

SELZER & COMPANY
400 Republican likely caucus-goers
Margin of Error: \pm 4.9 percentage points

Study #2035
November 16-19, 2011
Weighted by age and sex

**PARTNERSHIP FOR A NEW AMERICAN ECONOMY
IMMIGRATION POLL**

About the Study

The findings in this report are based on a telephone survey of 3,003 registered Republican and no-party voters in Iowa, of which 400 qualified as likely Republican caucus attendees. The survey was conducted from November 16th through the 19th, 2011. Interviews lasted approximately 19 minutes. Interviewers contacted households with randomly selected phone numbers using the Iowa voter registration list obtained from the Secretary of State's office. Responses were weighted by age and sex to reflect the proportions found among voters in the Iowa voter registration list registered as Republicans or no party. Percentages reported out are based on responses from those who say they will definitely or probably attend the January 2012 Republican caucuses.

Percentages based on the sample of 400 Iowa voters who will definitely or probably attend the January 2012 Republican caucus may have a maximum margin of error of plus or minus 4.9 percentage points. This means that if this survey were repeated using the same questions and the same methodology, 19 times out of 20, the findings would not vary from the percentages shown here by more than plus or minus 4.9 percentage points from what is presented in this report. Results based on smaller samples of respondents—such as by gender or age—have a larger margin of error.

Poll Questions

Are you currently registered to vote in the state of Iowa?

- 100** Yes
- No
 - Not sure

First, how likely is it you will attend the Republican party caucuses scheduled for January of 2012—will you definitely attend, probably attend, might or might not attend, or probably not attend?

- 50** Definitely attend Republican caucus
- 50** Probably attend Republican caucus
- Might or might not attend Republican caucus
 - Probably not attend Republican caucus
 - Not sure

For each of the following issues, please tell me how important it is for you as you evaluate the candidates for the Republican nomination—critical, important, somewhat important, or not important. (Read list. Rotate.)

	<u>Critical</u>	<u>Important</u>	<u>Somewhat Important</u>	<u>Not Important</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Creating jobs in the U.S.	70	23	6	1	-
Addressing social issues such as abortion	35	22	21	21	1
Reducing government spending and debt	85	12	3	-	-
Reforming taxes	52	33	11	3	1
Halting illegal immigration	46	27	16	10	1
Encouraging the creation of new businesses in the U.S.	64	28	7	1	-
Making sure the U.S. has the best talent to compete in the global marketplace	45	35	16	4	-

I'm going to mention some specific proposals having to do with illegal immigration issues. For each, please tell me if this is something you favor, something you could live with, or something you oppose. (Read list. Rotate.)

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Live With</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Secure U.S. borders through tougher enforcement and better use of technology	82	14	3	1
Develop a system businesses can use to verify immigration status of new hires	74	20	5	1
Punish businesses who hire illegal immigrants	60	25	14	1

I'm going to mention some specific proposals having to do with legal immigration issues. For each, please tell me if this is something you favor, something you could live with, or something you oppose. (Read list. Rotate.)

	<u>Favor</u>	<u>Live With</u>	<u>Oppose</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Increase opportunities for legal immigrants to enter the U.S. workforce	41	29	29	1
Allow foreign-born students educated in the U.S. to enter the workforce after graduation	33	40	26	1
Streamline the process for employers to hire the seasonal and permanent employees they need when Americans are not filling vacant jobs	40	39	19	2
Increase opportunities for entrepreneurs from other countries to move to the U.S. to start businesses here	41	35	22	2

Some business and government leaders are looking at plans to reform U.S. immigration policies to expand *legal* immigration in a way that would create U.S. jobs. Does this sound like a good idea or a bad idea?

- 57** Good idea
- 35** Bad idea
- 8** Not sure

I am going to tell you more about the plan shortly, but for now, let me ask this: Setting aside concerns about *illegal* immigration, would you favor or oppose a plan to expand *legal* immigration, or are you neutral?

- 28** Favor
- 23** Oppose
- 49** Neutral
- Not sure

Here are some facts related to this plan. For each, please tell me if this makes you more favorable to the idea, less favorable, or does not matter. (Read list. Rotate, but start-up must always follow 1995 to 2005 question.)

	<u>More Favorable</u>	<u>Less Favorable</u>	<u>Does not Matter</u>	<u>Not Sure</u>
Legal immigrants are twice as likely as the average U.S. citizen to start a new business	37	17	43	3
More than 40% of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or children of immigrants	35	11	51	3
From 1995 to 2005, 25% of all technology and engineering businesses in the country were founded by immigrants	34	15	50	1
During that same time, half of all Silicon Valley high-tech start-up companies were founded by an immigrant	34	14	50	2
Foreign-born students receive between 40 and 50 percent of advanced degrees in engineering granted by U.S. universities	22	28	47	3
Each temporary high-skilled visa given to workers in companies creates three to five new jobs in the same company because they tend to go to workers in growth areas like research and development	42	10	44	4

By issuing permanent and temporary visas without regard for how an individual immigrant might benefit the economy, the U.S. might be hindering economic growth. The plan calls for rule changes to modernize visa policies to create new American businesses and help U.S. companies compete and grow in a global marketplace. For each of the following rule-change proposals, please tell me if you think the change is definitely a good idea, is worth a try, or is not a good idea. (Read list. Rotate.)

	Definitely <u>Good</u>	Worth a <u>Try</u>	Not <u>Good</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>
Issue visas granting permanent residency to all foreign students who earn graduate degrees in technical fields from U.S. universities. This will keep English-speaking scientists, engineers, and programmers here to work in high-paying jobs which will add tax revenues or to start their own businesses which would add jobs. Otherwise, they will go work for competitors overseas.	29	43	26	2
Create a new visa for entrepreneurs who want to start a business in the U.S., which would add new jobs here. Under current rules, there is no visa specifically for entrepreneurs. Even those with U.S. investors ready to finance their businesses have been denied because they don't fit current rules.	22	49	26	3
Issue more temporary visas for high-skilled workers. Some industries cannot find enough technical workers for projects and jobs go unfilled. The annual U.S. allotment of temporary visas is used up in a matter of days. It is good business sense to let high-skilled workers from other countries fill the unmet demand from U.S. businesses.	23	43	32	2
Issue more temporary visas for low-skilled workers. Especially in agricultural areas, there is high seasonal demand for workers to harvest crops. When there are not enough workers, crops rot in the field, which raises the cost of food in grocery stores. It is good business sense to let low-skilled workers from other countries into the U.S. for a limited time to fill a temporary huge demand for labor.	28	36	35	1

Now, I'm going to read a few arguments in support of and opposed to this plan. We'll start with [REASONS TO FAVOR/REASONS TO OPPOSE] (**Alternate Q.10 and Q.11 every other interview.**)

For each of these reasons to support a plan to expand the number of visas, please tell me if you strongly agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or strongly disagree. (**Read list. Rotate.**)

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	Mostly <u>Agree</u>	Mostly <u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>
Immigrants create jobs. The U.S. needs more jobs so should selectively encourage more legal immigration	20	38	18	21	3
The immigration problems this country has are largely with illegal immigration, not with people who enter the country legally	63	28	4	4	1
The U.S. trains high-quality foreign students in our universities; it is counterproductive to send them home to compete with U.S. companies when they would prefer to work here	34	41	16	8	1
The U.S. economy has thrived because of the hard-working immigrants who came to this country to start new lives	45	38	8	7	2
If the U.S. does not attract the best and brightest workers and entrepreneurs from other countries, the nations we compete with will gain an advantage	26	36	21	15	2
Foreign entrepreneurs want to come to the U.S. and can't because current rules for visas do not give them priority	16	47	18	7	12
Employers should have the right to hire workers who best fit their needs. When they do, they can expand and hire more workers, which is good for American workers	32	45	13	9	1

For each of these reasons to oppose a plan to expand the number of visas, please tell me if you strongly agree, mostly agree, mostly disagree, or strongly disagree. (**Read list. Rotate.**)

	Strongly <u>Agree</u>	Mostly <u>Agree</u>	Mostly <u>Disagree</u>	Strongly <u>Disagree</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>
When U.S. citizens do not have enough jobs to go around, this is not a good time to invite new immigrants to the country—legal or not	35	28	25	10	2
The U.S. cannot gamble on whether legal immigrants will, in fact, create the jobs they say they will	27	32	28	11	2
The U.S. has to draw the line somewhere; if we continue to take in immigrants, even if they have legal status, we will lose our American culture	18	20	36	25	1
Immigration is a national security concern. We need to decrease all immigration.	21	24	35	19	1

I'm going to mention some types of people who may seek visas for permanent or temporary residency or in the U.S. For each, please tell me if you think the U.S. should work to attract this type of person, give their application priority when they apply, treat the same as all other applicants, or turn away if quotas have been filled. (Read list. Rotate.)

	Work to <u>Attract</u>	Give <u>Priority</u>	Treat <u>Same</u>	Turn <u>Away</u>	Not <u>Sure</u>
Low-skilled agricultural workers who can help harvest crops	11	10	58	19	2
Foreign students who have graduated from U.S. universities with advanced degrees—masters, doctorates, physicians, pharmacists, etc.	23	24	44	7	2
Scientists, engineers, programmers, or other technology experts	27	20	45	6	2
Entrepreneurs who have ideas and business plans that will create American jobs	27	20	44	7	2

Now you know a bit more about the plan and some arguments for and against it. Putting aside any concerns specific to illegal immigration and focusing solely on legal immigration, would you favor or oppose a plan such as the one described here to expand legal immigration or are you neutral?

- 35** Favor
- 16** Oppose
- 47** Neutral
- 2** Not sure

These final questions are asked just to see what cross-section of Iowans we are interviewing.

What is your age?

- 9** Under 25
- 18** 25 to 34
- 17** 35 to 44
- 22** 45 to 54
- 18** 55 to 64
- 16** 65 and over
- Refused/not sure

In politics as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, Democrat, or independent?

- 78** Republican
- Democrat
- 20** Independent
- 1** Other (VOL)
- 1** Refused/not sure

Regardless of any party affiliation, do you consider yourself a supporter of the Tea Party Movement? (If yes, ask:) Do you consider yourself a strong supporter, or just a supporter?

- 25** Yes, strong supporter
- 41** Yes, just a supporter
- 30** No, not a supporter
- 4** Not sure

In general, do you consider yourself very conservative, mostly conservative, moderate, or liberal?

- 34 Very conservative
- 49 Mostly conservative
- 14 Moderate
- 2 Liberal
- None of these (VOL)
- 1 Not sure

What is the last grade of school you completed?

- 15 High school graduate or less
- 27 Some college
- 36 College degree
- 21 Postgraduate work or degree
- 1 Refused/not sure

Which of the following best describes your religious beliefs—Roman Catholic, Protestant, some other kind of Christian, Jewish, Muslim, other, or none?

- 21 Roman Catholic
- 48 Protestant
- 23 Some other kind of Christian
- Jewish
- Muslim
- Other
- 4 None
- 4 Refused/not sure

Would you describe yourself as a "born again" or fundamentalist Christian, or not?
(Based on all, so percentages do not add to 100%.)

- 42 Yes
- 25 No
- 4 Not sure

Is your total annual household income before taxes above or below \$50,000 per year?

- Above
- Below

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| Is it above or below \$70,000 per year? | 45 Above (\$70,000+) |
| | 17 Below (\$50,000-\$69,999) |
| Is it above or below \$30,000 per year? | 15 Above (\$30,000-\$49,999) |
| | 13 Below (<\$30,000) |
| | 10 Refused/not sure |

Sex:

- 60 Male
- 40 Female