

Immigration Reform: *National Polling*



Pete Brodnitz
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Methodology

❖ Nationwide Surveys

➤ December 2009 (BSG)

- ✓ BSG conducted 800 interviews nationwide with likely 2010 general election voters between December 19 and 21, 2009.
- ✓ The margin of error for overall results is $\pm 3.46\%$ at the 95% confidence level, larger among subgroups.

➤ May 2009 (BSG)

- ✓ BSG conducted 1,000 interviews nationwide with likely 2010 general election voters between May 9 and 12, 2009.
- ✓ The margin of error for overall results is $\pm 3.1\%$ at the 95% confidence level, larger among subgroups.

➤ November 2008 (Lake Research)

- ✓ Lake Research conducted 1,000 interviews nationwide between November 5 and 9, 2008.
- ✓ The margin of error for overall results is $\pm 3.1\%$ at the 95% confidence level, larger among subgroups.

Overview

- ❖ Overall, ***support*** for the general idea of comprehensive immigration reform ***remains stable***, with two-thirds support that ***cuts across party lines***:
 - Most voters (eight in ten) continue to say that ***illegal immigration is a problem***. Almost half say it is a serious problem.
 - In this economy, voters continue to see the benefit of ***illegal immigrants becoming legal taxpayers***. As in May 2009, voters remain in support of reform that includes legalizing the status of illegal immigrants, because this means they will be ***paying taxes*** like everyone else. More than two-thirds of voters want to require illegal immigrants to become legal taxpayers rather than having them leave the country.
 - For the 12 million illegal immigrants that remain in the country, voters still choose ***register and apply for citizenship*** over allowing illegal immigrants to stay temporarily or forcing them out of the U.S.
- ❖ There have been a few ***shifts*** among voters between May and December 2009:
 - ***Democrats have lost their trust advantage*** on immigration reform, and Republicans in Congress are now equally trusted as President Obama. However, 26% of voters prefer neither party or are undecided.
 - Voters are ***more skeptical about Congress' ability to handle multiple issues at once***, but a majority of voters (52%) view immigration reform as a ***high priority*** for Congress and believe Congress can ***take on CIR this year*** (down from 59% last year).

Support for Comprehensive Immigration Reform



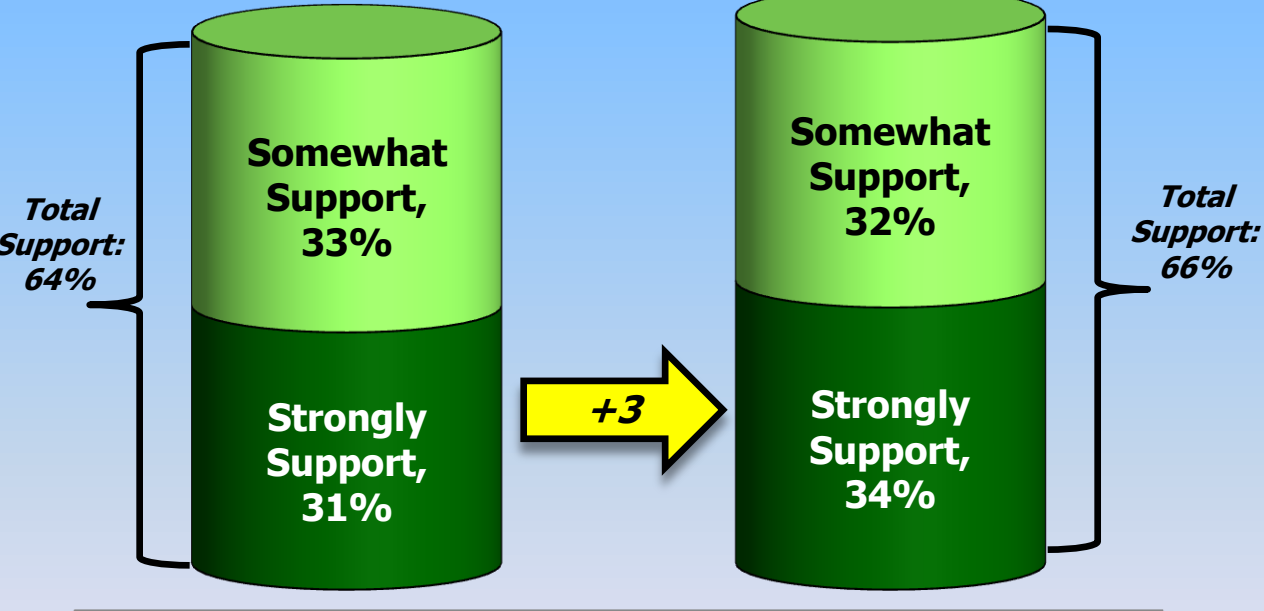
Support for reform remains strong: 2/3 support comprehensive immigration reform even without hearing details of a proposal; support for reform crosses party lines

% Support Comprehensive Immigration Reform

■ Strongly Support ■ Somewhat Support

Oppose 21%

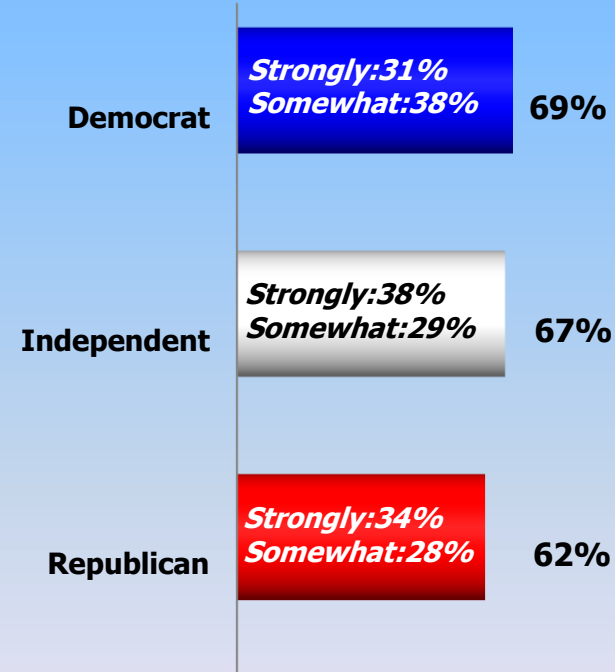
Oppose 23%



May 2009

December 2009

% Support Among Party ID (Dec 2009 Only)

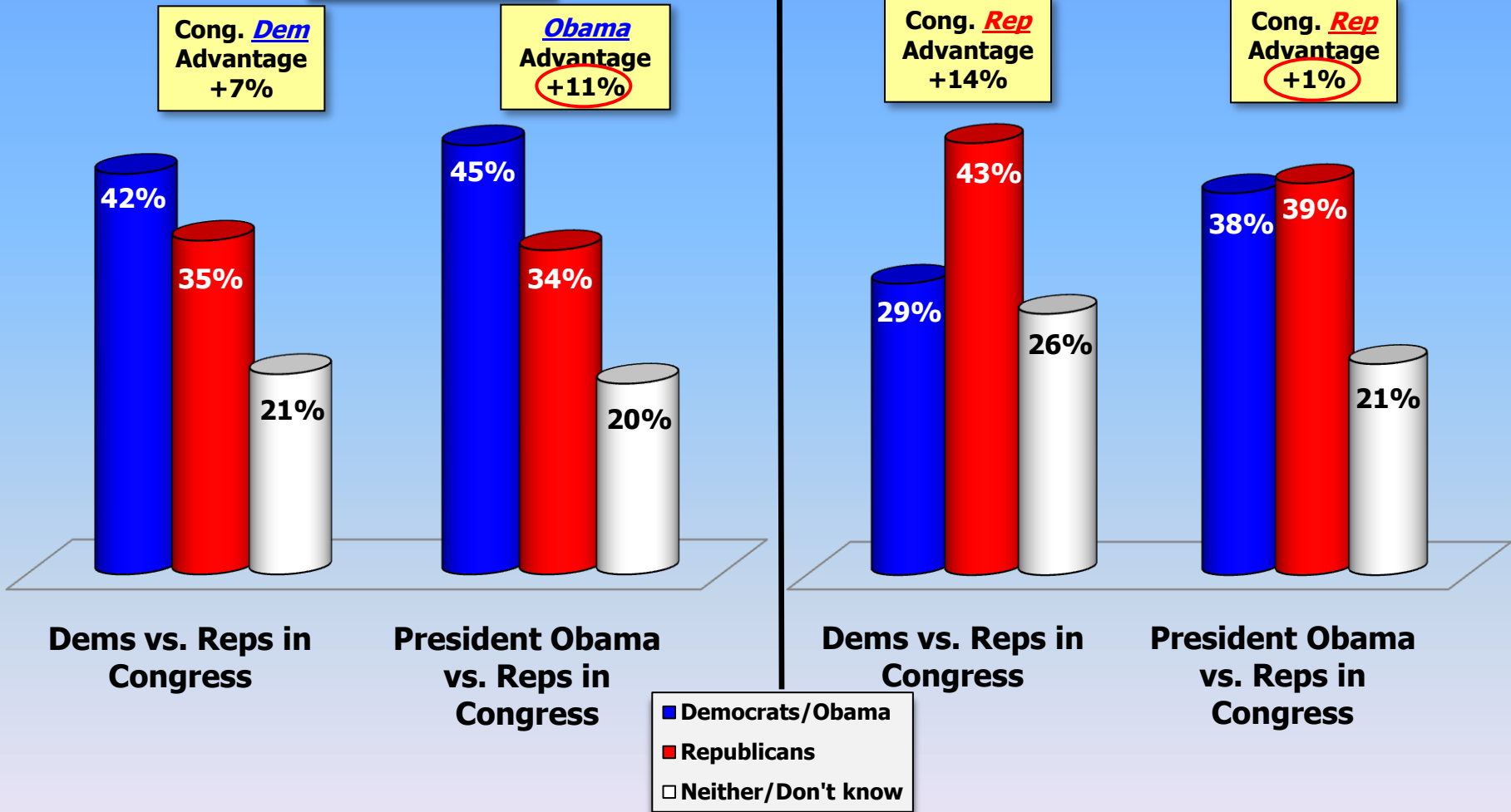


Q: Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, strongly oppose Congress passing comprehensive immigration reform?

Republicans in Congress are equally trusted as President Obama on immigration reform, trusted more over Democrats in Congress

May 2009

December 2009



Q: Whose approach to immigration reform more closely reflects your point of view? The Democrats in Congress or the Republicans in Congress?

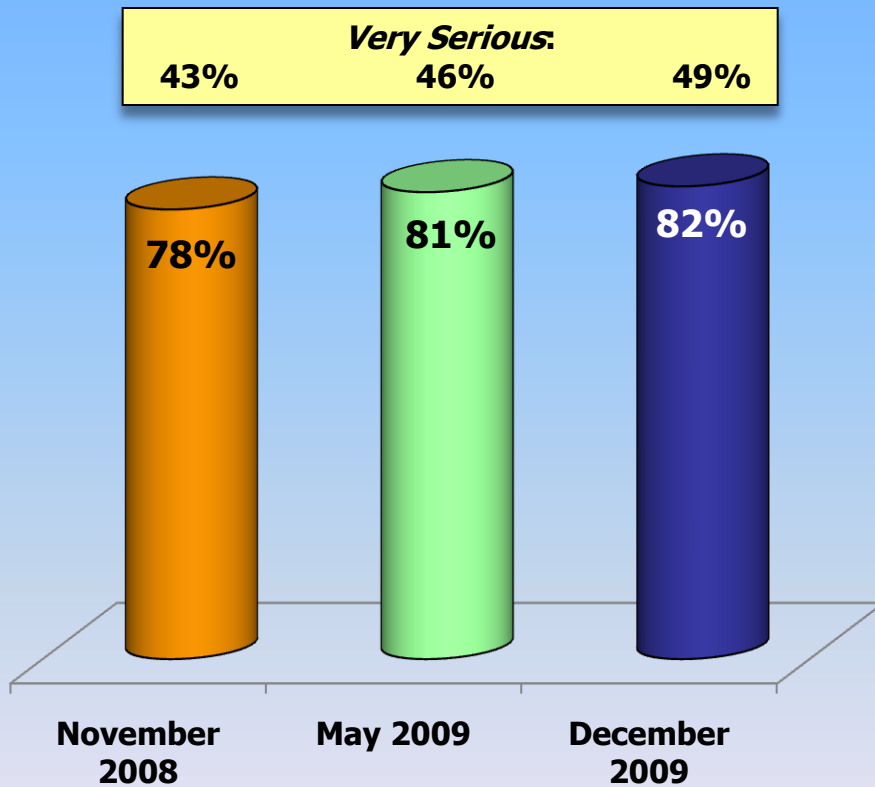
Q: Whose approach to immigration reform more closely reflects your point of view? President Obama or the Republicans in Congress?

View of Illegal Immigration

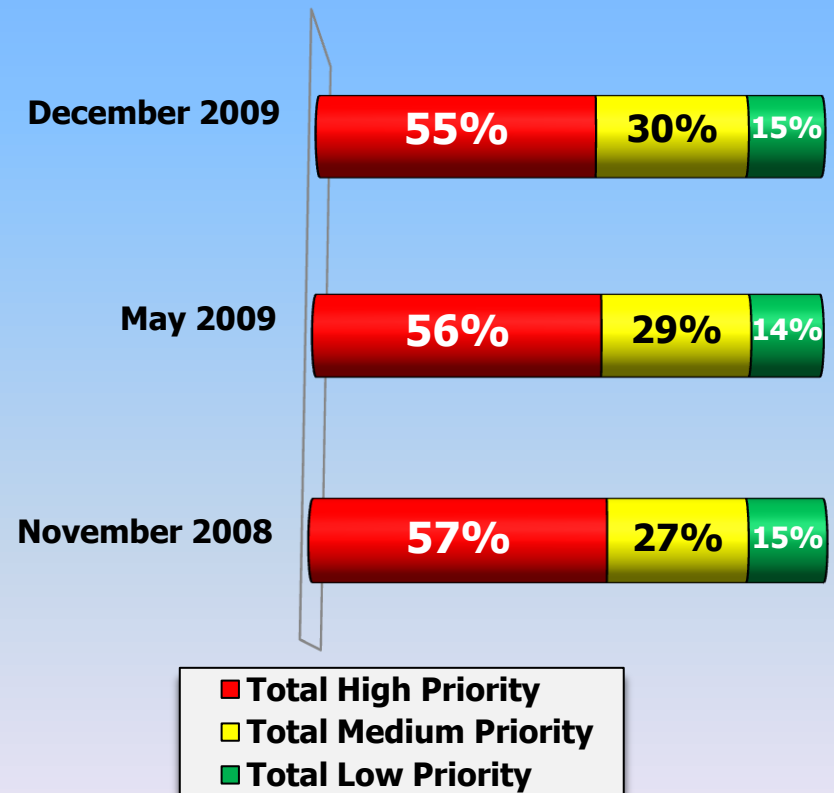


Almost universal concern among voters that illegal immigration is a serious problem; also, the level of priority in Congress has remained constant

% Total Serious Problem



Priority in Congress



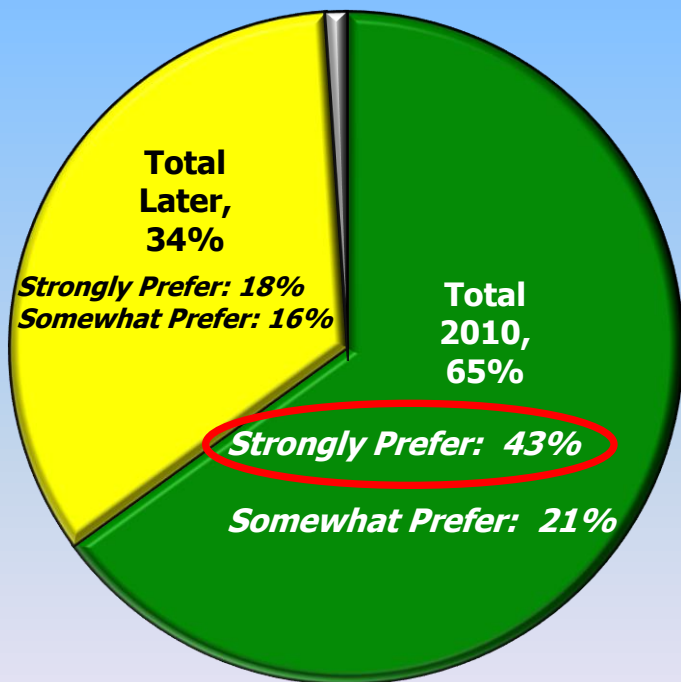
Q: In your view, is illegal immigration a very serious problem facing this country, a somewhat serious problem, a little serious, or not at all a serious problem?

Q: Now thinking about all the issues that Congress is facing, how high a priority should solving the issue of illegal immigration be, compared to all the other issues – should it be the single highest priority, a very high priority, a high priority, a medium priority, or a low priority for Congress?

Voters still believe Congress can handle taking on CIR this year, but some hesitation is growing

2010 vs. "Later" (December 2009 Only)

■ Total 2010 ■ Total Later ■ Don't know

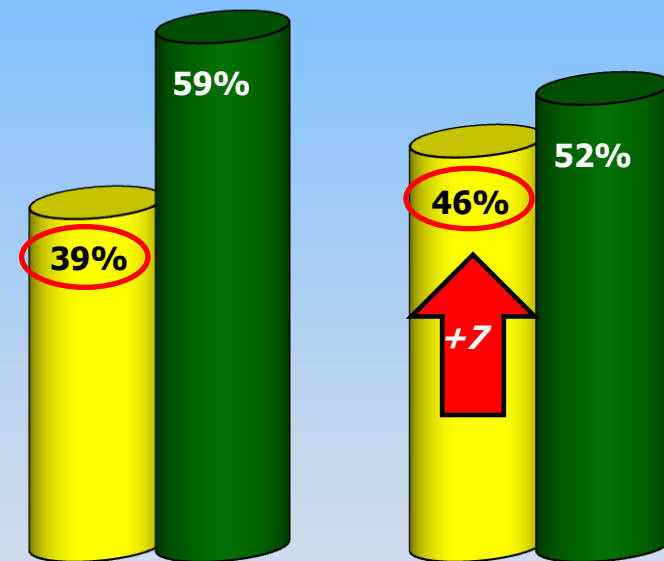


With the economy and health care reform already on Congress' plate for this year, they should wait and tackle immigration reform later.

Congress can handle multiple issues at the same time. They should tackle immigration reform this year.

Congress and Immigration

■ Wait ■ This Year



May 2009

December 2009

Q: Would you prefer for Congress to take on the issue of immigration in 2010, or wait until later to take on this issue? Would you strongly prefer this option or somewhat prefer it?

Q: Which is closer to your view of Congress: With the economy and health care reform already on Congress' plate for this year, they should wait and tackle immigration reform later. OR Congress can handle multiple issues at the same time. They should tackle immigration reform this year.

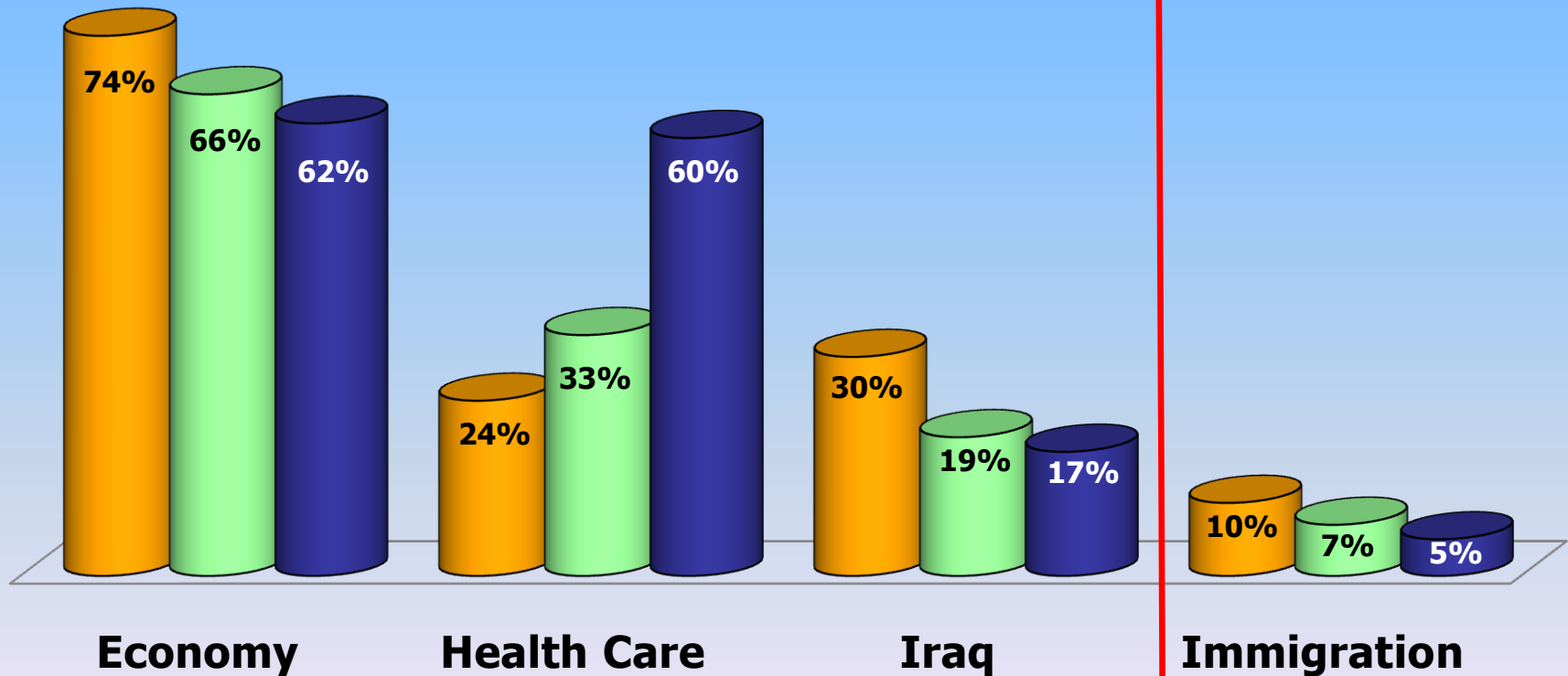
The Economy and Immigration



Economy, Health Care remain top issues over immigration

Most Important Issue

■ Nov 2008 ■ May 2009 ■ Dec 2009

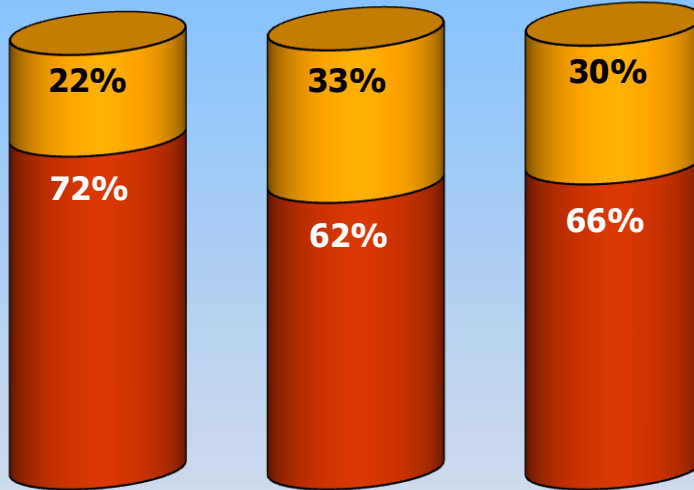


Two thirds describe economic conditions as poor; Americans becoming less pessimistic toward the economy

Economic Conditions in U.S.

■ Poor ■ Fair

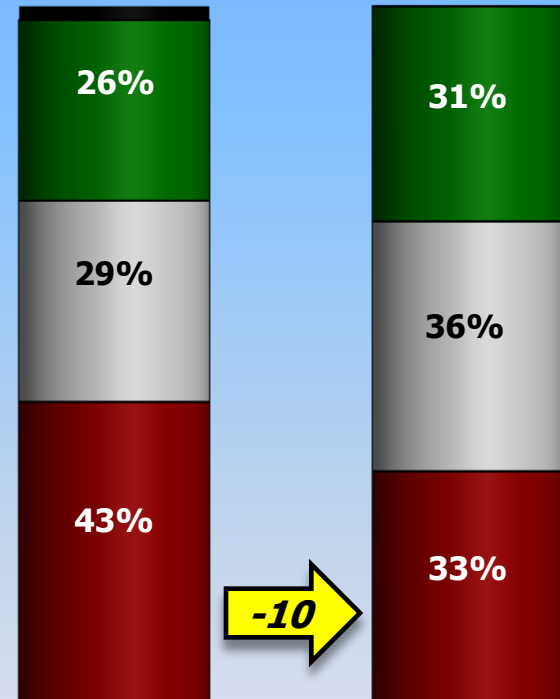
Net Fair/Poor:
96% 95% 94%



Nov 2008 May 2009 Dec 2009

Future Economic Outlook in U.S.

■ Worse ■ Not Changing ■ Better ■ Don't Know



-10

May 2009

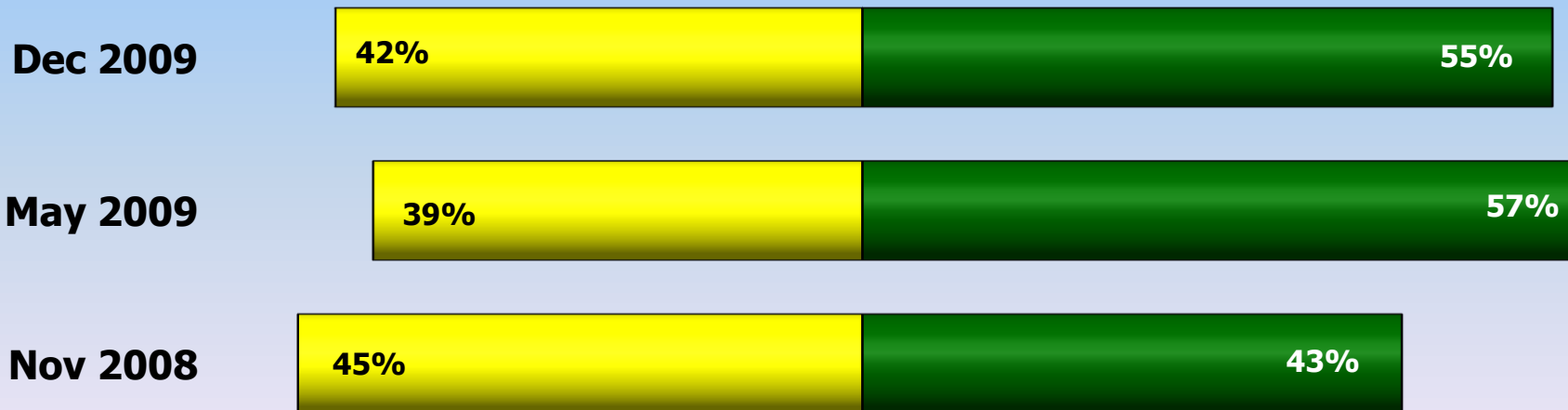
Dec 2009

Majority of voters believe economic crisis makes immigration reform more important to solve

Statement A: With the economic situation in this country so bad right now, this just isn't the time to worry about fixing immigration. The world economy is in turmoil, and the President and Congress need to focus on getting things back on track before more Americans lose their jobs or their homes.

Statement B: The economic crisis we are currently in makes it more crucial than ever that we solve our immigration problems. We must pass a comprehensive approach that secures the border, cracks down on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants, and requires all illegal immigrants to register with the government, undergo background checks, and pay back taxes to earn legal immigration status. They would have to meet additional conditions in order to become citizens including learning English and continuing to work and pay taxes. If we do this, we will ensure that all Americans get higher wages and move 12 million illegal immigrants out of the shadows and onto the tax rolls.

Economic Problems



Q: Now I'd like to read you a pair of statements. Of the two, please tell me which statement is closer to your own views ... Which is closer to your view? Is that much closer or somewhat closer?

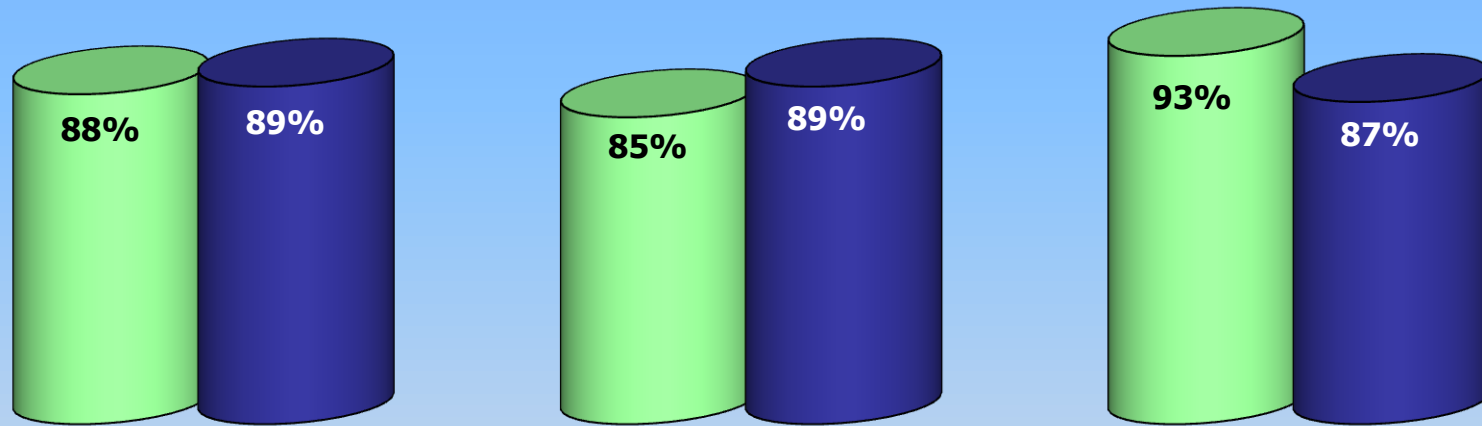
Approaches to Immigration Reform



Continued strong support for all elements of comprehensive immigration reform

% Support Elements of CIR

■ May 2009 ■ Dec 2009



**Increasing security on the U.S.
- Mexico border.**

**Cracking down on employers
who hire illegal immigrants.**

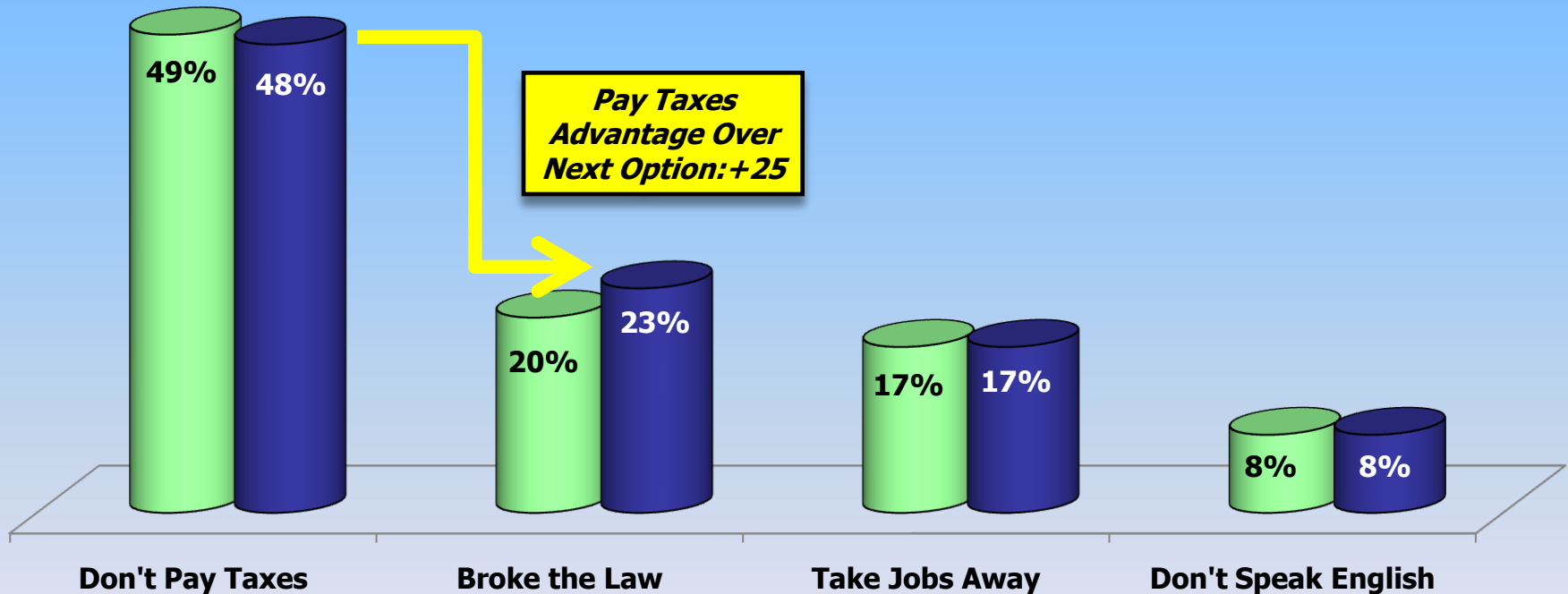
**Requiring all illegal immigrants
to register with the
government and meet certain
requirements including
working, paying taxes and
learning English to apply for
citizenship.**

Q: Do you strongly support, somewhat support, somewhat oppose, strongly oppose this type of immigration reform?

The biggest concern with illegal immigrants continues to be the issue of paying taxes

Biggest Concern

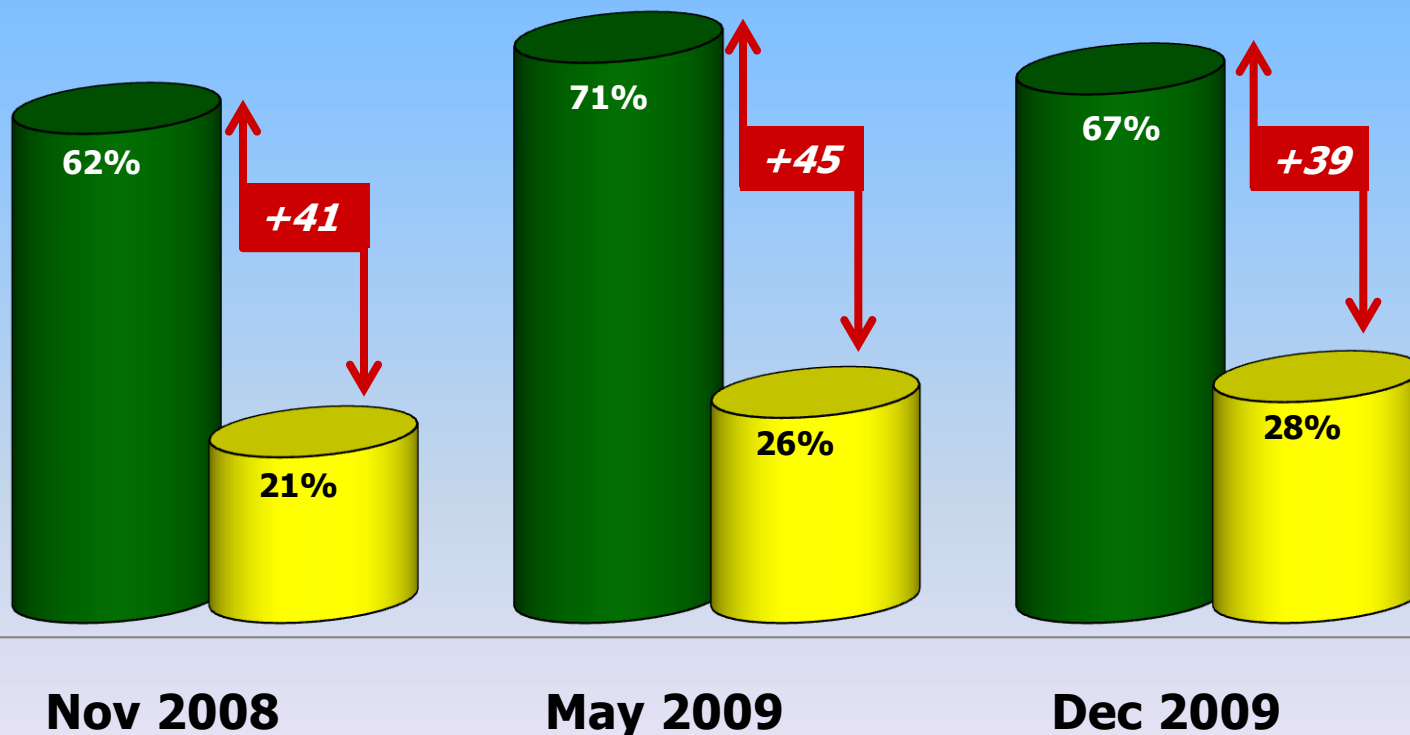
■ May 2009 ■ Dec 2009



Making illegal immigrants into legal taxpayers is desired by more than 2/3 of voters in this economy

Immigration in this Economy

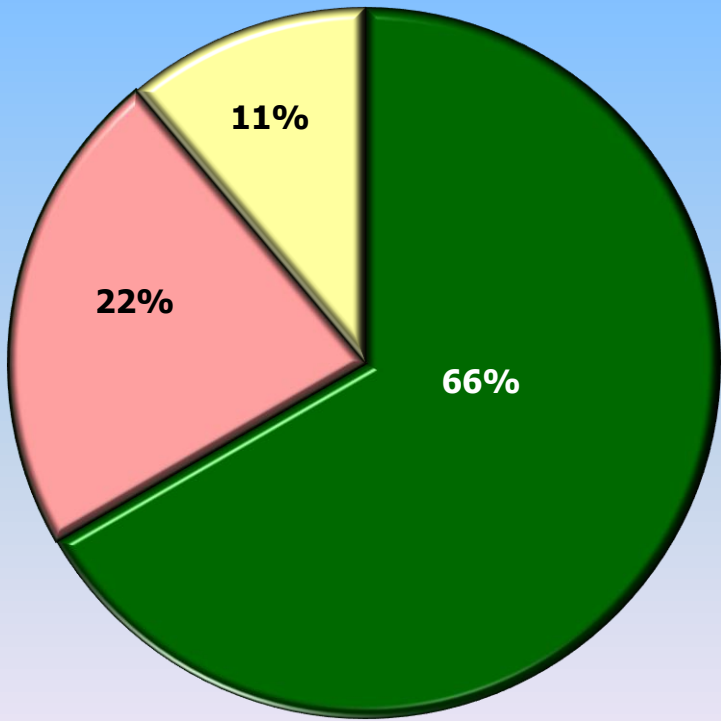
■ Become Legal Taxpayers ■ Leave The Country



Registration with path to citizenship continues to be the top option to deal with the illegal immigrants who remain in the country

**View of what should be done
(December 2009 only)**

■ Required to Register ■ Must Leave Country ■ Stay Temporarily



Statement	May 2009	Nov 2008
<u>Required to Register:</u> They should be required to register, meet certain conditions, and eventually allowed to apply for citizenship.	68%	67%
<u>Must Leave Country:</u> They must leave the country.	20%	14%
<u>Stay Temporarily:</u> They should be legally allowed to stay on a temporary basis but not allowed to become citizens.	10%	13%

BSG Q: Most Members of Congress agree that to deal with the problem of illegal immigration, we need to make our borders secure, crack down on employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants, and deport illegal immigrants who commit crimes. In addition to these steps, what should be done about the 12 million illegal immigrants who will remain in the country?