



HIGH POINT UNIVERSITY
NEWS RELEASE

HPU/News and Record Poll: North Carolinians Weigh in on Illegal Immigration

HIGH POINT, N.C., Nov. 22, 2017 – The High Point University Poll has found that large majorities of North Carolinians believe that certain groups of illegal immigrants should be allowed to stay in the United States. Those who are serving in the military, those working and paying taxes, and those who are married to U.S. citizens or legal residents received the most support.

The poll asked North Carolina residents whether they thought illegal immigrants who fall into several categories should be allowed to stay in the United States. Large percentages say that those who are serving in the U.S. military (83 percent), those who are working and paying taxes (77 percent), or those who are married to U.S. citizens or legal residents (76 percent) should be allowed to stay. Similar majorities say that those who have children who are U.S. citizens (73 percent) or were brought here as children (72 percent) should be allowed to stay.

Sixty-two percent of North Carolinians say that local police departments or sheriffs should not assist federal authorities in apprehending illegal immigrants who have not otherwise committed crimes. And 65 percent of North Carolina residents say they would not inform the authorities if they knew of an illegal immigrant in their work place or neighborhood.

Finally, North Carolinians are split about whether illegal immigrants should be safe from arrest if they have taken sanctuary in a place of worship. Forty-two percent of respondents say they should be safe from arrest, while 48 percent say that they should not be safe from arrest if they are in a place of worship.

“The HPU Poll has shown that the majority of people in North Carolina believe many different groups of illegal immigrants should be allowed to stay in the U.S.,” says Brian McDonald, associate director of the HPU Poll and adjunct professor. “However, there is less agreement on whether or not illegal immigrants should be safe from arrest if they have taken sanctuary in a place of worship.”

All adults – Illegal Immigrants Allowed to Stay in U.S. (November 2017)

There is a lot of discussion these days about immigration, including illegal immigration. I am going to read a list of groups of illegal immigrants that might be allowed to stay in the United States. Please tell me if you believe illegal immigrants who fall into these categories should be allowed to stay.

Those who are serving in the U.S. military

Yes – 83 percent
No – 14 percent
Don't know/refused – 3 percent

Those who are working and paying taxes

Yes – 77 percent
No – 20 percent
Don't know/refused – 4 percent

Those who are married to U.S. citizens or legal residents

Yes – 76 percent
No – 18 percent
Don't know/refused – 6 percent

Those who have children who are U.S. citizens or legal residents

Yes – 73 percent
No – 22 percent
Don't know/refused – 5 percent

Those who were brought here as children

Yes – 72 percent
No – 22 percent
Don't know/refused – 7 percent

(All adult (North Carolina residents) sample surveyed November 10-16, n = 469 and margin of sampling error approximately = +/- 4.5 percent)

Should local police departments or sheriffs assist federal authorities in apprehending illegal immigrants who have not otherwise committed crimes?

Yes – 35 percent
No – 62 percent
Don't know/refused – 3 percent

(All adult (North Carolina residents) sample surveyed November 10-16, n = 468 and margin of sampling error approximately = +/- 4.5 percent)

If you knew of an illegal immigrant in your workplace or neighborhood, would you inform the authorities?

Yes – 24 percent

No – 65 percent

Don't know/refused – 10 percent

(All adult (North Carolina residents) sample surveyed November 10-16, n = 469 and margin of sampling error approximately = +/- 4.5 percent)

Should illegal immigrants be safe from arrest if they have taken sanctuary in a place of worship?

Yes – 42 percent

No – 48 percent

Don't know/refused – 11 percent

(All adult (North Carolina residents) sample surveyed November 10-16, n = 469 and margin of sampling error approximately = +/- 4.5 percent)

The most recent HPU Poll was fielded by live interviewers at the High Point University Survey Research Center calling on Nov. 10-16, 2017. The responses from a sample of all North Carolina counties came from 469 adults with landline or cellular telephones. The Survey Research Center contracted with Survey Sampling International to acquire this sample. The survey has an estimated margin of sampling error of approximately 4.5 percentage points for all adult respondents. The data is weighted toward population estimates for cellular and landline telephone use, age, gender, education and race. In addition to sampling error, factors such as question wording and other methodological choices in conducting survey research can introduce additional error into the findings of opinion polls. Details from this survey are available at <http://www.highpoint.edu/src/files/2017/11/55memoB.pdf>.

Further results and methodological details from the most recent survey and past studies can be found at the Survey Research Center website at <http://www.highpoint.edu/src/>. The materials online include past press releases as well as memos summarizing the findings (including approval ratings) for each poll since 2010.

The HPU Poll reports methodological details in accordance with the standards set out by AAPOR's Transparency Initiative, and the HPU Survey Research Center is a Charter Member of the Initiative. For more information, see <http://transparency.aapor.org/index.php/transparency>.

You can follow the HPU Poll on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/HPUSurveyCenter>. Dr. Martin Kifer, chair and associate professor of political science, serves as the director of the HPU Poll, and Brian McDonald serves as the associate director of the HPU Poll.

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At High Point University, every student receives an extraordinary education in an inspiring environment with caring people.® HPU, located in the Piedmont Triad region of North Carolina, is a liberal arts institution with more than 4,900 undergraduate and graduate students. It is ranked No. 1 by U.S. News and World Report for Best Regional Colleges in the South, No. 1 for Most Innovative Regional Colleges in the South and No. 1 for Best Undergraduate Teaching in the South. The Princeton Review named HPU in the 2018 edition of "The Best 382 Colleges" in the nation, as well as Best Career Services (No. 19), Best-Run Colleges (No. 20), Best College Dorm Rooms (No. 7), a Great School for Communication Majors and a Great School for Business/Finance Majors. For seven years in a row, HPU has been named a College of Distinction with special recognition for business and education programs, and The National Council on Teacher Quality ranks HPU's elementary education program as one of the best in the nation. The university offers 50 undergraduate majors, 57 undergraduate minors and 13 graduate degree programs. It is a member of the NCAA, Division I and the Big South Conference. Visit High Point University on the web at highpoint.edu.