To:	UnidosUS
Fr:	Celinda Lake, David Mermin, Emily Garner, & Connor Olio, Lake Research Partners Brian Nienaber, The Tarrance Group
Re:	Key Findings from Survey of Latino/a Voters on Immigration and Border Management
Date:	June 20, 2024

This document summarizes core takeaways from the UnidosUS-commissioned bipartisan national survey of Latino/a voters on the situation at the U.S.-Mexico border, including their border policy priorities and how this issue is shaping voter sentiment.

Hispanic Voters' Priorities for Elected Officials

- Economic issues continue to be the top concerns for Latino/a voters.
  - When asked about their single top issue, voters ranked inflation and the cost of living (24%) as the most important issue for their elected officials to focus on, followed by jobs and the economy (14%).
- That said, immigration and the border (12%) has risen on their agenda, while other issues are in the single digits.
- When thinking about the U.S. immigration system, Latino/a voters' top priorities for elected officials to address are:
  - Providing a path to citizenship for the long-term undocumented (53%) and Dreamers (42%).
  - Cracking down on human smugglers (29%), increasing border security (28%), and increasing legal immigration through family and employment-based visas (27%) form a second tier of priorities.
  - Finishing the border wall (15%) and deporting all undocumented immigrants (15%) are among the lowest priorities.

Attitudes About the Situation at the US-Mexico Border and its Impact

- Latino/a voters are more frustrated by the lack of support for long-term immigrants (39%) than they are by the situation at the border (26%), though 21% say both are equally frustrating and 9% say neither.
- That said, Latino/a voters are very concerned about the situation at the border, have nuanced views.
  - More than three quarters of Latino/a voters (76%) are concerned about the situation at the U.S./Mexico border, and nearly half (46%) are very concerned.
  - Compared to other immigration issues, 48% of Latino/a voters believe the situation at the border is not receiving enough attention. Only 21% think it is receiving the right amount of attention, and 19% believe it is receiving too much attention.
- Latino/a voters are broadly sympathetic to immigrants arriving at the U.S./Mexico border (23% very sympathetic/62% sympathetic), though more than one in five (22%) are not sympathetic.
- When asked who they think most of the immigrants arriving at the border are, 36% of Latino/a voters say people who are looking for work, while 16% say they are people fleeing violence and another 16% say they are people coming to join family members. Only one in ten (10%) say they are people coming to commit violent crime and smuggle illegal drugs, and 6% say they are victims of human smugglers and cartels.

Border Policy Priorities for Latino/a Voters

Latino/a voters' concerns about the situation at the border and hunger for action seems to be making them open to multiple policy options to manage the border.

- On specific priorities for addressing the situation at the southern border, Latino/a voters identified the following as high priorities:

- o Latino/a voters overwhelmingly prioritize cracking down on human traffickers and drug smugglers (82%), and notably, providing a path to citizenship for long-term undocumented immigrants (62%).
  - o The next tier of priorities includes expanding funding for additional border patrol and security (58%) and partnering with other countries to limit illegal immigration to the U.S. (53%).
  - o Finishing the border wall and closing the border and rapidly deporting those who cross illegally were among the lowest priorities, but 38% and 39% respectively were open to those.

- Of measures related specifically to asylum seekers at the border,
  - o The highest priority is partnering with other countries to expand opportunities for asylum seekers to seek protection elsewhere (53%), followed by requiring asylum seekers applying at the border to stay in Mexico (48%), expand legal pathways for people seeking safety in the US (47%), allowing asylum seekers to apply for U.S. asylum from other countries (46%), making it easier for newly arrived asylum seekers to obtain work permits (45%), and increasing funding to speed up the processing time for asylum claims (43%).
  - o 47% see providing more resources and support to US communities receiving immigrants as a high priority.

The Politics on Immigration

- Four in ten (41%) Latino/a voters say they hear more from Republicans about immigration, while only 27% say they hear more from President Biden and Democrats.

- Nearly eight in ten Latino/a voters (78%) say that the candidates' positions on immigration will have an impact on their vote for President in November, with half (49%) saying it will have a big impact.

- When it comes to the parties' positions on immigration,
  - o More than half (55%) of Latino/a voters say the Democrats' immigration policies make them more likely to support the Democratic Party, with 36% much more likely.
  - o Slightly fewer, but still nearly half of Latino/as say that Republicans' immigration policies make them more likely to support the Republican party (36% much more likely/47% total more likely).
  - o Larger numbers also say they are *less* likely to support Republicans due to their positions on immigration (15% much less likely/21% less likely) than say they are less likely to support Democrats (8% much less likely/11% less likely).

- When it comes to the 2024 Presidential election,
  - o 43% of Latino/a registered voters nationwide say they will vote for Biden, compared to 30% who say they will vote for Trump. Nearly one in ten voters say they will vote third party (9%), another one in ten are undecided (9%), and 6% say they will not vote.
  - o Currently, Biden is slightly underperforming and Trump is overperforming party identification among Latino/as (47% Democrat, 24% Republican, 14% Independent).
  - o Among those who reported voting in 2020, 66% say they voted for Joe Biden and 30% say they voted for Donald Trump. At this stage of the race, Biden's support has declined from 2020.
  - o Latino/a voters are similarly considering immigration policies in their votes for Congress (79% total impact/51% big impact).

- Latino/a voters prefer Democrats (38%) to Republicans (31%) on immigration by a narrow margin, while nearly one quarter (23%) say neither party is better.
  - o Latino/a voters also prefer Biden (37%) to Trump (35%) on immigration policy, but by a smaller margin than they prefer generic Democrats to Republicans.

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Please do not hesitate to reach out to Celinda Lake (clake@lakeresearch.com) at 202-776-9066 or David Mermin (dmermin@lakeresearch.com) at (510) 379-5180 with any questions about this memo.