

### Q4. What are your biggest concerns about the way the United States currently handles deportations (removing people who are illegally in the country)? Select up to three.

- 47% The separation of families during the removal process
- 34 The harm it causes to the people being deported
- 32 The length of time people spend in detention before being removed
- 32 The lack of a humane or orderly process for people who want to leave voluntarily
- 29 The harm it causes to American communities where deportations occur
- 25 How much it costs taxpayers
- 22 The amount of government resources and personnel it requires
- 20 The image it projects of the United States to the rest of the world
- 19 I don't have concerns about the current approach
- 15 Other ([please specify](#))

Polling was conducted online from June 18 - 29, 2026. Using Dynamic Online Sampling to attain a representative sample, Embold Research polled 2810 likely 2026 voters in the United States. Post-stratification was performed on age, gender, race/ethnicity, education, region, and 2024 presidential vote. You can see a full methodology statement [here](#), which complies with the requirements of AAPOR's Transparency Initiative. Members of the Transparency Initiative disclose all relevant details about our research, with the principle that the public should be able to evaluate and understand research-based findings, in order to instill and restore public confidence in survey results.

**Q5. When you hear the word “deportation,” which of the following best describes what you picture?**

- 53% Law enforcement officers arresting someone and removing them by force
- 43 A legal process that can happen different ways depending on the situation
- 2 A person choosing to leave the country with some government assistance
- 2 Not sure

**Q6. How much do you agree or disagree with each of the following statements?**

|   | <u>Agree</u> |      | <u>Disagree</u> |          | Not Sure | Total Agree | Total Disagree |
|---|--------------|------|-----------------|----------|----------|-------------|----------------|
|   | Strongly     | Smwt | Smwt            | Strongly |          |             |                |
| Everyone deserves to be treated with basic respect, regardless of immigration status.                                   | 68           | 17   | 7               | 6        | 2        | 85          | 13             |
| The U.S. has the responsibility to enforce its immigration laws.  | 59           | 26   | 7               | 5        | 3        | 85          | 12             |
| If someone is going to be removed, allowing them to leave voluntarily is more humane than deporting them in restraints. | 58           | 25   | 6               | 7        | 4        | 83          | 13             |
| A voluntary departure program is a good option for people who want to return home but can't afford to on their own.     | 51           | 33   | 6               | 5        | 6        | 83          | 11             |
| The government should prioritize deportation methods that cost taxpayers less.  | 45           | 28   | 9               | 7        | 12       | 72          | 16             |

**Q7. In a situation where someone in the country illegally is going to be removed regardless, which approach do you think is better?**

- 7% Forced removal – law enforcement arrests people, with or without a criminal record and deports them often in restraints on flights chartered by ICE.
- 41 Assisted Voluntary Return – people with no criminal record are offered assistance to leave on their own before being detained and forcibly deported.
- 47 Both methods are needed depending on the individual circumstances
- 5 Not sure

**Q8. Did you know that people in the United States illegally who have no serious or violent criminal history, have the option to end their immigration case and receive assistance to immediately leave the country voluntarily, rather than wait to be forcibly removed?**

- 48% Yes, I knew this was an option
- 43 No, I did not know this was an option
- 9 Not sure

**Q8b. [IF DID NOT KNOW OF ASSISTED VOLUNTARY RETURN] Now that you know Assisted Voluntary Return is an option, does this make you more or less supportive of it compared to forced deportation?**

- 34% Much more supportive of Assisted Voluntary Return
- 23 Somewhat more supportive of Assisted Voluntary Return
- 32 No difference
- 2 Somewhat more supportive of forced deportation
- 3 Much more supportive of forced deportation
- 5 Not sure

**57% Total More supportive of assisted voluntary return**

**5% Total More supportive of forced deportation**

**Q9. Before today, had you heard of a federal government program called Project Homecoming that helps people in the U.S. illegally leave voluntarily – including covering their travel costs and providing a small relocation payment?**

- 39% Yes, I had heard about this
- 56 No, I had not heard about this
- 5 Not sure

**Q10. If there were a deportation program that achieved the same result as forced removal, but at a lower cost to taxpayers and in a more humane way, would you want your member of Congress to actively support funding it and make it mandatory for ICE to offer this option to individuals before or immediately upon placing them in detention**

- 35% Definitely yes
- 34 Probably yes
- 9 Probably no
- 9 Definitely no
- 14 Not sure

**69% Total Yes**

**17% Total No**

**Q11. [50% saw version A] If your Member of Congress voted to cut funding for the Assisted Voluntary Return program, which saves taxpayers billions of dollars, would that make you more or less likely to vote for them?**

- 9% Much more likely to vote for them
- 9 Somewhat more likely to vote for them
- 29 No difference
- 17 Somewhat less likely to vote for them
- 27 Much less likely to vote for them
- 10 Not sure

**18% Total More likely to vote for them**

**44 Total Less likely to vote for them**

**Q11b. [50% saw version B] If your Member of Congress voted to cut funding for the Assisted Voluntary Return program, which allows people in the country illegally with no criminal background to return home more humanely than deportation, would that make you more or less likely to vote for them?**

8% Much more likely to vote for them  
13 Somewhat more likely to vote for them  
28 No difference  
17 Somewhat less likely to vote for them  
26 Much less likely to vote for them  
8 Not sure

**21% Total More likely to vote for them**

**43 Total Less likely to vote for them**

**Q12. If a Member of Congress opposed deportations but believed that people in the country illegally should be encouraged to leave on their own, would that make you more or less likely to support them?**

15% Much more likely to support them  
21 Somewhat more likely to support them  
24 Wouldn't affect my choice  
11 Somewhat less likely to support them  
21 Much less likely to support them  
8 Not sure

**36% Total More likely to support them**

**32 Total Less likely to support them**

**Q13. The federal government currently runs Project Homecoming that allows immigrants without legal status to choose to leave the country on their own rather than wait to be forcibly removed. Participants are not detained or taken into custody. Instead, they are assisted to make proper arrangements for themselves and their family members to depart together and may receive some assistance to help them return home successfully.**

**Do you support or oppose this program?**

38% Strongly support  
41 Somewhat support  
7 Somewhat oppose  
5 Strongly oppose  
9 Not sure

**79% Total Support**

**11% Total Oppose**

**Q14. Now we're going to tell you a few specific things about how this program works. For each one, please tell us whether it makes you more or less likely to support the Assisted Voluntary Return program.**

|   | <u>More likely</u> |             | No<br>change | <u>Less likely</u> |             | Not<br>sure | <i><b>Total<br/>More<br/>likely</b></i> | <i><b>Total<br/>Less<br/>likely</b></i> |
|---|--------------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-------------|---|---|
|   | <b>Much</b>        | <b>Smwt</b> |              | <b>Smwt</b>        | <b>Much</b> |             |   |   |
| The program saves taxpayers an estimated \$2.3 billion compared to the cost of forced removal   | 44                 | 26          | 20           | 2                  | 3           | 4           | <b>71</b>                               | <b>5</b>                                |
| Participants depart within an average of 36 days, compared to 130 days in detention under forced deportation  | 40                 | 29          | 22           | 2                  | 3           | 5           | <b>69</b>                               | <b>5</b>                                |
| Participants leave on a commercial airline rather than a government aircraft escorted by ICE agents   | 32                 | 22          | 30           | 5                  | 7           | 5           | <b>54</b>                               | <b>12</b>                               |
| Participants receive a one-time payment of approximately \$2,600 to help cover resettlement costs once confirmation is received that they have arrived in their home country. | 22                 | 23          | 24           | 10                 | 16          | 6           | <b>45</b>                               | <b>26</b>                               |
| The average cost of a commercial flight for the participant is \$863  | 19                 | 18          | 39           | 8                  | 9           | 7           | <b>38</b>                               | <b>16</b>                               |

**Q15. Here are some facts about how forced deportation currently works in the United States. For each one, please tell us whether it makes you more or less supportive of forced deportation.**

|   | <u>More likely</u> |      | <u>Less likely</u> |      | Not sure | Total More likely | Total Less likely   |
|---|--------------------|------|--------------------|------|----------|-------------------|---------------------|
|   | Much               | Smwt | No change          | Smwt |          |                   |                     |
| The U.S. has spent over \$1.6 billion on detention costs alone for people who could have left voluntarily.                                      | 10                 | 8    | 28                 | 8    | 40       | 6                 | <b>18</b> <b>49</b> |
| People who go through forced deportation spend an average of 130 days in a privately owned and operated detention facility before being removed | 9                  | 7    | 28                 | 8    | 44       | 5                 | <b>16</b> <b>52</b> |
| Forced deportation costs taxpayers an average of \$19,760 per person in detention costs alone   | 9                  | 7    | 25                 | 9    | 44       | 6                 | <b>16</b> <b>53</b> |
| Every day a person is in detention the private company makes a profit with no incentive to send detainees back quickly.                         | 9                  | 6    | 21                 | 11   | 47       | 6                 | <b>15</b> <b>58</b> |

**Q16. [50% saw version A] Flying someone out of the country on a dedicated deportation flight costs the government \$6,045 per person – more than seven times the cost of a commercial flight. Does this make you more or less supportive of forced deportation?**

8% Much more likely  
 5 Somewhat more likely  
 24 No change  
 10 Somewhat less likely  
 48 Much less likely  
 5 Not sure

**13% Total More likely**  
**58% Total Less likely**

**Q16b. [50% saw version B] Flying someone out of the country on an ICE Air flight costs the government \$6,045 per person – more than seven times the cost of a commercial flight. Does this make you more or less supportive of forced deportation?**

7% Much more likely  
 5 Somewhat more likely  
 26 No change  
 10 Somewhat less likely  
 47 Much less likely  
 5 Not sure

**12% Total More likely**  
**57% Total Less likely**

**Q17. The following are statements made by supporters of the Assisted Voluntary Return program. How convincing is each one?**

|  | Very | Convincing |         | At All | Not Sure | Total Convincing | Total Not |
|--|------|------------|---------|--------|----------|------------------|-----------|
|  |      | Smwt       | Not Too |        |          |                  |           |
| “This program saves American taxpayers billions of dollars and removes illegal aliens faster when compared to forced deportation. It’s the fiscally responsible approach.” | 35   | 33         | 15      | 11     | 6        | 69               | 26        |
| “People who want to go home but can’t afford it require a real option. This program provides one.”   | 33   | 36         | 15      | 11     | 4        | 69               | 26        |
| “Whether you favor strict enforcement or a more compassionate approach, Assisted Voluntary Return delivers better outcomes than forced removal.”                           | 31   | 33         | 19      | 11     | 6        | 64               | 30        |
| “More than 113,000 people have already chosen to use this program. It works.”  | 27   | 36         | 19      | 12     | 7        | 63               | 31        |

**Q18. The following are statements made by critics of the Assisted Voluntary Return program. How convincing is each one?**

|   | Very | Convincing |         | At All | Not Sure | Total Convincing | Total Not |
|---|------|------------|---------|--------|----------|------------------|-----------|
|   |      | Smwt       | Not Too |        |          |                  |           |
| “Without serious consequences, people will just come back.”                                       | 28   | 19         | 17      | 31     | 5        | 46               | 48        |
| “Paying people to leave rewards illegal behavior and sets a bad precedent.”                       | 21   | 20         | 19      | 35     | 5        | 41               | 54        |
| “Assisted Voluntary Return programs are too soft. The only real deterrent is strict enforcement.” | 17   | 18         | 17      | 42     | 6        | 35               | 59        |

**Q19. Thinking about everything you have read in this survey, which approach to immigration removal would you prefer the United States utilize?**

- 9% Forced removal – law enforcement arrests people, with or without a criminal record and deports them often in restraints on flights chartered by ICE.
- 37 Assisted Voluntary Return – people with no criminal record are offered assistance to leave on their own before being detained and forcibly deported.
- 47 Both methods are needed depending on the individual circumstances
- 7 Not sure

**Q20. Do you think support for an Assisted Voluntary Return program should be a priority for Democrats, Republicans, or both parties?**

|    |                                      |
|----|--------------------------------------|
| 2% | Democrats only                       |
| 2  | Republicans only                     |
| 71 | Both parties equally                 |
| 19 | Neither party should prioritize this |
| 7  | Not sure                             |

**Q21. Do you support or oppose Congress allocating federal funding from the existing Department of Homeland Security budget to expand the Assisted Voluntary Return program?**

|     |                  |
|-----|------------------|
| 31% | Strongly support |
| 31  | Somewhat support |
| 10  | Somewhat oppose  |
| 14  | Strongly oppose  |
| 13  | Not sure         |

|            |                      |
|------------|----------------------|
| <b>63%</b> | <b>Total Support</b> |
| <b>24%</b> | <b>Total Oppose</b>  |

**D1. Are you:**

47% A man  
52 A woman  
1 Another identity

**D2. Age**

25% 18 to 34  
24 35 to 49  
24 50 to 64  
27 65+

**D3. Race/ethnicity**

63% White / Caucasian  
13 Hispanic or Latino/a  
12 Black or African American  
7 Asian / Pacific Islander  
1 American Indian or Alaska Native  
3 Other

**D4. What is the highest level of education you have completed?**

15% High school diploma or less  
28 Some college, but no degree  
14 Associate's degree, or two-year college degree  
25 Bachelor's degree, or four-year college degree  
18 Graduate degree

**D5. Party Identification**

24% Strong Democrats  
10 Weak Democrats  
10 Independent lean Democrats  
14 Pure independents  
10 Independent lean Republicans  
8 Weak Republicans  
25 Strong Republicans

**Party Identification**

44% Democrats  
14 Pure independents  
42 Republicans

**D6. MAGA Republican**

57% Yes  
25 No  
17 Not sure

**D7. How did you vote in the 2024 election for President, or for some reason were you unable to vote?**

42% Kamala Harris, the Democrat  
43 Donald Trump, the Republican  
6 A third party candidate  
2 Not registered/Too young/Ineligible  
7 Did not vote