

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
March 2005



To: Interested Parties
From: The Tarrance Group and Lake Snell Perry Mermin & Associates
Subject: Key findings from a nationwide survey of “likely” voters¹

- There is overwhelming and intense support among likely voters for the proposed outlines of bipartisan legislation on immigration reform. Fully 75% of likely voters favor a proposal that has the following components:
 - Registration of undocumented workers as temporary guest workers,
 - Provides temporary work visas for seasonal and temporary workers,
 - Provides newly registered workers with a multi-year process for legal residency and eventual citizenship,
 - Provides newly registered workers with no preferential treatment for citizenship,
 - Provides tougher penalties for workers or employers who violate these laws, and
 - Puts a priority on reuniting close family members.
- Each element of this proposal was also tested individually. Every element of this proposal enjoys the support of more than 60% of the likely electorate.
- Support for this proposal is solid across party lines – 78% of Republicans, 77% of Independents, and 70% of Democrats are supportive; and regional lines – 77% of Red State voters, 79% of Blue State voters, and, 72% of Purple State voters are supportive; and demographic lines – 78% of whites, 67% of African Americans, and 70% of Hispanics are supportive.
- On a second test, after voters have heard several positive and several negative messages about the proposal – support among voters remains solid for the proposal as 77% of voters indicate support.
- In thinking about the impact this proposal could have on the upcoming Congressional elections, 69% of likely voters indicate that they would be more likely to support a Congressional candidate who supported this type of immigration proposal.
- More than three-in-four likely voters agree on these statements framing the immigration reform debate:
 - “The immigration system is broken and needs to be fixed.”
 - “If an immigrant has been in this country working, paying taxes, and learning English, there should be a way for them to become a citizen.”
 - “Fixing our immigration system to make it safe, legal, and orderly will make us more secure from terrorists.”
- *The bottom line...* There is near universal agreement on the need for immigration reform. There is strong and intense support among likely voters for an immigration reform proposal that is comprehensive and bipartisan.

¹ These findings are drawn from telephone interviews with N=800 “likely” voters nationwide. The confidence interval associated with a sample of this type is $\pm 3.5\%$. Responses to this survey were gathered March 20-22, 2005.

A National Survey Of Voter Attitudes On Immigration



March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / $\pm 3.5\%$ M.O.E.

Strategic Summary: The proposal

- Three quarters of American voters support a comprehensive, bipartisan immigration reform proposal that combines toughness, fairness, a guest worker program, family reunification, and a path to legal residency for undocumented immigrants who are already here.
- Support for this proposal is solid across party, regional and demographic lines.
- Voters support each component of the proposal as well as the overall package.
- Support for the proposal holds firm after voters hear positive and negative messages.

March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / $\pm 3.5\%$ M.O.E.

Strategic Summary: Candidates

- Most voters do not base their support for political candidates on the immigration issue. However, even those that do are solidly in favor of this immigration reform proposal.
- Over two thirds of all voters say they would be more likely to vote for a candidate who supports this type of immigration proposal.

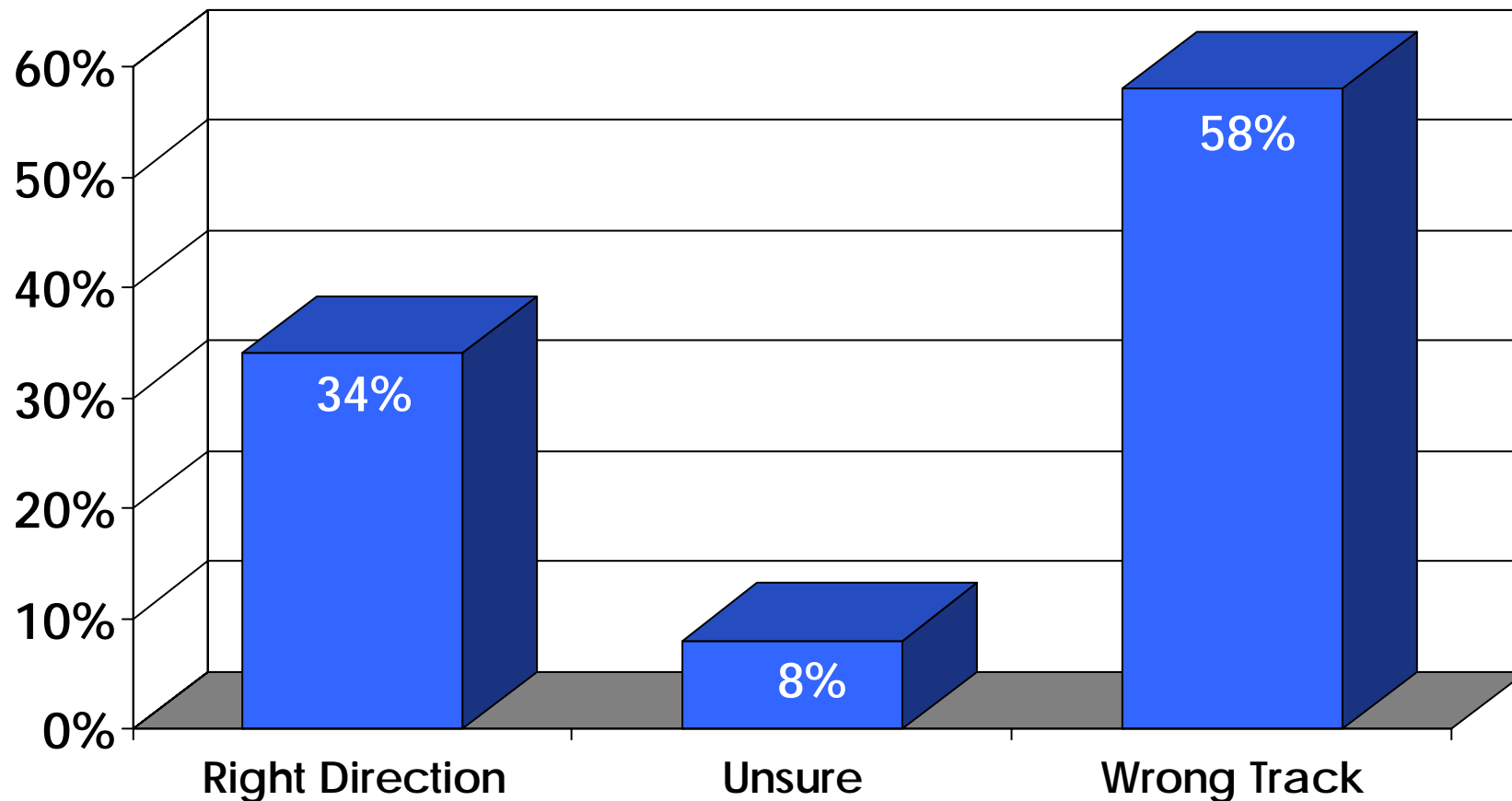
March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered “Likely” Voters / $\pm 3.5\%$ M.O.E.

Strategic Summary: Context

- Voters overwhelmingly believe the immigration system is broken and needs to be fixed. They want a controlled system that would replace an illegal immigration flow with a legal immigration flow.
- The vast majority of voters believe that deporting the 10 million undocumented immigrants currently in the United States is unrealistic.
- More than 8 in 10 believe that if an immigrant has been in this country working, paying taxes, and learning English, there should be a way for them to become a citizen.

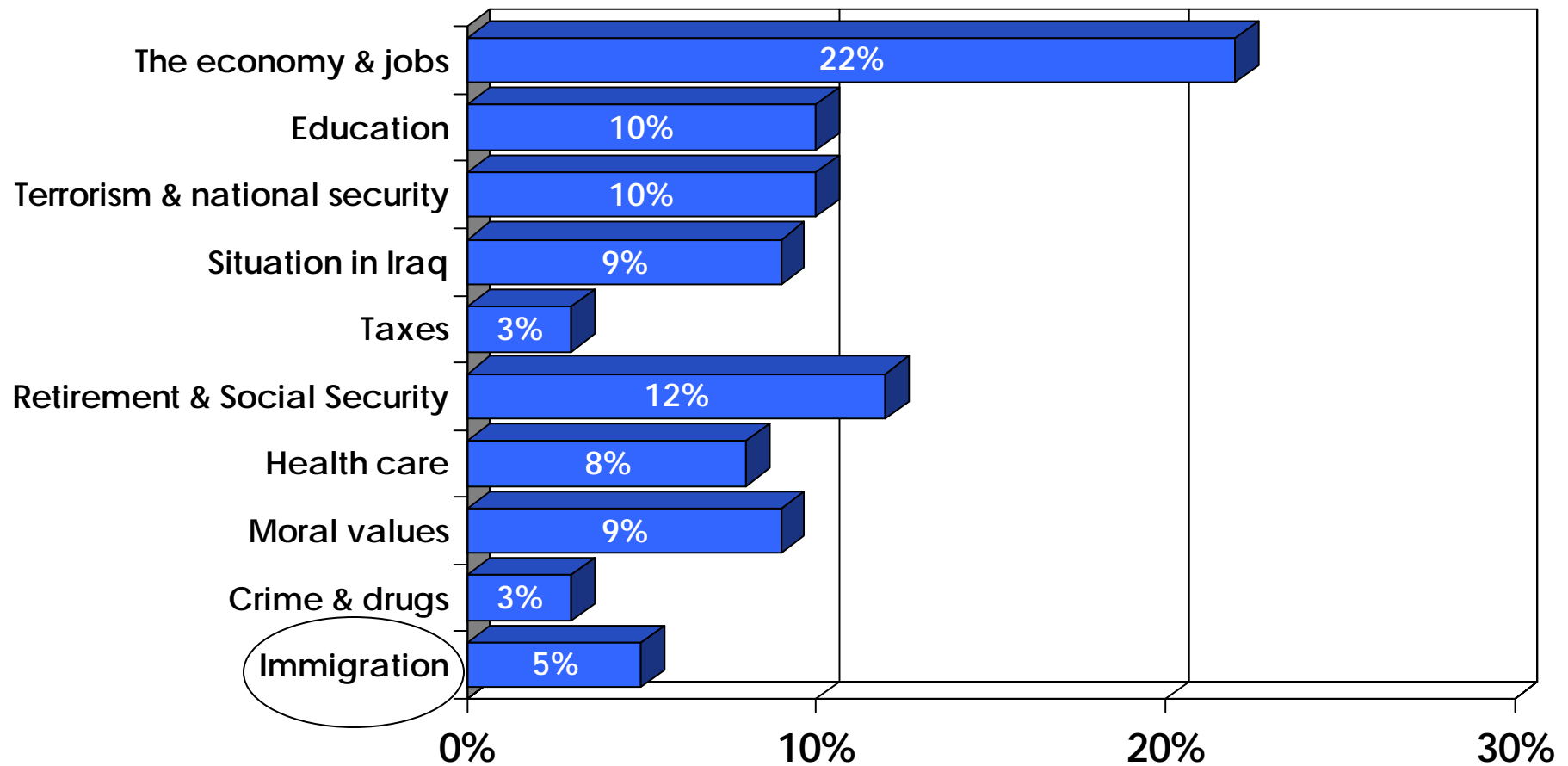
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Do you feel things in this country are going in the right direction, or have they gotten off on the wrong track?



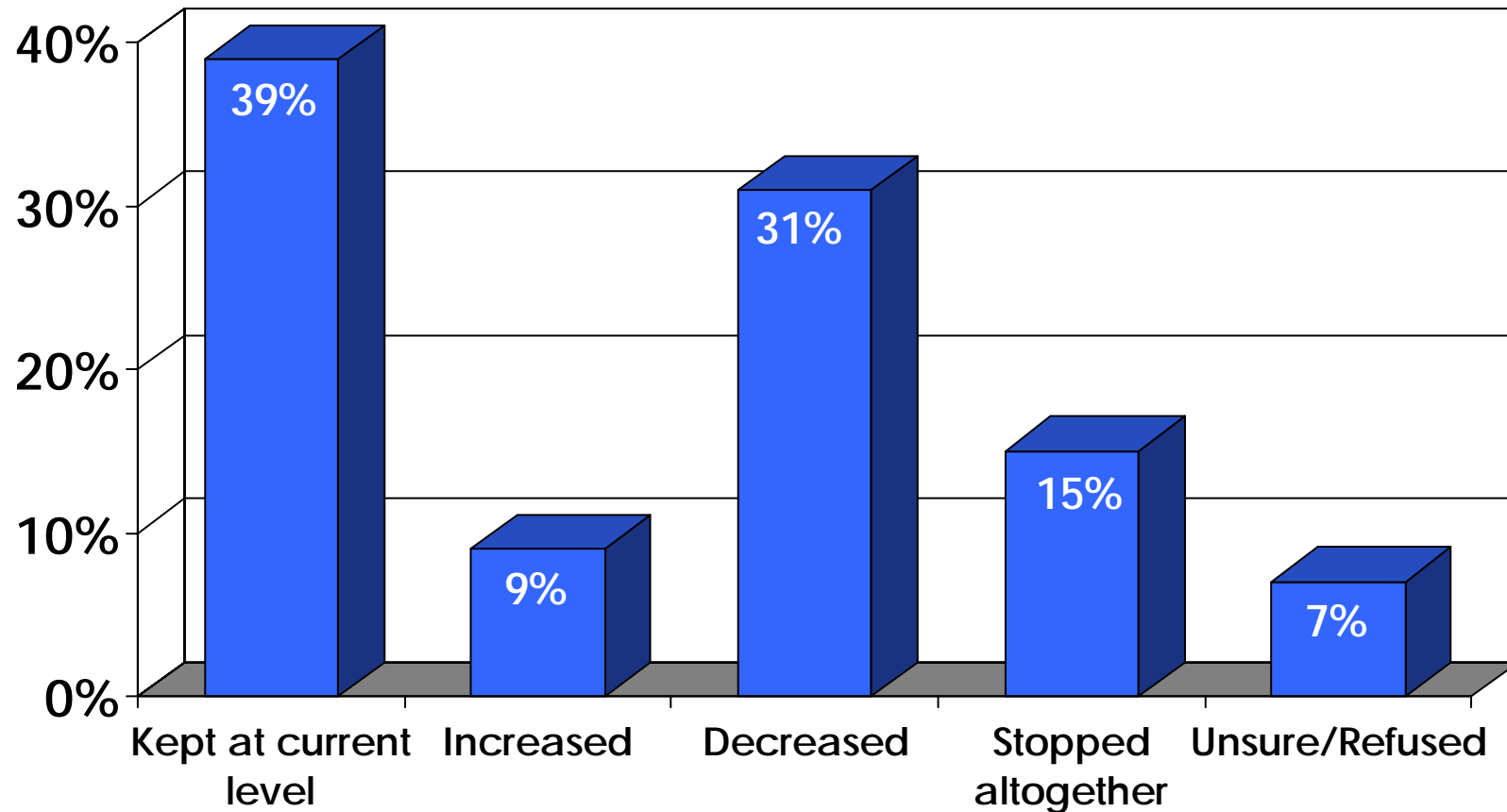
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Please tell me which one of these you personally worry about the MOST:



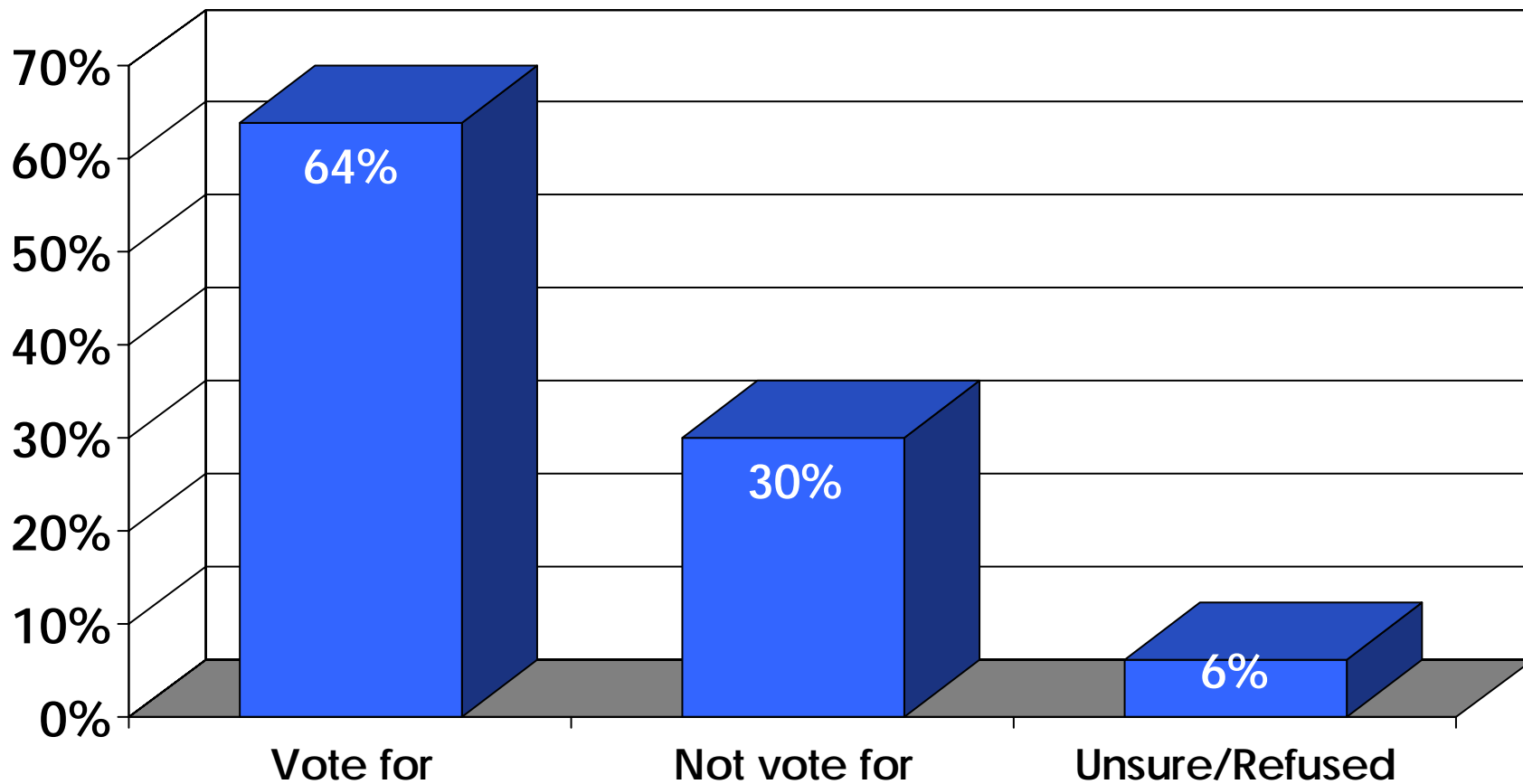
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Thinking about legal immigration, should the number of immigrants allowed into the US each year – be kept at its current level, increased, decreased, or stopped altogether?



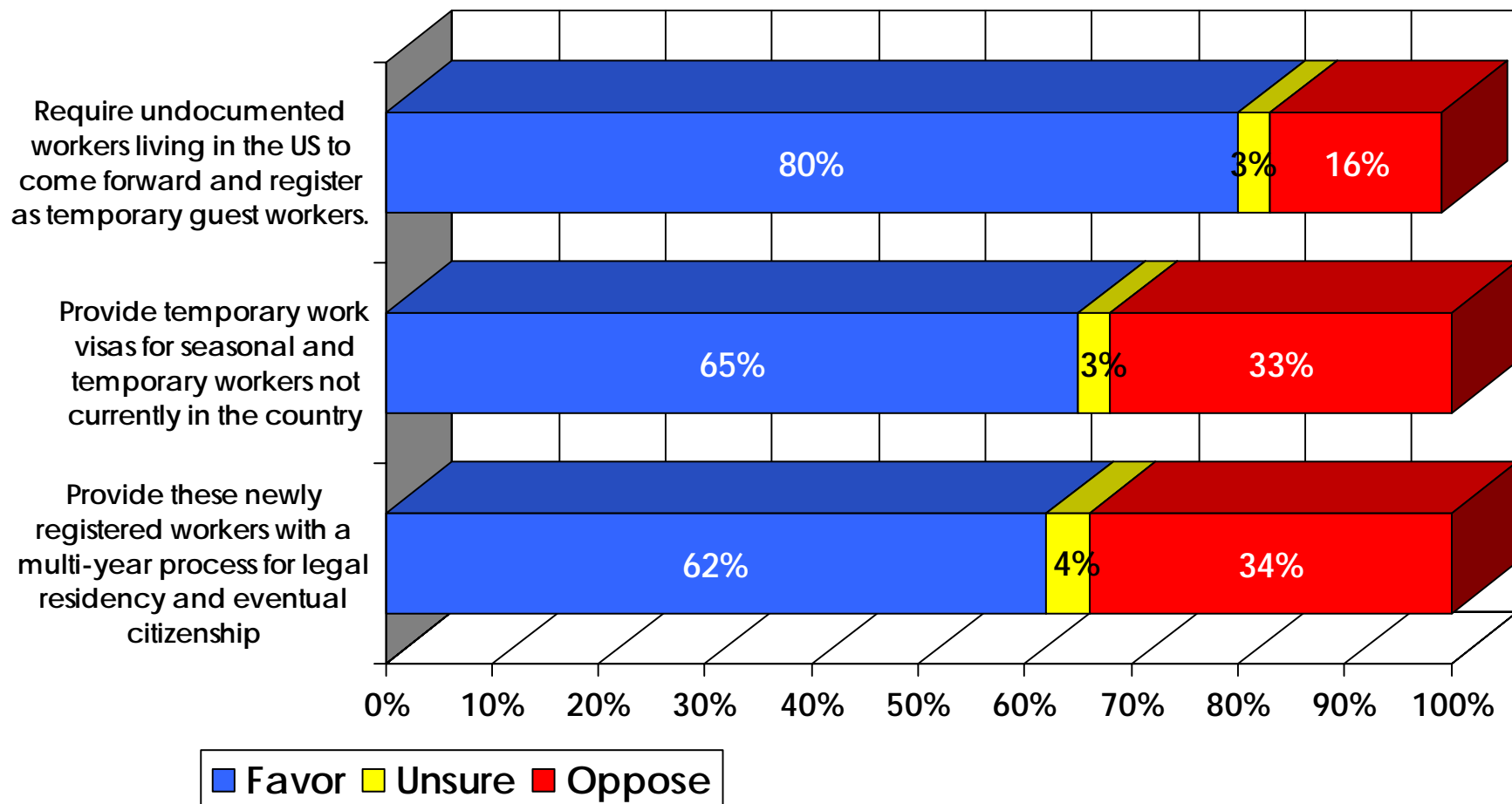
March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered “Likely” Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

What if there were a candidate who stood for most of the things you believe in, but took a stand on immigration that you really disagreed with: Would you DEFINITELY vote for that candidate, PROBABLY vote for that candidate, probably NOT vote for that candidate, or DEFINITELY not vote for that candidate?



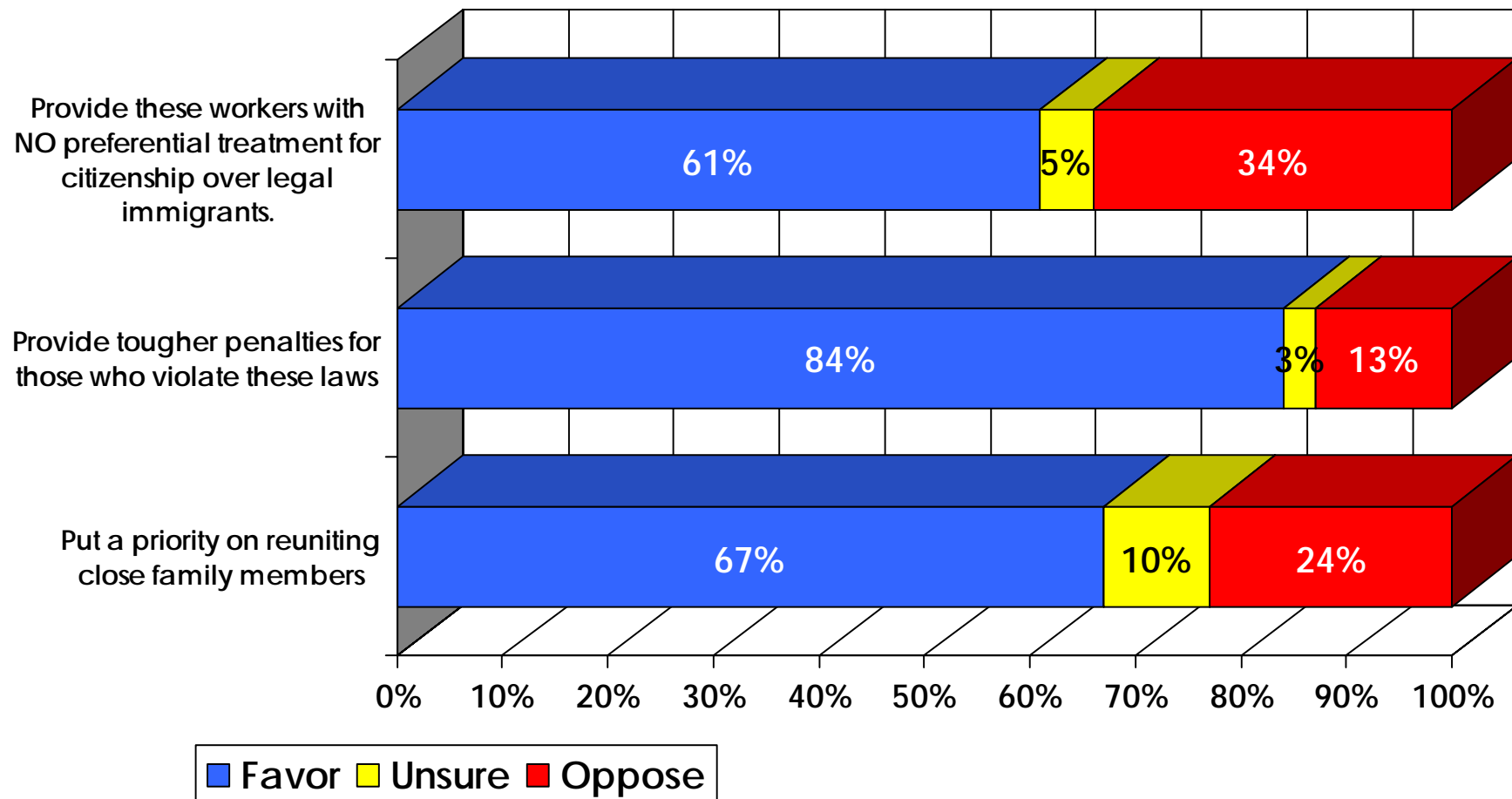
March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

Congress is considering a bipartisan immigration reform proposal that would do several things. I am going to read you several items. Please tell me if you would favor or oppose this part of the proposal.



March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

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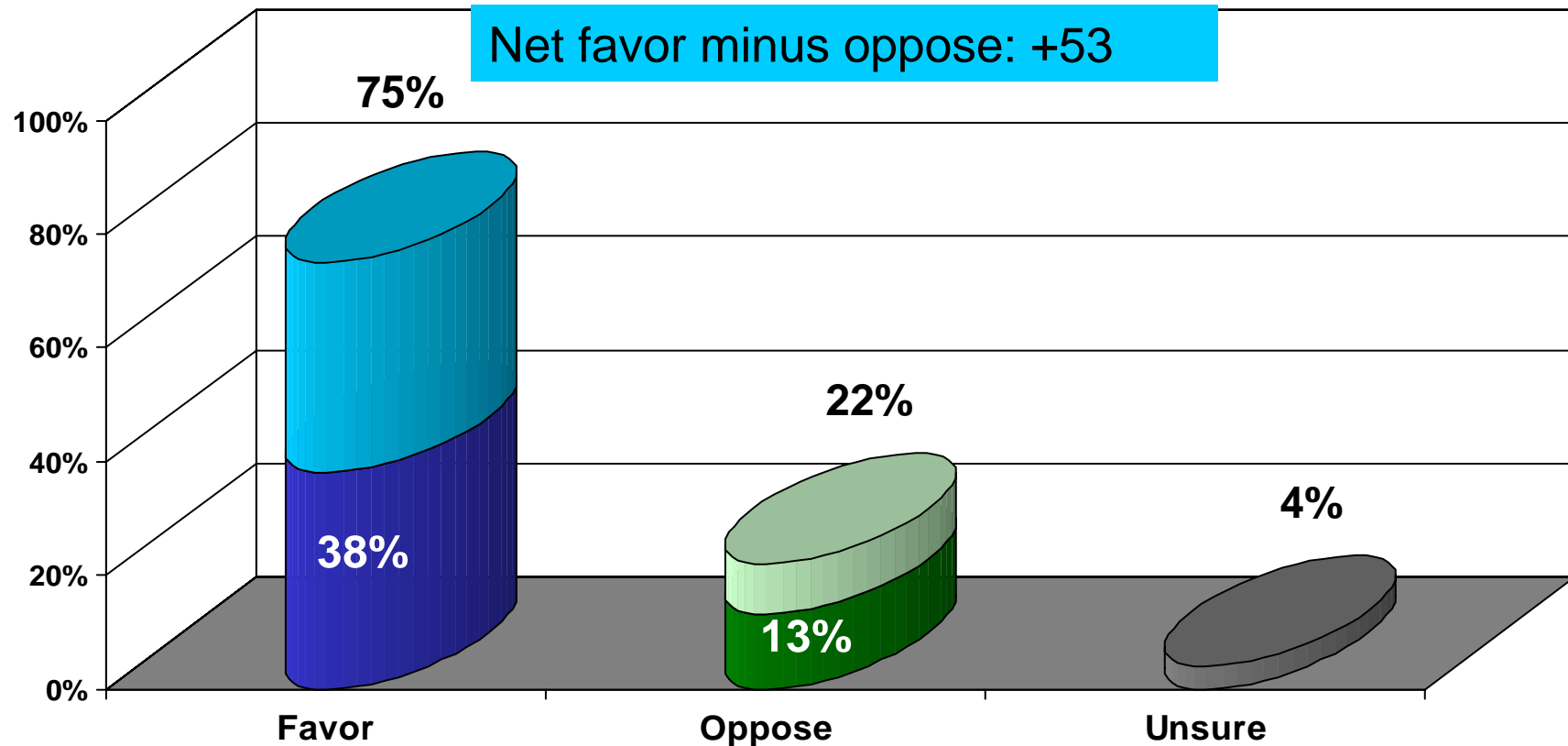
Description of proposal

Now, thinking about this entire bipartisan proposal, which would contain all of these items, including:

- *Require undocumented workers living in the US to come forward & register as temporary guest workers*
- *Provide temporary work visas for seasonal & temporary workers not currently in the country*
- *Provide these newly registered workers with a multi-year process for legal residency & eventual citizenship*
- *Provide these workers with NO preferential treatment for citizenship over legal immigrants*
- *Provide tougher penalties for workers or employers who violate these laws*
- *Put a priority on reuniting close family members*

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Three-quarters of voters support the proposal, 38% intensely.

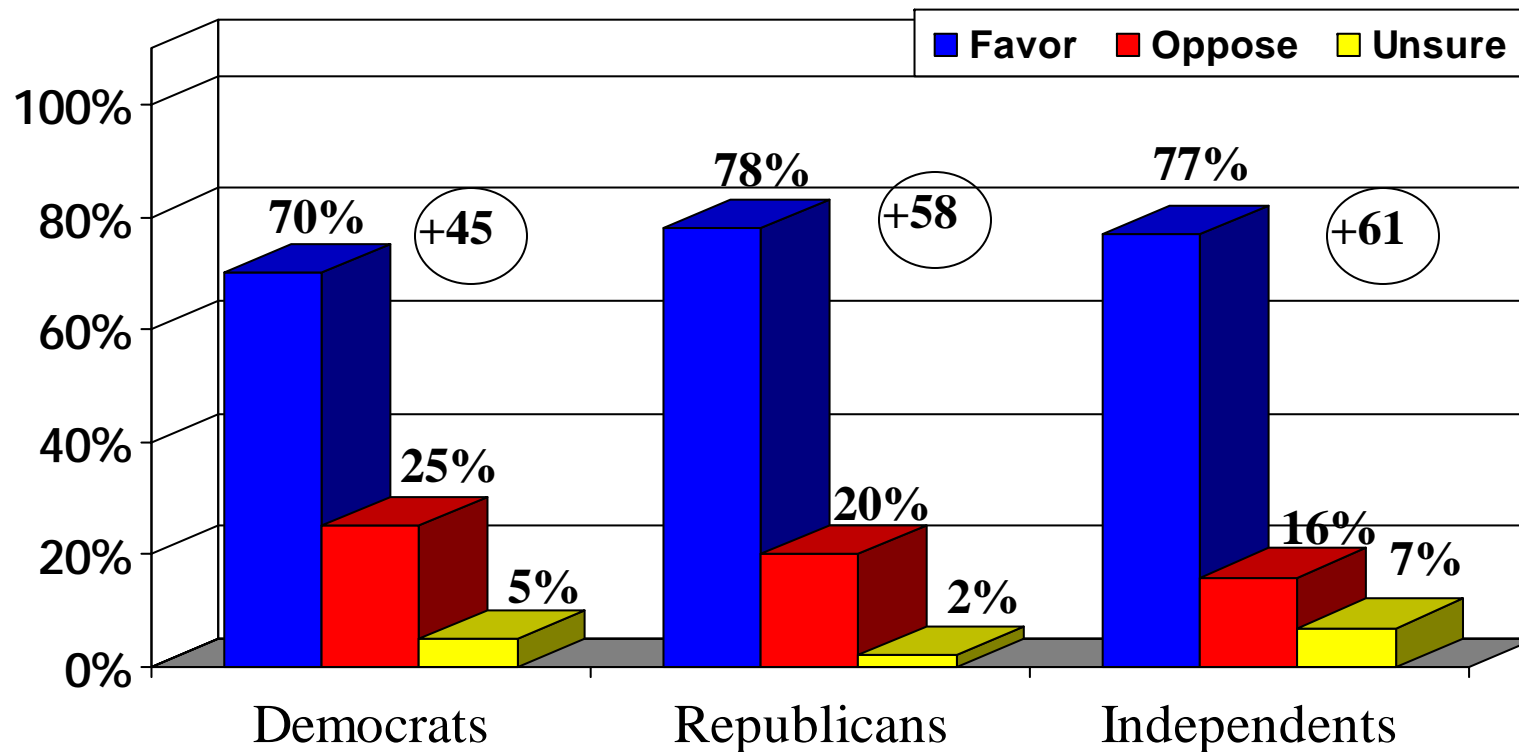


Based on this description, would you favor or oppose this proposal?

Darker colors signify intensity

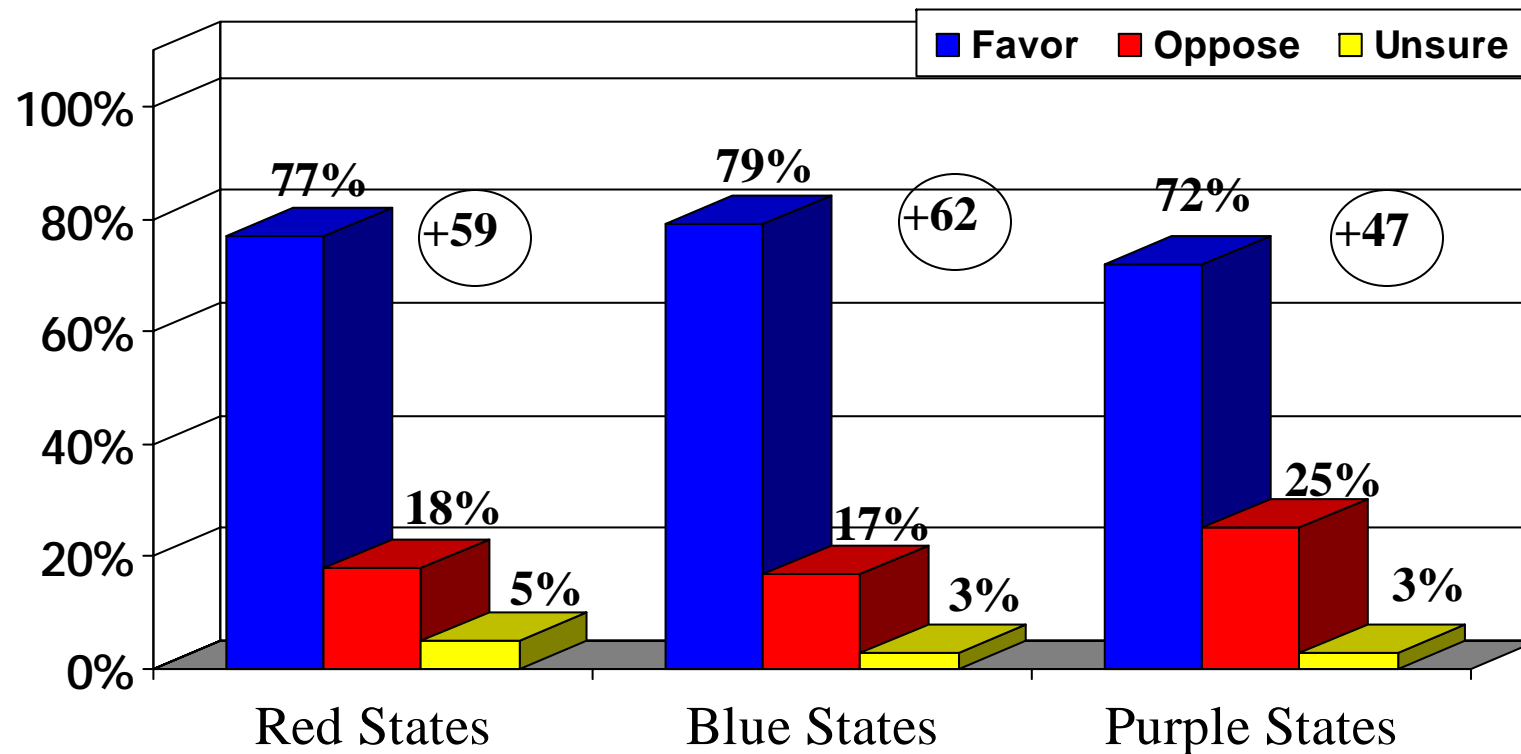
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Support for the proposal is strong across party lines.



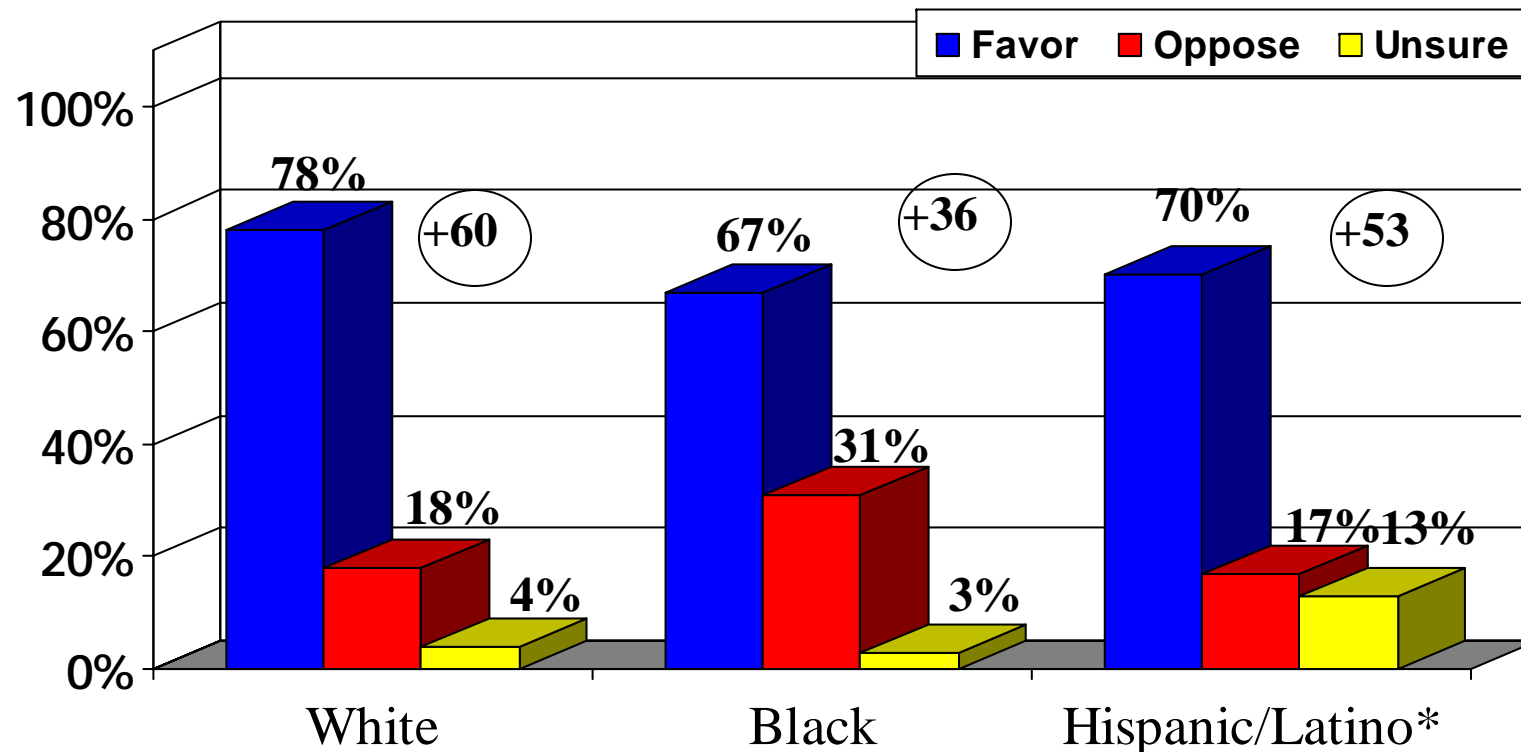
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Both red and blue states are firmly on board.



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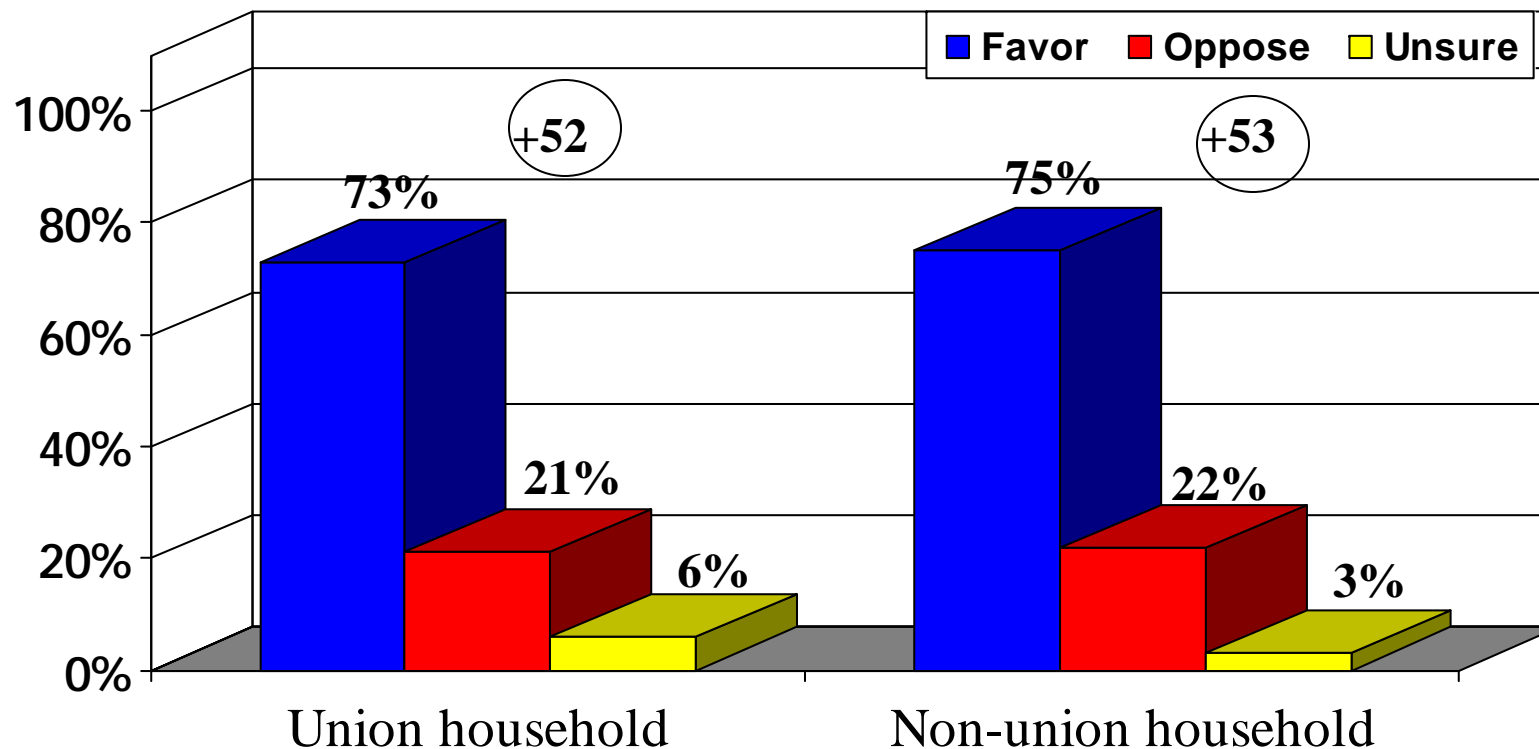
There is over two-thirds support for the proposal across racial groups.



*N = 265 registered likely Hispanic voters

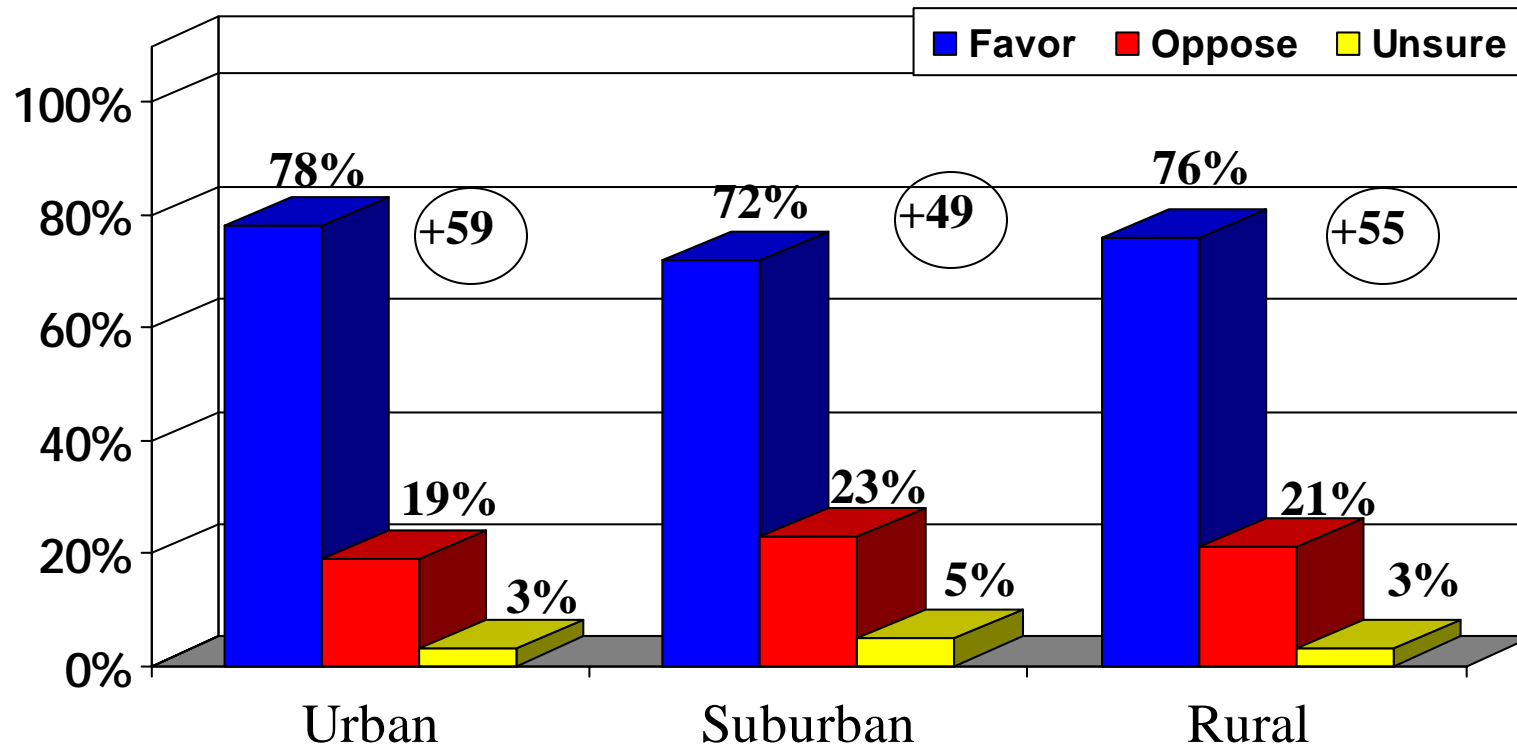
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Union and non-union households are similarly supportive.



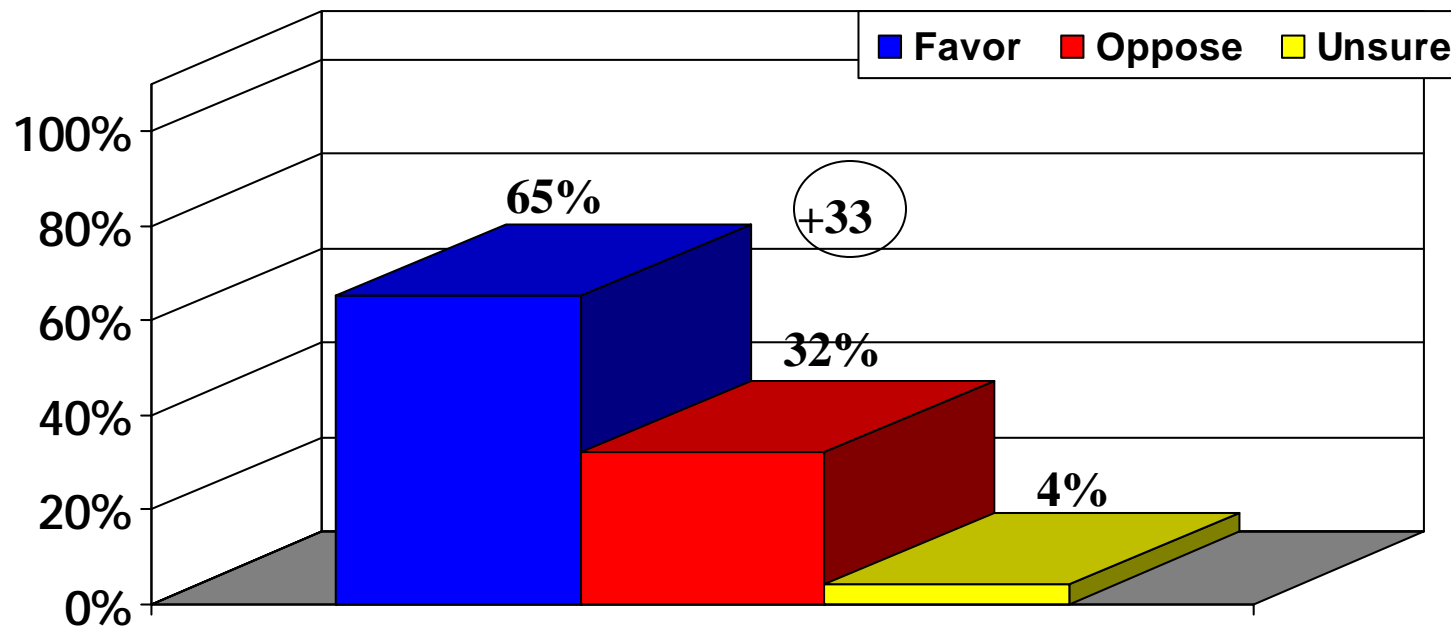
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Across urban, suburban and rural areas, more than seven in 10 voters are in favor of the proposal.



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Two-thirds of single-issue immigration voters support the proposal.

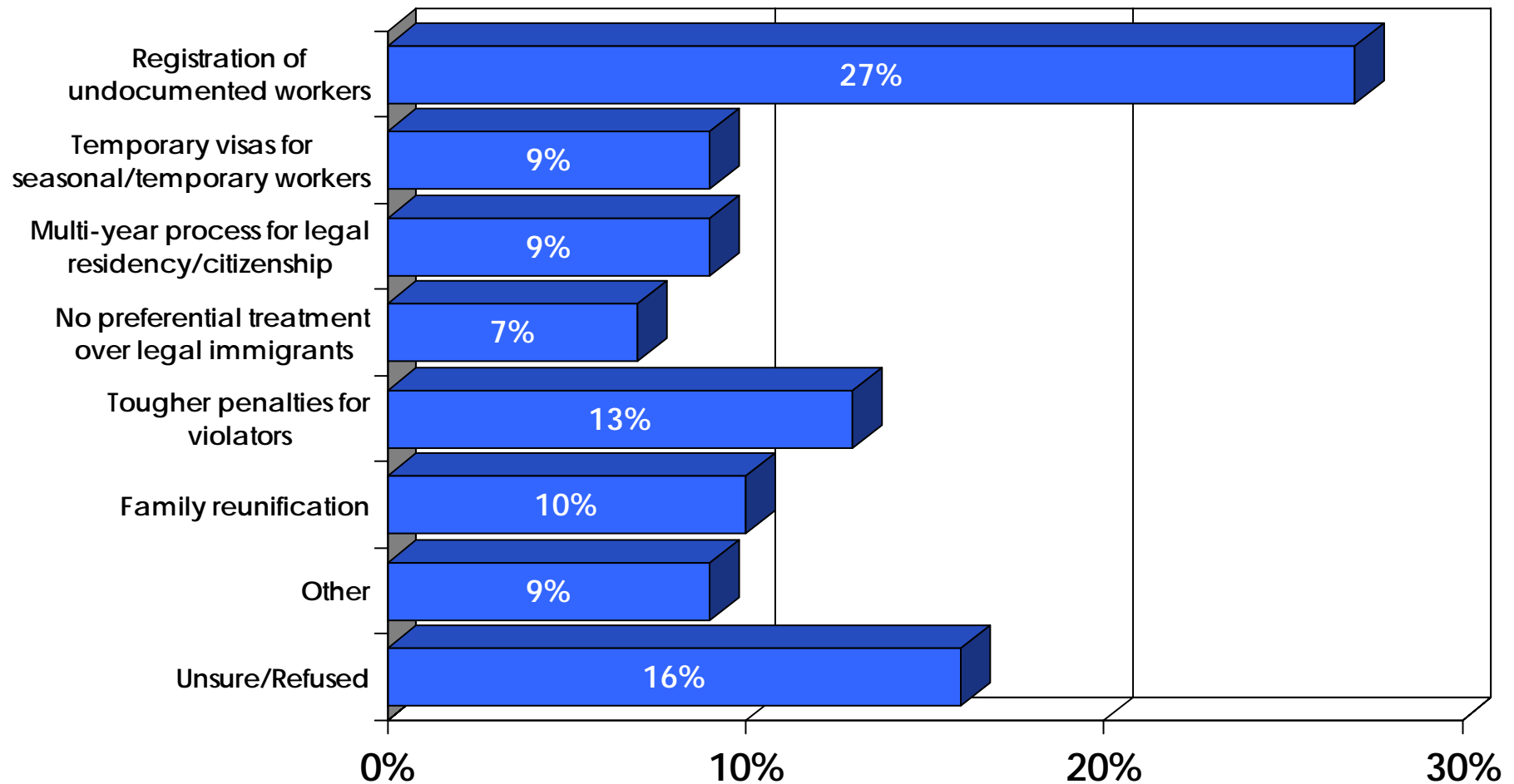


Voters who say they would NOT vote for a candidate they disagreed with on immigration

March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered “Likely” Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

And, which of the items in this proposal was most important to you in your decision to support this proposal?

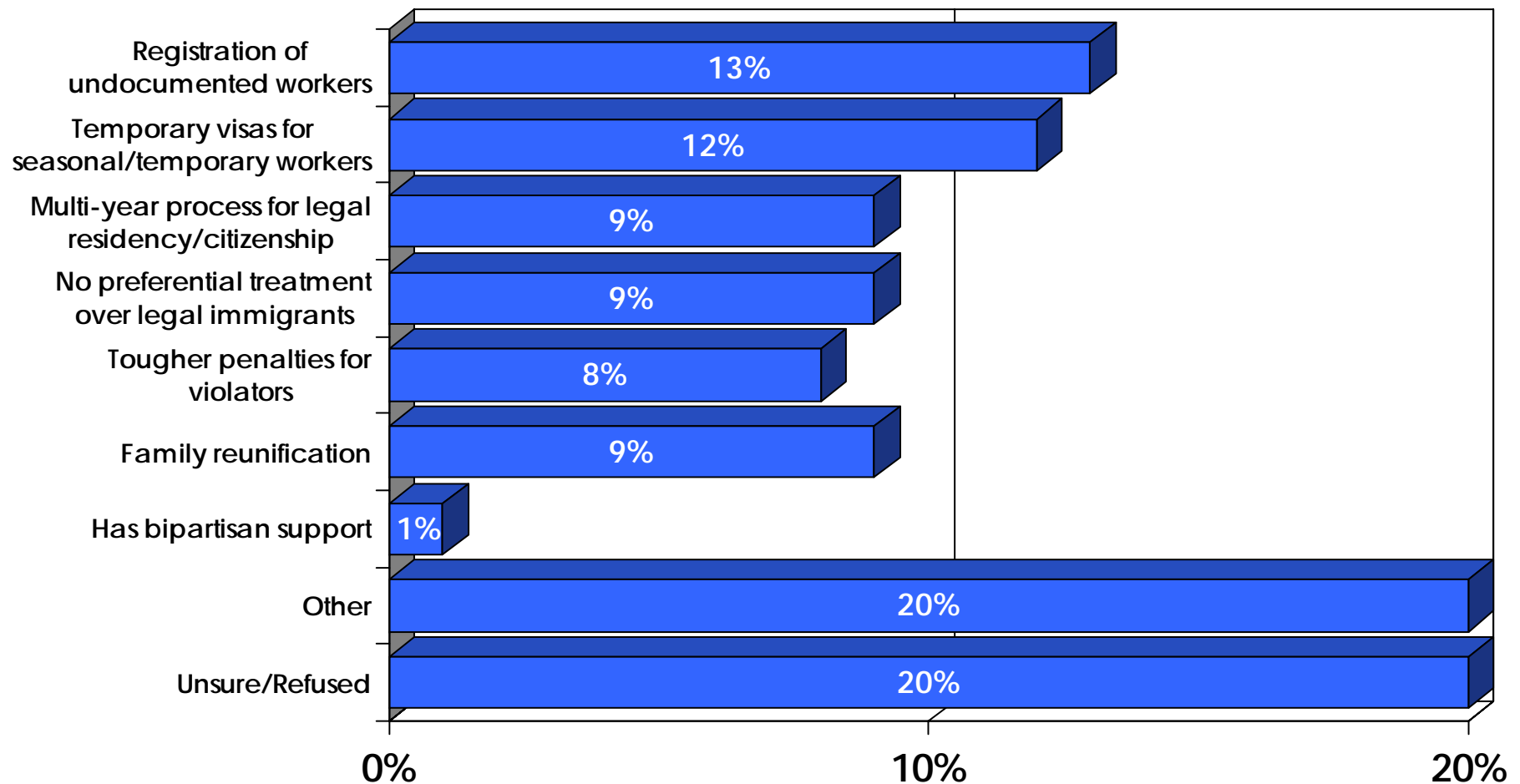
(Asked of N= 599, or 75% of total sample)



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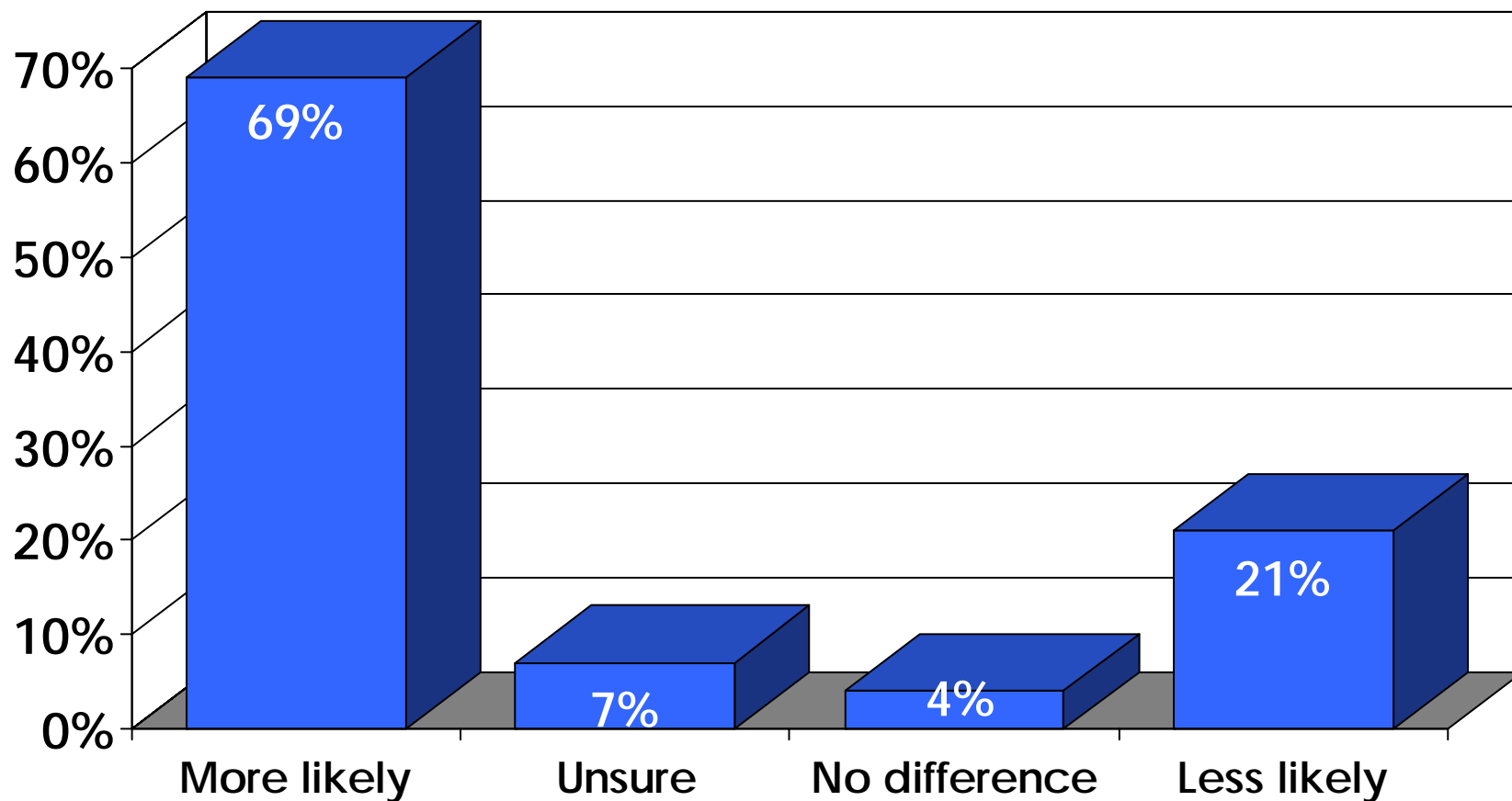
And, which of the items in this proposal was most important to you in your decision to oppose this proposal?

(Asked of N= 173, or 22% of total sample)



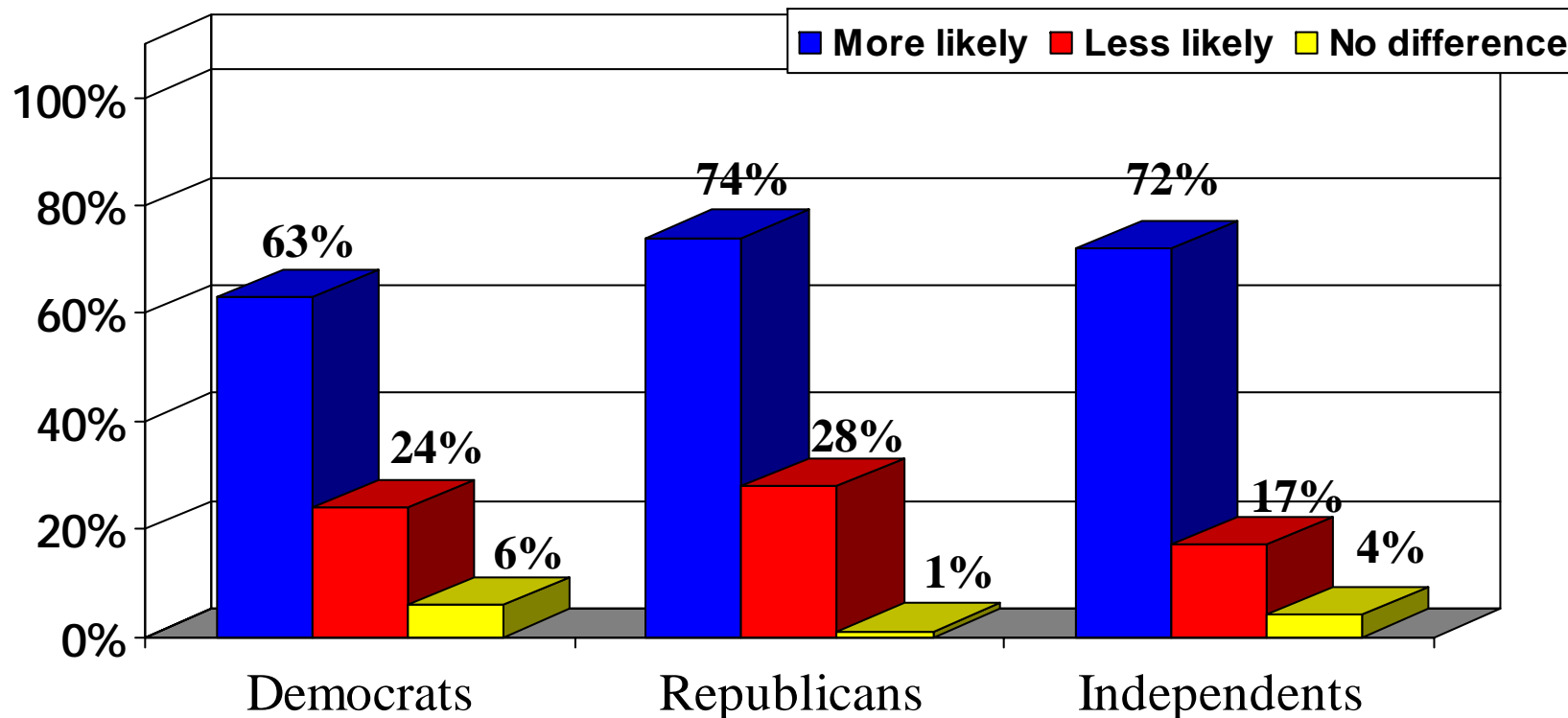
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If a candidate for Congress supported this type of immigration reform proposal, would you be more likely or less likely to vote for this candidate?



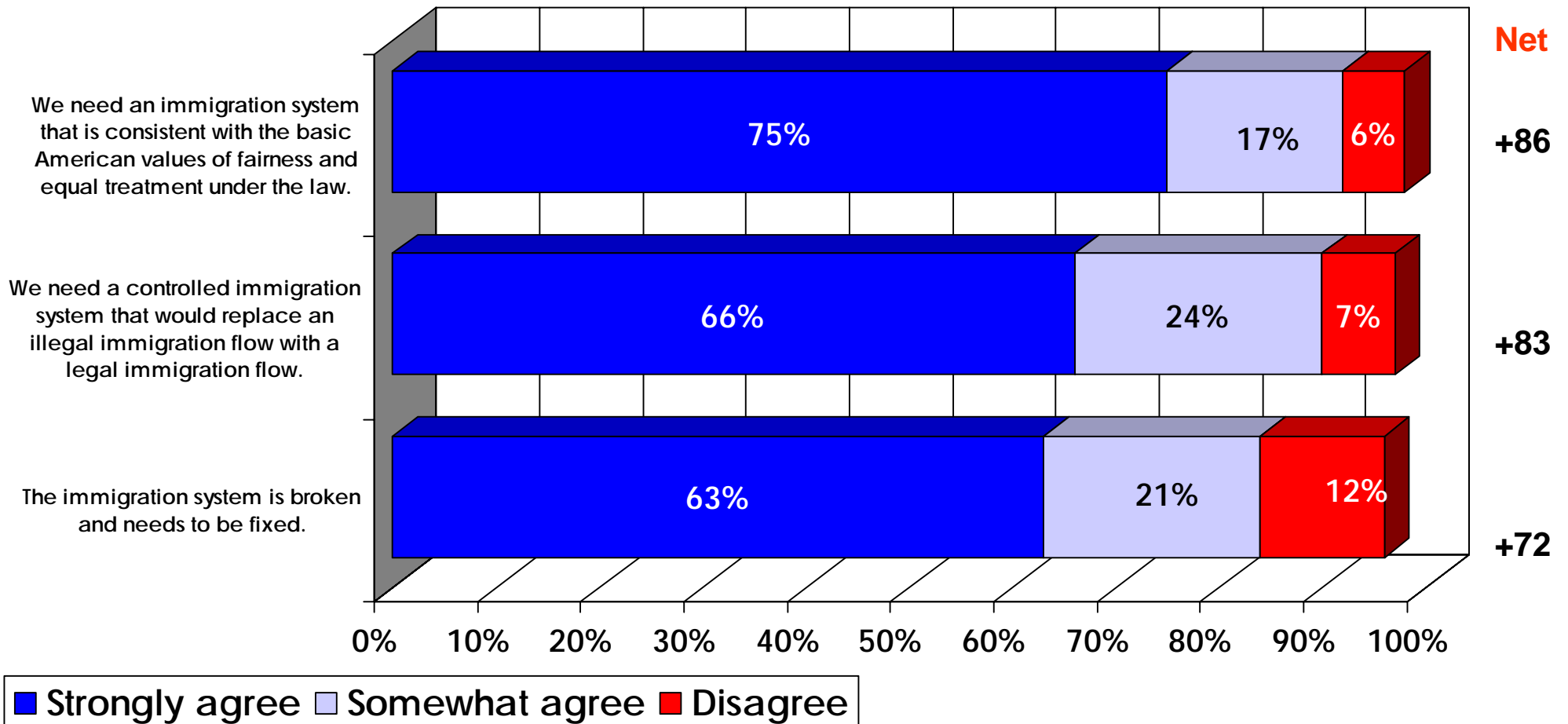
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Supporting this proposal helps candidates across party lines.



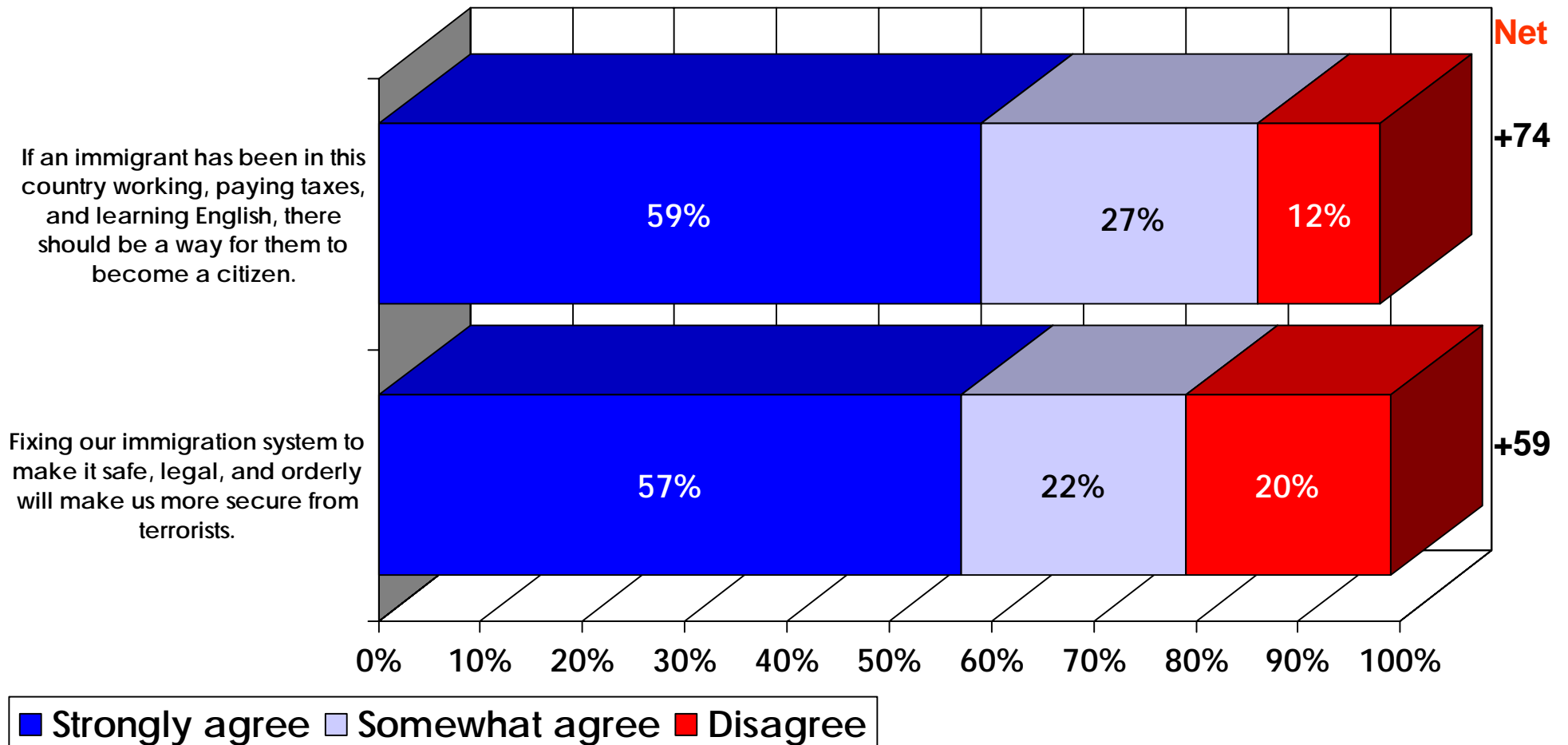
March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

Please tell me if you would agree or disagree with that particular statement.



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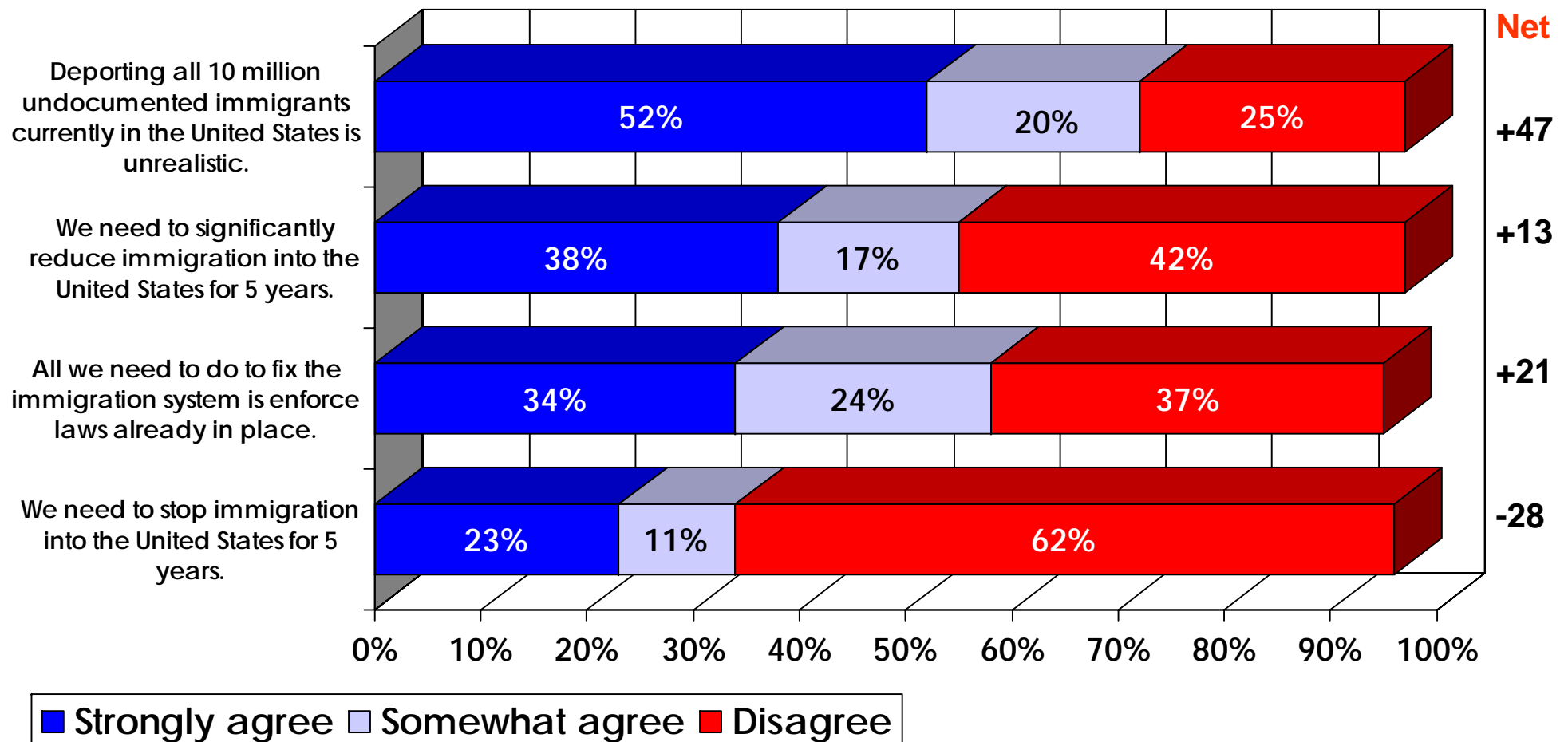
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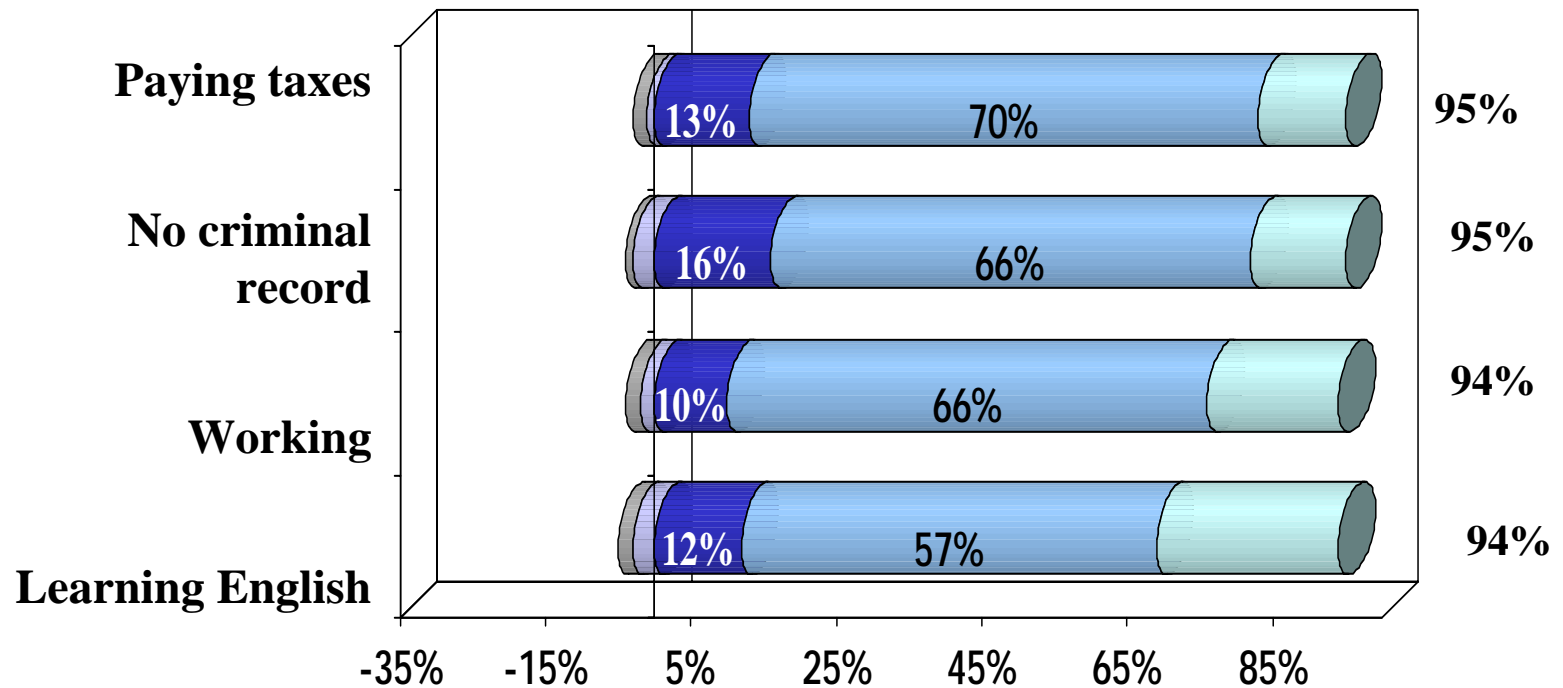
Please tell me if you would agree or disagree with that particular statement.

(Split Sample A/B)



March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

I am going to read you a list of various requirements an undocumented immigrant may have to meet in order to be eligible to stay in the country permanently, and for each one tell me whether you think it is the single most important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, not at all important requirement, or you aren't sure.
(Split Sample A)

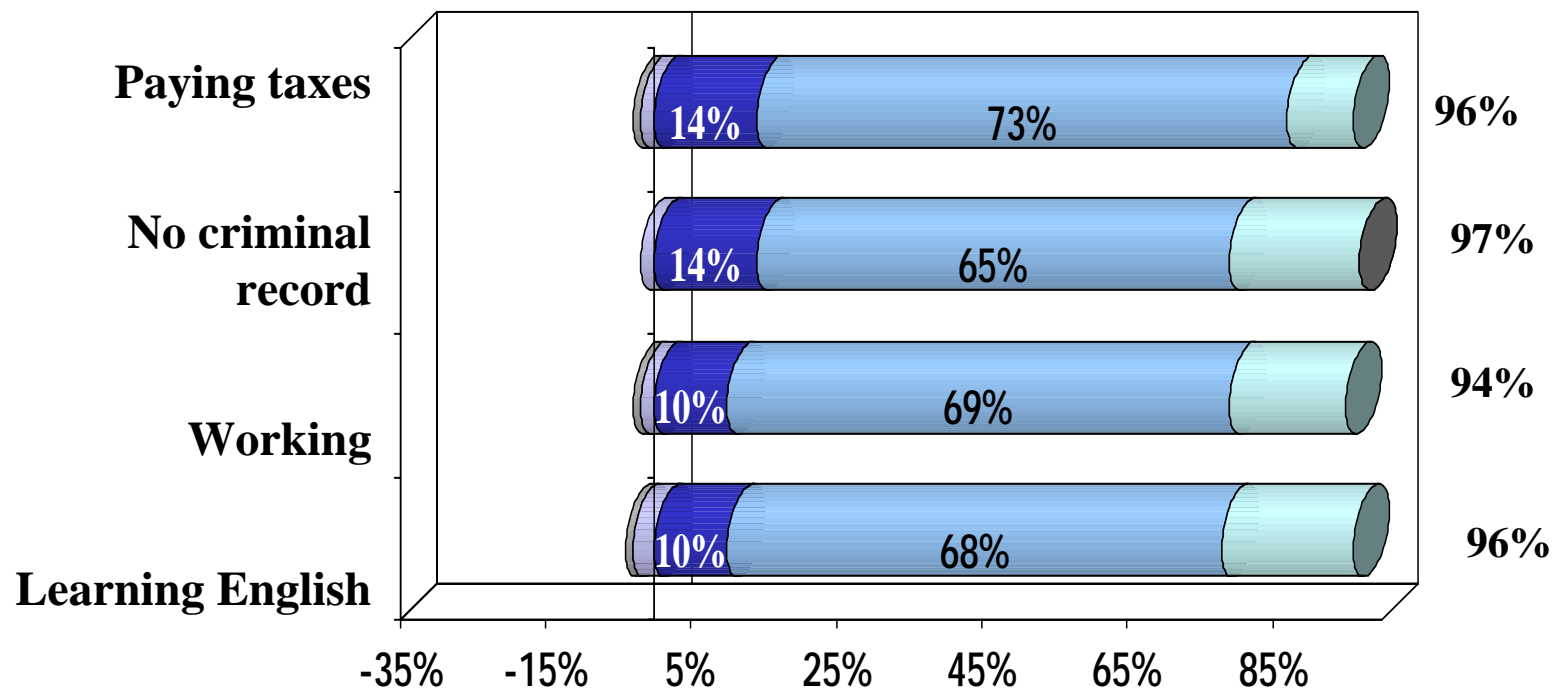


Darker shades = greater intensity

March 20-22, 2005 / N=800 Registered "Likely" Voters / ±3.5% M.O.E.

I am going to read you a list of various requirements an undocumented immigrant may have to meet in order to be eligible to receive eventual citizenship, and for each one tell me whether you think it is the single most important, very important, somewhat important, not too important, not at all important requirement, or you aren't sure.

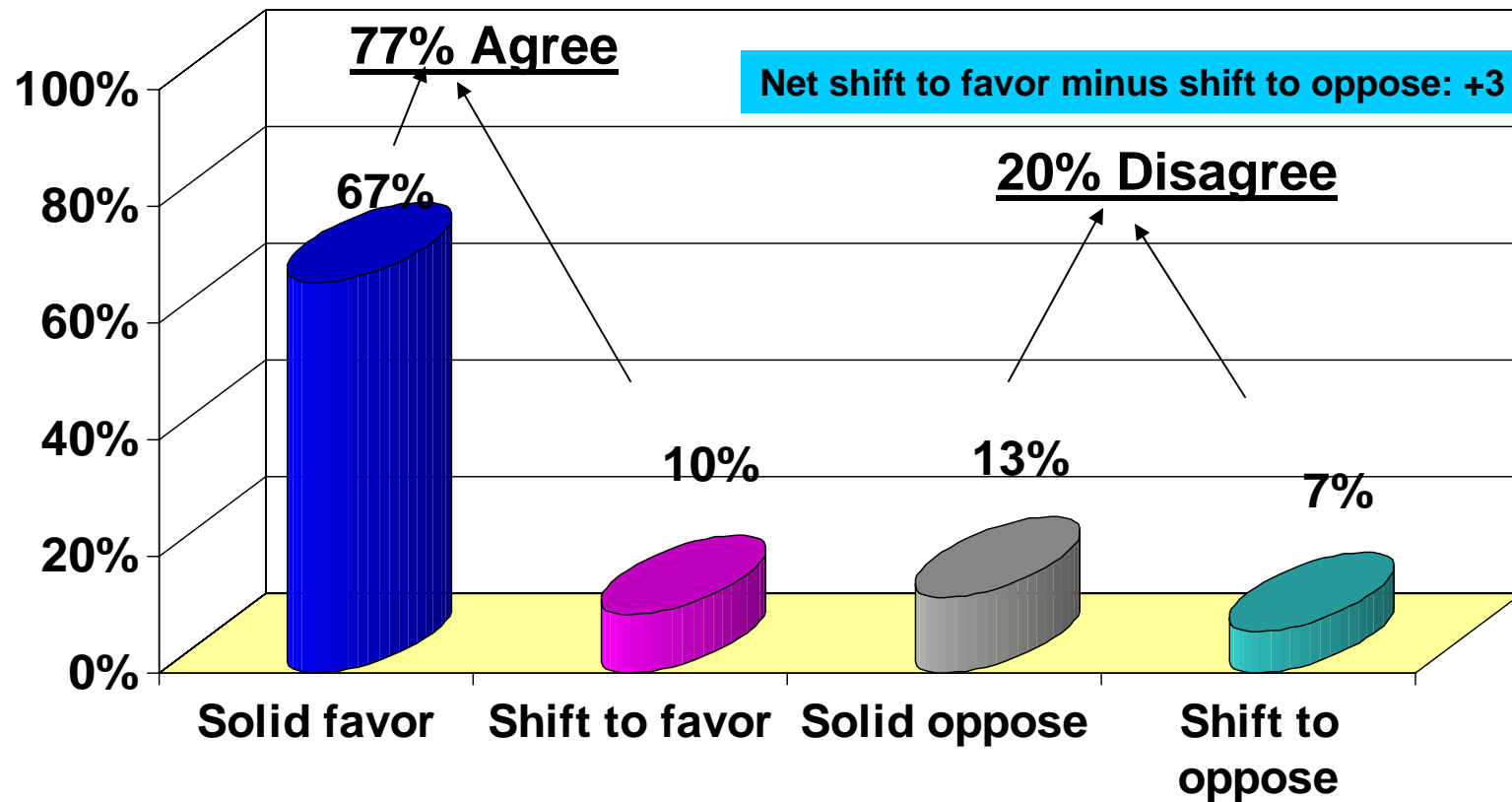
(Split Sample B)



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After voters hear positive and negative messages, the proposal picks up support.



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After messages, support for the proposal remains strong across party lines, gaining support among Democrats and Republicans.

