

The Dominguez Poll: Immigration

Southern Los Angeles County (“South Bay”) residents offered positive responses when asked about immigration in a recent poll focused on the defined service area for California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). This initial ***Dominguez Poll*** was undertaken by CSUDH’s Urban Community Research Center. Questions were chosen by an ad hoc committee of faculty from Sociology, Anthropology, Health Science, and Education. To allow for comparisons, in many instances questions used the same wording that other national or state-wide surveys used.

The poll was conducted by Social Science Research Center at California State University, Fullerton, with telephonic interviews taking place November 20 to December 20, 2017. A total of 384 survey responses were collected. Results are generally reliable to a 95% confidence level within a +/- 2.5% range. Smaller sub-groups will have larger margins of error.

The following is an analysis of the findings related to questions on immigration:

I. Views About Level of Immigration:

The survey asked respondents:

In your view, should immigration be kept at its present level, increased, or decreased?

- 40% responded that immigration should be kept at its present level;
- 28% thought that immigration should be increased; and
- 20% thought that immigration should be decreased.
- (12% didn’t know, or had no response.)

Taken together, we observe that about seven out of ten respondents expressed positive views about immigration: it is generally a good thing, and should be kept at its present level or increased.

These responses from adults in the CSUDH service area are more positive than Gallup found when asking the same question of a national sample in June of 2016, and again in June of 2017.¹ Table 1 compares the ***Dominguez Poll*** responses to Gallup samples from June of 2017, and June of 2016. The sentiment that immigration should be *decreased* is notably smaller than Gallup found in either of the comparison surveys.

As well, in Table 1 we show the results of a January 31-February 1, 2018 national survey, in an Ipsos poll on behalf of National Public Radio. These national sample respondents included 39%

¹ Gallup News (2017), June. Retrieved from: <http://news.gallup.com/poll/1660/Immigration.aspx>, January 30, 2018.

who thought that immigration should be decreased. The *Dominguez Poll* respondents are distinctive in these comparisons.

Table 1				
<i>Thinking now about immigrants – that is, people who come from other countries to live here in the United States:</i>				
<i>In your view, should immigration be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?</i>				
	Present Level	Increased	Decreased	Don't know / No Response / Refused
<i>Dominguez Poll</i> (November - December 2017)	40%	28%	20%	12%
Gallup – National Sample (June 7 – 11, 2017)	38%	24%	35%	3%
Gallup – National Sample (June 7 – July 1, 2016)	38%	21%	38%	3%
<i>Do you think the number of immigrants to America should be:</i>				
	Kept the same as it is now	Increased	Decreased	Don't know
Ipsos Poll on behalf of National Public Radio ² (National Sample: Jan. 31 – Feb. 1, 2018)	33%	16%	39%	11%

² Retrieved February 6, 2018, from: <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-polls/americans-view-immigration-policy>

I. A. Views About Level of Immigration by Political Party Registration:

As of early 2018, President Donald Trump had advanced various proposals to decrease the amount of immigration / the number of immigrants to this country. In particular, in August of 2017 he endorsed legislation that would cut by about half the number of legal immigrants admitted to the United States per year.³ This posture by the President of the United States encourages a focus especially on those who would support decreasing the number of immigrants. We pursue this line in Table 2, breaking out the data by political party.

To assess party affiliation, we asked: *Are you registered to vote as a Democrat, Republican, another political party, registered with no party affiliation, or are you not registered to vote?* **Dominguez Poll** results are provided below, and comparisons to the recent Ipsos/NPR poll are offered.

Table 2				
<i>Thinking now about immigrants – that is, people who come from other countries to live here in the United States:</i>				
<i>In your view, should immigration be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?</i>				
• Percent Answering <u>Decreased</u>, by Political Party Registration				
	Demo- crats	Other Party	Republicans	Not Registered
<i>Dominguez Poll</i> (November - December 2017)	17%	20%	42%	24%
<i>Do you think the number of immigrants to America should be:</i>				
• Percent Answering <u>Decreased</u>, by Political Party				
	Demo- crats	Indepen- dents	Republicans	
Ipsos Poll on behalf of National Public Radio ⁴ (National Sample: Jan. 31 – Feb. 1, 2018)	25%	35%	62%	

³ See, e.g., the National Public Radio report here: <https://www.npr.org/2017/08/02/541104795/trump-to-unveil-legislation-limiting-legal-immigration>. Retrieved February 7, 2018.

⁴ Retrieved February 6, 2018, from: <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-polls/americans-view-immigration-policy>

Among South Bay respondents, persons of all political party affiliations were notably less anxious to decrease levels of immigration than were their counterparts in the recent Ipsos/NPR poll.

Unsurprisingly, given the position of a Republican president, Republicans both in the South Bay and nationally were more interested than Democrats (and others) in decreasing levels of immigration to the United States.

I. B. Views About Level of Immigration by Race or Ethnicity:

We may also partition our findings by race or ethnicity. We asked our respondents this question:

How do you describe your race or ethnicity? Asian; Black or African-American; Hispanic or Latino; Caucasian or White; or Other?

Findings are offered in Table 3.

Table 3					
<i>Thinking now about immigrants – that is, people who come from other countries to live here in the United States:</i>					
<i>In your view, should immigration be kept at its present level, increased or decreased?</i>					
• Percent Answering <u>Decreased</u>, by Race or Ethnicity					
	Asian⁵	Black / African-American	Hispanic/ Latino	Caucasian / White	Other
<i>Dominguez Poll</i> (November - December 2017)		22%	15%	29%	36%

A Pew Research Center report⁶ dated May 3, 2017, showed that, while Mexicans, at 11.6 million, comprised the largest number of immigrants present in the United States in 2015, Asians as a group were 37.4% of annual new arrivals, while Hispanics accounted for 28% in the same year. Given this, it may be unsurprising to observe that self-categorized Asians and Hispanics / Latinos were decidedly less likely to answer “decreased” than other racial or ethnic groups.

⁵ “Asian” is not reported due to small sample size.

⁶ Retrieved February 5, 2018 from <http://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2017/05/03/key-findings-about-u-s-immigrants/>

II. Immigration a Good Thing:

As shown in Table 4, some 73% of South Bay adults responding to a scientific telephone survey in November and December 2017 chose a “good thing” when asked:

On the whole, do you think immigration is a good thing or a bad thing for this country today?

Some 12% said that immigration is a bad thing; 9% volunteered a mixed response of both good and bad; and 6% reported they did not know or refused to answer.

Table 4				
<i>On the whole, do you think immigration is a good thing or a bad thing for this country today?</i>				
	Good Thing	Mixed (Both Good and Bad – Volunteered)	Bad Thing	Don't know / No Response / Refused
<i>Dominguez Poll</i> (November - December 2017)	73%	9%	12%	6%
Gallup – National Sample (June 7 – 11, 2017)	71%	4%	23%	2%
Gallup – National Sample (June 7 – July 1, 2016)	72%	2%	25%	1%

“The difference in *bad thing* responses is notable when comparing the ***Dominguez Poll*** results with the national samples,” remarked Dr. Keith Boyum, Special Assistant to the President at CSUDH. “In the comparison national surveys, a quarter of the respondents are opposed to immigration, agreeing that it is a bad thing. Just half of that proportion – 12% – had the same view in the South Bay.”

Boyum continued: “Simply put: CSU Dominguez Hills service area residents are more affirming of immigration than is typical for the United States as a whole.”

II. A. Immigration a Good Thing by Political Party Registration:

The *Dominguez Poll* went on to partition these responses by political party registration. In Table 5 we show percentages of adults in our survey who said that immigration is “a bad thing for this country today.”

Table 5.				
<i>On the whole, do you think immigration is a good thing or a bad thing for this country today?</i>				
• Percent Answering <u>A Bad Thing</u>, by Political Party Registration				
	Demo- crats	Other Party	Republicans	Not Registered
<i>Dominguez Poll</i> (November - December 2017)	9%	16%	24%	13%

South Bay respondents mostly do not regard immigration as “a bad thing,” irrespective of political party registration. Nonetheless, there are notable variations by political party registration, with Republicans most frequently offering negative views about immigration.

III. Views About What Should Happen to Undocumented Immigrants Brought to the U.S. as Children:

With the national conversation much focused now upon undocumented immigrants originally brought to the United States as children, the *Dominguez Poll* went on to ask two questions on the topic. We asked whether such children should be allowed to stay, and we also asked about whether President Trump had made the right decision, or the wrong decision, to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (D.A.C.A.) program. Tables 6 and 7 offer our results.

In a compilation of polls mounted nationally at various time intervals in 2017,⁷ nearly six out of ten respondents thought that such persons should be allowed to stay in the country. To lend perspective to our *Dominguez Poll* results, we show in Tables 6 and 7 the most recent survey included within the compilation. This is a September 5-6 national survey undertaken by HuffPost/YouGov. The *Dominguez Poll* used the same questions that HuffPost/YouGov chose, making the comparisons exact.⁸

Table 6			
<i>Do you think undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children should [response choices rotated]?</i>			
	Be Allowed to Stay in the Country	Be Required to Leave the Country	Don't know / No Response / Refused
<i>Dominguez Poll</i> (November - December 2017)	82%	10%	8%
<i>HuffPost/YouGov</i> ⁹ (September 5-6, 2017)	47%	30%	(not reported)
<i>Do you support or oppose the following immigration-related policy proposals?</i>			
<i>Giving legal status to undocumented or illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children</i>			
	Total Support		
Ipsos Poll on behalf of National Public Radio ¹⁰	65%		

⁷ See the compilation offered by the American Enterprise Institute in September, 2017 at <http://www.aei.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/DACA-polls-table.jpg> (retrieved February 2, 2018). Polls reviewed included Suffolk University/USA Today (March 1-5); NBC News SurveyMonkey (August 24-29); Politico/Morning Consult (August 31-September 3 – registered voters); YouGov/Economist (September 3-5); HuffPost/YouGov (September 5-6).

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ Retrieved February 6, 2018, from: <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-polls/americans-view-immigration-policy>

Eight out of ten adults who reside in the CSUDH service area thought that undocumented persons originally brought to this country while they were children should be allowed to stay in the country – remarkably more than the five out of ten that HuffPost/YouGov found nationally in September. The support was also remarkably higher in comparison to a recent national poll released by Ipsos and National Public Radio.

III. A. Views About What Should Happen to Undocumented Immigrants Brought to the U.S. as Children by Political Party:

In Table 7, below, we partition views by political party. Once again, in light of the public statements and positions of the Republican President of the United States, we focus on “Be required to leave the country,” in the *Dominguez Poll*, and upon “Oppose” giving legal status to undocumented or illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children.

Table 7				
<i>Do you think undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children should [response choices rotated]?</i>				
• Percent Answering <u>Be Required to Leave the Country</u>, by Political Party Registration				
	Demo- crats	Other Party	Republicans	Not Registered
<i>Dominguez Poll</i> (November - December 2017)	4%	16%	27%	4%
<i>Do you support or oppose the following immigration-related policy proposals?</i>				
<i>Giving legal status to undocumented or illegal immigrants brought to the U.S. as children</i>				
• Percent Answering <u>Opposed</u>, by Political Party Registration				
	Demo- crats	Indepen- dents	Republicans	
Ipsos Poll on behalf of National Public Radio ¹¹ (National Sample: Jan. 31 – Feb. 1, 2018)	19%	34%	49%	

¹¹ Retrieved February 6, 2018, from: <https://www.ipsos.com/en-us/news-polls/americans-view-immigration-policy>

Across all political party affiliations, adults reached in the survey did not favor requiring undocumented persons brought here as children to leave the country. The same is true for the comparison national sample when asked a different question about giving legal status: irrespective of political party affiliation, respondents mostly supported giving Dreamers legal status. In both surveys, however, Republicans were less supportive of Dreamers.

IV. Trump Decision to End DACA – Right or Wrong?

The sentiment shown in Tables 6 and 7 take us squarely to the decision announced last fall by President Donald Trump to end the D.A.C.A. program by March 6, 2018, unless Congress by that deadline adopted legislation to permit them to remain in the United States. The issue arose in the President’s January 2018 State of the Union Address, and is currently being debated in a context of authorizing budgets for the Federal government.

As shown in Table 8, the *Dominguez Poll* found in November and December, 2017 that three-quarters of adults in the region were ready to say that the President had made the wrong decision.

Table 8			
<i>President Trump recently announced he was ending the program protecting undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, a group sometimes known as Dreamers. Do you think ...?</i>			
	President Trump Made the Right Decision	President Trump Made the Wrong Decision	Don't know / No Response / Refused
<i>Dominguez Poll</i> (November - December 2017)	18%	74%	8%
<i>HuffPost/YouGov</i> (September 5-6, 2017)	45%	55%	(not reported)

As to whether the decision was right or wrong, Table 8 shows, a very substantial difference between the opinions of South Bay residents in November - December 2017 and a national sample of adults in September 2017. Nationally, the divide was close at 55 wrong to 45 right decision, a ten point difference. In the South Bay the split was 74 to 18 percent, a 56 point difference.

IV. A. Trump Decision to End DACA – Right or Wrong? – by Race / Ethnicity

In Table 9 below, we partition *Dominguez Poll* results by the race or ethnicity that respondents self-reported. We focus upon the proportion that affirms the President’s decision, that is the groups that said that “President Trump made the right decision” in ending the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program.

It will be observed that Hispanics or Latinos, and Blacks or African Americans, offered the lowest levels of support for the President’s decision to end the program protecting undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children.

Table 9					
<i>President Trump recently announced he was ending the program protecting undocumented immigrants who came to the U.S. as children, a group sometimes known as Dreamers. Do you think he made the right decision, or the wrong decision?</i>					
• Percent Answering <u>Right Decision</u>, by Race or Ethnicity					
	Asian ¹²	Black / African- American	Hispanic/ Latino	Caucasian / White	Other
<i>Dominguez Poll</i> (November - December 2017)		14%	12%	27%	18%

In reviewing responses by political party registration, the *Dominguez Poll* found that 53% of Republicans thought that the President had made the right decision, while just 9% of Democrats similarly thought that the President had made the right decision.

¹² “Asian” is not reported due to small sample size.

Comments.

Dr. Paz Oliverez, Associate Vice President of Student Success at California State University, Dominguez Hills remarked:

- “We are proud to host a Toro Dreamers Success Center at the university. It is a safe space where undocumented students can find information and a community of supportive peers, faculty and staff.”
- “We are confident that the undocumented students who are enrolled at our university will make contributions to our campus, the region, and the future well-being of the United States. We will continue to advocate with and for our students to ensure that they are permitted to remain in this, the only country most have ever known. We offer a variety of programs and resources so that undocumented students on our campus know that we support their personal, educational and professional goals.
- Dr. Oliverez continued: “It is very gratifying to learn that the community that this university serves understands the contributions that immigrant students and their families make to our country – and supports them, as we do.”

Dr. Keith Boyum, Special Assistant to the President at California State University, Dominguez Hills, and Professor of Political Science, Emeritus, at California State University, Fullerton, remarked:

- With debate in Congress reaching a crescendo now, with the March 5, 2018 expiration of legal status for “Dreamers,” these findings are especially timely.
- We note also the impact of the current uncertainty as to the legal status of undocumented persons brought to the United States as children. As reported in the February 13 Los Angeles Times, for example, applications for financial aid for university attendance from Dreamers are down.¹³ These issues matter for the undocumented persons brought to this country as children, for our state and nation, and also for this university.

¹³ See <http://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-ca-dream-act-20180213-story.html> (Retrieved February 13, 2008).

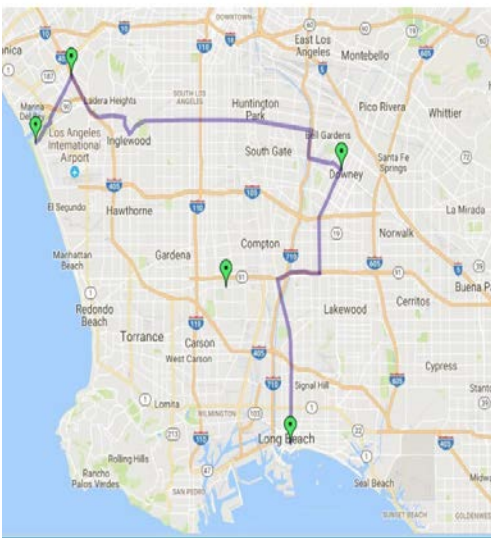
About the Survey: The *Dominguez Poll* was done for the Urban Community Research Center at California State University, Dominguez Hills via contract with the Social Science Research Center at California State University, Fullerton. Interviews were conducted between November 20, 2017 and December 20, 2017. A total of 384 survey responses were collected. Results are generally reliable to a 95% confidence level within a +/- 2.5% range. Smaller sub-groups will have larger margins of error.

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Director of the CSU Fullerton Social Science Research Center is Laura Gil-Trejo. Contact: lgil-trejo@fullerton.edu; (657) 278-7691.

The area surveyed was the CSU Dominguez Hills service area, as formally defined by the California State University Office of the Chancellor. It includes what is generally referred to as the “South Bay,” but also includes some areas that are not typically considered a part of the South Bay. Here are comparison maps, of the service area, and of the South Bay.¹⁴

e 1. Map of the CSU Dominguez Hills Service Area



The *Dominguez Poll* is part of a larger CSU Dominguez Hills theme for the Spring 2018 semester: *¡Adelante! Latinx Activism in California*. Through speakers, performances, exhibits, and artistic installations, the university will explore important moments of regional history, and embrace strengths that derive from diversity. In doing this work, CSUDH stands as a center of knowledge, of learning, and of service, to Latinx and to all communities. See <http://www.csudh.edu/adelante/latinx-opinion-survey/>

¹⁴ The map of “South Bay, California” was accessed on February 21, 2018 from: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/South_Bay,_Los_Angeles