

PRRI Religion & Politics Tracking Survey
N = 1,015 (507 Landline, 508 Cell phone)
February 4 – February 8, 2015

Q.1 As I read a pair of statements, please say whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own views — even if neither is exactly right. **[ROTATE OPTIONS]**

Feb. 2015	July 2014 ¹	Oct. 2010 ²	March 2010 ³	
58	49	44	45	Immigrants today strengthen our country because of their hard work and talents.
31	42	48	43	Immigrants today are a burden on our country because they take our jobs, housing and health care.
7	5	5	7	Neither/Both equally (VOL.)
4	2	3	5	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	100	100	Total

2. Which statement comes closest to your view about how the immigration system should deal with immigrants who are currently living in the U.S. illegally? The immigration system should... **[FORM 1 READ IN ORDER (1-3), FORM 2 READ REVERSE ORDER (3-1)]**

	Allow them a way to become citizens provided they meet certain requirements	Allow them to become permanent legal residents but not citizens	Identify and deport them	None of these	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
Feb. 2015	59	19	18	1	3=100
Dec. 2014 ⁴	58	19	20	1	2=100
July 2014 ⁵	58	17	22	1	2=100
Nov. 2013 ⁶	63	14	18	1	4=100
Aug. 2013 ⁷	63	12	19	1	4=100
March 2010 ⁸	63	14	21	1	1=100

¹ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion and Politics Tracking Survey, July 2014.

² Public Religion Research Institute, American Values Survey 2010, October 2010.

³ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion, Values, and Immigration Reform Survey, March 2010.

⁴ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion and Politics Tracking Survey, December 2014.

⁵ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion and Politics Tracking Survey, July 2014.

⁶ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion and Politics Tracking Survey, November 2013.

⁷ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion and Politics Tracking Poll, August 2013.

⁸ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion, Values, and Immigration Reform Survey, March 2010.

Thinking about some issues in the country today...

Q.3 All in all, do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose **[INSERT; RANDOMIZE]**? And do you strongly favor, favor, oppose or strongly oppose **[INSERT NEXT]**?

ASK FORM 1 ONLY [N=505]:

- a. Allowing illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college.

	<u>Strongly favor</u>	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Strongly oppose</u>	<u>Don't know/Refused (VOL.)</u>
Feb. 2015	21	47	18	10	5=100
Dec. 2014 ⁹	26	38	20	14	2=100
March 2013 ¹⁰	21	40	21	13	7=100
Oct. 2012 ¹¹	25	35	20	17	4=100
Sept. 2012 ¹²	23	37	18	18	4=100
June 2012 ¹³	23	32	21	20	4=100
Sept. 2011 ¹⁴	18	39	24	16	3=100

- b. Allowing illegal immigrants who are the parents of children with legal status to stay in the U.S. for three years without being subject to deportation, if they pass a background check and have lived in the country for at least five years.

<u>Feb. 2015</u>	<u>Dec. 2014¹⁵</u>	
22	28	Strongly favor
54	44	Favor
13	15	Oppose
6	12	Strongly oppose
4	2	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

⁹ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion and Politics Tracking Survey, December 2014.

¹⁰ PRRI/Brookings, Religion, Values, & Immigration Reform Survey, March 2013.

¹¹ Public Religion Research Institute, American Values Survey, October 2012.

¹² Public Religion Research Institute, Race, Class, and Culture, September 2012.

¹³ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion and Politics Tracking Survey, June 2012.

¹⁴ Public Religion Research Institute, Pluralism, Immigration, and Civic Integration Survey, September 2011.

¹⁵ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion and Politics Tracking Survey, December 2014.

ASK FORM 2 ONLY [N=510]:

- c. President Obama's policy allowing illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children to gain legal resident status if they join the military or go to college.

19	Strongly favor
43	Favor
20	Oppose
13	Strongly oppose
<u>5</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

- d. President Obama's policy allowing illegal immigrants who are the parents of children with legal status to stay in the U.S. for three years without being subject to deportation, if they pass a background check and have lived in the country for at least five years.

19	Strongly favor
46	Favor
18	Oppose
12	Strongly oppose
<u>4</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

- Q.4 As you may know, an executive action is something done by a president that can put some regulations into effect that do not require Congressional approval. How much, if anything, have you heard about President Obama taking executive action on immigration?

<u>Feb. 2015</u>	<u>Dec. 2014</u> ¹⁶	
36	46	A lot
45	42	A little
18	12	Nothing at all
<u>1</u>	<u>*</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

¹⁶ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion and Politics Tracking Survey, December 2014.

Q.5 Given that Congress has not yet acted to address the immigration issue, do you think President Obama should or should not have taken executive action on immigration?

<u>Feb. 2015</u>	<u>Dec. 2014</u> ¹⁷	
52	50	Should
42	45	Should not
1	1	Have not heard/read enough (VOL.)
<u>5</u>	<u>3</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	100	Total

Q.6 Which do you think should be a higher priority for Republicans in Congress? Should they focus on...

17	Overturing Obama's immigration policies
73	Passing a bill that makes comprehensive reforms to U.S. immigration policy
2	Both (VOL.)
1	Neither (VOL.)
<u>6</u>	Don't know/Refused (VOL.)
100	Total

¹⁷ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion and Politics Tracking Survey, December 2014

Q.7 All in all, do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as President?

	<u>Approve</u>	<u>Disapprove</u>	<u>Mixed (VOL.)</u>	<u>Don't know/ Refused (VOL.)</u>
Feb. 2015	49	43	5	3=100
Dec. 2014 ¹⁸	43	51	4	2=100
Sept. 2014 ¹⁹	38	48	6	8=100
July 2013 ²⁰	48	41	5	6=100
March 2013 ²¹	51	39	6	4=100
Oct. 2012 ²²	48	43	6	4=100
Sept. 2012 ²³	46	43	6	5=100
Nov. 2011 ²⁴	45	44	-	12=100
Sept. 2011 ²⁵	44	47	-	9=100
Oct. 2010 ²⁶	49	42	-	9=100
March 2010 ²⁷	46	44	-	10=100

Note: Numbers may not add to 100% due to rounding

¹⁸ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion and Politics Tracking Survey, December 2014

¹⁹ Public Religion Research Institute, American Values Survey, September 2014

²⁰ PRRI/Brookings, Economic Values Survey, July 2013

²¹ PRRI/Brookings, Religion, Values, & Immigration Reform, March 2013

²² Public Religion Research Institute, American Values Survey, October 2012

²³ Public Religion Research Institute, Race, Class, and Culture Survey, September 2012

²⁴ Public Religion Research Institute, American Values Survey, November 2011

²⁵ Public Religion Research Institute, Pluralism, Immigration, and Civic Integration, September 2011

²⁶ Public Religion Research Institute, American Values Survey, October 2010

²⁷ Public Religion Research Institute, Religion, Values, and Immigration Reform Survey, March 2010

Survey Methodology

The survey was designed and conducted by Public Religion Research Institute. Results of the survey were based on bilingual (Spanish and English) RDD telephone interviews conducted between February 4, 2015, and February 8, 2015, by professional interviewers under the direction of SSRS. Interviews were conducted among a random sample of 1,015 adults 18 years of age or older living in the United States (508 respondents were interviewed on a cell phone). The selection of respondents within households was accomplished by randomly requesting to speak with the youngest adult male or female currently living in the household. The survey was funded by generous grants from The Ford Foundation and The James Irvine Foundation.

Data collection is based on stratified, single-stage, random-digit-dialing (RDD) sample of landline telephone households and randomly generated cell phone numbers. The sample is designed to represent the total U.S. adult population and includes respondents from all 50 states, including Hawaii and Alaska. The landline and cell phone samples are provided by Marketing Systems.

The weighting is accomplished in two separate stages. The first stage of weighting corrects for different probabilities of selection associated with the number of adults in each household and each respondent's telephone usage patterns.²⁸ In the second stage, sample demographics are balanced to match target population parameters for gender, age, education, race and Hispanic ethnicity, region (U.S. Census definitions), population density and telephone usage. The population density parameter was derived from Census 2010 data. The telephone usage parameter came from an analysis of the most recent National Health Interview Survey. All other weighting parameters are derived from an analysis of the U.S. Census Bureau's March 2014 Current Population Survey.

The sample weighting is accomplished using an iterative proportional fitting (IFP) process that simultaneously balances the distributions of all variables. Weights were trimmed to prevent individual interviews from having too much influence on the final results. The use of these weights in statistical analysis ensures that the demographic characteristics of the sample closely approximate the demographic characteristics of the target populations.

The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.6 percentage points at the 95% level of confidence. The design effect for the survey is 1.3. In addition to sampling error, surveys may also be subject to error or bias due to question wording, context and order effects.

²⁸ Telephone usage refers to whether respondents have only a landline telephone, only a cell phone, or both types.

Appendix

Table 1. Demographic, Political, and Religious Subgroup Sample Sizes
(All figures are unweighted)

	General Public
Total Sample	1,015
Male	480
Female	535
Republican	244
Independent	396
Democrat	315
White, non-Hispanic	691
Black, non-Hispanic	118
Hispanic	126
18-29	166
30-49	266
50-64	310
65+	272
White Evangelical Protestant	193
White Mainline Protestant	152
Minority Protestant	161
Catholic	197
<i>White Catholic</i>	129
Religiously Unaffiliated	237