On behalf of the Vernon K. Krible Foundation and Freedom Works, Public Opinion Strategies conducted a national survey of 600 likely voters who are self-described as Republican or voting for the Republican Congressional candidate in 2006. The survey was conducted November 1-7, 2005 and has a margin of error of ±4.0%.
Republican voters are generally satisfied with the direction of the country and continue to give President Bush strong marks.

Now, generally speaking, would you say that things in the COUNTRY are going in the right direction, or have they pretty seriously gotten off on the wrong track?

**Right Direction/Wrong Track**

- Right Direction: 59%
- Wrong Track: 36%

**President Bush Job Approval**

- Strongly Approve: 49%
- Somewhat Approve: 32%
- Somewhat Disapprove: 10%
- Strongly Disapprove: 8%
- Don't Know/Refused: 1%

Total Approve: 81%
Total Disapprove: 18%

Do you approve or disapprove of the job George W. Bush is doing as President?
On the forced choice issue priority question, terrorism and Iraq dominate the agenda. The issue of illegal immigration is now among the top issues with Republican voters.

Most Important Issue

Top Two Choices Combined

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>1st Place</th>
<th>2nd Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Terrorism &amp; Iraq</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Affordable Health Care</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal Immigration</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reduce Government Spending</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Education</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traditional Values</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cutting Taxes</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

And, which ONE of the following should be the TOP priority for the President and Congress to deal with...
As you might expect, the impact of illegal immigration is a regional phenomenon.

*Major Impact of Illegal Immigration*

And, thinking now just about the area in which you live...is illegal immigration having a major impact, a minor impact or not much impact at all in the area in which you live?
There is NO consensus position on immigration reform within the Republican electorate.
Republicans are divided on the economic benefits of immigration.

*Immigration as an Economic Benefit vs. Threat*

- 41% Immigration is an economic *benefit*
- 54% Immigration is an economic *threat*

Some people say immigration is an economic benefit to the United States because immigrant workers fulfill jobs in America that citizens either do not want or cannot do. While other people say immigration is an economic threat to the United States because immigrant workers take jobs that would otherwise be fulfilled by American citizens. Which statement comes closer to your point of view?
The split occurs based on socio-economic status.

**Immigration as an Economic Benefit vs. Threat**

-32%  
-6%  
-14%  
+7%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Education Level</th>
<th>No College</th>
<th>College+</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under $60K</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over $60K</td>
<td>64%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(31%)</td>
<td>(11%)</td>
<td>(28%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Some people say immigration is an economic benefit to the United States because immigrant workers fulfill jobs in America that citizens either do not want or cannot do. While other people say immigration is an economic threat to the United States because immigrant workers take jobs that would otherwise be fulfilled by American citizens. Which statement comes closer to your point of view?
What’s clear is that the “threat” side is much more actively engaged about this issue.

Importance of Immigration by Economic Effect

And, on a scale of one to ten, with TEN being VERY IMPORTANT and ONE being NOT IMPORTANT AT ALL, how important is that issue to you personally? Illegal Immigration.
While there appears to be majority support for a tough deportation policy...

Reform Immigration Laws

**Top Sub-Groups**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forced to Return</th>
<th>Allowed to Stay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Retired Men Over Age 60</td>
<td>Urban Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strongly Disapprove of Bush on Immigration</td>
<td>Lean Republican Candidate in 2006</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illegal Immigration Top Priority</td>
<td>Not So Strong Women Republicans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men Over Age 65</td>
<td>Affordable Health Care Top Priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men Over Age 55</td>
<td>Education Top Priority</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Men</td>
<td>Not So Strong Republicans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Major Impact on Area</td>
<td>Women College +</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Republican Men</td>
<td>Age 45-54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Men</td>
<td>Women Age 35-54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Conservative</td>
<td>HH Income: Under $20K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Very Conservative/Strong Republicans</td>
<td>Total Moderates/Liberals</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men with No College Degree</td>
<td>Moderate/Liberal Republicans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strong Republican Men</td>
<td>Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH Income: $20K-$40K</td>
<td>Working Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>Baby Boomer Generation (Age 45-62)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over Age 65</td>
<td>Total Democrats/Independents Voting GOP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HH Income: $60K-$80K</td>
<td>Lean Republican Women</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rural Geography</td>
<td>Moderates</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Disapprove of Bush on Immigration</td>
<td>Retired Women Over Age 60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men 18-34</td>
<td>Women Over Age 55</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taxes Top Priority</td>
<td>Conservative Independents/Democrats Voting GOP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>HH Income: $40K-$60K</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Force illegal immigrants to return to their native country</td>
<td>Northeast Region</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

56% |

42%

Which is closer to your view: Illegal immigrants should: be forced to return to their native country and, having broken our laws they should not be allowed to come back to the U.S. Or, be allowed to stay, after becoming legally registered and documented, as our economic prosperity depends on keeping enough workers to fill these jobs.
When voters hear from both sides, the issue becomes cloudy.

**Dealing with People Already in U.S. Illegally**

Please tell me which one is closer to your view: some people say the best way to stop illegal immigration is to aggressively enforce our current immigration laws – including deporting all of these people back to their native countries; while other people say it is unrealistic to think we could find and then force all these people to leave the country; instead we should make these people register with the government, pay a penalty, and allow them to stay temporarily in the country while working.

46% Aggressively enforce current laws

-4%

50% Force them to register with the government
Even when pushed on national security concerns, Republican voters support a private sector approach to the issue.

**Better Administrator for Guest Worker Program**

Federal Government vs. Private Sector

View Point on Better Administrator

Please tell me which one is closer to your view: Some people say only the federal government has the expertise and capability to protect our borders and keep terrorists from entering this country while other people say private sector firms are faster and more efficient than government bureaucracy and they can ensure border safety by using new biometric technology, such as verifying fingerprints and instant criminal background checks.
Next, respondents heard three proposals from different Members of Congress on dealing with illegal immigration and asked if they would favor or oppose each proposal.

- The proposal from "Smith" was based on Congressman Tancredo's current plan;
- The "Jones" proposal reflects a plan being discussed in the Senate; and,
- "Miller's" proposal outlined the Krieble Foundation/Freedom Works position.
The Senate plan description is soundly rejected.

**Senate Proposal**

Jones, who would give all current illegal immigrants temporary worker status that would allow them to stay in the United States for up to six years. Illegal immigrants would be allowed to pay a fine to join the program. After six years, they would be required to return to their home country to apply for a new work visa.
The Tancredo plan description draws significant support.

**Tancredo Proposal**

Smith, who says that all illegal immigrants currently living and working in the United States would be required to return to their home countries and wait to apply for legal status. The proposal includes tougher penalties for employers and workers who violate immigration laws and places severe limits on the number of immigrant workers allowed to work here.
But, the Tancredo proposal splits the competing sides of the immigration issue.

**Tancredo Proposal by Economic Effect**

- **Benefit (41%)**
  - Favor: 55%
  - Oppose: 43%
  - Net: +12%

- **Threat (54%)**
  - Favor: 81%
  - Oppose: 19%
  - Net: +62%

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*Smith, who says that all illegal immigrants currently living and working in the United States would be required to return to their home countries and WAIT to apply for legal status. The proposal includes tougher penalties for employers and workers who violate immigration laws and places severe limits on the number of immigrant workers allowed to work here.*
The description of the Krieble Foundation/Freedom Works plan is supported by a better than three to one margin. 

**Krieble Foundation/Freedom Works Proposal**

Miller, who says all illegal immigrants currently living and working in the United States would be required to return to their home countries. They could immediately apply for new temporary guest worker visas linking specific workers to specific jobs through private U.S. employment agencies licensed by the federal government. Each applicant would undergo an instant background check by the F.B.I. and Department of Homeland Security before their temporary guest worker visa is granted.
The alternative proposal unites the two sides of the immigration debate.

**Krieble Foundation/Freedom Works Proposal**

*by Economic Effect*

- **Benefit (41%)**
  - Favor: 77%
  - Oppose: 22%
  - +55%
- **Threat (54%)**
  - Favor: 75%
  - Oppose: 25%
  - +50%

Miller, who says all illegal immigrants currently living and working in the United States would be required to return to their home countries. They could immediately apply for new TEMPORARY guest worker visas linking specific workers to specific jobs through private U.S. employment agencies licensed by the federal government. Each applicant would undergo an instant background check by the F.B.I. and Department of Homeland Security before their temporary guest worker visa is granted.
It enjoys significant support across every major sub-group.

% Favor Krieble Foundation/Freedom Works Proposal

by Ideology
- Conservative (64%) 76%
- Moderate/Liberal (35%) 73%

by Education
- High School or Less (29%) 74%
- Some College/Technical (28%) 77%
- College Graduate (27%) 78%
- More than College (16%) 70%

by Region
- Northeast (19%) 75%
- Midwest (25%) 76%
- South (36%) 77%
- West (20%) 72%
When forced to choose between the three proposals, the Krieble Foundation/Freedom Works plan tops the list.

Most Favorable Proposal

- Krieble/Freedom Works: 42%
- Tancredo: 34%
- Senate: 22%

Now, of the three proposals I just read, which ONE do you support the most?
The Krieble Foundation/Freedom Works alternative holds a wide advantage with the “economic benefit” voters and is nearly even among the “economic threat” coalition.

Most Favorable Proposal by Economic Effect

- Economic Benefit (41%)
  - Krieble/Freedom Works: 44%
  - Tancred: 21%
  - Senate: 32%

- Economic Threat (54%)
  - Krieble/Freedom Works: 40%
  - Tancred: 43%
  - Senate: 13%

Now, of the three proposals I just read, which ONE do you support the most?
The background check is a very strong selling point and should be the focal point of your communications.

**Safer Country with Background Check Message**

It is a good idea to allow private companies to issue new temporary guest worker visas because...

It will make our country safer. F.B.I. and Department of Homeland Security background checks will help prevent potential terrorists from entering this country. This measure also provides law enforcement officials with the tools to keep track of guest workers who are admitted into this country legally.

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I am going to read you some information you might hear from supporters of this proposal. After I read each statement please tell me if you think that statement is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing or a not at all convincing argument IN FAVOR of this proposal.
Linking foreign workers to specific jobs and making them pay their “fair share” are also strong arguments in support of the proposal.

**Linking Workers to Specific Jobs and Pay Their Fair Share Messages**

*It is a good idea to allow private companies to issue new temporary guest worker visas because...*

- **It will stop the underground economy that costs taxpayers billions of dollars a year...** Foreign workers would be part of the system and paying their fair share of taxes to support government services.  
  - 30% Very Convincing  
  - 72% Total Convincing

- **Linking guest workers with specific job openings and employers ensures that only those foreign workers who contribute to our economic growth and can provide for themselves and their families are permitted into the country.**
  - 31% Very Convincing  
  - 71% Total Convincing

I am going to read you some information you might hear from supporters of this proposal. After I read each statement please tell me if you think that statement is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing or a not at all convincing argument IN FAVOR of this proposal.
While the “realistic solution” argument does not test as well overall, the verbatim comments suggest it strikes a chord with some voters.

*Realistic Solution Message*

It is a good idea to allow private companies to issue new temporary guest worker visas because...

Like it or not, something has to be done. It is unrealistic to think our government could find and transport the millions of illegal immigrants back to their home countries. Nor can we expect the government to process the millions of work visas in a fast, efficient or cost effective manner. This proposal is a realistic solution that protects our economy and makes our country safer.

I am going to read you some information you might hear from supporters of this proposal. After I read each statement please tell me if you think that statement is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing or a not at all convincing argument IN FAVOR of this proposal.
While the opposition messages appeared to be very effective...

It is a bad idea to allow private companies to issue new temporary guest worker visas because...

We cannot leave the decision about who enters the country to large corporations and companies who are more interested in hiring cheap labor than protecting our citizens.

It puts our national security at risk by putting untrained private sector employees in charge of screening guest worker applicants – some of whom could be terrorists trying to enter this country.

It is too liberal and does nothing to punish the people and businesses who have broken our immigration laws.

It does nothing to limit immigration into this country – in fact, it will just encourage more foreigners to come to our country and take our jobs.

I am going to read you some information you might hear from opponents of this proposal. After I read each statement please tell me if you think that statement is a very convincing, somewhat convincing, not too convincing or a not at all convincing argument AGAINST this proposal.
...They had little impact on overall support for the Krieble Foundation/Freedom Works proposal.

*Krieble Foundation/Freedom Works Proposal*

**Initial**
- Total Favor: 75%
- Total Oppose: 24%

**Post-Test**
- Total Favor: 73%
- Total Oppose: 26%
The Bottom Line
The Krieble Foundation/Freedom Works proposal enjoys wide support within the Republican electorate. It strikes voters in this survey as a balance between national security concerns, economic reality and punishment for those who have broken our laws.
For more information about this presentation or about Public Opinion Strategies, please give us a call.

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