How Immigration and Concerns about Cultural Changes are Shaping the 2016 Election

Findings from the 2016 PRRI/Brookings Immigration Survey

Robert P. Jones, Ph.D. | @robertpjones | #ImmSurvey
PERCEPTIONS OF PERSONAL VULNERABILITY
How worried are you that you or someone in your family will be a victim of terrorism?

2014-2016

* Note: Figures may not add up to 100% due to rounding.

How worried are you that you or someone in your family will be a victim of terrorism?

By party affiliation

- **Very worried**
- **Somewhat worried**
- **Not too worried**
- **Not at all worried**
- **Don't know/Refused**

### All Americans
- Very worried: 18
- Somewhat worried: 33
- Not too worried: 33
- Not at all worried: 17

### Trump supporter
- Very worried: 24
- Somewhat worried: 41
- Not too worried: 26
- Not at all worried: 8

### Republican
- Very worried: 20
- Somewhat worried: 42
- Not too worried: 29
- Not at all worried: 8

### Democrat
- Very worried: 18
- Somewhat worried: 26
- Not too worried: 35
- Not at all worried: 21

### Independent
- Very worried: 16
- Somewhat worried: 34
- Not too worried: 31
- Not at all worried: 18

Do you think the country’s economic recession is over, or do you think the economy is still in a recession?

2012-2016

- Recession is over
- Still in a recession

CULTURAL PROTECTIONISM
The American way of life needs to be protected against foreign influence

By party affiliation

- **Completely agree**
- **Mostly agree**
- **Mostly disagree**
- **Completely disagree**
- **Don't know/Refused**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Completely agree</th>
<th>Mostly agree</th>
<th>Mostly disagree</th>
<th>Completely disagree</th>
<th>Don't know/Refused</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Americans</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>34</td>
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<td>Trump supporter</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>13</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>Independent</td>
<td>19</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>28</td>
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It bothers me when I come in contact with immigrants who speak little or no English.

By party affiliation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Americans</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trump supporter</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>35</td>
<td>64</td>
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Today discrimination against whites has become as big a problem as discrimination against blacks and other minorities.

By party affiliation

Agree | Disagree | Don't know/Refused

All Americans | 49 | 49
Trump supporter | 81 | 19
Republican | 72 | 27
Independent | 48 | 50
Democrat | 32 | 68

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

By age

- America has always been and is currently a Christian nation
- America was a Christian nation in the past but not now
- America has never been a Christian nation
- Don't know/Refused

![Bar chart showing the percentage of Americans at different age groups expressing different views on America being a Christian nation.](chart.png)

Growing Feeling Among White Evangelical Protestants that America Is No Longer a Christian Nation

Which of the following statements comes closest to your view?

- Don't know/Refused
- America has never been a Christian nation
- America was a Christian nation in the past but not now
- America has always been and is currently a Christian nation

Sources: PRRI/Brookings 2012 Race, Class, and Culture Survey; PRRI/Brookings 2016 Immigration Survey.
Perception Gap: How Much Are Immigrants Changing Your Own Community vs. American Society?

Percent who say immigrants are changing their community/American society "a lot," by party affiliation

IMMIGRATION POLICY
Cultural Protectionist Policies

Percent who favor each policy, by party affiliation

- All Americans
- Trump supporter
- Republican
- Independent
- Democrat

How should the immigration system deal with immigrants who are currently living in the U.S. illegally?

By party affiliation

- Allow them a way to become citizens provided they meet certain requirements
- Allow them to become permanent legal residents, but not citizens
- Identify and deport them
- Don't know/Refused


Percent who favor, by party affiliation

ECONOMIC PROTECTIONISM
Are Free Trade Agreements Mostly Helpful or Harmful?

By party affiliation

- Mostly helpful because they open markets for U.S. companies and allow Americans to buy goods more cheaply
- Mostly harmful because they send jobs overseas and drive down wages

Growing Support for Increasing the Tax Rate on Americans Earning More Than $250,000 a Year

Sources: PRRI 2012 American Values Survey; PRRI/Brookings 2016 Immigration Survey.
LEADERSHIP AND THE 2016 ELECTION
Is your overall opinion of Donald Trump favorable or unfavorable?

By race/ethnicity

- **All Americans**: 28% Favorable, 69% Unfavorable
- **White, non-Hispanic**: 36% Favorable, 63% Unfavorable
- **Hispanic**: 10% Favorable, 86% Unfavorable
- **Black, non-Hispanic**: 8% Favorable, 91% Unfavorable

Favorability Gap Between Hillary Clinton and Bill Clinton

Percent with a favorable opinion, by gender

Because things have gotten so far off track in this country, we need a leader who is willing to break some rules if that’s what it takes to set things right.

By party affiliation

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Thank You

How Immigration and Concerns about Cultural Changes are Shaping the 2016 Election can be accessed online at prri.org/reports

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