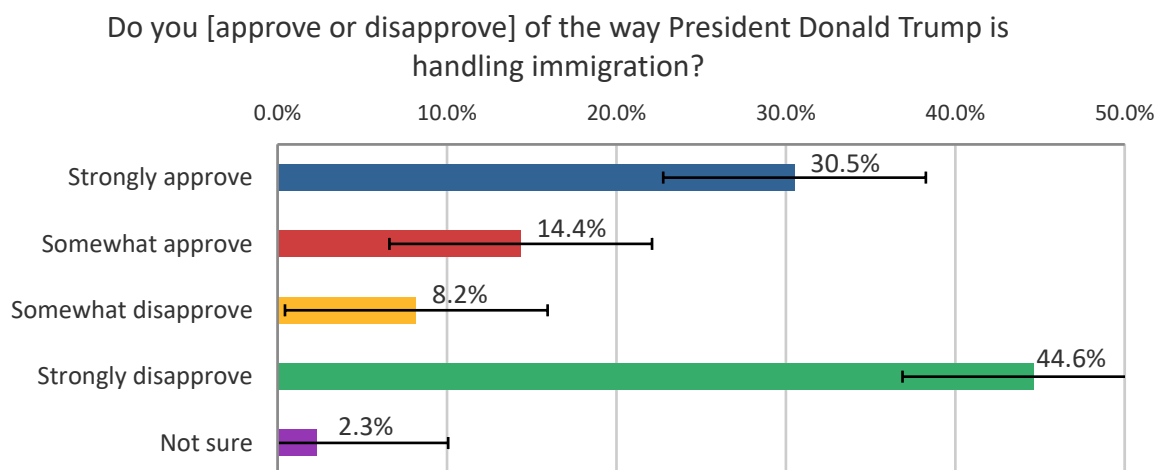


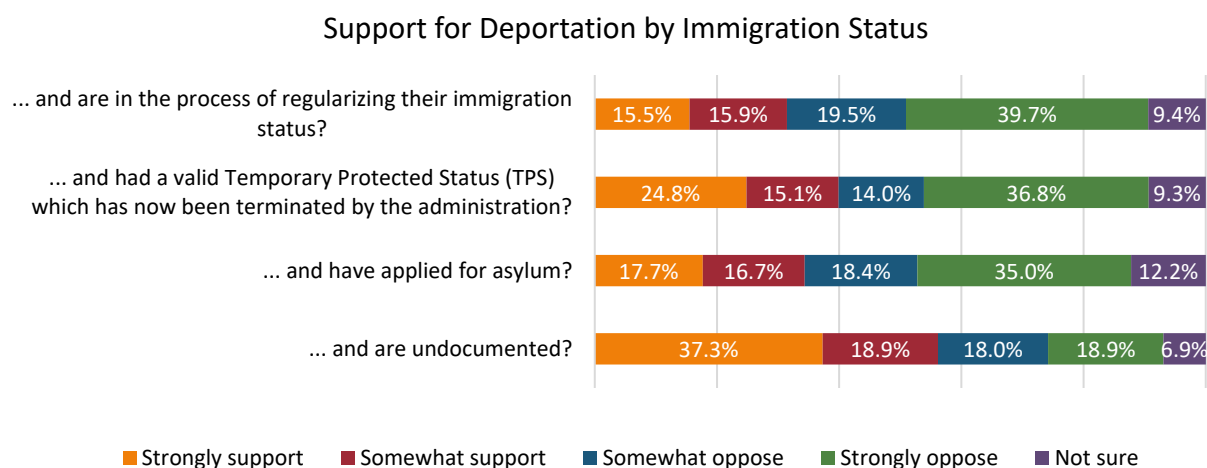
Where American Voters Stand on MAGA's Immigration Policies

Report | October 16, 2026

Asked whether they approve or disapprove of the way President Donald Trump is handling immigration, 52.8% disapproved and 44.9% approved, most interestingly many more strongly disapprove (44.6%) than those who strongly approve (30.5%). This comes from a poll of **5,000 English-speaking registered voters** conducted from September 9 to September 25, 2026, by the polling organization YouGov on behalf of the Center for Latin American and Latino Studies at American University. It gathered views on a variety of immigration policy-related topics. The margin of error is: $\pm 1.5\%$. The pool of participants was structured to be demographically representative of likely voters. White Americans, those living in the South, highly educated Americans, and people aged 65 and over are slightly overrepresented. Because the survey was only conducted in English among registered voters, most who have voted in last two presidential elections and midterms, the views of Spanish-only speakers, permanent residents, and non-citizens are not included. So the results presented here are conservative estimates.

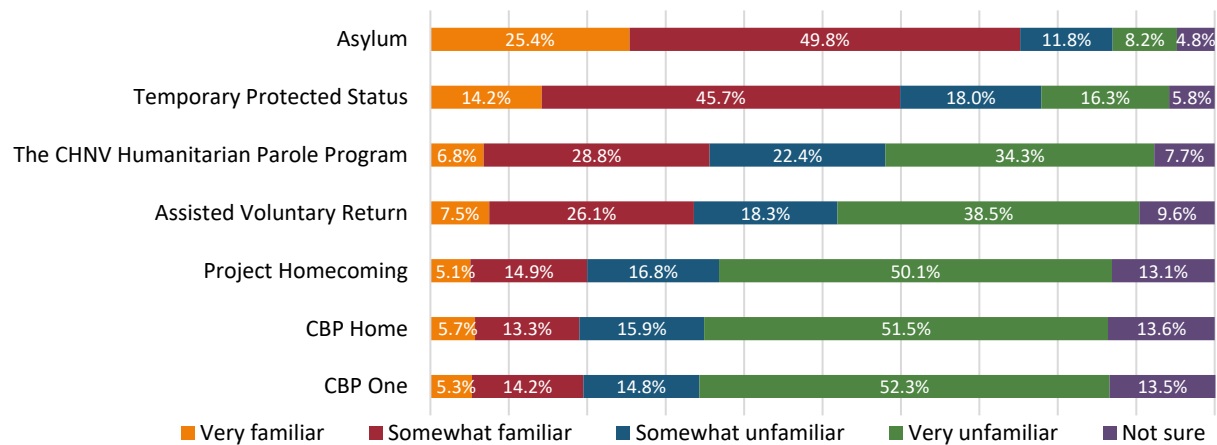


Respondents also support the government deporting people in different migration statuses differently: 37.3% strongly support deporting individuals who are undocumented, 24.8% strongly support people who had Temporary Protected Status until recently while 50.5% somewhat or strongly oppose; 17.7% strong support while **53.4 oppose deporting those who have applied for asylum**; and 59.2% oppose, 9.4% are unsure, while only 15.5% strongly support deporting those who are in the process of regularizing their immigration status (e.g., renewing visa, applying for immigration relief, a green card, or citizenship).



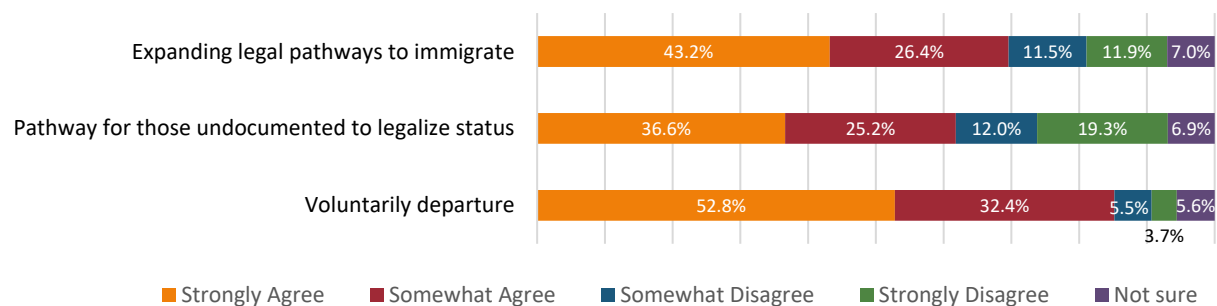
Respondents reported varying levels of familiarity with U.S. immigration programs and policies. Asylum (75.2%) and Temporary Protected Status (TPS) (59.9%) were the most familiar programs among respondents. While only 6.8% were familiar with the Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, and Venezuela (CHNV) Humanitarian Parole Program, implemented by the Biden Administration which allowed eligible individuals from these countries to temporarily enter legally if they had a sponsor in the United States. Awareness was also particularly limited for more recent immigration initiatives, with more than half of respondents reporting being very unfamiliar with Project Homecoming and the CBP Home and CBP One smartphone applications.

How [familiar or unfamiliar] are you with each of the following:

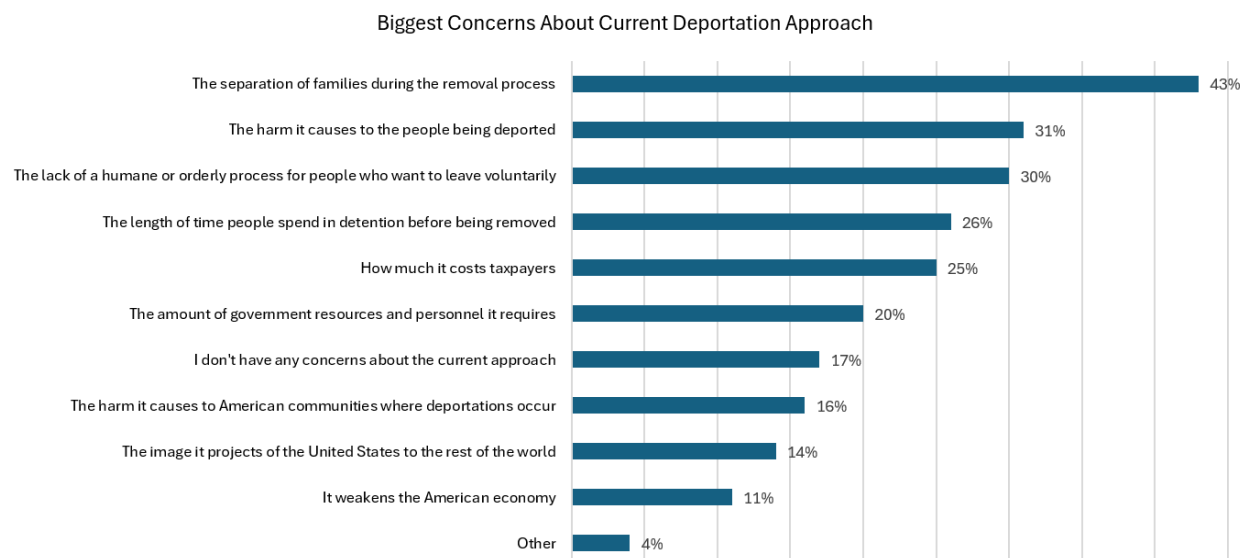


Contrary to online discourse, a large majority of respondents supported more humane immigration policies, expanded legal immigration pathways, and opportunities for undocumented immigrants to legalize their status. More than eight in ten respondents (85.2%) agreed that allowing individuals to leave voluntarily is more humane than deporting them in restraints, with 52.8% strongly agreeing. Similarly, 69.6% supported expanding legal pathways for immigration, while 61.8% supported providing undocumented immigrants with a pathway to legal status.

How much do you [agree or disagree] with...

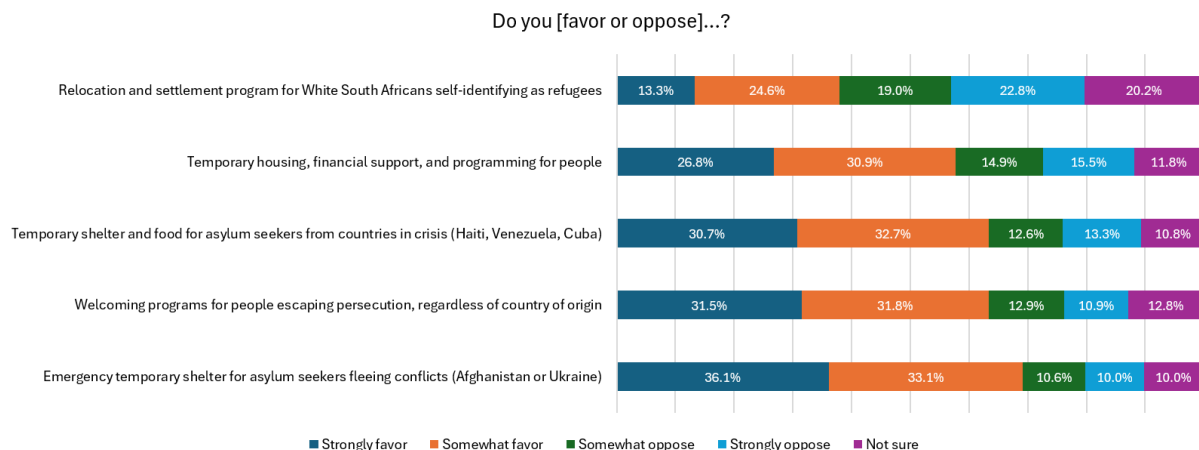


Most people were against mass deportation by force and they shared many concerns. The most frequently cited concern was the separation of families during the removal process (43%), followed by the harm caused to individuals being deported (31%) and the lack of a humane or orderly removal process (30%). Other concerns included prolonged immigration detention (26%), costs to taxpayers (25%), and the use of government resources and personnel (20%). Fewer respondents cited the impact on American communities (16%), the country's international image (14%), or the economy (11%). Only 17% reported having no concerns about the current approach to deportation.

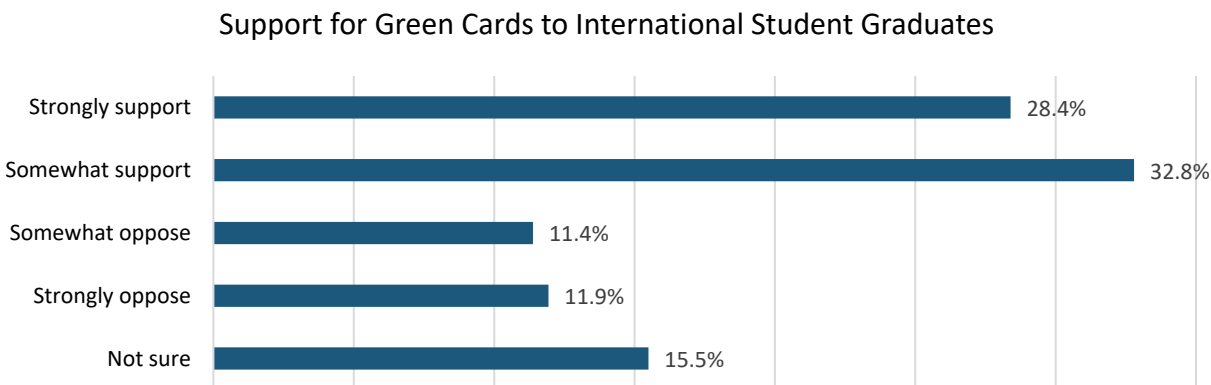


A majority of respondents expressed support for providing humanitarian assistance to individuals seeking asylum in the United States, however support varied depending on the populations and types of assistance described. Support was highest for providing emergency temporary shelter to individuals fleeing violent conflicts in countries such as Afghanistan and Ukraine, with 69.2% in favor (36.1% strongly favoring and 33.1% somewhat favoring), compared to 20.6% opposed. Similarly, 63.3% supported welcoming programs for individuals and families escaping persecution, regardless of their country of origin, while 63.4% favored temporary shelter and food assistance for asylum seekers from countries experiencing crises, such as Haiti, Venezuela, and Cuba.

Support was somewhat lower for proposals involving more extensive assistance, with 57.7% favoring temporary housing, financial support, and programming, compared to 30.4% opposed. The lowest level of support was observed for a program helping white South Africans who self-identify as refugees relocate and settle in the United States. Only 37.9% supported this proposal, while 41.8% opposed it and 20.2% were unsure.

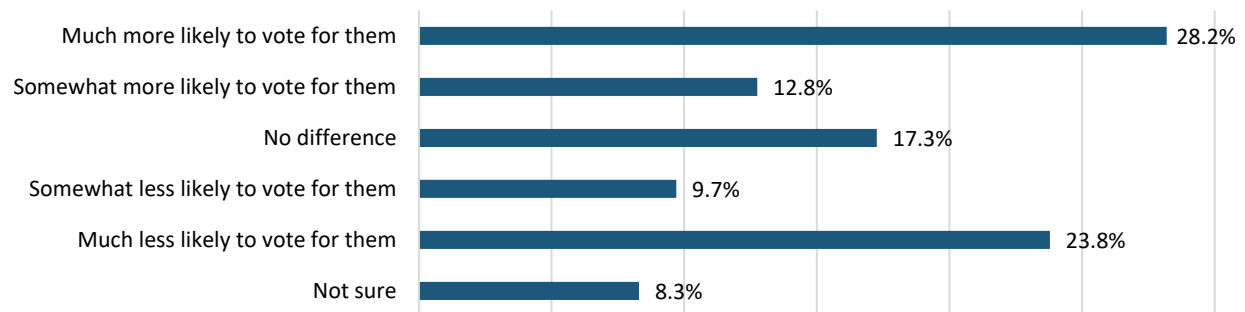


A majority of respondents supported providing Green Cards to international students who graduate from U.S. universities, a proposal discussed by both major presidential candidates during the 2024 election. Overall, 61.2% expressed support for the policy, including 33.3% who strongly supported it. These findings indicate broad support among respondents for creating pathways to permanent residency for international graduates of U.S. institutions.



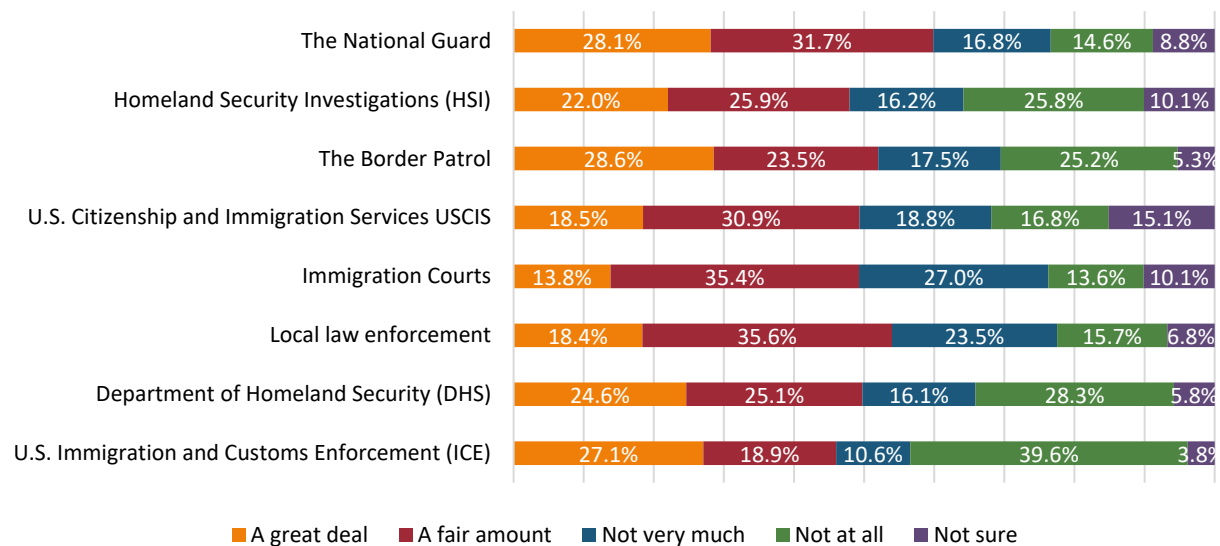
Respondents were more likely to support a member of Congress who voted to reduce funding for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) than one who opposed such cuts. Overall, 41% reported that a vote to cut ICE funding would make them more likely to vote for their representative, compared with 33.5% who said it would make them less likely. This represents a 7.5-percentage-point difference in reported voting intentions.

If your Member of Congress voted to cut funding for ICE would that make you [more or less] likely to vote for them?



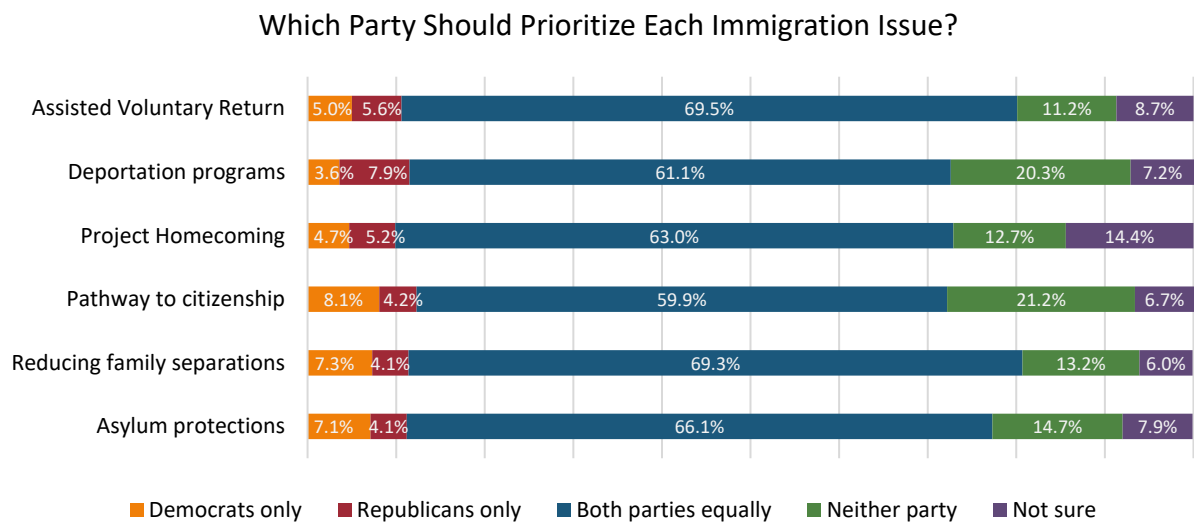
Although the National Guard has not traditionally been responsible for immigration enforcement, some units have assisted federal immigration authorities, including Border Patrol, ICE, and HIS agents, during the second Trump administration. Despite this limited traditional role, **60% of respondents expressed trust in the National Guard to handle deportations fairly**. In contrast, respondents were more skeptical of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), with **50% reporting that they did not trust ICE to carry out deportations fairly**. These findings highlight notable public trust toward federal immigration enforcement agencies.

Trust In Agencies To Handle Deportations Fairly



Respondents overwhelmingly supported Democrats and Republicans working on creating pathways toward citizenship, reducing family separations, and expanding

asylum protections, and even making deportation more humane and following due process. Voters want both parties to work together to improve the immigration system.



Overall, the findings reveal a notable contrast between political rhetoric that often frames immigration as a threat or challenge and public attitudes that reflect greater sympathy toward immigrants and openness to bipartisan immigration reform.

Read the report on our website:

<https://www.american.edu/centers/latin-american-latino-studies/yougov-survey.cfm>

More information about the survey at:

<https://www.american.edu/centers/latin-american-latino-studies/index.cfm>

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